SGN’s community organization for Pride 2007

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the Abbey of St. Joan, Seattle

Community Organizations
CUFF
red, white, blue party
(@ PAC Publishing)
Seattle Gay Hiking Group: Out on the trails for 39 years!

by Martin Flight
Special to the SGN

What is perhaps the oldest Gay social group in the Seattle area? The Seattle Gay Hiking Group continues to delight, inspire and serve the Seattle Gay community. It all began in 1968 as one of many activity groups under the sponsorship of the now defunct Dorian Society. While the Dorian Society did not survive beyond the mid 1970s, the Hiking Group did and continues into the 21st Century. Similar to the proverbial Maytag repairman, our success can be attributed to dependability - always there, rain or shine, every Sunday, week after week, month after month, year after year.

Besides our tenacity and commitment to hiking the highlands and lowlands of the Cascade and Olympic Mountains, there have been long-term relationships established, lasting friendships developed, and, perhaps above all else, a thousand and one inspiring vistas and a strong camaraderie that only comes when one is hiking with Gay guys among the cedars and hemlocks of the mountains, the wide open spaces of Unteram Ridge and along the pebbled beaches of Whidbey Island.

One secret of our success might be the fact the Seattle Gay Hiking Group is not "organized". We don’t have officers or by-laws or a formal set of rules or memberships. We are open to everyone - Gay or Lesbian. The only "formal" proceeding we have, if one wishes to call it that, is our informal voice vote that is taken on Sunday mornings when the guys gather together and decide where to hike.

The destinations are as varied as the folks that hike - the open spaces of Eastern Washington, the jagged peaks around Mt. Stuart, the basalt cliffs of Yakima Canyon, the trails of Mt. Rainier or North Cascades National Park, the exposed granite of Oyster Dome or Lummi Peak, Ft. Worden State Park or Marrowstone Island, Mt. Walker or Green Mtn; Loch Katrina or Alaska Lake and even a place called Adnar. If there is a trail to hike on, the Seattle Gay Hiking Group probably has hiked it; if there is a pond or lake, we probably swam in it; if there are sunny spots in the winter months, we stopped to warm ourselves in the sun’s rays; if there are snow-capped peaks, we hiked through them, around them, or ate lunch on top of them; if there are fields of Simpson’s cactus, we passed through them; and if the sign stated: “No trespassing”, we ignored it. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

Are you ready to experience and enjoy what the natural wonders of the Evergreen State have to offer you and, meet some new guys along the trail? Sure you are and the Seattle Gay Hiking Group welcomes you to experience what we do every Sunday - rain or shine! We meet in the Uptown Espresso on the NE corner of Republican and Westlake, leaving at 9:00 a.m.

For more information call 206-632-5405 or visit::  http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TheSeattleGayHikingGroup/

The idea itself isn’t exactly revolutionary.
Post an ad on Craigslist for a Gay men’s outdoors-y group, and hope to get a handful of responses.
So, when half of the Puget Sound responded to James Saupan’s posting for the first meeting of the NW OUTdoor Men’s Group back in May, he was, needless to say, pleasantly surprised.

NW OUTdoor started in Tacoma, but, as the group’s flier boasts, “has attracted interested men from Auburn, Bothell, Gig Harbor, Graham, Kirkland, Puyallup, Renton, Seattle, SeaTac, Tacoma and Vashon Island.”

Among NW OUTdoor’s other ambitious plans: “hiking, backpacking, camping, picnics/BBQ’s, social get-togethers, kayaking, rafting and just enjoying all that this great Northwest has to offer.”

Saupan says the group also has plans to advocate for other LGBT organizations, and says NW OUTdoor seeks men with “a passion for life, [who] are interested in community involvement, and, of course, love adventure and the OUTdoors with gay men.”

NW OUTdoor’s next event is slated for a July 21st potluck at Pt. Defiance State Park. To learn more, contact James at jsaupan@hotmail.com.
GSBA office moving to Capitol Hill
“We’re very excited that this location bridges Capitol Hill and downtown,” said GSBA’s Louise Chernin.

by Liz Meyer
SGN Staff Writer

The Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) is moving to be closer to its dear pals.

The organization, which has had a symbiotic relationship of sorts with a host of Capitol Hill businesses for years, plans to move to Capitol Hill at the end of June. Currently, the GSBA’s home base is located in North Seattle.

“What we’re most excited about is that we will finally be located in the heart of what we consider our historical roots and cultural core,” said GSBA’s Executive Director Louise Chernin. “We’re very excited that this location bridges Capitol Hill and downtown.”

Several Capitol Hill Businesses were some of the first to join forces with the GSBA. The organization, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, will move to 400 E. Pine, on the corner of Bellevue and Pine. An open house to celebrate the move is planned for early September.

“We’re hoping that once we’re located there, our members and prospective members will get the opportunity to get support from our chamber; to ensure their own success,” said Chernin. “Being more prominently located, we can be more of a resource for our businesses. We’ll be more of a hub of a cohesive community.”

The GSBA is the largest LGBT and allied business chamber in the country. Its aim is “to combine business development, social action and leadership to expand economic opportunities for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and those who support equality for all.”
It's been twenty-five years since HIV/AIDS was first recognized as a disease in 1981. For nearly fifteen of those years, the future for most patients with AIDS was measured in weeks and months.

The introduction of new AIDS drugs in the late-1990s changed what it meant to have HIV disease in the United States. With HAART (highly active anti-retroviral therapy) came real hope.

Today it is often possible — with no missed pills, regular monitoring by doctors, and prompt intervention when complications arise — to keep the virus in check for years, even decades.

Our mission at Bailey-Boushay House (BBH) is to provide exceptional care to people with HIV disease. As our patients’ needs change, we will continue to reinvent our services to promote their health, well-being, and ability to live as independently as possible for as long as possible.

What remains constant is our belief that — regardless of social background or life complications — every person with HIV/AIDS in our community deserves an equal chance to live successfully with HIV disease.

Add to that the many changes commonly associated with aging: high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, poor digestion, breathing problems. Patients can easily feel overwhelmed.

The nursing teams at BBH recognize and help patients deal with evolving health changes. Spared the task of counting pills in 2006, nurses began using that time to expand direct care and patient education.

The underlying premise of patient education is hopeful: Adopting healthier lifestyle choices can enhance long-term quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS.

During four months in the BBH Residential Care program, Raymond’s immune system responded well to nutritious food, medications for AIDS and depression, the safety of a warm room, and the nonjudgmental support of staff and volunteers.

With help, he found housing when he was ready. He immediately enrolled in the Adult Day Health program. Five days a week, Raymond commutes by bus to BBH for medication management, two meals, and help patients deal with evolving health changes. Spared the task of counting pills in 2006, nurses began using that time to expand direct care and patient education.

