

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

"Bridging Portland's Communities"

## Community Calendar

### World Affairs Council

Hafez Al-Mirazi, the Washington Bureau Chief for Al-Jazeera will be speaking in Portland at a World Affairs Council Monthly Headline Forum event on Thursday, July 25, noon time at the Governor Hotel, S.W. 10<sup>th</sup> and Alder. He will be discussing the role of Al-Jazeera as an instrument of democracy in the Arab world. Call 503-274-7488.

### East Portland Nibble

On Saturday, July 20, the East Portland Community Center hosts their annual East Portland Nibble. This is a fun, family-oriented summertime event that includes music, dance, fine art exhibits, petting zoo and other activities. Event is from noon time until 8 p.m. at 740 S.E. 106<sup>th</sup> Ave. Admission is free. Call 503-823-3450.

### Adopt-a-Pet Fair

What do pets, vets, music, horses, mascots and microchips have in common? They are all featured at the Oregon Humane Society's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Adopt-a-Pet Fair. It will be held July 27-28 at 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd. Call 503-285-7722 or visit [www.oregonhumane.org](http://www.oregonhumane.org).

### Pearl District Farmer's Market

Rounding out the weekly schedule is the Thursday evening farmer's market, now in its second year in the city's trendy Pearl District, between N.W. Flanders and Glisan St. The market will stay open until Sept. 12, from 4-8 p.m.

### Lead Poisoning Prevention Workshop

The most common sources of lead poisoning are found in and around homes. Come to a workshop and learn about the effects and sources of lead poisoning; how to test for lead; and prevention tips. The class will be on Saturday, July 24, from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. at 422 N.E. Alberta. Call 503-284-4962 to register.

### Hollywood Senior Center

The Hollywood Senior Center, located at 1820 N.E. 40<sup>th</sup>, will be having a showing of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" on Friday, July 26, 1 p.m. The center also holds regular book discussion groups. Call the center for July's selection and meeting time. Newcomers are always welcome. Call 503-288-8303.

### Domestic Violence Exhibit

A powerful display of life-sized female silhouettes tells the story of Oregon women who lost their lives through domestic violence. There will be a viewing and a program at The Bahai Center, 8720 N. Ivanhoe St., from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10. Call 503-289-1472.

### Blue Lake Park Events

Metro's Blue Lake Regional Park offers Naturally for Kids, a summer events program for children to learn how to make nature crafts at the Clatsop picnic shelter, from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 17. Kids can create their own wildlife scene from clay. The park is located between Marine Dr. and Sandy Blvd., off N.E. 223<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Call 503-797-1850.

### Trauma and Transformation

The Trauma Relief of Services of the Northwest in Beaverton is presenting a workshop on innovative approaches to resolving trauma. There will be a main pre-conference on Aug. 21, a main conference on Aug. 22-23 and a post-conference, Aug. 25-28. Registration is necessary. Call 503-526-0838.

## Soul Chain Links Soul Sisters

Family finds livelihood happiness in craft

BY DAVID PLECHL  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The first link in the Soul Chain is mom. The next couple of links are sisters, Mona McDonald and Phyllis Black. From there, come all the friends, family, and other artists that have helped them along the way.

Crocheting is there life, but it all began with their mother Audrey, that very first link.

"My mother is the master behind all of it," says McDonald, who owns the clothing store with her sister Phyllis, "actually, she taught us how to crochet."

Mona was about eight years old. She remembers being curious, but also thinks her mother probably pushed her and her sister just a bit.

"I told them, all little girls should know how to knit," said Audrey, "I just taught them the basics and their imaginations went wild."

From those humble beginnings, no one foresaw that they would eventually open a clothing store called Soul Chain at 2324 N.E. Alberta St., showcasing a collage of finely crafted handmade tops, dresses, hats and bikinis.

Only a couple years ago, McDonald was totally burnt out, frustrated with jobs and overbearing bosses; She wanted to go into work for herself, even though she didn't have any idea of what she wanted to do. And, she hadn't crocheted in over twenty years.

