

# RELIGION

## The Grotto's ninth annual Christmas festival

The 1996 Festival of lights at The Grotto opens Friday, November 29 and continues nightly (except Christmas day) through Monday, December 30, 1996. Expected to welcome 45,000 visitors during its 31-evening presentation, this ecumenical Christmas celebration is open nightly from 5:00 until 9:30 p.m. with The Grotto's garden grounds closing at 10:00 p.m. Admission for the Festival of Lights at The Grotto, located on Sandy Boulevard at NE 85th Avenue in Portland, is \$4.50 for adults and \$3.00 for children (3-12 years of age). Children two and under are free. Visitors are asked to bring a donation of canned or dry food benefiting Snow-CAP, east Multnomah county's emergency food ministry. The festival's public information phone line is (503) 261-2400.

Unique characteristics—Offering spectacular lighting displays, hourly holiday concerts, and heartwarming family entertainment, the Festival of Lights endeavors to surround visitors with the sights, sounds, and emotions which are so intrinsically a part of this wondrous season. The Grotto's Christmas celebration is unique from other major holiday activities in the region in at least six ways. (1) Offering 28 thematic lighting dis-



The 1996 Festival of lights at The Grotto.

plays depicting the biblical story of the birth of Christ, the Festival of Lights focuses upon the traditional and universal Christmas message of hope and goodwill toward others. (2) No other holiday display in the area can hope to compare with the grandeur offered by The Grotto's pristine

garden sanctuary with its towering firs, spectacular architecture, and dramatic angel-covered cliffside as a backdrop. (3) The Grotto's festival quite possibly is the largest Christmas choral festival of its kind in the world featuring over 125 music groups, comprised of nearly 5,000

singers and musicians, including many of the region's finest school, church, and civic choirs performing in The Grotto's 600-seat chapel, known for its cathedral quality acoustics. (4) In addition to these magnificent indoor choral concerts, the variety and quality of the festival's live

entertainment—including hourly puppet shows, strolling carolers, and a live animal petting zoo presented in The Grotto's central plaza—is unmatched by any other Christmas celebration in the region. (5) The true gift that is Christmas is highlighted by welcoming presence of over 50 volunteer greeters, who help staff this ecumenical Christmas celebration each evening. (6) The festival's new Biblical Era Depiction will offer a dramatic and educational opportunity as character actors in period costumes interact with visitors in a "living history" display, presented each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night.

Details—The Festival of Lights is a walk-through event and visitors should expect to walk approximately one-half mile. While all entertainment areas are fully tented and the choral concerts are performed indoors, visitors should dress for the weather. The average visitor spends about 90 minutes enjoying the festival's 150,000 lights and entertainment. If planning to hear a particular concert performance, visitors should arrive at least one-half hour before its scheduled start. Parking is provided free.

For further information, Media wishing further information should contact Peter Mott at (503) 254-7371.

Area congregation awarded \$1,000 AAL grant

Martin Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Portland, has received a \$1,000 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) to help the congregation celebrate its first anniversary.

AAL awarded the grant through its Milestone Program. The funds will support the ministry of the congregation. "AAL acknowledges the great deal of effort and commitment required to establish a new church. We are privileged to provide this assistance to new Lutheran congregations as they develop their ministry," said Bonnie Ebbesen, manager of AAL Church Relations.

Founded in 1902, AAL's purpose is to enable Lutherans to help themselves and others.

AAL accomplishes this by providing scholarship and grant programs, volunteer opportunities, insurance protections and self-help educational programs. There are 1.7 million AAL members nationwide.

## "God's Trying To Tell You Something"

Perhaps you've heard the name before. Maybe you've even seen this fabulous performance. But more than likely your family, your friends, or somebody told you about this masterful production.

It rocked the Country for three long years on a world wind tour that included over 137 cities and over 39 states not to forget both the U.S. and the British Virgin Islands.

What was so powerful? What was so captivating that it played to millions and four years later America still awaits its return? It's the hit gospel stage play "God's Trying To Tell You Something" and it's finally coming to Portland making its debut performance at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall one show only, Friday November 29 at 8:00 p.m. Written and directed by critically acclaimed play write Delilah Rashell Williams who also brought us "Things Ain't What They Used To Be" is doing it again. Bringing us the best of theater.

