



Mark Woolley Gallery unveils Brian Mock's sculptures made from reclaimed materials June 7.



GO OUT Salem's **Marionberry Salon** book group meets for a potluck discussion of *Air, or Have Not Have* by Geoff Ryman. Newcomers welcome! (6:30 pm. Cary 503-363-6036. marionberrysalon@comcast.net.)

Towne Lounge presents suave disco-dancers Sexy Pants, electro-based muzak from Cemetery Love Club, Masters of the Tuniverse and DJ Tigerstripes. Proceeds benefit the **Independent Publishing Resource Center**. (9 pm. 714 SW 20th Place. \$7-\$10 sliding scale.)

Urban cowboys and girls are in abundance during DJ Crystal's **country western dance** at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (9 pm-1 am. 618 SE Alder St. \$5.)

SUN • JUNE 3

The Adventure Group joins the **Salem Gay Social Network** for an easy hike on the historic, scenic South Breitenbush Gorge Trail. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (7:45 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Steven 503-362-9596.)

Aurora Chorus Celebrates the Many Faces of Love

As far as Joan Szymko is concerned, all kinds of love deserve to be recognized. "Love is love is love," says the lesbian choral composer.

Not only is it her personal philosophy, it is also the theme for *Standing on the Side of Love*, the upcoming concert by **Aurora Chorus**, a Portland women's chorus of 100-plus voices that Szymko directs. During two performances, Aurora Chorus will sing about the myriad forms of the emotion, from the passion one feels for a lover to the mystical love experienced during spiritual moments.

The title song was inspired by same-sex love. Composer Jason Shelton wrote "Standing on the Side of Love" during the furor surrounding Massachusetts' legalization of same-sex marriage.

Shelton, who is a reverend and director of music at First Unitarian Universalist Church in Nashville, Tenn., happened to be at the Unitarian Universalist Association's Boston headquarters when a high-ranking church representative took a phone call from the press.



Lesbian composer Joan Szymko (inset) directs Aurora Chorus.

Q Center presents **Family Playdate** every first Sunday. (Noon-2 pm. 69 SE Taylor St.)

GO OUT **Aurora Chorus**, Portland's premier 100-plus-voice women's community chorus, presents *Standing on the Side of Love*, singing of friendship, support and the desire for harmony in our troubled world, at Newmark Theatre. Guest artists include Michigan singer/songwriter Claudia Schmidt, Portland folk duo Kate Power and Steve Einhorn and Bay Area singer Steven Walters. (3 and 7 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$25 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Get lucky during the Fox & Hounds' **Monthly Charity Bingo**. (3:30 pm. 217 SW Second Ave.)

Not your typical drag show: **Bent Bar** showcases camp, comedy, showtunes and drag classics every Sunday with Miss Gay Oregon XXXV Terrika St. James, Miss Honey Bea Hart, Bolivia Carmichaels and special guest performers. (4 and 6 pm. 633 SE Powell Blvd.)

President Bush had just rallied behind a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, and a reporter was calling to ask about the church's stance. One of the replies given by the Boston Universalist was "We stand on the side of love."

"It just struck me," Shelton told *UU World* magazine. "As he talked, I started writing down words. I literally heard the song in my head."

In addition to "Standing on the Side of Love," Aurora Chorus will perform songs from a wide array of choral styles, all exploring the different aspects of love. It is a unique potpourri of music from artists including **Holly Near**, **John Lennon** and **Ysaye Barnwell** as well as Szymko's own compositions.

The presence of no less than four guest artists should further enliven the mix.

Local folk duo **Kate Power** and **Steve Einhorn**, former owners of Artichoke Music, will act as masters of ceremonies during the second half of the performance.

Michigan singer/songwriter **Claudia Schmidt**, who is one of Szymko's "absolute favorite performers," will sing a 30-minute set.

Guitarist and vocalist **Steven Walters** is traveling from the Bay Area to perform with Aurora Chorus. In addition, the group will sing one of his songs, "Listen Closely."

