

HOMEBUYING CLASS WELCOMES SAME-SEX COUPLES

A homebuying class in Salem is welcoming same-sex couples to attend. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 3 at the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, 2475 Center St. NE.

Organizers say "The ABCs of Homebuying" is fun, easy and full of the information interested people need to buy a home of their own. The class is taught in six sessions: housing decisions, financial preparation, shopping, mortgages, closing and protecting your investment.

The cost—\$20 a person and \$25 a couple—includes seven hours of instruction, an extensive workbook and lunch. Space is limited, so advanced registration and payment are required.

For more information call Heather Weitman at 503-585-6232.

BOOKSTORE CAMPAIGN COMBATS PREJUDICE

Barnes & Noble stores throughout the nation are participating in the second annual "Close the Book on Hate" campaign in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League.

The joint effort provides teachers, civic leaders, caregivers, children, parents and other community members with various resources and programs to help end prejudice and discrimination in

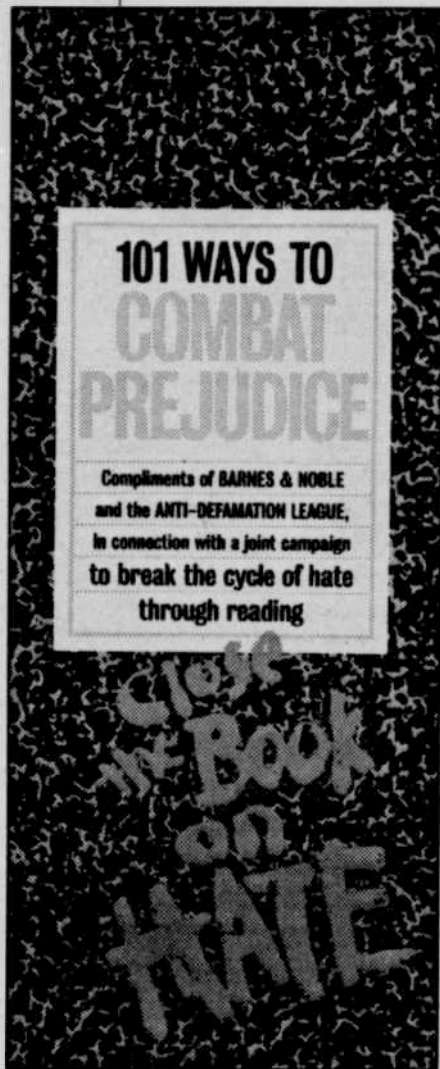
the United States and break the cycle of hate through reading. Stores also will be distributing free copies of the brochure *101 Ways to Combat Prejudice*.

The Barnes & Noble at 1720 N. Jantzen Beach will play host to two events early next month. Both are free and open to the public.

A Civic Leaders Night titled "How We Shall Overcome: Sharing Ways to Fight Prejudice and Intolerance" will start 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6. The presenters will be Bonnie Tinker, Love Makes a Family executive director; former state Rep. Jo Ann Bowman, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Portland Branch first vice president; and Intisar Azzuz, American Muslim Council Oregon Chapter president.

A Friendship Storytime and Craft Activity supporting "Close the Book on Hate" will start 10 a.m. Nov. 8. The event is recommended for children between 2 and 6 years old and their grown-up friends.

For more information call 503-283-2800.



SMITH MARKS SHEPARD ANNIVERSARY

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith made a statement for the *Congressional Record* commemorating the three-year anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death Oct. 12.

"My involvement with hate crimes legislation...stems from the day of this murder," the Oregon Republican said. "I was...watching the televised vigil on the steps of the Capitol following Matt's death. It caused me great sorrow to note that no sitting Republican senator was involved in this vigil. I resolved then to help change our current hate crimes law in part so that what happened to Matt would never happen again."

Smith has sponsored the Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001, which would extend existing federal hate crimes laws to include gender, disability and sexual orientation. "I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds," he said.

DINNER PROMOTES HOPE AND HEALING

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., was one of the special guests Oct. 5 at the Human Rights Campaign's fifth annual National Dinner in Washington, D.C.

He was joined by a host of influential leaders and the partners of several victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States: Tom Hay, partner of David Charlebois, an HRC Federal Club member and the co-pilot of Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon; Nancy Walsh, partner of Carol Flyzik, who was

on Flight 11, which crashed into the World Trade Center; and Mike Lyons, partner of Jack Keohane, who was a victim of falling debris in New York City. The sold-out event was a time of hope and healing, HRC says.

"There are no words to express the depth of our nation's sorrow," executive director Elizabeth Birch said at the event. "This tragedy and the words of the family members tonight have ripped through every American heart. But as we grieve, we should allow ourselves to be inspired and lifted by the stories...from members of our community. In their unmatched courage and the unmatched caring that have poured from Americans' hearts since, we have seen so much of humanity's best."

The black-tie gala also included keynote speaker U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, the gay University of Wyoming student beaten to death in 1998. HRC presented its National Equality Award to Tony Award-winning actress Cherry Jones and its National Capital Area Leadership Award to Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C.

Birch also stressed the importance of pressing forward with the quest for equality in this time of national mourning and reflection. What makes the United States great is the ability to engage in advocacy so all citizens can live in freedom and pursue their dreams, she noted.

"It is the very right to engage in this advocacy—to ever perfect America on its journey towards true equality—that is the magic of our nation," Birch said. "America has always been a nation in search of itself. We are at a historic juncture when we are the light on that path." □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and PATRICIA L. MACAODHA

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