

Concert to Benefit Cancer Patients

Sunday at Pioneer Courthouse Square

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A benefit concert this holiday weekend will be welcoming to all kinds of people whether or not they are religiously inclined.

Organizers hope to pack Pioneer Courthouse Square this Sunday starting at noon with the lure of a beer garden serenaded by the Light Ministries gospel group, Sons of Thunder, Linda Hornbuckle, the Misty Mamas, Ill Fated Hero, Riny Horst, Generation United, Jim Sharecropper, Tom Grant and Shelly Rudolph.

With donations going to a radiation department that just opened this summer at OHSU, Light Ministries Pastor Dwight Minnieweather anticipates no sense of "holier than thou" posturing.

"We don't want people to think that we're better than them," Minnieweather says. "We're serving God, but we're serving everyone by showing the concern we have as a church entity to get involved with social issues."

Celestial inspiration alerted Minnieweather of his special connection to the cause.

"In January I just woke up one morning, and this unction of the Lord told me to call OHSU," he says.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Bishop H.L. Streeter (from left) Light Ministries Pastor Dwight Minnieweather and singer Leonard Latin prepare for Sunday's benefit concert at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Promising to help the hospital's new radiation department, he found out a few months later that his 27-year-old daughter had cancer.

A miraculous occurrence such as this didn't surprise Charles Thomas, the chairman of the department.

"We have a lot of fancy technology and a very nice place to treat patients," Thomas wrote in a letter to Minnieweather. "However, I as well as the rest of the staff are simply instruments of the Lord. He works through us to do his will, so that we can carry out the best treatments possible."

The urge to help fund cancer treatment came naturally for H.L. Streeter, bishop of the St. James TrueVine Church. When Minnieweather's father died a little over a year ago, Streeter says, "God sent Minnieweather to work with me, and we work together as father and son."

"This is going to be much bigger than what can fit into the church, so that's why we're going to have it downtown," Streeter says. "We're inviting everyone who wants to participate."



Linda Hornbuckle

Neighborhood Coalition Returns to its Roots

continued ▲ from Front

that his agenda is heavily weighted toward neighborhood associations.

"We need to grow and strengthen neighborhood associations, and work on their issues," Santos-Lyons told the Portland Observer. "We exist because neighborhood associations exist. Without them, we would be nothing."

However, he added, there are other groups that NECN needs to reach out to, listing businesses and business as-

sociations; the black community, churches; and schools and colleges.

"The organization needs to carefully evaluate its goals with regard to all these groups," he said.

With regard to the rider advocates and youth gang programs he says, "We need to evaluate what our position is with regard to these programs. We're not trying to shop them around, and we certainly would never just abandon them, but if another agency wanted to adopt them, we would give it serious

consideration. We have had a greater social service component than any other neighborhood office. We have been an incubator to these programs; that doesn't mean we have to keep them here forever."

Critics charge that the city's neighborhood associations attract a small segment of their communities, with a bias toward the middle class and against renters and people of color.

"I've heard those criticisms," Santos-Lyons says, "but we need more infor-

mation from the community, both from those criticizing and those in leadership positions in neighborhood associations, as to what the disparity is and what can be done about it. NECN needs to create a vision of diversity and inclusiveness, and it has to work hard to create that vision. Neighborhoods need to create a vision of what they want. There isn't an easy answer, and in fact there is a different answer for each neighborhood."

And what are his views on gentrification

and the economic transformation of local communities?

"From my perspective, there absolutely are some good things about gentrification," Santos-Lyons says. "Public safety and quality schools are things all people want. There are bad things, such as displacement, that we need to identify. Who is benefiting from changes, and who has the power to make changes?"

As for himself, Santos-Lyons says he is both a leader of and servant to the community.

Community Mobilizes Against War

continued ▲ from Front

Other historical concerns of Oregon Action, such as racial profiling, overlap their interest in the war's effect on the local community.

"Our experience has been young people don't fare well with interacting with the police," Bowman said. "We will cover how to keep your self safe during civil disobedience."

