



OLD TOWN CHINATOWN CRIER

WINTER 2003

A Publication of the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association

Old Town Chinatown to Take Part in the 11th Annual Commemoration of Dr. King's Legacy

The Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc, will be a sponsor and participant in the 11th annual commemoration of The Rev. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy on Monday, January 20, 2003. Building on the momentum of last year's success, the march will again begin in two separate neighborhoods and convene into one unified march as a "symbol of what can and could happen in Portland when people reach across geographical and political barriers," according to Marlene Howell, march coordinator.

The NW neighborhood march will begin at Sisters Of The Road Café in Old Town Chinatown, 133 NW Sixth, marching through the neighborhood, over the Burnside Bridge, then north on NE Grand Avenue. The NE neighborhood march will begin in the Dawson park area, NE Stanton and Williams, marching through the neighborhood and head south on NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Both marches will begin at 5:30PM and begin marching at 6pm. They will come together near the statue of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on MLK Blvd., and then proceed to the Portland Conference Center for an evening of celebration beginning at 7:00PM. The focus of that celebration will be an open mike platform for marchers and celebration attendees to share thoughts, poems, ideas, hopes, and dreams. There will also be drummers, a gospel choir, performance poetry, and challenging political inspiration from local political leaders.



Drawing on Martin Luther King Jr.'s attention to issues of poverty and inequality, and his fervent anti-war activism, this march celebrates the persistence of those who advocate for peace and social change through persistent non-violent political activism.

The public is invited to join either march. Organizations who share MLK's vision are welcome to join, bring signs in support of his ideology, and participate in the celebration.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sisters Of The Road Cafe, Inc.
133 NW Sixth Avenue, Portland, Oregon
Telephone: 503.222.5694.
E-mail: info@sistersoftheroadcafe.org.
Web site address: www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org.

Building Preservation and Reuse Plan to Come Before City Council

The City Council hearing on Phase 2 of the Historic Resources Code Amendments Project [HRCAP] has been rescheduled to 6PM on Wednesday, January 15, 2003. The ongoing conversation centers around how the City will treat historic property through zoning regulations and development incentives. Council is expected to discuss and potentially act on suggestions from the Bureau of Planning outlining steps to both increase development activity of historic property and protect the architectural heritage of the city. A report on incentives and regulations is available at www.planning.ci.portland.or.us. For more information please contact Cielo Lutino with the Bureau of Planning at 503.823.6879 or HRCAP@ci.portland.or.us.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND EVENTS

City Council Unanimously Approves Old Town/Chinatown Streetscape Project; Improvements Slated for NW 3rd and 4th Avenues

(Excerpts from PDC news release) A project to improve the streetscape in Old Town/Chinatown moved a step closer when the Portland City Council unanimously approved the 3rd and 4th Avenue Streetscape Plan. The Portland Development Commission (PDC) and the City's Office of Transportation are developing a streetscape improvement plan in Old Town/Chinatown along NW 3rd and 4th Avenues from Burnside to Hoyt Street. The vote authorized funding for the project.

"The Old Town Chinatown community has worked very hard to put this vision together," said Mayor Katz. "Now their vision and plans are coming to fruition and we will all benefit from the improvements that are coming to this historic part of our city," she added.

At the Council presentation, testimony in favor of the plan was received from co-chairs of the 3rd and 4th Avenue Streetscape Plan Steering Committee, the OTCT Neighborhood Association, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Society, local restaurateur Steven Louis of House of Louie, Central City Concern, Northwest Natural, Port of Portland, the Portland Business Alliance and the Classical Chinese Garden. Mr. Tran Hung also composed a poem commemorating the occasion that was interpreted by Mr. Holden Leung and was presented to the Council in calligraphed form by Mr. Zhang Quan.

The Old Town/Chinatown Development Plan that was approved by City Council in 1999 identified streetscape improvement as one of the highest priorities for the neighborhood. The streetscape improvements capitalize on new housing development in the area and the success of the Classical Chinese Garden.

Based on community input, the design team of SRG Partnership and Nevue Ngan and Associates and Suenn Ho Design created three design approaches for the streetscape improvements. The original designs were eventually narrowed through several public bilingual meetings to a preferred plan that focuses on creating special "festival" areas on NW Davis and Flanders Streets between 3rd and 4th Avenues while also providing elements that unify the entire neighborhood.

