

# METRO

The Portland Observer



**Chinese, American Cultures Merge**  
Multi-ethnic backgrounds explored in 'Seven Artists'  
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36  
years of  
community service

SECTION B

## Soul-Stirring 'Gospel Christmas' Returns

Local choirs and Oregon Symphony continue tradition

The Oregon Symphony's performance of Gospel Christmas will return for its eighth year of expressive, soul-stirring Christmas music in gospel style for three 7:30 p.m. shows this Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

The performances feature harmonies and contemporary rhythms of the Northwest Gospel Choir, a group of more than 100 singers from more than 30 of the Portland area's gospel choirs.

Conductor and arranger Charles Floyd will return to lead the Symphony. A nationally known conductor, Floyd has led more than 500 orchestras since 1991, including the San Francisco, Atlanta, and Houston Symphony Orchestras. His eleven-year partnership with Natalie Cole included the multiple Grammy Award-winning tribute to Nat King Cole entitled "Unforgettable, With Love." His conducting appearances have included the annual "Gospel Night at Pops" at Boston's Symphony Hall and Esplanade Pavilion and a PBS telecast of "Evening at Pops," featuring Patti LaBelle and Edwin Hawkins in a program of gospel music.

The choir is directed by Gary



Nationally known conductor Charles Floyd will lead the Oregon Symphony's performance of Gospel Christmas.

Hemenway, pastor of Journey Church in Walla Walla, Wash. Rehearsals take place three months prior to the performances, and occur each weekend.

"These choir members, soloists and musicians are people who love to sing and proclaim the Good News through the medium of gospel music," said Choir Coordinator Dorothy L. Davis.

This year's program will feature guest ensemble Derrick McDuffey & Chosen Generation performing "King of Glory" and "Don't Forget the Baby." Under the direction of Minister McDuffey, Chosen Generation has been performing for almost a decade. Hailing from Mississippi, the group blends a large portion of traditional and East Coast gospel ensemble with a West Coast mass choir feel.

The concert will also include arrangements including "Tell It On the Mountain," "Let Us Adore Him" and "The First Noel."

Tickets are \$25 to \$73 and may be purchased at the Oregon Symphony Ticket Office, 923 S.W. Washington, or charged by phone at 503-228-1353, or Ticketmaster outlets, 503-224-4400. Discounted tickets for groups of eight or more are available through the group sales hotline at 503-416-6380.

Kuni BMW/Cadillac is official automotive sponsor of the 2006-2007 Gospel Christmas performance, with additional support from the Heathman Hotel.



Linda Hornbuckle

### JAZZ DIVAS Team Up for Holiday Concert

Two of Portland's best jazz, soul and R&B musicians will team up for a special Christmas Concert in the historic Mississippi neighborhood of north Portland.

Legendary soul diva Linda Hornbuckle and keyboard goddess Janice Scroggins will perform a duo holiday concert in two shows on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Mississippi Studios, 39309 N. Mississippi Ave.



Janice Scroggins

Admission is \$15. For tickets and more information, call Mississippi Studios at 503-288-3895.

Also on the schedule for New Year's Eve, the Linda Hornbuckle Band will perform Sunday, Dec. 31 at Jimmy Mak's, 221 N.W. 10th Ave. Tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by calling 503-295-6542.

## Local Leaders Say 'Bring Troops Home'

Human needs called better alternative

Two northeast Portland lawmakers joined the Portland City Council in support of a resolution to bring U.S. troops home from Iraq and fund local human needs.

State Sen. Avel Gordly and State Rep. Chip Shields joined social service and peace organizations to say that the \$419 million Portlanders have spent on the war though U.S. taxpayer monies could have been better utilized for education, health care, housing and the environment.

The Portland City Council voted unanimously Thursday to support the resolution filed by Commissioner Randy Leonard.

A "standing room only" crowd witnessed moving testimony from more than 50 people who made the case for the resolution.



Avel Gordly

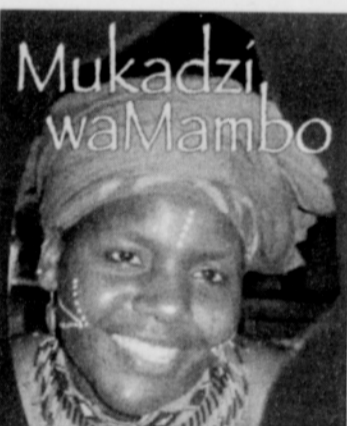


Chip Shields

"Three years ago, when the case was made for war, many people, myself included, were compelled to give those in charge the benefit of the doubt. It is clear now that we were grossly misled, and our service men and women are standing in harm's way as a result," said Commissioner Leonard. "Adding our voice to the chorus of cities around the country calling for their prompt return home is the least we can do."

With the adoption of the resolution, Portland joined more than 270 other municipalities around the U.S. that have called for an end to the war and occupation in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003. The resolution calls for the US to "immediately commence an orderly and rapid withdrawal of United States military personnel from Iraq," and support efforts to rebuild Iraq.

