

METRO

The Portland Observer

Community Calendar

Revel in the Holidays

Portland Revels present the 2004 Christmas Stage Show from Dec. 3 through 12 with matinee and evening shows available. Tickets range from \$20 to \$25 with discounts for seniors and students. For tickets, call 503-274-4654 or visit www.portlandrevels.org.

Ladies with Power

A post-election feminist strategy session is organized by Radical Women on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. Snacks are available for \$3. For more information, call 503-240-4462.

Bazaar for Pets

Find unique, crafty gifts at the Oregon Humane Society's Holiday Craft Bazaar from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 11 and noon to 6 p.m. on Dec. 12 at 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-7722 or visit www.oregonhumane.org.

Africa AIDS Response

The Portland-Mutare Sister City Association Africa AIDS Response presents World Aids Day, Hope is Vital, Rhythms for Life with performances by Maya Soleil and MarchFourth on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Crystal Ballroom, 1132 W. Burnside. All ages. \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. For more information, visit www.africaaidsresponse.org or call 503-224-4400 for tickets.

Get Schooled

Learn how to help to improve schools and jobs at a forum with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo and President of Oregon's AFL-CIO Tim Nesbitt at 7 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 N.E. 40th. Free and sponsored by the Multnomah County Democratic Party.

Celebrate with Music

A musical performance, "Celebrate Christmas" is at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 and 17, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 and 19 at the Beaverton Christian Church, 13600 S.W. Allen Blvd. Free tickets are available by calling 503-646-2151 or visiting www.bcc.org.

Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofa Health Institute offers a free diabetes support group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every third Thursday at Alberta Simmons Plaza, 6707 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. For more information, call 503-285-2484.

Creative Space For Dance

Aurora Dance Studio, 5433 N.E. 30th (& Killingsworth), offers an array of classes for children, teens and adults at all levels of ability. Call 503-249-0201 or visit online at www.hevanet.com/auroradance for additional information.

Work For Change

Community Advocates invites those interested in protecting children from abuse to become an event volunteer, event outreach, technology expert, graphic artists or office support team member. For more information, call 503-280-1388.

Birth Ready

Whether you need childbirth preparation classes, or just a refresher, Providence Health Systems has a workshop for you. Prepare for pain, take a weekend seminar or prepare big sisters and brothers-to-be throughout the summer by visiting www.providence.org/classes or call 503-574-6595.



A modern African-American dance company inspired by the black experience takes flight in a White Bird/PSU Dance Series production commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first flight by the Wright brothers.

The Flight Project

Dancers set Portland visit

Inspired by the black experience, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company will make its Portland debut with the Flight Project.

The White Bird/PSU Dance Series performance is at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from Dec. 9 through Dec. 11 at Portland State University's Lincoln Performance Hall.

The event commemorates the 100th anniversary of the inaugural flight by Dayton, Ohio's native sons Orville and Wilbur Wright.

The program will include specially commissioned works by acclaimed contemporary choreographers Bill T. Jones, Bebe Miller, and Warren Spears, as well as a thrilling collaboration by Donald McKayle and Ronald K. Brown. DCDC has achieved national acclaim as for its incisive performances of the world's largest and most comprehensive body of dance works by African-American choreographers.

The Ford Foundation has proclaimed, "The repertory of the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company is a national resource.

It should be seen by audiences throughout the world."

Founded in 1986 by Dayton, Ohio native Jeraldine Blunden, DCDC is a modern dance company rooted in the African-American experience. Celebrating over 35 years of inspired dance—Blunden built the company's outstanding repertoire with works by such outstanding choreographers as Alvin Ailey, Ulysses Dove, and Merce Cunningham among others.

Tickets are available at PSU, 503-725-3307 and Ticketmaster outlets, 503-790-ARTS.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDY SNOW



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Embracing Alberta's Community

Alberta Street entrepreneurs Milton Ross (from left), Austin Raglione and Earl Clark visit Raglione's Mimosa Studios at 1718 N.E. Alberta St. to dedicate a public mural that celebrates the community and diversity of Alberta Street. Area residents and business people painted the squares during the Alberta Street Fair last September. The result is a unique and spirited mural to be enjoyed by all.

Strides Made Against Hunger

Oregon still suffers

New data by the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates that Oregon's hunger rate has improved since the mid-1990s. However, our hunger and food insecurity rates remain significantly higher than the national rates.

It's estimated that 4.3 percent of Oregon households include someone who went hungry at times during the last year. This is an improvement from 6 percent in 1996-98, but still higher than the national rate of 3.4 percent.

"Those fighting hunger in Oregon deserve credit for improving Oregon's hunger rate, primarily by increasing access to food stamps," said Michael Leachman, policy analyst for the Oregon Center for Public Policy.

At the urging of advocacy groups, Oregon's Department of Human Services increased the income limit for accessing food stamps in 2000 and changed the rules to allow recipients to own a reliable car.

An outreach effort, led by the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, subsequently increased participation among eligible families.

"The improvement in hunger shows that government programs work when they have enough resources. By increasing access to food stamps across Oregon, we've made a significant dent in Oregon's hunger problem," Leachman said.

Food stamps are almost entirely paid for by the federal government, and therefore have not been subject to the state budget cuts that have diminished other programs.

Leachman emphasized that Oregon has been improving access to food assistance at the same time that the state has been cutting access to the Oregon Health Plan and childcare subsidies.