

Special Thanks to our Selection Committee:

*Amalia Alarcon Gaddie
David August
Heidi Blischke
Brent Canode
Diana Dines
Cheryl Jackson
Ron Laster
Michael Mock
Ross Monn
Pamela Plance
Jeanne Rivers
Marshall Runkel
Devra Staneart
Trish Trout
Steve Weir*

Special Thanks to our Photographer:

Barbara Ryan-Baxter

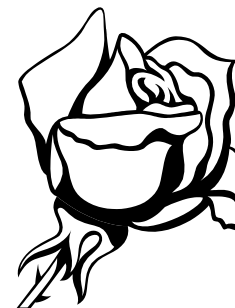
Organizer: Amanda Shepard

*Please join us in the first floor light court for a reception,
immediately following the Award Ceremony*



This program printed on recycled paper

2003
***Spirit of
Portland Awards***



***December 4,
2003
2:00 p.m.***

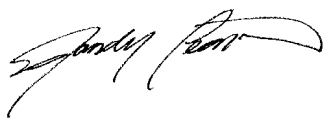
December 4, 2003

It is my honor to welcome and recognize all of you for your outstanding contributions to our City. As Commissioner-in-Charge of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, I have come to know many of today's Spirit of Portland Award recipients, and truly value your collective efforts to strengthen and enrich our community. On behalf of the rest of Council, I congratulate you on receiving this distinguished recognition.

There were many top-notch nominees across all categories. I think I speak for the entire selection committee when I say that no one should ever be assigned the task of selecting a few winners from such a qualified pool!

Thank you for your selfless efforts to make this City the envy of the rest of the nation. Your countless volunteer hours, energy, passion and civic pride have contributed to the livability and quality of life we enjoy and revere here in Portland.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Randy Leonard
City of Portland



MAYOR'S SPIRIT OF PORTLAND AWARDS

The Royal Rosarians

By Mayoral proclamation, the Royal Rosarians have officially served as the goodwill ambassadors for the City of Portland since 1912. The Rosarians is an all-volunteer organization funded by its members and spending hundreds of hours every year promoting the City of Roses. The Rosarians represent Portland when traveling to sister cities around the world participating in various ceremonies and events. They also take part in many local events including community celebrations and parades. One of the most important services that the Rosarians perform for the City is greeting visiting dignitaries. The presence of the Rosarians greatly enhanced such special events as the ceremonies to commemorate the 150th Birthday of the City of Portland, the opening of the Portland Classical Chinese Garden, and the inaugural flights for our new Lufthansa and Mexicana airline service. They play a major role in the Portland Rose Festival by escorting the floats in the Starlight and Grand Floral Parades. They also participate in the kick off events for the annual Cinco de Mayo festival. Each year they plant a rose in the City Hall rose garden and organize the knighting ceremony honoring community leaders. And each holiday season the Rosarians participate in the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors "Christmas for Kids" event by escorting disadvantaged children on a shopping trip funded by donations. The Rosarians sponsor the annual Newsmakers of the Year event which honors six to eight Portland area citizens who have performed exceptional acts of heroism or acts of benevolent service to others without regard for personal safety, public recognition, or commercial gain.

Darcelle XV

Some contemporary artists are well enough known that they need but one name -- Cher, Madonna, Arnold -- and Darcelle. For three-and-a-half decades, Darcelle has not only entertained Portland, but also enriched it with her generosity. Whenever asked, Darcelle provides her rare talent to worthy causes. Darcelle has become a community figurehead for supporting social causes for the gay, lesbian, and transgender community in the city as well as for larger community causes. Darcelle is a popular performer at fundraisers and has raised thousands of dollars each year for charities in the Portland area. Darcelle has never had to do worry much about marketing as she is constantly being asked to perform for community functions and is known for seldom refusing. Darcelle has joined with other organizations fighting the AIDS crisis and has regularly contributed to scholarship funds such as the Audrey Lynn foundation for children of gay and lesbian families. Darcelle continues to enrich the Portland area by representing a social space that points to a broader sense of what it means to be an accepting and open community.

Gary Boehm

Gary Boehm's unofficial title of "Mayor of St. John's" reflects his many years of unselfish contributions and activism on behalf of his community. It takes a full page, in single space, to list the many activities and events where he has played an instrumental role in the St. John's neighborhood. A very short list would include the Cathedral Park Jazz Festival, the Blue Heron Blues Festival, the St. John's parade, the St. John's Revitalization Project, the North Precinct Cadets graduation and teen dance, and the neighborhood's annual Halloween Carnival and Santa's Castle. A talented artist who operates his graphic design business in the historic St. John's Theater, Mr. Boehm also offers his artistic talents to the community, annually designing the St. John's Parade Pin, which is sold to raise funds for the parade, as well as the Jazz Festival posters and t-shirts. He also creates the area's business calendar that can be seen on almost every neighborhood business wall.

