

QUEER TEEN EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP OFFERED

A coalition of queer and queer-friendly community organizations will present the Willamette Valley Youth Empowerment Workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 6 at First United Methodist Church, 1165 N.W. Monroe Ave. in Corvallis.

Teens from McMinnville to Eugene have been invited to the workshop, which will feature keynote speaker Terry Tafoya, a Taos Pueblo and Warm Springs Indian who has used American Indian ritual and ceremony in his work as a family therapist at University of Washington's Interpersonal Psychotherapy Clinic.

"I'm really excited those who come will be able to hear Dr. Terry Tafoya speak and be exposed to the wonderfully supportive people who have volunteered their time to lead sessions," said Sam Sappington, program director for the workshop.

Tafoya is the first formally recognized native healer for the state of Washington as an ethnic minority mental health specialist. He has taught with the Kinsey Institute



Washington native healer Terry Tafoya will give the keynote address Nov. 6 at the Willamette Valley Youth Empowerment Workshop

for the Study of Human Sexuality, Gender and Reproduction as faculty and as an expert on cross-cultural sexuality.

The jam-packed workshop will include a session about dating in the sexual and gender minority community led by a licensed psychologist and an educator from Corvallis' Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence; a presentation on sexual health and safety by an educator from Planned Parenthood of the Columbia-Willamette; representatives from the Community Alliance for Diversity, the Corvallis Police Department and the Jackson Street Youth Shelter speaking about basic rights concerning violence, discrimination and hate crimes; and a presentation by Paul Miller, who was responsible for starting Corvallis High School's Gay Straight Alliance in 1996.

"The youth who come to this workshop will walk away with so much useful information," said Daniel Howard, program facilitator for the workshop. "We want youth to be able to go back to their homes, their schools and their communities with the tools they need to live authentically."

Workshop participants will be treated to breakfast and lunch. Admission is free, although minors must present a permission slip signed by their parent or legal guardian to participate.

Permission slips and workshop details are available online at www.midwillametteyew.com.

YOUTH GROUP PRESENTS DISCUSSION ON TRANS RIGHTS

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center's Trans Youth Group will present "Know Your Rights: An Evening with Lori Buckwalter" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at 2100 S.E. Belmont St.

The Portland trans activist will discuss life before gender identity protections in Portland, gender identity legislation and trans people's current rights. The discussion is free and open to the public.

For more information e-mail transyouthgroup@smyrc.org.

POLICE ROUNDTABLE WILL DISCUSS QUEER YOUTH SUICIDE

The Portland Police Bureau's Sexual Minority Roundtable meeting will address gay youth suicide from noon to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 9 on the 15th floor of the Justice Center, 1111 S.W. Second Ave.

The presenters are Peter Davidson, Multnomah County clinical services coordinator, and Jonathan K. Weedman, program manager for the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center.

Weedman said he will discuss "sexual minority youth and how they are at risk for suicide, dropping out of school, as well as drug and alcohol use. I will also be talking about how internal and external homophobia plays into this."

GATES FOUNDATION GIVES GENEROUSLY TO HELP HIV-AFFECTED FAMILIES

Services for HIV-infected and affected children and families in the Portland metropolitan region will soon expand with a \$150,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Cascade AIDS Project received the three-year grant for its pioneering Kids' Connection program.

"As the face of HIV and AIDS in the Northwest continues to change, our services must also change," said Thomas Bruner, CAP executive director. "Kids' Connection recognizes that HIV is a family issue and understands that children and families with HIV face unique challenges."

Kids' Connection works to ensure the health and well-being of HIV-infected and affected children and families and to engage mainstream child and family service providers in HIV education and service delivery. Established in 2002, the program serves about 200 children annually.

The foundation funding will allow Kids' Connection to provide educational support groups for HIV-affected children, teens and parents. Groups will help participants learn to talk openly about HIV in their family and help parents plan for the long-term care of their children.

Some 2,300 children in the Portland metropolitan area have either a parent or primary caregiver with HIV, and another 100 children in Oregon have been reported as having HIV.

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Floreid Walker
3529 NE Broadway^{STE 100}
Portland, OR 97232
503.445.9390 ext.101
floreid@wfgadvisors.com

Greg Look
3550 Liberty Rd. S^{STE 230}
Salem, OR 97302
503.566.7266 ext.114
greg@wfgadvisors.com

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