

METRO

The Portland Observer



Murals Blessed at Providence

Created to encourage exercise and fitness
See page B5, inside

38
years of
community service

SECTION B

Community Calendar

Veterans Appreciation Day

Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11, the World Forestry Center Discovery Museum would like to say "thank you" by offering free admission to all active and retired military personnel; visit worldforestry.org or call 503-228-1367 for more information.

Veterans Day Parade

Sunday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m., a 21-gun salute will kick off the Fort Vancouver Veterans Parade; contact 360-992-1801 for parade information.

Photography Classes

Mt. Hood Community College will be offering four special photography classes to the public; 'Introduction to Digital Photography' begins Thursday, Nov. 8; for complete schedule and registration information, contact 503-491-7572 or visit mhcc.edu.

Santa Paws Comes to Town

The Oregon Humane Society's annual Santa Paws Pet Portrait fundraiser event kicks off on Saturday, Nov. 10, at eight local Fred Meyer stores. Get keepsake photos of your pet with Santa and help animals in need; visit oregonhumane.org for dates and locations.

Avoiding Frauds, Scams

Monday, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m., Elders in Action will host this free one-hour seminar at the Standard Insurance Building auditorium, 900 S.W. 5th Ave. to discuss common mail and internet-scam avoidance. Contact 503-222-3275 to reserve seating due to limited availability.

Ranger Lantern Tours

Saturday, Nov. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m., with lantern in hand and a skilled ranger leading the way, explore the history of Fort Vancouver, 612 E. Reserve St. in Vancouver, Wash. Call 360-816-6243 for more information.

Daddy and Me

Saturday, Nov. 17, parents and children ages 5 and under are invited to enjoy this free family event filled with sports, games, food, contests and prizes; the event will be held at the McCormack-Matthews Center, 6930 N. Kerby St., from noon to 3 p.m.

4th Annual Turkey Swim

Currently through Sunday, Nov. 18, the Portland Public Pools will provide an entry form to all paid admissions at any of Portland's Parks and Recreation swimming pools. On Nov. 19, six lucky winners will receive a free turkey.

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the MLC Sun School, 2033 N.W. Glisan, will host the free workshop demonstrating how to protect your family from lead poisoning. Participants receive a free lead-testing kit. To register, call 503-284-6827.

Urban Arts

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave., awakens multicultural awareness through the cutting edge of art forms including hip-hop dance, spoken word and television. Classes are offered throughout the year. Contact 503-823-4322 or info@ifcc-arts.org for more information.

Weatherization Workshops

Thursday, Nov. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m., Woodland Elementary, 7200 N.E. 11th, will host the free educational workshops to self-weatherize your home; qualifying participants will receive a free weatherizing kit. Free weatherization is available for seniors. Call 503-284-6827 to register.

Green Gift That Grows

Friends of Trees is offering the gift that keeps on growing, plant a tree or a grove in honor or memory of someone; for more information visit friendsoftrees.org.

Helping the Hungry

The Oregon Food Bank desperately needs your donations of nonperishable foods and funds. To find out how you can help, call 503-282-0555.

Holiday Ale Festival

Beginning Thursday, Nov. 29 through Sunday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., the 12th-annual festival at Pioneer Courthouse Square, 701 S.W. 6th Ave., provides beer lovers the opportunity to sample some or all of the 36 rare beers featured. Visit holidayale.com or contact 503-252-9899 for more information.

Art Exhibit Binds Two Generations



Local women of honor gather with some of the young artists of color who have created artworks and portraits that pay tribute to the activism and accomplishments of an older generation.

Past, present and future leaders embrace

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

An older generation of African-American woman activists is embracing a group of young women artists and future leaders.

Three Portland City Council members helped host a reception last week kicking off a month-long exhibit at City Hall of the art from Project Look Up.

Advanced by the nonprofit Art Up on Northeast Alberta Street, the project involved the painting of eight foot portraits of 15 women of honor from the African American and Native American communities, living and past, by nine teenaged girls.

The project was unveiled in May at

Northeast Alberta Street's Art Quake festival, and was exhibited this summer at the state capitol in Salem.

The exhibit will continue through November at City Hall. Most of the portraits are in the office of Commissioner Sam Adams, who oversees the Regional Arts and Culture Council, but one or two are in the office of Mayor Tom Potter and each

of the other three commissioners.

Potter, Adams and commissioner Randy Leonard took particular pleasure in paying tribute to two of the women honored, state Senators Avel Gordly and Margaret Carter.

"Thank you for being our voices at the state capitol," the mayor said.

Leonard, a former state representative, introduced Gordly as being "kindly, patient and balanced — a good counterpoint

to me."

Adams said the exhibit subjects included "women who have mentored me."

Throughout, the honorees and artists expressed their mutual admiration. Antoinette Myers, who painted the portrait of Gordly, recited an original poem in which she referred to the politician as a "warrior queen."

Gordly, in her turn, said, "The eyes of the future are looking back at us, but looking at them, we know the future is very secure. We can count on them for guidance, direction, and much love, and I love each and every one of them."

Earlier she told the Portland Observer, "I'm just so inspired by all of these young women. When I look into their faces and

I'm just so inspired by all of these young women. When I look into their faces and hear them read their poetry, it gladdens my heart.

— Senator Avel Gordly

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Church Hall Revitalized for Community Use

Venue seeks neighborhood input, activities

BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The current tenants of Liberty Hall are making an extra effort to involve a broader section of the community in events and programs.

It has not been easy keeping the neighborhood center going with its location, at 311 N. Ivy St., facing a freeway onramp constructed in 1973 for the Fremont Bridge.

The building was built as a church, but the congregation sold the building in the '90s to Alem Gebrehiwot, owner of the Queen of Sheba Restaurant. The space served for a few years as "Yared Hall," focusing on African and Native American music, before its current incarnation involving several nonprofits.

The venue's current leaders have organized a couple of community meetings that generated more than just ideas. Suggestions include regular events and classes.

Not stopping at plans for weekly film screenings, a rotating "Second Thursday" art exhibit and building a community demonstration garden, the building's management welcomes more involvement in the coming months.

Dan Denvir of the Portland Central American Solidarity Committee envisions fostering a venue with energy that feeds off of itself.

"I'm really impressed with these young people's effort," says Joseph Santos-Lyons, executive director of the Northeast



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Wences Cruz joins other community members at Liberty Hall, 311 N. Ivy St., to discuss the potential for a variety of activities at the longtime gathering place which is situated next to an onramp to the Fremont Bridge.

Coalition of Neighborhoods, citing many reasons why the venue is important. It sits on "symbolic" common ground shared by the Boise and Eliot neighborhoods, areas short on vibrant neighborhood centers compared to other areas of Portland.

Santos-Lyons says the next step should

involve an outreach campaign to find out what would be "most meaningful" for groups that have been left out of the process so far. Leaders agree that a plan is in order to include the working poor and people of color.

"The most important thing for people to

know is that it's in process, so if people want to get involved, all they have to do is contact us with a plan," says Denvir.

Area residents are encouraged to call 503-249-8888 for more information or to meet with committee members during some of their upcoming events.