With help, he found housing when he was ready. He immediately enrolled in the Adult Day Health program. Five days a week, Raymond commutes by bus to BBH for medication management, two meals, and help patients deal with evolving health changes. Spared the task of counting pills in 2006, nurses began using that time to expand direct care and patient education.

LGBT SUPPORT

The Gay community has been an important support for Bailey Boushay House since the beginning; as volunteers, as staff members and as a strong financial contributor,” said Brian Knowles, Executive Director, Bailey Boushay House.

Raymond says, “I know work is in my future. I am so lucky that I have this help now, while I’m recovering.”

“After six years on the street, with no responsibilities, no job to go to, nothing — it was a shock when I first moved out [from the BBH nursing home] and had to do things for myself,” he says. “It was like my brain was short-circuiting. It’s gotten better. But I’m still very forgetful sometimes.”

“My biggest challenge is to start my life over,” Raymond says. “I know work is in my future. I am so lucky that I have this help now, while I’m recovering.”

LGBT SUPPORT

“The Gay community has been an important support for Bailey Boushay House since the beginning; as volunteers, as staff members and as a strong financial contributor,” said Brian Knowles, Executive Director, Bailey Boushay House.

Raymond says, “I know work is in my future. I am so lucky that I have this help now, while I’m recovering.”

“After six years on the street, with no responsibilities, no job to go to, nothing — it was a shock when I first moved out [from the BBH nursing home] and had to do things for myself,” he says. “It was like my brain was short-circuiting. It’s gotten better. But I’m still very forgetful sometimes.”

“My biggest challenge is to start my life over,” Raymond says. “I know work is in my future. I am so lucky that I have this help now, while I’m recovering.”
In New Hampshire, the quadrennial exercise of “retail politics” is underway as “mere voters” meet the potential next President of the United States. As the January primary approaches, hands will be shaken, personal images will be frozen, and voters will make a decision without the help of a television camera.

You don’t have to go to New Hampshire to experience retail politics up close and personal. Right here in Seattle, you can sit down with candidates for both high and obscure office. SEAMEC (the Seattle Metropolitan Elections Committee for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Transgenders) interviews not only the high profile candidates for the US Senate and governor, but also candidates for local school boards and district courts. All are seeking a measure of support from the LGBT community. “It’s an interesting way to meet the people who are going to make decisions on the way you live your life,” says Richard Isaac, who started as a volunteer interviewer with SEAMEC in 1991, and has served on the organization’s board since 1997.

Being an ordinary citizen and meeting and evaluating those who hold power is an important opportunity not to be missed by anyone in a community often overlooked and degraded. It is a time to reflect on ordinary citizens aspiring to a mission of public service and the experienced office holders who seek to retain power.

SEAMEC volunteers are often witnesses to a remarkable diversity in emotions from laughter to tears as they take part in a candidate interview. “SEAMEC interviews provide an opportunity to “plant seeds” in the minds of policymakers and aspiring political candidates to how to use their power to make their communities safer and more welcoming of LGBT people,” says Sarah Luthens, a member of the SEAMEC Steering Committee since 1999, and its current secretary.

SEAMEC was born 30 years ago in a time of ill wind for the LGBT community. From Miami to Eugene, Oregon, Anita Bryant was singing to the world that “there is nothing like the love between a man and a woman,” while crankng out a message of hatred to a homophobic world. Seattle’s Initiative 13 in 1978 became the first and most memorable test for SEAMEC’s strength. Unlike other cities that swept LGBT rights, Seattle defeated Initiative 13 with 63 percent of the vote against.

SEAMEC did not lead the fight against the initiative to repeal the city’s infant ordinance banning discrimination against gays and lesbians in housing and employment. There were a number of organizations — like Citizens to Retain Fair Employment — that took on the challenge. It was SEAMEC, however that opened the doors to electoral power for the LGBT community by seeking out and questioning candidates for mayor and City Council in 1977 — including then Seattle Mayor Wes Ublman — on issues important to the community. Opening the doors to City Hall, was as significant to this community as the opening of Ping Pong diplomacy in China had been to America just a few years before.

It took a few determined pioneers to make it so. Among them, was Roger Winters, who had served as office manager for Seattle’s Dorian Society, one of the city’s first gay rights organizations. “It took quite a mix of people to put SEAMEC together,” Winters says. “There was a drag queen, a utility worker, a Hispanic, and even a Republican.”

Among the original team of SEAMEC volunteers was Tom Rasmussen, today an openly gay member of the Seattle City Council. Winters said for many early volunteers, SEAMEC was a place to launch political careers. For many years, political careers for folks in the LGBT community were limited to the perimeters of campaigns, not front and center in the candidate’s circle.

Winters worked on the first SEAMEC questionnaire that wasn’t much different from the one in use today. The original questionnaire was modeled after one already in use by Seattle’s Municipal League. Originally, candidates were given a number to rating between 0 and 4, a rating that went from openly hostile to highly rated, and completely supportive. Interviews (both written and oral) candidates are asked about issues important to the community. As history has shown, knowing someone from the community goes a long way to understanding.

Today, candidates both openly gay and openly minded seek the SEAMEC Holy Grail that now comes in the form of a ratings grade not unlike those earned from a secondary school teacher. Ratings range from A to F, the latter meaning openly hostile. Candidates must endure several levels of testing that begins with a written questionnaire and ends with a series of presentations from volunteer interviewers before a steering committee session that selects the final winner. In between are volunteer interviews from all walks of the community, who begin by writing oral questions that assess a candidate’s sense of LGBT awareness, history, and support. For the most part, candidates do give honest answers — even if sometimes the answers demonstrate a benign neglect of subjects like gender identity or even how someone is infected with the HIV Virus.

Sometimes, candidates give answers that they believe SEAMEC volunteers want to hear. The most recent case caused the SEAMEC steering committee to rescind its 2006 endorsement of state Supreme Court Justice Barbara Madsen and create change. The next generation of volunteers may see a time when like the voters of New Hampshire, we see a steady stream of presidential candidates volunteering to be interviewed. (Written questionnaires went out to all the candidates in the 2000 Presidential Election, according to Isaac.)

As SEAMEC enters its fourth decade of operation, challenges continue to face our community. Seattle has become known as a place “very friendly” for those of us who have lived through the long journey to freedom on the road. That didn’t happen by accident. It happened because a few pioneers believed it was possible to work within the system and create change. The next generation of volunteers may see a time when like the voters of New Hampshire, we see a steady stream of presidential candidates volunteering to be interviewed. (Written questionnaires went out to all the candidates in the 2000 Presidential Election, according to Isaac.)

