

Newsletter 2016-05-24

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Venue and Fundraising News, What SPEEC is Doing About Consent, New Volunteer Coordinator, Upcoming Events!

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What's Happening with SPEEC?

Venue Fundraising Update

If you've been wondering when the SPEEC venue will be open, you're not the only one!

Here's the short answer. We need to have about \$60K in the bank to start seriously looking for a venue, so we are fundraising now and expect to be through the end of 2016.

We have made a goal of raising **\$5000** per month through the end of the year... an aggressive goal, but a doable one! Reaching a stretch goal of **\$6500** each month would put us at the finish line and actively searching for a venue by the end of the end of 2016.

We will post updates every month to let you know how fundraising is going and more ways you can help, so check every

Here's How You Can Help!

Become a Member. We still have a precious few Founding Memberships available for \$40 -- only while available, and only until the end of May!

Regular memberships are \$50 and ALL members receive sponsor discounts and discounts to SPEEC events, even before the venue opens! [Join us today.](#)

Donate. Remember, your donation to SPEEC is tax-deductible, and we have some great [donor perks!](#) Click the Crowdrise image below to [donate now.](#)

Use Amazon Smile. Do you shop on Amazon? Use [Amazon Smile](#) instead and [make SPEEC your charity](#) (just type in SPEEC -- we're easy to find!). Always go to smile.amazon.com and you will have the exact same shopping experience -- except

newsletter!

Want to help? Read on...

you'll also get that warm and tingly feeling knowing that SPEEC will receive a percentage when you buy!



What SPEEC is Doing About Consent

After some recent allegations made in public forums, several parties reached out to SPEEC and asked for our help guiding the public conversation and providing resources to people who have experienced consent violations.

It makes sense that people are asking. Consent is at the very core of our philosophy. Our mission is to provide a dedicated sex-positive space, and the purpose for the space is nothing less than culture change. We are deeply concerned about the personal, communal, and cultural repercussions of consent violation.

We're also concerned about how frequently these situations arise. It's far too often. Period. It's also far too often to respond reactively; we want to lead proactive and sustainable efforts... and support those efforts made by others. In 2015, we started holding events focused on education, outreach, and community-building. You will continue to see much more in 2016. Consent education for many communities (including "mainstream" sex-positives, college students, parents and adults teaching children, medical professionals and first responders, and more) will continue to be featured prominently.

One of our key efforts is partnering with local educators to provide Listen for Consent, a workshop specifically focused on consent and negotiation. The first offering was on February 7, 2016; it was repeated and expanded on February 15 to kick off PSU Queer Resource Center's Sex Week, and it was offered again to the general public on May 1. It has been extremely well received and we are making every effort to continue to offer it inexpensively and often as part of our goal of driving a real shift toward consent culture.

Consent education -- making our culture safer for everyone -- is simply what we are always doing. And we are always working toward expanding the resources that we provide and making them right for our communities' needs.

If you have experienced consent violation, we highly encourage you to get help using any or all of the following resources:

[Portland Women's Crisis Line](#)

Serves men, women and gender non-conforming people who need support for sexual assault or domestic violence. Services include 24 hour crisis line, in-person advocacy, support groups and more.

[Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#)

Online resource to help you find support for sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking situations. Oregon State and Clark County, Washington.

[Sexual Minorities Providers Directory](#)

Portland Metro Area online directory that specialize in supporting diverse sexual identities and expressions, as well as alternative relationships structures. If you identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, trans*, sex-positive, poly, and/or kinky, and you are seeking a safe and supportive therapist, then this website is for you.

[Northeast Anarchist Network Sexual Assault Resources](#)

Online sexual assault resources for radical communities

[Kink Aware Professionals Directory](#)

[In The Aftermath](#)

A guide for victims of sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence in the BDSM community

If you have thoughts on how SPEEC can further help individuals and drive change in our local communities, please [contact us](#).

SPEEC Has a New Volunteer Coordinator!

We are thrilled to introduce Scott Anthony! Scott has lived in Portland for nine years and previously ran the Gay Men's Health Project in Phoenix, AZ. He recently earned his LCSW and is considering going back to school for a PhD to become a sex therapist.



Scott's first mission is to get to know our volunteer crew better, and we're starting with a volunteer get-together on May 29, so if you're not yet a volunteer, there has never been a better time to [become one!](#)

Upcoming Events

June 17-18 | Portland PRIDE Festival

Come visit our booth for information, fun, and awesome SPEEC merch!

June 22 | Sex-Positive Pub Trivia

Think you're a sex geek? Test your knowledge in an evening of trivia and other games!

July 14 | Narratives: (Dis)ability

SPEEC's Narratives series facilitates discussion on aspects of sexuality and identity, often amplifying voices outside of the mainstream. This event focuses on the intersections of ability, sex, and kink.

July 18 | Town Hall

Curious as to what this SPEEC thing is all about? Come talk with the board and other members of sex-positive communities to learn more and also influence what services SPEEC provides.

Want to stay in the loop? [Subscribe to events on Facebook](#) or [join our FetLife group!](#)

Become a Member



Memberships are now available! Members get perks for SPEEC events, discounts all around town, and special prices on membership for the first two years.

[Join Now!](#)

Donate



Did you know that donations to SPEEC are tax-deductible and go straight toward making Portland a more amazing, sex-positive city? Learn more about the [perks](#) and...

[Donate Today!](#)

Volunteer



SPEEC's volunteers are our lifeblood; we simply would not exist without them. Join us in creating something incredible, sustainable, and revolutionary. Right here in Portland.

[Volunteer!](#)

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