

COMMUNITY LIFE

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

7 MUSLIM JOURNEYS: The Ornament of the World. This special book discussion group will explore a new way of understanding the past in which Islam and the West, far from being locked in an endless “clash of civilizations,” are seen instead as products of a cosmopolitan and inextricably intertwined history. Professor Emeritus Jon Mandaville of Portland State University will examine the past and reflect on the present.

In *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*, author Maria Rosa Menocal brings to vivid life the rich and thriving city of Andalusia where – for more than seven centuries – Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived together in an atmosphere of tolerance, resulting in a culture where literature, science, and the arts flourished.

Copies of this book are available at Capitol Hill Library (10723 SW Capitol Hwy), or by placing a hold in the library catalog. This program is presented Tuesday, May 7, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in partnership with the Muslim Educational Trust. Registration required; register online, in the library or by calling 503-988-5234.

11 SPRING CLEANUP: Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) is sponsoring their annual cleanup on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Portland Christian Center parking lot, 5700 SW Dosch Rd. SWNI will be accepting yard debris, wood items, scrap metal and bulky items. Community Warehouse will be accepting donated furniture and household goods.

No electronics—these will be accepted at Portland Community College's cleanup event on May 18. Suggested donation is \$10 per

trip. If you are a senior or disabled (or for more information) call the SWNI office at 503-823-4592 by May 8 to schedule a pickup.

21 SPECIAL ELECTION: While this isn't an election year, there is a special election scheduled for Tuesday, May 21. Voted ballots must be received at the Multnomah County Elections Office (1040 SE Morrison St) or an official drop site location by 8:00 p.m. on Elections Day to be counted.

Ballot measures for folks in Southwest Portland include the following:

City of Portland Measure 26-150 would renew a five-year levy to prevent child abuse and child hunger. Property tax is approximately \$0.40 per \$1000 assessed home value beginning in 2014. The measure is estimated to raise \$10.56 million per year for five years.

City of Portland Measure 26-151 would add fluoride to the City's drinking water to improve dental health. The ordinance requires fluoridation of Portland's drinking water supply by March 1, 2014. The fluoride must meet standards of the American Water Works Association. The measure funds fluoridation through water user fees.

Metro 26-152 is a local option levy to improve natural areas and water quality for fish. This five-year operating levy would cost homeowners \$0.96 per \$1000 of assessed value beginning in 2013 or approximately \$10.2 million in 2013-2014.

Additionally voters can expect to vote for candidates for board of directors for Portland School District, Portland Community College and Multnomah Education District.

Ballots will be mailed on May 3. If you don't receive your ballot by May 9, please call the elections office at (503) 988-3720 to request a replacement ballot. The Voters' Pamphlet and other election information are available on the County website at www.mcelections.org.



Recently solar shingles have become price-competitive with bolt-on panels, and are getting much more popular accordingly. Pictured: solar shingles from the Dow Powerhouse line. (Photo by Tai Viinikka, courtesy Flickr)

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Another leader in solar shingles is building products manufacturer CertainTeed. The company's Apollo line of grid-tied monocrystalline solar shingles and roofing tiles offers efficiency similar to larger “bolt-on” photovoltaic arrays at around the same price (and incentives similar to those for Dow may also apply) but with less bulk.

Each Apollo tile is less than an inch thick and will integrate with, replace, or lay on top of existing asphalt roof shingles or tiles and generate 12 watts of power per square foot.

CertainTeed says a typical installation will save homeowners 40-70 percent on their electric bills. Their Apollo products are available across the U.S. but

the company recommends using one of their authorized roofing contractors to make sure they are installed properly.

Now is an especially good time to go solar—shingles or otherwise—because costs have started to come down and the federal government is still offering 30 percent tax credits with no cap on the purchase of solar electricity equipment.

Twenty-seven states and several cities offer additional incentives that can get pricing on solar gear and installations down even lower.

For more information check out the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE), a free online resource provided by the North Carolina Solar Center and IREC with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

CONTACTS: Dow Powerhouse, www.dowpowerhouse.com; CertainTeed Solar, www.certainteed.com/products/roofing/solar; DSIRE, www.dsireusa.org.

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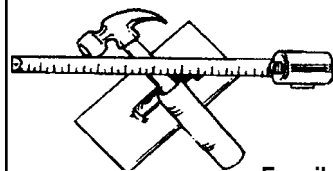
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