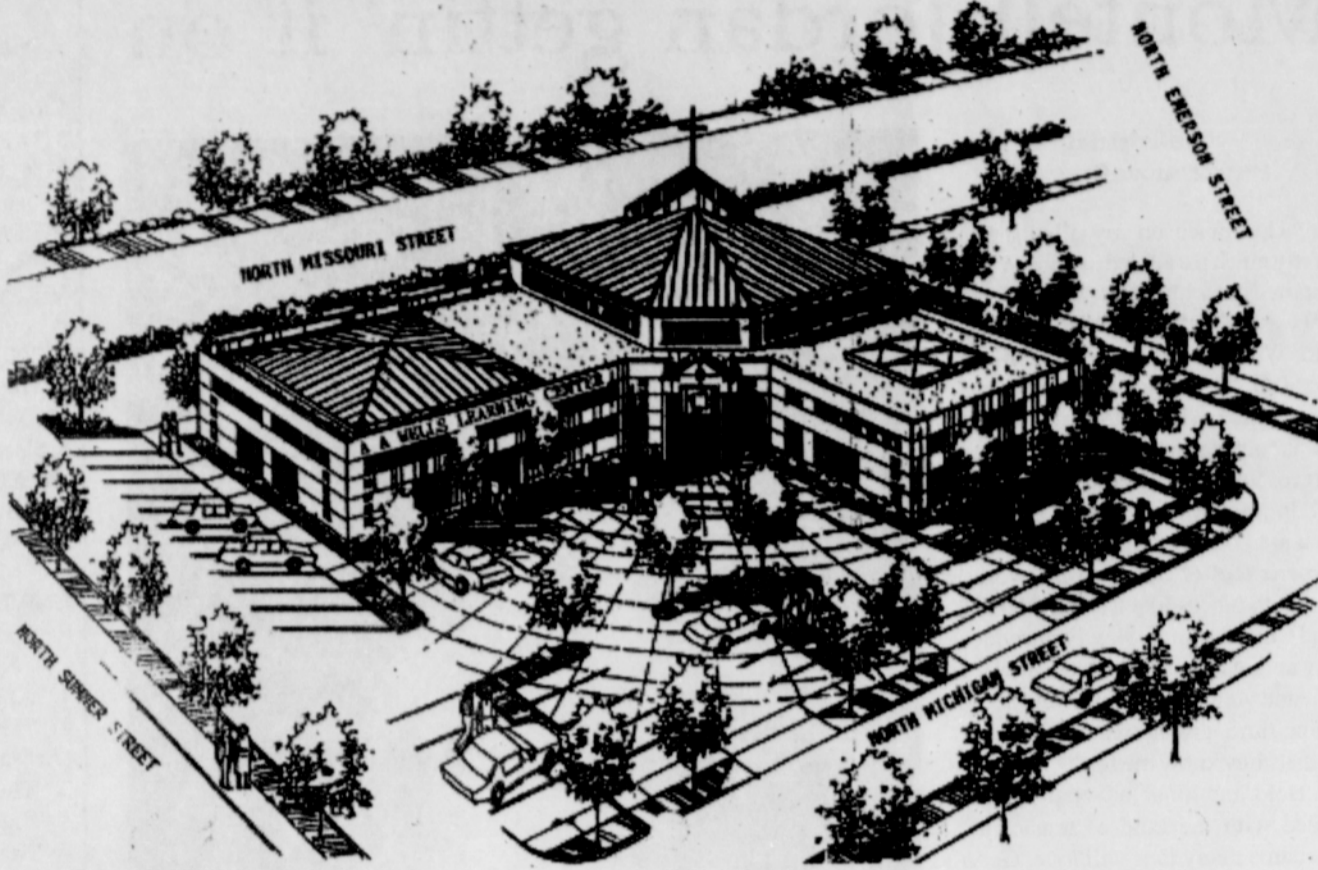




Metro/Religion

Emmanuel Temple full Gospel Pentecostal Church in North Portland is close to completion. Once the \$3.5 million facility is finished, it will join the ranks of several other mega-churches in the Portland metropolitan area.



