

# Family Living

The Portland Observer

## Washington Park Zoo Schedules Music Series

Mel Torme comes to Portland as part of the Metro Washington Park Zoo's summer concert series. Torme will perform Friday, July 12 in a benefit for the zoo's center for Species Survival.

Family concerts -- Your Zoo and All That Jazz, Wednesdays and Rhythm and Zoo, Thursdays -- are scheduled from June 12 to August 15 and will feature 20 evening concerts. ZooTunes returns with five concerts for kids on June 18 and 25 and July 2, 16 and 30.

The June schedule includes, Keb' Mo' and Kelly Joe Phelps, acoustic blues; Steve Riley and

the Mamou Playboys, zydeco; Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters, blues, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers, English blues, Wild Mango, women's world beat, and Tabu Ley Rochereau, African soucou. A summer festival focusing on how YOU can help save wild animals and their habitat is slated for Saturday, July 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It will begin at 8 a.m. with "A Walk On The Wild Side," a five mile walk through the wilds of Washington Park and the West Hills ending with a safari breakfast and entertainment at the zoo.

"We are well positioned to provide opportunities for the next generation of minority contractors because we have access to current contractors who can provide jobs, on-the-job training and mentoring assistance," states Samuel Carradine, Executive Director of the National Association of Minority Contractors about the organization's "Reclaiming our



YOUTH: Building Tomorrow's Minority Contractors... Today" jobs and fund campaign.

The initiative is a step towards preparing the country's most at-risk youth for careers in the construction industry. NAMC plans to focus its attention not only towards young people seeking skilled laborer jobs, but college-bound students who want

Minority Contractors recruit at risk youth for careers in industry

to major in construction management, building sciences, architecture and engineering.

The association has some 5,000 members and over 30 chapters and affiliate organizations (including student chapters) throughout the United States, South Africa, Great Britain and the Caribbean. These members employ 50 to 60% of all minority

workers in an industry that is the second largest employer in the country.

O.B. Hill, Chairman of the Board of NAMC Oregon Chapter says, "It is imperative that a major effort be made nationally to get minority youth involved in all aspects of the construction industry. We are especially interested in training and educational programs emphasizing the economic benefits of minority representation in both the professional and labor categories."

The three components of NAMC's youth outreach and training efforts are career awareness, skills training and scholarships.

Discussions are underway for linkages with several federal, state and local government agencies. Commitments have already been made from a number of private corporations within the construction industry, as well as the minority contractor community.

Nigel Parkinson, NAMC President, stresses the importance of preparing minority youth now to enter the industry: "According to demographic trends, the available pool of labor in the United States will be increasingly minority. Access to a trained and reliable construction workforce is an industry wide problem, not a minority problem."

## Sports Memorabilia Auction

The Lents Boy's & Girls Club invites the public to attend a Sports Memorabilia Auction and Dinner on Friday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Airport Shilo Inn Suites located on Airport Way off I-205.

The Auction is sponsored by the Vintage Baseball Magazine and Television Station WB32. Jack Calin, owner of the Portland Rockies, will deliver the keynote address for this Friday night function.

This event kicks off the largest

sports card show ever held in Oregon on June 1st and 2nd at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, located off I-5 on MLK Blvd. This auction is expected to raise over \$10,000 to directly benefit the Lents Boys & Girls Club located in Southeast Portland.

"Auction goers will truly appreciate the variety and quality of the items to be auctioned off. The real winners are the kids at the Club." Says auction Chairman, Ken Turner. "The money raised at this auction

directly supports the youth development programs at the Lents Club."

A Chris Miller autographed football, a Leon Day signed Bob-N-Head, Ken Griffey Jr. autographed bat, a 1974 Hank Aaron autographed jersey, an Orlando Magic team autographed ball and a Reggie Jackson autographed jersey are just a sample of some of the items that will be available for bid at this auction.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling (503) 232-0077.

## The 50th Wedding Anniversary

and

Reaffirmation of Vows

of

Bill & Lois McDonald

Saturday, May 25, 1996



Bill and Lois McDonald will reaffirm their vows of fifty years of marriage on Saturday, May 25, 1996 at 2:00 pm. Their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary will be held at the Lutheran Inner-City Ministries on N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Portland, Oregon.

