

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

## Community Calendar

### Celebrating Chinese/Vietnamese New Year

A Chinese/Vietnamese New Year Celebration will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 3-5 p.m. at Columbia River Mental Health Services, 6929 NE Fourth Plain Blvd. clinic. Admission is free and open to the public. Entertainment will include a "Lion Dance," a costume fashion show, children's choir, as well as samplings of ethnic foods will add to the festivities. Call Kim Larson at 993-3139.

### St. Johns Community Pride Dinner

In recognition of St. John's long history of community pride, the neighborhood will be having a dinner party for all to enjoy on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. at James John School. Reservations can be made by calling Bill Smith at 283-9652.

### Civil War History Buffs Unite

Civil War history buffs unite: the Friends of History are launching a new Civil War round table program open to anyone in the Portland metropolitan area with an interest in Civil War. The first organizational meeting will be held at Portland State University on Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Smith Memorial Center room 328, 1825 SW Broadway. Call 774-6911 or 725-3994.

### Water Conservation Workshop

Learn how to take control of your water and sewer bills. Workshop provides information on how to detect and repair leaks, water conservation ideas in and around your home, plus details on Portland's incredible water system. Receive an instructional workbook and a free kit of materials worth \$25. The workshop will be held at the St. Johns Community Center, 8427 N. Central St. on Thursday, Jan. 24, from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Call 284-6827.

### Japanese New Year Celebration

A new year, old traditions, and the chance to celebrate the diversity of the city - that's what Portland-area Japanese Americans are offering Oregonians on Sunday, Jan. 27, with "Mochitsuki 2002." It's a fun way for hundreds of local residents and their families to learn more about Japanese culture. The event will take place at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center Ballroom, Rm. 355, from 1:30-4 p.m. Call 725-3307.

### The Future of Energy in the Northwest

The City Club invites all to attend a lecture on "The Future of Energy in the Pacific Northwest" by Ralph Cavanaugh, senior defense attorney, National Resources Defense Council. He will be speaking on Friday, Jan. 25, 11:30 p.m. at the Multnomah Athletic Club. A luncheon is available. Call 228-7231 or go online to [pdxcityclub.org/forums](http://pdxcityclub.org/forums).

### Learn How to Publicize

Joanne McCall will be a guest speaker on "publicity as very spiritual work." Generating publicity for your business requires a good amount of spiritual awareness. Hear some "how to's" so that you will be able to approach media in ways that will have them more open to your ideas. This is a free, brown bag lunch event on Thursday, Jan. 24, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Good Sam Hospital - Wilcox Basement, Conf. Rm. B. Call 977-6764.

### Get Help for Kidney Disease

The National Kidney Foundation of Oregon and Washington presents a free educational program called "People Like Us, Live!" - for individuals with kidney disease and their families. The two-day program will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26 and Sunday, Jan. 27, from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the NKF offices, 1006 SE Grand Ave. Call 1-888-3-KIDNEY.

## King March Calls For School Justice



An estimated 400 people, led by Crisis Education Team activists Tony Hobson (front, from left) and Ron Herndon, take time on the national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to march for better public schools. The Crisis Team accuses the Portland School Board and school administration for failing 14 low-achieving schools in north and northeast Portland.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Testimony Favors School Board Members by Zone

Speakers claim current system discriminates against low and moderate-income people

BY JAMIE PARTRIDGE  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Squeezed into a classroom at Beaumont Middle School, a crowd of parents, teachers and school activists told a Portland School Board hearing that they deserve a chance to be elected and represented on the board.

The full board will decide the issue at their regular meeting on Feb. 11.

Wearing stickers and carrying signs demanding "Equal Rights for Low-Income Candidates" and "People Power not Money Power", speakers decried recent school board races where several winning candidates spent over \$20,000 and some as high as \$50,000. As a result, many said, it is lawyers, professionals, managers and the independently wealthy, primarily from upper income neighborhoods, who make up the volunteer board instead of regular working people, who make up a majority of the voting public.

Speakers from outer southeast and inner northeast neighborhoods claimed that the current system discriminates against low and moderate-income citizens.

Patti Hayes, Rainbow Coalition activist and a single, working mother from northeast's King neighborhood, carried a sign that read "Poor People's Campaign for Zone Vote".

Hayes asked the board to change the election rules so that "someone like me, from my neighborhood will be up there, knowing what I'm going through and reporting back to me."

Maceo Pettis of the Coalition of Black Men testified that last year's race



Patti Hayes of northeast Portland's King neighborhood testifies in favor of a plan to elect school board members by zones.

between Carrie Adams, who lost, and Julia Brim-Edwards, who won, is "classic example of the inequities of the current electoral system."

Pettis noted that Adams, a low income single mother of three, raised just \$12,000

for her race, while Brim-Edwards, a paid political consultant whose children attend an elite "immersion" program on the west side, raised \$55,000.

The one voice opposing zone voting, Stephen Kafoury, a lobbyist, former school

board member, former husband of city commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, and father of state representative Deborah Kafoury, testified that board members who are elected by the whole city look out for the needs of all children.

## Pros Mentor Young Local Playwrights



Aasha Benton (from left), Maxine Simmonds and Shalini Dass, all of north and northeast Portland, write and direct their own play.

A group of north and northeast Portland kids have paired with theatre professionals to write and direct performances of their own original works, thanks to a community group called Haven Project.

Under the theme "When Pigs Fly," young Aasha Benton has written "Can Can Can You Have Fun," a play about a fuzzy pig and a hoop earring; the earring has a dream to be worn by Tina Turner, and the pig wants to catch a bus to a Goodwill store to be adopted. How can they stay friends when they

want different things?

Other works created by the kids involve creations such as Squirmy the Worm and Blanky the Beetle, and "Classic Rock" about a classical piano and a hippie gerbil disagreeing on which kind of music the piano should play: opera or rock and roll. The piano is afraid that rock and roll will pop his strings.

The plays will be performed at the Newmark Theatre on Southwest Broadway and Main on Monday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. This is a free event. For more information, call 503-872-9635 or go online to [www.havenproject.org](http://www.havenproject.org).

## Differences Declared in Governor's Race

(AP) - Ted Kulongoski, seen by some as the top Democratic candidate for Oregon governor, said Thursday he would not rule out a tax increase to help Oregon out of its economic slump. The former Oregon Supreme Court justice made the comment during a debate among the six major gubernatorial candidates - three Democrats and three Republicans. Republican Kevin Mannix surprised some in the audience by saying he would consider increasing taxes on cigarettes, beer and wine to avoid deep cuts in crucial programs.