

The center hosts a movie night on the last Saturday of the month. Future programming will depend on the survey results, which will be gathered at Portland Pride.

The Next Level

Although programming will expand in the coming year, both from Q Center and led by the community, the purpose of the center is giving people a place to connect, to get referrals, to read a book and relax.

"If we did no programming and we were able to do [just] those things, that's a tremendous aspect," says Baldwin. "Sometimes programming, which we're very proud of, can overshadow the simple premise of a place to be, bring the community in and reflect the community out."

Baldwin says the board's approach to growing the center is first to create and expand, then to strengthen and solidify. Strengthening is what 2007 is all about.

The center is seeking leadership at all levels, in an effort to bulk up membership, expand the board of directors, garner more volunteers and build up individual donors.

The board is conducting a national search for a full-time executive director. According to Baldwin, applications are filing in. The center hopes to make a hiring decision in May.


The center has launched a new logo and branding personality with the help of board member LeAnn Locher. Subtle concepts are in place in Q Center's new logo, such as an organic, open and inclusive feel.

The Q Center Web site, which has been operating as a blog, will undergo a redesign early this year, with hopes of adding a user-friendly, interactive platform that can solicit responses from the community.

The center will continue its tradition of having a strong presence at Pride with a membership drive that involves a photo montage of faces of the community.

"Looking towards 2008, we'll have to make a decision about where we are in the current location and the lease," says Baldwin.

The space at Southeast Taylor Street is generally viewed as a "destination," not a convenient spot to stop by in the middle of a busy day. With an eye on the future, a new location will be larger and more centrally located and have access to meeting rooms, a cyber center and a cafe.

"We have maximized the space that we have, but we're very mindful that it has its limitations," says Baldwin. "In order to complete our vision, we'll need a larger space to go to that next level." 

A full calendar of Q CENTER activities can be found at www.pdxqcenter.org.



Bingo, held monthly on first Mondays, is a popular fund-raiser for Q Center.



The Q Center board is composed of a diversity of backgrounds and expertise.

LEANN LOCHER

Center Supports Celluloid

Q Center builds community through queer documentary fest

Another way that Q Center collaborates with community groups is through sponsorships. Though still in its first year, Q Center found that the overlap in objectives of the center and a new queer documentary film festival was so strong that the sponsorship was born.

Q Doc, a Portland queer documentary film festival slated for June 1 to 3 at Clinton Street Theater, is the brainchild of Russ Gage and Q Center arts and culture committee member David Weissman.

"We're new and trying to make a big splash, and both [Q Doc and Q Center] are committed to the idea of creating a greater sense of community cohesiveness for queers here in Portland," said Weissman. "Our objectives were in synch."


Weissman, a filmmaker connected to the queer and indie film scene since the '80s, is best known for his award-

winning 2002 feature documentary *The Cockettes*. Gage served as the administrative director of the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival for 10 years.

Q Doc is the only documentary festival featuring queer content in the country. The only other in the world is in Australia.

In line with Q Center's vision for creating community, the film festival founders believe that a fun atmosphere should accompany viewings of the films.

"I don't think Portland has a real cohesive sense of queer community, and my experience has been that film festivals can provide a way for people to engage with both the commonalities and diversity of our community," said Weissman. "And there are a lot of great docs out there."

For more information about Q Doc visit www.queerdocfest.org. 

—Jaymee R. Cui



Make Yourself at Home

Get Pre-Approved Today

Get A Commitment Before You Fall In Love

When you are a pre-approved buyer, you

- Know what you can afford
- Know what your payment will be
- Have less stress searching for the right home

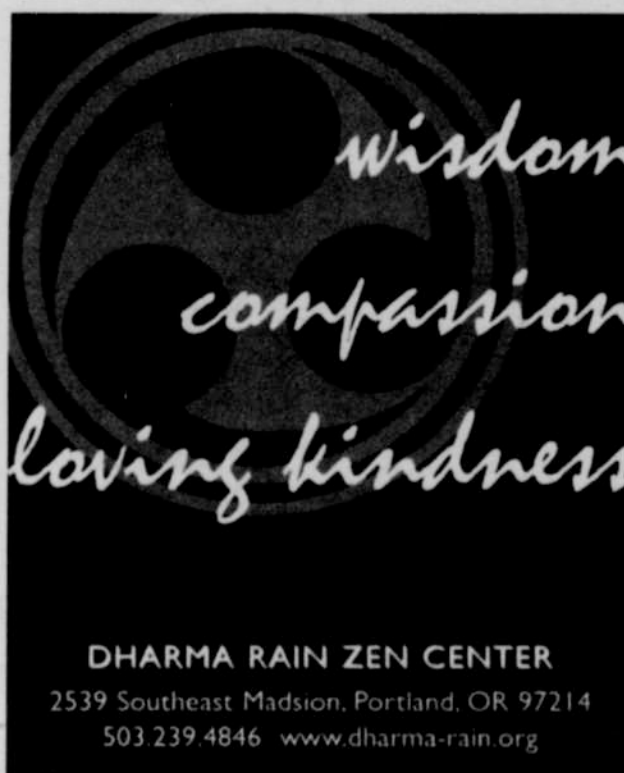
We'll pre-approve you today even with:

- * Zero Down Payment
- * Poor Credit History
- * Recent Bankruptcy
- * First Time Home Buyer

James Komro
MORTGAGE SPECIALIST
Phone: 360-213-0529
Cell: 503-680-4784
Fax: 360-567-0160
James.komro@usfundinggrp.com

U.S. Funding Group, Inc.
We Fund Your Dreams

Additional terms and conditions may apply. Rates and programs are subject to change without notice. Some products may not be available in all states.



DHARMA RAIN ZEN CENTER
2539 Southeast Madison, Portland, OR 97214
503.239.4846 www.dharma-rain.org


- 100% LOANS
- STATED INCOME
- 1 DAY APPROVAL
- CHALLENGED CREDIT OK

Don Williams
(503) 680-4444

Where open minds result in closed loans

Advanced Lending, Inc.
quickloans4u@comcast.net • www.mtglender.com

GAY SKATE! MONDAY, APRIL 16TH, 7-9 PM



OAKS PARK ROLLER RINK \$5 + DONATION OF FOOD OR SUNDRY ITEMS ALL AGES