

PURGATORY

Making Perversion more Personal
5224 SE Foster Rd (52nd & Foster)
Shop Tues-Saturday 12-7pm
www.PurgatoryBoutique.com



A Fetish Event unlike anything Portland has ever seen.
www.PDXFetishBall.com
503 972 2226

**Canadian
pharmaceutical
Supply**

Save up to 85% on Medication from Canada
Eugene Office: 541-461-HOME (4663)
Get A Price Quote • We make House Calls
Toll Free: 1-888-DRUG604 (888-378-4604)
www.myCPSupply.com

Drive with Pride



Visit us online at:
www.reyreece.com
or schedule your appointment
503-256-3700
REY REECE DEALERSHIPS
VOLKSWAGEN-MITSUBISHI-USED
122nd & East Burnside
www.reyreece.com

What's Cooking?



Paul Gandy
Personal Chef Services

Call
(503) 460-EATS
(503) 460-3287

Creative Cuisine, LLC
www.EatsCreativeCuisine.com



5
10
15

And 5 more years makes 20!

Save the date!
Sunday, November 23

Hollywood Theatre
Join us as *Just Out* celebrates 20 years of community.

MUSIC**From hobo to our hometown**

Anne Weiss is a good old-fashioned musical activist

BY KATHY BELGE

Calling all burned-out social workers, peace activists and union organizers: Anne Weiss invites you to her Oct. 11 concert for a little rejuvenation.

The 41-year-old bisexual singer believes music is a way for people to celebrate and connect with each other. Citing a quote from anarchist Emma Goldman, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution," Weiss says she often sees activists fighting against injustices, and when they don't have a positive vision to move toward, they just burn out. She hopes her folk-, blues- and gospel-fused music can help create that positive vision.

The guitarist and pianist has lived in Portland for nine years, but before that she spent about 10 on the road, a self-described political hobo. Weiss hitchhiked cross-country with friends at 16 after reading Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*.

Although she had always been somewhat of an activist, her time on the road solidified it. "Most of it was really lovely," she says. "It was an opportunity to fall in love with the world and a really good reason to want to preserve it." After her initial trip, her travels became more focused. She helped organize political movements for peace and justice in the United States and Central America, all the while singing and writing songs.

Weiss has lived in a cave in New Mexico, traveled through Central America, met a hermit and lived among Native Americans in the Southwest and farmers in France. She stayed with a motorcycle gang and a family with 10 kids in Oklahoma. "You would meet people and have all kinds of preconceived notions about them—and they would be undone," she notes. "And that was an exceptional and beautiful experience."

A full-time professional musician, most of her traveling these days is for performances or to teach guitar workshops. But, even there, she finds unique ways to connect with communities. One of her favorites is through small house concerts. "You really get to meet the community where you've gone. Something special comes out of it."

At one house concert in upstate New York, some of the audience members decided to form a blues band. Weiss gave them pointers to get them started. "You feel like you're leaving something behind that's positive," she adds.

Weiss grew up in a diverse New York City neighborhood where she says people often played music on the street. Her family was musical, and she began taking piano lessons at age 3 and performed at a church coffeehouse at age 11.

She has always been attracted to musicians who try to better the world. "A lot of the folks who inspired me were involved with peace and human rights and gay rights and all that stuff," she says. Her early influences were Aretha Franklin, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Brown and older blues artists like B.B. King and Sippie Wallace. She is inspired by musicians who use music as a way to have a positive impact on the world.



PHOTO BY SUE LOSHKALIAN

Music is not a "one-dimensional experience" to Anne Weiss. See her Oct. 11 at Alberta Street Pub.

And she tries to carry that tradition forward. "For me, my most successful concerts are when the music is really good, but also when people feel uplifted and connected to each other," she explains. "When it's not just me up on the stage doing something but helping to create something among all the people that are there."

Weiss names Dar Williams and Catie Curtis as friends and has shared the stage with the likes of Joan Baez and Ani DiFranco.

Also recognized as a poet, Weiss published a book of poetry, *Making Paper from Leaves*, last year.

Her CD release concert for *Braille* last February at Alberta Street Public House was one of her first times playing with a full band. "I had many people come up to me and said they hadn't heard of me...and that they walked in feeling down, and they were walking out very up."

Weiss describes herself as visually impaired and, although she doesn't read Braille, she hopes her music reaches out beyond the five senses. Music is not, she says, "a one-dimensional experience. It's a sensual experience. If you write well and play well and try to layer it in many different ways, it has a texture that people can experience." □

ANNE WEISS performs 8 p.m. Oct. 11 at Alberta Street Public House, 1036 N.E. Alberta St., with the *Feel This Band*. Admission is \$6-\$12 sliding scale.

KATHY BELGE is your Guide to Lesbian Life at www.lesbianlife.about.com.

