



Clockwise from left, Basic Rights Oregon office manager Dan Yonker, communications director Rebekah Kassell, field director Jessica DuBois, program coordinator Melissa Shepherd, board co-chairman Frank Dixon, donor outreach coordinator Cathy Abbruzzese, executive director Roey Thorpe and board members Alisa Simmons and Jeana Frazzini are being honored for making marriage equality possible

Patti O'Dora

As an out and terrified teen-ager, Patti O'Dora lived in a small town in Oregon where it was a daily battle just to stay alive. At the age of 19 she moved to Portland, and by the time she turned 21 she realized she belonged in the drag community.

O'Dora started hosting events at the Embers Avenue in 1985 and has been there ever since. She also serves as a Portland Pride

rewarding undertaking of her adult life.

"Patti has...had the pleasure of entertaining in and around Portland for 21 years," Pride Northwest said. "Just knowing that in some small way Patti was able to make a difference has made all of the struggles pale in comparison to the joy this life has brought her."

The SPIRIT OF PRIDE AWARDS will be presented 6:25 p.m. June 19 at Waterfront Park.

Parade announcer in front of Embers along with Rose Empress XXXVI Maria.

In 1985 she was chosen to represent the now-defunct Portland Forum as Miss Oregon XIII. Five years later she was elected Rose Empress XXXIII.

In the past few years, O'Dora was elected to the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court board of directors, serving a term as secretary and a term as president. She says it was quite possibly the most difficult, challenging and

PRIDE 2004 FOCUSES ON FAMILIES

Portland Pride—which always is held on Father's Day weekend—will feature several activities this year that are tailored to the growing number of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people with children.

This year's Pride Parade grand marshal will be the family of Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau, who have been fighting Florida's anti-gay adoption laws for many years. The couple now live in Portland with their five foster children: Frank and Tracy, 16; Bert, 13; Wayne, 10; and Ernie, 7. Their story inspired talk show host Rosie O'Donnell to come out of the closet in March 2002.

"Roger and Steven's determination to secure fair and equal parental rights for themselves, and all GLBT parents and parents-to-be, has been an inspiration to the GLBT community, as well as to parents and families in the broader community," Pride Northwest said. "[We commend] the entire family for their pride, strength and love."

In addition, a Family Fun Tent located next

to the Information Booth will offer plenty of enjoyable and educational activities for children and their parents. All day long, they can play games, enter a coloring contest to win prizes and take home balloon hat creations. Educational resources for families and families-to-be will also be available.

Some of the weekend's other family-related highlights:

- **Paper Neckties and Tiaras:** Artist Shanon Schollian helps children make wearable art from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. June 19 and 20.

- **Wiggles the Clown:** Children can have their face painted with a fabulous design from 2 to 4:30 p.m. June 19 and 1:30 to 5 p.m. June 20.

- **Family Storytime:** Trista Kobluskie from In Other Words bookstore and Deborah Gitlitz from Multnomah County Library read queer-friendly books for the entire family from 2:30 to 3 p.m. June 19 and 20.

—JR

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