

# Holding up good deeds this week at Holding Court

Carol McAlice Currie and Michael Davis, Statesman Journal 1:35 a.m. PDT April 8, 2015



(Photo: MICHAEL DAVIS / Statesman Journal)

Are you up for a little upcycling? Pumped for some repurposing?

If so, this is your weekend, as the free, two-day Upcycle Oregon kicks off Friday at the Oregon State Capitol with a noontime panel discussion with Willamette University's Sustainability Institute. That will be followed by an artist reception from 4 to 5 p.m.

Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. promises activities and shows for kids and adults, all geared toward reusing discarded material or objects in a way that results in creating products of higher quality or value than the original.

The institute's director, **Joe Abraham**, and **Lauren Travis**, a Willamette senior from Washington's Gig Harbor, hope the event will spur further innovation and help Oregon become a leading center for upcycling nationally. Hey, if we can be known for great craft beer, why not stout strategies for reuse, as well?

Attention lawmakers and entrepreneurs: There may be unforeseen revenue opportunities in upcycling. Get thee to the Capitol.

## Singing praise

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Victoria Roberts, left, and Jenn Columbus were singing the praise of the Festival Chorale Oregon during the Statesman Journal's Holding Court on Tuesday. (Photo: MICHAEL DAVIS / Statesman Journal)

**Victoria Roberts** and **Jenn Columbus** regaled the regal crew with news about the Festival Chorale Oregon's upcoming performance, "To be Certain of the Dawn."

The oratorio, a dramatic musical composition sung with an orchestra but without stage action, scenery or costumes, will feature texts sung in Hebrew, German and English, and was composed by the late **Stephen Paulus** and written by **Michael Dennis Browne**, its librettist.

The two women shared news that Browne will be giving a public workshop at 7 p.m. April 22, four days before the concert performance, at the Salem Public Library's Loucks Auditorium.

Roberts and Columbus said Browne will talk about what he and Paulus hoped to express through the oratorio, which recalls the Holocaust through the hope and voices of children. Paulus, a Grammy nominated American composer, died last fall of complications of a stroke. He was 65.

Mid-Valley resident **Susanna Branch** will be the featured cantor at the performance, and the children's choirs from Adams Elementary and Franklin K-8 schools in Corvallis will also perform. Images of youth survivors of the Holocaust will be shown during the concert.

"But it's not dark," said Roberts. "It's hopeful and unique with a powerful, peaceful message."

The concert begins at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26 at the Historic Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. NE. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for students. They are available online at [www.festivalchorale.org](http://www.festivalchorale.org) (<http://www.festivalchorale.org/>) or at the door. The workshop with Browne is free.

## Leukemia support



**Brett Hall, a leukemia survivor and advocate for more research on this type of cancer, is raising funds to be the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's northwest Man of the Year. Read about his fundraising here.** (Photo: MICHAEL DAVIS / Statesman Journal)

**Brett Hall**, in remission for two years now from chronic lymphocytic leukemia, has a message of hope as well. As a cancer survivor, he feels the need to pay it forward because he is convinced he's alive today because of research funding given to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia typically progresses more slowly than other types of leukemia after starting from white blood cells in the bone marrow. Hall said he's passionate about raising money for LLS research because "just five years ago, the only treatment option was heavy chemotherapy."

But because of research funded by the LLS, he said he was able to be treated with a targeted immunotherapy, which he said "wasn't even available in 2010." And it worked, he said smiling, noting that he's now officially in remission.

"It's my life mission now to raise funds so the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society can do more research and help make a difference in many more lives," Hall said.

His goal right now is to win the LLS 2015 Man of the Year contest in Oregon and southwest Washington. He's working on corporate sponsorships, personal solicitation and through events. He's recruited the support of partners including Courthouse Fitness - Tennis Center, Baja Fresh Mexican Grill and Epic Fitness. Coupons picked up at the tennis center and Epic Fitness and used at the restaurant for a week beginning April 10 will

earmark 15 percent for Hall's campaign.

His campaign runs through May 8 with a goal of raising \$25,000. He and his team, which includes wife **Becky Hall**, son **Robert Weeks**, fellow leukemia survivor **Pam Johnson**, and **Gina Ott** has raised \$12,500 so far. Call (503) 930-7258 or go to his website at <http://www.mwoy.org/pages/oswim/oswim15/bhallk> (<http://www.mwoy.org/pages/oswim/oswim15/bhallk>) to help.

