

METRO

The Portland Observer



Evening of Acoustic Power

Stellar guitarist to perform locally

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Community Calendar

Women Lawmakers Meet

John Edwards, 2004 candidate for Vice President and former U.S. Senator from North Carolina, will serve as keynote speaker at the 21st Annual National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women's annual conference, Thursday June 29 through July 2 at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel. For more information call 503-986-1655.

Soul Retrieval Healing

Sometimes we lose part of our soul, our vital self, through trauma, giving it away or by having it stolen. In Other Words Bookstore hosts an informational evening of Soul Retrieval Healing on Thursday, July 27 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

How's Your Memory

Misplaced car keys, lost reading glasses, forgetting where your car is parked. Join a free community forum addressing this troubling topic, at the Providence Center on Aging, 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 29 at the Amphitheatre at 4805 N.E. Glisan St.

'Cirkus' Author Reading

In Other Words bookstore, 8b N.E. Killingsworth St., presents Patti Frazee, author of the novel "Cirkus" at 7:30 on Thursday, July 6. Vividly drawn characters in a devastating work of heartbreaking loveliness populate Frazee's lyrically graceful novel.

Drumming, Dance Camp

Children ages six to 10 can join host Chata Addy for drumming, dancing and the sounds of Ghana, West Africa from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, July 10 to Friday, July 14. Cost is \$80 with lunch and snacks provided. Hand drumming class for adults and teens also offered. For more information visit www.chataaddy.com or call 503-632-0411.

WellBeing Sunday Brunch

Individuals living with HIV/AIDS are invited to WellBeing's Sunday Brunch, open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with free home cooked meals served at 4 p.m. in the historic Mt. Olivet building, 1734 N.E. First Ave.

Interstate Farmers Market

The Interstate Farmers Market features a variety of fresh local produce, baked goods, cut flowers, artisan cheese, meat and fish each Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., next to Overlook Park across the street from Kaiser Permanente Interstate Campus.

Homebuying Classes

Portland Community Land Trust helps first time and low-income homebuyers purchase homes at below market price. Attend a free, one-hour class to learn more about the program. Contact Kelly@pelt.org or call 503-493-0293 to sign up and ask questions, or visit www.pelt.org.

Al-Anon Meeting

"Solutions and Serenity" for anyone affected by another person's drinking. Every Tuesday at 7 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 N.W. 19th at Everett. Free, enter through courtyard. For more information, call Julianna Tassone at 503-367-6115.

Creative Space For Dance

Aurora Dance Studio, 5433 N.E. 30th, 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 more information.

36
years
of
community service

Advocate Guides Native American Ministry

Former northeast Portland community advocate Elizabeth Asahi Sato is the first executive director of Wiconi International, a Christian-based ministry spreading the word of God to indigenous people and networking with Native and non-Native leaders.

Headquartered in Vancouver, the organization assists Native American and indigenous tribes in the Pacific Northwest, the USA and throughout the world.

Sato lived for many years in the King neighborhood of inner-northeast Portland. Together with her former husband, she was known for being a proactive change agent in unifying other residents in eradicating drug and criminal activity.

She moved to Camas, Wash. after a heart wrenching divorce and to continue raising her three young sons in a city she believes does a better job of supporting the educational system and inviting parental involvement.

"I grew up in Portland and truly wanted to raise my sons there but the reduction of community based services in the northeast community as well as significant budget cuts for neighborhood schools caused me great concern," said Sato.

She credits Self Enhancement, Inc., the non-profit program serving mostly minority kids from north and northeast Portland, for shaping her children in a positive way and preparing them for Southwest Washington high schools.

"My sons are being provided a quality education and can expand upon the knowledge they gained and the push to achieve they received while attending the Self Enhancement program during their elementary school years," she said. "I believe my sons will return back to the northeast community someday better equipped to serve as they are also very interested and active in social concerns."

Sato said she still remembers vividly



Elizabeth Sato with her sons, Gabriel, Samuel and Elijah.

"I am committed to raising my sons to celebrate their diverse cultural background as I believe such diversity can provide a source of strength and compassion for all people."

— Elizabeth Sato

the significant discrimination her family endured while growing up in Portland.

"It was very hurtful as a young girl to experience the disconnect my own com-

munity forced upon me because of my mixed Japanese and Native cultural heritage," she said. "I am committed to raising my sons to celebrate their di-

verse cultural background as I believe such diversity can provide a source of strength and compassion for all people regardless of race or socio-economic background.

Wiconi's mission is bring a message of hope and healing to the First Nations or those the ministry calls Indigenous people through a variety of culturally-relevant service-related mechanisms including long term programs and short-term projects.

"Elizabeth not only brings her knowl-

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Neighborhood Director Earns Vote of Confidence

Mayor makes her appointment permanent

Mayor Tom Potter has made Amalia Alarcón the permanent director of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

Alarcón has served as director of ONI on a temporary basis since January. She previously worked as the agency's Metropolitan Human Rights Center and program manager for the Neighborhood Resource Centers.

At ONI, she has provided support

to neighborhood coalitions and associations; civil rights referrals; immigrant and refugee coordination, and worked closely with the City Council and County Board of Commissioners.

She has also been responsible for the development and monitoring of Affirmative Action goals. She previously worked for the State of Oregon's Health Division, Planned Parenthood and as director of the Children's Care Program of Northern Lights Alternatives in New York.



Amalia Alarcón

"Amalia has established excellent rapport with neighborhood associations, community organizations and city staff in her seven years with the bureau, and in her tenure as Interim Director of ONI," said Mayor Potter. "I am thrilled and excited to have her lead this critically important organization as we work to expand civic engagement at all levels of community decision making."

Mayor Potter also acknowledged the energy, spirit and community contributions of Howard Weiner, the second of the two finalists for the position. Weiner's strong candidacy was driven by his leadership in Old Town/Chinatown and longstanding commitment to community involvement.

The announcement follows an intense, six-month recruitment and interview process that started when former ONI director Jimmy Brown moved to the Water Bureau. It concluded with two community forums and interviews with the mayor. There were over 45 applicants for this position.

Local Professional Tapped for Leadership

Joins training, mentorship program

Long time local resident Jose Ayala, a donor relations manager at United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, has been accepted into a national training and mentoring program by United Way of America.

He is among only 27 professionals among thousands of senior-level United Way employees nation-



Jose Ayala

wide selected for the prestigious Resident Fellows Program.

"This is a great opportunity," said Ayala. "It's a chance to expand my learning by leaps and bounds and to develop a strong national network of fellow professionals that can really help us here in the Portland/Vancouver area."

The fellowship was started to identify and develop high-potential early career professionals for long-term leadership roles within United Way. Fellows spend a week in intense training in Alexandria, Va., and are assigned a mentor to assist them in the next several months of study. In January and then in May, the group reconvenes in Alexandria for additional training.

Ayala joined United Way two years ago. His work with a variety of employee workplace campaigns resulted in over \$1.5 million to be used for social, health and education programs in the four counties served by the organization.

Prior to United Way, Ayala worked with the Cascade AIDS Project. He also worked as the director of game operations for the Portland Trail Blazers, promotions director at FM 106.7 KKJZ radio, and a director/producer for KGW Channel 8 television.

United Way is a caring force of volunteers and individual and corporate community investors working to help people live with opportunity, hope and support in times of need.

For more information, or to volunteer in your community, visit our website at www.unitedway-pdx.org, or call 503-228-9131 in Portland, or 360-696-0341 in Vancouver.