



In Other Words holds a reception March 17 for young queer paint master **Amber Valentine**.

The Oregon Bears throw their monthly **Double X Dance** at C.C. Slaughters. (9 pm-1 am. 219 NW Davis St. \$2.)

SAT • MARCH 25

Lesbians Enjoying Nature and Science hike in Forest Park. (10 am. Laurie 503-977-2903.)

Eight Portland bands perform during **Marimba Madness**, a concert, art sale and fund-raiser for Zimbabwe at First Unitarian Church. Proceeds benefit Zimbabwe Artists Project, which helps rural women become economically self-sufficient by importing and selling their art; Nhimbe for Progress, which provides basic humanitarian aid; and Tariro, which educates female AIDS orphans. (Noon-5 pm. 1011 SW 12th Ave. \$5-\$10 donation.)

Deaf & Hearing Out Reach's monthly queer social returns to 3 Friends Coffeehouse. Come hang out with old friends and make new ones. All sign levels welcome! (6-9 pm. 201 SE 12th Ave. www.dhor.org.)

Your Place or Mine? Productions hosts **Eat My Martini**, a suave cocktail party where lesbians can mingle in an elegant and fun atmosphere in West Portland. Shuttle service available from Holocene. Dress to impress! (6-9 pm. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance from 503-481-9870 or www.yourplaceormineproductions.com.)

The **Portland Gay Men's Chorus** presents the West Coast premiere of *Metamorphosis* through March 26 at Reed College's Kaul Auditorium. (8 pm Saturday, 2 pm Sunday.)

Near and Dear

You know how in the midst of significant events in your life, certain music will comfort or inspire you? **Holly Near's** song "Imagine My Surprise" helped me through the upheaval of falling in love with a woman after many years of believing I was straight! Then when that first relationship ended and I was thinking maybe I wasn't a lesbian after all, another of Near's songs brought me back to firmer ground: "Maybe if it happens once it can happen twice," she sang, and I knew she was right. When I want to tear my hair out at hearing a right-wing radio host call his homophobic caller "a true American," I take comfort from her lyrics: "Why does my love make you shift restless in your chair and leave you in despair? It's simply love—my love for a woman."

Near has been an outspoken advocate for human rights for more than 30 years. People love her because she not only sings about her beliefs, she lives her convictions. From "The Great Peace March" of 1986 to recent actions such as the V-Day March in Juarez, Mexico, when she joined other U.S. and Mexican performers to protest the uninvestigated killing of hundreds of young women, she travels the world speaking out for peace and justice.

In 2004, the Unitarian Church, an open and affirming congregation, invited Near to deliver the prestigious Ware Lecture in Long Beach, Calif. She said, "By denouncing gay marriage, Bush has put hate on the agenda, and by opposing hate, the gay community has put love on the agenda." She closed her presentation by leading that assembly in several rousing verses of "We Are a Gentle, Angry People," a song that arose spontaneously in the wake of Harvey Milk's murder.

Inspired by Near's presentation, Portland Unitarians asked her to come here. She will sing for love and human rights 8 p.m. March 31 at First Unitarian Church, 1011 S.W. 12th Ave. This is a benefit for the Music & Summer Camp for kids. A \$50 patron ticket includes special seating and a post-concert reception. Other tickets are \$15-\$25 from 503-224-8499 or TicketsWest.

—Julia Ingram

3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. \$15-\$25 from www.pdxgmc.org.)

Hey, what's your vice? Holocene presents **Double Down**, the fab queer party where the player always wins, every fourth Saturday. (8 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

Queer foot-stomping fun with **Sneakin' Out** and **Ashleigh Flynn** at Savino's Lounge in Hood River. (9 pm-midnight. 212 Fourth St. \$5.)

Boxxes throws a **Red Dress Party Fund-Raiser** co-sponsored by Salon Q! (10 pm-2 am. 1035 SW Stark St. \$3 cover, \$2 Jell-O shots.)

SUN • MARCH 26

Crush presents the **Red Dress Exchange**, one of your last chances to find a hot number before the big bash. This is the way dress shopping should always be done: with a cocktail in hand! (6-9 pm. 1400 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

MON • MARCH 27

Emmy-winning actress Sharon Gless (*Queer as Folk*) hosts this month's episode of the gay and lesbian newsmagazine **In the Life** on OPB. As we embark on a quarter-century since the first diagnosis of AIDS in the United States, "524,000 and Counting" explores just how far we have come in the war against the epidemic. (11 pm.)

TUE • MARCH 28

Portland writer **Robert Bernstein** reads from *Families of Value: Personal Profiles of Pioneering Lesbian and Gay Parents*, chronicling the trials faced by same-sex parents (including Mayor Tom Potter's daughter Katie) in the face of an often unfriendly cultural/political climate, at Broadway Books. (7 pm. 1714 NE Broadway.)

