



• Diving into other Portland organization news, the **Ruby Red Flippers LGBTQ scuba club recently attended the 20th Anniversary of Diving for Life** in Cozumel, Mexico. The annual fundraising event brings scuba clubs from across the globe together to raise money for HIV/AIDS charities.

Diving for Life generated approximately \$90,000 total, and Ruby Red Flippers will bring about \$17,000 of that sum home to Portland for local charities. The group has donated more than \$50,000 to local health-related charities since 2002, including 2010 beneficiaries Our House, the Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC), Outside In and the Pride of the Rose Scholarship. For more information about Ruby Red Flippers, search for the club on Facebook.

• Back on land, **Q Center has announced two new members to its board of directors, Beth Allen and Ryan Wayman.**

Allen owns Beth Allen Law PC, a firm that reaches out specifically to the LGBTQ community and its allies. Wayman is managing partner of Pride Financial Partners, an independent, open brokerage firm specializing in services for the small business owner, nonprofits and individuals.

For her part, Allen—a familiar community member to *Just Out* readers—called Q “a focal point for reaching out and coming together. It says we are here, we are queer, and we are community far and near.”

“Fifteen years ago, I wish there was an LGBTQ community center like this for me and my family,” related Wayman, an Oregon native. “It sure would have made life and the struggle to ‘come out’ a whole lot easier.”

Q Center executive director Barbara McCullough-Jones said by way of press release that both appointees “understand Q Center’s role in changing hearts and minds both to create a healthy community and to continue our march toward equality. We are fortunate to have them on our team.”

Allen and Wayman join a leadership team including Honorary Board Chair Mayor Sam Adams, co-chair Jim Taff, treasurer Anne Viola, and board members Tim Bias, Mary Wheat, Judge Kemp and Aaron Hall.

• In awards news, **Portland-based Equity**

Foundation has announced that it will host its **First Annual Equity Awards**, to recognize Oregon firms that embrace diversity. This inaugural ceremony takes place Friday, January 20, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Governor Hotel (614 SW 11th Ave.). For more information about nominating a business or to purchase tickets for the First Annual Equity Awards, visit equityfoundation.org/awards.

Last but not least, mark your calendars for Q Center’s annual Winter Gala, scheduled for Sat-

urday, February 18, 2012 at the YU Contemporary Art Center (800 SE 10th Ave.). This year dubbed “Never Out of Style,” the Winter Gala is Q’s primary fundraiser. For updates on the event, visit pdxqcenter.org.

Community Notes

• Salem resident and **former Mr. Gay Oregon Jonathan Reitan recently took part in a photo essay project dubbed “A Day with HIV in America,”** conducted by *Positively Aware*. The online magazine solicited photos to capture a moment of a day in the life of individuals, couples, families and groups, whether HIV positive or not, to represent a collective portrait of “what it means to live with or care for someone with HIV.”

An image of Reitan was chosen to be included among 31 photos culled from 160 submissions, all taken on Wednesday, September 21. The images are featured in the November/December issue of *Positively Aware*.

“It’s a true honor for this small town guy to be a part of a national project, especially considering I’m just as happy reaching out to a few people in my neck of the woods in sharing my story about HIV/AIDS,” explains Reitan, who was diagnosed with HIV in 2007. “I really hope people will look at this project and realize that whether you’re from a big town or a little town, whether you’re young, old, gay, straight, positive or negative, that this disease can affect you too. I may be living with the virus, but we are all are living with HIV.”

World AIDS Day is coming up Thursday, December 1. For more information on local goings-on, turn to p. 18.

• Making the rounds locally is multidisciplinary artist and writer **TJ Norris, whose group photography exhibition *Re:Nude, The 21st Century Nude in Photography*** is showing through November 22 at the Black Box Gallery (811 E. Burnside, Ste. 212) from noon to 5 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays.

From Thursday, December 1 at noon to Thursday, December 8 at 4 p.m., Norris will help showcase the Portland Visual Art Exchange at Portland State University’s Litt-

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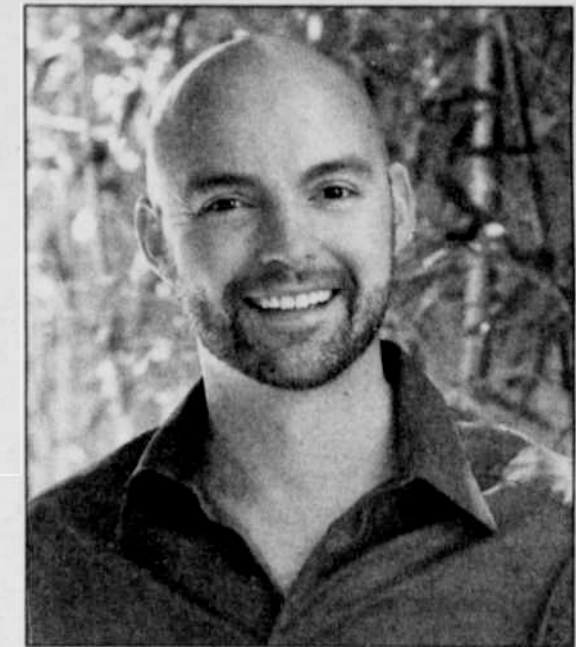
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