

# The Focus Society examined with the Wisdom of the Elders

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The public is welcome to attend "An Afternoon with Wisdom of the Elders" on Saturday, April 15 at Marylhurst University, the third in a four-part series. At this multi-cultural celebration, you can experience the richness and timeless wisdom of Native American culture and celebrate the diversity of European-American culture. The program features gifted historian-storytellers, Shannon Applegate and Esther Stutzman, sometimes and humorously and always historically-accurate sharing "Two-Way-Seeing: Pioneers and Native Oregonians." Shannon Applegate, emigration and the relationships between Oregon Trail

Women and Native Americans. Esther Stutzman, a Kalapuya/Coos woman whose ancestors welcomed the Applegate family into the Oncalla Valley in 1849, shared details of Kalapuya ways of life. This presentation focuses on reconciliation, understanding and acknowledging a difficult past. Wisdom of the Elders is collaborating with the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities to present this program of the Oregon Chautauqua Series designed to broaden the traditional picture of Oregon history. Shannon Applegate has lectured in the Chautauqua program since 1991. She is currently writing a novel, *Minus Tides*, and has

previously published two books, *Skookum: An Oregon Pioneer Family's History*, and *Talking on Paper: Oregon Letters and Diaries*, part of the acclaimed Oregon Literature Series. Esther Stutzman presents workshops and various seminars about Native American music, dance and culture. She has published three books: *When Grandmother Sang Her Song*, *Ethnobotany of the Kusan*, and *Trade and the Seasonal Round*, all published by Coyote Publications. Other speakers and performers at "An Afternoon with Wisdom of the Elders" includes Helmina Makes-Him-First (Lakota), a grandmother from Standing Rock Indian Reservation, Little Eagle, South Dakota, who will share stories about

the elders in her life and growing up in Native American culture. Nico Wind, singer and songwriter will share music and song; Heidi Vorst & the Sussefusse Folk Dancers will share traditional Eastern European Folk Dances; the Martin High Bear Sun Dance Singers, featuring Bernie and Allen Cliff, will sing and drum traditional Native American honor songs; and Rose High Bear, co-founder of Wisdom of the Elders will share oral histories from Northern Great Plains elders. A Multi-Cultural Youth Workshop is also being held from 10-3 Saturday at St. Anne's Chapel on the Marylhurst University campus as well as on May 6. Held in conjunction with "An Afternoon with Wisdom of the Elders", it provides youth from Native American and

other ethnic groups with a workshop setting where they can interact with and learn from the drummers, storytellers and other artists. This project helps to fulfill WOTE's mission to help restore eroding cultural values and traditions among Native American youth, and includes "at risk" youth from other cultures. The event will be held at Marylhurst University's St. Anne's chapel, 17600 Pacific Highway #43. Donations of \$5-\$20 are accepted, however, nobody is turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call 775-4014. A multi-cultural youth workshop will be given from 10-3 pm on the day of each event, contact Leah Hunter at 823-5882.

## Play shows war effects on family

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Local writer and director Conner Kerns will give a free reading of his one act play, "I Go To War" at the Portland Baha'i Center on Friday, April 14 at 8 pm. After the reading, he will lead a discussion about the issues raised in the play. Kerns said the play is set in a war-torn country somewhere in the Balkans. It portrays a family's response to the war. "Who are these people suffering in the Balkans?" Kerns asked himself as he started to write the play three

years ago. After he had finished writing it, he met some refugees who had fled that area and come to Portland. "They were from Manja Luka," Kerns explained, "a city not like Portland, which sits along a river among hills and greenery, except that their city was invaded, their neighbors destroyed their beautiful mosque, the ancient bridge across their river, and their houses, so that they cannot go home any more and lead a normal life. So Portland is now their home and we are their neighbors." "I Go To War" played at The Back Door Theater in Portland this year

from January 28 - February 26. Kerns, who directed the play, has an MFA in Theater Directing from the University of Portland and is the Artistic Director of Epicurean Productions. The play is appropriate for families with pre-teen youths and older. The Portland Baha'i Center is at 8720 N. Ivanhoe St., next to Our Daily Bread Restaurant, just off the St. Johns bridge. Parking is available at the site and on nearby streets. Call 503/978-1530 for further directions.

## 95.5 joins Rock the Vote

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KXJM Jammin 95.5 and Rock the Vote announced plans for a major voter registration and mobilization campaign in the Portland-Vancouver-Salem area to register, educate, and get out the youth vote in the 2000 elections. "Through Jammin 95.5's efforts, we can reach young Americans on a grassroots level to make the connection between politics and their lives. Together, we can Rock the Vote in 2000," says Alison Byrne Fields, Rock the Vote's Campaign Director. "We believe in the importance of educating our youth on the power

of voting. It's important that they know that their vote counts. Jammin 95.5 is proud to team up with Rock the Vote to get the word out about the importance of voting and make a difference in our community," states Tim McNamara, General Manager Rose City Radio Corporation. Jammin 95.5 will kick off the Voter Registration campaign at their nearly sold out Birthday Bomb Concert on Friday, April 7 at the Rose Garden. KXJM will continue to register people of all ages to vote at events throughout the spring and summer including the Cinco de Mayo Festival at Waterfront Park, Rose Festival Events, concerts, promotions and daily street team

hits throughout the Portland-Vancouver-Salem market. Radio Rocks the Vote is a national program to reach young people across the country in their local communities. Jammin 95.5 joins with other radio stations that are working with Rock the Vote across the country. Rock the Vote is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that is dedicated to protecting freedom of expression and helping young people to realize how to utilize their power to effect change in the civic and political lives of their communities.

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