

northwest

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Leo Schuman was appointed chairman of the Democratic Party of Oregon's Platform and Resolutions Committee. This is the committee that sets the agenda for Democratic priorities every two years.

Laura Calvo, an active Democrat wearing many hats, is secretary of the Democratic Party of Oregon's third congressional district committee. She is also treasurer for the Democratic Party of Oregon's GLBT Caucus and was just elected treasurer for the Multnomah County Democrats and county representative of the Oregon Stonewall Democrats.

Leslie Stone was elected to the Jackson County Democrats' executive committee.

Larry Taylor, former chairman for the Multnomah County Democrats, is now chairman for the Clatsop County Democrats.

Sam Sappington is chairman of the Benton County Democrats.

The Democratic Party of Oregon is inviting like-minded people to celebrate Super Tuesday from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 5 at Tiffany Center, 1410 S.W. Morrison St., with live music, drinks, appetizers and a raffle. Tickets are \$50 from www.oregondemocrats.org.

The Multnomah County Democrats will hold the Dick Celsi Awards Dinner 6 p.m. Feb. 2 at Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St. Tickets are \$125 from www.multdems.org.

Preschool for Every Family

Rainbow Preschool is a creative community of 14 to 16 kids between 3 and 5 years old and two

teachers in the Laurelhurst neighborhood. Both teachers hold master's degrees from Bank Street College of Education and bring experience and enthusiasm to the school.

Rainbow Preschool is holding an open house with a question-and-answer period from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 9 for children and families. The school is at 1244 N.E. 39th Ave., in the basement of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Lesbian director and teacher Nicki Eybel explained the school's welcoming attitude.

"I really want everyone to feel welcomed here," she said. "We all have family. They're all fine, just doing the best we can. Young children don't have prejudice, and they don't know some kids are given a hard time."

Rainbow Preschool is a progressive model that approaches education as social change. "This is what I do to make the world a better place," said Eybel, who has been teaching children for more than 20 years. "If you know that there are very profound lessons young children can learn at this stage about getting along in the world, then you'll be drawn to Rainbow Preschool."

For more information call 503-284-1736 or visit www.rainbowpreschoolpdx.com.

Our House Benefit Honors Social Workers, Therapists

Our House of Portland will honor its social workers and occupational therapists during its ninth annual benefit auction, Soirée in the City, from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Governor Hotel, 614 S.W. 11th Ave.

Former Our House executive director Nancy

Sellers and volunteer Eric Steinhauser will co-chair the benefit. Tickets are \$150 from 503-736-9276 or events@ourhouseofportland.org.

Our House serves clients living with HIV/AIDS in short- and long-term housing, occupational therapy, social work services, nursing services and access to resources and social activities. The organization took over the operation of Esther's Pantry and Tod's Corner in 2007.

Supreme Court Hears Hate Speech Case

The Oregon Supreme Court heard oral arguments Jan. 7 in a verbal harassment case, *State v. William Charles Johnson*. The case involves an incident in August 2003 when the defendant, Johnson, "directed racist, obscene and homophobic insults at the occupants of a car over an amplified address system for upward of five minutes," according to court documents. The epithets were reportedly directed at an interracial lesbian couple.

Johnson was charged with violating Oregon's harassment statute, which makes it a crime to intentionally harass someone by "publicly insulting such other person by abusive words or gestures in a manner intended and likely to provoke a violent response."

Johnson's lawyer argued that the harassment statute violates the free expression guarantee in Article I, Section 8 of the Oregon Constitution. The

court where the case was originally tried did not agree with Johnson, nor did the Court of Appeals.


The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a "friend of the court" brief in support of Johnson and has been granted permission to argue on behalf of him in the case.

The Oregon Supreme Court will issue an opinion on whether to uphold the Appeals Court decision, according to staff attorney Melanie Hagan. "On average, cases take six months to a year to be decided," she said. "Some take less time than that, and some take longer." ☐

By JAYMEE R. CUTI, HEATHER CASSELL and JULIE SABATIER



Nicki Eybel welcomes all families to Rainbow Preschool.




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