

believes he can serve all communities by making acupuncture affordable. "I want to create a space where young, old, men, women, gay, straight, bisexual, transgender people can come together in a healing community," he said. "Spirit comes first. If we can shift our awareness and focus more toward spirit, maybe the separation we sometimes feel can soften."

### Let the Music Play

Richard Columbo and Jim Morris were not about to let Portland lose Artichoke Music, at 3130 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.

"I have been involved with Artichoke Music for years, as a customer, teacher and volunteer," says Columbo. "When we heard that Kate Power and Steve Einhorn, the owners, were planning on closing the business, we knew we had to do something. Artichoke is the hub, the center, of the music community in Portland." For more than 35 years, people have gone to Artichoke Music to buy instruments, learn to play and attend performances.

Columbo, who began performing and recording as a folk musician in the Bay Area in the '70s, received a degree in music from Portland State University. He grew up listening to Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell and later discovered their inspirations, Woodie Guthrie, Pete Seeger and the Weevils.

"That is when I learned that folk music is the music of the people. It's about life work, hardship, struggle, change," says Columbo.

He says he loves folk music because it is accessible for people to play and sing. "I see the joy it brings to people and how it brings people together in the form of community through music. In a world where technology and isolation from life's simple pleasures prevail, a simple song, played on an acoustic instrument with friends, is a wonderful thing."

While Artichoke Music will continue as a for-profit business, Columbo and Morris turned the



Richard Columbo keeps folk music alive at Artichoke Music.

music school and performance space into a non-profit organization called Artichoke Community Music. The couple are active in Portland's queer community. Columbo served on the board of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and Morris, who also owns a human resources consulting firm, is co-chairman of the Basic Rights Oregon board.

Artichoke presents Friday Night Coffeehouse from 7 to 10 p.m. with several live performances. Saturdays offer a song circle from 1 to 3 p.m. for all those kitchen singers who want to sing with others. A jam session follows from 4 to 6 p.m. for musicians and singers who want to get better at improvisation and playing with others. Beginning this month, the Local Heroes concert series will showcase local talent at least one Saturday each month. The school also teaches instrumentation classes every weeknight. Visit [www.artichokemusic.com](http://www.artichokemusic.com) for more information. 

## northwest

### PABA Cleans House

The Portland Area Business Association, which has recently been under fire for accusations of cronyism, conflict of interest and poor oversight, faces an election in December that will result in a fresh start for the board.

At its Oct. 17 meeting, the board took on two new members in Stacey Mills and Aaron Yeagle and one new officer, treasurer Mat Isham.

Isham filled a vacancy left by nonprofit organization accounting expert Jackie Wheatley, who resigned Oct. 2 amid the controversy and called for the resignation of the entire board.

The PABA nominating committee is accepting applications to fill six expiring board positions. The term for board members is two years and one year for officers. All officers are also up for re-election. Voting occurs at the Dec. 13 annual meeting; members can also vote by mail or by proxy. The deadline for nominees to get on the ballot is Nov. 24. Descriptions of board members and officers are at [www.paba.com](http://www.paba.com).

Two of the three PABA members at the heart of the conflict-of-interest controversy, newsletter publisher Suzanne Deakins and president Larry Foltz, are both up for re-election. Deakins said she will run again but will not bid for the newsletter



Sean Minogue has expressed his intent to run for PABA board president.

contract. Foltz did not return repeated calls requesting comment. Executive director Jim Harper, whose resignation was also called for regarding a lack of oversight, also did not return calls from *Just Out*, a PABA member. Harper's

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