

The Northwest Community Gospel Choir will be auditioning for sopranos, altos and tenors on Saturday, August 6, 2016. The choir performs three Gospel Christmas concerts with the Oregon Symphony each December at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Audition materials will be provided. Rehearsals begin on October 8. The ability to sight read is preferred, but is not essential.

For more information and to schedule an audition time call **503-416-6303**

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Spreading Cultural Harmony

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“As a teacher I felt that there were things I needed to do,” Leonard says. “We can erase some of those stereotypes we have. If we change that paradigm we’re in a better position to promote peace around the world.”

Her educational efforts have taken her to places like Egypt, Guyana, the United Arab Emirates, Switzerland and Ghana

among others.

Though Leonard technically retired in 2012, she hasn’t stopped her endeavors in spreading her faith and knowledge in peaceful equality. She still heads the Multicultural Education offices for PPS’s Allied Services Team, where the education of youth in diversity is of high importance.

“I think youth especially in the United States don’t have the

same prejudices we have because of technology. The challenge is not to see ourselves as better than other people, we are all different people. The challenge is to make sure everyone gets an education,” Leonard says.

“If we want our child to be free, we have to make sure that every child has that opportunity. Every one of us needs to be able to understand that there are no throw away children.”

SEI to Close Academy

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Avenue will likely reopen as a grade 6-8 middle school by fall of 2017.

The SEI Academy was limited to about 50 students per year. Since there will be no incoming 6th graders and the current 8th graders will be moving on to high school level education, the 7th graders going into their next year will be the most affected, according to SEI’s Strategic Partnerships Manager Lisa Saunders.

Grade 7 students will be moved into one of the other middle schools for their 8th grade year. The fate of the staff that works with the Academy pupils has not yet been figured out.

SEI intends to continue their services through PPS by collaborating with its student within the new middle schools, particularly focusing on minority pupils.

“We believe that now is the time to not only partner with Portland Public Schools to increase the SEI

services at both Ockley Green and Tubman to make them the best schools possible for all students, but also to increase attention on our African-American students,” Hopson wrote in the letter.

Tubman is the highest focus for Hopson because of its deep ties in the African American populated neighborhoods of inner north and northeast Portland and where PPS hasn’t operated in its own middle school grades since the Young Women’s Leadership Academy closed there in 2012.

The school currently hosts K-8 students from the Faubion School while that building is being rebuilt, but OPB reports the blueprint going forward for Tubman would involve pulling students from Boise-Eliot/Humboldt, King, Sabin and Irvington schools as the transition into elementary structures.

“We hope to fully integrate our efforts into Tubman Middle School going forward. It is our hope that given the past history of

Tubman Middle School it would maintain an African American culturally specific option that our students can take part in,” Hopson stated in the letter.

SEI has won praise for working with students enrolled in local schools. At Jefferson High School, for example, SEI mentorships have helped the school drastically improve its graduation rates. The alliance between the non-profit and PPS has produced graduate Sekai Edwards, for example, who has been accepted to Juillard for the upcoming term. JHS has also been named a Title I Distinguished School and the National Excellence in Urban Education Award winner with SEI assistance. Hopson hopes to transition SEI’s achievements to Tubman specifically.

“We believe that Tubman ought to have an African-American focus in some form. What shape that takes, I’m not sure,” Hopson told OPB. “But we expect that if we’re involved, that we could provide additional culturally-specific services to the African-American students and any other students.”

Joining Port of Portland Commission

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ship Forum of Oregon, the Northwest Health Foundation, and Black United Fund.

Alexander is a graduate of Lewis University and Bryn Mawr

College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. He is a native of Brooklyn, N. Y., and relocated to Oregon in 2005. Alexander lives in Portland’s Sellwood neighborhood with his wife, Nancy, and has three children and three grandchildren.

Alexander replaces Port of Portland Commissioner Peter Bragdon. The nine-member panel sets Port policy during its monthly meetings. They are unpaid volunteers who serve four-year terms and can be reappointed for an additional term.

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