



## Urban League CEO Mundy to Speak at Local Convention

*Betsy Pratt*

Marcus Mundy, head of the Portland Urban League, will be our guest speaker. The Urban League helps empower African-Americans and others to achieve equality in education, employment, and economic security through a combination of direct services, outreach, and advocacy. Mr. Mundy has a background in health care compliance and financial consulting, with degrees from Howard University and the University of Oregon. Most recently he was appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski to serve on the Oregon Health Fund Board, a seven-member body tasked with helping to design and implement a state healthcare system that will provide access and affordability for all Oregonians. We have asked him to share his insights about school equity and other issues critical to the Urban League.

### Local Convention

**Keynote Speaker: Marcus Mundy,  
Executive Director, Urban League of Portland**

Tuesday, May 12

Registration begins at 5:30 pm

Business Meeting begins at 7:15 pm

Carvlin Hall, St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th, Portland

Dinner Buffet: \$20.00 • Coffee Only: \$5.00

Dinner Menu: Salmon patties, salads, dessert, beverage.

RSVP to the League office (503-228-1675 or [lwvpx@aracnet.com](mailto:lwvpx@aracnet.com)) by **12:00 noon on Thursday, May 7!**

Parking: Available in church parking lot (enter from 16th).

By TriMet: Bus line: 4-Division to Gresham TC; get off at SE Division & 17th.

#### Local Convention

### Corrections, corrections!

*Barbara Stalions*

PMPUS was incorrectly stated on the 2009-2010 budget mailed to you in the previous Voter. National is requiring \$29.20 PMP for each League member, rather than \$28.00 which was the amount used for the calculations, changing the total for Line 15 from \$4508.00 to \$4701.00. There is also a corresponding correction on the revenue side. The budget printed in the Convention Workbook will reflect these changes.

#### Local Convention

### A Silent Auction of Service, Talents and Sharing

*Pat Osborn*

Our annual convention on the evening of May 12 will include a silent auction with a new twist. The items donated by members will be either a service they provide, an item that they would like to share, or something related to their creativity, skills, talents or knowledge.

All of us possess something that could translate into an important need, monetary savings, or source of enjoyment for someone, if directed

to the right person. This silent auction will create a meaningful exchange between our members at the same time that it raises needed funds for our League. We have a great list of items offered so far.

If you would like to offer something in the auction, please contact Pat Osborn at [pat@osbornshome.org](mailto:pat@osbornshome.org) or 503-280-5145. You don't have to attend the May 12 meeting to offer an item. You also don't have to be

Please turn to **Auction**, page 4

**League of Women Voters  
of Portland, OR**

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**Voter** is produced 9 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Portland. We welcome your comments, suggestions, story ideas and submissions. Please contact Pat Chor or Heather Drake at the League office, 503-228-1675. Submissions must be received no later than the Friday before the board meeting each month.

**May 2009**



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of Portland, OR  
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Phone & Fax: 503 228-1675  
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**President's Column**

*Betsy Pratt*

*Janus I am -- Oldest of potentates.  
Forward I look and backward.  
— H. W. Longfellow*

I found myself thinking about the 2-faced Roman god this month, because during May we look backward to the League's accomplishments of the past program year and forward to the opportunities for the next year.

The year seems to have passed quickly and eventfully. All our work on last June's national convention feels like ancient history. Since then League members have faced deep and demanding issues, from the fall voters' service activities (and the 12 state ballot measures), to our thoughtful discussions of election methods and National Popular Vote consensus topics, to the informative and worrying meetings on peak oil, water, and health care. Our brains have been well-exercised, and our reputation for promoting civic engagement well-burnished.

At the May 12<sup>th</sup> local convention, we will make decisions that will shape our next 12 months. Members will vote on the slate of new Board officers (a stellar group), the recommended school district study (which

hope has been clearly and meaningfully defined), and the proposed budget (where we are struggling to maintain services with less resources).

You will note that the Board has proposed to raise single member dues by \$10 (from \$60 to \$70) and family memberships a corresponding amount. We recognize that this is a significant increase, especially under the current economic conditions. Under the existing dues structure, \$54, or 90%, of local dues flow to the other levels of League as "per member payments" or PMP. Both the national and the state Leagues expect to increase their PMP levels this year, which would leave less than \$3 here in Portland. It has been 5 years since dues were last increased, and we encourage your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the local convention. We are repeating the format used last year, because it was well-received. Come enjoy the buffet, bid generously on the silent auction, applaud yourselves for the good work done this year, and exercise your right as a member to make the decisions that will guide us next year.

**April Health Care Meeting Recap**

*Beth Johnson*

WeCanDoBetter.org, website and "Front Door" for the Archimedes Movement, is also the key to grasping Liz Baxter's passionate commitment to creating a healthful, functioning health care system. She shared the story with us at the April General Meeting.