When speaking with her she said, "I love Portland and the people, and I will never forget how through black ice and snow Portland sold out "Things." I can't think of a better place to launch this show. This is by far my favorite place and I think Portland will agree."

The show takes you on a journey through a time capsule of sorts from slavery to freedom to present day saturated with the richness of gospel music. "It's about where we have been," Williams says, "and just how far God has brought us. It's really quite amazing! I only wish the youth of today could realize what our ancestors and forefathers endured. If they could just realize, who we really are, and what we've sacrificed to be where we are today, then there would be no way that we could kill one another over a color."

Carolyn Allen, her assistant and also God daughter says, "Let's put partiality aside. I've seen all of her work, all were great, and all of them brought audiences to their feet time after time after time, but none and I mean none surpasses this place God's Trying to Tell You Something. One of my favorite scenes is Amazing Aids and God's Family

The Archdiocese of Portland will observe AIDS Awareness Day with a special community-wide healing liturgy.

The Gay and Lesbian Outreach of St. Philip Neri and the AIDS Ministry of Catholic Charities will co-sponsor a special liturgy to be celebrated on world AIDS Awareness Day, Sunday, December 1, 1996. The Mass will be held at St. Philip Neri Church in Portland and will begin at 7 P.M. The address of St. Philip is: 2408 S.E. 16th, Portland. For more information call: 231-4955.

Grace. It's about a little girl sitting on her grandmother's lap as she explains what grace really is."

"The one line that really got me says Allen, is when the little girl says, "I used to think grace was something you said over your dinner before you ate it, but grandma says it unmerited favors from God, things we don't deserve, things God does that he doesn't have to." WOW! It really makes you think and appreciate God, because he really doesn't have to do all that he does."

Promoter Michael McMillan who has promoted everything from "Beauty Shop" to "Monma I Want to Sing"

says, this is by far the strongest piece I have ever seen. Incredible voices with a special anointing makes songs like How I Got Over, When the Storms of Life Are Raging, Come Ye Disconsolate, Peace Be Still, God God my God and God's Trying To Tell You Something to name a few, has often turned theaters into a revival.

Like all of her plays she always presents a balance of drama, laughter and music. "She'll make you laugh, she'll make you cry, she'll even make you stand up and testify, but not necessarily in that order" gulps Allen.

With a cast and crew of twenty

nine-professional actors and musicians. We sure hope this concert hall is left standing the next day.

When you have seen theater at its best it's real hard to settle for less. If you have seen any of this directors plays, you will agree that maybe "God is Trying To Tell You Something."

Tickets on sale now at all Ticket Master locations.

For group sales and best available seating in Portland call Nancy Smith at 503-735-2967 or Angela Johnson 503-287-1284.

One show and one show only and if you miss this one then shame on you.

## GOD'S TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING



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(503) 735-2967

From the creator of "Things Ain't What They Used to Be"

## Celebrate Hanukkah at the Center!

December 9 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

This is the main event of the Portland Hanukkah season.

Klezmer music will be provided by Sammy Epstein's Mazel Tov Orchestra, with dancing encouraged for all. Craft projects for children will be offered.

Hanukkah singing and a candle-lighting ceremony will round out the festivities. Potato latkes and hot dog will be available for purchase. Admission is \$5 general admission and \$4 for seniors and students.

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center is located at 6651 Sw Capitol Hwy. in Portland. Call 244-0111 for information.

Immaculate Heart Church, 2926 N. Williams Ave., 287-3724, invites you to breakfast every third Sunday of the month after 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. masses. Adults \$3.50, children \$2.25 to help with building fund.

## Advertise For Diversity

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Call: 503-288-0033

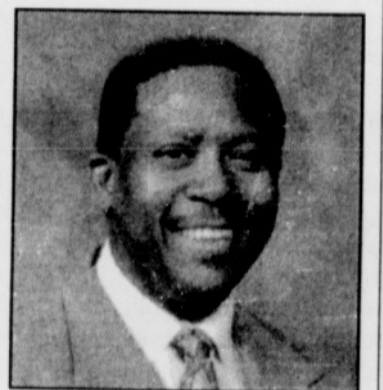
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