

## A violent week at year's end for homeless

STAFF REPORTS

It was a very rough week for the homeless community in Portland.

On Wednesday, Dec. 29, four individuals, ranging in age from 17 to 19, were arrested after beating two homeless individuals in North Portland. Attacked were 52-year-old Donald Dickerson and 48-year-old John Hammons, in what police believe was a random beating. The two sustained numerous injuries, none of them life-threatening, and one of their wallets was stolen.

This comes on the heels of another attack reported by Street Roots in which rocks were thrown at individuals experiencing homelessness near St. Francis in November and injured an individual sleeping outdoors.

Police released information that confirmed a homeless individual died on Thursday, Dec. 30, of hypothermia during the cold spell. The deceased person has been identified as 58-year-old Randy Lee Tinnell. Mr. Tinnell was wearing several layers of wet clothes, and officers noted many empty alcohol bottles, clothing and other property near his body.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner has conducted an autopsy on Mr. Tinnell and determined that he died of hypothermia.

Then on Sunday, Jan. 2, a homeless man was shot and killed by a police officer after police say the man charged at them with a knife. The incident occurred at an abandoned car wash on 82nd Avenue near Powell Boulevard. The case is still under investigation.



PHOTO BY ILLYA PLAKSEY

Some of the writer/performers of "Stories: From the Streets": Terry Miller, Leo Rhodes (a Street Roots vendor and board member), Jeannie Lawer, Brian Thompson.

## Homelessness takes the stage with Stories: From the Streets

STAFF REPORTS

Street Roots, a nonprofit newspaper that assists people experiencing homelessness and poverty, and Lunacy Stageworks, a new theater organization in the community of Sellwood, are teaming up to produce an evening of readings written and performed by members of Street Roots.

"Stories: From the Streets" will comprise poetry, stories (fictional and autobiographical), political satire, music, and visual art, created by people who are homeless or have experienced homelessness. The event will be staged Jan. 28 and 29 at Lunacy Stageworks at the Sellwood Masonic Lodge.

"Stories: From the Streets" is part of an ongoing project started by Ann Singer to collect stories from many different walks of life.

"It's live theater, but it's not being done by actors," Singer says about the event. "This is these people's stories that they wrote themselves. You're hearing their

**What:** "Stories: From the Streets"

**When:** Jan. 28, at 6:30 p.m. and Jan. 29 at 8:30 p.m. (Reception to follow)

**Where:** Sellwood Masonic Lodge, 7126 SE Milwaukie Avenue, Portland

**Tickets:** \$12.00 suggested donation.

Available online at:

[www.lunacystageworks.org](http://www.lunacystageworks.org)

Or by phone at 1-800-494-8497

authentic voice, and that helps break through these stereotypes. To hear them and to see them up close, that they get so engaged in their stories. Their stories are so good, it's just great writing."

Last year's event was called "The 3rd of July", in which immigrants from around the world told their stories of coming to America and what that meant to them. This year's event will be held on Jan. 28 and 29 (Friday and Saturday) 2011, in cooperation

with The Fertile Ground Festival and Lunacy Stageworks.

Presented by Portland Area Theatre Alliance, Fertile Ground, 2011 is a 10-day arts festival running Jan. 20-30 throughout Portland, featuring up to 30 world premiere theatrical and dance projects, staged readings, comedy, film and other arts events from the local creative community.

"Theater itself and any kind of art form is a big equalizer," Singer says. "Nobody cares about where you come from, what your class is, what your race is, your nationality. It brings together all these different people, with different backgrounds, religions and nationalities. Nobody cares where you come from when you can play an instrument, write a story or act in a play. And that's what I hope people experience."

A reception will follow the Jan. 29 performance, where donated food and beverages will be provided, along with an opportunity for the audience, collaborators, and performers to interact.

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## CORRECTIONS

Street Roots strives for accuracy, but we're human. So we also strive to correct errors in our paper whenever possible. Please report any errors to our managing editor, Joanne Zuhl, at 503-228-5657, or write in [streetrootsnews@gmail.com](mailto:streetrootsnews@gmail.com).

## That which I write

by Metin

Friends tell me they like what I write  
But there's something closer, they say  
and "what I really want to know," they ask  
"What is your writing spirit?"

It's my intention friends  
to share despair and dream  
'cause in sharing the despair dissolves  
and the dream then evolves

What I see in self I see in many  
even in cats, spiders, and ants  
and then in their reflection  
I see myself again

What you ask - you already know  
what you search points back to you  
otherwise you wouldn't ask  
and wouldn't care to know

"Love is a being" I remember  
are the words of our teachers  
who is with you at all times  
and present in all creatures

"Self cannot turn away from self"  
There must be surrender dear ones  
in releasing the 'who, why, and where'  
then what remains is what we share

Sharing is not something to be done  
it is how beings come about  
like rain, ocean, and rain again  
and there's no mind to doubt

I don't know how to tell you who one is  
You're the memory of ancient presence  
like déjà vu of silence love  
and a butterfly in metamorphosis

Who writes is you, love  
that which we each possess  
like a bird on your shoulder  
and in heaven at the same time