

METROlife

LIFE IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Red Lion Maxi Lounge

Portland Downtown, 310 SW Lincoln, Portland, Oregon

Presents: March 4 & 5, Doors Open 7:30 PM Entertainment; Art Abrams Swingtet With Vocalist Ralph Black. Cover charge \$5.00

"Art Abrams Swing Machine Big Band" Dine Dance And All That Jazz"; March 19, 1994; Doors Open 7:30; Entertainment Dance 8:30 to 12:30 PM. Entertainment & Dancing Hotel Ballroom. Ticket Price Includes Hor D'oeuvres.

Young Parents Free Tuesday

3-5 p.m., Tuesday, March 8th

Metro Washington Park Zoo is dedicating the afternoon of Tuesday, March 8th to young parents and their children. This afternoon will be free of charge and Portland area agencies will be on hand to provide guidance and information to visiting parents. This event will be both educational and fun for young parents. We hope for this to become an annual event that will benefit the surrounding community and help agencies and young parents reach each other in a fun and exciting atmosphere.

The Portland Art Museum Presents Carrie Mae Weems

March 29 - May 22, 1994

For fifteen years, Carrie Mae Weems has been confronting issues of identity, race and gender through a forceful combination of photographic imagery, engaging narrative and provocative humor. Carrie Mae Weems, the first major traveling survey of her work, will be on view at the Portland Art Museum March 29 through May 22, 1994 as part of the Art/On the Edge series. The exhibition is sponsored by Philip Morris Companies, Inc., with additional support from the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation.

Museum And Film Center Present Program Of Contemporary African And African-Am. Films

March 31 & April 1: Warrior Marks.

A compelling collaboration between filmmaker Pratibha Parmar and novelist Alice Walker which explores the ancient African custom of female genital mutilation; with Kathie Sandler's A Question of Color, a look at the interplay between racial identity, culture and self-image through skin color.

Portland State University

What: The second of the Border Crossings Lecture Series, a series of free public, on campus lectures examining issues of intercultural relations in immigrant, refugee, and exiled cultural groups living within larger, dominant cultures. Specific examples will be examined through the lens of artistic and cultural expression. The lectures will also examine how the culture and art forms themselves cross borders: aesthetically, culturally and geographically.

Lecturers And Topic: Rosanne Royer, Director of the Oregon Peace Institute; and Christopher Merrill, poet and journalist - "The Bridges of Bosnia"

When & Where: Wednesday, 5:30pm, March 2, PSU Multicultural Center, Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, on the first floor.

Admission: Free
Information: (503) 725-5389

SUBMISSIONS: COMMUNITY CALENDAR INFORMATION MUST BE DATED TWO WEEKS AFTER THIS ISSUE'S PUBLICATION DATE

OACWC Celebrates Legacy Of Service



(L to R) - Layola Brown, General Chairman; Lillian Whitlow, Program Chair; Mary Harrison, OACWC State President

THE OREGON ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS, AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS,--THE OLDEST BLACK WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION NATIONALLY, HELD ITS ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1994 AT VANCOUVER AVENUE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

Mrs. Mary Harrison, State President, welcomed the 150 guests. Greetings were extended by the General Chair, First Vice President, Mrs. Layola Brown. Mrs. Lillian Whitlow, Second Vice President was Mistress of Ceremonies. Mrs. Lillie Raibon led the group in fervent prayers of faith to open and close the luncheon. "Our OACWC Legacy: Service To Youth And Community - Commitment To Higher Education" was the Luncheon theme. A brief historical review "A Trip in Time" - 1895 - 1994 was presented by Mrs. Betty Thompson. Highlighting the program was the special youth presentation by the Soldiers of Light Girl's Club. "A Historical Presentation of Past and Present Black Achievers" produced and en-

