

METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Christian Poetry Reading

On Sunday, July 18 at 3 PM, Reflections Coffee House and Bookstore will be having a Christian Poetry Reading. This event is sponsored by Green Pickles Production. For more information, call 503/215-4572.

Mambo Queens

On Friday, July 23rd, concerts will be held at the Tualatin Commons. The Mambo Queens will introduce you to Afro-Cuban music and culture in a program of drumming, song, dance, storytelling, and costumes that you won't soon forget. Led by Cuban born, Virginia Lopez, this international cast hails from Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Panama, and the US, as well as Cuba. Call 692-2000 ext. 932 for details and directions.

World Walk for Breastfeeding

La Leche League international's World Walk for Breastfeeding will be held on Saturday, August 7 from noon to 4 PM in Lair Hill parkin downtown Portland. The one-mile symbolic walk will begin at 1:30 PM on the running track adjacent to Lair Hill Park. La Leche League International (LLLI) is a nonprofit organization that provides information and support to 200,000 breastfeeding mothers in 66 countries every month. Call 503/524-9616.

Woman, Thou Art Loosed!

Women throughout the country and around the world anticipate their largest Christian gathering to date, as they prepare to converge in Atlanta for Bishop T.D. Jakes' fourth annual *Woman, Thou Art Loosed!* Conference at the Georgia Dome July 29-31. "Wailing Women Win" is theme for the 1999 conference—billed by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* as one of the top five meetings (ranked in attendance) Atlanta hosts. On-site registration will open at 10 AM on Thursday. The event is free and open to the public, however, preferred seating has been reserved for pre-registrants. Call Pamela Gadsden at 214/333-6447.

Explore Africa This Summer

The Homowa African Arts and Cultures is presenting a four-week series of African arts day camps for children ages 6-12. The day camps begin July 19 and run through August 13. Each week-long camp occurs Monday through Friday from 9 AM until 3 PM. The series begins July 19-23 at the East Portland Community Center, 740 SE 106th Ave. The second camp follows July 26-30 at Whitaker Middle School, 5700 NE 39th. For additional information, call 503/288-3025.

Northwest Motorcycle Festival

The Portland International Raceway will be holding the Northwest Motorcycle Festival of Speed from July 16-18. The event is the party of the summer for all types of motorcycle fans. Each year the attendance grows with thousands showing up. The attractions are many: You'll see the outrageous Gary Rothwell Stunt Show, Team Hammer Riding School, and much more. Call 1-888-881-FUSA (3872).

Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki

An event coordinated by Physicians for Social Responsibility and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will be holding an annual event memorializing the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and will call for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The event will be on August 6 from 6-7 PM at the Japanese American Historical Plaza (NW Naito Parkway and Couch St.). Call Jennifer Aldrich at 503/274-2720.

Help Needy Children

The L.I.F.E. (Low-Income Families Emergency) Center is having its 16th annual back-to-school drive for needy children (K-12). The drive will continue through August 10, 1999. The Center needs new and good usable clothing to ensure needy children are properly prepared for the upcoming school year. If you need more information or would like to volunteer for the giveaway, call Leslie Garth at 503/284-6878. All donations may be dropped off at the L.I.F.E. Center at 2746 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. Or, call the Center for a pick-up.

Free Meditation Workshop

There will be a free workshop for National Meditation Month. The workshop is based on a book entitled "The Wings of Joy" by Sri Chinmoy. It is being held at the downtown library (801 SW 10th) from 1:30-3 PM on Sunday, July 18th. Call 503/471-1588 to register.

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

Northeast Senior HUD Housing Project

Largest Housing Grant Ever Made in the History of the City of Portland

On Tuesday, July 13 there was an opening ceremony for the Alberta Simmons Plaza, at 6611 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (between Portland Blvd. and Dekum) 73 units of rental housing for low-income seniors.

Housing Our Families (HOF) is the developer of Alberta Simmons Plaza. The opening of this project fulfills a long-standing dream of the Board of Directors of HOF to create affordable housing for senior residents. HOF partnered with the Union Labor Retirement Association to accomplish this goal.

HOF is a non-profit organization that renovates, builds and rents housing for single women. Alberta Simmons is a founding board member of HOF. Her volunteer work on women's housing is both local and national. A portrait of Ms. Simmons will be unveiled at the event and will be hung in the new building in her honor.



Photos by M. Washington

Alberta Simmons receives a heartfelt handshake from Kevin Hall, Executive Director of Housing Our Families, left. Presenters, family and friends look on at the unveiling of her portrait at the Grand Opening Celebration of the Alberta Simmons Senior Citizen's Housing Complex, above.



Unique Nike Factory Outlet Store Breaks New Ground

New Store Scheduled to Open Winter 2000

A longtime resident of the North/Northeast Portland, Ore. Neighborhood is moving down the street into larger digs. And while the location and architecture is changing, one thing remains the same: The annual charitable donations being made to local non-profit organizations.

At a ceremony, Nike representatives and officials from the City of Portland, Multnomah County and Metro; and Brian Grant of the Portland Trailblazers broke ground at the new construction site of the Nike Portland Factory Outlet Store on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Nike opened its first factory outlet store on Union Ave. (now MKL Jr. Blvd.) in 1984 after discussions with the Black United Front in searching for ways the company could positively impact this local economically disadvantaged neighborhood. Every year since then Nike has donated a percentage of the profits back to the community. Today, the factory store has contributed more than \$700,000 to various inner-city non-profit organizations.

The ground breaking ceremony marks the beginning of an exciting future for both Nike and the North/Northeast Portland community," said Lisa Clausen, GM of Nike U.S.A. Retail. "After 15 years in



Dig In

Noelle Webb, a member of Portland Development Commission; Brian Grant, Portland Trailblazers; Serena Cruz, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners; Kisa Clausen, General Manager for Nike Retail; and Amina Anderson, of the Black United Fund break ground at the Nike factory outlet store's new site on Martin Luther King Blvd. in Northeast Portland.

this community, the Portland Factory Store is moving just down the street on MKL Jr. Blvd. We will continue to be a proud resident of the Northeast Portland community, and to continue our support of worthwhile community programs."

"Nike has had a huge impact in this community," said Portland Trailblazer Brian Grant. "This store has been in Northeast Portland since 1984 and has donated

monies to crucial community programs in this neighborhood. I'm proud to be here and to be a part of this celebration"

The new store will be 18,000 square feet, nearly twice the size of its current location, and will have two levels; the main floor will contain 13,000 square feet of selling space and the mezzanine level will contain 5,000 square feet for stockroom and office space.

Ron Herndon, then executive director of the Black United Front, recalls that the first grant made by the Nike Portland Factory Outlet Store went to the Northeast Community Development Corporation, which "enabled it to get off the ground and eventually grow to become the largest non-profit housing concern in Portland. It has built or remodeled hundreds of homes for low, and lower middle income families. We [The Black United Front] suggested the current location of the store. I am so very pleased Nike has decided to expand in the community."

The property at the new location is owned by Jim, George and Dean Lampus and their father, Angelos. In 1935, it was the site of their grandfather's restaurant. Since then several businesses have occupied the building, which was destroyed in a 1996 fire and has since been a vacant lot.

In March 1999, the Elliott Neighborhood Committee overwhelmingly approved the store proposal, and Architect Jim Leavitt of Ralston Architects led the design team, which is turning the vacant lot into jobs and opportunity. The new factory store is scheduled to open in early 2000.

Nike Factory Outlet Store MLK Jr. Blvd



Lisa Clausen, General Manager for Nike Retail, recognizes Nike's philanthropic contributions of \$700,000 to the Northeast Portland community.