

# NORTHWEST newsbriefs



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Roger Andersen (center) of Portland Lambda Pool League presents a \$1,600 check July 22 to the Rev. Glenna Shepherd of Metropolitan Community Church of Portland and Gregg Curé of Esther's Pantry

## LESBIAN WITH MS WAITS FOR ANSWER

Georgena Moran, a Portland lesbian who must undergo a stem cell transplant in order to survive the most rapidly progressive form of multiple sclerosis, has received more bad news.

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle recently informed her that she must wait another six months before the experimental procedure can proceed. "As this is the third round of postponements, I halfway expected it but was disappointed just the same," Moran said July 7.

The nonprofit organization Georgena's Journey: A Community Confronts MS was established last year to raise \$100,000 by September 2002. So far it has collected \$72,500, but its donation goal has increased to \$150,000.

Moran has learned that stem cell replacement therapy is being performed outside of research studies on people who have MS. She is looking into patient protocols while continuing to consider other treatments.

Moran also has been seeking natural methods of treatment including homeopathy, qigong, acupuncture and different approaches to energy balancing. Unfortunately, she might need a caregiver in the near future.

"I want to thank the large community of friends and colleagues who have supported me on my journey, but special thanks to the Portland and Seattle lesbian communities who have shown me such strength through your numbers and in your love," Moran told *Just Out*. "You've reminded me what a family I have in the lesbian community."

For more information visit [www.georgenasjourney.org](http://www.georgenasjourney.org).

## POOL LEAGUE PRESENTS CHECKS

A queer billiards group donated more than \$4,000 to two AIDS charities last month.

Portland Lambda Pool League presented a \$1,600 check July 22 to Esther's Pantry, which provides food and personal care items to financially-challenged people, and a \$2,500 check July 23 to Our House of Portland, a residential care facility. Members select the charities at the end of each season.

Play starts Tuesdays in September. Each league member pays \$4 to compete for the night.

For more information call 503-799-6343 or e-mail [rkandersen@msn.com](mailto:rkandersen@msn.com).

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Diversity as Gift—a nonprofit organization that strives to educate people to end oppression based on gender, race, physical ability, age, economics and sexual orientation—will hold an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. Aug. 10 at Pasta Bella, 709 S.W. 17th Ave.

The event will benefit its food center, which allows economically challenged people who have AIDS or who are terminally ill to receive food free of charge. It will feature a silent auction with more than 100 items.

Appetizers and beverages will be served. The suggested donation is \$15 a person.

To make reservations call 503-241-1751. Donations can be sent to 1314 N.W. Irving St. #512, Portland, OR 97209.

## EATING FOR EQUALITY

Diners can eat good food while supporting a good cause Aug. 5.

Il Piatto and Sala restaurants will serve a three-course meal of soup or salad, pasta and ice cream, sorbet or bread pudding dessert for \$15.95. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Basic Rights Oregon.

Il Piatto, 2348 S.E. Ankeny St., offers an intimate, romantic and artistic dining experience with more than 150 Italian wines. Sala, 1512 S.E. Main St., is a mix of contemporary French and Italian cuisine with a full bar and a beautiful courtyard for summer outdoor dining.

## PET PROJECT

Three icons from Portland's drag community can add yet another job description to their colorful résumés.

Poison Waters, Darcelle XV and Roxy served on the fund-raising committee planning the Tail Wag Barn Dance, a benefit for homeless pets at the Oregon Humane Society. The event will be held 7:30 p.m. Sept. 13 in the Mounted Patrol

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