

METRO

The Portland Observer

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Voices of the City

Local authors share their latest works at this Write Around Portland event from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9 at First Congregational Church, 1126 S.W. Park Ave. For more information, call 503-796-9224.

Kwanzaa at Kaiser

The African American scholarship program at Kaiser Permanente for high school seniors will benefit from the 8th annual Kaiser Kwanzaa Celebration, Friday, Dec. 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Kaiser Town Hall, 3704 N. Interstate Ave. Featured entertainment includes the Andy Stokes Band, Kids of Kwanzaa, storyteller Askari, and gospel choir Genesis. Healthy soul food will be served. Tickets are available by calling 503-813-4500.

Yuletide Celebration

Portland's newest holiday tradition is attending the Oregon Symphony's Broadway-style Yuletide Celebration at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall with tap-dancing Santas from Dec. 17 through 21. Tickets range from \$29 to \$72. For tickets, call 503-228-1353 or 800-228-7343.

Revel in the Holidays

Portland Revels present the 2004 Christmas Stage Show through Dec. 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.

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.

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.

Get Fit, Stay Healthy!

Sankofaa 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 (at 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 invite 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.

The all-new Interstate Fred Meyer store opens to extremely heavy crowds and busy cash registers as area residents flock to get re-aquainted with a northeast Portland institution.

PHOTOS BY TROY KYLES FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Community representatives, Pastor Robin Wisner and Robert Richardson, Fred Meyer Manager Robert Malone, Store Director Scott Miller and Bishop A.A. Wells, welcome neighbors to the new Interstate Fred Meyer store in north Portland during a grand opening celebration.

Community gets reacquainted with local institution

An impressive new Fred Meyer store has opened to huge crowds at North Interstate and Lombard.

The Interstate Fred Meyer store is reclaiming its place as a dominating force in local retail with a two-story, 150,000 square foot replacement store at the same location it has served area neighborhoods for decades.

The Interstate store opened Dec. 1 with lines of new isles choked with customers and parking lots jammed with cars.

Fred Meyer is a local institution in Portland's inner city neighborhoods. The grocery, apparel, home electronics and jewelry chain outlet was started by the late Fred Meyer who dominated the grocery business in Portland with his one-stop shopping centers.

The grand opening celebration opened

with a salute to the community and support for local non-profits.

"Because customers come first at Fred Meyer, the company tradition for opening day is to have a cake-cutting ceremony rather than a ribbon cutting," said Scott Miller, Interstate store director.

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—Scott Miller, Interstate Fred Meyer store director

The company demonstrated support for local residents by donating \$5,000 to the Urban League of Portland Northeast Multicultural Senior Center, Emmanuel Community Services, North Portland Nurse Practitioner Clinic, Educate-Ya, Albina Head Start and the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

By vacating North Montana Avenue on the east edge of the Interstate site and building a two-level replacement store, Fred Meyer was able to add nearly 30,000 square feet to its former store, increasing it from 121,000 square feet in two buildings to 150,000 square feet in one build-

ing goods, automotive, home improvement, garden, and a pharmacy with a drive-up window are located on the first floor.

Apparel, shoes, and books and magazines surrounding a Starbucks coffee bar are on a second-floor mezzanine. A separate 9,000-square-foot commercial building faces Lombard.

The cost of the project, including demolition, construction, fixtures, and equipment, was approximately \$19 million.

Eighty employees returned to Interstate Fred Meyer, after working at other locations during the 11 months of demolition and construction. In total the store will have more than 200 employees, many are new hires that live in the neighborhood.

Fred Meyer Stores is headquartered in Portland, Oregon and operates 130 multi-department stores in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho that offer one-stop shopping for a wide range of food, apparel, and general merchandise. Fred Meyer is a division of The Kroger Co., which is one of the largest grocery retail chains in the United States.

