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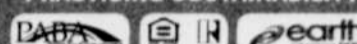

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Tragedies And Triumphs

 Trans community remembers the dead
while celebrating the living

BY ERIN ROOK

Every November 20, communities across the nation observe Trans Day of Remembrance, memorializing those who have died in the previous year as a result of transphobic violence. But out of that 14-year tradition has grown a month-long focus on both remembering the trans community's dead and celebrating its living.

In conjunction with Trans Awareness Month, and anchored by Trans Day of Remembrance, local queer and trans organizations are hosting a wide range of events including a candlelight vigil, workshops, photo and art exhibits, a resource fair and an auction to benefit gender-variant children and teens.

The month kicked off with two art exhibits. *Transfigurations*, which features Jana Marcus' award-winning documentary photography examining gender identity, opened November 4 at the Smith Center's White Gallery at Portland State.

On November 13, Q Center will hold an opening reception for its November show, *Body of Work*, curated by Alison Picard (Bloodhound Photography) and featuring local trans and queer artists exploring gender identity. Both shows run all month.

Before the night's opening for *Body of Work*, Q Center will host the annual Communi-T: Trans Resource Fair, a one-stop resource shop for community members and service providers that includes workshops and a raffle.

"Communi-T is one of the most important programs we have here at Q Center," says Logan Lynn, the center's public relations manager. "The resource fair trains providers about the trans community's needs and then connects the two so they can be met. Aside from the practical stuff, it's also just a really fun event."

The fair got its start in 2009 when organizers saw a need for trans folks to connect with health care providers in a free, non-clinical setting.

"Finding a therapist or doctor is more dif-

icult for trans folk looking for someone culturally competent. Additionally a clinical setting can be incredibly intimidating when trying to self-advocate for care," fair coordinator Chloe Flora says. "This is important because barriers to health care are one of the largest issues in the trans community."

This year's workshops will include a three-hour self-defense training with the Tulen One With Heart Center and address medical issues in early and mid/late transition, mental health and coping, and spirituality.

But it's not just members of the trans community who will be getting an education. Flora says the event is increasingly focused on providing instruction for service providers as well.

"It is not enough to create access to resources but also to ensure that those resource providers are culturally competent of the transgender community," Flora says.

Among the service providers in attendance at the 2011 fair will be Dr. Tony Mangubat, a Seattle surgeon specializing in top surgery for trans men, and Lake Oswego plastic surgeon Dr. Tuan Nguyen.

The following weekend, PSU's Queer Resource Center will offer its own batch of workshops commemorating Trans Awareness Month and leading up to TDoR. Planned topics include writing trans narratives, student health care and sex/body positivity. On Saturday evening, November 19, the QRC hosts a reading from *Trans/Love*, a new anthology of trans writers including local contributors, edited by Morty Diamond.

Come late Sunday afternoon, community members will gather at PSU for a procession and candlelight vigil remembering the victims of transphobic violence, ending at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Emi Koyama, director of Intersex Initiative and social justice activist, will provide opening remarks.

After Trans Awareness Month has technically ended, TransActive Education and Advocacy will bring it back to the future December 4 with its annual silent auction supporting the organization's work with



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"It is not enough to create access to resources but also to ensure that those resource providers are culturally competent of the transgender community."

—CHLOE FLORA, ORGANIZER,
COMMUNI-T RESOURCE FAIR