

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

No! Kidding! Choir hosts benefit jazz concert

Portland, OR - The No! Kidding! Choir of Fernwood Middle School will host its 7th annual semi-formal benefit concert Thursday, April 3rd, 7:00pm at the Melody Ballroom, located at 615 SE Alder. Headlining Showtime '97 will be Marilyn Keller, Janice Scroggins, and Linda Hornbuckle. Tickets for Showtime are \$15 for everyone or reserve a table of ten for \$150 by calling Janice Flowers, 916-6480. Purchasing a table of ten will make you/your company/organization a proud sponsor of NK! Choir and your company/organization's will be listed on the Choir's 1997 touring t-shirt! Tickets are available at Fernwood Middle School, 1915 NE 33rd Ave. Portland, OR 97212. Make checks payable to: No! Kidding! Choir.

Oh, What a Knight!

Chinook Winds is offering a "Knight" to remember with two super performances May 30th & 31st, one show nightly at 8 pm. Ticket price is \$30.00. Obtain tickets by calling 1-888-MAIN-ACT (624-6228).

Minority Health Strategies conference

The Oregon Cancer Center of Oregon Health Sciences University is hosting a conference entitled: "Minority Health Strategies." It is scheduled for April 18, 1997 and will be held at the Portland Marriott. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Registration brochures can be obtained by calling 503-292-7286. The registration deadline is April 9, 1997 and room reservations for the special rate at the Marriott hotel is March 27, 1997. Scholarships are available - call number above. The cost of attending the conference is \$65.

Crisis Line openings

The Portland Women's Crisis Line is pleased to announce openings in its April/May 1997 training for volunteer crisis intervention counselors on the Crisis Line. In order to qualify, volunteers must be female, at least 18 years of age, and committed to ending domestic and sexual violence. For further information and an application, please contact LeAnn Medeiros at 232-9545 During normal business hours. Deadline for application is April 21, 1997. Practicum students are encouraged to apply. Credit is available.

Child advocates gather

May 4-6, 1997, the national Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association will welcome 1000 child advocates to the annual conference, "The Art of the Possible, Creating New Solutions for Children" at the Portland Hilton. Like other national children's organizations, the CASA network will be looking toward the impact of changes in child welfare and new ways community volunteers can work to assure all children have a chance at safe, permanent homes.

Cures and Controversies

Lecture entitled "Bone Marrow Transplantation in Children: Cures and Controversies," by F. Leonard Johnson, M.D., professor of pediatrics and chief of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, 7:30 a.m., Thursday, April 17; at the OHSU Old Library Auditorium. Plenty of free parking is available. Lectures are wheelchair accessible and devices for the hearing impaired are available. Please call Community Relations at 494-7686 for more information. Call University News and Publications at 494-8231 for media information and interviews.

Divorce recovery and grief recovery workshops

April 1 - May 6, (6 consecutive Tuesday evenings.) Childcare available. For information & to register call Portland First Church of the Nazarene Sunset Hwy at Sylvan 297-6100.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.



Rosemary Anderson Praised



Leon Sullivan (above), founder of Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, at POIC's 30th anniversary celebration. Leon was the featured speaker, at an event that centered on Rosemary E. Anderson retirement dinner (shown left with Martin Anderson).

BY NEIL HELPERN

Rosemary E. Anderson stood in the ballroom lobby of the Airport Sheraton Hotel last week, receiving a constant stream of well wishers showering her with hugs, kisses, accolades and honors.

This was her day -- a day the community recognized her retirement from 29 years of "indefatigable dedication to improving the educational and economic status of students and their families," while serving in various full-time paid capacities with the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC).

She started with POIC in 1967 as a volunteer, working with the group of ministers who created the program. Here actual paid

employment started August 1, 1968.

"I never thought I would become executive director when I started out as an executive secretary," she noted. She held the top positions at POIC for 16 years.

Now in retirement since last August, she is chairperson of POIC's board of directors and still volunteers as a tutor.

"I help children ages five through 12 with their homework and to learn conflict resolution," she told The Observer.

