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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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er Floreid Walker will talk about estate and financial planning, wills, trusts and durable power of attorney for health care; and attorney Mark Johnson will discuss child care issues, custody agreements, and adoption pitfalls. In addition, pediatrician Phil Wu will discuss his experience with getting married in Canada, which is scheduled to take place Nov. 21.

Questions and socializing will follow. Kaiser employees and their partners, Kaiser members and their partners, and "friends of Kaiser" are welcome to attend.

For more information e-mail
sonsetsuko2003@yahoo.com.

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LEGAL ACTIVISTS

The Bill & Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation has named three recipients for the 2003-2004 academic year, including its first out-of-state scholar. The fund honors law students in their last year of study who are dedicated to donating part of their legal expertise to helping keep their state hate-free by fighting bigotry and discrimination against sexual minorities.

Frances A. Crockett experienced great levels of discrimination as the hearing child of two deaf parents in Mobile, Ala. Now attending University of New Mexico School of Law, she was a pivotal force in the state's recent passage of legislation outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Tiffany A. Dickson left a substantial tenure of volunteer service to queer communities in Boston and transplanted herself to Eugene, where she promptly infused her zeal for involvement by revitalizing the sexual minority student group Outlaws at University of Oregon School of Law.

Victoria L. Larson came to Portland after more than quadrupling the active membership of Outlook, the queer advocacy organization at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. She has been an active member of GLOBAL, Northwestern School of Law's queer student organization, and facilitated a retreat last spring that helped organize the college's first "Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and the Law" seminar, which will be taught in 2004.

The scholarship is named after the couple who co-founded Portland's chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Bill practiced law for more than 56 years in Oregon

before his death in 1995; Ann, a newspaper reporter turned mother of five, died in January.

"We are thrilled not only to be continuing the standard set by nearly a decade of Shepherd Scholars, but to be bringing the message of this fund of Equity Foundation beyond the boundaries of the great state of Oregon," said Linda Traeger, Equity executive director. "We welcome these three new 'daughters,' as Ann would have so delightfully dubbed them, to the growing family of Shepherd Scholars and look forward to their careers as legal activists for our mission of dignity and worth for all."

For more information call 503-231-5759.

HEPATITIS VACCINATION PROMOTED IN OREGON

A health coalition has launched the first regional effort to promote hepatitis vaccination among gay and bi men in Oregon and Washington.

"Hepatitis A and hepatitis B are the only sexually transmitted diseases that people can vaccinate against," said Fred Swanson, executive director of Seattle's Gay City Health Project. "This is a proactive way for gay and bisexual men to take control of their health."

Gay City has produced three postcards containing up-to-date medical information and promoting vaccination. The state of Oregon is coordinating a collaborative effort among Multnomah, Washington and Clark counties, which will be responsible for distributing the cards in public health centers, bars, sex clubs, coffee shops and other queer venues through their MSM (men who have sex with men) outreach programs.

In 2000, Gay City worked with Seattle and King County public health officials on crafting an innovative hepatitis vaccination campaign. A year after its debut, vaccination rates among gay men in Seattle increased by 64 percent for hepatitis A and by 10 percent for hepatitis B.

However, a large number of men still need to be vaccinated. According to a 2003 survey by the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association at Pride festivals throughout the country, including Seattle, more than 67 percent of gay and bi men had not been vaccinated against hepatitis A, and more than 60 percent had not been vaccinated against hepatitis B. Increased rates of hepatitis infection among gay and bi men have been reported in many large cities



These postcards were developed to encourage gay and bi men to get vaccinated against hepatitis