

### "Not About Rights Or Responsibilities, But Recognition"

TO THE EDITOR:

Jeana [Frazzini]'s comments about the work [Basic Rights Oregon] is undertaking highlights the fact that this is not about rights or responsibilities, but recognition [Vol. 29, No. 1, Nov. 11, Page 3, "Toward Justice"]. The social recognition of marriages isn't something a ballot measure is going to give us. If 51 percent of the people agreed with this measure, we'd still have a broad swath of Oregonians who are opposed to same-sex marriage. The work is not to win rights but to help people understand what love and marriage mean to us. Going canvassing last year outside of a ballot measure campaign was strange for me, but having real conversations seemed worse than it turned out to be. As effective as these conversations are, they are incredibly rare, and nearly impossible on a ballot measure campaign. While a ballot measure may not happen next year, day by day, thanks to the great work the BRO community is doing, more Oregonians are understanding why the recognition marriage provides matters. Ultimately, that is how we better our state.

Clinton Downs  
Portland

### A Longtime Volunteer and Ally Responds

TO THE EDITOR:

As [a] longtime volunteer and ally of Basic Rights Oregon who remembers the work, passion, and the emotional aftermath of the "No On 36" campaign, I was very hopeful that BRO would go back to the ballot in 2012 and pursue marriage equality. Though after reading of the decision to postpone a ballot challenge I find myself very much supporting the organization's courageous pragmatism as they dedicate themselves to continuing to work on voter outreach and education. Success at the ballot and for the more general cause of equality requires education and understanding, and as a community and a broader electorate we clearly still need time to pursue endeavors towards those ends.

Sincerely,

Aaron J. Green-Mitchell  
Portland

### All Fired Up

TO THE EDITOR:

Greetings to all Portlanders from the Fire of the Rose!

We are so excited to serve as your Rose Emperor and Rose Empress for the upcoming year!

We are the 38th and 53rd (respectfully) elected monarchs to serve as these titles for the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon. Our history is rich with tradition and we are thrilled to be able to continue the legacy. We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization that raises money for charities such as Our House of Portland, Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund and Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund, along with numerous others. Along with our esteemed titleholders and members of the Court, we will represent Portland throughout the International Court System in other courts such as Las Vegas, New York, Boston and many others.

This year our focus is "Keeping it Fresh" to emphasize having fun and supporting our community. As part of our reign we have elected to have an Angels table, honoring those who are no longer with us in the physical form but still stay in our hearts.

We have several upcoming events throughout the coming months starting with traveling to the City That Never Sleeps to attend their coronation of their new monarchs. The following weekend (December 10) we will say goodbye to our current Prince and Princess, Stefan Hart and The Sassy Cassie Nova, at our Prince and Princess Ball, welcome our new Prince and Princess (you'll have to join us to see who they will be!) as well as invest our new court. That begins at 5 p.m. at the Melody Ballroom, with the ball at 6 p.m.! The

following day Rose Emperor XXXVIII Athens Scities has planned the traditional Emperor's Tree Hunt, starting with an 8 a.m. pancake breakfast at The Roxy (1121 SW Stark St. in Downtown Portland), then off to the tree farm to cut your own Christmas tree, then join your friends for a cup of hot chocolate and tree decorating at the Q Center (4115 N. Mississippi Ave.).

If you're interested in seeing what the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court is all about, feel free to join us the first Monday of every month at Darcelle XV at 7 p.m. for our board meeting, and our court meetings are the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Embers Ave., which focus on the community involvement and reaching out to new members and the City of Portland at large.

Once again, we are grateful to be elected your Rose Emperor and Rose Empress and look forward to serving the City of Roses!

Follow us on Facebook, "Keep It Fresh PDX," to see our upcoming events!

Warmest regards,

The Fire of the Rose:

*His Most Imperial Majesty Rose Emperor XXXVIII Athens Scities Foxx*

*and Her Most Imperial Majesty Rose Empress LIII The Legendary Monica Boulevard*

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