

A second check was presented to Martha's Pantry, stemming from funds raised during the 2011 Bears CampOut, totaling \$1,837.

Looking ahead, your chance to support the fantastic charity work of the Bears is right around the corner. Veterans for Human Rights and the Oregon Bears are teaming up for a worthy cause Sunday, December 11, with the December Tea Dance at the Fez Ballroom (316 SW 11th Ave.). From 4 to 9 p.m., attendees will be transformed back in time to a traditional tea dance ambiance with a modern twist.

Under the theme "Bring your Honey to the Tea Dance," this charitable engagement will feature the block-rockin' beats of DJ BradPDX and DJ Mikanik, a no-host bar, raffle prizes and fundraising to benefit Beartown 17 and the Oregon Safe Schools & Communities Coalition (OSSCC).

For more information, visit oregonbears.org.

Community Holiday Events

Asian Pacific Islander Pride welcomes you to their Winter Solstice Potluck, held Saturday, December 10 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Leftbank Building (240 N. Broadway, second floor). This annual gathering features an optional gift exchange, food and fun activities.

This event is open to all LGBTQ Asians and Pacific Islanders, their families and partners. RSVPs are appreciated by visiting api-pride.blogspot.com.

PFLAG Portland gets into the holiday spirit with its annual holiday potluck Tuesday, December 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church (1838 SW Jefferson St.). Organizers report the event will include great company and caroling, and are also asking for non-perishable food items and/or toiletries for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church's outreach program for the homeless.

Cascade AIDS Project's Positive Force Northwest group is presenting a Winter Social a couple of days later, from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, December 15 at the Pivot of-fices (208 SW Fourth Ave.). The event will offer a relaxed atmosphere for HIV-positive

individuals to mingle, with treats and holiday-themed activities provided.

For questions or to RSVP, email positive-force@cascadeaids.org, or call 503-278-3844.

The Metropolitan Community Church of Portland—an LGBTQ-welcoming congregation—rings in the year-end yuletide with the Christmas program "Hope Changes Everything" on Sunday, December 18 at 10 a.m. On Christmas Eve, the church offers a family service at 9:30 p.m. with holiday music and refreshments, followed by a candle-light service at 11 p.m.

On Christmas Day, MCC's service starts at 10 a.m. The church is located at 2400 NE Broadway. For more information, visit mcportland.org, or call 503-281-8868.

As a reminder, all holiday music lovers would do well not to overlook the recently released sixth studio recording by the **Portland Gay Men's Chorus**, *Sing & Swing the Season*. The new collection puts a big band spin on classic works like "Sleigh Ride," "Ave Maria," and Handel's "For Unto Us a Child is Born." The album is available for purchase at buy.pdxgmc.org for those needing last-minute stocking stuffers.

You'll catch a snippet of the tracks during PGMC's upcoming 32nd season opening concert "Joy to the (Modern) World," held Friday, December 9, at 8 p.m. The concert will also be performed Saturday, December 10 at 2 and 8 p.m., all at the Newmark Theatre (1111 SW Broadway). There are still tickets available, running \$18-\$46 and available at pdxgmc.org.

If you miss that concert, fret not. PGMC teams with City Club of Portland to stage yet another holiday concert Friday, December 16 at The Governor Hotel (614 SW 11th Ave.) from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Those interested in attending this luncheon performance can contact pdxcityclub.org or call 503-228-7231 ext. 110 for more information. Tickets to the event are \$20 for City Club members and up to two guests, \$25 for nonmembers. Reservations are required for lunches only, and close at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 14. Lunch tickets not reserved by December 14, if available, will be \$5 extra.

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