

## NORTHWEST news

### GAY UNITED METHODISTS TO CONVENE IN TACOMA

Openly gay Seattle pastors Mark Williams and Karen Damman, formerly suspended Chicago pastor Greg Dell, members of the "Sacramento 68" and 30 other United Methodist clergy will meet for the first time July 26 at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash.

The Clergy Alliance will encourage other queer clergy and their allies to become more visible and challenge the United Methodist Church to amend its discriminatory practices. This meeting is part of the Convocation 2001—Revival! conference.

"Through their bold defiance of the church's anti-gay policies, Mark and Karen represent the many pastors—gay and heterosexual—who are actively resisting the church's exclusionary policies," said Marilyn Alexander, Reconciling Ministries Network executive director. "Their actions signal a growing unrest among clergy across the country, whether in New England,

Ohio, Arizona or the Pacific Northwest. This first meeting of RMN Clergy Alliance marks the beginning of concerted resistance and dramatic change."

The national network of United Methodist-focused organizations advocates for the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life of the church. Founded in 1984, it consists of 173 United Methodist congregations, 24 campus ministries and more than 17,000 individual members. Organizations involved include the Parent's Reconciling Network, MOSAIC student movement and the Clergy Alliance.

For more information call 773-736-5526 or send e-mail to [info@rmnetwork.org](mailto:info@rmnetwork.org).

### EMERALD CITY GOES PINK

New census figures indicate Seattle is second only to Washington, D.C., in same-sex households, the *Seattle Times* reports July 11.

"One out of every 21 couples living together...is homosexual," Mike Lindblom and Justin Mayo wrote. "Neighborhood-level counts illustrate how lesbian and gay male couples are increasingly moving out of the 'gay ghetto' of Capitol Hill, flying flags over homes from Ballard to Skyway, raising children and assimilating with their straight neighbors."

Statewide, one out of every 83 couples is homosexual. In keeping with the national trend, statistics indicate they continue to congregate in progressive urban centers: About half of Washington's 15,900 same-sex pairs live in King County.

Gay men are more prevalent in the upscale Seattle neighborhoods of Capitol Hill, Belltown, Alki Beach and downtown Bellevue; lesbians have been flocking to the more affordable Rainier Valley, Lake City, Vashon Island, Shoreline and Lynnwood. "You should follow gay males for gentrification because they have more income and are making everything look nice, and you should follow lesbians for good deals,"

said Pepper Schwartz, a University of Washington sociologist.

### VANCOUVER PRIDE AWARD PRESENTED

Donna LaPerle received the Community Pride Award during Saturday in the Park on June 14 in Vancouver, Wash. Originally from Maine, she moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1978.



Donna LaPerle has been involved with Saturday in the Park for six years

LaPerle works as a caregiver for the Southwest Washington Health District; distributes Christmas baskets for Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd and Cascade AIDS Project; volunteers during the North Bank Tavern's Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless; and coaches girls softball and basketball for the YMCA. She has received the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award, MCC's Outstanding Ministry Award and the Tim Kelly Lifetime Achievement Award.

Event coordinator Michael Sager said LaPerle definitely deserved the honor. He was pleased to see someone who doesn't do highly visible work finally receive some public recognition.

"She's been instrumental in making sure that Saturday in the Park goes on every year," Sager said. "She does work behind the scenes, but she always is there to help any cause."


### FINANCIAL ADVISER HONORED

Floreid Walker, a senior financial adviser for Waddell & Reed, has been named a recipient of the company's Crest Award, national sales manager Bob Williams says. The honor was given this year to the top 139 financial advisers across the country.

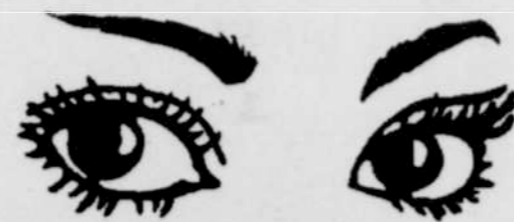
Walker was presented the award during a conference June 28 to 30 in San Francisco. This was the seventh time she has earned the honor.

### FORMER JUST OUT REPORTER PROMOTED

Inga Sorensen, who left *Just Out* in May 2000 after working for almost a decade as news editor and reporter, already is moving up the ladder at one of the country's largest queer publications.

She recently was named editor of the *New York Blade News* in Manhattan. She was most recently the paper's managing editor. 

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and TIMOTHY KRAUSE



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