It’s therefore crucial for SEAMEC to call on a new generation of volunteers. “It’s the most valuable work you can do for such a short duration of activity,” says Winters.

Barbara Sehr is the current co-chair of SEAMEC and co-chair of the Ingersoll Gender Center steering committee. A Nothing, she is a stand-up comedian performing at comedy clubs all over the Puget Sound region and around the US.

How do you live compassion?

Volunteer Orientation

Wednesday, July 25th
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Help create a community of compassion for people living with HIV/AIDS, MS, and other life-threatening illnesses

- Provide one-to-one emotional support as a Shorti Volunteer.
- Join an AIDS CareTeam & give practical, emotional & spiritual care to someone in need.
- Do you have gardening & handy home skills to offer as a Housing Volunteer?
- Want to make a difference as an Office or Moving Volunteer?
Seattle's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence reflect on 11 years of nun fun, HIV/AIDS work

by The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Abbey of Saint Joan, Seattle

In 1996, everybody was doing the Macarena, drooling over Leonardo DiCaprio in Romeo & Juliet, and voting for President Babu--it was a good year, made all the more fabulous by the formation of the Abbey Of Saint Joan, an order of The Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence. We were small in number then, but mighty in our capacity for spreading love, joy, kindness and glitter to our brothers and sisters of The Emerald City.

Eleven years later, we have quadrupled in size, due to folks of all genders & persuasions hearing the call, applying the whiteface and glitter, and gathering at the river, the beautiful, beautiful river of Sisterly Love. (And, we will be celebrating 11 years of Love the weekend of July 12-15, for our 'Nuns Gone Wild' Anniversary Extravaganza--watch the SGN for details.) You know who or how much you can impact a bad situation lighter, without losing a deep, sense that the person I’m interacting with is, in their own way, suffering and my job, as a Sister, is to completely distract them from their pain so that they can open up to the possibility that they just may be more than they care to believe in; that they have to hold on to their dreams and their joy, no matter how bad life’s dragged them across the concrete at high speeds. I guess that’s what it truly means to me a Sister.

SISTER IVANNA MANDE LEI
I became a Sister for a couple reasons. First, it was for the memories of two dear friends who died that year of AIDS complications. So the outreach and prevention education aspects of our Sister work was a big drawing factor for me. Second, I graduated from a Bible college and was planning on going on to Seminary to become a Lutheran Pastor. The serving of our community has nurtured what I felt I needed in wanting to become a Pastor. Thirdly, I see the fun and giving back to our community as the biggest reason I have become a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence. Sister Glo was the Sister that gave me my final push to join and start my Sister journey to become the Sister I am today! I love the community, the giving back to our community in such a fun and entertaining way. Being able to be a mirror of the beauty in our community is the biggest blessing I receive being Sister Ivanna Manda Lei.

SISTER TITTY TITTY GANG BANG
I started my journey as a Sister in honor of my best friend, Richard Valencia. We lost him to AIDS fourteen years ago. I never want anyone else to have to go through that, either patient, family or friend. I have met wonderful people along the way. I have done incredible work of giving back to our community in such a fun and entertaining way. Being able to be a mirror of the beauty in our community is the biggest blessing I receive being Sister Ivanna Manda Lei.

SISTER FAYE LATIO
The genesis of Sister Faye is a desire for the health of the community. It is evident to the body that houses her that the many problems faced by the GLBT community and indeed, the world at large, are due to a low self-image and a seemingly built-in sense of guilt. As a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence, Faye desires to give folks the proper tools to increase self-esteem and remove guilt. She exists as a nun dedicated to the community’s support of itself and all, is generous, to remind all that they are loved and worth loving.

Rasmussen excels at Seattle City Council post

by Lisa Wardle
SGN Staff Writer

Tom Rasmussen has served on the Seattle City Council since 2004 and is running for re-election unopposed. That’s good news for the city’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community who have benefited from his new city-funded programs that seek to improve our quality of life.

As an out, Gay politician he has brought the benefits of LGBT citizens to the fore at Seattle City Council meetings and before the mayor. However, activism is not new to Rasmussen. He helped found Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and early LGBT rights pioneer.

He has served the people of Washington in other ways as well. He was a prosecuting attorney in Yakima County, a member of Senior Services of Washington, and served as the Director on the Mayor’s Office for Senior Citizens. He has long been known for advocating for the rights of groups of people who aren’t otherwise well represented in city government.

Rasmussen said he is excited to be involved in the political community because of the opportunities it has to make improvements and changes to modern day life. He said he looked forward to another four years. “There will be new challenges and I will be there to solve them. People know who to call,” he said.

The Seattle Gay News sat down with Tom Rasmussen on Friday, June 15, to talk about his commitment for social justice, his years on the City Council and his plans for the future of Seattle.

Lisa Wardle: Are you surprised that there are no challengers for your re-election on the City Council?

Tom Rasmussen: It’s definitely unusual. One council member checked back forty years in the history of the Seattle City Council and couldn’t find one time when there weren’t at least two people running. I’m still going to campaign, it’s important to be visible.

LW: Do you remember why you first became interested in politics, and has the profession lived up to your expectations?

TR: I always was interested in making positive changes. Before even beginning in politics, I would see things needing to be improved and want to make changes. I believe that if a person is an active and creative official, positive changes definitely can be made.

LW: Has being openly Gay caused difficulties in your political career, and how has it affected your occupation?

TR: It hasn’t been difficult to be openly Gay. I think that it has made me more aware and sensitive about equity and fairness issues. It helps me see an issue’s need in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community. Also, being Gay gives the community a focal point to go for help.

LW: How supportive has your partner, Clayton Lewis, been throughout your endeavors?

TR: Clayton makes all the difference in the world to me. He is helpful and understands the pressures of being in politics today. He will come to events and fundraisers with me if I ask him to, but only if I ask him to.

LW: Do the two of you plan to register for a Domestic Partnership now that it has been approved by the state?

TR: We registered some time ago with the city, Seattle has quite a good registry, but haven’t got around to registering with the state.

LW: Over your years in government service, what work have you done around LGBT issues?

TR: Some highlights of LGBT issues and accomplishments that I have made:

Led funding of $75,000 for the first comprehensive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Wellness Center, which provides services including HIV/STD testing, cancer screening, general health clinic services, cultural competency training and referrals to other LGBT organizations.

Led funding of $107,000 for a new training program for health and social service providers serving LGBT clients. This new program is designed to improve mainstream health services by providing culturally sensitive care to the LGBT community. This program will be modeled after The Rainbow Train, a previous Seattle Gay News page 13
Founded in 1969, Seattle Counseling Service (SCS) is the first and oldest community mental health agency for sexual, gender, and Transgender persons in the United States. The counseling service started as part of a health-facility chemical dependency treatment unit, expanding to become an independent organization. It began in a rented house, with telephone service provided by several people who were ready to answer the phone, talk with people who dropped by, and offer counseling and support.

