



September 27, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Kiss & Tell at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay & Grey Expo***

Portland, OR - The Gay & Grey Expo is an annual dynamic outreach event for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults and allies. With the projection of marriage equality reaching the Oregon ballot in 2014, the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”, and the [recent ruling from the Supreme Court](#), it’s time to *Kiss & Tell* on **Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>** from 9:30 to 4:00 at **The Colony** (7527 N Richmond Avenue) in St. Johns.

As Boomers reach retirement age, an estimated 12 LGBT adults in Oregon turn 65 each day (more than 4,000 per year), for the next 18 years. The Expo is a one-day event, but [SAGE Metro Portland](#) programs, activities and advocacy are year-round. The Gay & Grey Expo builds community among LGBT older adults, allies and activists and celebrates the achievements of LGBT older adults while advocating for a fair and inclusive future. Vaune Albanese, Friendly House Executive Director, states; “This year we are pleased to have Linda Campbell as our keynote speaker. Linda, a retired air force lieutenant colonel, was the first in the nation to be granted permission for her same-sex partner to be buried with her in a military cemetery. She fought for the right to have Nancy Lynchilds, the love of her life, buried at Willamette National Cemetery. Linda has an amazing story to tell!”

The Expo will feature an interactive vendor hall with a wide range of agencies and businesses committed to improving the lives of LGBT older adults and seniors; including housing providers, legal advisors, pet adoption services and many more! Not only is the Expo an inspiring and informative event, it will also be fun with a “speed-friending” breakout session , food and wine demonstrations, chair massage, beauty make-over stations, food, music and dancing! Byron Beck, Chair for the Expo, shares “I love being involved this year. With the projection of marriage equality reaching the Oregon ballot next fall, I look forward to the breakout session on “Let’s Make It Legal!”

Expect to see The Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon in attendance. Event sponsors include Cedar Sinai, Northwest Neighborhood Veterinary Hospital and New Seasons. Admission is a \$5-10 sliding scale fee but no one will be turned away.

Visit the [Gay & Grey Expo event website](#) for the detailed schedule of events, as well as for information about how to become a vendor, sponsor or donor! Sponsorships of the event and proceeds from entry fees will support ongoing advocacy and outreach by [Friendly House’s SAGE Metro Portland program](#).

For information about the event, tabling, donations and sponsorships: contact Megan Jolly [mjolly@friendlyhouseinc.org](mailto:mjolly@friendlyhouseinc.org) or (503) 935-5287. For media inquiries, contact Vaune Albanese at [valbanese@friendlyhouseinc.org](mailto:valbanese@friendlyhouseinc.org) or call (503) 228-4391.

#### **About Friendly House**

[Friendly House](#) is a non-profit neighborhood center and social service agency, founded in 1930. Its programs and services are provided at no charge or on a sliding fee scale to ensure access to all members of the community. Friendly House provides a continuum of services in three program areas: Children’s Programs, Community Recreation and Education, and Community Services.

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