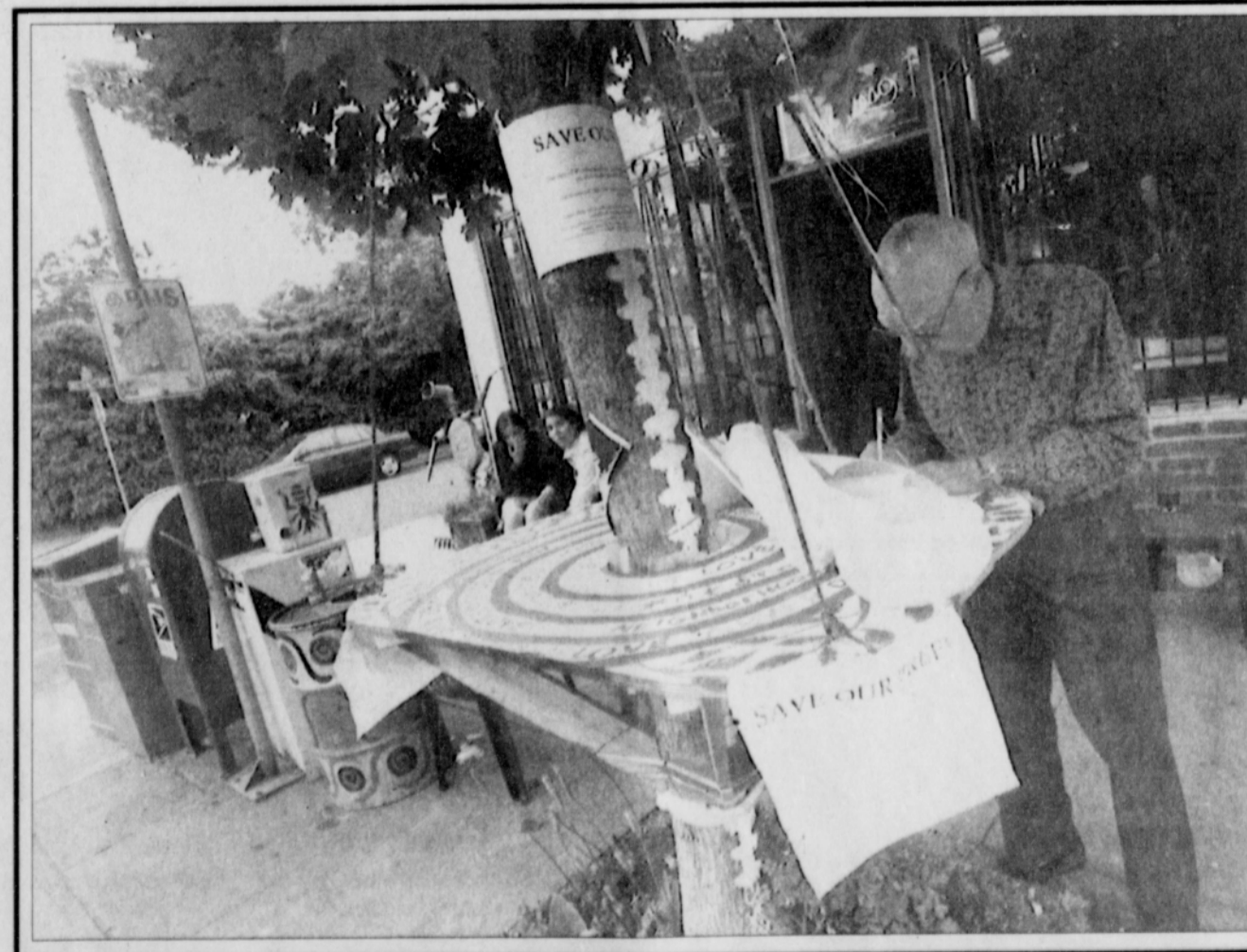
"I am a spiritual person, so I began to pray," she explains, "Lord, whatever it is you want me to do, I'll do it. I picked up a needle. I made a sweater, and it was beautiful, so I thought, this is what I am supposed to be doing."

Meanwhile, sister Phyllis and a girlfriend were thinking about opening some kind of shop. The pieces were falling into place. Black was already crocheting hats, gloves and scarves and selling them out of her mother's home. McDonald painted and did interior design work on the side. Between them, they figured they had their bases covered.

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Mona McDonald crochets a dress at the handmade clothing store she owns with her sister Phyllis Black on Alberta St. called Soul Chain. PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



## Neighborhood Petition Saves Tree

Dave Duncan signs a neighborhood petition that ultimately saved this tree from being cut by the city. The construction of a new bus stop platform will eliminate two of the three trees on the block in front of the Starry Rose Coffee Shop on Alberta St.

PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL

## New Business Center Opens for Minority Entrepreneurs

Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs expands with facility serving Gresham

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs has just opened the doors to their new 8,000 square foot Rockwood facility at 18725 S.E. Stark, serving small and large businesses in Rockwood and Gresham.

Fred Meyer is donating the facility, which includes the old "Satellite" restau-

rant and several vacant storefronts, for 10-years, rent-free.

The new facility will be an incubator for minority-owned, women-owned, and emerging small businesses - housing as many as eight businesses.

OAME officials said the site will also host an incubator "without walls," which

means its services will also be available to businesses not physically housed within the facility. Current potential tenants include a beauty salon business, bakery and public agency.

OAME has been in the forefront of promoting and developing minority people, places, and clusters. A main outcome in

this program will be to provide individuals the support and access to common resources, which will lead to ownership, wealth, and jobs for the community.

For more information, contact Kristine Leibbrand, Gresham Business Assistance Coordinator at 503-618-2854 or Jorge Guerra, OAME director at 503-249-4477.