In 1993, Stonewall Recovery Services and King County Public Health created a collaboration to house Project NEON, a harm reduction program for users of crystal methamphetamine. Ten years later in 2003 with Stonewall closing SCS agreed to house Project NEON and take on chemical dependency services assuming the role previously filled by Stonewall in King County.

As prelude to the Pride festivities scheduled for this weekend, I sat down with SCS Executive Director Ann McGettigan and Chemical Dependency Program Manager Cathy Speelmon to talk a little bit more about the agency and the programs they offer.

Sara Michelle Fetters: What does SCS think of the mental health outlook here in Seattle, King County and the Pacific Northwest right now and in this ever-changing landscape?

Anne McGettigan: Well, as I am sure you all know, access to mental health services is getting better for folks who have insurance coverage with the passage of legislation last year improving the mental health benefits insurance companies offer to their subscribers. I’d encourage community members who have insurance coverage and need mental health services to check with their provider to learn more about that.

Overall, I’d say we are truly lucky in this region to have a resource like SCS, one that provides our community with culturally competent mental health and substance abuse treatment services. We have people who travel as far as several counties away each week to get to our staff knowing there is nothing like this service in most other parts of the state open to them.

SCS can do this because we have an excellent team of qualified mental health, substance abuse treatment and harm reduction services to the LGBT community in King County. Our programs include specialized services for people living with HIV/AIDS, intimate partner violence and youth substance abuse services as well as excellent individual, group and family therapy options. These important services are available on a sliding fee scale. We also accept Medicaid and most insurance plans, too.

Cathy Speelmon: For chemical dependency, SCS offers a continuum of services including Project NEON, which provides harm reduction services for methamphetamine users, and abstinence-based chemical dependency treatment services. All services include assessment as well as individual and group counseling. We work hard to identify the most appropriate service for each to individual to best satisfy the needs of a program meeting their specific needs.

Annie: As a client of Project NEON of late. Can you tell us more about this award-winning program?

Cathy Speelmon: For chemical dependency, SCS offers a continuum of services including Project NEON, which provides harm reduction services for methamphetamine users, and abstinence-based chemical dependency treatment services. All services include assessment as well as individual and group counseling. We work hard to identify the most appropriate service for each to individual to best satisfy the needs of a program meeting their specific needs.

Annie: You are known by the community for your work with Project NEON of late. Can you tell us more about this award-winning program?

Cathy Speelmon: Project NEON is a nationally recognized HIV harm reduction program which targets Gay, Bisexual men and other men who have sex with men and use methamphetamine. The program includes two peer education outreach teams providing needle exchange, educational materials, safer sex supplies, referral and support to both injection users and non-injection chem users. We also provide individual and group counseling including a support group for methamphetamine users, and abstinence-based treatment programs.

We also provide individual and group counseling including a support group for methamphetamine users, and abstinence-based treatment programs. We currently provide harm reduction services for all of the people we have touched over the years. I’m reminded of the early days, when they kept a can of gasoline ready to light fire to client notes in the case of a police raid. How far we have come from those early days, but what’s amazing to me is how many folks are still in the community who have been served by this organization, whose lives have been touched by this important work. I’m grateful every day to come to work here, knowing that what we do here is life-changing in so many deep ways. So, of course we are looking forward to celebrating our anniversary, as the first and oldest organization of our kind in the country!
Seattle Gay News
June 22, 2007
PRIDE '07
Community Organizations

Families like ours
www.familieslikeours.org
206-441-7602 | 1-877-230-3055

SPARKLE
then fade

TACOMA ART MUSEUM
1601 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402 253.373.4566

TACOMA ART MUSEUM
1601 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402 253.373.4566

PATIO DINING
That's Amore!
ITALIAN CAFE
Watch the fabulous sunsets beyond Seattle and the
Olympic mountains in air conditioned comfort OR
enjoy our patio dining (pooches welcome at the
“Doggie Tie-Up Bar”)

“Seattle’s Best Hidden Gem” – Seattle Magazine
206.322.3677
1425 · 31st Ave. South · Seattle, WA 98144
www.ThatsAmoreSeattle.com
Just 5 minutes from I-50 in Seattle

Celebrate GAY PRIDE WEEK with...

'SWANK'

Seattle’s Women’s Alternative Night Klub
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
WEDNESDAY JUNE 20
KARAOKE
8P-CLOSE

THURSDAY JUNE 21
PAJAMA JAM
$2 Cover! 9P-Close Raffle & Prizes
Come dance your slippers off!!!

FRIDAY JUNE 22
BOXERS & BRIEFS
$3 COVER!! Best Buns Contest!
Cash Prize for 1st place
DJ & Dancing 9P-Close

SATURDAY JUNE 23
WET T-SHIRT CONTEST
$3 Cover! Raffle @ Midnight
Cash prize for 1st place!
Seattle’s finest D.O. spinning all night long!

SUNDAY JUNE 24
GAY DAY
T-Dance for our 40+ Seasoned Women!
$3 Cover! 6P-10P Raffle @ 9p
D.J. spinning your 70’s 80’s & 90’s favs!
10P-Close Dance to your current tunes!
Raffle @ Midnight

MONDAY JUNE 25
THE DAY AFTER BBO!
Meet, Greet, & Hang Out!
$5 Pitchers & Plates!!
3P - Close

‘SWANK’
24457 Russell Rd. #117 Kent, WA 98032 253-854-2110

Happily Signed & Promising Auburn, WA 253-737-4117

June 22, 2007
PRIDE 07 Community Organizations

Seattle Gay News

9
TRUVADA® does not cure HIV infection or lower your chance of passing HIV-1 to others and must be used as part of combination therapy. TRUVADA should not be used with ATRIPLA®, VIREAD®, EMTRIVA®, Combivir®, Epivir®, Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, or Trizivir®.

USE OF TRUVADA:
TRUVADA is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents (such as non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors or protease inhibitors) for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Lactic acidosis** (a buildup of acid in the blood) can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness.

- **Serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis), may occur. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have light colored stools, dark colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow.

- **Flare-ups of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection:** If you have HIV and HBV, your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA unless directed by your healthcare provider.
to get where you are.

So why settle for an HIV med that’s twice a day?

Once a day TRUVADA® can help get you to undetectable and keep you there. As part of an HIV regimen, the meds in TRUVADA:

- Can be taken with or without food
- Reduce viral load and increase CD4 cell count

Ask your doctor how TRUVADA can be part of a complete once a day regimen.

