

Twenty-Two Foot Children's Mosaic Flag Celebrates Liberty

A giant American flag, created by weaving the artwork of school children together, stopped in Portland last week, the second stop on its national tour.

The 42-foot by 22-foot AT&T Broadband Freedom Flag is the creation of more than a thousand children from across the country, expressing their visions of freedom with canvas, paint and glitter.

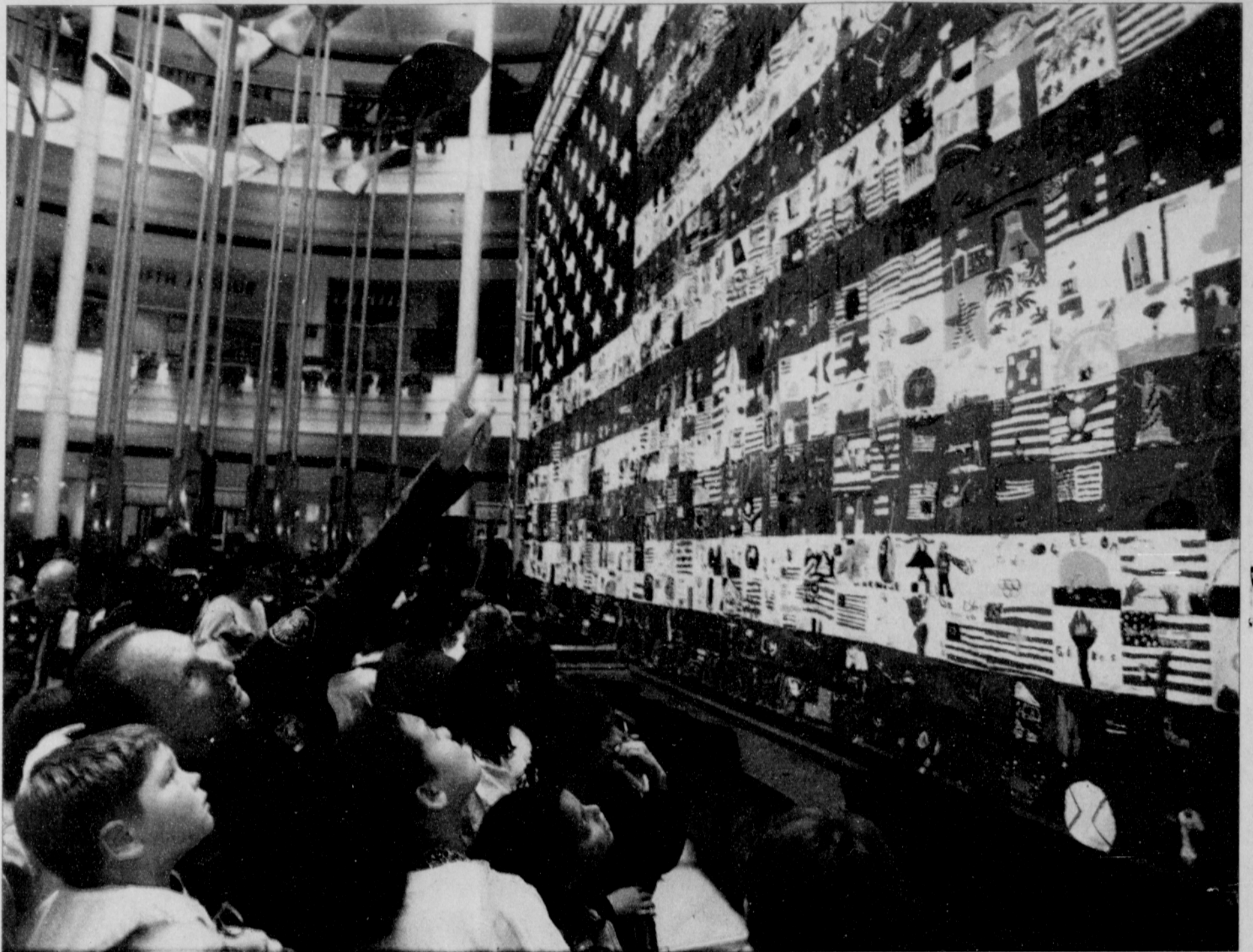
The banner consists of 1,034 decorated squares including those from 83 fourth-grade students from southeast Portland's Buckman Elementary School.