acted by Club members, featured Singer Marian Anderson, Astronaut, Mae Jamison, comedian and Producer, Bill Cosby and Brain Surgeon, Dr. Ben Carson. Miss Jamila Flowers was Mistress of Ceremonies. Other features included vocal solo by Miss Celeste Calvin and presentation of Miss Kimberly Barney, their member who was crowned national Girls and Boys Clubs Penny Queen in Portland when the Soldier of Light Girl's Club hosted 400 youth at their 1992 Convention held in Portland, Oregon. The youth also displayed their Beadmaking and T Shirt Fundraising Projects by which they are sponsoring to attend their 1994 convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Miss Heater Cain is President of Soldiers of Light. Ms. Sally Hurst, Northwest Regional Supervisor and Mrs. Queen Ann Deloney, State Youth Supervisor, assisted the girls.

A special program feature also included Past OACWC Scholarship Recipients. Mrs. Minnie Belle Johnson, OACWC Scholarship Chairman, presented the Rev. Alcena Boozer, 1956 - Principal Jefferson High School (Statement read in her absence); Ms. Lynda Grice - 1959, Senior Manager of Conventions & Hospitality, Oregon Convention Services

Network, Inc.; Ms. Pamela Rahsaan - 1990 Business Major - Career Federal Government Employee and Miss Monica Hurst - 1990 who will be a 1994 graduate of Grambling University, Grambling, Louisiana (statement given by her mother, Ms. Sally Hurst).

Each recipient addressed the meaning of the scholarship to them, the college/university or school attended, their goals and accomplishments.

The program concluded with introduction of Clubs and members:

- Altruistic Club - Mrs. Mary Brannon, President
- Fleur de Lis Club - Mrs. Carrie Holliday, President
- Harriet Tubman Club - Mrs. Pauline Bradford, President



National Penny Queen, Kimberly Barney

- Katherine Gray Club - Mrs. Mattie Iles, President
- Multnomah Women's Club - Mrs. Lillian Whitlow.

Others serving on the Program Committee were Mrs. Lillie Raibon, Mrs. Louise Waters and Mrs. Carrie Cannon.

Spirit Shines In Heart Of Gangland Neighborhood

There's a new light shining on Northeast Alberta Street at 17th Avenue, thanks to a huge new choir, with prayers and the Holy Spirit free and available to all comers.

The huge, inter-church Portland Mass Choir rehearses and prays from 7 to 9pm every Monday evening at 1737 NE Alberta, in Good Samaritan Church of God in Christ, and the rehearsals are free and open to the public, according to Ray and Ada Tellis, the husband-wife founders, directors, and ministers of the choir. They hope their choir rehearsals offer a new type of ministry to the troubled inner city. Light refreshments will be offered.

The choir rehearses all original music by Ray Tellis and other local musicians. Tellis is the acknowledged leader of the local gospel music community, and is an associate pastor at New Beginnings Prayer Center.

As director of Portland Mass Choir, Tellis has invited and auditioned about 95 multi-ethnic singers from about 30 local churches from across Portland. The choir is setting new local standards for excellence in the performance of African-American gospel music.

The choir has been together less than one year, but has begun to be acknowledged as a regional cultural resource taking its place in the national pantheon of metropolitan-based mass gospel choirs.

Musicians include Terry Davis, who is music director at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, the largest African-American Baptist Church in Portland with a regular Sunday assembly of about 1,000 persons. Another musician is Eugene Blackman, who is a music teacher at Jefferson High School.

The two Tellises, Blackman, Davis and other local musicians are composers of most of the music on a forthcoming album of original gospel music now being recorded and engineered at Musicraft, a Wilsonville company.

There are about five dozen African-American churches in Portland, each with at least one, and sometimes as many as four choirs. Sunday church attendance is said to be about 40 percent of the entire American population. Word of the new ministry is being circulated in the bulletins of all local Northeast churches.

Oregon Tourism Win Awards

The Oregon Tourism Division received national recognition recently in New York, NY., at the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International Adrian Advertising and Golden Bell Public Relations Awards.

