

METRO Life

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

Community Calendar

Tour of Remodeled Homes

The Third Annual Tour of Remodeled Homes will be held on Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10. The highly anticipated event opens 13 Portland metro area private homes to the public, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, showcasing remodeling projects done by the Remodelers Council. Tickets go on sale Feb. 1. Call 684-1880 or go online to www.homebuildersportland.com.

Winter Powwow Celebration

Portland Community College will be hosting the annual Winter Powwow with the theme, "Quilt of Life: Celebrating Family Community and Continuity" from noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12 in the HT Building gymnasium at the Sylvania campus. This is a free event. Call 977-4112.

Celebrity Spelling Bee

Schoolhouse Supplies, the nonprofit organization that provides free classroom materials to Portland Public School students and their teachers, will be holding their second annual "Celebrity Spelling Bee and Silent Auction" on Thursday, Jan. 24, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Melody Ballroom in Portland. Call 249-9933 or 503-28-THINK.

Volunteers Needed for Crisis Line

The Portland Women's Crisis Line is seeking volunteers to provide crisis line, legal, and sexual assault advocacy. Advocates need to be 18 years or older and must complete the free 32-hour Basic Advocacy Training. The next training is Jan. 23 through Feb. 13. To volunteer, call 232-4176.

Seminars on Oriental Medicine

The Oregon College of Oriental Medicine is sponsoring a series of Saturday morning, 90-minute free seminars which will be held on Jan. 12, 19 and 26 every 10 a.m. To register, call the college at 253-3443, ext. 550. The school is located at 10525 SE. Cherry Blossom Dr., near Mall 205.

Forested Winter Walks

Magness Memorial Tree Farm, owned and operated by the World Forestry Center, is offering free guided hikes through its 80 acres of forested land near Wilsonville. Hikers can enjoy a free guided 1-mile hike each Sunday at 2 p.m. This is a perfect outing for families or youth and scout groups. Reservations are not required. Call 228-1367 or visit the website at www.worldforestry.org.

Wineries Gather in Portland

The Washington wine industry will showcase nearly 70 of the state's top-rated wineries in Portland at "Taste Washington" on Jan. 17, from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, located at 1241 NW. Johnson. Attendees may sample more than 200 Washington wines. Call 232-0007, ext. 105.

Learn or Improve Your English

Portland Community College's Multicultural Academic Program is offering classes for non-native students who want to learn to improve their English skills, work toward a high school diploma or GED at PCC. For students between the ages of 16 and 20. The free classes begin in January, TBA. Call Esperanza at 788-6231, Mathilda at 788-6110 or Irena at 788-6109.

Join the Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts is a program for all girls 5-17 and its purpose is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens. Adults, both male and female are needed to make this program a success. Call 1-800-338-5248 for more information and getting involved.

Exploring The World at Sheba and Solomon's



New home décor store is an extension of Sheba's House of Elegance.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BY LEE PERLMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Sheba and Solomon's, like its biblical namesake, is about the mating of diverse cultures, according to co-owner Assefash Melles.

The new home decor shop is an extension of Melles' Sheba's House of Elegance clothing store, down the hall at the Standard Dairy Building, 2808 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. next door to Billy Reed's Restaurant. It is a new venture for her partner, State Sen. Avel Gordly.

The shop's emphasis is on items from Ethiopia and East Africa but, in Melles' words, is "eclectic." There are screens from Ethiopia and China, masks from Africa, holiday decorations from Egypt, and fabrics from Ethiopia that can be used to make clothes, table runners or window coverings. There is also artwork by Sharon Geraci, Mosdeh Bahar and Sylvia Welsh, all African-Americans, and Janet Stewart of Scotland.

"I want the shop to be unique, not something you'd see in Home and Gardens," Melles says. "I

don't want it to look like everyone else's shop, and I want to keep changing."

It is also supposed to reflect the relationship of King Solomon and Queen Sheba. Of the latter Melles says, "For all the kingdoms she reigned over, she was not full of herself. She was a seeker of wisdom. She went to visit Solomon to learn his wisdom, and they fell in love. She sought his wisdom, and he honored her."

Melles sees this as an extension of Sheba's House of Elegance. "It's always a good idea to diversify once you're established," she says. "My clients are interested in more than clothes." She is not deterred by the economic downturn: "People will be spending more time at home, and they'll want to make it more comfortable."