In 2005 Liz brought her many years of experience in private and public health policy to join with former Gov. John Kitzhaber and others in aiming the Archimedes Movement at the

heart of the problem. It is not **who pays**, it is **what should we be paying for?**

Three years of meetings, forums, and grassroots networking all around the state, bringing all the stakeholders to the table, provided opportunities for informed dialogue and political engagement outside the governmental structure. This movement is dedicated to a transparent process to enact legislation for the future. Some of the

Please turn to **Health Care**, page 3

# Portland River Plan: Report from March Unit Meetings

*Debbie Aiona*

March unit meetings participants shared their vision and ideas for the Willamette Riverbank. Comments were forwarded to the city's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability as part of their River Plan outreach.

The primary goal should be a clean and healthy river that serves as Portland's "front yard."

## Environmental Issues

- Preserve Ross Island as a wild life refuge.
- Focus on restoration and environmental remediation. Eliminate invasive vegetation and replace with native plantings that provide wildlife habitat. Improve in-water conditions.
- Consider flood plain damage potential and plan for prevention.

## Recreation and Amenities

- Complete greenway trail. Improve connections to adjacent neighborhoods.
- Plan the greenway as a linear park with play equipment, seating, event spaces, restrooms, public art, picnic tables, viewpoints, natural areas, band concert sites, and docks located in appropriate places throughout.
- Include services and amenities such as restaurants, coffee and ice cream kiosks, and rental businesses that provide kayaks, canoes, bicycles, skates, and kites.
- Incorporate opportunities for the public to view adjacent industries and include explanatory signage.

## Health Care

Continued from page 2

basic principles are:

- The core benefit --a set of essential health conditions--should be available to all Americans. This benefit should not be tied to a person's employment.

## Transportation

- Provide water taxis, ferries, and temporary moorage for boat commuters.
- Separate modes on greenway trail with wheels on one path and pedestrians on the other. Provide signage including mileposts.
- Bury or move Eastbank I-5 freeway.

## Education

- Locate interpretive signs along river with information about natural and human history, wild life, trade, and natural systems. In addition to signs, etch information in concrete walkways or in glass at overlooks.
- Develop lesson plans for schools to use on field trips. Include topics such as biology, ecology, economics, history, and trade.
- Site an interpretive and information center in the McCall Restaurant building.
- Bring back the H2O boat that took school children and others on educational river outings.

## Other issues

- Keep the Central Eastside Industrial Area industrial. It provides good jobs and many essential products in a close-in location.
- Site more housing in the Rose Quarter district to activate the area and connect to the river.
- Keep tall buildings away from the river's edge.
- Cruise ship terminal would not be a good use along the central or south reaches.
- When resources are available, the city should promote more heavily its River Renaissance activities.
- Appoint a standing committee to monitor the waterfront areas.
- Limit use of motorized boats.

For more information or to sign up to receive regular updates on the River Plan go to <http://www.portlandonline.com/planning/index.cfm?c=42540>.

## May Action Committee Meeting

**Life as New City Commissioner  
Amanda Fritz, Portland City Commissioner**

Friday, May 1, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Room 433, Board of Trade Building, 310 SW 4th Avenue

Review and discuss proposed modifications to the program. All League members welcome. Questions? Contact Debbie Aiona (503-234-4651 or [mdjaiona@aracnet.com](mailto:mdjaiona@aracnet.com)).

- Public resources need to be spent in ways that are equitable, efficient and effective.
- Market competition should be based on cost, quality and outcomes, not risk avoidance.
- Promote healthy behavior by focusing on individual choices and environmental influences. (See the complete list at the website.)

We may have reached a point where the "not perfect but much better" is actually possible because currently the patient's pain is being shared throughout the system: all the stakeholders—caregivers, insurance carriers, employers, and government agencies—are hurting. What is broken may now actually be reforged, not just taped up.

## Auction

Continued from page 1

present to bid – get another League member to bid for you.

Each item is offered for a minimum starting bid and a minimum raise. The complete list with a full description of each item offered including the parameters or rules set by the offerer and the starting bid and bid raise is being sent out by email to our members periodically before the May 12 meeting.

### Bring your checkbooks to the meeting!

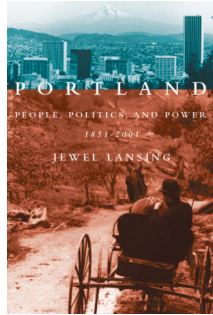
Silent Auction items as of press time:

- Three bundt cakes offered by Debbie Kaye
- Airport shuttle service offered by Carol Cushman
- Pool party at Bev Wilson's house offered by Bev and Dick Wilson
- Weekend at Metolius Meadows offered by Jan and Don Wolf
- Ten hours of babysitting offered by Mary Hepokoski
- Two nights at cabin on Mt Hood offered by Pat and Alan Osborn
- Cork tray/trivet made by Jewel Lansing
- Dinner for you and 5 friends at Mary McWilliams' house offered by Mary McWilliams
- Apple Macintosh Service or Training offered by Norman Turrill
- A half-day guided tour of the Eastern Columbia Gorge offered by Gorge Commissioner Judy Davis
- Board Game Extravaganza offered by Heather Drake
- Two homemade pies offered by Lynn Baker
- Pendleton Scarf offered by LWVPDX
- Four fruit pies offered by Marnie Lonsdale

### Three Opportunities in One

## Local Author Jewel Lansing and League Book Lover's Fundraising Events

Mary McWilliams



### Meet, Greet, Eat, and Discuss

Jewel Lansing, a Lifetime League member, former elected Multnomah County Auditor and City of Portland Auditor, and author, will discuss her ever timely book **Portland: People, Politics, and Power, 1851-2001**, on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at a private home at 7 p.m. This event is limited to 50 guests.

