

METRO Life

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Breeder's Choice

A Breeder's Choice Therapy Dog Recruitment, will be held in conjunction with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's Race for the Cure on Sept. 13. Bring your dogs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a screening to evaluate dog's obedience and temperament. 1265A Cornell Road. For more information, call 800-255-4286 or visit www.breeders-choice.com.

Salmon Fest Northwest

The Salmon Festival at Oxbow Regional Park is on Oct. 11 and 12. The festival features a Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum village, the Salmon Nation Welcome Center, guided salmon viewings, crafts, music and more. For more information, call 503-979-1850.

Taking Out Alzheimer's

You can help the Alzheimer's Association create a world without the disease by participating in the 12th Annual Portland Memorial Walk at Pioneer Courthouse Square on Sunday, Sept. 28. The 5K walk raises money for national research. For more information or registration, call 503-413-6850 or visit www.alz.org/oregon.

Job Skills Workshop

Multnomah County Libraries will host a free Job Seekers Workshop to help develop job skills. The workshop is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23 at the North Portland Library, 512 N. Killingsworth St. To register, call 503-988-5234.

Stroke Forum

Providence Stroke Center and the American Stroke Association hold a community forum from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Doubletree Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah. For registration, call 503-233-0100.

City of Bridges

The Eastside Bridge Club teaches the fascinating and fun-filled game in a friendly environment at Easybridge Class, from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11. Classes are \$5 and refreshments are included. 1435 NE 81st Ave. For more information, call 503-252-1318.

Get in Shape

Providence Health Systems offers Westside fitness classes at 4015 SW Mercantile Dr., Lake Oswego. Classes include step, ball and bar, cardio mix, cardio step, gentle-paced fitness, group strength training and Tai chi, to name a few. For a full schedule, call 503-574-6595 or visit www.providence.org/classes.

Bowling for Recovery

Help raise funds and awareness at a Bowling for Recovery event from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Kellogg Bowl in Milwaukie. The event is sponsored by ASAP Treatment Services and Oregon Partnership. To sign up, call 503-244-5211 ext. 236.

Prostate Awareness Month

Legacy Health System will screen for prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death among American men, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sept. 20, at the Legacy Clinic Northeast Medical Plaza Building, 300 N. Graham St., Ste. 200. African American men over the age of 45 are encouraged to attend. There is a \$25 fee and appointments are required. To register, call 503-335-3500.

Georgeena Warren featured her artworks at the Black United Fund offices during the most recent Last Thursday on Alberta Street event.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Black Artists Promoted on Alberta

Effort aimed at bridging gap between diverse populations

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast Alberta Street's Last Thursday events are a case of "culture shock" for many African Americans. People flock to this monthly showcase of artists along the street, but both participants and visitors are overwhelmingly white.

The Black United Fund is trying to make the event more inclusive.

This month, the non-profit group at 2828 N.E. Alberta featured still-life photographs by black artist Georgeena Warren. The office also gives home-based craftspeople a space to show their products.

In turn, The Black United Fund gives visitors a tour of their facilities, which include a library and computer lab geared to the needs of other local non-profits.

"We see this as an opportunity for African-American artists in the community to showcase their work," Christina Baldwin, the fund's donor relations manager, told the

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Neighborhood Celebrates with Street Fair

Multicultural celebration features art, food and entertainment

A multicultural celebration on Saturday, Sept. 13 will turn Northeast Alberta Street, from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Northeast 31st Avenue, into party central as young and old embrace a variety of tastes and cultures.

The sixth Annual Alberta Street Fair promises once again to celebrate the neighborhood in a unique way.

In the spirit of creativity, the fair

will offer a wide range of entertainment on three stages for people of all ages. The lineup of talented musicians includes the Gypsy Caravan, the Shoehorn Trio and Cantaloupe. A horse drawn trolley will offer free rides and a parade will be held, complete with decorated bicycles, costumed pets and all manner of mobile spectacles.

Children are encouraged to participate in art activities, such as painting and clay working, at the Children's Center located at Northeast 14th Place. A face painter will be on hand.

Holding ground as one of Portland's longest-running street fairs, this year's event will continue to host several vendor marketplace

locations offering distinctive arts, crafts and non-profit organizations booths.

Alberta Street merchants will be participating with special sales, activities and on-site entertainment. Great eats will be offered at the many restaurants (with a range from Thai and Mexican to Southern cooking) along the street or by stopping by the booths of various food vendors.

For those unfamiliar with Alberta, the street is considered a jewel for its multicultural and revitalized shops. The street offers a unique variety of services, shops, galleries and restaurants.

Admission to the Alberta Street Fair is free for all. For information or to volunteer: www.albertastreetfair.com



Dishing up a plate of ribs is one of the many great foods of all tastes and cultures offered each year at the Alberta Street Fair. The annual multicultural celebration takes place Saturday.

Spreading the Message About Kidney Health

Multicultural program raises awareness with kids

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Add kidney disease to the list of illnesses disproportionately affecting African Americans. While kidney failure strikes 400,000 Americans, people of color are nearly five times more likely to require dialysis or a kidney transplant than Caucasians.

Yet, to the distress of a local doctor, many do not know what their kidneys do or even that they have two.

Inspired by the work of her late husband, kidney specialist Dr. Michael Hartnet, Dr. Cheryl Neal took on the weighty retirement project of educating the public about kidney health. She chose students as the best way to spread the message.

"The program exposes youth at a time when their hearts and minds are open to what role they will play in society. The program supports the youth as they develop career choices and as they can see themselves participating in appropriate medical care," said Neal.

Neal developed the Multicultural Integrated Kidney Education (MIKE) program, with the help of her husband's colleagues at the Northwest Renal Clinic and National



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Trinity Mayes, Dr. Cheryl Neal, Azelin Howard and Eva Vega, celebrate the success of a skit teaching kidney disease prevention.

Kidney Foundation of Oregon and Washington. The program team is composed of adult volunteers that lead and educate students about kidney function and health. Student teams, aged 14 through 21, develop

creative projects to present and share with the community.

"We like to model real-life situations and simulate job skills," Neal said.

The project strengthens participants'

skills in reading, math, research, technology, health, public speaking, marketing and personal management. Many students get

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