Other key design elements of the streetscape plan include:

- New concrete sidewalks and curbs throughout the project area with cobblestone accents
- New street lighting and street trees
- Curb extensions on NW 3rd and 4th Avenues
- Improvements to the NW 3rd and Glisan Street intersection and a gateway plaza at the southeast corner of the intersection
- Street furnishings added throughout the project area
- Addition of cultural streetscape amenities such as signage, art and paving materials that will represent the historic and cultural aspects of the neighborhood

With the vote from City Council, city staff and the design team will now work to complete the final design and engineering phases of the project. This is anticipated to go before the PDC Board for approval in late summer 2003. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2004. The estimated construction costs are \$4.5 million. Funds for the project will come from tax increment proceeds from the Downtown/ Waterfront Urban Renewal Area.

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Celebrate the Year of the Ram in Chinatown



Chinese New Year
Portland, Oregon · February 2003

Celebrate Chinese New Year from February 1 - 15, 2003 by taking part in activities throughout the Old Town Chinatown neighborhood. Local businesses and the Classical Chinese Garden will be at the center of the events ushering in the year of the Ram (or 4700 for those keeping count).

“Passport to Chinatown”

The Passport to Chinatown program is a rewards promotion for frequent visitors to Old Town Chinatown businesses. The program debuted last year and is sponsored by the Portland Business Alliance, Classical Chinese Garden and State Farm Insurance. Participating businesses offer special deals in their shops or restaurants and, in return, customers receive a “stamp” in their “passports”. By collecting four stamps participants will receive one free admission to the Chinese Classical Garden. Don't miss the fun... or the value. Passports are located at all participating businesses and the Classical Chinese Garden.

Shen Renqian Painting Showcased

In addition to the active event schedule, the Garden will showcase the simple, yet evocative paintings of artist Shen Renqian, from the private collection of Sunny and Judy Han. Mr. Shen is a native of Portland's sister city, Suzhou, and his studio and gallery are within view of the entrance of our sister garden in Suzhou, the Master of Nets. The exhibit will only run from February 1 to 15, 2003.

Lantern Festival

The New Year celebration will culminate with the Lantern Festival on Saturday, February 15, 2003. The Portland Classical Chinese Garden will host an afternoon of lantern making and children's activities in the Garden. Other activities are being planned - get the latest information by visiting www.portlandchinesegarden.org or by calling 503.228.8131.



JUST VOTE!!

How you vote is up to you, but please fill out the vote by mail ballot that will arrive in your mail box around Friday, January 10, 2003 and return it to the Multnomah County Elections Division office or one of the various official ballot drop off sites by 8:00PM on Election Day, Tuesday, January 29, 2003. For more information on Ballot Measure 28 visit www.oregon.gov, the official state web site. For a list of official ballot drop off sites contact the Multnomah County Elections Division at 503.988.3720.

Consolidated Plan to Receive Hearing

Multnomah County, the City of Portland, and the City of Gresham are in the process of developing their Action Plans for fiscal year 2003/2004. These Action Plans will describe how federal funds, including CDBG, HOME and other housing and community development resources will be used in the coming year to address the priority needs and objectives established in the approved Consolidated Plan 2001-2005. Before issuing proposed FY 2003/2004 Action Plans, the jurisdictions want to give local residents the opportunity to present information and views on housing and community development needs and priorities at the upcoming public hearing:

Wednesday, January 8, 2002
5:30PM to 7:30PM

The Multnomah Building, Board Room
501 SE Hawthorne, Portland

All comments received at the hearing will be considered in preparing the jurisdictions' FY 2003/2004 Action Plans. Summaries of public comments will also be included in final plan documents. You may also submit comments in writing. Written comments will be accepted through 5 February 2003. Please address written comments to HCDC, c/o City of Portland 421 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 or send to bkaye@ci.portland.or.us.

The hearing is accessible to people with mobility impairments. Please notify Ruth Benson, Bureau of Housing and Community Development, 503.823.2375, 503.823.6868 [TTY] at least 7 days before a hearing if you need interpretive services.

For more information, please contact Beth Kaye, Bureau of Housing and Community Development, City of Portland, at 503.823.2393 or bkaye@ci.portland.or.us.