## A paean to her mom



**JoAnn Kempfer remembered her mother's impact on the Mid-Valley restaurant community during the Statesman Journal's Holding Court at the Court Street Dairy Lunch in downtown Salem on Tuesday.** (Photo: MICHAEL DAVIS / Statesman Journal)

**JoAnn Kempfer** stopped by Holding Court to get a plug for her mother, **Eva Miller**, who once owned Eva's Cafe, which was located next door to the former Hollywood Theater on Capitol Street NE. It was demolished as part of an urban renewal project in 1971, and as it's been forgotten now, Kempfer fears, so too will be her mother.

Eva was a fixture around the Mid-Valley, Kempfer said, working at the Court Street Dairy Lunch (long before **Marlene Blanchard** owned it), as well as at the "Y Cafe on the way to the coast, the Capitol coffee shop and Winona's Chalet," which was mentioned in an October 1948 Oregon Statesman story. She was noted for her "always homemade" cooking.

Miller lived to be 96, passing away in 2006.

## It takes a village



From left, Kaitlynn Chritton, Jon White, Lily Castaneda and Sue Bloom want the community to know all about a documentary airing in Salem this month that shows families ways to send their first generation to college. (Photo: MICHAEL DAVIS / Statesman Journal)

A team of Wells Fargo and Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties staff were eager to share news about Salem getting to screen a documentary before Portland. Now that's big news.

The two groups are bringing a free screening of a one-hour version of the award-winning documentary "First Generation" to North Salem High School on April 13. The film tells the story of four high-school students who want to break the cycle of poverty by being the first members of their families to pursue a college degree. Narrated by Blair Underwood, the film explores the challenges these students and their families face, and how their success affects more than just their communities.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the film will start at 6 p.m., said **Jon White** and **Lily Castaneda** of Wells Fargo and **Sue Bloom** and **Kaitlynn Chritton** of the Boys & Girls Club. The four said older middle school and high school students are encouraged to attend along with their families and caregivers. Professionals who work with these populations are also urged to stop by.

Following the screening, Wells Fargo will facilitate discussions about college and financial resources as well.

"We're excited to have this partnership and help youths build a personal academic and professional plan," Bloom said.

Light refreshments will be served before the film's screening. North Salem High is at 765 14th St. NE.

### Calling comics fans

**Casey Ocupe**, who is organizing a couple of events this month, wants folks who enjoy entertainment to know all about them.

His first event is called Rock the Bricks, and it is 2 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Reed Opera House in downtown Salem.

Ocupe will be hawking his best-selling super-hero masks and keeping folks entertained with a performance by the Salem Rock Star Academy, myriad art exhibits and costumed super heroes.

The event is free.

From 7 to 9 p.m. the following Thursday, April 23, Ocupe is hosting what he calls the Northwest Comic Talks. This first-time event, which he hopes to bring back annually, takes some inspiration from the TED Talks conference series. The ten, 10-minute talks will focus on entertainment innovations, inspiration, and social awareness. Ocupe said there will be an emphasis on pop culture, comic books, cosplay (superhero costume design), movies and music.

Tickets for the event, at Cinebarre, 501 Marion St. NE, are \$15 per person when purchased at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).



**Brandi Torrence, left, and Sylvia Hurtado, are hoping folks feel the beat and volunteer to work at this year's World Beat Festival, June 27-28 at Salem's Riverfront Park. (Photo: MICHAEL DAVIS / Statesman Journal)**

It's never too soon to start thinking about summer days at Salem's Riverfront Park, and one of the park's first events of the warm season is the World Beat Festival.

And while it's 80 days away, **Brandi Torrence** and **Sylvia Hurtado** want residents to know that planners are in need of volunteers.

This year's theme is Drums of the World, and volunteers are urgently needed for both days of the festival. The need is greatest for volunteers to help with children's activities, the different villages, and to assist village captains.

There are morning, afternoon and evening shifts available from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. both days of the event, June 27-28.

"No experience is necessary," Torrence said. "All we need is volunteers with good attitudes and for them to show up with a smile."

Volunteers get a free T-shirt and a snack ticket.

"It's fun to be part of the festival," Torrence said, "and it's a good opportunity for high school and college students who need volunteer hours."

There is also a need for set-up volunteers. These folks need to be available for daylong shifts from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, June 23-26. Volunteers must be able to do some heavy lifting as they'll be planting flags and setting up tents.

