

It's My Pleasure Seeks New Owner

Portland lesbian Holly Mulcahey is ready to pass the torch, hoping It's My Pleasure will be infused with youth and vitality under new ownership.

Mulcahey has cultivated the shop—which slings erotica, rainbow goods, sex toys and other items and literature designed to enhance romance—for 17 years. While dreaming of her retirement, she hopes the new owner will continue in the tradition of education, fun and empowerment for women.

"I'd like to have someone who shares some conceptual similarities," said Mulcahey.

It's My Pleasure was initially located on Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard, but after six years, rising rent costs brought Mulcahey to run the shop out of a cozy house at 3106 N.E. 64th Ave.

In addition to the retail space, she has offered classes and welcomed guest speakers with an emphasis on healthy sex education.

For sale is the business name, fixtures, inventory, concept and access to vendors and advice.

According to Mulcahey, it's "time for me to let go." The store still runs with no computer, fax machine, e-mail or Web site. Its most advanced technology is a 10-key calculator and till drawer. "It's time for a younger person to do it their own way and infuse it with youthful vigor."

With an affinity for antiques, Mulcahey plans to spend her retirement traveling in her old motor home with her dog and girlfriend. She would also like to take classes at Mt. Hood Community College that she finds enriching.

It's My Pleasure is open during the ownership transition. For more information call 503-442-2415.

Quest Center Provides More Support

Quest Center has expanded its mission by taking over some of the services provided by Hambleton Project, a recently defunct lesbian cancer network.

Founded in 1989 by Lusijah Marx, the center's mission is to provide services, community and education to low-income, at-risk communities seeking a wellness-focused approach to living and dying. For the past 20 years it has been an influential place of support and education throughout the sexual minorities community.

When Quest Center, previously known as Project Quest, was founded, the organization focused on being "a leading provider of mental health and substance abuse therapy for men diagnosed with HIV and AIDS," said executive director David Eisen.

However, during the past decade, the center has grown tremendously and offers support for numerous life-changing illnesses including HIV/AIDS, mental health disorders, chemical dependency and cancer. "We have really become a melting pot, with a vast clientele of people looking for support and growth during their personal struggles," said communications coordinator Amanda McBeth.

One of the most recent program additions to Quest Center is a support group for lesbians with cancer and their partners. "We were approached by the Hambleton Project, which closed in June of 2007, to re-establish the support group, and we thought it would be a perfect and natural fit within our organization," said McBeth. The group will be sponsored through Quest Center's Healing and Empowerment Program and will follow the basic

Hambleton Project model.

A free orientation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. March 22 at 2901 E. Burnside St. The meeting will be led by Quest Center's therapists, Bobbi Mihara and Renata Ackermann. Formal meetings will then begin in April. "We hope that all lesbians and their partners dealing with cancer will come to the orientation, no matter their financial situation, and see the support the Quest Center along with their peers can provide," said McBeth.

To RSVP call 503-238-5203. For more information visit www.projectquest.org.

HIV Advocacy Training Held

Cascade AIDS Project's Oregon AIDS Leadership Training enters its second year from March 14 to 16.

The free training covers HIV/AIDS public policy development, maps the future course of AIDS service organizations, teaches those infected to become health advocates for themselves and gives people with HIV/AIDS the opportunity to offer guidance and leadership.

"We are thrilled to be offering this training once again for community members statewide and look forward to conducting these training at least twice a year going forward," said Everett Charters, public policy coordinator at CAP. "The training is very powerful and encompasses history, community, leadership and advocacy."



Holly Mulcahey of It's My Pleasure wants to pass the torch to a new owner.

Conceived and developed by people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Oregon, the program is a way for the HIV/AIDS community to support the development of HIV-positive community leaders.

For more information call 503-223-5907 or visit www.cascadeaids.org.

By STEPHEN MARC BEAUDOIN, JEDIDIAH CHAVEZ, JAMES MAXWELL and JAYMEE R. CUTI

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