



Jazz legend Skip Elliott Bowman is performing a benefit show for the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship.

March for Dignity

Basic Rights Oregon will stand with immigrant workers during the March for Dignity and Justice for Immigrant Workers 2 p.m. April 9 at the Oregon State Capital, 900 Court St. N.E. in Salem.

"Oregon immigrants have stood with us when we were under attack. Now it's time to stand together," according to a BRO statement.

Benefit Honors Legacy of Compassion and Service

A Class Act, the annual benefit for the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation, is coming in April.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit third- and fourth-year law students who donate their skills to battle discrimination against sexual minorities. Past recipients of the scholarship include Trung Tu, who

now offers pro bono legal services to Q Center and recently became a candidate for Multnomah County Circuit Court judge; Stephen Manning, litigator for several groundbreaking cases involving the rights of transgender couples; and Beth Allen, highly visible last year in the media as a champion of same-sex marriage.

The scholarship was created to honor the pioneering work of the late Bill and Ann Shepherd. When their daughter Susie Shepherd, Oregon's first lesbian civil rights worker, came out in 1972, both parents committed to fighting for the civil rights of sexual minorities. Bill founded what would become the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association, while Ann, a leader in many church and civic groups, spoke out on the necessity for parents to have a loving, inclusive response to their children's sexual identity. The combination of compassion and practical advocacy would culminate in the foundation of the Portland chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in 1977.

"I was the first one out of the bucket," says Susie Shepherd. "Their response was rare and way ahead of its time."

She remembers Portland's earliest Pride parade, which had "what we thought was a massive crowd of 300 people" and a lone hot dog and lemonade stand serving revelers. Thirty years and a thousand battles later, Susie would watch her mother lead the 2001 parade as grand marshal.

A Class Act, while honoring the tough work of its founders and beneficiaries, promises to be a sweet and soulful affair this year featuring a performance by internationally lauded jazz musician and composer Skip Elliott Bowman as well as decadent trifles from Portland's finest dessert makers.

A Class Act starts 7 p.m. April 28 at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Tickets are \$35 at the door or \$30 in advance from Balloons on Broadway. For more information call 503-286-1752. 10

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTI, MALKA GEFFEN, BLAIR HOLT and JULIE SABATIER

activists and faculty at Portland State University have established the first transgender reference library in Portland, with more than 400 transgender-specific titles in categories such as medical, legal, fiction, biographies, photography and gender studies as well as academic journals, magazines, and zines and a film, documentary and instructional video collection.

Q Center will showcase visual art by queer and trans community artists to celebrate the library from 7 to 9:30 p.m. April 20 in Suite 145 at 1028 S.E. Water St.

Get Supportive Candidates Elected

Basic Rights Oregon is seeking volunteers to help elect pro-sexual minority candidates.

Join activists from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 22 and 29 in a door-to-door campaign. You can also bring out the vote by joining a phone bank from 6 to 9 p.m. April 24 through 27.

For locations and more information, contact Thomas at 503-222-6151 or thomas@basicrights.org.

Marriage Equality Forum Unite Community, Leaders

The Human Rights Campaign and Basic Rights Oregon will co-sponsor a Marriage Equality Town Hall 7 p.m. April 18 at Q Center, 1028 S.E. Water Ave.

Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams will moderate the forum. Panelists include the Rev. Glenna Shepherd of Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, the Rev. Greg Gibbs of Portland Buddhist Temple, Roey Thorpe of BRO, Sarah Scanlon of HRC and Jeana Frazzini, the lead plaintiff in the most recent Oregon civil rights litigation.

The panel will explore political, religious and cultural issues concerning same-sex marriage; discuss the status of marriage equality in Oregon; review pending federal legislation, including a proposed constitutional amendment; and offer practical observations and suggestions for achieving marriage equality.

For more information visit www.pdxqcenter.org.

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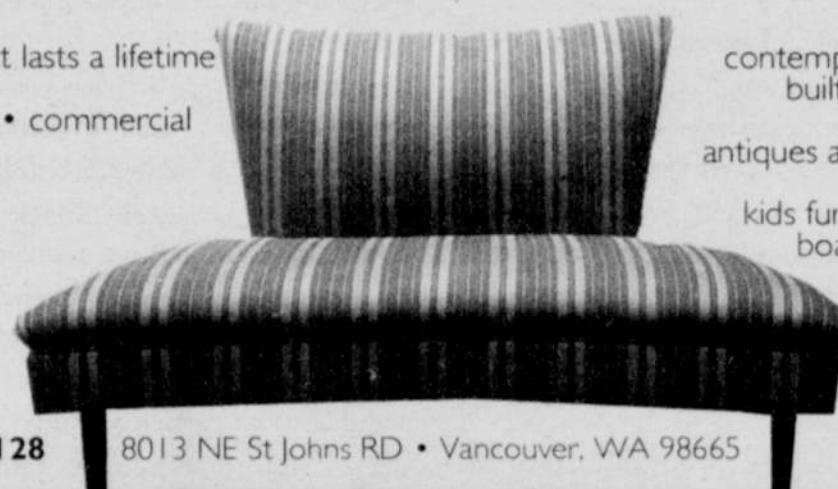
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