The flag was unveiled during a ceremony at Pioneer Place, in downtown.

"We are quite excited to have Buckman Elementary represented in this nationwide project," said school principal, Helen Nolen. "For our students to have an opportunity to share their ideas of freedom with other children all over the country is an honor, and something that the kids have really enjoyed."

Chief of Police Mark A. Kroeker, AT&T Broadband and representatives from Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust's "Celebrate Freedom" campaign also attended the event.


Kids from inner-southeast Portland's Buckman Elementary School join Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker in a salute to liberty at Pioneer Place in downtown.





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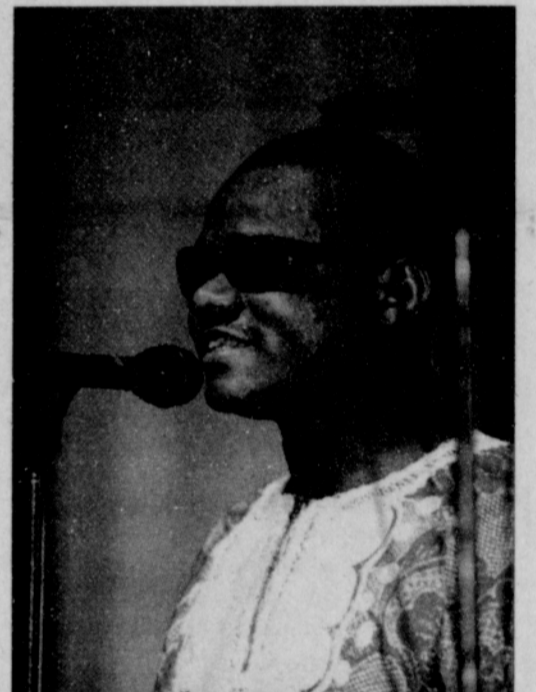
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Liberian Choir Brings Message of Hope



The Liberian Acapella Choir overcame poverty, disease, prejudice and war to bring a message of hope and compassion to the children of Liberia, a war-ravaged and poverty-stricken West African country.



Liberia has recently emerged from a horrific civil war, which has cruelly affected the lives of all, especially the children.

The birth of a child in the aftermath of a devastating civil war may be cause for anxiety rather than joy. But what of a child born blind into these circumstances?

In Liberia, customs consider a child born blind a curse from God. Children born blind are almost always abandoned by their family.

But a courageous and resilient group of men, members of the Liberian Acapella Choir, have emerged to bring hope and opportunity to these and other needy children.

What makes this group noteworthy is that five of the seven members are blind.

In conjunction with African Christian Fellowship International, an indigenous African ministry, the group has come to the United States to champion the cause of all suffering Liberian children.

The choir's sound is a unique mix of traditional African rhythms,

vocal percussion and complex harmonies.

The group will be giving several performances in the Vancouver/Portland area, beginning Nov. 19 and continuing through December.

In addition, all families with Liberian children or families planning to adopt Liberian children, are welcome to attend a reunion event of adopted children from Liberia, with the Liberian Acapella Choir performing as special guests.

Since January of 1997, five families from Clark County area adopted six brothers and sisters from an orphanage in Monrovia, Liberia. There are now over 70 Liberian children that have been adopted in Washington and Oregon alone.

The get-together is being held at the Green Mountain School, located at 13105 N.E. Grinnel Rd. in Woodland, Wash. on Saturday, Nov. 24, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For a more information on the Liberian Acapella Choir and their schedule of events, call 360-263-2951.



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Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Set

A free community Thanksgiving dinner will be held Thursday, Nov. 15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Mallory Avenue Christian Church, 126 N.E. Alberta, in partnership with the Neighborhood Church of God.

Area residents are invited to join the church congregation for a time of community fellowship, great food and music.