

Westside Florist



Our professionals will arrange your delivery

(503) 642-9992
1-800-356-1884

Don Duncan
owner

Aloha Market Centre
20455 SW TV Highway
www.westsideflorist.net

Teleflora



Talk with us. We can help.

Pacific University's
Psychological Service Center

511 SW 10th Avenue
Portland Oregon
503-352-2400

Effective Treatment
Depression • Anxiety • Groups
Relationships • Families • Children
ADHD • Learning Disabilities

Conveniently located near MAX and bus lines
Affordable sliding scale fee

"I'm AVAILABLE when you are!"

Careful and energetic handling of all your home financing needs

MORTGAGE Advocates

6700 SW 105th Ave., Suite 200 Beaverton, OR 97005
Toll Free (877) 826-9900 Fax (503) 297-0824
E-Mail: colleenw@mtgadvocates.com www.mtgadvocates.com

Colleen Weed

Office 503-297-9900 Cell 503-780-1561




I Do!



michael daniels mokume rings

DOWNTOWN PORTLAND 901 SW YAMHILL 503.223.9510	The Real Mother Goose Fine American Craft WWW.THEREALMOTHERGOOSE.COM	PORTLAND AIRPORT 503.284.9929 WASHINGTON SQUARE 503.620.2243
---	---	---

CUSTOM DESIGN AVAILABLE

Nob Hill Psychic

NATURAL BORN PSYCHIC

TELLS PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE, LOVE, MARRIAGE, BUSINESS

HELPS & ADVISES ON ALL MANNERS OF LIFE.

MENTION THIS AD FOR \$20 DISCOUNT ON PALM READINGS

COME IN TODAY FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



PALM • PSYCHIC • TAROT CARD.

550 NW 25th Suite 112 • (503) 222-5501
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

NORTHWESTnews

RIISING FROM THE ASHLAND

Oregon's only queer community center survives a near-death experience by Chelsea Fine

Ashland, the last stop on Interstate 5 before you exit the Beaver State, is home to 15,000 people, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center, the state's only gay and lesbian center.

But Ashland came close to losing the 9-year-old center when financial woes forced the board of directors to set a closing date of April 30—unless \$10,500 was raised to pay for basic operating expenses. After launching an aggressive fund-raising and membership drive in February, the board announced April 13 that the goal had been met. The center is celebrating its success with renewed energy and a new address.

"It's not just the gay community that provided support; it's the straight community, as well," says Jack Tutt, who began volunteering sporadically at the center in 1998 and became its full-time volunteer coordinator two years ago. "The center really serves a purpose here."

Among those who contributed significant funds were area churches, married couples and the Women's Resource Center at Southern Oregon University. "We sent out the S.O.S., and if the center had any value at all to the community, it was up to them to step up," Tutt says.

The center is now in its fourth location; it moved May 8 into a 248-square-foot office at the Historic Ashland Armory. It previously was housed in a 470-square-foot space in the basement of United Church of Christ, which has closed its doors until September for renovation.

"The armory is a fantastic location. First, it is easy to find in downtown Ashland, and it's in a historic building," says Frances Marsh, a new board member who moved to Oregon in 2002. "Second, we are on the Art Walk the first Friday of every month."

The building also has ample parking and access to a performance hall on the main floor for community events. "When it came time to move, we had more trucks and people to help than we knew what to do with," Tutt says.

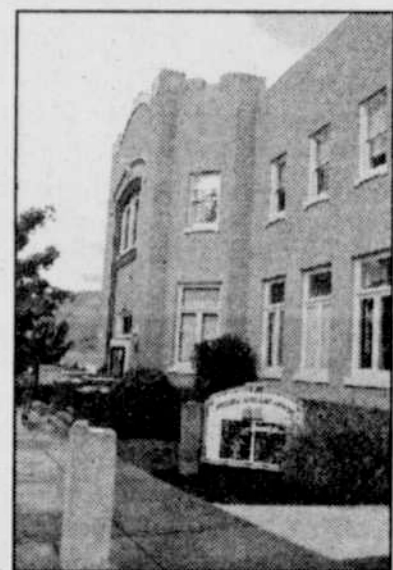
CALENDAR

The Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center will celebrate Pride Month with a series of events in Ashland.

- **Open House/Art Show:** June 4 at the center.
- **Queer Open Mic:** Bring poems and music or come and listen June 7 at Evo's Java House, 376 E. Main St.
- **Queer Night:** 8 p.m. June 9 at Abajo, 66 N. Pioneer St.
- **Movie Night:** Watch episodes of *The L Word* and *Queer as Folk* 6 p.m. June 10 at the center.
- **Queer Independent Short Films:** 7 p.m. June 11 at 258 Garfield St.
- **Queer Golf Tournament:** 5 p.m. June 12 at Bear Creek Golf Course. E-mail Sue at sjones@jri-inc.com to reserve a space.
- **Queer Grrls Second Saturday Party:** 7:30 p.m. June 12 at 570 Elizabeth St. No minors.
- **Big Gay Picnic:** Speakers, entertainment and a tribute to marriage performed by the Rogue Valley Gay Men's Chorus from noon to 5 p.m. June 13 at the Lithia Park Bandshell. Bring a lunch; contest judges will crown the most creative picnic setup.



Volunteer Leslie Sadur works on thank-you letters for donors at the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center, which has found a new home in the Historic Ashland Armory (below)



The center continues to provide basic services: a meeting place for queer-friendly groups, on-call emergency counseling and referrals, free and confidential HIV testing and an extensive library of books, videos and periodicals available for checkout. But with the confined space, the bulk of the library, including the fiction section, will remain in storage.

The center opened Aug. 9, 1995, in response to the double homicide of lesbian couple Michelle Abdill and Roxanne Ellis. The community saw a need for a safe space for the region's queer and questioning people to go.

A substantial amount of funding has been lost through the years. Jackson County grants started at \$36,000 a year when the center first opened, dropped to a mere trickle of \$200 a month and then were discontinued altogether.

At its peak, the center served more than 1,000 people before dwindling to 60 paid members at the beginning of 2004. This number has almost doubled since February.

Tutt says the lull in membership may be attributed to the ebb and flow of an organization. "A lot of time and energy goes into the creation of a center, and as needs are met, people come and go."

Tutt predicts membership will increase slowly as the center's event calendar and community interest continue to grow. While the organization is temporarily out of hole, all of the money raised recently has been earmarked for insurance, rent, storage and basic day-to-day expenses. **JF**

The ABDILL-ELLIS LAMBDA COMMUNITY CENTER is open from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday in Suite 112 at 208 Oak St. For more information call 541-488-6990 or visit www.abdellis.org.

CHELSEA FINE is a southern Oregon free-lance writer and photographer.