Award Presented by Commissioner Sten



CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Steve Pixley

Mr. Pixley's title is Volunteer Coordinator at the City Bureau of Parks and Recreation, but that does not begin to describe what he actually does in his work. Mr. Pixley has been tremendously successful in soliciting large donations from community businesses – but not only in the form of cash. He convinces businesses and their employees to donate their time, talents and materials. He has spent a great deal of time and energy working with NIKE to resurface basketball courts in parks throughout Portland. He energizes and excites volunteers – and he leads by example. Mr. Pixley volunteers much of his own time in service to a variety of community causes, from parks to feeding the hungry. He has a penchant for helping children. For example, when Columbia Village did not receive funding for field trips, Mr. Pixley responded by providing 40 swim passes for the children to use at Columbia Pool. Volunteerism at the Pixley household is a family thing; Mr. Pixley often involves his wife and two sons in his volunteer efforts, again leading by example.

Award Presented by Commissioner Francesconi

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Oregon Community Warehouse, Inc.

The premise of this organization is simple: every day, Oregonians discard items that can meet the vital needs of families who are transitioning out of crisis. Small but important items like dishtowels and drinking glasses, and large items such as beds and kitchen tables, can make all the difference. Enter Oregon Community Warehouse. OCW steps in to fill the necessary role of getting these items from donors and delivers them directly to the people who need them most. Founded in 2001, this non-profit has doubled its distributions each year. The expected distribution for 2003 is \$500, 000 worth of goods to 2000 families, with approximately 40 families helped per week. 40% of the receiving households are referred by several Multnomah County agencies, although the program receives no government assistance. People touched by the program include survivors of abuse, homelessness, substance use, and those coping with teen pregnancy, persecution, illness or disability.

Award Presented by Commissioner Sten

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Joe Rossi Farms and Joe Rossi

Joe Rossi's business is to provide local produce and seasonal items to shoppers, but his vocation is to lovingly support his community. The July barn dance and the October pumpkin patch at Rossi Farms bring joy to young and old alike, but what makes these events extra-special is that Mr. Rossi donates all proceeds from these events to support local youth programs. Mr. Rossi is personally involved at these events and greets everyone, making them feel they are an important part of the community. Mr. Rossi was also a driving volunteer force in the creation of a new children's park on the old Senns Dairy site at NE 112th Avenue and Prescott, which opened in May of this year. Mr. Rossi's farm has been in his family for more than 100 years, and his dedication to this community reflects the depth of those roots.

Award Presented by Commissioner Saltzman



VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR

HOPE: Help Out Public Education

This past winter, when Portland Public Schools faced mid-year budget cuts that threatened to cut short the school year by 24 days, three long-time school activists summoned parents to a meeting with a simple challenge: “Are you ready to fight for our kids and our schools?” The response was unanimous in the affirmative and on Super Bowl Sunday, 2003, HOPE was born. HOPE’s goals were simple: ensure a full school year, protect student-teacher ratios of 30:1 or better, and take action by mid-March so that parents would retain the confidence needed for keeping their children in the Portland Public Schools. Within a month, this all-volunteer organization had grown to 2,000 members and was soon engaged in an aggressive lobbying and public education campaign that included a march in the rain on City Hall, and greeting city commuters with their message one morning on every Portland bridge. HOPE worked with city, county, and school officials to develop a plan to save the Portland Public Schools from demoralizing budget cuts, and HOPE was the galvanizing force behind the passage of Ballot Measure 26-48, which implemented a temporary Multnomah County income tax that guaranteed, in part, that children would benefit from a full school year.

Award Presented by Mayor Katz

LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Nike, Inc.

Nike is a corporate role model in promoting community involvement. Not only does Nike give back to our community through traditional charitable donations, it actively encourages its employees to share their strengths and skills through volunteerism and community involvement. This commitment is most evident through Nike’s annual “U.S. Community Involvement Day” when each employee is provided the opportunity to spend a full eight-hour workday in support of a local community program. Nike employees in Portland have painted buildings, brought entertainment to seniors and attention to their issues, been helping hands at a child care center, read to children, and revamped playgrounds to name a few examples. Further, Nike offers a matching gift donation program. For every hour an employee donates, Nike donates \$10 to the designated organization – up to \$5,000 per employee per year. With some 1,000 Portland-area employees volunteering on 35 different Portland projects, Nike and its employees have had a huge positive impact on our community.

