

Community News In Brief

• On April 18, Aaron Kirk Douglas—a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest Ambassador Board—was awarded the 2011 Hilltop Award for Individual Achievement by the Multnomah County Commission on Children Families & Community.

Douglas has been involved with BBBS for four years and has been a mentor to a Little Brother for the same amount of time.

“Receiving the award was a real honor,” says Douglas. “I have seen in my relationship with my Little Brother how meaningful interaction with other minority groups at an early age can help break down stereotypes about the gay community. I have been so grateful for the opportunity to educate him and his friends on the value of tolerance and compassion for all people.”

For more information on Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest, visit bbbsnorthwest.org.

• Basic Rights Oregon held its 18th annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Business Leaders Luncheon on April 21 and reports that the event was a rousing success.

With nearly 500 guests attending this year’s event, more than \$115,000 was raised for the Basic Rights Education Fund to advance equality in Oregon. The money will go toward supporting the fund’s core programs, including ensuring fairness for transgender Oregonians and LGBTQ people of color and building public support for marriage equality.

BRO development director Juan Martinez reports that the program was well received—from Governor John Kitzhaber’s support for the freedom to marry and the right of all Oregonians to live free from discrimination to the story of the Edwards family and Antoinette Edwards’ passion that all LGBTQ youth receive love and support from family and friends.

“We’re so grateful for the support from the business community,” says Martinez. “The dedication and passion for advancing equality was tangible in the room and resulted in the biggest luncheon to date and a big increase in the percentage of guests giving during the program.”

Final tallies on funds raised for the Red Dress Party 2011, the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund’s “Class Act” benefit and Dining Out for Life 2011 were not available as of press time.

For more information on Basic Rights Oregon, visit basicrights.org.

• On Sunday, May 1, members of the Latino, immigrant, faith, labor and LGBT communities, students and others gathered at the Oregon State Capitol in commemoration of May Day, or International Workers’ Day. Some 4,000 people were reported to have attended the day’s events.

During the rally, speakers discussed impor-

tant issues facing Oregonians including driver’s license access, tuition equity and quality education, voting and equal representation, safe communities, public safety, healthcare equity, immigration reform, justice for LG-BTQ immigrants, affordable housing, jobs and economic recovery and family unity.

Among the speakers were Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown, State Representative Michael Dembrow, executive director of the Oregon Student Association Emily McLain, Oregon AFL-CIO secretary treasurer Barbara Byrd, James Jacobson with SEIU and several others.

For more information about CAUSA’s work, visit causaoregon.org.

• In honor of National Older Americans Month, Multnomah County honored one of the LGBTQ community’s pioneering citizens Thursday, May 5. Mary Beth Brindley was recognized at the Multnomah County Building in front of the county Board of Commissioners for her significant achievements under this year’s NOAM theme of “Older Americans: Connecting the Community.”

Brindley’s tireless advocacy resulted in her co-founding Old Lesbians Organizing Change (OLOC), and later Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises (SHARE) and the Elder Resource Alliance (ERA), which have since merged to become Gay & Grey.

For more information on Gay & Grey, turn to p. 18, or visit gayandgrey.pdx.org.



• The Portland Oregon Women’s Film Festival (aka POWFest) is now accepting entries for its fifth annual event, set for March 8-11, 2012 at the Hollywood Theatre (4122 NE Sandy Blvd.). The regular deadline for entries is Friday, August 12, 2011.

POWFest showcases the art and cinematic contributions of women filmmakers from around the world and seeks to present films that have been directed or co-directed by women. The films can be of any length, style or genre.

In other POW-related news, organizers have teamed up with Portland State University’s Women’s Resource Center and the school’s Women, Gender and Sexuality Program to present the “Lives Of Women” screening series, which continues Friday, May 6 at PSU’s Fifth Avenue Cinemas (501 SW Hall St.).

The lineup spotlights a selection of women-directed short films that also screened at POWFest this year. Friday’s feature, which includes seven shorts, begins at 7 p.m. The screening is free for PSU students and faculty; there’s a \$5 suggested donation otherwise.

Visit powfest.com for more information, including various deadlines (early bird, regular and late) and their corresponding entry fees.

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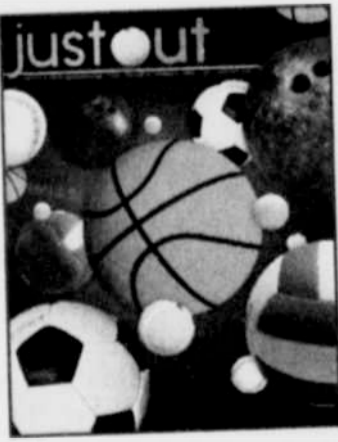
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