

METRO *Life*

LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

The Portland Observer

Camp Scholarships Needed For Low-Income Children



Many of the children going to camp come from Portland's inner city and have never experienced the excitement of camping before.

Donations are needed to send children from low-income families to The Salvation Army's Camp Kuratli this summer. A donation of \$95 to \$125 will provide "a week in the woods" for a needy child.

Many of the children going to camp come from Portland's inner city and have never experienced the excitement of camping before.

Located 22 miles southeast of Portland, the camp provides 120 acres of wooded slopes, swimming, hiking sports and arts.

Week-long camps will take place June 24 through August 31.

In 1929 two Salvation Army officers, Albert Baynton and Ronald Eberhardt traveled from Portland to a grassy area in Barton, Oregon. The area, about 15 miles from Portland, was a rich, country field, giant fir trees towered over the creeks and glens, one fisherman had claimed a catch of 50 trout in a half hour there, where Little Deep Creek joined Deep Creek.

An electric train had run out to that area from Portland until recent years. Called the Inter-Urban Line, it dropped off fishermen along the creek, during the day when a catch of 50 trout was legal. Though the trains had stopped, the trestle was still there.

Baynton and Eberhardt, along with other Salvation Army leaders, decided to buy the land. They called it Camp Trestle Glen. Huge patches of blackberry vines were cleared by teams of workers from Salvation Army rehabilitation programs. Cabins were built, much rougher than their modern-day counterparts. Much of the work was done by Victor "Viggo" Jensen, a school teacher and Salvationist who was one of the longtime operators of the camp up until his death in 1957.

Vedna Jensen, his wife, still recalls the early years at Camp Trestle Glen. "We had children's camps all summer, of course, but we also had mothers and children's camp. I remember one mother during the depression days who didn't know what to do when we offered to refill her coffee cup during meals. She would say 'if you want to.' She was used to

making coffee over and over from the same grounds. At one meal we served her mashed potatoes and she could hardly believe it. She normally fed her children the mashed potatoes and ate the peelings herself. Those were hard days.

And the stories were the same for many of the camp's attendants, both children and adults. Costs were kept as low as possible, and for families who couldn't afford even the low fees, donors paid the way.

And the camp continued to attract hundreds of kids from all over Oregon and southern Idaho, an area called the Cascade Division.

Around the time of World War I the train rails were pulled up and sent to Japan for making bullets.

The trestle was finally destroyed a few years later. Everyone was cleared out of the camp and dynamite was used to bring down the trestle. A film company from Hollywood even came out to film the explosion and use it for a movie. The force of the blow rolled boulders in the fields and scattered railroad ties for acres, which young campers still find occasionally.

By the early 1980's the camp was due for remodeling and repair to some of its buildings. However, a series of catastrophic ice storms in 1980 nearly destroyed the camp altogether. Trees toppled on building's, pipes broke, and wires fell. The camp was uninhabitable.

Salvation Army leaders debated what to do with the camp. Was it possible to rebuild it? Where would the money come from? How could The Salvation Army go somewhere else after generations of its officers and staff and generations of campers had gone to Camp Trestle Glen.

The answer came when a Portland dentist named Dr. Reube H. Kuratli left a trust to The Salvation Army for the rebuilding of the camp. Gifts from trusts and numerous individuals poured in, and several years ago, Camp Kuratli at Trestle Glen was finished, representing over \$2.5 million in facilities.

Black Women's Gathering Pays Tribute To Gladys McCoy

On May 8, Black women from all over Portland and as far away as Seattle came together for the 11th annual Black Women's Gathering. Begun in 1983 in reaction to the indifference to the violent death of a young Black woman, Trina Hunter, a support group of Black women gathered to talk about that incident as well as other issues pertaining to Black women in Portland. Out of that 'gathering' came the feeling and desire for an annual occasion for everyone to get together and just be in one place -- to talk, to laugh, to share information, and to have a good time.

The Gathering was held at the Salvation Army Center and featured a full day of networking, information, entertainment and refreshments. The highlight of the noon luncheon was a special tribute honoring Gladys McCoy, the late Multnomah County Commission Chair. Numerous women came to the podium to speak to the Commissioner's many accomplishments, her hard work and her unyielding support. Lucinda Tate told how, when she was a single mother on welfare living at Columbia Villa, Gladys inspired her and helped her find employment. Rep. Margaret Carter said Gladys was the first person to offer her support when she ran for office. Rep. Avel Gordly reminded the audience of how difficult it is to be "on the front line" and how important it is to support and encourage one another. And, Bobbie Gary called for renaming the Urban League Multi-cultural Senior Center after the Commissioner.

