

BY RYAN J. PRADO

JOEL HAMLEY

Principal Broker, ABR

The Real in Realtor



So good I'll blow your hair back

OFFICE: 503.238.1700, EXT. 630

MOBILE: 971.506.9499

1902 SE Morrison St. Portland, OR 97214

LICENSED IN OREGON

PLATINUM MEMBER, MILLION DOLLAR CLUB



www.welcomehomepdx.com

McVittie-Law PC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

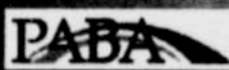
Trust the Specialists.

- Wills & Living Trusts
- Healthcare Directives
- Hospital Visitation
- Power of Attorney
- Domestic Partnerships
- Probate & Trust Administration

Call Today For a Free Consultation

503.224.6611

1841 NW 23rd Ave., Portland
Licensed in Oregon & Washington



www.McVittie-Law.com

Living Room Celebrates Two Years of Welcoming LGBTQ Youth

When Carolyn Russel's daughter came out at age 14, the West Linn elementary school teacher started looking for ways to support her and found that there weren't any resources in Clackamas County.

Through her involvement with the Portland chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Russel learned about the Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) and got inspired to start a Clackamas chapter of PFLAG.

"She became a SMYRC kid," Russel says. And while she was happy to have found a safe space for her daughter, she also acknowledges, "It's a lot of bus rides for kids out here."

After the Clackamas PFLAG sponsored an alternative prom that attracted about 100 Clackamas County youth, Russel realized she needed to get something going locally. So she collaborated with R.E. Szego to found The Living Room.

"We started with two people in a church basement, now we have a board of nine," Russel says. "It's been amazing how fast we've grown, which tells you something about the need out here."

The Living Room now has a weekly drop-in for queer youth ages 14-20 Wednesdays from 4-8 p.m. at Oregon City's Atkinson Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church. It also hosts events such as the Annual Gay-Straight Alliance Summit, monthly GSA meet-ups and the Clackamas County Alternative Prom.

While the organization receives grants to cover some of its expenses, it still needs help making ends meet. Enter the annual Living Room fundraiser.

"Last year we did a silent auction, this year we're doing... just a celebration," Russel

says. "We're using the friend model—Facebook, you know—hoping people will let us 'friend' them and give us a donation."

The second annual fundraiser will serve both as "a party to celebrate how far we've come in two years" and as a kickoff to the Living Room's yearlong giving program, which allows individuals to make a one-time or monthly pledge.

The party will be hosted at Oregon City's Ainsworth House by Seattle drag sensation Jinx Monsoon and will include performanc-



The Living Room represents in the Pride parade.

es by Clackamas County jazz band Green Machine.

"She believes really strongly in what we're doing," Russel says of Monsoon, who is a former SMYRC youth and friend of Russel's daughter.

So does the Oregon Safe Schools and Community Coalition, which provides the Living Room with its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

"They took us under our wing," Russel says. "We're mighty, but we're small. Still, we're trying to grow."

Part of that growth is about expanding services to reach more youth in the large county that includes suburban cities such as West Linn and Lake Oswego but also encompasses more rural outposts such as Molalla, Estacada and Sandy.

"I'd like to see us focus more on smaller rural communities," Russel says, adding, "They don't all have moms who will drive them."

hunt & Gather™

Treasures For The Home & Soul



Not every Eco-effort includes sacrifice!

Check out our affordable collection of local art painted on recycled materials, organic accessories & soy based cushioning



"Like us" on Facebook for our Special Sales on One-of-A-Kind Treasures.!

Interior Design Consulting Available *IN THE PEARL - NOT PEARL PRICES!*

CUSTOM ORDERED FURNITURE IN YOUR HOME IN AS LITTLE AS 4 WEEKS!

1302 NW Hoyt St., Portland • 503-227-3400 • huntgather.com

Lil Piggy says...

"Got a mortgage question? Go to the best!"

Robert Hogg, CPA

Mortgage Broker • Retired Air Force MSC

Call today and find out your options

503.781.4181



Robert Hogg MLO 99103 • NMLS 81395



Robert@RedHillsMortgage.com • www.RHfinancial.net

A Division of Phoenix Capital Mortgage Corp.

RH Financial is not a tax consulting firm. Please seek tax advice from a tax consultant.

