

# METRO

The Portland Observer



## Music, Dance and Storytelling

Family-friendly production that asks 'Who are we? Hispanic? Latino? American?' opens this weekend at Milagro Theatre

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38  
years of  
community service

SECTION B

## Community Calendar

### 82nd Avenue Roses Parade

Saturday, April 19 at 9 a.m. the second-annual parade kicks off. The parade committee recently announced the availability of sponsorships and requests for entries and volunteers. For more information to about participating, contact 503-484-6225. For volunteer opportunities, contact 503-252-9143.

### Tax Help in Rockwood

VITA tax aide for low-income families will assist clients by appointment only on Wednesdays, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Rockwood Community office, 18709 S.E. Stark. For reservations, call 503-816-1530.

### Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip

Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., explore Sauvie Island's bald eagles, hawks and falcons with an expert naturalist. \$5 fee per vehicle includes spotting scopes and maps. Bring your binoculars and join the fun.

### Tree Planting

Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Friends of Trees host the 25 community planting project beginning with the Arbor Lodge, University Park and St. John's areas; the staging area will be at 8204 N. Central St. Arrive before 9 a.m. to register for your planting team.

### Lead Poisoning Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 2, from 1 to 1:45 p.m., a free Fix-it-Fair at Roosevelt High School in north Portland will focus on protecting your family from dangerous lead poisoning. Participants receive a free awareness kit. To register, call 503-284-6827.

### Doll and Teddy Bear Show

Saturday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Kliever National Guard Armory, Northeast 33rd and Marine Drive, will host this unbelievable assortment of collectables and antiques for doll and teddy bear lovers of all ages.

### Problem Pooch Solutions

Saturday, Feb. 2 and Saturday, Feb. 16, at 12:30 p.m., the Oregon Humane Society, 1067 N.E. Columbia Blvd., with animal behavior specialist will host the informative discussion groups for pet owners. Do not bring your pet. A finicky feline course will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 12:30 p.m.

### Super Tuesday Party

Tuesday, Feb. 5, from 6 to 10 p.m., the Democratic Party of Oregon will kick off the general election campaign with spirit at the Tiffany Center, 1410 S.W. Morrison St., featuring plenty of politics, live music, complimentary beer, wine, appetizers and raffles. For more information, visit oregondemocrats.org or call 503-239-8629.

### Homebuyer Programs

PDC's homebuyer assistance programs address the gap in home ownership rates between whites and communities of color. For information about new and expanded homebuyers assistance programs, visit pdc.us/nhp or call 503-823-3400.

### AARP Driving Refresher

Tuesday, Feb. 5 and Thursday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Mt. Hood Community College Gresham, 26000 S.E. Stark, will offer the two-day AARP class designed for age 50 and older; students with completion certificates become eligible for insurance discounts. \$10 fee. To register, visit mhcc.edu or call 503-491-7572.

### Valentine-A-Gram

Send someone special a beautiful Valentine basket featuring delicious cinnamon buns, coffee, juice, candy, gift certificates and more for only \$29.95 with the proceeds going to the Loaves and Fishes Center, Meals-on-Wheels program; orders must be placed by Feb. 7. To place and order or volunteer for deliveries contact 503-736-6325.

### Vocabulary of Architecture

Saturday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Architectural Heritage Center, 701 S.E. Grand Ave., hosts a seminar to demystify the language of architecture. To register, call 503-231-7264 or visit AHC.org.

### Catch the Authors

Thursday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m., In Other Words, 8 N.E. Killingsworth St., will host the reading night featuring five gay/lesbian/transgender authors. For more information, visit inotherwords.org or call 503-232-6003.

# Words Promote Inner Healing

## Reflections workshop spreads power of writing

People who might not have access to the power of writing and community because of income, isolation or other barriers have the opportunity to harness this power while making new friends at Reflections Coffee House in northeast Portland.

Write Around Portland runs volunteer-facilitated writing workshops to promote inner healing. Participants are encouraged to include those affected by HIV/AIDS, survivors of domestic violence, people in recovery from addictions, people who have experienced incarceration, seniors in foster care, veterans living with stress, people with disabilities, teen parents and low-income adults.

Wilma Alcock, a 69-year-old mother of four, will be one of the writers participating in an upcoming series of the workshops at Reflections.



