

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

BRO TO CELEBRATE "WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RE-UNION"

To celebrate the first anniversary of the Multnomah County weddings, Basic Rights Oregon will play host to a "Wedding Anniversary Re-Union" fund-raiser.

At this reception, couples will have a chance to renew their wedding vows while enjoying a champagne toast, a no-host bar, light appetizers, music, photos and a program of events. Executive director Roey Thorpe plus a few distinguished guests will speak to the assembled.

The event will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 15 in the upper balcony of Keller Auditorium, 222 S.W. Clay St. The suggested donation is \$40 a couple, \$20 for individuals.

For more information call 503-222-6151.

LESBIANS RACE TO RAISE MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Local lesbians Debbie Dixon and Brenda Smith are raising money to fight leukemia and lymphoma by participating in the Portland Race for the Roses Half Marathon in April and then the Portland Marathon in October.

As part of their fund raising, they teamed with Taint and Cheesehead Productions to present "Cabaret vs. Cancer," a fund-raiser March 1 at Holocene featuring performances by drag kings Ricky Z. Starr and Johnny Mozzarella with DJs Yeah Yeah, Scotty D and Wesley.

As nurses, Dixon and Smith have worked with cancer patients and appreciate the need for fund-raising efforts. They also have had family members die of cancer and have watched the ways that new technologies help improve the quality of life for cancer survivors.

They are participating with a group called

Team-in-Training and have pledged to each raise \$1,200 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The money goes primarily to research.

More information is available at www.teamintraining.org.

PORTLAND PFLAG TO CELEBRATE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Portland Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays wish a happy anniversary to the 6,000 people who got married last year, and to celebrate, they are dedicating their March meeting to all the newlyweds.

Everyone who got married during last year's "March Madness"—and all the ministers who married them—are invited to come to First United Methodist Church, 1838 S.W. Jefferson St., from 7 to 9 p.m. March 8. PFLAG especially urges the newlyweds to bring their parents and children to this event, as well as photographs of their special day.

Portland PFLAG member Susie Shepherd notes, "PFLAG is rolling out the red carpet for parents, couples and families who have had discussions of what family really means this past year, and looks forward to hearing new stories of love, marriage and family that have evolved since last March."

In keeping with the "first anniversary" theme of the evening, only wedding cake tops will be served as refreshments before members and visitors break into small rap groups. People planning to attend should call Portland PFLAG's hot line at 503-232-7676.

ONLINE PRIDE

Portland Pride planning is under way with the launch of Pride Northwest's redesigned Web

site. The festival has gone digital with easy access to information and registration online.

Visitors can register for a vendor booth, reserve a spot in the parade, learn about volunteer opportunities, join a fund-raising campaign or become a corporate sponsor with a click of the mouse. Photos from last year's festival are also accessible online.

The 2005 Portland Pride Festival, themed "Everyday People," will be held June 18 and 19 at Waterfront Park.

To get involved or learn more, visit www.pridenw.org.

SISTER PAULA IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Just Out got word Feb. 28 that Sister Paula Nielsen is in critical condition at the Cardiac Care Unit of Emanuel Hospital. The Portland trans evangelist collapsed Feb. 25 while walking on Broadway.

Nielsen has brought good cheer and comfort to many for years, both as a preacher and a nightclub entertainer. Her family and friends appreciate all good wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery.

WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS

The Washington Supreme Court will hear oral arguments March 8 in a case seeking marriage equality for same-sex couples.

In a historic ruling last August, King County



Sister Paula Nielsen collapsed Feb. 25 while walking on Broadway.

Superior Court Judge William Downing said the Washington Constitution guarantees basic rights to gays and lesbians—and that those rights are violated by a state law prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying. The ruling said that the state constitution requires same-sex couples to have equal access to marriage and that the plaintiff couples must be given marriage licenses. One month later, a court in

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