

COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

African Dance, Auction, Music and Food

The Josiah Hill III Clinic invites the community to support its work by attending its 5th annual "Leaving a Legacy" auction and dinner. The event at 5:30 p.m. on May 19 at the Acadian Ballroom, 1839 NE Alberta St. will feature a delicious food, an auction, music, reports from families who have been helped by the clinic and a performance by the amazing Kukatonon African dance troupe. Bruce Watts, a longtime board member urged everyone to consider attending. "This fundraiser is what allows us to deliver services free of charge," he said. "Our goal is to keep kids and families healthy. And we are going to have a lot of fun. This event is always a lot of fun."

Clinic founder Josiah Hill III was the first physician assistant in Oregon, Watts said. Working in the community for Kaiser Permanente and as sports and dance medicine specialist, Hill found that children – especially in minority communities – were

being exposed to lead and other toxins. Yet the problem was being missed because they were not being tested. Working with Dr. Richard Bayer, Hill galvanized a coalition of players, including Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Coalition of Black Men, to create a service that would offer free lead testing.

Environmental pollutants can make children and adults sick. They can be the cause of asthma and headaches, and they can even damage developing brains and nerves. If you live in a newer home with good ventilation, and use green household products, you probably have nothing to worry about. But for families living in dilapidated housing, near renovation projects, or using toxic products without realizing their effects, the Josiah Hill III Clinic can be the key to restoring health.

Last year, the clinic delivered more than 1000 free health screenings in low-income communities. The clinic takes its mobile lead blood testing on the road, visiting

more than 80 sites last year. That's crucial, because lead is a serious hazard that can affect children's development, and hurt everyone's health. Until the 1970s, lead was used in household items from gasoline and paint to water pipes and crystal glasses. The Environmental Protection Agency banned lead from paint in 1978, but older homes can still be affected – especially if peeling paint is present and during or after renovations.

However, lead is just one of the environmental poisons that hurt children. Many other hazards exist in and around homes. Asthma, for example, which is related to allergies and sensitivity to tobacco and other pollutants, has increased dramatically among children, even as smoking has decreased. The incidence jumped from 37 per 1000 in 1980 to 69 per 1000 by the late 1990s. More than 1 in 10 African Americans have asthma, higher than any other ethnic group. According to one study for the Centers for Disease Control,

Urban League



PHOTO COURTESY JEFF SHOWELL

Saturday was "Comcast Cares" day at the Urban Harvest Garden. The garden is a joint project of the Urban League of Portland and the African Women's Coalition. Watch video of the event on PDXJeffShowell's channel on YouTube.

children missed 10.5 million school days in 2008 because of asthma. The Josiah Hill III clinic goes into homes to help families

find and deal with environmental pollutants. Trained workers and volunteers checked more than 100 homes last year.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PORTLAND MAY 2011

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If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to *The Skanner* at info@theskanner.com

Thursday May 5

FREE GREEN JOB TRAINING FOR WOMEN! Free, 6-week classes prepare women for green jobs in blue collar fields. Attend orientation on May 5 for classes starting May 24. Call 503-335-8200 ext 21 or email info@tradeswomen.net, or sign online at www.tradeswomen.net.

Thursday thru Sunday May 5 thru may 8

27TH ANNUAL CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL! The celebration starts Thursday May 5 at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Come down and have some fun. Waterfront Park Downtown Portland. Friday thru Sunday hours are 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Admission is 13 and older \$6, Children 6 to 12 \$3, seniors 62 and older \$4, children under 6 are free.

Friday & Saturday May 6 & 7

EVERY HUSBAND'S NIGHTMARE BAZAAR! Every Husband's Nightmare Bazaar is in its 23rd year. Which features over 100 local crafters with Christmas ornaments and décor, fall décor, jewelry, bath and body and much more. Free admission. Friday 10 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Washington County Fair Complex, 873 NE 34th Ave. Hillsboro

Saturday May 7

AFRICAN MARIMBA CONCERT: Six Marimba bands will perform music high energy from Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana at this all ages event. This event is free and open to the public. Noon – 4 p.m. Evangel Baptist Church, 2830 NE Flanders St.

Sunday May 8

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!

TAKE MOM TO THE TULIP FESTIVAL! All vendors, services, and attraction will be in full operation at the farm near Woodburn. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. 33814 S. Meridian Rd, Woodburn \$10 per vehicle.

Tuesday May 10

A ROSE FOR PORTLAND! Come down and get your rose! Alaska Airlines will be on-site to announce the beginning of their Rose Festival Sponsorship Season. Noon – 1 p.m. Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Sunday May 15

MAY DAY CELEBRATION! Film Showing of *The Take*, award winning documentary by journalist Avi Lewis and author Naomi Klein. Filmed during Argentina's 2001 economic collapse. 2 p.m. Door Donation of \$3. A World without borders buffet will be served at 5 p.m. for an \$8 donation. Bread and Roses Center.

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