Wilma Alcock is a local writer participating in a Write Around Portland workshop at Reflections Coffee House.

"Because we write and because it's a common thing, it's not like we're strangers," she says. "It's very freeing. It's very safe."

Seeing writing as a gift she's been given, Alcock has been described as an African griot, a storyteller who passes down the stories essential to the life of a culture.

She participated in a previous Write Around Portland workshop last fall at Park Terrace Apartments in north Portland. About that experience, she said, "I learned that there were all kinds of ways to write, that there isn't a given right way. We weren't bound to write a certain way — you could let your creativity just flow."

The free 10-week workshop, open to adults living on a low income or with a disability, invites exploration into the power of writing and community in a safe, respectful and creative environment.

The workshop runs Thursdays, 6 to 8 p.m., starting Feb. 14, at Reflections, 446 N.E. Killingsworth. Journals, pens, snacks and beverages provided. Pre-registration is required. To sign up or for more information, call 503-796-9224 or visit [writearound.org](http://writearound.org).

## Leaders for Racial Justice

Two people working to end the oppression of racism have been named 2007 Val Joshua Racial Justice Award winners by the YWCA of Clark County.

Jamie McCoy and Richard Twiss were selected for their commitment to the struggle for peace, justice, freedom and the dignity of all people.

The awards were presented at the YWCA Annual Celebration on Jan. 23.

McCoy is the preschool director of Learning Avenues Child Care Center. She teaches her students to accept everyone regardless of their background. She also serves as council president of the Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church in Washington.

Twiss is the president and founder of Wiconi International, an organization that works to help Native people become leaders in the Christian church. It serves the community through international outreach and advocacy, camps and spiritual events and family ministries.

The YWCA also presented its first Youth Social Justice Award at last week's ceremony. Soar International and their group leader, Jean Walker, were recognized for helping students in Rwanda, eradicate landmines in Vietnam and provide school supplies to homeless children in the Portland-Vancouver area. They have raised funds to support their work with a benefit concert at Esther Short Park.



Jamie McCoy



Richard Twiss

## Concordia University Builds Community Ties

### New scholarship adds to outreach efforts

During the question and answer period following his State of the City address Jan. 18 at Jefferson High School, Mayor Tom Potter announced that Concordia University has created a new scholarship that will benefit one Jefferson High School student with tuition and books for all four years of study as long as the student

remains in good academic standing.

In 2005, the university began an outreach program to strengthen and invigorate its efforts to connect and serve its northeast Portland community where it has resided for 102 years.

During the 2005-06 academic year, Concordia University students, faculty,

and staff contributed nearly 223,000 hours of practicum, internships, and service learning hours; and served over 10,000 community members, 5,000 of which were youth.

The university has a stated goal to be a "net contributor" to the community as a facilitator and resource for addressing the challenges the community faces.

Concordia's current and most active partnerships include: Black Parent Initia-

tive, Bridge Builders, the City of Portland Mayor's Office, Self Enhancement, Inc., Rosemary Anderson School, Trillium Family Services, and the World Affairs Council.

The outreach has manifested itself through: The Concordia Teacher Corps (academic tutoring for K-12 students);

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## AFRICAN TALE COMES TO THE STAGE



Ithica Tell and Amy Gray bring the African tale "Anansi the Spider" to the stage in a Tears of Joy Theatre production.

Celebrating their 35th year of entertaining Northwest audiences, Tears of Joy Theatre is bringing the African story of "Anansi the Spider" for a series of performances beginning Friday and continuing throughout the month of February.

The trickster spider of West Africa is brought to life in two hilarious tales. First, find out how Anansi tricked the lion out of his stories. Second, enjoy "Anansi and the Talking Melon," adapted from a tale retold by Eric Kimmel, which begins, "Anansi loved to eat melons, but he was much too lazy to grow them himself."

The show is visually vibrant and clever with ingenious stage designs, African prints, and life-sized puppets of charming animal characters.

Performances take place at the Winningstad Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 111 S.W. Broadway. Performances are Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m., and Sundays at 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday performances are complemented by hands-on craft activities in the lobby.

Individual ticket prices are \$13 for children and \$16 for adults. Call 503-248-0557 or 360-695-3050 or visit [www.tojt.com](http://www.tojt.com).