Award Presented by Commissioner Francesconi



Eileen G. Fitzsimons

Eileen Fitzsimons has a passion for the history of Portland and Oregon. Her knowledge of our area’s history has allowed her to play an enormously constructive role in resolving controversial development issues in her neighborhood of Sellwood. As a member of the Citizen’s Committee for Westmoreland Park and the Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League, her historical perspective greatly enhanced the planning process for the park and the neighborhood as a whole. She led the successful effort to preserve the facade of the historic trolley car barns in Sellwood. A regular contributor of articles to the Sellwood Bee community newspaper, she is developing a history of the Elk Rock Garden and has been working to bring a community garden to Sellwood. Ms. Fitzsimons is dedicated to serving more than her own community, and also serves as the Chair of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council and as an advisor to the Oregon Historic Trails Funds, which is administered by the Oregon Community Foundation.

Award Presented by Commissioner Francesconi

Kimberly McClain

Kimberly is one of the dynamo-types who believe that functioning “moderately well” is not a goal. For this neighborhood activist and current Montavilla Chair, livability can and will improve block by block and house by house. Some of the projects she’s worked on include establishing a neighborhood listserv with over 150 subscribers, developing the neighborhood website, and establishing the SPARKS Committee, the Safety & Livability Committee and the Block Watch program in her area. The SPARKS mission is to build participation and strengthen the neighborhood’s sense of community. The Safety & Livability Committee is a new addition to Montavilla and is developing a 5-year plan, coordinating with area businesses as well as residents. The Block Captain and neighborhood watch has steadily grown and improved with her guidance. Kimberly is full of vitality, always with a smile and persistent in her goals. One cannot help but catch the “Spirit” when around this dynamic leader.

Award Presented by Commissioner Saltzman

Susan Hamilton

Adopt a cop? As strange as that idea may sound at first, it is just in a day's work for Susan Hamilton. It is one of the many contributions Susan has cultivated over more than 25 years of community activity. In order to show Portland Police that the work they do matters, she came up with the Adopt a Cop program so that officers receive birthday cards, holiday goodies and words of encouragement from the public. Susan also created Day in the Park at Hancock Park, which draws together neighbors, business owners, firefighters, precinct officers and anyone else in the neighborhood for a fun day of fellowship, games and interaction. The Safety Fair, held at Jason Lee School, brings fire safety information, helmet tips and other important ideas to area youth. All of these projects began in the mind and hands of Susan Hamilton, and flourished into community activity and involvement.

Award Presented by Commissioner Saltzman

Linda Nettekoven

As a HAND board member and Vice Chair of her coalition's Board of Directors, Linda is certainly active in southeast Portland. She also represents her neighborhood association by being a bridge between two area business associations: Linda provides a vital link between what is happening on Hawthorne and what is "going down" on Division. One of her most enviable skills is her way with people; she has a deep understanding of all our differences, she reaches out, and is sensitive to the needs of Portland neighbors. For instance, Linda procured a grant so that the Story Project, which her community created and supports, includes Asian and Pacific Islander students so that their special history is a part of a community story. She also had a pivotal role in forming the new Southeast Uplift Diversity and Representation Committee as well as the Homelessness Working Group.

Award Presented by Commissioner Sten

Vicki Scherer

As Chair of the Kerns Neighborhood Association, Vicki Scherer each year mobilizes hundreds of volunteers for one of the city's largest and best neighborhood clean-up efforts. Ms. Scherer sees to it that such events are celebrated with food donated by local restaurants, followed by a dance in the parking lot of neighborhood insurance firm. Her warmth and genuine love for her community have sparked a revitalization of the Kerns neighborhood. She has been particularly successful in getting the many civil improvement groups in the area – the Kerns Improvement Committee, the Kerns Neighborhood Association, the East Burnside Business Association and the Sandy Boulevard Business Association – to work together in a seamless fashion to support the health and vitality of the neighborhood she loves.

Award Presented by Commissioner Leonard

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Marneet Lewis

Marneet Lewis should make us all feel very good about the next generation of adults. She is a junior at Franklin High School, where she participates in the Law and Public Service Program. She is an extraordinarily active volunteer whose volunteer activities range from advising the Multnomah County Youth Commission (of which she has been a member for three years) on one day, to working with other volunteers to help clean up her Alameda neighborhood on another. Miss Lewis has volunteered at the Salvation Army Giving Tree at the Lloyd Center for the past five years, and is the current Co-Chair of the American Red Cross *Youth Voice*. This is in addition to her work at the Oregon Food Bank and her summers reading to underprivileged children – and she still is active in her school, writing for the school newspaper, playing drums in the concert band, working in the school cafeteria, and as a member of an upper class leadership group that plans school activities for the student body. Miss Lewis says she values her volunteer work not only for being able to help her community, but also for the chance to meet her neighbors and make new friends.

