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African Burial Ground Remembrance

The first day of Kwanzaa is celebrated in New York Thursday as spiritual healer Sam Taki raises a glass of water in remembrance of those buried at the centuries-old African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan. New York City Councilman Charles Barron (right) looks on. (AP photo)

Do You Know God?

BY ETHEL J. BATES

Once again we are on the brink of a new year. Once again we raise our voices in thanks to God who gave His only begotten Son that we may have ever-lasting life and condition that we were in at the time of His First coming. Men's hearts have not changed - except the blood of the Lamb of God has which to bring the Savior.

We say that there was no question raised is, "Is there any room in our hearts for the Savior?" Have we forgotten about Him, and the true reason for the

an outward show of doing back. "church work." Knowing God He brings His life - the very soil who strengthens us! in which we take root and blos-

lives are founded.

Jesus Christ is concerned about the condition of our hearts. He came to renew our minds, and revive our spirits. Many children have lost their homes, destroyed have it more abundantly. The end by men who are cruel, hard of 2002 finds us in almost the same hearted, angry without God in their minds, hunted by non-confessed sins. These children are cold and hungry; many of them do not know where their parents cleansed their hearts. We are just are. They have been separated as bad as those who refused a by this chaos. Knowing Him will woman full with child a place in change our behavior towards hu-

Sure, many among us are sufferroom for Him in the Inn, but the ing, discouraged, sick and tested by Satan's agendas; others mourn the loss of loved ones, while some bare heavy burdens. I say to you, "God is our refuge and strength, a have recognized Him when He season? Do we even know Him? very present help in the time of came as a little baby child, with no Knowing God is not making trouble." Surely, He is on His way where to lay His head.

is having a heart-changing ex- his own life. He is confused about know Him, by taking Jesus off the perience with The Risen Savior. the blessed event of Bethlehem, as Cross. Let us draw near to the It is through the personal rela- well as the miracle on Calvary, and Savior of the entire world! Let us tionship with Jesus that our in- so we continuously nail Him to the ner character is changed and we Cross. God became what we are, dience, by walking in victory and become like Him, portraying God that we might become what He is. in the flesh to a waiting and He allowed the crucifixion, that we in our hearts and in our minds. Let dying world. Paul prayed that might be identified with Him. Be- us rejoice for the Savior has Christ might enter through the cause Herose from the dead we can brought joy to this world. He says open door of faith, dwell in our live free from sin, shame and guilt. today, "These things have I spoke hearts and imprint His nature Because we are the King's children unto you that my joy might be in upon our minds, will and emo- we are more than conquers and we you and your joy might be full (Jn. tions. When Christ enters a life, can do all things through Christ

som, the ground in which our coming when he wrote, "For unto Portland.



Minister Ethel J. Bates

us a child is born; unto us a son is given." Because of that the world should have known, should have prepared their hearts and should have been looking for Him, should have expected Him and should

In the coming year, 2003, let us In man's confusion he will take show the world that we really do give Him the gift of love and obeby faith. Let the King of glory rule

Ethel J. Bates is a minister for The Prophet, Isaiah told of His the Allen Temple CME Church in

Impact of Iraq War Addressed

Commissioner Erik Sten's office, Ecumencial Ministries of Oregon and the Interfaith Council for Greater Portland will host a community forum and conversation entitled 'Local Impact of an Iraq War' on Sunday, Jan. 5 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church located at 1011 SW 12th St. For more information, contact Chris Hogness at 503-235-7643.

Breakfast With A Song

Sunday, Jan. 19, McMenamins Kennedy School will host a gospel brunch in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the historic gymna-

The public is welcomed to enjoy traditional breakfast favorites, including classic eggs Benedict or French toast, while listening to spirited gospel music from The Disciples in Song.

This popular brunch event begins at 1 p.m. and costs \$18 for adults and \$8 for children aged 12 and under. Reserve space by Friday, Jan. 17. Be sure to make reservations early by calling 503-249-

McMenamins Kennedy School is located at 5739 N.E. 33rd.



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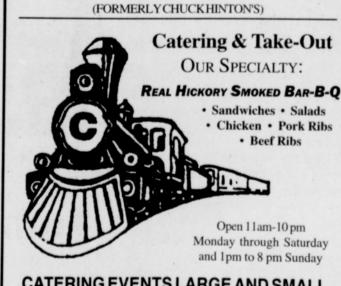
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