

Bears Help People with HIV

Times are tough. And if they're tough for us, just think what it must be like for those struggling with the costs and care of living with HIV. Thankfully, it's the gays to the rescue with a holiday benefit you won't want to miss!

The Community Holiday Show & Auction is back and more fun than ever! Hosted by the Oregon Bears (a big "woof!" to them), the show is supported and performed by a huge segment of the queer community throughout the area.

Danzig McPherson, administrative secretary for the Oregon Bears, says: "We have people in-



The Oregon Bears Community Holiday Show & Auction takes place Dec. 7 at Darcelle's.

involved from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the lesbian community, the leather community, from the Rose Court and the Oregon Bears. It's everybody coming together for one night and helping out people who are living with HIV."

The event is a must-see, hosted by Darcelle and Poison Waters at the iconic Darcelle XV Showplace.

"All the money raised goes to the work of Esther's Pantry and the HIV Day Center at Ecumenical Ministries," McPherson says.

The show is a huge communitywide talent show that's so popular, the producers have to limit the number of acts each year to keep the time reasonable. This year the Oregon Bears wanted a theme ("What gay man can pass up a theme?" McPherson laughs), and because the event takes place Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day, this year's theme is "WWII USO Show!"

In addition to the show, the night features a fierce and fun auction of great and wonderful objects and services, from handmade afghans to artworks to a finely crafted wood-carved headboard and lots more.

"We're shaking up the auction this year," McPherson says, "splitting the show in three parts and hosting the auction in between."

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, festivities and, most importantly, the giving! But the show does sell out every year, so as McPherson warned, if you want to get in, "Get there early!"

The Community Holiday Show & Auction starts 7 p.m. Dec. 7 at 208 N.W. Third Ave. Admission is \$5 or the food item equivalent.

—Glenn Scofield Williams

Lesbian Musician Gives Back to Cancer Patients

Portland lesbian blues guitarist Sonny Hess and her organization Musicians for the Cure will present the 10th annual Northwest Women Rhythm and Blues Christmas Concert on Dec. 10.

"The night is a great mix of people who are all there because they want to be—gay, straight and folks who want to hear music," says Hess.

This year's concert beneficiary is Komak, a local nonprofit providing immediate and interim assistance to people affected by cancer. Hess, a breast cancer survivor herself, has come to really understand the importance of community support.

"When I had cancer, the people who helped me were incredible," she says. "I didn't know people like that were out there. I want to give back."

The audience Hess has found in the gay community has also helped her. "The gay community supports this event and keeps coming back," she says. "The network of the gay community is great; they support my music. They said, 'She's out there doing the best she can,' and they showed up."

The concert will feature the talents of Hess, Janice Scroggins, Ellen Whyte, Rae Gordon, Lisa Mann, Lady Kat, Jolie Clausen, Claudio Knauer, Theresa Lowe, Kelly Pierce and Kimberly Hall. The musicians find time between their regular bands and gigs to rearrange songs with a blues bent and rehearse before the show.

"We arrange the music so it isn't just sleepy Christmas carols. We add a blues shuffle or a swing to old songs. Some come out funny, some risqué," says Hess. "When we say Christmas songs, people start to yawn. This show is a kick-ass good



Breast cancer survivor Sonny Hess promises "a kick-ass good time" Dec. 10 at the Northwest Women Rhythm and Blues Christmas Concert.