

Continued from Page 9

the true-to-life stories of five women portrayed by actresses. *The Women of Courage* show is adapted from Martin's best-selling book *Women of Courage: Inspiring Stories from the Women Who Lived Them*.

Proceeds will benefit the Girls' Initiative Network, St. Mary's Academy, Marylhurst University and Clackamas Women's Services. Tickets for the gala are \$50 and can be purchased by contacting the Girls' Initiative Network at 503-230-0054 or info@girlsinitiativenetwork.org. The event takes place from 5 to 7:30 p.m. April 28 at St. Mary's Academy, 1615 S.W. Fifth Ave.

The performance series runs at 8 p.m. from April 28 to 30, plus 2 p.m. April 30. The cost is \$50 for reserved seats or \$20 for general admission from TicketsWest.

For more information about the performances, call 503-295-6500.

PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Pride Northwest is now accepting parade and festival registrations for Portland Pride 2005, the city's annual celebration of the sexual minorities community. This year's theme is

"Everyday People."

The Pride Festival will be held from noon to 11 p.m. June 18 and from noon to 6 p.m. June 19 at Waterfront Park. Upward of 35,000 visitors are expected to attend. Details are available at www.pridenw.org, with updates monthly. Vendors registering before May 1 will receive a 10 percent discount.

The Pride Parade will wind through the streets of downtown June 19. Stay tuned to the Web site for information. The fee for contingents is \$25. Parade contingents submitting their registrations before May 31 will have their positions determined by lottery. Registrations received after May 31 will be added to the line-up on a first-come, first-served basis.

Volunteers are always needed to plan an event of this magnitude. Whether you're able to volunteer now or the weekend of Pride, don't hesitate to get involved. Pride doesn't happen without you, and the committee welcomes your involvement.



Katherine Martin will receive the Sabra Bradshaw-Wackerle Award for Mentorship from the Girls' Initiative Network.



Zany antics from Portland Pride 2004.

JOINING FORCES:

FIGHTING MS TAKES A COMMUNITY

Georgena Moran says Portland's lesbian community has gotten her through some of her toughest challenges.

Moran was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1987. The degenerative disease has incrementally limited her mobility. She is now totally dependent on a wheelchair.

"It's kind of pushing me forward, emotionally," says Moran. "Part of that is my nature, but the other part is I've been learning to do things differently. This whole process with dealing with MS has been a very growthful experience, in the emotional and spiritual sense."

According to Moran, Portland is a supportive place to have MS, and she has found help through her job at Independent Living Resources. She works as an Americans with Disability Act specialist, continuing to survey locations to ensure access for the wheelchair dependent.

"It takes a small village to have MS. I couldn't be in a better place," she says. "The lesbian community has been so there for me, I tear up when I think about it. I didn't realize what a powerful force they can be when they come together."

Moran has not yet committed to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's five-kilometer MS Walk, which is held at 700 sites across the country, including Pioneer Courthouse Square on April 16, with registration beginning at 9 a.m.

"It's going to depend on my health," says Moran, who generally feels well and has been successful on her treatment cocktail.

Several years ago, Moran's friends organized a series of benefits called "Georgena's Journey" to raise money for stem cell replacement.



Georgena Moran continues her journey.

Through silent auctions and music benefits, \$76,000 was raised in approximately six months. Moran has since been deemed ineligible for the replacement because she can no longer walk, but she is using the money to pursue experimental treatments not covered by insurance. She has tried shiatsu massage and acupuncture and is considering hyperbolic oxygen chamber therapy.

"If something sounds good, I'll do it. I'm still doing research, trying to figure out the key to this," she says.

—Jaymee R. Cui

Compiled by News Editor SARAH DOUGHER, who can be reached at sarah@justout.com.



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FREE CONE DAY!

April 19th 12pm to 8pm birthday

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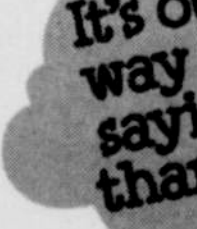
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