

SUMMONING THE SPIRITS OF AFRICA



Woodlawn students Marcus Henry (left) and Regina Hall perform with Kukatonon Children's African Dance Troupe at the Blazers playoff game against the Mavericks on April 27. The troupe will give a spring fundraising performance on Friday, June 13 at 7 p.m. at the SEI Auditorium, 3920 N. Kirby Ave.

PHOTOS BY JEFF HINDS

The Kukatonon Children's African Dance Troupe have been dancing to bring the spirit of Africa to Portland for more than 20 years and will again dazzle audiences with their talents at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 13 with a Spring Fundraising Performance at the SEI Auditorium.

Without any corporate sponsorship Woodlawn second grade teacher Rolia Manyongai, a Liberian immigrant, has dedicated herself to involving the volunteer efforts of local African drummers and choreographers to orchestrate shows for the children and spread the culture of Africa to a wider

audience.

After an April 27 halftime performance by Kukatonon at the Blazers' playoff game against the Mavericks, Manyongai's 80-year-old mother said she felt the spirits of ancestors must have been called by the African drumming and dancing to inspire the players.

In order to raise funds to ensure the troupe can continue to dance next year, the public is invited to attend the performance at SEI. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children. To get tickets in advance or to make a contribution, call Woodlawn School at 503-916-6282.



Feedback Wanted on City Priorities

The African American, Hispanic and Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon would like to invite the public to a discussion on making improvements to City of Portland public involvement efforts.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, June 12 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the King Neighborhood Facility, Community Court Room, 4815 N.E. 7th Ave.

The Citywide Public Involvement Standards Taskforce is sponsoring the session.

For more information please contact Brian Hoop at the City of Portland, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 503-823-3075 or by email to Brian.Hoop@ci.portland.or.us.



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Fearless Woman Stands Up for Her Race



Although her paper was burned down, nothing would stop Ida B. Wells-Barnett from promoting the causes of African Americans.

grocery store in Memphis. The men faced a cold-blooded murder on March 9, 1892. This was a turning point in Barnett's life. Ida became a one-woman army, fighting lynchings from both the pulpit and the press.

However, her hot temper and strong words became too much for her opponents in Memphis. Besides stirring up a lot of anger from the white community due to her outspokenness on prejudice and racism, Ida published an article stating it was possible for a white man to be attracted to a black woman. Many of her white opponents were outraged.

Soon after this, while she was attending an African-Methodist Episcopal Church Convention in

Record: Tabulated Statistics, and Alleged Causes of lynchings in the United States,' which had four printings between 1892 and 1895.

However, she will be most remembered for her anti-lynching campaign and the fact that she helped start the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1910. That same year she founded the Negro Fellowship League, which helped young black men in need with lodging and job services.

Barnett lectured throughout America and Europe, speaking to audiences in England, Scotland and Wales. Crowds were stunned when they heard tales of African Americans being beaten, burned, shot and lynched.

By the mid-1890s after she had returned from Europe, Barnett toured the mid-western states, leaving no stone unturned. Thanks to her, news of the horrible treatment towards black people spread quickly throughout the North and also to the western territories of the country. Spectators were shocked with what they heard. Many started their own anti-racist and anti-lynching campaigns after hearing her speak.

Just weeks prior to the summer 1919 Chicago riots, Ida published an article warning the city of possible unrest and how to prepare for it. Had the town paid attention to her, the situation may have not been so bad in the end. However, city officials ignored her and that summer saw one of the bloodiest riots in U.S. history.

After more than a 30-year exile from the south, this flamboyant activist, editor, publisher and orator returned in 1922 to investigate the case of the black farmers who were indicted for murder in the Arkansas Race Riot.

Although she died on March 25, 1931, the legacy of Ida B. Wells-Barnett still stands tall today. A housing project in Chicago has been named after her. She was also named one of the twenty-five most outstanding women in Chicago's history, and the city of Memphis placed a historical marker in her honor at the place where the 'Free Speech' newspaper offices once stood.

Barnett's death from uremia, a kidney disease, may have ended her physical presence here on this earth, but fond memories of all that she did for her race will be her for eternity.

Her autobiography was edited and published posthumously by her daughter Alfreda Duster.