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Community Partner Profile: Old Town Toastmasters

Toastmasters is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a mutually supportive and positive learning environment for members to improve their public speaking, communication and leadership skills. The organization supports the belief that these skills foster self-confidence and positive personal growth. The goal at each meeting is to improve personal skills, provide constructive feedback and networking opportunities, all while enjoying membership in a supportive group atmosphere.

The group meets every Tuesday from 6:55AM until 8:00AM at One Pacific Square [the gas company building], located at 220 NW Second Avenue, in the fourth floor Hospitality Room. Attendees range from seven to ten, which allows for active participation and casual fun. Meetings are open to all. Feel free to drop in, or call Mark Forker at 503.226.4211, ext. 5762 for more information.

Public Safety Committee and Community Partners Support the "Business Watch"

The Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association, in conjunction with the Downtown Crime Prevention Program, has begun implementing a Business Watch Program in OTCT.

This program gives businesses, property owners, and residents an opportunity to be part of the quality of life solution for Old Town Chinatown. Participants in the Business Watch Program are provided training, and training materials, on how to identify, document and report criminal activity. In addition, the program connects participants to their neighbors, the Neighborhood Association and the Crime Prevention Program via e-mail and website communications.

Because of this joining together by the community, there has been an increase in drug-related arrests and an increased attention to the neighborhood from law enforcement agencies.

Anyone interested in joining the Business Watch Program, please contact:

Samantha Kennedy, Downtown Crime Prevention,
503.224.7383 - E-mail: samanthak@portlandpatrol.com

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New Neighbors Call Old Town Chinatown Home

We welcome and congratulate those who established new businesses, expanded current businesses, or relocated within the neighborhood during the 2002 calendar year.

Bakery @ Royal Family Ginseng Plaza, LLC
Central City Building Services
Cañita - Cuban eatery
East
Everett Street Auto Works
5 Star Tattoo
Hair Act - hair salon
Hive: modern design for the home
Just Be Toys
Magdelyn Theatre Company
Ogle - art and optometry
Pendleton Home Store
Second Story Bistro
The Monkey & The Rat
Three Point Oil



Looking for a calendar of meetings, events, and happenings in OTCT?

Visit <http://www.portlandalliance.com/OTCT> and click on Calendar. Additionally, information on OTCT Neighborhood Association meetings and other city or county sponsored meetings can be obtained from City & County Information & Referral @ 503.823.4000.



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WEB VERSION EXCLUSIVES!

Back by Popular Demand

Learn Traditional Chinese Bulb Culture and Carving

Once again, Portland Classical Chinese Garden is offering a hands-on workshop that offers instruction on how to carve narcissus bulbs and train them to create unusual flower and foliage growth.

This workshop will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2003 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM at the Garden's greenhouses located at 6801 SE 60th Avenue, Portland. The tuition for the workshop is \$30 for the general public, \$25 for Garden members. This covers a bulb, carving tools, and a decorative dish for the bulb. Mark Vossbrink, floral designer, will teach the class. Registration is required by Tuesday, January 7, 2003. Call 503.228.8131 x2001 to reserve space in the workshop.

Fragrant narcissus is the floral hallmark of Chinese New Year Celebrations. These carved bulbs may bloom in time for the Chinese New year which is celebrated from February 1-15, 2003.

The Portland Classical Chinese Garden is located at NW Third Avenue and Everett Street in OTCT. The Garden is open from 10:00AM to 5:00PM daily from November to the end of March and from 9:00AM to 6:00PM from April to the end of October. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors; children 5 and under are free. Tours are available at Noon and 1PM. Gift or personal memberships are available at the Garden Gift Shop, office, or by phone @ 503.228.8131. Visit the Garden's Web site at www.portlandchinesegarden.org.

You see us....

But do we see YOU?

By not participating you allow the neighborhood association to assume we are doing a good job. While we like the personal satisfaction of "thinking" that we are wonderful, we know that YOU are out there with more wonderful ideas, excellent ideas, and heartfelt concern for this neighborhood. GET INVOLVED. SHARE. IT'S FUN AND FREE.

Join on-line today at www.portlandalliance.com/otct or call OTCTNA Chair, Howard Weiner at (503) 248-0495.

