

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

CAP HIRES SAADAT TO HEAD COMMUNITIES OF COLOR INITIATIVE

Cascade AIDS Project announced Feb. 8 that activist Kathleen Saadat has been hired to



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASCADE AIDS PROJECT

Kathleen Saadat dons a new hat for CAP as its Communities of Color Initiative leader

manage its newly created Communities of Color Initiative.

Building on the momentum of CAP's successful African American Initiative in 2003 and 2004, and its long-standing Apoyo Latino/Latino Services Team model, Saadat will oversee efforts to continue to improve the organization's cultural competence and facilitate improved relationships with communities of color, with a particular focus on the Latino and African American communities in the Portland metro region.

Saadat has held highly regarded posts as state director of affirmative action, co-chairwoman of the Portland Rainbow Coalition and executive director of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs. A senior fellow of the American Leadership Forum's Oregon chapter, she has also received numerous awards, as well as recognition and honor for her civil liberties work on behalf of women, sexual minorities and people of color.

BRO PLANS STATEWIDE LOBBY DAY MARCH 3

Basic Rights Oregon is planning to gather 1,000 people from around the state March 3 in Salem to celebrate the anniversary of the Multnomah County marriage licenses. In addition,

they plan to lobby legislators in Salem on civil rights issues.

Lobbyists will promote the Oregon Basic Fairness Act, a nondiscrimination bill that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition, they will seek to educate and persuade legislators to add gender identity to the state's bias crime law, which already includes sexual orientation. Finally, they will promote the creation of civil unions that extend all of the privileges and responsibilities of marriage to same-sex couples in Oregon.

Volunteers will have a morning lobby training and receive materials in order to effectively visit elected officials at their offices to discuss legislative priorities. Activities include a rally on the Capitol steps, lunch with BRO and other statewide activists, and a wrap-up meeting.

You must register by March 2 for space planning, scheduling and training, but you don't need any lobbying experience to attend. Carpools and shuttles make the day accessible to all statewide. If you have questions, contact the Legislative Action Team at 503-222-6151 or jessica@basicrights.org.

BRO OPENS FIELD OFFICES IN SALEM, MEDFORD AND BEND

Following on the heels of its statewide bus tour, BRO has increased its staff to include three new regional field organizers in the mid-Willamette Valley, Central Oregon and Southern Oregon.

Your contact in the mid-Willamette Valley is Kristin Flickinger, who can be reached at 503-910-8474 or kristin@basicrights.org. In Southern Oregon, your contact is Jeffrey Foust,

who can be reached at 541-245-9744 or southernoregon@basicrights.org. The Bend office is staffed by Bruce Morris, whose phone number is 541-280-0738 and whose e-mail address is centraloregon@basicrights.org.

NATIONAL FEMME CONFERENCE COMES TO SEATTLE

Queering Femininity, a three-day national conference, will be held May 27 to 30 at the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle.

A variety of workshops, panels and caucuses will address aspects of living as queer and feminine, as well as the complex challenges of building and sustaining community. The conference will also celebrate queer femininity and explore avenues for building community based on the values of cooperation, understanding and respect.

Minnie Bruce Pratt, award-winning femme poet and author of seven books, will be featured as the keynote speaker. Other confirmed presenters include Portland activist Emi Koyama, Dossie Easton, Laura Harris, Veronica Monet, Shar Rednour and Annie Sprinkle. Conference organizers are actively soliciting workshop proposals and strongly encourage people of color to apply.

Accompanying events include a vendor fair, art exhibit, cabaret, all-ages dance, spoken word performance and play party.

Queering Femininity is open to anyone interested in the lives of feminine-identified people in relation to queer, lesbian, bisexual, dyke and trans communities.

For more information on events, proposals or registration, see www.femmeconference.org.

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