

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION **B**

## Community Calendar

### Severinsen joins salute

Many friends and colleagues, including Doc Severinsen, will join associate conductor Norman Leyden and the Oregon Symphony in a concert of Leyden's 80th birthday, Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. at the Schnitzer Concert Hall.

### Foster parents needed

The Boys and Girls Aid Society of Oregon is seeking short-term foster parents. The agency will host an orientation meeting Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the non-profit group's office at 018 S.W. Boundary Court.

### Holiday works of Russia

Russian Winters, a holiday arts and handicrafts of Russia exhibit, will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main St. in Vancouver.

### Immunizations for kids

Western State Chiropractic College's campus clinic, 2900 N.E. 132nd, presents free immunizations on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the event, kids can also participate in a Halloween safety party with treats and an opportunity to make your own trick-or-treat bag.

### Help your child read

Parents are invited to the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. Thursday at 7 p.m. to learn effective techniques to help children begin reading before they enter public school and help older children become excellent readers. Susan Smith, professor at Drake University will be the guest speaker. Child care is provided.

### PSU weekend

Portland State University's annual PSU Weekend takes place Oct. 24-26 offering open houses, public lectures, seminars, performances and tours. The event is a means of reacquainting old friends with the campus, turning strangers into new friends and saying thanks to PSU supporters.

### Meet the mayor

Portlanders who want to meet with Mayor Vera Katz about any issue will have their chance on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Limited appointments are available. To reserve a space call 823-4120.

### Response to racism

Obed Norman, professor at Washington State University, Vancouver, will rebut Dinesh D'Souza's controversial book *The End of Racism*, during a public forum, Saturday, Oct. 18 at Portland State University's Smith Center, Room 126. Registration is at 5 p.m. with a dinner following at 6:40 p.m.

### Blazer dancers at show

Winter fashions will be on display as the Blazer dancers premier their latest routines at the Subaru Ski Fever and Snowboard show Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Memorial Coliseum.

### Alternatives to growth

A conference to provide citizens with methods, tools, techniques and information to stop growth in Oregon and plan for a more livable and prosperous future begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17 and extends all-day Saturday, Oct. 18 at Portland State University.

### Childrens store opens

Our Children's Store, the annual holiday gift store benefiting area children's charities, opens Tuesday through Jan. 5 at The Galleria, 921 S.W. Morrison.

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



Helen Massad of Portland opens her home to kids needing foster care. Massad is one of the organizers of an endeavor to stop violence and drugs in our communities. (Photo by Tony Washington)

## A call into action

By MICHAEL LEIGHTON

Helen Massad is a known for her commitment to make the world a better place.

As a foster mother she readily takes in high-risk kids who may need a place to stay to escape problems at home or are awaiting adoption.

Now Massad has helped start Mothers Against Gang Violence to provide support to families affected by gangs and gang violence.

It's an endeavor she knows well, especially because of the tragic ending gang violence had on her own family.

About four years ago, Massad's son was part of a cab driver murder.

It was midnight and the telephone rang asking for her son or daughter. She told the caller they were both asleep. But then, another phone call came in and another.

The third call was a police detective with a warning that her house was surrounded and her son should come out with his hands up. She found out later he was wanted for robbery and murder.

"That crippled me," Massad recalls.

The murder also took a rippling effect on the whole community, and from other parents who knew like Massad, "they didn't raise their kids like that."

Condolences and help, poured in.

"From my pastor to my job, my director and C.S.D., they came to my rescue to support me and my family," Massad said.

"Many people don't have this kind of support," she said, and that is central to why she went to work to see that resources are available to all families in crisis.

"We want to make a difference in our community. Take back our community. Take

our kids back," she explains.

The group is committed to public education, providing services and helping with employment opportunities.

Several meetings are planned this fall and winter.

Professionals, housewives, community leaders, social service organizations, seniors, middle aged folks and youth are all walks of life and religious backgrounds are invited to participate.