Utah Phillips Returns For Sorc's Winterfolk XV Anniversary Celebration!

Mark your calendars! Sisters of the Road Café is proud to announce that songwriter, storyteller and conscience of America, Utah Phillips will return to Portland's Aladdin to perform at Winterfolk's XV Anniversary Celebration! An all-star folk cast including Misty River, Tom May, Chris Kennedy, Tracy Grammer, Steve Einhorn & Kate Power, and Andrew Calhoun will also be appearing. The annual music fundraiser for Sisters is scheduled for 7:00PM. Saturday, February 1, 2003 at the Aladdin Theatre. Tickets to this exciting anniversary event are \$23 in advance, \$25 at the door; tickets will be available January 1, 2003 at the Aladdin, Ticketmaster, Music Millennium, and on the Aladdin website (www.aladdin-theater.com).

They're Not All Hothouse Prima Donnas: Learn to Grow Orchids Outdoors in Portland

Portland Classical Chinese Garden and the Garden of Awakening Orchids, is sponsoring a lecture and slide show on growing orchids outdoors in Portland. Dick Cavender, proprietor of Red's Rhodies in Sherwood, will lecture on the types of orchids that do well in Northwest gardens and he will offer growing tips as well.

This lecture will be held Saturday, January 11, 2003 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM at the Garden's greenhouses located at 6801 SE 60th Avenue, Portland. The tuition is \$12 for non-members & \$8 for members. Registration is required by Jan. 6, 2003. Call 503 228-8131 ext. 2001 to reserve a seat at this lecture.



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Association Committees and Meeting Information

Board of Directors Meeting
First Tuesday of the Month (no meeting this
November in lieu of the General Meeting
on the Visions document— See Page One)
Port of Portland Building
121 NW Everett
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
OTCTNA Contact:
Howard Weiner
(howard@calsk8.com)

Joint Land Use & Design Review
Committee Meeting
First Tuesday of the Month
Port of Portland Building
121 N.W. Everett
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
OTCTNA Contact:
Paul Verhoeven
(paul@saturdaymarket.org)
Visions Contact:
Patrick Gortmaker
(patrick@kalbererco.com)

Medford Advisory Committee Meeting
First Wednesday of the Month
Central City Concern
232 NW Sixth Avenue
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Medford Contact:
E. V. Armitage
(ev@centralcityconcern.org)

Public Safety Committee Meeting
First Wednesday of the Month
Central City Concern
232 NW Sixth Avenue
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
OTCTNA Contact:
Howard Weiner (howard@calsk8.com)

Communications Committee Meeting
Last Monday of the Month
Central City Concern
232 NW Sixth Avenue
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
OTCTNA Contact:
Jan Anderson (otctna@quik.com)

Public Spaces Committee Meeting
Last Tuesday of the Month
Central City Concern
232 NW Sixth Avenue
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
OTCTNA Contacts:
Kevin Montgomery-Smith
(housing@portlandalliance.com)
Jackie Peterson
(oldtownproj@earthlink.net)

Visions Committee Meeting
Second Wednesday of the Month
Central City Concern
232 NW Sixth Avenue
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Visions Contact:
Mark Riesmeyer
(mark@centralcityconcern.org)

Schedule subject to change, see
Calendar on:
www.portlandalliance.com/OTCT for
the most recent information.

Moment in Time...

What, really, is wanted from a neighborhood? Convenience, certainly, an absence of major aggravation, to be sure. But perhaps most of all, ideally, what is wanted is a comfortable background, a breathing space of intermission between the intensities of private life and the calculations of public life.

Joseph Epstein

Cities need old buildings so badly it is probably impossible for vigorous streets and districts to grow without them.... for really new ideas of any kind—no matter how ultimately profitable or otherwise successful some of them might prove to be—there is no leeway for such chancy trial, error and experimentation in the high-overhead economy of new construction. Old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. New ideas must use old buildings.

Jane Jacobs

Not a Member? Be Involved. JOIN Now!

Do you live or work in the Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood? Then you owe it to yourself to become a member of the neighborhood organization. Membership is free and open to all that are concerned about our future. Join on-line today at www.portlandalliance.com/otct or call OTCTNA Chair, Howard Weiner at (503) 248-0495.