Oregon Trail Ad - a promotion by the 7 Oregon Trail states - and the complete 1993 Tourism Division image campaign. "TICO" won two bronze awards for "My Week Or So In Oregon", brochure & video. 503-373-1270

1994 Oregon Mother Of The Year

The Oregon Assn. of American Mothers, (OAAM), announced the 1994 Oregon Mother of the Year on Friday, February 18th, at a Gala Banquet held in her honor. Her name is Margie Keller and she was introduced by Kathleen Huston, 1993 Oregon Mother of the Year.

Margie, sponsored by Hughes Memorial United Methodist church in northeast Portland, has 6 children and 8 grandchildren.

As Chairperson and Unit Commissioner for the past two years for Troop 74 of the Boy Scouts of America, she started the first Boy Scouts Troop in her community in two decades.

For the past four years Margie has served as coordinator for a Narcotics Anonymous Recovery Group at Hughes Memorial. Last year, as a community outreach, she coordinated the first Annual Block party for the neighborhood around her church. In addition to coordinating and cooking for the annual free community Thanksgiving Dinner held at Hughes Memorial, Margie also started the SAFEHAVEN community after



Margie Keller

school program held at Hughes. This is a vital and necessary program designed to serve the children of the neighborhood and keep them off the streets. The pro-

gram, through its planned activities and caring volunteer staff, offers love and nurturing to children who live in homes with poverty, violence and drug abuse.

In the words of her pastor, Rev. Curtis Kirkpatrick, "Margie has been (and still is on the vanguard) of moving Hughes from being an only-on-Sunday to an open-every-day-of-the-week church. No where has Margie's commitment been more evident than in her concern for and work with our addict populations in and around our church and throughout our community. We have users, abusers and (until recently) drug pushers right around and on our church property. Those addicts, who have come forward or who she could coax, were assisted into treatment virtually single-handedly by Margie. This was the beginning and continues to be the basis of the Church's ministry to addicts."

Margie Keller will represent her state at the National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 29-May 2nd. This convention will name the new National Mother of the Year and Oregon can be proud of THEIR Mother, Margie Keller.

Blacks High School Drop Out Decreases

BY PROMISE KING

More and more black high school students are staying in school till graduation the Oregon Department of Education findings has confirmed.

Long gone are the days when about 12-4 percent of the total black students find their way out of school before receiving their diploma. The drop out rate have decreased to about 8.6 percent, according to the department reports.

This decline shows that about 38 of the bad boys and girls have turned a new leaf.

But, there was an increase of 12.5 percent to 14 percent of the over all drop out. Students

of hispanic descent. The reports also shows, native American students increase in the drop out rate. Asian American students like black students, according to the department findings, show a decline in the dropout rate. Their figure went down from 3.9 percent the previous year to 3.7 percent last year while white students maintain a 3.8 percent for last two years.

The overall high school drop out in Oregon state shows a consistent decline in the last four years but this year's rate revealed a slight from last years reports.

State school superintendent Norma Paulas said the results served as another reminder

why Oregon schools must change.

"A school system which loses one of five students before graduation is obviously in need of repair," she stated.

The other findings from the report shows that students are more likely to drop out of high schools. She added that the rate in schools with more than 600 students is 6.2 percent compared to 2.3 percent in schools with less than 25 students.

The assessment specialist with the Oregon Education Department, Steve Slater, told the Observer over the phone that this decrease in minority students drop outs is a testimony that students are

responding to the "Stay In School" campaign monitored by the state government, various school administrations and other organizations.

"The reason is that school administrators are doing better jobs in keeping students in schools. Jefferson High School has improved a bit", Slater said.

The state school reports discovered that reason cited by school personnel for drop-outs, include non-attendance, independent living burdens, unstable home situation and full or part time work and fifty three percent of those who dropped out were classified as seniors or older in their age.