

# HAWAIIAN SUMMER PARTY

We're going to the hukilau!

Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> on the water at Surprise Lake has been selected as the site and date for the GASS Party. Main dishes are being provided and entertainment is by our favorite DJ, Lacey Underall. Please sign up on the pot luck list for side dishes at [vvickyhot@comcast.net](mailto:vvickyhot@comcast.net). Aloha!

\$5 cover if a dish is brought. Donation Bar.  
2800 Queens Way, Milton, WA 98354



## GASS WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

by Annie R.

Freight House Square, Tacoma - On Friday, July 10th, your Gender Alliance of the South Sound was presented with the "Emerald Organization Award" for "service to the LGBTQA community of Pierce County, particularly service rendered in the past year."

On behalf of the Pierce County Pride Foundation, Ellen Hardin presented the award to GASS chairperson Misha Balch. Misha gave a heart-felt speech to a crowd of approximately 100, thanking the Pride Foundation for this important award and promising continued cooperation with the greater LGBT community.

The Pride Foundation's Emerald Award is GASS's first award of any kind. The members of GASS should be very pleased and proud of this greater LGBTQA community recognition of the work that we have done over the past several years to elevate GASS's standing and stature. Especially when you think that GASS is 100 percent volunteer-driven, with no paid staff, and no source of funding aside from our own members and allies, we have come a long way, baby! Thanks to all of you who have contributed in any way to GASS's development.

We also owe much gratitude to the Pride Foundation, Ellen Hardin, and most particularly Rainbow Center executive director Ameer Welch-Champion for their belief in and support of GASS. It's wonderful to know we have such great friends and allies fighting with us and for us.

The transgender struggle for safe community, equal rights and social acceptance continues. GASS is proud and privileged to be the leading force for that change in the South Sound region. Little by little we are getting better and stronger. Now, onward into the future.

Announcing the second annual GASS fundraising

## YARD SALE

Saturday, August 8th from 8am till 2pm at 4625 S. Asotin St. Tacoma. We need usable, sell-able household goods such as small appliances, clothes, games,



camping, fishing and hunting stuff, etc.

This is a great chance to clean out that basement or closet and give to a charity that will put the money to good use helping trans folk in the South Sound area. Consider volunteering to help set up and run the sale, too. Call Victoria at 360-455-3318 or [vvickyhot@comcst.net](mailto:vvickyhot@comcst.net). We have an empty garage so can store things until the sale. Please do NOT take anything to the Rainbow Center.

Please think about what you can give and call right away.



# KITSAP PRIDE in BREMERTON

Bremerton, WA - Kitsap County will celebrate Pride on Saturday, July 18, 2009 with both old favorites, and new features. Join GASS for the festivities being held at Evergreen Rotary Park in Bremerton, from noon to 5PM. The Kitsap Pride Network organizes the annual event for the local LGBT and ally community, and the 2009 planning committee has been working hard to put together an event that exceeds expectations and showcases the talent and supporters in and around our community. Bring family & friends and be ready to enjoy a fabulous day at the park.

This year several great new features have been added, thanks to suggestions from previous year's participants. We've expanded our area for families with children to come and enjoy by adding a bouncy house. There is a covered picnic area for eating, gathering to socialize or just people watching. If you want to be closer to the action there will also be tables nearer the stage, or you can bring a blanket or stadium chairs and make your own viewing area. Don't forget the Frisbees!

We're really excited this year to be having a "Kid's Zone", hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Bremerton. Kitsap Safe Schools Network is sponsoring a Teen Space that will be hosted by The Q Center. The Q is a local drop in center for LGBTQA youth from 14 to 19 years old.

Non-stop entertainment from the stage will include live music from local favorite Inga Nova and the heavy soul and funk sounds of the Kim Archer Band. Plus, local band Vera the Ghost. Our vendor marketplace should be a bustling avenue of GLBT Support & Education Information, Local Businesses and Merchants. This year there will be jewelry, apparel and accessories. Many of our favorite vendors are returning again this year, as well as a few new ones.



## Centralia Support Meeting

When: Wednesday, July 22, 2009      Time: from 5pm to 7pm  
Centralia College, Centralia College Blvd. Centralia, WA, 98531

Where: Room 102, Washington Building,  
All SOFFAs are invited as well

## Olympia Support Meeting

When: Saturday, July 18, 2009      Time: from 7pm to 9pm

Where: Studio behind Fertile Ground Coffee House at 311 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE Olympia, WA

## Movie Night / Pot Luck

When: Saturday, July 25th, 2009      Time: from 7pm to 10pm

Where: At a members home. Call for directions at

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For more info about GASS happenings click here:  
<http://www.southsoundgender.com/>