



MARTY DAVIS

Judith Rizzio, who recently left her post at Our House, will nonetheless be the MC at the annual "For Love and Money" dinner and auction.

Portland-based Brother to Brother has been working with gay and bisexual African-American men for the past 12 years. With its \$7,500 grant, B2B is creating an African American Collective to confront homophobia and the continued rise of HIV/AIDS in the black community.

The Community of Welcoming Congregations, which received \$5,000 of general support funds, is an interfaith ministry and association of religious and spiritual communities that welcome people of all sexual orientations. In 2004, CWC members wed more than 3,000 same-sex couples in Oregon. Through education, advocacy and coalition building, CWC is leading the way in building a strong public religious voice that affirms queers.

The Human Dignity Coalition of Bend was awarded \$7,000. Its mission is to protect human rights, honor diversity and seek social justice for all. Its work is focused in Central Oregon, but it is also a leader in human rights statewide, setting the standard by which others follow. It will focus on preparing for the 2006 elections, organizing forums on transgender issues and continuing to support the newly formed Central Oregon Peace Network.

Since 1993, Love Makes a Family has worked for the freedom and self-determination of gay, lesbian, bi and trans families. A grant of \$6,000 will support current work, which includes empowering queer families, organizing a presence of queers and families in the broader movement for social change and supporting the leadership of queers of color and the inclusion of communities of color in queer organizing.

**Local HIV/AIDS Leaders Speak Out Against Bush Budget**

President Bush once again called for an increase in funding of HIV prevention through abstinence-only education Feb. 6.

In 2005, it was projected that this administration would spend \$170 million on abstinence-only education grants, an amount more than double the rate of 2001. In Bush's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget, there is support for an increase to \$270 million by 2009.

Abstinence-only education is founded on the concept that STD transmission, including HIV,

and teen pregnancy can be prevented through a "just say no" approach. These programs encourage youth to abstain from sexual activity until marriage. Youth are not provided basic or accurate information about STD and pregnancy prevention.

There is no scientific proof that abstinence-only education is effective in reducing the transmission of STDs or reducing the incidence of teen pregnancy. In addition, the focus on sexual activity only in the context of marriage is discriminatory for gay and lesbian youth, as they have no option to marry.

Generally, these programs leave youth who are sexually active ill-equipped to make safer choices.

"There are other ways to educate youth about making smart, life-saving decisions. They need to be equipped with a toolbox of information and skills in order to navigate complex social situations," says Jean Ann Van Krevelen, executive director of Cascade AIDS Project. "If we as a society have the facts about STD transmission and contraception, it is our responsibility to educate our youth so that they can make good choices, not ignorant ones. This administration should be funding science-based prevention methods. How long will we allow this to continue?"

**Portland PFLAG News**

Marge Work Lunan has made the decision to step down as the interim president of Portland Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The group appreciated that she has shared her time, experience and continuing commitment to PFLAG when it needed transitional leadership for the new board.

In other news, online registration for the 2006 Northwest PFLAG Regional Conference is now available by visiting [nwflagconf.tripod.com](http://nwflagconf.tripod.com). The conference will take place from April 21 to 23 and will be both a celebration and an opportunity to network and come together to build a strong Northwest region.

Volunteers are needed to help fill a variety of roles during the conference. For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Patricia Keeney, PFLAG Oregon State Council president, at 503-236-LOVE or [pflagor@att.net](mailto:pflagor@att.net).

For support and volunteer opportunities, contact PFLAG Portland at 503-232-7676 or [www.pflagpdx.org](http://www.pflagpdx.org).

Next month's meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. March 14 at First United Methodist Church, 1838 S.W. Jefferson St.

**Genderblendz Open House Schedule for February**

Outside In's Trans/Identity Resource Centre holds Genderblendz open houses every Monday at 1030 S.W. 13th Ave.

The Feb. 20 discussion forum will be about

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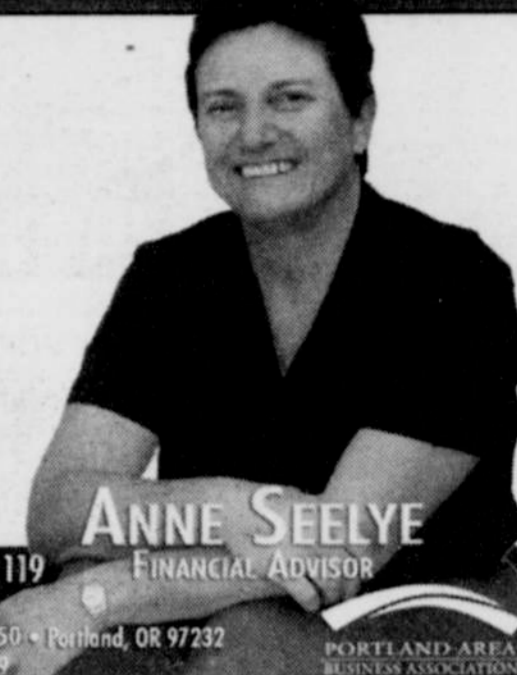


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