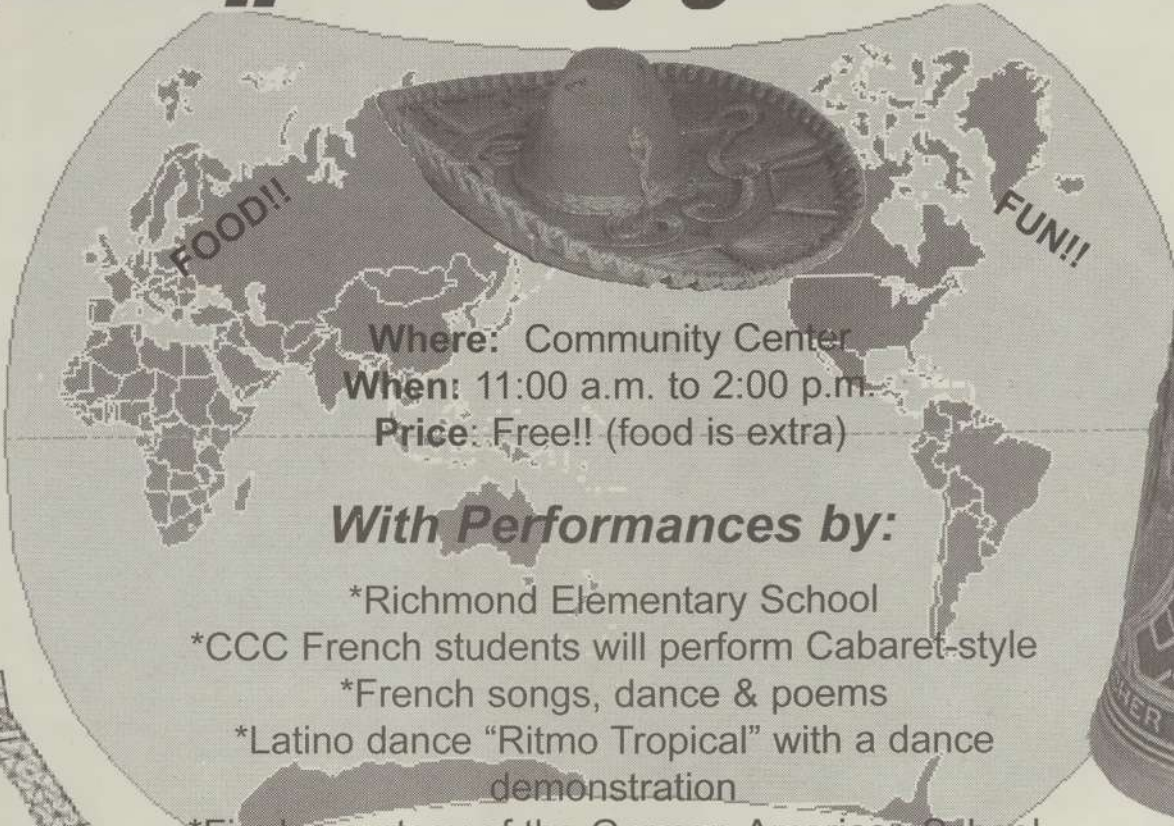


perhaps Egypt vltap\$ waf cc



Where: Community Center
When: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Price: Free!! (food is extra)

With Performances by:

- *Richmond Elementary School
- *CCC French students will perform Cabaret-style
- *French songs, dance & poems
- *Latino dance "Ritmo Tropical" with a dance demonstration
- *Finale courtesy of the German-American School

Bees' will sweep readers away

Jennifer Trank
 THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Sue Monk Kidd's first novel, "The Secret Life of Bees," is an award-winning story and deserves awards of its own. Within the first few pages, the story floats back to the summer of 1964 in rural South Carolina. We meet Lily Owen, the 14-year-old daughter of a peach farmer who she "called T. Ray" because "Daddy" never fit him. After the death of her mother when Lily is four, she is raised by a free-spirited and somewhat abusive T. Ray and her black nanny, Rosaleen. Rosaleen stirs the imagination of some of the meanest people in town and Lily can no longer tolerate her father's cruelty, so she flees together, embarking on a journey where Lily will learn the truth about her mother's life and herself. Taking refuge with three other black sisters, Lily learns the art of beekeeping and the importance of finding her inner

strength. The story is told from Lily's perspective and one can't help but read with the southern drawl of a young girl. Kidd eloquently describes Lily's surroundings and each of the colorful characters in a way that makes the reader feel as if they are perched on the limb of a giant old oak, watching the drama unfold in the warm southern sun. "The redness had seeped from the day and night was arranging herself around us, cooling things down, staining and dyeing the evening purple and blue-black." Kidd draws on the experience of spending her own adolescence in a tiny town in Georgia and gives the reader a greater understanding of the world in which Lily lives. "I vividly remember the summer of 1964 with its ... racial tensions and the erupting awareness of the cruelty of racism. I was never the same after that summer." Kidd adds dimension to the story by weaving in tidbits of the

mystical world of honeybees, offering parallels between the queen of a hive and the mother of a family. This is shown through brief quotes from bee lore at the beginning of each chapter. "[The queen's] true role is less that of a queen than mother of the hive, a title often accorded to her. And yet this is something of a mockery because of her lack of maternal instincts or the ability to care for her young." (The Queen Must Die: and Other Affairs of Bees and Men). "The Secret Life of Bees" is a story about finding strength within oneself, overcoming life's tragedies and becoming a self-sufficient individual, capable of nurturing and consoling oneself. It articulates the importance of a mother in a child's life, while revealing that mother figures come in many different forms. The only disappointment with this novel is that the 300 pages will be over before the reader is ready to put it down. It is widely available in paperback for \$14.



INTERNET PHOTO
 Sue Monk Kidd fills her novel 'The Secret Life of Bees' with sweet soul and heartfelt emotion, making it a must-read.

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

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