The Portland Observer sends congratulations to Bill and Lois McDonald.

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## Teens Teach Disaster Training

"Disaster" is an adult kind of word. But in the Red Cross "Be-Ready 1-2-3" program, high school volunteers gently and effectively prepare kindergarten and first-grade students for earthquakes and teach them about fire safety using the puppets, Cool Cat and Disaster Dog.

This program, which was developed by the Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter in Portland and is now used

around the country, is a great example of both disaster preparedness and of high school students

(from Jefferson, Grant, and Roosevelt) making a positive contribution to the community. The Peer Emergency Trainers (PETs) buck the sad news trend of budget cuts and violence in the schools through their performances in elementary schools. Last year, more than 1200 kindergar-

ten and first-grade students enthusiastically listened to Disaster Dog, Cool Cat, and Ready Rabbit and their teenaged puppeteers.

On May 17, the PETs and Cool Cat performed in classrooms at Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. They will repeat their performances with Disaster Dog on Friday, May 24, again at King Elementary from 9 to 10 a.m.

## Family-Oriented Wedding Ceremony

When Larry Casserly told his nine-year-old son, Ryan, that he was going to marry Patrice O'Connell, the youngster didn't say much. But almost overnight Ryan began to regress, resorting to baby talk and insisting he needed help with simple tasks, such as cutting food.

Patrice was moved by her future stepson's predicament. She knew Ryan was overwhelmed with anxiety, wondering what his father's upcoming marriage meant for him. "The more I watched his silent pain, the more I wanted to do something tangible during our wedding to show Ryan that I really cared about him and wanted him and wanted him to be part of our family," she said.

Patrice and her fiancé were confronted with a problem that will be experienced by most of the nearly one million single parents who will remarry in the U.S. this year: What can be done to ease the fears of young children who feel, on a conscious or unconscious level, that their secure place in the family is threatened by the pending marriage of a parent?

The San Jose, California, couple found a simple and emotionally satisfying solution in the form of a family-oriented wedding service that gives children a meaningful role in

the wedding nuptials. This five-minute ceremony -- known as the Family Medallion service -- can easily be integrated into any religious

or civil wedding ceremony. It differs from the traditional wedding in only one respect: after the newlyweds exchange rings, their children join them on the altar for a special service focusing on the family nature of remarriage. Each child is given a gold or silver medal with three raised interlocking circles, a symbol that represents family love in much the same way the wedding ring signifies conjugal love.

"Ryan was so excited when we told him about the family wedding ceremony," Patrice explained. "He was literally glowing when Larry and I put the medallion around his neck and pledged to love and care for him. The family ceremony was a very spiritual moment for all of us; it was an outward manifestation of our commitment to come together as a family."

Young Ryan was powerfully affected by the ceremony and the symbol of love that his father and stepmother had given him. "I will never take off this medallion," he later confided to his father. "When I die, I want to be buried with it."

With approximately one in four U.S. marriages involving divorced or widowed parents with young children, the family wedding concept is an idea whose time has come. It was developed by the Reverend Roger Coleman, Chaplain of Urban Ministry for the Community Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Coleman, who was marrying more and more people who had children from previous marriages, was frustrated that virtually every traditional wedding ceremony focused entirely on the bride and groom.

Although Reverend Coleman designed the Family Medallion service exclusively for use in the weddings he performed, he was soon inundated with requests for information from all over the world. Today, more than 5,000 couples annually use the Family Medallion service in their weddings.

Larry believes that the family service was a catalyst that helped Ryan accept his new wife. "By being sensitive to his feelings and giving him a special moment in the wedding, Patrice earned Ryan's respect and trust," he said. "If we hadn't used the family service, I think it would have taken much longer for my son to bond with Patrice."

## Young Parents Program Needs Volunteers

The Oregon Human Development Corporation is actively recruiting for volunteers to help with its Young Parents Program. The program's goal is to help young parents and pregnant adolescents in the Hillsboro area en-

hance their parenting skills and promote the healthy development of their children. Volunteers, twelve years old and older, are needed for help with child care in a nursery setting during the weekly support meetings, Wednes-

days 4:00-6:15 pm. Volunteers are also needed for an ongoing mentoring program as well as special projects. Interested people please call Alison Peck, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at OHDC, 640-6349.

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