

## *Candace and Chuck Steele*

To many in the gay community Candace and Chuck Steele are the parents they wished had raised them. The Steele's own children numbered three, including two lesbian daughters. But their PFLAG family extended across many borders and they have both acted as parents and counselors whenever there was a person in need. The whole community was saddened in April by news of Chuck's death in a car accident. Well suited as a team, Candace and Chuck have had deep impacts on many people, both within the gay community and on the outside. From their home in Ashland, Candace recently completed serving a term of more than five years as the NW Regional Director of PFLAG, a position which kept her busy and active as an outspoken ally. Chuck was the quieter team member, who made a point of being present, listening well, and bridging across lines of difference. He was an active participant with several organizations in Southern Oregon—PFLAG, Jackson Co. Human Rights Coalition, American Friends Service Committee, and Rogue Valley Monthly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends. Pride Northwest extends our deepest gratitude to both Chuck and Candace for years of service to our community. Our love and support goes to Candace in this difficult time of loss and transition.

## *Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest (GLAPN)*

GLAPN was founded by Jeanine Wittcke and Tom Cook after the two met in Alan Berube's history workshop at PSU in the summer of 1994. Tom Cook has been an avid family and local historian for 24 years. He had begun to research Portland gay, lesbian, bi and trans history, when Patricia Cornman invited him to present some of his findings at the Berube workshop.

The idea of a queer archive had come up before, in the early '80s and in 1993, during measure 13. This time Jeanine and Tom determined to create an organization that would last, so they incorporated in January 1995 and two months later received non-profit status from the IRS. Since then GLAPN has assembled the first permanent collection of historical materials devoted solely to queer history in the Northwest. The Oregon Historical Society maintains the collection at its research center in downtown Portland.

GLAPN's first public activity was the laying of an historic marker to honor the founders and commemorate the 25 year anniversary of the Portland Gay Liberation Front, Oregon's first political action group. Since then GLAPN has hosted many public programs, including a series co-sponsored by the Reed College Gay Alliance. Currently members of the organization, including three published authors, are engaged in independent research of local gay, lesbian, and transgender history. They are documenting the pre-Stonewall era through publications and an oral history focus called Voices Project. Material collected dates from the late 1950s to the present.

Anyone interested in donating materials or joining GLAPN to work on queer history projects is invited to contact the organization's email: [glapn@aol.com](mailto:glapn@aol.com) or check out their new website on Teleport. On October 23-24, 1998 in Tacoma, GLAPN will co-sponsor with Seattle's Northwest Lesbian and Gay History Museum Project, the University of Washington, Pierce County Oral History Project, and the Washington State Historical Society, the region's first symposium on Northwest Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender History. "Do Ask, Do Tell: Outing Pacific Northwest History" will feature nationally recognized queer historians and many local researchers and scholars, with workshops on archiving, collecting, documenting, and historic preservation of our history.

Tom Cook lives in Portland with his companion of sixteen years, Jerry Deas. Jeanine Wittcke lives with her daughters and partner, Karen, in SE Portland.