The gift of giving has roots in volunteerism

CONTRIBUTOR STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

This is the season where the spirit is mauled at far too many malls. More people are seeking an alternative to the blatant commercialism so prevalent at far too many shopping centers. One alternative that helps reclaim the spiritual essence of many holidays is the simple gift of giving of ourselves. The Urban Portland Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers works to assist the elderly, the isolated; these volunteers help the disabled, the frail, the impoverished. Volunteers, by giving the gift of themselves for very few hours a week, manage to provide transportation, shopping, light housekeeping, meal preparation, visitation, telephone chats and even respite care. In 1984, the Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver Projects formed to serve many who were even then falling through the cracks of the usual social service agencies. The only requirements for the volunteers are that the dignity and confidentiality of the person being helped is to be maintained: and, no evangelizing or proselytizing is to be done. This season, rather than be spiritually mauled at the overly commercial malls take a moment to give of yourself now and for the new year. Call the Urban Portland Interfaith Volunteer Coalition offices near St. Vincent's Hospital at 216-6435.

On our way to beautiful

A Gift That's Priceless

BY YOLANDA YOUNG FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

My friend, Charise and I are in Barnes and Noble browsing through fashion magazines when she asks, "For Christmas, what would you like...." Before she can finish her sentence, I begin to run down my list for Santa: A strand of Mikimoto pearls so long

they fall all the way down my back; a pair of Manolo Blahnik four inch stilettos; another little black dress; and a week at the Morel European Spa in Florida to make sure my little dress fits.... "Okay," Charise says, "but I didn't finish my question. What would you like to give this Christmas?" "Giiivvee," I shriek. Hey, after buying all those gifts for myself cause nobody loves me that much, I've got no money to spend on anybody else. "Well, how about giving something priceless without spending a dime?"

Charise asked. Mmmm, give something worth more than money can buy without spending any of mine? Sounds tricky, but I'll give it a try. **Ten Priceless Gifts That Cost Me Nothin'!**

1. An apology to someone to whom it's long overdue.
2. A thank you note to someone who does so much, but asks for so little.
3. A pint of blood.
4. A one-month pledge of a tithe of my time to a worthy cause. That's

5. two and a half hours a day or little over tow full days on the weekend.
6. Read a book to a kid.
7. Recycle old newspapers and bottles (a gift to mother earth).
8. Be 100 percent agreeable for an entire day.
9. And think of others before thinking of self.
10. Offer an empathetic ear without offering judgment or words of wisdom.
11. Volunteer to be the designated driver on December 31, 1999.

A reminder during the holiday season

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Christmas and Kwanzaa season is upon us again and the shopping malls are crowded. The evening news tells us that consumer confidence is up and so is consumer spending. As we make our lists of presents to buy and things to do, we might throw a few coins in the kettles outside the stores and think we've done our part for the poor. After all, this isn't the Depression; this isn't Dickens' London where Bob Cratchit worked long hour every day and still didn't have enough money to feed his family on Christmas. There's no real hunger in America today, is there?

The tragic and horrifying answer is, yes, there is. Many Americans work hard every day but it simply isn't enough. Working at a job, sometimes two jobs, that don't pay a living wage, they find themselves among the almost 15 million people in the United States who are among the working poor. Thirty-nine percent of emergency food recipient families—that is, those who have to resort to soup kitchens, food pantries, or emergency shelters to keep the wolf of hunger away—have at least one adult working. Of the 21 million people seeking emergency food assistance today in the U.S., more than eight million children. Over the past. Hunger stalks our cities and suburbs as well. Today, one-third of poor people lives in the suburbs. Sixty percent of emergency food recipients have a high school diploma but cannot find a job paying a decent wage. America's Second Harvest, a wonderful organization working to end hunger, reports that the thirty million Americans in our county are hungry. While politicians report that welfare caseloads are down because of the 1996 welfare law changes, organizations that feed the hungry know that many of those forced the welfare rolls are often unable to find a job that pays enough to feed their families Catholic Charities report that three-fourths of Catholics parishes in the country have experienced an average of 38 percent in increase in the high school dropout rate, teen pregnancy, poor health care, and early death.