And to encourage the volunteer spirit, World Beat officials are hosting a volunteer kick-off party at 5:30 p.m. on May 15 at Salem's Riverfront Carousel. There will be performers, prizes and food. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available.

Call (503) 581-2004 to sign up.

### **Taking action**

"Days of Thunder" was a noisy Tom Cruise/Nicole Kidman film with a Hans Zimmer soundtrack.

"Days of Wine and Roses" was a boozy Jack Lemmon/Lee Remick flick with an overwrought theme song covered by Andy Williams.

"Days of Action" sounds like another thriller starring Liam Neeson, but it's actually a series of community service projects coordinated by the United Way of the Mid-Valley.



From left, Sherry Lintner and LaDonna Smith of the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley are seeking project requests for the annual service Days of Action slated for June. (Photo: MICHAEL DAVIS / Statesman Journal)

Registration is open through April 30 for any health and human services nonprofit with a project that can be completed by volunteers within 48 hours. Last year, 166 volunteers completed yard work, built shelves, cleaned, organized and sorted.

"Good, meaningful projects," said **Sherry Lintner**, director of donor relations for United Way. Sherry and her wing person, **LaDonna Smith**, said the Days of Action are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 19-20.

For more information or to register a project visit <http://www.unitedwaymwv.org/2015-days-action-project-registration> (<http://www.unitedwaymwv.org/2015-days-action-project-registration>) or call (503) 363-1651, Ext. 312.

### Polk politicos



Lynette and Gene Henshaw are the organizers behind a political action committee in Polk County. (Photo: MICHAEL DAVIS / Statesman Journal)

Here's a midweek riddle: Why is Holding Court like Switzerland?

The answer: We take no sides in political disputes and territorial conflicts.

That said, we were visited by **Gene** and **Lynette Henshaw**, the Polk County couple behind the Friends and Neighbors for a Safe and Prosperous Community PAC.

The Henshaws are hoping to attract Polk citizens interested in supporting an operating levy to support public safety improvements to the county.

They can be reached at (503) 623-5759 or at [wuzzy2424@msn.com](mailto:wuzzy2424@msn.com) (<mailto:wuzzy2424@msn.com>).

### Rotary birthday bash

The South Salem Rotary Club is turning 40 this month, and you know what that means?

No more clubbing to all hours.

However, the south-facing Rotarians are planning an open-to-the-public birthday bash on Wednesday, April 15, at Gilgamesh Brewery, 2065 Madrona Ave. SE in Salem. The festivities begin at 5 p.m., says sunny Rotarian **Melissa Lindley**.

There will be a no-host bar, so bring folding money if you wish to imbibe. Attendees will be encouraged to order food off the brewery's tempting menu.

Two of the original club members are rumored to be considering making appearances at the soiree. They are **Rodger Magnuson** of Magnuson Pharmacy fame, and retired dentist **Bob Pattison**

On Wednesday, April 14, there will be a special "Open Mic" edition of the Rotary's standard noon meeting at Rudy's, 2025 Golf Club Road SE. The \$11 buffet will open at 11:45 a.m.

For further information, email [southsaalemrotary@gmail.com](mailto:southsaalemrotary@gmail.com) (<mailto:southsaalemrotary@gmail.com>) or call club president **Robert Chandler** at (206) 354-3518.

### Powerland reopens

A sure sign of spring is the reopening of Antique Powerland, the charming collection of museums in Brooks that celebrates Oregon's agricultural history. It's now open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Holding Court welcomed back Powerland's executive director, **Pamela Vorachek**, who is in the market for volunteers to fix engines, develop exhibits and provide lawn maintenance and landscaping.

"We also need museum greeters," she said. "We've been a volunteer organization for the best part of 45 years. We only have 1.6 paid employees."

(We wondered to ourselves what happened to the other four-tenths of that employee, but chose not to ask.)

Pamela can be reached at (971) 600-8852 or by email at [pam.vorachek@antiquepowerland.com](mailto:pam.vorachek@antiquepowerland.com) (<mailto:pam.vorachek@antiquepowerland.com>).

[ccurrie@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:ccurrie@statesmanjournal.com); (503) 399-6746 or follow on Twitter at @CATMCurrie; or [mdavis4@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:mdavis4@statesmanjournal.com); (503) 399-6712 or follow on Twitter at @MDavisSJ.

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