

to. So, this cause really hit home because of that huge financial issue for us back then.

AJ: What is it that people don't understand about basic rights?

GB: They just don't have any sense about what our relationship is. It's total ignorance, but they're slowly coming around.

AJ: What will it take to give it (freedom to marry) the extra push?

GB: That final little couple of percentage points? I think it's a relentless thing; I'm not sure it's going to be a big push. I think it's just a percentage point at a time. As soon as the old people die off ... even some 60 percent of Republican 18 to 49-year-olds think that gay marriage should be legal, so the issue is just going to go away with time.

AJ: At the Basic Rights' Garden Parties ... aren't you preaching within the tent?

GB: Yes, for sure. But you know, we've held a lot of events. Many times, people who had old fashioned ideas about gay relationships come to an event and they may not "know" us, but I've seen that having the event is enough to maybe push a few people. And all we need is a few people, to get us over that 50 percent. ■

BasicRights.org

PHOTOS

Previous Page:

The "barn cottage" garden tended by tenants, Lawson Smith and Dax Schlabs.

RIGHT:

Top Left: Geof's favorite spot for a sunset glass of wine, with vista of Willamette Valley. *Bottom Left:* Newest water feature, built by Lawson Smith. *Top Middle:* Ruby's Garden. Resting spot for the ashes of Geof's Great Aunt Ruby. *Top Right:* Chairs on Terrazzo di Martini Pinc (Pink Martini terrace) overlooking the Banquet Lawn. (Tall trees on left are Buxus 'Graham Blandy!') *Bottom Middle:* The barn, flanked by *Itea illicifolia*. This evergreen shrub commonly called Hollyleaf Sweetspire (doesn't that sound like a stripper name?) with profuse blooms of honey scented greenish white catkins. *Bottom Right:* Geof Beasley in rare repose thinking "No tarrying...I've got to get to work. Maybe one more cup?"

Anne Jaeger, writes *The Garden Gal* for *Just Out*. Anne was a hard news reporter and anchor at KGW and KOIN before turning to gardening full time. After that her award-winning garden shows appeared on both stations. You can now look for Anne's garden videos on the *Oregonian* newspaper web site: oregonlive.com/hg, catch her on Twitter @GardenGalTV, send her a suggestion via her web site: GardenGal.TV, or write Anne@JustOut.com.

