

speak out

notables



Janna MacAuslan (left) and Kristan Aspen marked 17 years since they first made a public commitment to each other as partners for life, with a wedding ceremony March 5 in the Mount Tabor home of Aspen's parents. They read the same vows, exchanged the same rings and wore the same outfits, including the dried flower wreaths on their heads, that they wore for their 1987 ceremony.

The wedding was performed by Aspen's father, the Rev. Charles M. Knapp, a retired United Church of Christ minister who co-founded the Portland chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays with his wife, Rita. Attending were Aspen's cousin, Lynn Okita of Suffolk, Va.; her nephew, Daniel Knapp of Wilsonville; and friends of the couple. MacAuslan's mother, Willene Auslan of Fort Worth, Texas, was unable to attend but sent her love.

Aspen works as development director at Bradley-Angle House, a domestic violence shelter. MacAuslan owns and operates Alternative Sound and teaches classical and flamenco guitar. The couple, who have lived in Portland since 1980, are also musical partners in the Musica Femina duo and Pan Dulce trio.

A community celebration is planned for this spring. Donations may be made to Love Makes a Family.



Cherry Hartman (left) and Wendy Woods were legally married in an afternoon ceremony and reception May 1 at the Living Enrichment Center in Wilsonville. More than 60 family members and friends attended the ceremony.

The couple's 8-year-old daughter, Rosie Hartman, was the ring bearer. The union was witnessed by Woods' sisters, Linda Seidel and Anna Marie Weller, and Hartman's twin brother, Derry, and sister Barbara Zapp. The Rev. Sally Rutis of the Living Enrichment Center performed the ceremony. Kristan Aspen and Janna MacAuslan of Musica Femina performed, and Ellen Goldberg read from her original poetry.

The couple honeymooned last year on an Olivia Cruise to Alaska, where they participated in a commitment ceremony with hundreds of other couples. Marsha Hawes of Vancouver, British Columbia, was the photographer for both the commitment ceremony and the wedding.

Hartman is a licensed clinical social worker in Portland, director of social services at William Temple House and a published author. She is the daughter of the late Dale C. and Dorothy Hartman.

Woods is the daughter of the late Dr. John and Virginia Weller. She has a doctorate in botany and is director of a research consulting firm.



Jesse Winter (left) and Kate Wolfe were legally married March 27 at The Core Source in Northeast Portland.

Winter is a diehard feminist, longtime social service worker, poet and essayist. Wolfe is a psychologist who teaches at Portland Community College. The couple have lived in Seattle, a small town in Illinois, Portland and Tigard.

Family members from Texas and Minnesota were unable to attend the wedding but shared their joy. Witnesses were longtime friends Tammy Dieckgraeff and Shirley DeTrude, who stood in line with the couple for four long, cold and wet hours March 3, the first day same-sex marriage licenses were issued in Multnomah County. Dieckgraeff and DeTrude, along with friends Esther Kohler, Heather Haynes and Glenn Taylor, were essential in making the wedding and reception a success. Friend Viki Stanmour was the photographer. Laura Uva was the featured vocalist. Attorney Karen Keeney officiated.

The wedding and reception were attended by about 40 friends and colleagues who were gratified that the county acknowledged what they already knew: that Winter and Wolfe have a love that is enduring and utterly legitimate.



Maggie Beck (left) and Pam Briggs were united in marriage March 4 at Keller Auditorium, gaining legal recognition of their 20-year commitment to one another. The Rev. Tara Wilkins of the Heart of Faith Ministries officiated.

The community knows Pam and Maggie as local songwriters and performers. During the ceremony the couple sang an original composition to each other titled "Our Love."

Their family and friends support them in love. Love truly makes a family.

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Support Groups Available

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The Hambleton Project and the Susan G. Komen Foundation have collaborated to provide these free resources to our community:

- ☒ Bi-weekly support group for lesbians/bisexual women with cancer and their partners/caregivers
- ☒ 8-week bereavement group for lesbians/bisexual women who have lost a loved one

These groups are currently held in both Portland and Salem.

For specific meeting times, locations and more information call the Hambleton Project: 503.335.6591 (PDX) or 503.581.8356 (Salem)



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