

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Community Calendar

#### Dynamic Differences

Dynamic Differences, an interactive workshop that examines various forms of prejudice and oppression will be presented by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center on Wednesday, June 16, from 6:30 PM - 9 PM at Trinity Lutheran Center, 507 W. Powell in Gresham. The workshop aims to increase understanding of cultural differences and perceptions on a basic level, and further to identify ways we can work together for the common good. To register, call Linda Hunter at 503/823-5136 (Voice/TTY).

#### Learn to Meditate

Learn how to meditate - it's simple, effective and powerful. Develop peace of mind, confidence, and happiness. Create a life of inspiration and infinite possibilities. A free workshop will be offered on Sunday, June 6 and 20 from 1:30 - 3 PM at the Central Library (801 SW 10th). No registration required. For questions, call 206/324-3294.

#### Summer Volunteer Training

Bradley-Angle House is pleased to announce our Summer Volunteer Training. We need volunteers to do direct service work: answer our 24-hour crisis line, staff our emergency shelter and transitional houses, work with children's groups, or serve on our Board of Directors. We are also in need of volunteers to do administrative and maintenance work. Our next training will begin Thursday, June 10th. Call 282-9940.

#### African American Ballet

The sixth annual Spring Concert will be presented by the Northwest African American Ballet. This event will be on May 28 and 29 at the Newark Theatre Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available at PCPA box office and all Fastixx outlets or charge by phone at 224-8499.

#### Draw Wildlife

The Portland Fine Arts Guild is having a workshop on drawing wildlife in colored pencil with Judy Jamison on June 14, 21 & 28 from 10 AM until 2 PM at the Russellville Grange (at 12105 NE Prescott). The cost is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members. Call 503/252-9937.

#### Soul Food Classes

Neighborhood Health Clinics (NHC) will hold a series of two-day Soul Food Modifications Workshops and Hands-on Cooking Classes. Workshop participants are asked to bring a favorite soul food recipe, a friend and enjoy an evening of learning, fun and food. There will be no food for the classes. NHC will sponsor three classes on Wednesday evenings at Self Enhancement Incorporated, 3920 North Kerby Avenue in Portland. The sessions will take place on June 16 and 23, and September 22 and 29. All classes will be held from 6-8 PM. Call 503/288-5995.

#### Rummage Sale

The Community Alliance of Tenants will be hosting a Silent Auction from 12 PM to 4 PM. There will be lots of house wares, clothing, food, crafts and much more! The Rummage Sale will be on Saturday, May 29 from 9 AM to 5 PM at 2710 NE 14th Ave. (the corner of 15th Ave. and Knott). Call 460-9702.

#### All Sports Camp

Don't miss the Roy Pittman/Straight Up Summer Sampler All Sports Camp on Friday, June 4th at 9 AM until 1:30 PM. It is open to kids between 6th to 8th grade. The fun will be held at Peninsula Park. We will have Portland State University coaches and athletes as well as the Gold's Gym Straight Up speed trainers on hand for a half day of fun, games, and skill building. We'll have stations set up for speed, football, basketball, softball/baseball, volleyball, golf and soccer. Call Roy Pittman at 503/823-3620.

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

## Unique Insurance Complex Will Serve North Portland



Dale Fillmore  
Vice President, State Farm Agency

Northeast Portland residents can now find a State Farm agent, claims staff and other representatives in one location. On May 21, 1999 the company formally christened its new 12,000 square foot full-service office at Martin Luther King Jr. and Portland Boulevards. The two-building, brick complex offers sales and claims service, as well as space for neighborhood meetings.

State Farm is one of the first insurers to develop a companywide program to place these unique offices in the heart of urban areas. North Portland is the 33rd "full-service office" the company has opened since 1994, and its first in the Pacific Northwest Region. The complex is unique in that it houses a State Farm agency, a full claims staff, and a community meeting room, along with representatives from public affairs and human resources.

Gary Methner, State Farm's Pacific Northwest regional vice president, says his company will be an active community member. "The inclusion of a community room means we're opening our doors

to neighborhood groups, nonprofits and other local organizations looking for a place to meet. We're here to provide exceptional customer service, while becoming a part of, and enhancing this neighborhood." The 1,500 square foot community room accommodates a group of 25.

The office is currently home to 17 auto

claim employees, with plans to place several fire claim representatives there in the near future. Agent Ernie Hill employs one part-time and two full-time employees.