Prison Book Project Begins

"Books to Oregon Prisoners" is a new community education initiative that begins with a Saturday Dec. 4 grand opening of the Afrocentric Reflections Mirror-Image Bookstore at 330 N. Killingsworth St.

The project encourages area residents to order books for family and friends incarcerated in the Oregon prison system.

Until now, the only way to send books to people incarcerated in state prisons was by ordering them through Amazon.com or Powells.com. For many working-class people, this option was out of the picture.

"Books to Oregon Prisoners" has solicited donations of new books from publishers and distributors and for a \$5 suggested donation, anyone can select two books from a special Reflections Mirror-Image Bookstore catalog and have them sent to an incarcerated friend or family member.

Afrocentric Books Find New Home

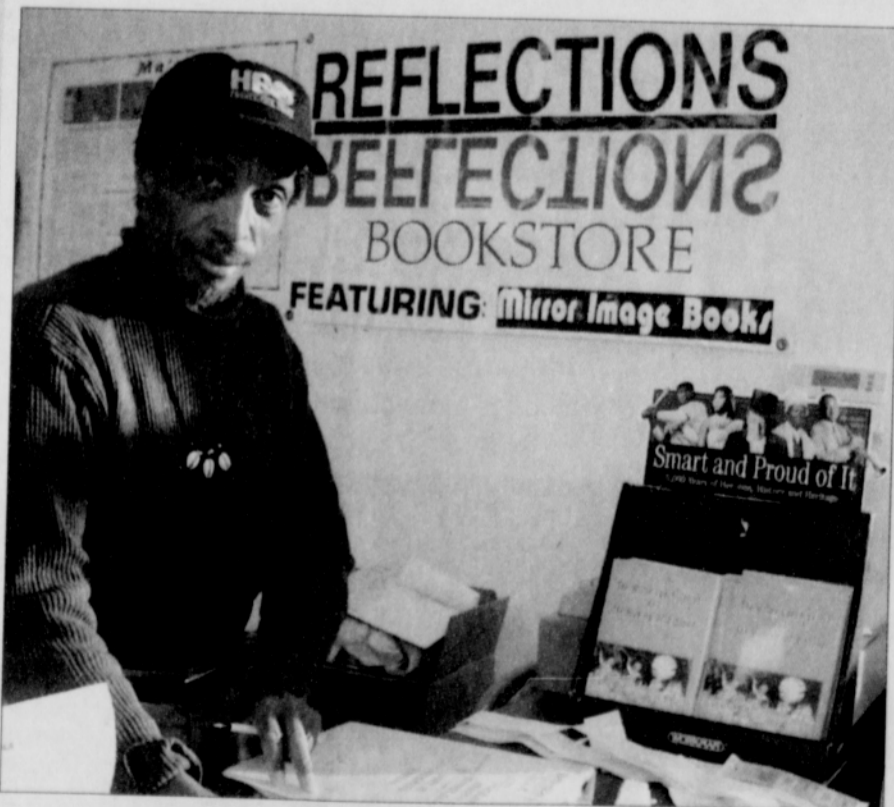


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
O.B. Hill opens his Reflections Mirror-Image bookstore at 330 N. Killingsworth.

Reflections Mirror-Image moves near library

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

O.B. Hill is ready to settle down. After a year of packing and relocating—twice—Reflections Mirror-Image Bookstore moved to a permanent location at 330 N. Killingsworth, just one block east of the North Portland Library.

The Afrocentric bookstore and community center will continue to be a magnet for cultural events such as speakers, arts exhibits, book clubs and a new Books to Oregon Prisoners program.

"There's nothing like being literate and informed and that's what books do," said Hill. "They open up a vista of possibilities for people."

Hill's store is no longer affiliated with Reflections Coffeehouse and Talking Drum Bookstore. That store, on Killingsworth at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in the Walnut Park retail center, is owned and operated by Gloria McMurtry.

Hill most recently moved his bookstore from a house, also on Killingsworth, at Garfield, which he says he viewed as a temporary space after the

continued ▼ on page B6