

organizations and leaders, and laying out their promises and accomplishments. While all the upcoming political races are important, the campaign for Multnomah County chair and the re-election efforts of Diane Linn are getting lots of attention in our community.

Supporters for Linn make reference, in their endorsements, to the county's increased support for sexual minority youth, county nondiscrimination ordinance inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity, and Multnomah County's historical decision to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. There is no question of the significance of these accomplishments and the tremendous impact they have had. Lives have changed, and our community's fight for equal rights is in the public eye more than ever before.

What concerns me regarding the list of accomplishments in Multnomah County is the omission of credit and/or acknowledgment of three current Multnomah County commissioners: Serena Cruz, Lisa Naito and Maria Rojo de Steffy. The significant changes that have taken place in Multnomah County would not have been possible without these commissioners' efforts, commitment and initiative. Individually they worked (and continue to do so) diligently on issues impacting our community, and collectively they insured that change would happen. They did this work, never wavering on their decisions and putting their political careers on the line.

I realize these commissioners are not running a re-election campaign, so it may not seem necessary to include them. However, if our community is being asked to support a particular candidate, I believe it is important that complete and accurate information be presented. As the election gets closer, I hope each of us will take the time to make an informed decision. When casting my ballot, I am not only interested in issues that appear to be directly linked to our community, I am also interested in the other issues impacting our county. Jail beds, adequate funding for the health department and services to seniors and vulnerable populations—all of these issues matter to me, and I want to hear about them.

As the campaigns heat up, I encourage all of us to ask questions, consider all candidates and most importantly VOTE. These are extraordinary times, and electing leaders to keep us moving forward is of the utmost importance.

DAVID MARTINEZ
Portland

TRANSITIONS

Casey Cameron Elliott, 1955-2005

Heaven is a brighter place and this earth much lonelier with the passing of Casey Cameron Elliott on Oct. 29.

Born Cindy Alleen Elliott on Jan. 21, 1955, she lived a full life and overcame many challenges in her 50 years; she died peacefully at

Providence Portland Medical Center after a lengthy illness that kept her bed-bound throughout 2005. Despite it all, she never lost her wonderful spirit of generosity and compassion, and her sense of humor, and she died—as she lived—surrounded by love and music, and looking forward, in faith, at the God she loved and served.



Elliott is survived by her life partner of 20 years, Nancy Hesselman, and their three "fur children"; parents, Gene F. and Lois A. Elliott; identical twin sister, Wendy Elliott-Turner, and husband Ernest Turner; nephew Chris Turner and wife Jenny; niece Erin Roches and husband Dinsdale Roches; nephew Rian Turner; a great-niece and great-nephews; and many friends. She dearly loved her surviving family and friends.

Beverly Anne Brown, 1951-2005

Author and social justice activist Beverly Anne Brown, 54, died Oct. 27 in Portland after a long struggle with cancer.

She was born Feb. 21, 1951, in Fresno, Calif., to Ann L. and Elton John Brown. She grew up in Redding, Calif., attended Reed College in Portland and, in her 40s, completed a master's degree in rural development from Antioch University's joint program with the Rural Development Leadership Network.

Being a lesbian shaped Brown as much as being an intellectual and a college dropout. During her too-short life, she wrote influential essays on rural lesbian life, nontimber forest work and the realities of poor country women. In her early 40s, she authored 1995's *In Timber Country, Working People's Stories of Environmental Conflict and Urban Flight*.

She co-edited, with Agueda Marín-Hernández, 2000's *Voices from the Woods: Lives and Experiences of Nontimber Forest Workers*. Her last project was a comparative study of contract forest workers in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

In the late 1970s Brown fought the threat of surface strip mining in southern Oregon. She was active in the women's and lesbian liberation movements and, in 1983, founded *Maize: A Lesbian Country Magazine*. She contributed an essay to the 1985 anthology *Lesbian Land* and, for several years, lived at WomanShare, a country lesbian collective. In the early 1990s, she organized house parties to fight against anti-gay legislation in Oregon.

While working at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass in the late 1980s and 1990s, Brown began chronicling the stories of people living in the region's timber towns. In 1994, she founded the Jefferson Center for Education and Research, serving as its director through 2004.

For many years she lived in Sunny Valley with her longtime partner, Tee A. Corinne. One of her great pleasures was cultivating the beautiful garden at their home.

Brown hoped that over time the different threads of her activism could be woven together and that her advocacy for rural social justice could truly integrate all people. She wanted an inclusively multilayered country environment in which she could be openly lesbian.

She is survived by her mother, Ann L. Clark of Redding; brother, Ronald J. Brown of Lacey, Wash.; and a large community of friends.

The Beverly A. Brown Papers are housed at University of Oregon. She willed her body to the medical school at Oregon Health & Science University. Her ashes will be returned to her Sunny Valley garden.

A memorial gathering will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Nov. 19 at Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 S.E. 122nd Ave.

Remembrances may be made to the Jefferson Center at P.O. Box 12190, Portland, OR 97212.



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