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NORTHWEST BRIEFS

For the first time, the HRC was formally invited to attend the presidential Easter egg hunt; there are thirty openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals in key positions in the administration: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently signed on to a UN statement to decriminalize homosexuality, something that the Bush administration never signed.

— (cited by) SUSAN LAMB

of Marriage Act, and expanding the Violence Against Women Act to include gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families.

"When you look beyond the federal legislative agenda, it's important to note the fact is that there's a new tone by having Barack Obama in the White House. We have witnessed eight years of an unfriendly administration setting anti-LGBT policy," said Susan Lamb, director of HRC's Federal Club.

Lamb cited the successes of the Obama administration's initial 100 days, and its new-found inclusions. For the first time, the HRC was formally invited to attend the presidential Easter egg hunt; there are thirty openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals in key positions in the administration; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently signed on to a UN statement to decriminalize homosexuality, something that the Bush administration never signed.

"We've been invited to the table. And now we have work to do," said Bloom.

The HRC fundraiser for Portland Federal Club members and friends is Sun., May 3, 2:30-5:30 p.m. at West Café, 1201 SW Jefferson St., hrc.org/100days. Admission is free and includes appetizers, champagne and cake.

— Adina Lepp

Pride Northwest Announces 2009 Honorees

Pride Northwest has named Kendall Clawson, Executive Director of Portland's Q Center, Grand Marshal of the 2009 Pride Parade.

Clawson owned a private consulting firm

in Massachusetts before moving to Portland two years ago to take the reigns at Q Center. During her time in the position, Clawson has won widespread support and admiration for her work, quickly becoming a major figure in Portland's "Q" community.

As Grand Marshal, Clawson will get a place of honor on the Wells Fargo float in the Sunday, June 14 parade.

Pride Northwest also announced Frank Roa as recipient of the Spirit of Pride Award. The title is given "to recognize individuals or organizations and their outstanding contributions within the lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer community," according to the Pride Northwest website.

Roa received the award for his work as director of human rights group Umatilla-Morrow Alternatives. "Frank very much exemplified the spirit of the award," said Pride Northwest Board President Debra Porta. "He has done consistently good work advocating for people living with HIV in Eastern Oregon and organized the first ever Hermiston Pride event."

Porta added, "He's done all of that with very limited resources and support, and has really done amazing things."

"We have to face a lot of discrimination here in rural Oregon," said Roa. "And it feels good to know that work is recognized by the larger community."

More information is at pridenw.org.

— Josh Gross

Cascade AIDS Project Optimistic After 20th Annual Art Evening & Auction

A bum economy and a broken elbow didn't dampen the festive spirit at Cascade AIDS Project's 20th Annual Art Evening & Auction. According to CAP Executive Director Michael Kaplan, the non-profit remains "a very stable organization," despite considerably lower returns for the April 18 fundraiser, typically its biggest moneymaker of the year.

Kaplan told *Just Out* prior to the event that expectations for this year's benefit, a big ticket at \$275-a-plate for the dinner, \$100

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