The Imani Women's Symposium held its day-long workshop in conjunction with the Gathering. Co-sponsored by the Black United Fund, the Symposium utilized the theme "The Hidden Leader Within You." Workshop topics included: Breaking the Glass Ceiling; Starting Your Own



Beryl Hammonds (left) author of "I Am Not a Dark-Skinned White-Girl", Gina Lawrence (center) and Dr. LaFrancis Rodgers-Rose (right) from Newark New Jersey, special guest speaker for the 1993 Black Women's Gathering continue a discussion about the greater need for cultural diversity in today's society.

photo by Veronica Green

Business: What It Takes; the Legacy of Our Mothers: Leadership Among Women in the African Diaspora; and It Takes an Entire Village to Raise a Child.

Keynote speaker Dr. LaFrancis Rogers addressed the Gathering and Symposium audience during the luncheon. Author, clinical sociologist, and professor of Sociology and African Studies at Drew University, Dr. Rogers both inspired and ignited the crowd as she traced the Black women's move-

ment and its implications for the 21st century. She reflected on the origins of mankind as she stated, "...out of us came all." According to Dr. Rogers, we are the most dispersed people in the world, reflected in the many shades of people of color and the reasoning that you are considered Black if you have just one drop of Black blood in you.

Referring to Black women, she stated, "We are the original queens, the original goddesses. There is no need for us to imitate the imitators....

When your sister is your hairdresser, you need no mirror." She went on to extol her sisters to support and listen to each other. "When your sister tells you something, believe her; she has your best interest in mind," she concluded. Dr. Rogers ended her address by having the audience join her in calling out the spirits and names of Black women, past and present, roles models and mentors, who have inspired and aided us to get where we are today.

Les Femmes Debs And Cavs... Growing To Be Men And Women...Phenomenally



Ime Etuk

Les Femmes has trained 29 high school seniors for adulthood and is prepared to present them to their 42nd Annual Debutante and Cavalier Ball in June.

Les Femmes exists to improve the lives of African-American youth, while preparing them for life after high school. Students are encouraged to join the organization as young as the sixth grade, although most join while freshmen or sophomores in high school. All students in the program are required to maintain good grades, perform community service and ad-



Latoefah Sadruddin

here to a strict code of ethics.

As a reward for successfully completing these tasks each participant is challenged at a private "Rites of Passage" then presented at the formal ball after graduating from high school.

Each week through June, Les Femmes and the Portland Observer will feature three young people who were chosen as 1993 debutantes and cavaliers. This week meet Ime Etuk (Jefferson High School), Wendy Murray (Grant High School) and Latoefah Sadruddin (Benson High School) who will share with you why they are "cho-



Wendy Murray

sen."

Etuk--To be a Cavalier to me is special because it requires me to live my life in a certain way; it is known as the Cavalier lifestyle. This lifestyle demands me to be respectful, punctual and spiritual. A Cavalier is never to disgrace or bring shame to the untarnished Cavalier name. For a Cavalier is to be pure and unscathed. Cavaliers are to always remember that to be a Cavalier is to be a Cavalier not only for 24 hours today and tomorrow, but for the rest of your life.

Murray--It takes a lot to become a

debutante. It is not all the glamour of a ball, but the work before the ball which proves what a true debutante is. Once when I was feeling down, I spoke with a past debutante. She reminded me that self-love is a precious value to have. Through Les Femmes and past debutantes I know that "No one will see the good in you, unless you show it. You have to hold your head up high and be proud of what you have done, as well as what has yet to come. Because if you don't care, no one else will."

Sadruddin--The ability of being a Debutante comes from within oneself by having self-love, self-respect, self-esteem and self-pride. A debutante has the ability to be an excellent leader, and a dependable follower because she has the ability to make good decisions; therefore she knows whom to follow. She is able to always hold her head up high with pride, but will never lower it for the purpose of looking down upon others. Over the past eighteen years I have evolved in to a young woman who is able to meet all of the above qualifications. I represent Les Femmes, my community and my family. They all deserve the very best. The best I can give of myself is to display the qualities of a true Debutante.