She emphasized the points of first operating within the law and second keeping yourself safe in the face of possible police intimidation.

"We have to question our government. It doesn't necessarily always make the right decisions," Bowman said.

The perceived abuse of commu-

nities of color and low income communities by the military are also a driving factor behind the teach-in.

The percentages of African Americans involved in the military have fallen since the Vietnam War. Bowman attributes that to people of color's skepticism toward the military in keeping with all that they promise.

"I am finding that with young Latino kids, especially kids whose parents aren't citizens, they are being totally lied to. They are being told that if they sign up and fight this war their whole family will become citizens. Those kids are being lied to," Bowman said.

Oregon Action has approached State Rep. Chip Shields about an equal representation bill, mandating that anytime the military at-

tempts recruitment on school grounds they are accompanied by military veterans in hopes that the youth get the whole story.

Bowman, with her wealth of political experience, said she is still pleasantly surprised by the effect a community that cares and talks with each other can have on the world around it.

Advertise
with diversity in
The Portland
Observer
Call 503-288-0033
ads@portlandobserver.com

Attorney General

continued ▲ from Front

general have been better than my father's best days," Gonzales said.

Gonzales, whom Bush once considered for appointment to the Supreme Court, is the fourth top-ranking administration official to leave since November 2006, following Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, who had a high-ranking Pentagon job before going to the World Bank as its president, and top political and policy adviser Karl Rove.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., reacted to the announcement by saying the Justice Department under Gonzales had "suffered a severe crisis of leadership that allowed our justice system to be corrupted by political influence."

As attorney general and earlier as White House counsel, Gonzales pushed for expanded presidential powers, including the eavesdropping authority. He drafted controversial rules for military war tribunals and sought to limit the legal rights of detainees at Guantanamo Bay — prompting lawsuits by civil liber-

tarians who said the government was violating the Constitution in its pursuit of terrorists.

"Alberto Gonzales was never the right man for this job. He lacked independence, he lacked judgment, and he lacked the spine to say no to Karl Rove," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

In a warning to the White House, Reid suggested that investigations into the Justice Department will not end until Congress gets "to the bottom of this mess."

One matter still under investigation is the 2006 dismissal of several federal prosecutors, who serve at the president's pleasure. Lawmakers said the action appeared to be politically motivated, and some of the fired U.S. attorneys said they felt pressured to investigate Democrats before elections.

Gonzales maintained that the dismissals were based the prosecutors' lackluster performance records.

In April, Gonzales answered "I don't know" and "I can't recall" scores of times while questioned by Congress about the firings. Even some Republicans said his testimony was evasive.

HOST
Home Ownership
a Street at a Time

3 bedroom home starting at \$220,000. Located in North Portland. All homes are Earth Advantage certified. Price includes kitchen appliances, single car attached garage, window blinds, tankless water heater, fencing, cable wiring and front yard landscaping. **FREE WASHER AND DRYER MOVE IN READY NOW!**

Up to \$5,000 in closing cost assistance to qualified buyers!

Ask about the TEN YEAR property tax abatement!!
Deborah Johnson at 503-804-0063 or deborah@hostdevelopment.com or www.hostdevelopment.com CCB#71658

NEW SEASONS MARKET

Pharmacy

AT ARBOR LODGE

New pharmacy customers! Transfer a prescription & get a \$10 gift card. (one gift per customer please)

Yes! We are a regular pharmacy!

- ✓ We fill prescriptions — including antibiotics, high blood pressure medications, anti-depressants, birth control, and more.
- ✓ We have knowledgeable, friendly pharmacists who have the time to share information.
- ✓ Our prices are competitive. We accept most insurance plans and are adding others as requested.
- ✓ We specialize in custom compounding.

Meet your Pharmacist, Melinda Butler.

YOUR LOCALLY OWNED, NEIGHBORHOOD PHARMACY AT ARBOR LODGE
N INTERSTATE AVENUE & PORTLAND BLVD • 503.467.4848
www.newseasonsmarket.com • MON-FRI 9am-7pm • SAT 9am-6pm • SUN 10am-4pm