Ron Webber is a retired electrician and frequent writer and speaker on African American history. He is a regular contributor to The Portland Observer.

BY RON WEBBER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Though the guns of the Civil War were now silent, activist Ida B. Wells-Barnett was anything but quiet. Her post-war efforts at equality for both women and blacks led her to become a journalist, social worker, feminist and fiery orator.

Most noted for her late nineteenth century and early twentieth century anti-lynching campaign, Wells-Barnett first became an educator as a young woman. After being kicked out of a first-class train car and told she had to sit in a "Jim Crow" car, Ida switched careers and became a full-time civil rights advocate.

In 1889 Barnett became editor and part owner of a black newspaper, the 'Free Speech and Headlight.' Her continual "angry protest editorials" brought her a name as a fearless journalist.

Soon after Ida's 13th birthday, three of her black friends were killed by a Tennessee mob. Their only crime was to have opened up a successful

Barnett lectured throughout America and Europe, speaking to audiences in England, Scotland and Wales. Crowds were stunned when they heard tales of African Americans being beaten, burned, shot and lynched.

Philadelphia, a group of white arsonists set her newspaper building on fire and left a message that if she returned to the south she would be burned alive.

Knowing she could carry out her campaign from anywhere in the country, Ida's next stop was New York City. Here she became a columnist and part owner of the 'New York Age.'

Barnett authored several books, including 'Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases' and 'A Red-



REACH

Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health
A program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.
Sponsored by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Wellness Within REACH: Mind, Body, and Soul Activity Calendar

All classes are free of charge!

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Matt Dishman 77 NE Knott	Strength Training 8-9am and 2-3pm Brown	Strength Training 9-11am Norris	Strength Training 8-9am and 2-3pm Brown	Strength Training 9-11am Norris	Strength Training 8-9am and 2-3pm Brown Chicago Step 6:00-7:00pm Kendrick	African Dance 10:00-11:00am Addo
Salvation Army 5325 N Williams	Salsa 6:30-7:30pm Haugland	Water Aerobics Contact AAHC 503-413-1850	Tai Chi 6:30-7:30pm Lyles	Water Aerobics Contact AAHC 503-413-1850		
Nature's 3535 NE 15th		Yoga 7:30-8:30pm O'Rourke		Yoga 7:30-8:30pm O'Rourke		Body Conditioning 9:30-10:30am Nickerson
Peninsula Park 700 N Portland		Walking Group # 6:00-7:00pm Nickerson		Walking Group # 6:00-7:00 pm Nickerson		Walking Group 12:30pm Nickerson
Salvation and Deliverance 5736 N Albina	Low Impact Aerobics 7:15-8:15pm Norris	Low Impact Aerobics 7:15-8:15pm Norris				Community Prayer Walk 9:00-10:00am Irby
Mallory Avenue Christian Church (Gym) 126 NE Alberta	Aerobics 5:30-6:20pm and 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 5:30-6:20pm and 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson		Aerobics 6:30-7:30pm Nickerson	
Highland United Church of Christ 4635 NE 9th Ave.	Aerobics 6:00-7:00am Pierce	Aerobics 6:00-7:00pm Keller	Aerobics 6:00-7:00am Pierce	Aerobics 6:00-7:00pm Keller	Aerobics 6:00-7:00am Pierce	
Whitaker Track 42nd & Killingsworth		Wt. Management/ Conditioning 9:00-10:00am Hasan		Wt. Management/ Conditioning 9:00-10:00am Hasan		

**Must be 21 or older to participate. Please check with AAHC before showing up to the first class 503-413-1850. Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class.
#meet inside Lloyd Center in front of Sears



African American Health Coalition, Inc.

2800 N. Vancouver Ave., Suite 100 • Portland, OR 97227 • Phone: 503-413-1850
E-mail: kdempsey@aaac-portland.org • Web: www.aaac-portland.org

PORTLAND AREA HIV SERVICES COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS!

This volunteer group identifies HIV care needs, prioritizes \$3.3 million in federal funding, and conducts long-range planning.

Multnomah County Chairperson appoints members; 1/3 must be persons living with HIV. Please call for information. Deadline for applications is **June 11, 2003.**

For information and applications, please contact:

Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council:
(503) 988-3030, ext. 225.