TRUVADA®
emtricitabine-tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Move On With Life

TRUVADA is the #1 Prescribed HIV Med*

• Kidney problems: If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys

• Bone changes: It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV medicines. The most common side effects of TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur.

Discuss all medicines you take with your healthcare provider and be aware:

• Your healthcare provider may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx®, Videx® EC, Reyataz®, or Kaletra® with TRUVADA

For more information, please visit www.TRUVADA.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5 (1-800-445-3235) and select option 2. Please see Patient Information on next page.

*Based on data from PRevent retail monthly data, April 2002–February 2007, with data from other sources.
TRUVADA® (buvonah) Tablets
Generic name: entecavir and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
(only for use when prescribed by a pharmacist for this product)
Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider’s care when taking TRUVADA. Do not change or stop taking your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider. Take your healthcare provider’s or pharmacist’s advice if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

• Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogue) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis (build up of acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in a hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:
  • You feel very weak or tired.
  • You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
  • You have trouble breathing.
  • You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
  • You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
  • You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.

• Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatitis (swelling of the liver) and liver failure. These problems may develop even after several months of taking TRUVADA. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:
  • Your skin or the white of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
  • You have bruising or bleeding problems.
  • You have more weight gain (edema) than normal.
  • You have fewer red blood cells (anemia).
  • You may be more likely to get liver acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight, and have taken certain other medicines like statins that lower cholesterol.

• TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). People with HIV and HBV or HCV infection may need to be treated with medicine other than TRUVADA. Call your health care provider about getting treatment for Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C.

• TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). People with HIV and HBV or HCV infection may need to be treated with medicine other than TRUVADA. Call your health care provider about getting treatment for Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C.

• TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term benefits of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are termed AIDS-defining conditions, which can be life-threatening or fatal. Opportunistic infections can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi. Call your healthcare provider if you have any questions about conditions caused by opportunistic infections.

What should I know about TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an NNRT, (nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor), a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI), and both a protease inhibitor (PI) and a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) in one pill. TRUVADA is used alone or in combination with other antiretroviral medicines to help keep HIV under control in people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults 18 years or older who are taking HIV medicines to help keep HIV under control in people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

• Kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidney function during treatment with TRUVADA. Avoid certain medicines if you are scheduled for surgery or if you need to have other medical procedures like dental procedures. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

• Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones). It is not known whether TRUVADA may change the amount of bone minerals in your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to closely monitor your bone mineral status to see if there are any signs of bone changes.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

• Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amounts of fat in the upper back and neck (buffalo hump), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and tail may also happen. The cause and long-term health effect of these conditions are not known at this time. The most common side effects of TRUVADA and other medicines used with anti-HIV medicines are: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, rash, and skin. Some of these symptoms are infections and can be life-threatening or fatal. TRUVADA and other medicines used with anti-HIV medicines may interact with other medicines you are taking, including prescription and non-prescription medicines. See the patient information that comes with these medicines for more information. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV). TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

How to take TRUVADA:

• Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember it. Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in 24 hours. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.

When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.

Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider’s care when taking TRUVADA.

• Take TRUVADA with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.

• If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in 24 hours. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

• Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember it. Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in 24 hours. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.

When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.

Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider’s care when taking TRUVADA.

• Take TRUVADA with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.

• If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in 24 hours. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.

When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.

Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider’s care when taking TRUVADA.

• Take TRUVADA with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.

• If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. Do not take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in 24 hours. Do not take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.

When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.

Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider’s care when taking TRUVADA.
I have served on the planning committee for PRIDE regardless of sexual orientation. I have led the Council passage of City policies protecting marriage benefits for inmates. I am the Vice Chairman of Seattle/King County Board of Health and initiated the development of a sub-committee on HIV/AIDS. My office lead policies to improve the jail treatment and services for Transgender inmates. I have led the Council passage of City policies protecting marriage benefits regardless of sexual orientation. I have served on the planning committee for the 21st Annual Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference and hosted the opening reception at City Hall. I am a leader of community mobilization in response to hate crimes against LGBT citizens. I facilitated and led the community discussion for the future LGBT Community Center.

What are your perceptions of current LGBT youth as they become the next generation of Gay adults?

It varies as much as any community. I know some strong young activists who work not just with LGBT issues but also in other areas like public safety and homelessness. I can’t say that younger people aren’t involved in the community; they are just involved in different ways. It seems that youth today are not nearly as closeted as when they were years ago.

You led council support for the Gay and Bi Men’s Sexual Health Conference, which resulted in a dialog about current STD infection rates. What actions have been made since then to try and decrease those rates?

I’m working on it as Vice Chair of the HIV/AIDS Committee. We’re working on creating more effective strategies and setting goals to get the rate down. It’s a hard thing to do, establish goals and meet them; especially, when we’re dealing with a disease. We plan on taking it one bit at a time. This year we set a goal of decreasing infection by a small percentage and continue at a set rate while they acquire the financing opportunity for non-profits to buy land in order to build affordable complexes. This program provides financial assistance. This program provides the opportunity for non-profits to buy land at a set rate while they acquire the financing needed to pay the loans back.

You led council support for the Gay and Bi Men’s Sexual Health Conference, which resulted in a dialog about current STD infection rates. What actions have been made since then to try and decrease those rates?

I’m working on it as Vice Chair of the HIV/AIDS Committee. We’re working on creating more effective strategies and setting goals to get the rate down. It’s a hard thing to do, establish goals and meet them; especially, when we’re dealing with a disease. We plan on taking it one bit at a time. This year we set a goal of decreasing infection by a small percentage and continue at a set rate while they acquire the financing opportunity for non-profits to buy land in order to build affordable complexes. This program provides financial assistance. This program provides the opportunity for non-profits to buy land at a set rate while they acquire the financing needed to pay the loans back.

What is the accomplishment you are most proud of since beginning at the City Council?

I was working with seniors before I joined the City Council. One day I received a call that a woman had been getting water from her neighbor’s hose because she couldn’t pay her own bill. I tried to get the Council to approve a plan so that this issue would be resolved, but it didn’t work.

Until I became a Councilmember, there were no services for people who were going to have their water turned off. I put the emergency water plan on our budget to help those people, and they would pay us back at a manageable rate. I am very proud of being able to feel the need for that program.

You’ve helped many different groups of people--from homeless to LGBT youth--but one of your key priorities seems to be helping seniors in the city. Why do you spend so much time and effort on that specific demographic?

I have a passion for helping people who are vulnerable, marginalized, and victimized. Seniors can be marginalized, and are sometimes more vulnerable than others. In my work, I help to meet various challenges--such as elder abuse and financial difficulties--so that seniors can live with dignity and respect in the community. There are a fair number of seniors who are having a difficult time and I try to provide the help that they need.

