

said, citing Maine's failed marriage equality initiative.

"In 2009 in Maine they had polling showing 48 percent support," Frazzini said. "On election day they won 48 percent of the vote."

According to Public Policy Polling, Oregon likewise sits at 48 percent approval—close, but not quite there. Encouraging, but not yet enough. Even if the majority of Oregonians support marriage equality, winning it via ballot measure requires time and "significant amounts of money," Frazzini said, both to win public approval via ad campaigns and to support the daily work of collecting signature and running an office.

"Engagement so far in the community has been solid and strong, but it needs to continue to build," Frazzini said. "Everything is headed in the right direction, but before we make the decision to go to the ballot, we want to be looking at strong majority support."

When that time comes, BRO will make an announcement. In the meantime, get involved and stay up to date by visiting basicrights.org.

—ERIN ROOK

International Pageant to Crown Top Female Impersonators

Portland icon Darcelle XV will host her 30th Annual La Femme Magnifique International and La Femme Magnifique Plus International Pageant over Labor Day weekend at the Oregon Convention Center.

"La Femme Magnifique is a pageant in search of the most glamorous female impersonator in the world," said contestant recruiter and drag performer Jayson Malone (aka Marcy Kraft). "We're not looking for the most beautiful or the most real. 'Glamour' is the operative word."

The competition is open to finalists from La Femme Magnifique's regional contests in Oregon, Washington, Northern California and Hawaii as well as any interested participants from other states or countries. Performers who have physically altered their body to appear more feminine (via surgery, hormones, etc.) are not eligible to compete.



Reigning La Femme Magnifique Plus International, **Adrienne Alexander**

This year's confirmed contestants include 2010 finalists La Femme Magnifique Oregon Heavenly Bliss and her runner-up, Jocelyn Weaver; La Femme Magnifique Plus Oregon Kelly Johanna; LFM Washington Lady Chablis (competing for her 10th year) and her runner-up, Jada Star; LFMP Washington Athena Kiss and her runner-up, Celys St. James Black; LFM Hawaii Mez Carsie and Selena Blaque of Boise, Idaho.

For Sunday's pageant, contestants will walk in a procession before competing in four categories: formal wear, theme, talent and Malone's favorite, showgirl. The showgirl portion is all about the headdress, and how well the contestant carries it.

"The showgirl costumes are enormous," Malone said, adding, "I love anything with rhinestones and lots of feathers."

In honor of the 30th anniversary, the pageant will include a procession of past winners in a recreation of their original theme costume.

"This year, any former winner can come back and recreate their theme and walk on the stage," Malone shared. "They [also] get to compete among themselves."

Current contestants get to choose from any of the past years' themes for that segment of the competition, such as Big Top, On the Cover of a Magazine, or Wild Wild West. With so many costume changes, contestants pour significant time and money into bringing their best to the stage.

"It's about the night, and putting everything you have into that night," Malone said. "It's a prestigious thing to win."

La Femme Magnifique International and La Femme Magnifique Plus International 30th Anniversary Pageant, Mon., Sept. 5, 6-10 p.m.; Oregon Convention Center's Portland Ballroom, 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.; \$35; 503-222-5338 or darcellexv.com.

—ERIN ROOK

PFLAG Portland Hosts Family Picnic with Unitarian Universalists

The four Portland-area chapters of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays will join three Unitarian Universalist fellowships to host a family barbecue from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, August 20 at Creston Park (SE 44th Ave. and Powell Blvd.).

The event will include games, contests, prizes, food and fun for the whole family. The meal is a potluck, but the hosts will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, picnic wear and cutlery. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options will be included.

Before the barbecue, from noon to 2 p.m., the PFLAG Portland Black Chapter will hold its monthly meeting at the Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Resource Center (3024 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.) to discuss support, advocacy and education initiatives.

For more information, visit pflagpdx.org or call 503-232-7676.

—ERIN ROOK



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