

Grief relief

Make a donation in reflection of a powerful moment from your life

Reflections. A glance backward, a thoughtful examination and recollection of memories of times, people and events gone by. "Reflections" is the title of the space that follows this column. Usually it features a glimpse back five, 10, 15 or 20 years ago in *Just Out*. In this compact space, we highlight the events of times past in our community. Who was running what organization? What entertainer was in town? What was new in AIDS research?

In our personal lives, we also mark time with reflections, milestones and markers of our lives. We all have them. They are the colorful threads of the tapestry of our lives. Our personal reflections will be marked with joy and loss, with love and longing, with sadness and grief. Reflections such as:

- "Twenty years ago I came out and began the search to find myself."
- "Fifteen years ago we lost mom."
- "Ten years ago I met my partner."
- "Five years ago I tested positive."

Most of us will never know what it's like to have lives affected by a disaster of such magnitude as that of the tsunami that recently swept across Asia. And our own personal reflections will never be so horrific as to have to include:

"Five years ago, 10 years ago, 15 years ago, 20 years ago—this was the day that the world came to an end."

Millions of people will mark time with the scars of this memory for the rest of their lives. It is a reflection of sorrow and pain and loss that is nearly incomprehensible to the rest of us.

For our "Reflections" of this issue, we're skipping our glance into the past and providing instead a list of relief agencies serving the tsunami victims. We encourage your support and contributions. Pick a powerful moment, a proud moment, a happy moment in your life and send a donation in reflection of that memory.

With ceremony and celebration, Sam Adams and Tom Potter started the new year with their oaths of office. Both events were testaments to the cultural diversity of Portland and showcased the talents, rituals and beliefs of minority communities within the greater city. There was much respect for culture and much solemn sense of awe, even in the midst of celebration.

To my mind, both events also showcased the lack of ritual and ceremony in the seemingly bland, plain old daily white middle-class life. What a ho-hum bunch we can be. Bouncing about and making odd movements to the ancient sounds of the Village People's "Y.M.C.A." just doesn't compare favorably with the traditions of other diverse ethnic groups. Where is our ritual? Where is our culture? Where is our respect for heritage?

On the topic of respect, and with all due, Adam's swearing-in ceremony ran so long that there was speculation that it would automatically evolve into a fund-raiser for his second-term re-election. Checkbooks were on the ready.

I suspect that many at the swearing-in ceremonies, like myself, felt humbled by the waif-like presence of Vera Katz. What a dynamic presence she has been in our city and our state. For *Just Out's* tribute to the outgoing mayor, please turn to Page 20. Vera, we thank you for all your years of good work and wish you many more years of leadership and good life in Portland.

Away from the center spotlight, Multnomah County Commissioners Maria Rojo de Steffey and Lisa Naito took their oaths of office Jan. 5. The room was filled with family and friends, and our community was well-represented as we showed ongoing support and thanks to the commissioners who took such bold steps last March. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Now all the ceremonies are over and it's time for everyone to get to work. Next up: the 2006 midterm elections. Who shall be our next governor? Quick—who's the current governor? Kinda low-key fella, isn't he? How's that working out for everyone? I think Oregonians need a governor who can motivate, energize and activate citizens to want to do and be better.

So who's it gonna be? Let's not wait too long to start thinking about this. Seriously. Kevin Mannix almost won this office in the last election, and that was before the organized strength of the Defense of Marriage Coalition. This powerful force is now in place, and my guess is it's already meeting and selecting who it'll be supporting in 2006. We have got to get to work and get behind someone now. Let's learn from this past election. Let's not lose again.

The theme of the 116th Rose Parade, the one in California on New Year's Day, was "Celebrate Family." As far as I can tell, not all families were represented. I did not find mention anywhere of a same-sex family float. No lesbian moms with kids, no gay dads. Shocked? Yeah, me, too.

In a few months, Portland will host her own Rose Parade, along with the more lighthearted evening Starlight Parade. Years ago, gays and lesbians put together a float for the Starlight Parade. It was quite stunning for the time. Anyone interested in doing it again? It will require money, sponsors, planning, lots of volunteers and lots of organization. Who wants to take the lead?

Farewell to Marc Acito, the oft-identified "gay Dave Barry," who is retiring his column, coincidentally at the same time Barry is setting his aside. Marc's column originated in *Just Out* four years ago, and I know readers will miss his wit and perspective. Marc, any time you wanna come back, the space is waiting for you.

Finally, I invite all our single and social readers to start the year with a singles party Jan. 13 at Hobo's. If your plans for the new year include meeting new people and widening your social circle, then this is where you need to be. I'll see you there. ☐

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Her advocacy, her legacy

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American Red Cross
International Response Fund
P.O. Box 37243
Washington, DC 20013
800-HELP-NOW
www.redcross.org

Catholic Relief Services
Tsunami Emergency
P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, MD 21203-7090
800-736-3467
www.catholicrelief.org

Direct Relief International
27 S. La Patera Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
805-964-4767
www.directrelief.org

Doctors Without Borders
P.O. Box 1856
Merrifield, VA 22116-8056
888-392-0392

www.doctorswithoutborders.org

Food for the Hungry
Asia Quake Relief
1224 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034
800-2-HUNGERS
www.fh.org

International Medical Corps
Earthquake/Tsunami Relief
1919 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 300
Santa Monica, CA 90404
800-481-4462
www.imcworldwide.org

Mercy Corps
Southeast Asia Earthquake Response
Department W
P.O. Box 2669
Portland, OR 97208
800-852-2100
www.mercycorps.org

Oxfam America
Asian Earthquake Fund
P.O. Box 1211
Albert Lea, MN 56007-1211
800-77-OXFAM
www.oxfamamerica.org

Save the Children
Asia Earthquake/Tidal Wave Relief Fund
54 Wilton Road
Westport, CT 06880
800-728-3843
www.savethechildren.org

Islamic Relief USA
Southeast Asia Earthquake Emergency
P.O. Box 6098
Burbank, CA 91510
888-479-4968
www.irw.org/asiaquak

U.S. Fund for UNICEF
General Emergency Fund
333 E. 38th St.

New York, NY 10016
800-4-UNICEF
www.unicefusa.org

Stop Hunger Now
Southeast Asia Crisis
2501 Clark Ave. Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27607
888-501-8440
www.stophungernow.org

World Concern
Asia Earthquake and Tsunami
19303 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98133
800-755-5022
www.worldconcern.org

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