State Farm associates were joined by local community and business leaders, nonprofit organizations and neighborhood groups for the grand opening.



MLK Elementary School Choir join in the celebration of the Grand Opening

## Toran To Lead Volunteers of America of Oregon

The VOA Oregon Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Kay Dean Toran as Chief Executive Officer of Volunteers of America of Oregon (VOA Oregon). Ms. Toran will take the agency helm on July 1. Executive Director Tom Hudson, who provided continuity and strong leadership to the agency after the departure of then-CEO Gerald McFadden in August 1998, will resume his role of directing the operations of the agency.

"Volunteers of America has struck gold with Ms. Toran," claims Board Chair Tom Wenrich. He continues, "We went through a rather frustrating search for about nine months and then the perfect candidate became available."

Ms. Toran, a native Oregonian, has an impressive background including holding the position of Director of Services to Children and Families (SCF) for the last five years. Previously, she was the agency's Regional

Administrator and Branch Manager and prior to working with SCF she was the Director of Affirmative Action for the Governor's Office.

According to Wenrich, "Kay Toran is a natural for the position of CEO of VOA Oregon. Her experience in managing a large number of people and a huge budget at the state level will prove invaluable to us. She has contacts-nationally, as well as at the state and local levels- that no other candidate had."

Toran serves on several boards including Linfield College, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administration, and is the Board Chair for The Walker Institute. Her many accolades include the 1997 State Management Award for Excellence in Leadership and the 1995 Affirmative Action Agency of the Year. And she was a member of the US Delegation that assesses the Child Welfare System in Romania.

Toran is very excited about the opportunity to work with VOA Oregon. She states, "My initial meetings with management and staff were exhilarating and I'm looking forward to addressing the issues that face nonprofits. VOA Oregon is a dynamic organization and has a long tradition of providing services to our communities. As we look to the future, we'll be seeking to sustain our growth and remain competitive in this continually changing industry."

Volunteers of America is one of the nation's top ten largest and most comprehensive nonprofit human services organizations. VOA Oregon has provided services to residents of Oregon and Southwest Washington since 1896. VOA Oregon annually serves more than 7,000 people through a variety of innovative programs in the areas of Children and Families, Community Corrections and Senior Services.



Kay Dean Toran, CEO of Volunteers of America of Oregon

## Wilshire Park Neighbors Want Grocery Back

BY LEE PERLEMAN

Neighbors of a proposed new grocery store at Northeast 33rd Avenue and Killingsworth Street have concerns and issues, but they are about how, not if, such a store should be built there.

The Concordia Neighborhood Association is proceeding cautiously with public review of a proposal by Nicholson Development to build on the site, vacant since the Wilshire Park Sentry Market closed in 1994. The matter will be discussed, and issues noted, at the association's general meeting at 7 p.m. June 1 at McMenamin's Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave. The association, and the public, will

talk directly with Nicholson representatives on June 22 at Englewood Christian Church, 3515 N.E. Killingsworth St.

Nicholson, of Kirkland, Wash., plans to build a 15,000 square foot Rite Aid pharmacy, a 20,000 square foot grocery and 9,000 foot of assorted retail on the site. In order to incorporate a satellite parking lot to the south, they also plan to relocate one-block of NE Emerson St.

The plans were discussed last month with about 20 residents of Northeast 34th Street, some of whom had vigorously opposed plans to build a much larger market on the site and close Emerson. According to Ann LaBorde of

Concordia, the association recorded and intends to pass on all the comments that followed, merely sorting them into appropriate categories.

Many of these concerns were around traffic movement, and if it would route traffic into the neighborhood. Individuals proposed closing portions of the street, or making it one-way. No proposal had an obvious consensus behind it.

One neighbor, Willie Martin, said he feared the store would generate loitering and debris, and that he didn't want this, "so close to my house."

Christopher Schmidt, who still has con-

cerns about traffic movement, said he was encouraged that the proposed market would be on a neighborhood scale. Another resident said, "One of the nice things about the old store was being able to walk down the street in the morning to get coffee and donuts. If it's high-end, I'm willing to pay a little more for the convenience."

Susan Stroyer, one of the strongest critics of previous development attempts here, noted, "No one here has said, 'There should be no store here under any circumstances,' and I hope that is communicated to the developer. I certainly want it."