The meetings begin Sunday at 7 p.m. at Imani House, 5037 N.E. 16th, with subsequent meetings on Oct. 16, Oct. 30, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Dec. 4 and Dec. 18.

The group's second annual march and rally will be held in August next year.

For more information call Tommy Sloan at 240-6705, Frederick Woods at 833-9655 or Massad at 271-7744.

## Salmon migration celebrated at Oxbow

The annual return of native fall chinook salmon to the Sandy River will be celebrated this weekend at the 14th annual Salmon Festival. The event

runs from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Metro's Oxbow Regional Park. Admission is \$6 per car.

For thousands of years, salmon have mi-

grated up the Columbia River from the Pacific Ocean to the spawning streams of their birth. The festival celebrates the importance of the salmon to Pacific Northwest culture

and seeks to increase public understanding and appreciation of wild salmon and their struggle to survive. Salmon viewing walks lead by naturalists, who explain migration and spawning, take place every half hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Saturday & Sunday.

Native American dancing, storytelling, music, a salmon bake, an expanded children's activity area, environmental displays and a wildlife art and traditional crafts show will be featured.

The exhibit, entertainment and eating areas are covered.



A salmon chinook catches all eyes.



Interstate Fred Meyer gets into the spirit of Halloween with spooky entrance to variety. (Photo by M. Washington)

## Skills pay Women in Community Services assist inmates

Female offenders, upon release from prison, report reduced dependency on government assistance after participation in a life skills program developed by Women in Community Service, says a study headed by Dr. Annette Jolin at Portland State University.

Jolin and a team of researchers from the University's School of Urban and Public Affairs conducted an evaluative study on the effectiveness of the Non-profit Organization's Lifeskills program at the Columbia River Correctional Institution.

Their preliminary analysis found that 84 percent of the 187 female inmates interviewed who participated in the Lifeskills program reported having received government assistance previous to their incarceration, while only 29 percent were receiving aid after their graduation from the program and return to the community.

"I think WICS is an enormously successful program for its relatively short yet intense involvement with the women," says Jolin.

Since October 1992, the Lifeskills program in Portland has been helping female offenders develop the skills needed to successfully transition back into the community.

Specifically, the program promotes increased self-esteem, motivation to change behavior, positive lifestyle changes, self-sufficiency and economic independence. Participants spend eight weeks of training including skills assessment, empowerment workshops, and employment preparation.

Upon their release the women continue to receive support through the Lifeskills mentoring project and weekly support groups.

Several findings of the study suggest the program is a successful tool for transitioning women from prison back into the community. According to the study, 83 percent of the WICS graduates found employment after their release and 67 percent were employed 40 or more hours weekly. Fifty-nine percent reported similar or greater income levels than before incarceration.

"It looks as though there are clear benefits to participation in the program - although we cannot conclude that WICS is entirely responsible for decreasing welfare dependency," says Jolin. "The findings are preliminary but the strongest testimony to the program really comes from the women's voices."

Jolin and researchers at the university are continuing their analysis of the findings, including consideration of other programs the women interviewed may have participated in while in prison.

## Men who solicit prostitutes studied

Why do men solicit prostitutes? University of Portland professor Martin Monto will focus on that question with a \$50,000 grant recently approved by the National Institute of Justice, the research and development agency of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Monto's project is entitled "Focusing on the clients of street prostitutes: a Creative Approach to Reducing Violence Against Women." The money will be used to pay for research in Portland and San Francisco. The study will focus on men who attend two programs for men arrested for trying to hire a street prostitute.

"Prostitutes, particularly street prosti-

tutes, are frequent victims of crime," said Monto, a sociology professor. "Although most of their clients are not violent, these men participate in a system that leaves women vulnerable to violence. The programs I am studying aim to inform male clients about those problems."

The two community-initiated programs used in the research are Portland's Sexual Exploitation Education Project and San Francisco's First Offenders Prostitution Program. Monto began investigating the issue when Jeff Gauthier, a University of Portland philosophy professor who helped design the Portland program approached him with the need for research.