Her reaction to the stream of congratulatory greetings from people was summed up in one word: "Joy!"

Asked about her most significant contribution, Anderson said it was her "ability to see adults as well as youth accomplish their goals, whether it be getting a GED or a skill

to get that job, then following up to see how they were doing."

"I remember a man who came, afraid he would never be able to read stories to his son," recounted Anderson, "so he came to POIC for help in learning to read."

OIC founder Leon Sullivan told the gathering that at the group's next national convocation, "I will propose Rosemary Anderson be made a member of the national board of directors."

She will fill the seat of the late Josia Nunn, former POIC chairman and national board member. Nunn died January 10.

"I know the struggles you had, the ups and downs, the times I thought this program (Portland) wouldn't survive," said Sullivan, noting the success of POIC was "by the grace

of God -- and you."

Dr. Samuel E. Kelly, who replaced Anderson as POIC executive director, told the gathering that she "personified a link lady, with certain majesty, grandeur, sense of the appropriate, and a gift of casual elegance."

This mother of seven, a native of Denver, Colorado, "climbed the greasy pole of life with success after success," he noted. "She remained loyal to family and community."

Kelly said Anderson possessed an "insatiable curiosity... to find ways to work for our students, especially the least of our own. She is superb!"

In the lobby, prior to the start of the evening's program, some students and col

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Maya Angelou returns with poetry messages

BY NEIL HELPERN

Maya Angeleou was back in town last week urging a crowd at the Arlene Schnitzer Auditorium to reach for poetry and advising a handful of African American writers at a nearby reception to wrestle with their words to share life's meaning with others.

She pulled words from Shakespeare, Dickinson, Terence, and Dunbar out of her magical grab bag.

At the auditorium, the famed poet repeated her "rainbow in the clouds" talk, delivered a few months ago to a high school educators' convention here in Portland.

"Even in the hardest of times," she said, "people can see hope in the darkest times."

"My rainbow in the clouds is in African-American poetry," she told the sellout crowd at the Schnitzer, noting that the first Africans were brought to America in 1619, "one year before the Mayflower docked."

African-American poetry has a special magic, said Angelou, who encouraged the audience to find some in their libraries.

She told of the caged bird in an 1890s poem by Dunbar and how it helped her overcome her own life tragedies.

"I know what the caged bird feels...it beats its wings upon the bars...not a song of glee, but a plea, upward to heaven."

Angelou used Shakespeare as a guide to "lift yourself out of the doldrums, the fear" through the use of poetry.

"How could a white man in England 400 years ago know what it was like to be a black girl in the south, raped and dejected," she



Poet Maya Angelou shared thoughts about writing with the Northwest African American Writers Workshop. At right are: Stephen McPherson and Lillian Whitlow of Portland.

wondered aloud.

Then she turned to the audience and issued a challenge: "If you came here to make a difference, be a rainbow in someone's

cloud."

Talking about the need to be open to all of life's experiences, she quoted Terence: "I am a human being...nothing human can be

alien to me."

"Poetry helps you see that to be so," she continued with the words of the African slave in Rome in 154 BCE, with no chance of citizenship because of the color of his skin.

No matter what the circumstance, Angelou said people can make the best of life. She quoted Emily Dickinson: "I shall die, but that is all I will do for death."

Angelou congratulated the organizers of the "forum" series of famous speakers and the audience for being "rainbows in the clouds," and noted that many people are such rainbows "accidentally, by happenstance. People look at you -- people who you may never know. In marvelous ways you are rainbows in the clouds."

Earlier in the evening, the poet met with members of the Northwest African American Writers Workshop.

"Easy reading is awfully damned hard writing," she quoted Nathaniel Hawthorne.

The dozen local writers sat, enthralled by her recital of a poem which took her six months to write.

She expressed appreciation for the assembled writers, "because I know it is hard. I may take a month to work out a few paragraphs, but the readers breeze right through."

When a writer struggles to find the right words for a smooth expression of life, people often say, "She is a natural writer," and she benignly says "Thank you."

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