

Organizing cont'd from pg 1

and other communities of color throughout the state. "It wasn't going to stop if Hillary was elected and it won't stop now."

Guerra-Vera said the organization intends to continue to focus on extant campaigns – police accountability, data collection and calling on local government to divest in banks that invest in the prison-industrial complex – while also being a resource to members who are concerned about the election results and an apparent rise in reports of racist, misogynistic and Islamophobic

continue to do everything it can to serve its communities.

"For 40 years, IRCO has been building new beginnings for immigrant and refugee families. As we move forward after the election, IRCO's vision remains the same. We will continue welcoming newcomers and helping them achieve safety, equality, justice and self-sufficiency. Our mission is now more important than ever," Cha wrote.

"We hope that our President-elect will continue to uphold the core values we share, like

“We hope that our President-elect will continue to uphold the core values we share, like equal protection and respect for every member of society”

hate crimes across the country.

"We really have been hearing a lot of our members being harassed for being Muslim, as well as people from the Latino community," Guerra-Vera said.

On Nov. 22, Unite Oregon will host an event called The Movement Continues at its North Portland location (700 N. Killingsworth) to allow members to talk about what they have been going through in the last few weeks. The organization, along with coalition partners, will also host a candlelight vigil Dec. 11 to "stand in solidarity and show Portland and Oregon the true Oregon that we want to be a part of which is a true united community that we want to be a part of," Guerra-Vera said.

"I think in this moment in time, the conversations have been happening, the movement building since we started Unite Oregon, is really something the world needs," Guerra-Vera told *The Skanner*.

Executive director Lee Po Cha of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, said in an emailed statement that the organization will

equal protection and respect for every member of society. IRCO is working with other local and national partners who are strong advocates of refugees and immigrants on the potential short and long-term impacts of the election results. We are taking steps to ensure that essential supports and services to immigrants and refugees are maintained, both nationally and in the state of Oregon."

Joann Hardesty, a veteran activist and organizer who currently serves as president of the NAACP's Portland branch, said local election results – particularly the election of local bookstore owner Chloe Eudaly to the Portland City Commission – made her feel much more optimistic than the national results.

She said many of her friends are scared – but she also sees many people looking for ways to help or resist.

"I believe there's many more people who believe that love trumps hate and are willing to get engaged in one of the many efforts that are taking place," Hardesty said. "And if they don't see something they like, they can start their own."

Crowell cont'd from pg 1

serving on the Portland School Board and the Oregon State Board of Trustees. She was the first African American

and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Crowell has donated over \$109,000 to the PCC Foundation which established

“Crowell has shown a life-long dedication to education through her work

board president of the YWCA of Greater Portland and an active member of the Portland Chapter of The Links, Inc.

an endowed scholarship in her name. She also created scholarships for technical program students at PCC



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

PPS Students March

On Nov. 14, hundreds of Portland Public Schools students – including this group leaving Jefferson High School in North Portland – walked out of class to protest Donald Trump's presidency. The Portland Police Bureau blocked off streets and walked along students, and there were no arrests or injuries associated with the demonstrations, though a statement from PPS said students who demonstrated would receive an unexcused absence.

Vanport cont'd from pg 1

port, a quickly-built workforce housing town that became the most racially-diverse city in Oregon. The town itself was a model for racial integration during a time where most of the nation – including Portland – was segregated.

Vanport went from being the second largest city in Oregon to completely destroyed in a matter of hours. On Memorial Day, May 30, 1948, the dam protecting the city burst and a 10 ft wall of water destroyed homes, shops, a hospital and a technical college.

“The town itself was a model for racial integration during a time where most of the nation was segregated

Many of the voices in the series describe evacuating in a hurry and having to leave most of their possessions. Curnel Walden remembered his mother packing frantically, grabbing only one bag of clothes.

"We grabbed a bag with a change of clothes for everybody and that's what we came out with," he said.

Walden's family left their home to find his aunt, who also lived in Vanport. As the emergency sirens wailed, she insisted on packing a large trunk of possessions.

He said everyone begged her to stop; telling her there was no time to pack. Ultimately, his aunt packed her trunk and got it out

before the flood hit.

The documentary series has expanded to include other voices who are closely related to the era such as Henry Kaiser, grandson of Henry J. Kaiser, the industrialist who owned the shipyards and built the Vanport housing project.

Another new perspective to the documentary series is that of the relief workers who were called in to help as the floodwaters began to fill the town. Melvin Osbeck, who was a teenager at the time of the flood, volunteered to help.

Osbeck called the relief effort "organized chaos" and said that volunteer effort was dangerous due to muddy sinkholes in the area. Sometimes the water only came up to his knees but people couldn't tell where the ground had gotten too soft.

"You'd be surprised, you'll hit a sinkhole and you'll be gone," Osbeck said.

Most of the narrators of the Vanport documentaries were children or young adults at the time of the flood. Some of them spoke of an idyllic childhood where life was humble, yet relaxed. They remember the flimsy construction of the buildings and a lack of television. But they also

recall happiness riding bikes or playing at the playground down the street from the hospital.

Some spoke of a kind of bond among Vanport survivors. Survivor Betty Duellen said that city wasn't often talked about, but it was remembered by the children who had lived there.

Dorothy and Hurtis Hadley were both survivors of Vanport and ultimately high school sweethearts who married. Like most children of the time, Vanport was a frightening experience for them, seeing their families rush out of their homes at dinner time.

"Mother had set the table and so she just took the tablecloth and tied it into four corners with all the food on it and we left with that and the clothes on our back," Dorothy said.

But the experience also made them live boldly and have a better life after Vanport. Hurtis started the band The Fabulous Majestics and had some success. He invested in their prosperity by opening the first Black-owned bakery in Oregon.

Though he and Dorothy were worried about running their own business and setting up shop in Oregon City, they thrived.

For more stories of survival, check out the film screening this Sunday at the Hollywood Theatre. Tickets are free, but reservations are required. Go to <https://wakeofvanport2016.eventbrite.com> to reserve your seat.



Evelyn Crowell accepts award at PCC-hosted celebration

—Arashi Young