\$50 includes one autographed copy of her book; two attendees and one book, \$75; two attendees and two books, \$95. If you already have a book, please consider

this as a contribution to the League, or give your new copy to a friend or relative, or name a designated high school to receive a copy in your name, or....

### Book Group Adoptions

Jewel Lansing has offered to **autograph** copies or to sign "specially-crafted messages" (short messages drafted by someone in a book group) for all Portland area book groups who adopt her book through the League. She will also **personally attend** all groups that buy eight or more copies to benefit the League to discuss her writing life and Portland history as it relates to the past and present. She will donate her royalties on LWV sales to the League of Women Voters of Portland. Her local distributor has also agreed to absorb the cost of shipping to Portland from their Arizona distributor as a contribution to the League. Each autographed book is \$25.

### The Gift Book

The author's autographed book makes a great gift for readers of all ages and genders who would like to know more about Portland's political, social, and cultural history. Even if you already own a copy of the book, there is always a friend, relative, or co-worker who is otherwise hard to buy a birthday or Christmas gift for.

**August 15, 2009 is the deadline** for all book orders and payment for all events. Book groups should pre-order and collect payments within each book group and send a combined total to: LWV of Portland, 310 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 520, Portland, OR 97204-2310. Questions to LWV: 503-228-1675 or lwvpx@aracnet.com. Committee-Mary McWilliams, 503-408-5850; mcwillrg@muohio.edu. Complete information on all three opportunities can be requested and will also be in the Summer *Voter*.

An easy central distribution point in the SW or SE will be arranged for one person from each book group to pick up the books. Evening event attendees will receive their books on November 7th.

## Calendar

May 2009							June 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

1:	<b>Action</b> 1:00 pm, Room 433
5:	<b>LWVCRR</b> 10:30 am, Room 433
6:	<b>Old / New Board Mtg.</b> 5:30 pm, Home of Mary McWilliams
12:	<b>Local Convention</b> 5:30 pm, St. Philip Neri, Carvlin Hall
15-17:	<b>LWVOR Convention</b> Medford
19:	<b>Election Day</b>
25-26:	<b>Office Closed</b>

20:	<b>Board Retreat</b> 9:00 am, Home of Betsy Pratt
	<b>Summer Hours Begin:</b> Monday, June 1
	Mon: CLOSED
	Tues: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
	Weds: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
	Thurs: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
	Fri: CLOSED
	<b>Normal Hours Resume:</b> Monday, August 17

**Calendar Location Key:**  
**Room 520** and **Room 433** are located at our office building:  
 Board of Trade Building, 310 SW 4th Avenue, Portland (4th Avenue between Stark and Oak Streets)

## Units

*September 2008 through April 2009*

### Thank You's to League Unit Leaders and Helpers

*Mary McWilliams*

Wow – what a busy year for units! My thanks to **Unit Leaders** and those who prepared the material for training or were **Resources**, and for **Discussion Leaders** for learning new material and then explaining it all to League members and for the **Recorders** who captured the gist of the discussions, the agreements, and consensus. It takes a lot of League members to make it all happen. Take a bow, you know who you are.

Seven units began in September 2008 and in early 2009 an eighth Virtual Unit started through the leadership of **Kathleen Hersh**. Unit Leaders remained consistent from the year before and we all owe them many thanks for their hard work and this successful year:

Unit 1-SW and Unit 8-Virtual - **Kathleen Hersh**

Unit 2-SE - **Mary McWilliams**

Unit 3-Downtown - **Carol Cushman**

Unit 4-N/NE - **Susan Proppe Tong**

Unit 5-Terwilliger Plaza and Unit 7-Vermont Hills - **Jeanne Steed**

Unit 6-SW/NW - **Debbie Kaye**.

## New Members & Member Updates

**Dorothy Clingman** • *National*  
 3448 SE Caruthers St  
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**Inside this issue...**

- ◆ Local Convention on May 12
- ◆ Silent Auction Preview
- ◆ Jewel Lansing Special Book Events

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**GIVE THIS TO A FRIEND  
MEMBERSHIP COUPON**

- \_\_\_ I am a new member!
- \_\_\_ I am interested in working with the League this year. Please call me.
- \_\_\_ Please send me more information about the League.
- \_\_\_ I cannot join right now, but I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support League education activities. (Tax deductible if made to the LWV Portland Ed. Fund.)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_