Poverty and Hunger is not an act of God. Hunger and poverty are acts of human beings and results of political choices — we can and must influence with our voices and our votes. The bountiful earth produces enough food to feed properly every person alive. We can choose to invest in children and families or we can choose tax breaks for the wealthy, corporate welfare, and other non-need but powerful groups in our society who drain our children's needs. Let us remember the hungry this holiday season with our contributions to charity but also with our feet. Let's mobilize to achieve an attitude and cultural change among our federal, state, and local political leaders and officials. Let's re-educate them to provide rather than deny services and benefits to hungry and poor children and working families Let's remind them that their job is to help people, not to deny them help, to inform them, not to keep information from them, and to save lives and families and not just save money. And let's remind our fellow citizens that it will cost a lot more in taxes later to deal with problems the country will face if we do not invest in children earlier.

Let us as a nation in the last election year of the 20th century forces on ending poverty and not just welfare, as we know it. Let's think of ways to make it easier rather than harder for all of our children to get enough to eat, a place to sleep, quality education, affordable health care, and the high-quality child's care working parents need. Let us move from talk to action, from voicing anger to making a difference. Election politics will flood our media in the next year. Let's make them put away their rhetoric and commit to policies that will ensure children have enough to eat and a place to sleep, health care, early childhood education and child care, and protection from violence, drugs, polluted food, air and water, and hopelessness. We can do it, and we must do it now!

Awards from page 1

community." Townsend and Campbell are second generation publishers who now carry the torch passed from their fathers, who founded their respective newspapers. Townsend was recognized at the Awards Dinner which was sponsored by Philip Morris Management Corporation, Philip Morris, USA and Kraft Foods. Joining the West Coast publishing group on the dais was National President, John Oliver, of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) along with Terry Jones, vice president. Oliver brought special greetings to the delegates. His comments were well received as he presented his national agenda for the betterment of the Black community. Shawn Rivera, popular member of the singing group AZYET, led the Negro National Anthem and added to everyone's enjoyment with his expressive readings. Immediately following the dinner gala was the Dessert Party hosted by Miller Brewing Company. Prior to the Awards Dinner, Schieffelin & Somers hosted its products at the Awards Reception.

"Building Coalitions for the New Millennium," was the appropriate theme woven throughout the convention presentations as knowledgeable speakers shared their experiences and wisdom. The political workshop participants included: former CA Assemblywoman Gwen Moore, Orange County Assessor Webster Guillory; Percy Pinkney, state president of the Black American Political Association of CA, and Arizona State Representative Leah Landrum. The business and finance workshop, sponsored by Washington Mutual, included the participation of Ernest Fountain, president of New Capital Development Company; Comer Cottrell, Chairman and CEO of Pro-Line Corporation, Patrick Harris, Chief Operating Officer of the Los Angeles Urban League and Peter Villegas, Vice President of Washington Mutual.

The Africa/African American Townhall Meeting was moderated by Melvin Foote, executive director of Constituency for Africa. The panelists included: Edith Grace Sempala, Ambassador of Uganda to the United States; James Burks, director of the William Grant Stills Art Center and founder of the African Marketplace in Los Angeles; Ayuko Babu, executive director of the Pan African Film Festival; and Dwayne Gathers, director of the California Office of Trade and Investment in South Africa. It was a special opportunity for continued networking and learning about he needs of Africa.

Anheuser-Busch Companies was the corporate sponsor of the Salute to the Political Leaders Reception at which African American politicians were honored for their stalwart dedication to continually improve the economic and social conditions of minorities.

