

northwest

PFLAG Races for Cure

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Oregon will have a team walking Sept. 23 in the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure.

Patricia Keeney, who is fighting breast cancer, named the team "PFLAG Pinks" after learning of one more PFLAGer with a breast cancer diagnosis—three within the past 12 months. Two are from the Forest Grove chapter board.

With 43,000 people at last year's race, Keeney said she sees this as a great place to spread the word about PFLAG.

There are prizes in the form of gift cards from Macy's and Safeway for raising more than \$500.

Join the fight by registering as part of the PFLAG team or by supporting its efforts with a contribution. The money raised through the race will finance vital education, screening and survivor support programs for underserved women in the community and help the national search for a cure.

For more information visit race.komenoregon.org.

Create a Game Plan

Causeit is hosting Small Biz 101, a conference where Portlanders will learn the fundamentals of business while connecting with other businesspeople, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 22 at Q Center, 69 S.E. Taylor St. The cost is \$25, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Q Center.

Causeit is a queer-owned and -operated business that combines coaching, public relations and sustainable business practices to help entrepreneurs cause their own success.

According to event organizers, small-business owners often don't have the resources or connections

they'd like for their business to thrive. Small Biz 101 will introduce existing and future businesspeople to the basics of business through a series of interactive workshops taught by minority business owners.

Attendees will learn about mission and vision statements, basic financial measures, how to seek and receive financing, how to create a game plan for their business, the importance of public relations and how to negotiate and resolve conflicts. Each interactive workshop will be punctuated with networking sessions and breaks and will be accompanied by handouts with simple tools for future use.

To register for the conference, visit www.causeit.org and click on "events."

Bowling Brings Unity

The 30th anniversary season of Portland's Gay & Lesbian Bowling League begins Sept. 9 at Hollywood Bowl, 4030 N.E. Halsey St.

The group began meeting monthly in 1976 as the Portland Community Bowling League, changing names in 1979 when it officially organized.

"At the time, all I was after was a way for the men and women of our community to come together for some fun and communication," said founder and longtime organizer Tom Geil. "There were no other sports programs, no softball, and gay men and lesbian women just kept their distance from one another. That needed to change to put the unity in our community."

Initially, the group met at the now defunct Grand Central Bowl on Southeast Morrison Street. With Sunday being a big party day in the '70s, local bars and organizations were initially hesitant to support any competition that took away its patrons.



Portland's Gay & Lesbian Bowling League, celebrating its 30th anniversary, created the Boxer Bowl, now duplicated in queer tournaments around the United States.

By the '80s, the league had grown considerably and began meeting alternating Sundays. Many bars and organizations became eager to support the popular group. The group would return the appreciation to supportive businesses by gathering at different clubs. Queer resource organizations such as Phoenix Rising began recommending the league to people looking for a supportive social outlet outside the bar scene.

The group now boasts nearly 300 members of all abilities and ages, and according to its Web site, "You

don't have to be good, just friendly!"

However, for those bowlers with more competitive goals, cash payouts, trophies and other prizes are also awarded.

Bowling takes place Sundays. Open registration begins at 2:30 p.m. Regular sessions start at 3:30 p.m. and conclude at 6. The weekly cost is \$10.

For more information visit www.pdxbowl.com.

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