

Press Release: Sunday, August 26th, 2012

Ashland, OR – What is that joyful noise?! It's coming 'round the corner and up your street! Southern Oregon Pride, SOPride, presents its third annual festival, Free To Be You and Me... A Weekend of Discovery.

Thursday, October 11, National Coming Out Day, the festival begins with a rally at Southern Oregon University and a screening of A GIRL LIKE ME, the Gwen Araujo Story, featuring a keynote address by Sylvia Guerrero, Gwen's Mother. If your closet door is still unopened, come out and join the rest of your brothers and sisters working through events like this to educate the public.

Friday, October 12, There's DANCING IN THE DARK at the annual SOPride Ball at the Historic Ashland Armory. Featuring DJ's Hope and Gimneye from KISS FM, The Ladies of Illusion, free food – and lots of fun.

Saturday, October 13 - Don't let the parade pass you by ... be on Main Street, in Ashland at 11am, Secretary of State, Kate Brown, is the SOPride Grand Marshal. This year there are FOOD booths at the band shell! And be sure to visit the booths on the plaza as well. The official SOPride T's and Tanks will be available at the band shell. Come dance with us in the band shell meadow starting 12 Noon with local live entertainment. Featured keynote speakers will be, Secretary of State, Kate Brown and Sylvia Guerrero. Anyone who would like to participate in the parade can go to our website www.sopride.org and download an application.

Sunday, October 14, we will gather at Ashland Creek Inn for an invitation only soiree. It's easy to get an invite to this champagne brunch... Donate your time as a volunteer or write a check to SOPride for a minimum of \$200.

Ashland officials report the first SOPride was attended by over 1,000, the second year over 2,000 and this year projects over 3,000 seeking enlightenment through equality. SOPride has expanded its educational program to include supporting the MASLOW PROJECT, www.maslowproject.com. Help us achieve not only our educational but also our public service goals and commitments

For a personal interview with Gina, contact her gina.duquenne@gmail.com.

www.SOPride.org