WED • MARCH 29

Bettie Ford Lounge presents **Homo Therapy** every Wednesday featuring DJ Oso Fresh spinning the most cutting-edge mixes all night long. Food and drink specials until midnight. (9 pm. 1135 SW Washington St.)

THU • MARCH 30

T-minus 48 hours! Come to Mint and 820 for happy hour, dinner or late-night drinks as the final **Red Dress Countdown** begins. (4 pm. 816 and 820 N Russell St.)

Sarah Waters reads from *The Night Watch* at Powell's. (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)



Holly Near will raise money for First Unitarian Church's Music & Summer Camp for kids March 31.

FRI • MARCH 31

Pink Martini bandleader **Thomas Lauderdale**, with a special guest appearance by the legendary **Linda Hornbuckle**, performs an exclusive intimate set at the home of Human Rights Campaign co-founder Terry Bean. Food and drinks provided by Mint and 820. Proceeds benefit Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn's re-election campaign. (8 pm. \$100 from info@dianelinn.com.)

Holly Near performs at First Unitarian Church. Proceeds benefit the Music & Summer Camp for kids. (8 pm. 1011 SW 12th Ave. \$15-\$50 from 503-224-8499 or TicketsWest.)

SAT • APRIL 1

Brethren Mennonite Council of Oregon hosts author **Roberta Showalter Kreider** and her retired minister husband, Harold, at Salem Mennonite Church and at Portland's Peace Church of the Brethren with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. A Pennsylvania couple in their late 70s, they are involved in seeking justice for sexual minorities. (10 am, 1045 Candlewood Drive NE. 7 pm, 12727 SE Market St.)

GO OUT Q-LAND and LoveTribes host **A Fool's View of Masculinity**, a work/playshop using journaling, psychodrama, small-group sharing, theater games, butch/femme drag and even wrestling to explore how personal myths were imprinted on men and to express, feel and hopefully transform fears, fantasies and authentic visions. (1-4:30 pm and 6:30-10 pm. \$20-\$50 donation. 503-223-8822, ext. 2. RSVP to www.lovetribes.org/menspirit.)

Cruise Control PDX, a social network for lesbians 36 and



All Aboard! with the O'Donnell family April 6 on HBO.

older, sponsors a **salsa class** presented by Daniel of Out Dancing at Ankeny Street Studio. (7-8:30 pm. Southeast Ninth Avenue and Ankeny Street. \$15 from www.cruisecontrolpdx.com.)

The sixth annual **Red Dress Party** moves to its new digs: the site of last summer's Pride Warehouse Block Party. This year's theme is "Red Planet" featuring intergalactic entertainment from DJs Mr. Mumu, Barrett Paul, Scotty D, Saltfeend and Harmonix. Admission includes hosted bar and food. Proceeds benefit Our House of Portland, Camp Starlight and Q Center. Red dress mandatory! (9 pm. Northeast Ninth Avenue and Flanders Street. \$35 from Balloons on Broadway or www.reddresspdx.com. To volunteer e-mail reid@reddresspdx.com.)

Urban cowboys and girls are in abundance during DJ

One of the Ones

From appearances on NBC's *The Apprentice* to backing by XM Radio and a tour sponsored by Gay.com, the lilting and lyrical **Levi Kreis** is apparently headed for great things.

Kreis recently released the album *One of the Ones*, yielding the single "I Should Go," which became the theme song for the reuniting of two characters on NBC's *Days of Our Lives*. The soft-spoken, piano-based album produced another tune on a second soap opera, CBS' *The Young and the Restless*. Then the SoapNet Channel's *SoapTalk* put Kreis on a live performance, showing off his cozy tinkling and pristine voice. National audiences became even more privy to his emotive romanticism, which fits somewhere between Josh Groban and Five for Fighting, but with sizably more brains and soulful brawn.

The Tennessee native's music career started early in life, beginning his affection for the piano by age 6 and writing songs within two short years of that. The prodigy toured the South as a working musician in his teens, eventually winding up in Los Angeles.

Before the millennium was over, he discovered his love of acting by getting cast as Roger in the national touring production of *Rent*. From there, he acted in a few other films and musicals, eventually joining forces with Brad Hawkins (*CSI*) for the award-winning indie *Don't Let Go*, with a soundtrack produced Keith Allison (Paul Revere and the Raiders). A few films later, he worked with Bill Paxton and Matthew McConaughey in *Frailty*, portraying the character Adam Meiks.

Aside from the recent appearance on Donald Trump's smash hit show, Kreis shared the stage with Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock, Snoop Dog and Collective Soul, among others, thanks to XM Radio's backing.

—André Hagestedt



Levi Kreis opens for gay singer/songwriter Eric Himan March 22 in Ashland and March 24 in Portland.