

# UNITED WE STAND

**A strong, vibrant and visible Lesbian Community Project benefits everyone** by Kristan Aspen

**W**hat is the Lesbian Community Project? If you have come out or moved here recently, or if you haven't checked us out for a while, this column will introduce you to a treasured organization as well as a major cornerstone of Oregon's entire queer community.

Did you see our "float" during Pride 2001? We chose a rainbow umbrella theme with streamers connecting women of various ages, cultures, abilities and orientations to our institution and its many programs serving as a resource for all of us.

Surrounded by our Amazon Dragons team, LCP showed her strength, longevity and possibility to everyone on the sidelines. Plus, we all had a great time!

As program director, I know it is a challenge to maintain the interest and commitment of our members. The constant barrage of ballot measures in the past 10 years has taken its toll on political activists. But I often wonder when the queer community will wake up and see the benefits to all of us derived from a strong, vibrant and visible Lesbian Community Project.



LCP's mission is to "build community and organize for justice"

If you already appreciate LCP's existence, what are you waiting for? Please invest in building your community by becoming a member! Join before Dec. 31, and your contribution will be matched by a grant from the Ralph L. Smith Foundation to help establish a sustainable financial base for our organization.

Established in 1985, LCP is inclusive and open to everyone who believes in our founding purpose: to support the well-being of lesbians. We welcome everyone who values a strong lesbian community, a visible lesbian presence and a commitment to collaboration with all of our progressive friends and allies.

We welcome all self-defined women who support lesbian leadership as voting members and everyone else as contributing members. Fees are on a sliding scale accessible to everyone.

LCP offers lesbians, gay women, dykes and queers a forum for organizing almost anything. In the past year we have focused on three program areas: Youth Leadership Training through a series of retreats for queers younger than 25; Deaf Community Outreach through American Sign Language classes and a Deaf Culture Night; and Options for Elders, a Conversations Project and action plan for developing community with people older than 60.

In addition, we have started a Conversational Spanish Social Group and plan to teach Spanish classes, as well as ASL classes, in the fall. We provide public speakers on request, publish a bimonthly newsletter and play host to occasional forums, dances or chats as well as monthly support groups.

Through the years LCP has produced many popular events. Our 16th annual Softball Tour-

namment will take place Aug. 10 to 12 in Brush Prairie, Wash., with 32 women's teams from throughout the Pacific Northwest participating.

Thanks to the incredible organizing ability and Xenalike volunteer effort of coordinator Karen Hefner, this year's event promises to be one of the best yet. If you'd like to help out during the weekend call our office or just show up and check in at the LCP table. It's a great way to meet women!

Besides five games each for 32 teams, we will have a barbecue beginning at 2 p.m. Aug. 11, a silent auction, entertainment and participatory fun for all. (Late-night slip 'n' slide has been popular the past few years.)

What self-respecting lesbian would miss the chance to watch more than 300 women with muscles playing ball in short shorts and tank tops? Although there is no fee for watching the games, the tournament is a major fund-raiser for LCP.

We appreciate all of the sponsors who have stepped up to the plate—Dingo's Taco Bar, Realtor Celia J. Lyon, *Just Out* and Portland Produce—plus all the vendors and advertisers who bought space to sell their services and wares. You also can contribute by showing up, eating, volunteering, bidding on auction items and buying a T-shirt; if you have a great time, we hope you'll consider becoming a member.

At its best LCP provides a structure, a history, a mechanism through which the generations can work together to carry on the vision that began in the 1980s from a grassroots conference attended by 300 women. A vital, active Lesbian Community Project can be a model for the whole queer community as we "build community and organize for justice."

LCP is a resource for all people who want to contact or learn more about lesbians. It provides a critical piece of the foundation sexual minorities need to feel grounded, rooted and validated in our society. We hope you will join us soon.

To find out more about LCP's events, programs and volunteer opportunities, call us, pick up a newsletter at many women's establishments, drop by our office downtown at the YWCA or come to the Softball Tournament. We look forward to meeting you! ☐

KRISTAN ASPEN is program director of the Lesbian Community Project. For more information call 503-294-7435.



Corner of Sandy Blvd. & NE 64th  
3106 NE 64th  
Portland, OR 97213

*Gifts  
for Romance  
in an  
Elegant Setting*

*It's My Pleasure*

A Place of Romantic Invention

503-280-8080  
www.teleport.com/~pleasure



**Where Good Friends  
Go To Meet**  
Since 1939

Daily Breakfast & Lunch Specials  
Full Service Cocktail Lounge  
Great Home Cooked Foods  
and Generous Cocktails  
at Working Class Prices

Open Every Day  
at 7am

Under New  
Ownership  
& Management

In Multnomah Village  
7819 SW Capitol Hwy  
(503) 246-9097



## RETIREMENT IS NOT THE TIME TO REALIZE YOU CAN'T RETIRE.

There's no time like the present to plan for the future. And there's no substitute for experience when it comes to making those important decisions. That's why you should talk with Floreid Walker, Senior Financial Advisor, about Long Term Health Care Insurance options, Estate Planning, Life Insurance, and Retirement Planning. She'll help develop a plan that's right for you and insure your "golden years" are truly golden.



Investing. With a plan.™

For a personal financial plan, call:

**FLOREID WALKER**  
Senior Financial Advisor  
503.238.6036 ext 109

500 N.E. Multnomah, Suite 278  
Portland, OR 97232  
www.waddell.com

email: floreid32983@wradvisors.com  
Member SIPC



2001  
Chairman's  
Advisory Board  
Member