On your re-election website, it states that you are a leading advocate for immigrants and refugees and also that you have made approaches to improve housing. Many East African refugees currently reside in the Central District, but due to gentrification are being forced out because they cannot afford to live there anymore. Have you made efforts to provide these people with better living conditions and resources?

TR: I initiated the development for several apartment complexes in the city to be turned into affordable condominiums that immigrants and refugees will have access to. It can be very hard to remain in the city because of the rising costs of living. Some people are forced to make the decision between paying for food or water. I have tried to help by funding several programs for people who need a little financial assistance.

Another program that I have developed is a loan program where non-profit organizations can receive a loan to buy land. It will enable organizations (who may not have the funding to buy land in order to build affordable complexes) the opportunity to attain the land before a for-profit group does. This program provides the opportunity for non-profits to buy land at a set rate while they acquire the financing needed to pay the loans back.

Happy 2007 Pride!

Massage ~ Facials ~ Body Treatments ~ Waxing ~ Tinting

Experience organic Facial & Green Apple treatments that tone & nourish your skin resulting in a radiant glow!

www.eaglelawoffices.com

Our Pride is our Strength. -Happy Gay Pride! -

COME TALK TO ME, I can help.

1001 Fourth Avenue, Suite 3200 | Seattle, WA 98154
PHONE 206.624.EAGL (3245) TOLL FREE 1.877.624.3245
paul@eaglelawoffices.com
Multifaith Works: compassion in action

by Angela Farrar, MSW, M.Div
Housing Support Specialist
Multifaith Works

I was a teenager during the Reagan 80s, when it was all about ‘traditional family values.’ The President of the United States couldn’t even say “AIDS,” much less offer a compassionate and just response to it. I heard only condemnation from the religious leadership toward my gay and lesbian friends. With my adolescent radar fine-tuned for hypocrisy, I couldn’t align myself with any particular church. because I believed it was wrong for people to go without treatment and to be ostracized from churches because of the stigma of AIDS. I couldn’t see any liberal Christian movement that existed then, so I was disinterested in church, for the most part, during my adolescence. Besides, my friends were all nice people, and they all belonged to different churches: Catholic, Jehovah’s Witness, Baptist, and Pentecostal. My friends who didn’t go to church were just as kind as the others who did. And the Muslim family down the street was wonderful. I asked myself, “What difference did faith make, anyway?” I still believed in God, but heterosexist religion was completely unacceptable to me.

Fast-forward about 20 years. Now, I’m at Multifaith Works, bringing with me 10-plus years of social work experience serving people living with HIV disease. I’m also an ordained minister with 5 years experience in ministry. My adolescent self would be shocked at this! And we’re still hearing misleading rhetoric about ‘family values.’ What happened? I found the progressive and inclusive community of Christians, gay and transgender and straight, to whom I can belong. I use my knowledge and experiences to show that AIDS is not punishment from God, and church people contract HIV too. I believe being lesbian, gay, intersexed or transgender is naturally a part of the wonderful God-given variety of human love and identity. I believe in a Creator who truly loves and cares for everyone, and asks that we share that love and care with others.

At Multifaith Works, I am given the opportunity to live my values alongside generous and devoted volunteers, where together we are “building a community of compassion,” as our slogan says. If someone asks, “Who always remembers your birthday?” or “Who do you call if you feel lonely?” most of us have an answer. Because of the stigma of HIV disease and the effects of the illness itself, many of the people we serve had no answer to these questions before. Our programs include AIDS CareTeams, Shanti, and Transformational Housing. Through these programs, we bring emotional and practical support to women and men who are socially isolated. On any given day, volunteers may be throwing a birthday party for a mother who’s never had one, planting a garden with a dad and son, taking a walk with someone who hadn’t been outside in weeks, or helping someone move into his or her first apartment. While so many sexual minorities and people with HIV disease are still being shunned by religion, our volunteers and staff establish relationships of spiritual dignity without judgment, honoring each person’s sexual identity and religious belief or non-belief. All support is given within an atmosphere of loving kindness and genuineness.

The caring mission of Multifaith Works leads me to advocate for human rights. I can never truly understand what it’s like to be gay but from my own perspective as a straight African-American woman and an ordained minister, it’s important that I be an ally to the LGBTQ community. There needs to be, and are, straight clergy who are willing to add their voices to the chorus shouting for justice for all citizens. That’s why I recently joined Rabbi Michael Latz, Reverend Monica Corsaro, and 220 other clergy of many faiths from around the country in Washington D.C., to ask our representatives to support the Mathew Sheppard Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would offer new protections to LGBTQ citizens. Organized by Human Rights Campaign, clergy came to advocate for the rights and equal protection for the LGBTQ community based on our understanding of God and faith, not contrary to it. It made sense for me, working in an agency like Multifaith Works, to contribute my time to this lobbying effort. Multifaith Works has been living the values of inclusivity, compassion, and interfaith cooperation for eighteen years, being a witness to the inherent goodness of all people, and an advocate for justice for the LGBTQ community. What difference does faith make, anyway? In this case, many churches and faiths make a big difference in the lives of people living with AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. The difference is faith expressed in openness, not ostracism, and caring, not condemnation.

Whether you’re spiritual, religious, or neither, we need volunteers who share our vision of compassion in action. For more information, call 206-324-1520 or check us out on the web: www.multifaith.org.
Three Dollar Bill Cinema isn't taking a summer vacation – the producers of the Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival are already busy planning this year's 12th annual festival (happening October 12-21) and presenting a variety of queer film events for the upcoming months.

Recently honored as Non-Profit of the Year by the Greater Seattle Business Association, Three Dollar Bill Cinema has grown into the leading LGBT film arts organization in the Pacific Northwest. “We’re committed to maintaining our position as the premier queer film arts organization in the area,” says Three Dollar Bill Executive Director Rachael Brister. “And beyond our own efforts, we’ll continue working with diverse organizations to co-present new events and creative endeavors that reflect the issues and tastes of LGBT people.”

This weekend, Three Dollar Bill Cinema will be celebrating Seattle’s Pride weekend in cult classic style with an outdoor screening of John Waters’ Hairspray. Shake a tail feather under the stars at Queerfest in Capitol Hill’s Volunteer Park. Presented by Three Dollar Bill Cinema and The Seattle LGBT Community Center, Hairspray will screen shortly after dusk, around 9:30 pm, on Saturday June 23.

If the karaoke spotlight is your thing, Three Dollar Bill Cinema is playing your song, with a variety of unique events in the works that you won’t want to miss.