Award Presented by Commissioner Leonard



Kezia Stewart

This teenager really puts her energy into the community. She is active in the Madison South Neighborhood Association, the board of her coalition Central Northeast Neighbors, OMSI, Multnomah County Library, her school, the swim team and her family. Other interests include the violin and her church youth group, as though she has leisure time to fill! One of the big projects she has been working on and continues to pursue is finding a good use for a vacant land fill on NE 82nd Ave. She has put countless hours into communicating with the property owners, DEQ, the City of Portland, Multnomah County and the State of Oregon. Kezia has drafted plans and layouts of the proposed nursery she envisions on the site, which would both augment the landscape as well as contribute to the detoxification of the soil. She has done the research to prove it.

Award Presented by Commissioner Saltzman

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR

Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood Development (HAND) Association

This year's Neighborhood of the Year, affectionately called HAND, is a testament to our need to adapt to an ever-changing society. On the one hand, this association offers services that many do: work on Good Neighbor Agreements, coordinate with business associations, and volunteer time to local schools. On the other hand, the leaders in this group are careful to stay aware of what is going on in the local community, the coalition area, and all of Portland. A couple of projects initiated this year by the neighborhood are: 1. The Homelessness Working Group, which came about when communities began to realize that service providers are sometimes pitted against each other to help our most vulnerable citizens, and 2. The (SEUL Coalition-wide) Diversity and Representation Committee, which is organized to engage underrepresented members of our community. HAND's commitment to these types of efforts show that these neighbors are interested in contributing to any Portlander with a need, whether it be the family down the block or a neighborhood several miles away.

Award Presented by Commissioner Sten



INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Juanita Ann Elwell (Posthumous)

Juanita Ann Elwell died from cancer on May 19th of this year at the age of 58. She has left behind a legacy of personal involvement that greatly benefited our community. An accountant by profession, she was an exceptionally well-organized and thorough person. Tapping her talents and expertise in accounting, she saved many local non-profits time and money through the generous donation of her time. Ms. Elwell helped begin Lents Founders Day, now in its 11th year. She also volunteered at Southeast Uplift where she organized Crime Prevention meetings. Even as she became ill, Ms. Elwell gave of her time and money as she could. Her death is a loss for our community.

Award Presented by Commissioner Leonard

Franklin H. Bowers

Everyone entering the Madison South neighborhood is warmly greeted by more than 50 signs reading, "Welcome to the Madison South Neighborhood," courtesy of Franklin H. Bowers. The signs, installed and maintained by Mr. Bowers, reflect his deep love for and commitment to his neighborhood, where he has been a fixture for more than 50 years. Every year Mr. Bowers is a volunteer at every Madison South Neighborhood Association event. He cooks hot dogs during the "Day in Hancock Park," assists in the neighborhood clean-up, and works at the safety fair. Creative and often ingenious, Mr. Bowers has an arrangement with the local Post Office to pick up undeliverable magazines, which he then donates to students at Jason Lee School and Helensview High School. A member of American Legion Post. #1, Mr. Bowers is active in the Legion's annual Boys State Government Program, and has logged more than 4,100 hours of volunteer time at Portland's Veterans Hospital.

Award Presented by Commissioner Francesconi

Bonny McKnight

Bonny McKnight has used her degree from Portland State in urban planning to great effect and impact. The Chair of the Russell Neighborhood Association and a long-time member of the East Portland Coalition Board, Ms. McKnight has also served as coordinator of the Citywide Land Use Forum, which brings together volunteers from all over the city to discuss and promote sound planning. As TriMet's East Side Light Rail Community Liaison, Ms. McKnight won great praise for reaching out to identify and solve potential problems. She is a past member of the Mount Hood Community College Board of Trustees, and has also served on many other volunteer boards, including as Chair of the Multnomah County Billboard Advisory Committee and as the Parkrose citizen representative on the County's Comprehensive Plan committee. She also was instrumental in creating Jane's Park, near the Midland branch of the Multnomah County Library in East Portland. The park was originally the brainchild of local activist Jane Baker, but when Ms. Baker died in April 2002, Ms. McKnight took up the cause, organizing fundraisers and rallies that brought the project to fruition.

Award Presented by Mayor Katz

