

**LESBIAN VIES FOR LEGISLATURE**

Lesbian grassroots organizer Jordana Sardo has thrown her hat in the ring as the Freedom Socialist Party's candidate for House District 45 on the November ballot.

The party elected her at its convention Aug. 12 to challenge Democratic state Rep. Jackie Dingfelder. The incumbent would have been unchallenged if Sardo had not won ballot status.

"Together, we will bring to the electoral arena real solutions to Oregon's economic crisis that the legislators have avoided," she said. "While corporations get tax breaks and incentives, working folks and retirees are forced to choose between paying for medication or electric bills."

Sardo's campaign will fight to shift the tax burden off the backs of workers and small businesses and increase taxes on big industries to fund education, health care and social services. She also advocates for creating an elected independent civilian police review board, bringing home Oregon's National Guard from Iraq and establishing a 30-hour week with no loss in pay.

"There's something dreadfully wrong with this picture when union pension funds go up in smoke while criminal corporate CEOs go to jail but continue to receive their salary and a \$2 million bonus," she said.

Sardo has spent 15 years in grassroots political activism and has defended abortion clinics, worked in coalitions to organize anti-war marches and co-founded Bigot Busters to defeat anti-gay ballot measures. Along with thousands of other gay and lesbian couples, she and her partner wed in March to support the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Sardo has lived in Portland all her life and for 13 years has worked for a social service pro-



Jordana Sardo promises "to put the needs of people first" in her campaign for House District 45

gram serving runaway youth and their families. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in theater.

A working-class, socialist feminist party that organizes with others to change society so it benefits people instead of profits, the Freedom Socialists have sought ballot access for four years. In 2000 they filed to run a candidate but were denied by the secretary of state's office because of a 1905 election law that barred them from the polls for having a name that is similar to the Socialist Party.

They filed a lawsuit, which garnered support from unions, civil rights activists, the Socialist Party and the Center for Constitutional Rights. The party won the case when the election law

was ruled unconstitutional, but it did not have enough time to run for state representative, so earlier this year more than 700 signatures were gathered to qualify it for House District 45.

"We appreciate all the support which got us on the ballot," Sardo said. "It reflects the voters' dissatisfaction with the Legislature's refusal to put the needs of people first. We look forward to running an optimistic, no-nonsense campaign that will advocate for the rights of all who are left out by major party politics."

For more information or to get involved in the campaign, call 503-267-2975 or e-mail fsphd45@hotmail.com.

**PROSPECTIVE PARENTS INVITED TO LEARN ABOUT INSEMINATION**

Stephanie Brill, midwife and co-author of *The Essential Guide to Lesbian Conception, Pregnancy and Birth*, is coming to Portland for the Midwifery Alliance of North America conference from Oct. 14 to 17.

While in town, she will teach a public workshop on the ins and outs of conception for prospective parents in the sexual minorities community. The session will cover available methods of conception; options for acquiring sperm; fertility tracking and enhancement; arrangements and contracts between parents, co-parents and donors; and the legal and health considerations involved in conception. Participants will be able to write a parenting vision; create a plan and a timeline; prepare written contracts with known donors and co-parents; assess the legal and health risks they are willing to undertake; review the emotional impact of the cycle of insemination; determine whether they have enough support available to them; ascertain what, if any, interventions with traditional health care are needed in their situation; and estimate the costs of their endeavor.

The workshop will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 14 at the DoubleTree Hotel Jantzen Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Drive. The fee is \$65.

Brill, who will also be available for private fertility consultations during the conference, is director and co-founder of Maia Midwifery and Preconception Services, which has achieved national recognition by helping thousands of

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**Upcoming PABA Events:**

<b>Luncheon:</b> Wednesday, Sept. 8, 11:30-1pm @ the Embassy Suites, Downtown <b>Speaker:</b> Debbie Caselton, Sponsorship/Outreach Director for Sensory Perceptions, producer of the Eighth Annual Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, October 22-31 at Cinema 21	<b>After Hours:</b> Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6-8:00pm @ Hobo's, 120 NW 3rd	<b>Biz Builders:</b> I- Every Tuesday morning, 7-8:30am at Cyberccino, 2130 NE Broadway II- Every Thursday evening, 6:30-8pm at Home Street Bank, 22 NW 23rd
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