The resolution also requests that "financial resources used to prosecute the war be redirected to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable portions of our population, including education, health care and full benefits for returning veterans."



## African Cultural Arts at IFCC

Loveness Wesa

### Loveness Wesa presents 'Half of Myself'

Zimbabwean artist and Portland resident Loveness Wesa brings a new dance production to the local stage with three upcoming performances at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

Wesa had her American debut in 2004 with Langivela Khona (Where I Come From), a theatrical dance based on the lives of African immigrants. She will be continuing this theme in her newest production, Ingxenyeni Yami (Half of Myself) which explores the relationship between African immigrants and Af-

rican-Americans.

Performances are on consecutive Tuesdays, Dec. 12, Dec. 19 and Dec. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the IFCC. The Dec. 26 performance will be a special show for the first day of Kwanzaa.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors, and children under five are free. For reservations call 503-281-4599 or visit [lovenesswesa.com](http://lovenesswesa.com).

As with her previous works, Ingxenyeni Yami uses traditional African dances and drumming to create a dramatic story, but also adds an original musical score performed live.

Before moving to the United States from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Wesa was well known in her country as a musician, dancer, actress, choreographer and theatre producer.

## Community Calendar

### Holiday Express

The whole family can experience the bygone era of the steam-powered train during the Holiday Express at Oaks Park in southeast Portland. Trains will depart every hour on the hour for the next two weekends; from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For ticketing information visit [orhf.org](http://orhf.org) or call 503-224-8499.

### Holiday Bake Sale

The SCRAP holiday bazaar & bake sale is Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 3901 A.N. Williams Ave. Local artisans will transform unwanted materials to cool and creative gifts to raise recycling awareness.

### Christmas at Fort Vancouver

Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Ft. Vancouver National Historical Site, 1001 E. Fifth St., Vancouver, hosts Christmas at Fort Vancouver, a festive event focusing on holiday preparations in the 1840's by the Hudson Bay Company employees. Activities include wreath mak-

ing, story telling, bagpipes, treats, toy making and holiday beverages. Admission is \$3 or free for children under 15.

### December Zoo Lights

The walk-through winter wonderland Oregon Zoo Lights comes to life throughout the month of December. The festival includes a lighted zoo train, choral and ensemble music, puppet shows, and a model train display. Festival hours are Sunday - Thursday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 5 to 8:30 p.m. Closed Dec. 24 and Christmas Day.

### Presents for Primates

On Thursday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m., Santa's Elves will give holiday gifts to the Oregon Zoo's chimpanzees, orangutans, mandrills and other primates. Bring your cameras for this great picture opportunity. Call 503-226-1561 or visit [oregonzoo.org](http://oregonzoo.org) for more information.

### Christmas Tree Permits

The Mt. Hood National Forest has opened its personal use Christmas tree cutting program. Permits are \$5, limited to 5 permits per household, with a 12' foot maximum height per tree. For more information, call the forest headquarters at 503-668-

1700 Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Holiday Wreath Sale

The Portland Parks Environmental Education Department will be hosting the holiday wreath sale on Wednesday, Dec. 6 thru Sunday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mt. Tabor Greenhouse, 6437 S.E. Division St. All proceeds go to scholarships for low-income youth.

### Work Against Abuse

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 information, call 503-280-1388.

### Black History Museum

The Black History Museum of Oregon is seeking brilliant minds of concerned individuals to help in restructuring the museum foundation's committee. For information, call 503-284-0617.

### Oregon Food Bank

The Oregon Food Bank seeks volunteers on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, to sort and

repack perishable foods. Call 503-282-0555, extension 272 or visit [Oregonfoodbank.org](http://Oregonfoodbank.org).

### Volunteer for Crisis Line

Want to make a difference in your community? Volunteers and advocates are needed for the Portland Women's Crisis Line. The needs include on-call advocates to respond in person or over the phone, outreach and educational efforts, and fundraising and administrative duties. Call 503-232-4176 for more information.

### Home buying 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@pclt.org or call 503-493-0293.

### Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

### Parenting Classes

Newborns don't come with instruction

manuals but parents and parents-to-be can attend classes through Providence Health Systems to learn about a variety of topics from pain and childbirth to breastfeeding to infant CPR and much more. For a schedule of events, call 503-574-6595 or visit: [providence.org/classes](http://providence.org/classes).

### Stroller Class for Moms

Are you a new mom or have a toddler? Get some exercise and meet other moms at the free Stroller Strides class, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursday at Peninsula Park. All you need is a stroller, water, a mat or towel and comfortable shoes. Call Helen at 503-260-5018 for more information.

### Write Around Volunteers

Are you interested in becoming a facilitator for Write Around Portland's volunteer-run ten-week workshop? Contact Jill Tuleya at 503-796-9224.

### Women in Community Service

Volunteer female mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The women provide support and encouragement for inmates transitioning from prison back into the community. Call 503-570-6614.