

natural medicine-focused center serving underprivileged people; Leah Hyman, who attends Lewis & Clark College in pursuit of a radiology career with the long-term goal of specializing in children's and women's health; Paul Wagenblast of The Dalles, who plans to attend Pacific Northwest College of Art for a degree in graphic design, photography and intermedia; and Toyomi Yoshida of Eugene, who is working on women's studies and music degrees at Portland Community College and plans to attend William Law School to use her social justice organizing experience to support the sexual minorities community, particularly queer Japanese women.

—JRC

HEPATITIS C CARING AMBASSADORS PROGRAM APPLAUDS GOVERNOR

The Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program saluted Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski for his proclamation of May 2005 as Hepatitis Awareness Month in the state.

Hepatitis C is the most common chronic, blood-borne viral infection in the United States and is the leading cause of chronic liver disease among Americans. An estimated 3.9 million to 4.5 million U.S. citizens have been infected with the hepatitis C virus, including at least 64,000 Oregonians.

Hepatitis Awareness Month will include Hepatitis C Awareness Day from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 23 in the Galleria at the State Capitol building in Salem. Informational booths staffed with representatives from the program and other organizations and agencies concerned about the hepatitis C crisis will be on hand. Light refreshments will be served, and a press conference will be held during the event.

Hepatitis C has been dubbed "the silent epidemic" because many Americans are unaware of this infectious disease despite the fact that it is so common. Further, many are unaware they are infected with the virus because symptoms often do not appear until serious liver damage has already occurred.

"The earlier in the course of hepatitis C that people are diagnosed, the more likely it is that we can prevent serious complications and control the spread of the disease. But the first hurdle is to get the word out so that hepatitis C becomes part of the public consciousness," said Tina M. St. John, medical director of the Caring Ambassadors Program. "We are extremely grateful to Gov. Kulongoski for his assistance in giving us a platform to increase hepatitis C awareness among Oregonians. With this proclamation, Gov. Kulongoski may well end up saving the lives of hundreds of Oregonians with hepatitis C who will be tested and treated for their disease."

For additional information contact Lorren Sandt at 877-737-4372 or lorren@hepcchallenge.org or visit www.hepcchallenge.org.

WORLD PULSE AUCTION SET FOR JUNE 3

World Pulse is a Portland-based magazine dedicated to vaulting the voices and visions of women and youth globally through media.

Although World Pulse often works with brave international journalists who may be risking their lives in dangerous hot spots, the voices ringing out in the back yard of this publication are not about to go uncelebrated.

To this end, World Pulse will hold its first auction, "Global Embrace," 7 p.m. June 3 at Acadian Ballroom, 1829 N.E. Alberta St. The auction is an homage to Oregon men and women coming together to embrace the rising spirit of women and youth locally and globally through art and performance.

World Pulse has attracted national attention since its premier issue, "Finding True Global Security," was released last year. It quickly captured two nominations from The Utne Independent Press Awards for Best International Coverage and Best New Title of 2004.

New additions to the magazine's global

Guide Council include Mariane Pearl, award-winning journalist and widow of Wall Street Journal correspondent Daniel Pearl, and Lisa Ling, world-renowned journalist who regularly reports for Oprah and previously co-hosted The View with Barbara Walters.

About 10,000 copies of the magazine's pilot and inaugural issue were successfully distributed throughout the United States and Canada to subscribers, newsstands and leadership conferences. Newsstands sales have been high, often selling out, with 70 percent average in some regions, where 30 percent is considered excellent for a new publication.

During the auction, Portland artists will show work illustrating their interpretation of the transcendence of spirit that is happening worldwide in women and youth. Featured artist Shahjahan Sheriff will create art on stage as he paints and dances. An artist with Sri Lankan, Egyptian and Yemen background, he begins his paintings with a youth dabbling his or her personal color choices on his blank canvass.

Wade McCollum and Julianne Johnson will serve as hosts of the event. McCollum, best known for his performance as Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, recently swept the 2004 Los Angeles theater awards. Vocalist and entertainer Johnson has acted in more than 45 theatrical productions locally and regionally as well as film, television and commercials. The pair will announce the auction and perform together.

Guests will also have the chance to meet and mingle with Portland photographers who have traveled internationally and who are featured in World Pulse. The

auction will be a vibrant evening with international fare, Cuban desserts from Pambiche and international dance and music. Tickets are available at www.worldpulsemagazine.com, or e-mail Jessica at devdiva@worldpulsemagazine.com to RSVP. **JM**

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



Award winner Marie Fleishmann plans doctoral studies in creative writing and social activism.



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