Coming up first, Three Dollar Bill Cinema will be co-presenting the “Buffy Sing-a-Long.” In the tradition of The Rocky Horror Picture Show comes this over-the-top cinematic experience, based around the fan-favorite “Once More With Feeling” musical episode of the hit TV show Buffy the Vampire Slayer. After playing to sell-out crowds in New York and Chicago, the show is hitting the road and stopping in Seattle for two special nights, June 29 & 30 at The Egyptian Theatre.

Every month, CINEOKE invites you to be the star of your favorite movie musical. Choose from hundreds of clips or bring your own to perform along with, every second Monday at the Rendezvous’ Jewel Box Theatre in Belltown.

If your talents shine brighter behind the scenes, Three Dollar Bill Cinema and Northwest Film Forum invite you to participate in the Second Annual Karaoke Challenge. Create your own karaoke video for your favorite song, then join in a festive screening and performance on July 31 at Northwest Film Forum. Submissions are due June 30. For rules and more info, email Adam Sekuler at adams@nwfilmforum.org.

Keep your eyes open for some very special summer film events from Three Dollar Bill Cinema. The Seattle Black Pride Film Festival returns for its second year, co-produced with The Seattle Black Pride Committee and to be held July 21. Translations: Seattle Transgender Film Festival returns Aug 31 – Sept 3, co-presented with Gender Odyssey as part of its 5th national conference to be held over Labor Day weekend in Seattle.

And an exciting new film series from Three Dollar Bill Cinema is coming to the heart of Capitol Hill: “Features From the Black Lagoon!” Cal Anderson Park will be the unique setting for these free and fun outdoor screenings.

The series kicks off Aug. 11 with Creature from the Black Lagoon. The creepy classic will be shown the way it was meant to be seen, in 3-D! Gay icon Carmen Miranda performs “The Woman in the Tutti Frutti Hat” and other fruity members in the must-see Busby Berkeley musical The Gang’s All Here, screening Aug. 18. And Supergirl swoops in to save the planet from the evil clutches of Mommie Dearest’s Faye Dunaway on Aug. 26. All programs are free and fun for the whole family, starting at 8:30 pm.

With so much in the works, Three Dollar Bill Cinema needs your support now more than ever. Join as a member to receive perks such as a member’s only line, ticket discounts, and member’s only events. Or volunteer your time and professional skills; from ushering to underwriting, contributions of time & effort are always welcome and appreciated. For more information on Three Dollar Bill Cinema’s programs and how you can be a part of them, check out their website at www.seattlequeerfilm.org.

Courtesy of Three Dollar Bill Cinema
Tina Podlodowski:
Lifelong’s former executive director talks about her reasons for leaving
future plans and thoughts on HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention

by Robert Rakett
SGN Staff Writer

The Seattle Gay News sat down with Tina Podlodowski, former Executive Director of the Lifelong AIDS Alliance, last month to talk about her plans to leave the agency on June 15. Podlodowski, who has held the post since 2004, plans to take the helm as CEO of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of King, Pierce and Jefferson County in August.

Under her leadership, the agency has grown from a $6 million organization with 55 employees to a $15 million agency with 95 employees. In addition, Lifelong AIDS Alliance has doubled the number of clients it serves during her tenure. She noted that the 2008 fiscal year budget was on solid ground and spoke of a $1.6 million earmark it serves during her tenure. She noted that the 2008 fiscal year budget was on solid ground and spoke of a $1.6 million earmark for the agency in the state budget.

Prior to joining Lifelong AIDS Alliance, Podlodowski had a diverse career in the fields of business, government and non-profits. She was a senior manager at Microsoft and was later elected to the Seattle City Council in 1995, where she became the second “out” lesbian to serve on the City Council. Furthermore, she served on the boards of the Human Rights Campaign, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials. In 2000, she was picked by Vice-President Al Gore to help draft the Force and International Network of Lesbian Campaign, National Gay and Lesbian Task Seattle City Council in 1995, where she

Podlodowski, former Executive Director of Lifelong AIDS Alliance office last month

2007 Seattle Dyke March

Activism on the Personal Level

The 2007 Seattle Dyke March is on Saturday June 23rd. Rally from 5-7pm at the Seattle Center Plaza at Broadway Ave E and E Pine St. March steps off at 7pm to go around Calh Hall and back to the Plaza, where the Dyke March will end. There will be a "Dance under the Stars" until 1pm. Lgbt includes lamar yam dyke as arence, with speakers from cara+ carina, verbalin, the vww network, dyke community activism and the lesbian archives, as not sarah luthens and dalc clark. lura willison, chris bowl and 7 star burlesque will be performing. lineus subject to change - and will be definavly expanding.

Hope to see you there. E-mail for more information.
email: dykecommunityactivists@earlink.net
website: www.home.earlink.net/~dykecommunityactivists/id2.1.html

Tina Podlodowski: Lifelong's former executive director talks about her reasons for leaving, future plans and thoughts on HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention


To staff [about your departure] that this has been one of the most pleasurable roles that you’ve had. Do you want to explain that a little more?

TP: Well, I think that whenever you’re an elected official you get to do work around policy issues, but you don’t get to see what happens when a policy is implemented or how that impacts someone’s life. I think the great thing about my job here at Lifelong

it means having a mentor that cares for them -- regardless of what their orientation, race or gender might be. My experience with this experience is that we’re growing the next generation of amazing citizens in King County. Maybe they won’t ever deal with many of the issues that all of us faced, particularly the kids who are coming out. So, I thought that great opportunity to be able to do that.

SGN: I’m sure that, having been here four years it’s been a life-changing experience. Can you talk about some of the challenges and how you’ve dealt with those?

TP: I think that a lot of it is just getting people to remember that AIDS is not over in the Gay community. Here in Seattle, in the great work of the Gates Foundation, we hear a lot about the international AIDS epidemic. But the international epidemic and the domestic epidemic are very, very different: although, they share some similarities. I think with the international epidemic, you’re facing deep, deep poverty in ways that we can’t even imagine here in the United States—no access to services, no access to food, difficulties with clean water, and political issues that make it very, very difficult to get people the care that they need. Here in the United States, people have had anti-retroviral drugs since the late 1990’s. I think that for many people the AIDS epidemic is “over”, when it is certainly not. In the absence of a cure, or the absence of a vaccine, there is still so much risk out there for HIV. The disease sparked a lot of activism in the Gay community because it was striking Gay men, initially.

It is certainly no longer a disease that’s just within the Gay community. This is a disease that everyone needs to care about. In fact, if you look at the demographics worldwide, there are more women infected with HIV than men. HIV/AIDS has become the number one killer of African-American women in the United States between the ages of 25 and 44. The epidemic has changed—but I think that has allowed us in the GLBT community to think about [the] sad way this disease has spread to consider it in terms of communities of color; to issues that we need to really focus on.