The Black press is the voice of the African American community. It is the drum that beats out the truthful messages about its hardships and struggles; yet, at the same time the Black press sends a message of hope and positive stories. The Black press is the better choice for its people as a powerful entity within the community because the Publishers are involved in all aspects of daily living and they care. The purpose of the WCBPA is to objectively report the news about the issues that would otherwise go unnoticed in the majority press.

San Francisco Supervisor Amos Brown, who is also the prominent Pastor of the Third Baptist Church, brought a powerful message at the Black Press Day Luncheon, hosted by Saturn Corporation. The two institutions have a warm bond because the Black press began in the Black church in 1827 because the Black Press in America said, "We must speak for ourselves."

Once again, the Youth Day was a big hit with Las Vegas seniors. More than 250 high school students attended the all day sessions which began with breakfast, sponsored by Carol H. Williams Advertising; the Youth Day Summit, sponsored by Coca-Cola USA and Macy's West, and the Youth Day Luncheon, hosted by Toyota Motor Sales USA and Nordstrom. Arizona City Councilman cody Williams was a superb Moderator and Poet Peter Harris was insightful, all of which provided the students with unique insights as they face the future to become contributing citizens of society.

Pacific Bell and Daimler-Chrysler co-sponsored the Cultural Arts Show that

featured dance, poetry and conversation. Maura Owens Townsend was the artistic director for the show which featured Peter Harris, musician Derf Reklaw, and songstress Judy R. Arnold. Maura was lauded for her choreography and execution of the production.

Additional participating companies included; Auto-Nation, Northrop-Grumman, Seagram Americas, RJ Reynolds, host of the Diversity Breakfast and Saturn Corporation. The conference began with the President's dinner sponsored by State Farm Insurance and was rounded out with a golf outing sponsored by NIKE at the Angel Park Country Club in Las Vegas.

The 16th Annual West Coast Black Publishers Association convention was coordinated by the Public Relations Firm of Alescia Buford & Associates.

Yes 2 the King "2000" celebration

CONTRIBUTOR STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Highland United Church of Christ presents the Yes 2 King "2000" Celebration, a collection of workshops and fellowship programs for all. Highland United Church of Christ is bringing together an anointed group of Christian Leaders from various congregations and denominations to run the workshops. The program kicks off with a powerful new Christian play called "Unentitled" by playwright Travis West. There are sessions on; Healthy Eating, Christian Dating, Surviving in a Dysfunctional World, the Art of Preaching, Worshipping in song, Christian Stepping, Morals and Values and there are also Fun and Fellowship opportunities with roller

skating and a trip to Snow Bunny Lodge. The celebration finale is Feet washing at 12:00 AM on January 1, 2000. This is a spiritual and truly uplifting event, and is an opportunity for those who are saved to grow in their faith, and those who are not saved to learn what it means to be saved. Start the year 2000 "in the right place" by attending this Yes to the King "2000" Celebration during the last week of the year 1999. The workshops are free of charge, but there are fees for the Fun and Fellowship events that happen outside of the church. Dinner is provided after all the evening services, except December 31st. Donations are welcomed. If there are any questions about this Yes 2 the King "2000" Celebration, please call (503) 2879567.

St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church
120 NE Knott at Rodney - 281-5802
Sun. 8am & 10am Eucharist, 10am Sunday School
Christmas Eve 9pm Carols & Eucharist
The Reverend Alcena E. Boozer, Rector

Happy Birthday Margo Taylor

Augustana Lutheran Church
NE 15th & Knott
Close to Lloyd Center/Broadway
Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Candlelight Jazz/
Gospel Carol Service
Marilyn Keller, Kevin Deitz, and Brian Ward, with the Disciples In Song
10:30 pm Christmas Concert
11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Choir & Bells
Music Team: Mark Huth, Beverly North, Beverly J. Kindschuh

"A Savior Is Born"

Rev. Walter J. "Mark" Knutson
Celebrating 93 years
288-6174 www.augustana.org
12/96 10 am Carol Service