



Becky Bilyeu celebrates six years in business at her cozy cafe.

who chose BMI for representation in the United States. The license fees BMI collects for the "public performances" of its repertoire of approximately 4.5 million compositions—including radio airplay, broadcast and cable television carriage, Internet and live and recorded performances by all other users of music—are then distributed as royalties to the writers, composers and copyright holders it represents.

"The musicians who play at my coffee shop are unknown people playing their own stuff. People don't play cover tunes here, so why should I pay BMI for that? I don't make money having music here; it's pretty much a place for people to have a chance to play. I just want to support musicians," explains Bilyeu.

Dale Schiff, lesbian owner of Haven Coffee, commented that she, too, has been hounded by the people at BMI for dues, which she says add up to about \$350 each year. "They harassed me endlessly and threatened me with thousands of dollars of fines," she notes. "I just see it as a business expense."

If you'd like to check out Touchstone, it is located at 7631 N.E. Glisan St. and online at www.touchstonecoffeehouse.com.

HIP MAMA MOTHER'S DAY BASH

Hip Mama, Portland's progressive parenting zine, and In Other Words Women's Books and Resources will play host to a night of serious fun on the eve of Mother's Day, May 7, from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

The event will feature the Mambo Queens, a Portland female percussion and singing group whose repertoire includes sacred music from the Yoruba tradition, Afro-Cuban rumbas and lively *comparsas* that invite the audience to join in the dancing.

Also playing will be Illegal Guardian, a band fronted by a 10-year-old singer/songwriter named Rhythm.

Rounding out the evening will be Excuse Me Sir, a pop/rock half-gay trans-dyke boy band,



Ariel Gore works at being a mother and a writer; come celebrate with her May 7.

and Placenta, the San Francisco Bay Area's only all-mom hard rock band.

In addition to the music and dancing, there will be a silent auction, food and wine, gifts and a DJ. Although this might be a good event to get a baby sitter for in order to party with the moms, children are indeed welcome.

"Things have gotten so ugly politically and economically. Mama isolation on top of that is just too much to bear.... So many mama-bands are rocking out right now, we figured it'd be more fun to showcase music instead of just the standard readings. Inga Muscio just called to say she'd be reading at the event, but all the other acts are musical," notes Gore.

This event will be held at Hip Chicks Do Wine, 4510 S.E. 23rd Ave. The suggested donation is \$10-\$20, and tickets are available at In Other Words and www.hipmamazine.com.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

The Portland branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Women's Studies Department of Portland State University invite the community to participate in festivities celebrating a venerable feminist peace and justice organization that has been around since 1915.

Before they were even fully enfranchised members of the electorate, women were causing a stir with their demands for peace and social justice during World War I, the most deadly war the world had seen.

The event will take place at 11 a.m. May 3. Celebrants are asked to meet in O'Bryant Square, located at Southwest Washington Street and Park Avenue, to participate in a parade of historical banners down Broadway to the Peace Memorial in the Park Blocks near Jefferson Street and onto the PSU campus.

At 2 p.m. in the Multicultural Center on the second floor of Smith Memorial Center, there will be presentations about the league's history and the outstanding women who led the movement. Period costume is encouraged.

For more information, contact the league's office at 503-224-5190 or Georgia Pinkel at



Women gather in Zurich in 1916 for the second meeting of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

360-694-8805. The PSU Women's Studies Department can be reached at 503-625-3516.

AWARD GALA BENEFITS GIRLS' INITIATIVE NETWORK

The Girls' Initiative Network invites the community to attend the second annual Heart of a Woman Award Gala. This year, Portland author Katherine Martin will be honored with the Sabra Bradshaw-Wackerle Award for Mentorship.

The benefit gala will precede the opening night production of the *Women of Courage* performance series. Having played to sold-out houses, *Women of Courage* is a striking blend of theater and literature. From the public to the private, stories of courage come alive through

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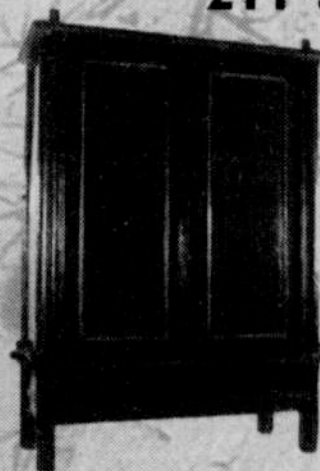
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