Gordly joined the venture after another potential partnership fell through. However, Melles says, "We've known each other a long time, and she has a creative side that many people don't know about."

Sheba and Solomon's is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Native American Culture Celebrated

Native American culture is celebrated Saturday, Jan. 12 when Portland Community College holds its third annual Winter Powwow "Quilt of Life: Celebrating Family, Community and Continuity."

Free events featuring dancing, drumming, exhibits, fry bread, and arts and crafts, are open to the public. The festivities begin at noon and continue until 11 p.m. at the Sylvania Campus, 12000 S.W. 49th Ave.

Honored guests include Bomb Tom, master of

ceremony; Craig Whitehead, whip man; and the Northwest Indian Veterans Association color guard.

The PCC Sylvania Winter Powwow planning committee, American Indian Student Association, Sylvania Multicultural Center, PCC Student Programs and Involvement Network and the Women's Resource Center are sponsors of this alcohol-and-drug-free event.

For more information, contact the multicultural center at 503-997-4112.

Voters to Decide Children's Initiative

The Portland City Council voted to send a groundbreaking "Children's Initiative" to voters.

The proposal to spend \$50 million in new children's programs over a 5-year period will appear on the Nov. 5 general election.

"This is extremely exciting," said Commissioner Dan Saltzman, initiative sponsor.

"If the voters approve this it will make a real difference in the lives of Portland's children and be an important step in making children a higher priority in our community," Saltzman said.

The measure would create a children's investment fund, which would allocate \$10 million annually for early childhood, child abuse prevention and

after school and mentoring programs. The money would be allocated to programs that have proven themselves to be effective. The fund would be subject to annual audits and to the review of a citizen's oversight committee.

"Portland's citizens value their children," said Saltzman. "By taking care of our children today we will have lower crime rates, a more educated workforce and more livable neighborhoods in the future. Plus, the children's Initiative will make the city more attractive to families with children. We need to take action to make sure that Portland remains a family city and doesn't become solely a playground for young professionals and empty nesters."

Kwanzaa Gala and Gentlemen's Ball



Chinai Hardy of Warner Robins, Ga., was among four reigning black college queens who performed during the Bridge Builders gala and gentlemen's ball.



Akeem McRae



Marintino Odighizuwa



Jayvin Harper



Tremaine Thompson



Madison Ceaser



Martonio Butler



Ashani Degruy



Dennis Lambert



Andrew Shoals



JeRon Tucker



Rashad Taylor



Nathan Jackson



Chris Kendrix



Joaquin Harvey



Marcus Marion



Olan Williams



Ramon Benton

A group of young men from Portland earned respect and admiration during a rite of passage celebration at the Kwanzaa Gala and Gentlemen's Ball, Dec. 29 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

The rite of passage program seeks to guide boys in the understanding of who they are, what real manhood is and what they must do to achieve this status.

It's a group of future leaders expected to carry man's obligations forward and pass it on to others.

Once they have demonstrated mastery of these concepts and continued their education in college, they are initiated into a fraternal world called the AGAPE circle.

The following 17 young men make up this year's group and the universities they are attending or bound to attend: Tremaine Thompson, Madison Ceaser, Nathan Jackson, University of Oregon; Ashani Degruy, Olan Williams, JeRon Tucker and

Marintino Odighizuwa, Howard University; Jayvin Harper, Virginia Union University; Chris Kendrix, Oregon State University; Akeem McRae, Portland State University; Martonio Butler, Portland Community College; Dennis Lambert and Ramon Benton, Tuskegee University; Joaquin Harvey, Mt. Hood Community College; Marcus Marion, Grambling State University; Andrew Shoals, Whitman College; and Rashad Taylor, Western Oregon State University.

The 5th annual gala and gentlemen's ball was an uplifting evening full of celebration and reflection.

Highlighting the entertainment were performances by the Genesis Community Choir, Victor Morris, Ye'Nom associates, Durante Lambert's hip hop dance squad, Tammy Taylor Harris and the Prospective Gents Club cane, dance, speech and step teams.

Four reigning college queens from Fisk, Howard, Lincoln and Stillman also performed during the celebration.