

Drum Majors for Dr. King

continued ▲ from Front

benches downtown and in the Lloyd District, and has pledged to provide more free public toilets and indoor gathering places.

Sisters founder Genney Nelson was part of a "vision committee" that created a master plan for the Old Town/China Town district. Under her leadership, the café asserted its own rights but also respected those of its neighbors.

Once responsible for virtually all activities at Sisters, Nelson has been gradually fazing herself out of day-to-day responsibilities, dividing them among several people.

"We work on the theory that you should recruit a successor who's better than you are," she told the Portland Observer.

This past year, Sisters' work earned the group a Spirit of Portland Award as one of two outstanding non-profit organizations. (Another award went to the publication Street Roots, a newspaper by and for the homeless.) The awards are given annually to groups and individuals who enhance the city's livability. Nelson received the honor as an individual several years ago.

Patrick Nolen, a Sisters volunteer who headed a delegation to receive the group award from Commissioner Randy Leonard at a ceremony at City Hall last month, remained true to the organization's tradition. After



James Marsh serves a healthy meal to Doug Chandler at the Sisters of the Road Café, 133 S.W. Sixth Ave., a non-profit organization that follows in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by working against homelessness and poverty

saying that he "appreciates the recognition," Nolen called on the council to repeal the Sit-Lie ordinance

— thus living up to the admonition of another African American leader, W.E.B. Dubois,

who said people should raise their voices against injustice "in season and out of season."

Cully Leader Makes a Difference

continued ▲ from Front

implementation.

Cully opposition persuaded the Boeing Corporation not to seek a major air pollution discharge permit for its aircraft maintenance facility. The group is currently opposed to the Portland Air National Guard base practicing aerial maneuvers by F-15 fighter jets over the residential neighborhood.

Cully has one of the largest neighborhood cleanups in the city, and they have inspired the local Albertson's store to sponsor a monthly volunteer litter pickup.

The group received a Spirit of Portland award as Neighborhood of the Year in 2006.

and Fuerstenau emerged as their leader. She helped broker a deal whereby some of the land slated for residential development would instead be donated for addition to the adjacent Sacajawea Park, and conditions would be placed on the industrial development. At the next neighborhood election she was elected chair by a large majority.

"It changed my whole life," she says now. I wasn't involved in anything, so I plunged in. It was interesting going around the neighborhood, learning how to do a land use case. I'd never done it, but I'd never failed at anything I'd tried to do. Thank you, Steve Yett!" (Yett remains Cully's land use chair to this day.)

their faire, or Harvest Fest. She prevails on local business people to contribute items for door prizes. Albertson's regularly contributes snack food.

Under Fuerstenau, Cully used a small grant to send out an information letter to all residents written in Russian, Spanish and Somali as well as English. They provide new homeowners with a welcome packet containing both useful information about available services and coupons from local businesses.

The Cully newsletter, Fuerstenau says is "pretty good, if I do say so myself." For their meeting on The Arbor, Fuerstenau invited the park's residents. "They realized that they did have a say and a voice through us," she says.

Cully is home to Hacienda Community Development Corp., a non-profit providing affordable housing to Latinos. The neighborhood group has sometimes been critical of Hacienda's management, but has also worked cooperatively with them on some projects.

Fuerstenau was born at a military base in Tokyo, the daughter of a Japanese mother and a Japanese-American military interpreter.

She spent much of her childhood shuttling back and forth between Japan and Portland. She and her husband Jerry moved to Cully "almost 30 years ago. We found a house I liked, near Sacajawea Park, with a fantastic grape arbor."

The area, then part of unincorporated Multnomah County, was later annexed to the city amid promises of great improvements.

"Oh's it's really going to be great to be part of the city, you'll have new streets and services," Fuerstenau mimics promised made, sarcastically. "It doesn't seem to have happened."

However, she adds, "It keeps you going when you have little successes."