Eighty-five percent of the people that we serve at Lifelong live on less that $15,000 a year. We are an AIDS agency, we’re a health agency at the bigger level, but, on so many other levels, we’re a poverty agency. We deal with issues of poverty along with issues of stigma and discrimination, That’s something that folks forget, that AIDS still carries tremendous stigma and discrimination, particularly in communities of color, in religion communities, in immigrant communities. It’s a disease that has opened up so many other bridges to think about is [the] sad way this disease has spread to communities of color; to issues that we need to really focus on.

The way that the Queer community created a care system for AIDS—with case management, with food, with housing, with so many other things—is the way that everyone living with any life-challenging illness, should be treated. We’re in an amazing position to use the way we care for people living with HIV to try and change the way we care for people living with any other health issues. We need to get people the care they need when living with any life-challenging illness.

So, hopefully, we can lead a lot of changes in terms of healthcare reform, and hopefully there will be a lot of money available to D.C. that will give us those opportunities.

SGN: We’ve had a change in power in D.C. in terms of the presidential election. How would you describe what has happened prior to that change?

TP: I think that after we lost the presidency in 2000, the Clinton administration can best be described as a wound of a thousand cuts. Funding was diverted, money was moved from focusing on HIV to international HIV. It is a lot of money
was placed in abstinence-only programs, which we are all so frustrated over. The money spent in abstinence-only education is an expenditure that doesn’t benefit anybody, except maybe the agency that’s running the program. So there is a lot of frustration. There’s been sort of a gradual decrease every year of about 5 percent in funding, which over an 8-year period is very significant. There has been new CDC restrictions placed on programs. I think we’re then very frustrated in terms of getting education and prevention money. In this generation of drugs includes microbicides, as a way to protect themselves. Microbicides would certainly be useful for condoms, as a way to protect themselves. Microbicides would certainly be useful for an imbalance in the power dynamic and where there’s an imbalance in the power dynamic and where they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom; they can’t ask someone to use a condom;
While the community suffered a body blow when Andersen v. King County was decided, the inevitable deflation did not last, and the community has returned to the fight.” - Lisa Stone, Executive Director of the Northwest Women’s Law Center, remarking on the Washington State Supreme Court’s decision not to strike down the state’s Defense of Marriage Act that prevents same-sex couples from marrying in our state.

The Andersen case certainly drew the attention of the media, with people on both sides of the marriage debate watching closely as our state’s highest court grappled with a decision that could instantly change the future of LGBT couples in Washington. The spotlight shone especially brightly on lead counsel in the case, the Northwest Women’s Law Center, showing the rest of the community what many had recognized for years: that the NWLC has been a quiet leader in the fight for the rights of sexual minorities in our region since the late 1970’s. The NWLC’s many great successes are felt by LGBT citizens in the Northwest everyday.

In addition to its work to advance the legal rights of women in employment, family law, reproductive health, athletics and more, this non-profit organization has invested much of its efforts toward obtaining full recognition of the rights of LGBT residents of the Northwest. One of the Law Center’s most celebrated successes involved the 1994 reinstatement of Colonel Margarethe (Grethe) Cammermeyer after she was discharged from the National Guard for being a Lesbian. The federal district court recognized in Cammermeyer v. v. Aspin that a ban on Gays in the military violates the United States Constitution by distinguishing between straight and Gay service-members without a rational basis.

Not long after this victory, the Law Center persuaded the Montana Supreme Court to strike down its ban on same-sex intimate activity. In a unanimous decision, the court held that the “Deviate Sexual Conduct Law” violated the state constitutional guarantee of privacy rights. Importantly, in 2003, the United States Supreme Court rejected the state’s anti-discrimination law. This addition provides protection for sexual minorities in areas including employment, housing, and credit. Then, in a huge victory for LGBT rights, in 2007, our state became the seventh in the country to create legal recognition for same-sex relationships. The Domestic Partnership Registry allows same-sex couples (or heterosexual couples where one person is over 62 years old) to register with the state and then receive many of the same legal rights that married couples automatically enjoy – for example, the right to visit your partner in the hospital, make medical decisions and funeral arrangements, and inherit if your partner dies without a will. As for marriage equality, the Law Center has made it clear that it is not giving up. The registry was just the first step securing the 400-plus rights afforded to married couples in Washington, with the goal of obtaining full marriage recognition for all LGBT couples in this state.

Visit the Northwest Women’s Law Center website at www.nwwlc.org for more information, to become a member or volunteer, or to make a donation.

Courtesy of the Northwest Women’s Law Center
Deluxe romantic woodland getaway. Private cottage, fireplace, jetted tub, breakfast for two. Join us this summer on Bainbridge Island.

(206) 780-0100 www.ashtonwoodsretreat.com

Visit our booth after the Seattle Pride Parade at the Seattle Center on Sunday, June 24.

We believe quality medical care goes beyond the doctor-patient relationship. It’s about giving you a healthy dose of respect and consideration every step of the way. It’s about working as a team to ensure you receive the highest-caliber care in sickness and in health. It’s about making time to see you at your convenience and offering you seamless access to specialty care.

Six Seattle area locations welcoming you:
- Beacon Hill
- First Hill
- Lynwood
- Northgate
- Renton
- Tukwila

Search for your physician & make an appointment online. Visit www.PacificMedicalCenters.org for details on doctors, locations and schedule a visit.

Don’t be afraid to ask the tough questions.... It could change your lives for the better... forever!

If you or a loved one is struggling with chemical dependency or mental health issues, take action.

We have helped thousands of LGBT people deal with their addictions and mental health concerns for over twenty years.

PRIDE Institute provides a safe, comfortable environment to begin recovery.

800-54-PRIDE www.pride-institute.com
“Attending the ballet is a very sensory experience for me – afterward I feel like I’ve given myself a mini-vacation. I subscribe because of that ‘lift’ the dancers give me. Even better – I save money at the same time!”

~ PNB Season Package Subscriber

DON’T YOU DESERVE SOME TIME-OUT FOR FANTASY?
A Pacific Northwest Ballet season package is your link to beauty, excitement and thrills that last long after the curtain falls – plus the advantage of big savings, choice seats and the anticipation of SIX clats with your FANTASY LIFE!

PNB’s 2007-2008 Season | 12 Premieres
All Balanchine Program | New Susan Stroman
West Coast Premiere of Roméo et Juliette | Laugh Out Loud! Spring Dance Festival
A Midsummer Night’s Dream | All Robbins Program

Subscribe Today! PNB makes it easy
206.441.2425 www.pnb.org

Peter Boal Artistic Director