



Actress Lainie Kazan (right) of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* will serve as the host of Basic Rights Oregon's annual Dinner Gala on Oct. 24

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 3915 S.E. Steele St.

The event will feature a potluck lunch, speakers and combined 12-step meetings throughout the day. The host for the roundup is Rainbow Recovery, an Alcoholics Anonymous group with a queer focus that meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 N.E. Broadway.

Registration costs \$15, but people who sign up by Oct. 15 can donate \$10-\$12. Make checks payable to Bridges in Recovery Al-anon Family Group, 13210 S.E. Seventh St. #97, Vancouver, WA 98683.

For more information call 360-694-4163.

BEND MAN ASSAULTED

A gay man says he was assaulted for dancing with a male friend Aug. 16 at a bar in Bend.

Andrew Drake Gilbert was one of several people who showed up at the Grove Lounge as part of a "guerrilla takeover," a popular trend in which queers come together at a nongay bar for a night out on the town. "We had numbers that far reached my expectations, and I had a wonderful time," Gilbert says.

Unfortunately, his evening was disrupted when a man assaulted him on the dance floor. Gilbert's jaw was broken in two places and will be wired shut for several weeks.

Sadly, the incident took place just one month before Bend's annual Pride event, "Family" Celebration! III, A Family Reunion. This year's festivities feature two parties scheduled for Sept. 28: an all-ages Frolic at the Funny Farm from noon to 4 p.m. at 64990 Deschutes Market Road as well as a 21-and-over Cabaret Celebration 8 p.m. at the Grove, 1033 N.W. Bond St.

"The Grove folks are doing everything they can to help with the investigation and are being supportive in my recovery," Gilbert said. "The Grove is still a place that welcomes everyone and is working on how to ensure the Grove is a safer place for the diversity of Bend."

Supporters came together for a celebration of diversity Sept. 14 at the Grove. The event featured a screening of the film *Not in Our Town* along with a concert by Will Bernard and Motherbug.

To help pay for Gilbert's medical bills, send contributions marked "For Drake" to the Human Dignity Coalition, P.O. Box 6084, Bend, OR 97708.

BRO'S WEDDING DAY

Basic Rights Oregon will hold its annual Dinner Gala on Oct. 24 in the new wing of the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Cocktails will be served starting at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7:30.

This year's theme is "Our Big Fat Gay Wedding," and the host will be actress Lainie Kazan of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. Organizers promise an incredible night of inspiration and entertainment honoring leaders who have worked to advance equality.

Tickets are \$100 a person. Tables seat 10 donors each.

For reservations or to become a table host call Jeff Pellissier at 503-222-6151.

NONPROFIT GETS GRANT TO ADVANCE EQUALITY

Washington state's Fairness Lobby was one of 23 groups nationwide to receive a 2004 Equality Fund grant, the Human Rights Campaign announced Sept. 15.

The Seattle-based nonprofit organization was formed in 1998 to protect the rights of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people through lobbying in the Legislature and political contacts in the state and local governments. It maintains a core goal of amending state civil rights laws to explicitly include queers and ensure that they are safe from harassment and free from discrimination in employment, housing, parenting and other basic rights.

"From thwarting anti-GLBT ballot measures in New Mexico to advancing relationship recognition that would protect families in Maryland to ensuring the safety of public students in Florida, these grants will support the important work of state GLBT advocacy groups across the country," said Seth Kilbourn, HRC national field director. "The partnership we've formed with these groups is a priority for us...and we will continue to contribute staff support, volunteer time and important funds to groups fighting critical battles at the state level."

Now in its fourth year, the Equality Fund has contributed a total of \$472,500 to state sexual minority groups. They use the grants to organize, recruit and train volunteers, hire lobbyists to advocate for and against queer-related legislation, produce voter guides and organize town hall meetings to educate citizens about equality. **JM**

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and TIMOTHY KRAUSE

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