Signe Lusk will accompany the chorus.

Szymko promises that the program is "uplifting and nourishing." She encourages audience members to come not only in support of the women singing on stage but also to "feed your own soul."

Aurora Chorus presents *Standing on the Side of Love* 3 and 7 p.m. June 3 at Newmark Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$15-\$25 from 503-287-6721 or www.aurorachorus.org.

—Rebecca Ragain



Johanna Fateman (left) and JD Samson (center) of Le Tigre spin music during Gaycation's Pride party June 15 at Holocene.

Discuss feminist worldviews and the feminist lens during the **Portland Feminist Meeting** every first Sunday at In Other Words. (6:30-8 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St. RSVP at www.meetup.com.)

MON • JUNE 4

Win special prizes during **Q Center Bingo** with Poison Waters! (7-9 pm. 69 SE Taylor St. \$5 includes bingo card.)

The **Bisexual Community Forum** hosts a casual discussion group every first Monday at 3 Friends Coffeehouse. (7:30 pm. 201 SE 12th Ave. 503-285-4848.)

TUE • JUNE 5

Elder Resource Alliance encourages artists to freely express themselves using any materials they choose during an open studio session at Friendly House. Facilitated by Nancy Fascinani, a graduate of the Otis-Parsons School of Design. (2-4 pm. 1737 NW 26th Ave.)

Nicole Sangsuree performs at Mississippi Pizza Pub. (6 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

Radical Women presents a study group discussing the book **Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice** every Tuesday through July at the Bread and Roses Center. (7 pm. 819 N Killingsworth St.)

Queer writer-in-residence Ariel Gore reads at St. Johns Booksellers along with Mark Pomeroy, Mary Rechner and Roosevelt High School students who participated in Literary Arts' **Writers in the Schools** program. (7 pm. 8622 N Lombard St.)

Mary Lou Sanelli reads from *Falling Awake: An American Gets a Grip on the Whole Changing World One Essay at a Time* at In Other Words. (7:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Otep opens for **Static X** at Roseland Theater. (7:30 pm. 8 NW Sixth Ave. \$20 from TicketsWest.)

Show Me the Pink performs with Matt and Kim and Here Comes a Big Black Cloud at Satyricon. (7:30 pm. 125 NW Sixth Ave.)

WED • JUNE 6

The Adventure Group climbs Mount Hood with a professional guide through June 7. The trip includes one night in Timberline Lodge. (Tom 503-327-4674.)

Rochell D. "Ro Deezy" Hart reads from *What Else Did You Think I Would Say: Poems About Politics, Passion, Resistance and Love* at In Other Words. (6:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Queer writer-in-residence Sarah Dougher reads at the Press Club along with Raphael Dagold, Anis Mojgani and Franklin High School students who participated in Literary Arts' **Writers in the Schools** program. (7 pm. 2621 SE Clinton St.)

GO OUT Boxxes presents **Surrender**, a new queer dance party every first Wednesday with DJs BJ, Ill Camino, Synthetic and others! (9 pm. 1035 SW Stark St.)

Go on a free **Gaycation** at Holocene with resident DJs Mr Charming, Snowtiger and Automaton. (9 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St.)

THU • JUNE 7

The Adventure Group takes an easy walk among the lilypond ponds, cedar groves and marsh birds at the new 222-acre Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Meet at the north entrance near MAX Merlo Road. (6:15 pm. Sarah 503-341-6226.)

In Other Words presents a **queer polyamory discussion group**. (6:30-8:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Tony Starlight's Lounge salutes **Dean Martin!** (8 pm. 3728 NE Sandy Blvd. \$5.)

FRI • JUNE 8

In Other Words presents **Dirty Queer**, an X-rated open mike to celebrate sexuality and strut your creative stuff! Hosted by renegade writer and poet Sossity Chiricuzio, it promises to be an evening full of laughter and full-body shivers. (6:30-8:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St. www.dirtyqueer.com.)