She counts as one success the Cully-Concordia Community Assessment, which she praised as "a doable action plan" in testimony before City Council last November.

In return Adams, then a city commissioner, told her, "Thank you for your stalwart, persistent advocacy. I wish every neighborhood had the kind of leader you've been."



PHOTO BY LEE PERLMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cully Association of Neighborhoods Chair Kathy Fuerstenau is a tireless advocate for her northeast Portland community.

Fuerstenau is not personally responsible for all of this; she has many tireless helpers such as Erwin Bergman, a passionate critic of Portland International Airport and advocate for additional open space.

Just a few years ago, Cully meetings were attended by less than a dozen people, but things started to change in 2002, when Cully land use chair Steve Yett started working on a major development project that would take 10 acres of land for employment and industrial use, and develop housing on adjacent land at a higher density than the homes around it.

A large number of neighbors protested,

Under Fuerstenau, meeting attendance seldom drops below 40 on a slow night, and not infrequently tops 100 for a hot topic.

"I would call up key people," she told the Portland Observer. "I would send out agendas to people who had signed our attendance lists, and urged them to come and bring friends. People come back because I have good topics and good speakers. People know this is the best place to get information."

It is also fun. The neighborhood group has special events such as Cully Cuisine, in which local restaurants bring samples of

Sisters March Honors King's Work

Sisters of the Road Café honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the work of his Poor People's Campaign, with an annual march on the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday, Monday, Jan. 19.

The march will begin at 3 p.m. at the Sister's headquarters at 133 N.W. Sixth Ave., and proceed to St. Marty's Academy at 1615 S.W. Fifth Ave.

Scheduled this year on the eve of the inauguration of a new U.S. President, organizers say the march is a fitting time to remember Dr. King's work for economic human rights and advocate for needed change in Portland.

Especially important will be the group's call to restore civil liberties to the homeless community by repealing the city's Sit/Lie ordinance.

Next month, the café's hosts its largest fundraiser of the year, the Winterfolk concert at the Aladdin Theatre. The Feb. 7 event is dedicated to the late Bruce "Utah" Phillips, a dedicated Sisters supporter for decades. Tickets are \$28 in advance and are available from the Aladdin or Music Millennium.

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

State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Michael E Harper Agent



We moved to our new location at:
9713 S.W. Capitol, Portland, OR
503-221-3050
Fax 503-227-8757

Computer Repair

We Fix Laptops & Desktops



- Screen replacement
- Keyboard
- Custom systems
- Data Backup/Recovery
- Virus & Spyware Removal
- Hardware/Software Installs

CPCS 311 NE Killingsworth 503-247-3169

Your Care Our First Priority



Dr. Marcelitte Failla
Chiropractic Physician

We are located at
1716 N.E. 42nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97213
(Between Broadway and Sandy Blvd.)



- Automobile accident injuries
- Chronic headache and joint pain
- Workers Compensation injuries

Call for an appointment! (503) 228-6140



New Prices Effective May 1, 2007
Martin Cleaning Service
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
Residential & Commercial Services

Minimum Service CHG. \$45.00

Carpet Cleaning

2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area
Pre-Spray Traffic Areas
(Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00
(Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area • Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs) \$25.00
(With Other Services)

Heavily Soiled Area: Additional \$10.00

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa \$79.00
Loveseat \$59.00
Sectional \$109 - \$139
Chair or Recliner \$35 - \$49
Throw Pillows \$5.00
(With Other Services)

See Flyers for Additional Prices
Call For Appointment
(503) 281-3949



The Portland Observer Established 1970
USPS 959-680
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97211
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington
EDITOR: Michael Leighton
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and cannot be used in other publications or personal usage without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 2008 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. The Portland Observer—Oregon's Oldest Multicultural Publication—is a member of the National Newspaper Association—Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association
CALL 503-288-0033 FAX 503-288-0015
news@portlandobserver.com ads@portlandobserver.com
subscription@portlandobserver.com