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Pride, Latino Pride, Equity Foundation, Our House of Portland, Pride Foundation and Q Center.

Laura Calvo, the 2008 Spirit of Pride Award recipient, will be a guest of honor.

Growing Gardens Holds Veggieball

Gay vegetable lover Alan Koch thinks anyone who loves theme parties will enjoy the second annual Veggieball, a benefit for Growing Gardens.

Veggieball celebrates vegetables. Many guests dress as vegetables and participate in a costume contest.

The event also features a live and silent auction concentrating on trips and "experience-based" opportunities such as a kayak tour of Crete or grape crushing at Willamette Valley Illahe Vineyards.

Last year, the event raised \$40,000 for Growing Gardens, which helps teach low-income people how to grow their own food and offers workshops and volunteer opportunities for aspiring gardeners.

Veggieball attendees are treated to culinary offerings from many of Portland's finest eateries as well as the sounds of bear band Sneakin' Out. Sponsors include Garden Fever, Tazo and gay-owned print shop Witham & Dickey.



From left, Veggieball revelers Alan Koch, Heather Falsani and Caitlin Biethen don their garden best to raise money for Growing Gardens.

The ball runs from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. May 17 at Staver Locomotive, 2537 N.W. 29th Ave. Tickets are \$75 each or \$125 for a pair and can be purchased at www.growing-gardens.org.

Portland Program to Provide Pride Rides

Getting to Pride-related events will be easier for some queer community elders, thanks to a Portland interfaith organization.

Pride Rides—provided by Northwest Portland Ministries, with funding from Equity Foundation—will be available to shuttle seniors to the Pride Parade and selected Q Center and Sister-Spirit programs in June.

In a grant application submitted in October 2007, Northwest Portland Ministries cited reports from groups such as Elder Resource Alliance and Older Lesbians Organizing for Change indicating that driving at night, among other concerns, limited their members' ability to attend Pride events.

"Transportation is a key to community con-

nection," said Kelly Caldwell, volunteer manager for Northwest Portland Ministries, noting that "many of the existing community activities are on nights and weekends." That's a reality that compounds the isolation experienced by many older adults, separating queer seniors from services and events where they are most likely to feel welcome.

Initially turned down by Equity because of funding limitations, the request garnered enough positive attention to receive a special gift through the foundation from an anonymous donor, making the Pride Rides possible. Caldwell hopes the program will call attention to the need for an ongoing transportation program and attract significant funding and volunteers.

Seniors interested in rides should contact the Northwest Portland Ministries Ride Line at 503-221-1224.

Volunteer drivers are needed. For details call 503-413-5530 or e-mail kelly@nwpm.org.

Just Out Scholarship Accepts Applications

Just Out is in its third year of offering \$5,000 in scholarship money to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their children.

"I have created this scholarship fund as a means of encouraging students, including adults

returning to school, to pursue their education at the post-secondary level," said Marty Davis, Just Out owner and publisher.

Davis is placing few parameters on the scholarship with regard to age, location and area of study. A review committee will select one or several scholarship recipients after receiving all applications.

Eligible applicants must reside in Oregon or Southwest Washington (Clark, Cowlitz or Skamania counties) for at least one year prior to submitting an application.

"Special consider-

ation will be given to applicants from rural areas. I admit I'm projecting my own feelings, and memories, into this process, but the notion of helping free a sexual minority youth from the confines of Harney County pleases me greatly," said Davis.

Scholarships are not limited to recent high school graduates. Candidates must be pursuing education beyond the secondary level as an undergraduate at a college, university, trade or technical school. Applicants must be accepted or have acceptance pending for enrollment in an accredited educational program with evidence to successfully complete the selected program of study.

Applications are available at www.equityfoundation.org. For questions call 503-231-5759 or e-mail info@equityfoundation.org.

Applications must be completed and returned to Equity Foundation, P.O. Box 5659, Portland, OR 97228, by June 15. Just Out will notify the recipients of the award by early September and introduce the winners at the Just Out 25th anniversary celebration in November.