

THINK GLOBALLY

World AIDS Day highlights stigma and discrimination

by Jim Radosta

AIDS continues to ravage families and communities across the globe, affecting millions more every year. World AIDS Day honors those people and draws attention to significant issues surrounding the epidemic.

The international event will be commemorated Dec. 1 with programs highlighting progress made in the battle against the disease—but at the same time reminding others how much still needs to be done. This year's theme is "Stigma and Discrimination," a campaign against the prejudice people with HIV face on a daily basis.

Portlanders will mark the occasion from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 1 at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

The Rose City's theme is "21 Years: A Coming of AIDS," focusing on the impact of the epidemic on Oregon since 1981. This event ties into the making of a filmed documentary on the timeline of local HIV/AIDS service providers and organizations that was displayed last year.

The first half of the program will be devoted to remembrance and will include a reading of the names of those who have passed. Individuals who want to honor a loved one are encouraged to participate.

The second half will be a celebration to honor AIDS survivors. Entertainers will include Darcelle, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and Mexican mask dancers.

Invited participants include Oregon Governor-elect Ted Kulongoski; Portland Mayor Vera Katz; Multnomah County Chairwoman Diane Linn; County Commissioner Serena Cruz; U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith; U.S. Reps. Earl Blumenauer, David Wu and Darlene Hooley; and kids from Outside In. The creators and sponsors of the event are the Portland Area HIV Planning Council and People Living with HIV Committee, the Client Advisory Board of the Multnomah County HIV Services Center, the International Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS and Cascade AIDS Project.

For more information contact Don Jarvi at 503-224-6031 or cosmicfun@earthlink.net.

Portland's neighbors north of the Columbia River are invited to join the Clark County Department of Human Services for an evening of remembrance and celebration of life from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 24 at First United Methodist Church, 401 E. 33rd St. in Vancouver, Wash. The date was moved because of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The venue is wheelchair accessible, and the event will be American Sign Language interpreted. Refreshments will be served after the program.

For additional information call Clare at 360-696-2416.

In Lincoln City, the Coastal AIDS Network will hold a candlelight vigil 7 p.m. Dec. 1 at Episcopal Parish of St. James, 2490 N.E. Highway 101. Organizers promise an evening of music, prayers, memories and acknowledgment of those who work tirelessly for the good of the community and those affected by the epidemic.

For more information call 866-42-CAN-DO or 541-994-5597, fax 541-994-5597, e-mail

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS



Don Jarvi, Portland Area HIV Planning Council co-chairman, is helping plan the Rose City's observation of World AIDS Day

CAN@wcn.net or write to 3128 N.E. Highway 101, Suite 202, Lincoln City, OR 97367.

All are invited to attend Jackson County's observance of World AIDS Day. This interdenominational ceremony of remembrance, rededication and music will start 7 p.m. Dec. 1 at Medford Congregational United Church of Christ, 1801 E. Jackson St.

Violinist Kendra Law and singers Kurt Bernhardt and Beth Baker will join keynote speaker Donna Taylor of WinterSpring Center for Grief and Loss for an inspiring evening culminating in a moving candlelight ceremony conducted by the Rev. Paul Robinson. Attendees will honor the memory of neighbors who have died of AIDS, celebrate the lives of those living with HIV and refresh their commitment to the struggle.

Admission is free. Participating agencies include OnTrack's Alan Collins AIDS Project and Jackson County Health Department's HIV Division.

For more information contact Bill Coyne at 541-772-1777.

The Douglas County AIDS Council's remembrance will be held Dec. 1 at Open Door Christian Fellowship, 2545 W. Harvard Ave. in Roseburg. Its annual awards dinner, normally held the Saturday after World AIDS Day, has been postponed until March.

For more information call 541-440-2761 or 877-440-2761, fax 541-440-9665 or e-mail dcac@hivroseburg.org.

AIDS Support and Prevention will hold a celebration of life for World AIDS Day from 2 to 6 p.m. Dec. 1 at Josephine County Community Services, 317 N.E. B St. in Grants Pass.

The event will feature a potluck, a candlelight vigil and speeches by Veda Latin, Department of Human Services HIV/STD/TB program manager; Lindi Endicott, HIV Alliance of Lane County education director; and Planned Parenthood, which will discuss the rights, respect and responsibilities of teen-agers. The Rogue Valley Gay Men's Chorus, making its debut in Grants Pass, will provide a wide variety of musical selections.

For further info or directions contact Ron Turk at 541-471-7890, 877-501-2727, asap@echoweb.net or 132 N.E. B St., Suite 23, Grants Pass, OR 97526. ☐

For details about WORLD AIDS DAY visit the Internet site www.avert.org/aidsstigma.



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