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Local Students From Jefferson High, Ockley Green Middle School And Harriet Tubman Middle School Receive Newly Established Opera Scholarships



Portland Opera Performing Arts Scholarship winners from Harriet Tubman Middle School. L-R: Torian Thompson, Anthony Jones, Shadera Stevens, Portland Opera Director Robert Bailey, Tienna Joseph, and Renesa Tucker.

Portland Opera General Director, Robert Bailey, today announced the winners of the Portland Opera Performing Arts Scholarships. These awards mark the inauguration of the annual scholarship presentations, a program designed by the Opera to recognize and reward the achievements of minority students in the field of performing arts.

High School Winners

Receiving the Opera's \$1,000 scholarship was Jefferson High graduating Senior, Dwyane Fleming. Mr. Fleming has distinguished himself during his high school career in the areas of musical performance and composition. In addition to his trombone virtuosity, his accomplishments include participation in Jefferson High School's European tour, the creation of original work, and the establishment of numerous musical groups. This fall Mr. Fleming will attend the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

The Portland Opera also presented Jefferson High School Senior Ms. Earnestine Thomas with a \$1,000 Portland State University tuition scholarship. This award, made possible by PSU and awarded through the Opera, was made to Ms. Thomas on the basis of both her scholastic and dance achievements. Ms. Thomas, who will attend Portland State University this fall, has also received the Portland State Minority Achievement Scholarship.

These winners were selected by a committee that included Dr. Darrell Millner, David Nero, Louis Boston, Michael Grice, Robert Bailey, and Jim Fullan. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Boston presented the awards at the Senior Recognition Awards ceremony at Jefferson High School on June 2nd.

Middle School Winners

Although originally envisioned as an award for high school Seniors, The Portland Opera Performing Arts Scholarship program was expanded to include ten \$100 awards to local middle school students through the generosity of Mr. David Nero, CEO of David Nero & Associates. Winners were selected by the individual school staffs based on students' interests and dedication.

Mr. Nero at Harriet Tubman's graduation ceremonies on June 9th.

Scholarship Awards Background And History

This year marks the first annual presentation of the Portland Opera Performing Arts Scholarships. Officially announced in April, 1992, the scholarships had been envisioned in the Opera's long range plan and were instituted in its recently adopted Cultural Diversity plan.

The awards are created out of the realization that the region's cultural future resides in its youth. Too often talent in the minority community has gone without recognition or encouragement, leaving the future of the performing arts bereft of the vitality and creativity of this large and important part of our society. As one of the region's major performing arts organizations, the Opera feels a keen responsibility to provide leadership and recognition to these deserving students.

The scholarships are funded by the Opera Board of Directors and the generosity of individual donors like Mr. David Nero, whose financial assistance this year allowed the Opera to include the ten \$100 awards to middle school students.

It is hoped that the important goals of these awards will be recognized by other institutions and individuals who will add their financial support, allowing these awards to include more students each year.

Although the first year's awards were limited to students at Jefferson High School, Ockley Green Middle School, and Harriet Tubman Middle School, it is hoped that additional Portland Schools can be added in future years.



Dwyane Fleming receives congratulations from Portland Opera General Director Robert Bailey. Mr. Fleming was the recipient of the Portland Opera Performing Arts Scholarship.

Receiving the awards from Ockley Green Middle School were Chrissy Blacknall, Timothy Rodgers, Shauntell Lawrence, Ashanti McCallister, and Larika Patterson. Ockley Green Middle Awards were made by Mr. Bailey and

Future Community Learning Center

BY D. BELL

Carl Parker and his wife Andrea are building a facility called the Community Learning Center. It is the outgrowth of a program that originated in 1985 whose acronym was C.I.T.Y. citizens involved in teaching. The program addressed the needs of children kindergarten through sixth grades and focus in on reading and math skills.

From 1985 - 1992 the city program has served 600 students and provided over 40,000 hours of tutoring. Parker said that parents have expressed to him concern about the public education system, and some have encouraged him and his wife to consider an alternative education program.

In September 1991 they began a private elementary school, enrollment reached high as 16 students and ended the school year with 13.

Parker who holds a P.H.D. from Oregon State University, and is employed by Portland Community College as a vocational Counselor and his wife also an educator have long held a vision of a learning center. This spring it started to materialize.

American State Bank has provided interim financing while the learning center is under construction.

Venerable Booker of the American State Bank said that Parker had approached other banks but they declined.

The involvement of American State Bank makes development of the Community Learning a truly community based effort. American State Bank is orchestrating the sale of sponsorship bricks.

The adopt a brick program is similar to the brick sale format used at pioneer square. Persons or corporations may purchase a brick for five dollars, and it will be laid in front of the learning with the inscription of the person or company who purchased it.

The Community Learning Center is also getting help from the Maranatha International a group of primarily seniors that are donating labor which is helping defray cost, that are estimated to run between \$250,000 - \$300,000. Parker said that the learning center will



consist of a day-school for pre-K through sixth grade and an after school program that will provide tutoring in the areas of science, computers, music, and activities in arts, crafts, and sewing.

In the evenings there will be an adult education program that will focus primarily on literacy, and basic education, other classes will be offered that address personal development.

Parker stated that he and his wife were inspired to pursue this project because of the tremendous need in the community to provide positive educational and development activities for children and adults.



Carl Parker

School is Out!
Summer Days and Fun Are Here!
Please drive safely and watch out for children!

10,000 Volunteer Hours: One Volunteer Gives 816 Hours

On Monday afternoon, June 1, 1992, some 116 school volunteers were honored at the Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. These 116 volunteers donated 10,000 hours. "You are to be commended for your dedication and perseverance" said Principal Davis in her opening comments to the group. Principal Davis explained that the school volunteer program is part of an educational strategy to involve parents in the learning process of their children.

"It was nice, something different, commented volunteer Vincent Padilla, who has three children at the school. Katie Lutz, another Volunteer, indicated that she assisted in the classroom and any "other thing that the teacher wanted me to do" Karen Jackson worked in her daughter's kindergarten class. All three of these volunteers indicated that because of this experi-

ence, they might wish to become teachers.

Principal Davis explained that there

were given a free book.

Each volunteer was requested to spend at least one hour per week, assisting the teacher in the classroom. Some volunteers gave more time. Ms. Pamela Rogers exceeded all expectations in that she gave a total of 816 hours. For her efforts, she was given a \$75.00 gift certificate along with the certificate that each volunteer received.

"Most of the schools in our area have similar programs, said Principal Davis. Parents should check with their respective schools for the type of involvement at that school.

Ms. Davis explained that next year, King school will focus again on this parent involvement with an emphasis on reading and math. If your child attends King and you are interested in this program, please call the school at 280-6155.



LaVern Davis, Principal, presents Volunteer Award to Vincent Padilla

1992 African American Festival Final Event

The spectacular Northwest Gospel Jubilee will be held on the 13th day of June at the Arlene Schnitzer Performing Arts Center. The curtain is sched-

uled to go up at 7PM sharp. Be there!! Tickets are now on sale at all major ticket outlets. Don't miss the final event!

"Careers '92" Special Edition