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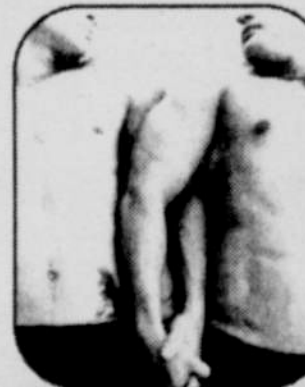
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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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queers with every aspect of creating family, pregnancy and parenthood. She and her partner, Colleen, have three children.

To register contact Susan Moray at 503-230-2831 or smoray@qwest.net. For more information visit www.maiaidwifery.com.

QUAKERS OPPOSE MARRIAGE DISCRIMINATION

Multnomah Monthly Meeting, a Quaker congregation in Portland, released position statements Aug. 2 opposing Ballot Measure 36, which would amend the Oregon Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

Portland's Quaker congregation has recognized same-sex marriages since 1989. It now wishes to avoid the harm that legal discrimination and homophobia inflict upon families.

"As a community of faith, we cannot stand by and watch some of the marriages under our care face discrimination simply because of their sexual orientation," clerk Tim Crump said. "We have been troubled that the proponents of such a constitutional amendment have claimed to represent 'communities of faith.' We also are a community of faith, and we deplore any effort that would write discrimination into the Oregon Constitution. Nor can we accept that the religious beliefs of some be written into law that affects all."

Love Makes a Family was founded as a direct result of Quaker dialogues about sexual orientation, family and marriage. Although a secular group, it continues to reflect Quaker values of equality, nonviolence and openness.

"Marriage is about love, integrity and family values," executive director Bonnie Tinker says. "It is important that we talk to our family, friends and neighbors about the role our marriages play in expressing commitment and building community stability. We can only do this by honestly sharing our stories, not by going to war with those who disagree with us."

Tinker recognizes many queers are suspicious of religion. "It is important that we recognize the need for healing around religion," she says. "Healing occurs when people of faith step forward to support marriage equality."

For more information visit www.multnomahfriends.org.

SESSION TEACHES HOW TO SPEAK ABOUT MARRIAGE

As part of its continuing effort to empower people to talk with others about same-sex marriage, Love Makes a Family will hold a speakers'

review session from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Aug. 29 at the Friends Meeting House, 4312 S.E. Stark St. Organizers will spend time developing responses to key points made by opponents of marriage equality.

Unlike past anti-gay initiatives, this year's campaign is well-financed. The Defense of Marriage Coalition reportedly will spend at least \$1.5 million to support Ballot Measure 36, which would write marriage inequality into the Oregon Constitution.

According to strategist Glenn Stanton, the anti-gay organization is following a well-researched plan and using a collection of lines and arguments that "works best in the many public debates" it has engaged in on this issue. "These sound bites have also been tested by focus groups and rated very strongly," he says.

The session will examine four statements that the coalition's research reveals are persuasive:

- Same-sex families always deny children either their mother or their father.
- Same-sex family is a vast, untested social experiment with children. Where does it stop? How do we say "no" to group marriage?
- Schools will be forced to teach that the homosexual family is normal.
- Churches will be legally forced to perform same-sex marriages.

Participants will practice responding to these concerns, reflect on what works and what does not work, share stories about recent speaking opportunities and exchange information about events in Oregon. Organizers encourage attendance from people who are interested in public speaking or have conversations with family and neighbors about this subject.

For more information contact Cecil Charles Prescod at 503-228-3892 or cecil@lmfamily.org.

LEGAL SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

Equity Foundation has announced the recipients of the 2004-2005 Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship:

- Connie Lukes of Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, who was the driving force behind two gay fathers asserting their rights in September 2003 when Portland Public Schools allowed the anti-gay Boy Scouts of America to recruit on campus. The policy review process that she helped them instigate is ongoing.
- Geoffrey Bosmans, also of Lewis & Clark, who has been a board member of the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association for two years.
- Rebekah Heilman of Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, N.J., who maintains a staggering volume of volunteerism in the sexual minorities community while keeping up with her law studies.

The fund provides \$4,000 for third- and fourth-year law student-activists dedicated to donating part of their legal expertise to fighting bigotry and



From left, Mitch Santine Gould, Peg Morton, Leonora Kent, Tim Crump, Bonnie Tinker and Greg Berleman Thompson announce the Quakers' opposition to marriage discrimination Aug. 2