

SistersVOICE

A Quarterly Newsletter of Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. 133 NW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97209

Volume 6, Issue 1: Winter, 2003

Winterfolk XV Anniversary Celebration! Saturday, February 1st, Come Join Us.



Utah Phillips. Photo by Jeff Bizzell.

Sisters of the Road Café is proud to announce that songwriter, storyteller, and conscience of America, Utah Phillips will return to the Aladdin Theater at Winterfolk's XV Anniversary Celebration! Utah will be joined by an all-star folk cast including Tracy Grammer, Misty River, Tom May, Steve

Einhorn & Kate Power, Andrew Calhoun, Chris Kennedy, and Andrew Hart .

"The golden voice of the great American Southwest", Bruce "U. Utah" Phillips is not one to take retirement sitting down. "Officially" retired from touring since 1996, the politically-conscious, Nevada City, California-based, singer and storyteller has maintained a constant flow of new recordings and reissues. An album of his stories and between-song patter set to music by Ani DiFranco, *The Past Didn't Go Anywhere*, introduced his anarchistic persona to a young audience, while *Loafer's Glory*, a collection of stories, poems and songs set to the accompaniment of Woody Guthrie-influenced guitarist Mark Ross, showed his long-time audience that he still had something of importance to say. In addition to two of his earlier albums — *El Capitan* and *All Used Up* — being released as *The Telling Takes Me Home*, Phillips' songs were honored with an album-length celebration of his songs by bluegrass duo, Jody Stecher and Kate Brislin, *Heart Songs: The Old Time Country Songs of Utah Phillips*, that received a Grammy nomination as "best traditional folk album of 1997." Come join us for an unforgettable evening with some of the best local and national folk

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Our Mission:

Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. exists to build authentic relationships and alleviate the hunger of isolation in an atmosphere of non-violence and gentle personalism that nurtures the whole individual toward changes that will reach the root of his or her homelessness and poverty and end it forever.

Enjoy a meal at Sisters Of The Road Café. Sisters Of The Road Café is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00pm. The last meal of the day is served at 2:45pm. Our administrative office is open 9:00am to 5:00pm. E-mail us at:

*info@sistersoftheroadcafe.org.
call (503) 222-5694, or
FAX (503) 222-3028
www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org*

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"At Sisters Of The Road Café, there are no strangers, just friends we've never met."

Sisters and Systemic Change

By Genny Nelson

On November 7, 2002 Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. celebrated twenty three years in Portland, Oregon's Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood. When we opened, the neighborhood was still skid road and Sisters' was known for good food at little cost, dignity to all persons, and a commitment to radical (go to the root) change embodied in philosophies of non-violence and gentle personalism. More than two decades later there are people in our city, in the nation and various places around the world who know Sisters mantra: If you want to solve homelessness do more than satiate the immediate, urgent needs of homeless people, build community and share power with them; create systems that teach self reliance instead of dependence; and remember, until men and women, experiencing the calamities of homelessness and poverty, are full participants at the table where public policy on homelessness is being decided, we will never resolve it.

“Systemic change, or radical change if you will, is change that affects an entire system not just a part of it.”

Systemic change, or radical change if you will, is change that affects an entire system not just a part of it. The enactment of systemic change, implemented via a community organizing model, within the duo philosophies of non-violence and gentle personalism, is the number one driving value of Sisters Of The Road Cafe, Inc.

Systemic change is apparent in our Mission Statement when we say: “that nurtures the whole individual toward changes that will reach the root of his or her homelessness and poverty and end it forever”. We have always exclaimed that systems need to address the whole person, heart - mind - body - soul, or nothing will change. It is why to this day in Sisters Cafe we offer a whole lot more than a

meal and a beverage.

Systemic change is in the City of Portland's archives, documentation of the lawsuit the Burnside Community Council and Sisters' filed protesting the first anti-camping ordinance. It was overturned in court, and then reenacted within months. To this day we continue the struggle to stop poverty and homelessness being defined as criminal behavior in the city of roses.

Systemic change is written into the foodstamp amendment that was tacked on to the Drug Bill that President Reagan signed in 1987. Department of Agriculture policy was changed to accommodate a homeless citizens' reality across the nation.

And, Systemic change is evident in the grant we received from the Bureau Of Housing And Community Development in July 2001 for our Community Organizing Project, crossroads, to “take the next step and involve the people whose lives are most affected by homelessness and ask them to provide guidance and leadership”

The promise of eradication of homelessness once and for all begins and ends with systemic change.

crossroads Hosts Local Professor for Teach-in

By Rachel Langford, crossroads MSW Intern

In an effort to gain a deeper understanding of the context of homelessness and poverty in our community, *crossroads* will be hosting teach-ins and trainings over the next several months. Our first teach-in will be with Professor Richard Hunter from the Graduate School of Social Work at Portland State University. He will be joining us for our gathering on February 22, 2003, from 1-4pm at the Café.

Richard will be providing the group with an analysis of our current political and economic environment in relation to issues of social justice. The integration of this information is crucial for our people's organization as it is our belief that we must be able to conduct political and economic analyses of the system in which we live, in order to effectively community organize.

We welcome everyone to attend our gatherings and get to know *crossroads*—come be a part of this incredible movement of the people! Possible topics for future trainings are community organizing and grant writing.

Winterfolk

From page one

musicians around. Doors open at 6pm, music begins at 7pm. Tickets are \$23 in advance/\$25 at the door. See you there.

Where to purchase tickets:

on-line via Sisters website:

www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org

Music Millenium 3158 E. Burnside, 503-231-8926

Ticketmaster locations (Safeway),

The Aladdin Theater ticket box 3017 SE

Milwaukie @ Powell 503-233-1994 Box Office

Hours: Weds. - Sat. from 1pm to 6pm. There is a \$1.00 service charge on each ticket sold.

Thanks to our Winterfolk XV Sponsors:

Stewart-Stiles Truck Line, Inc., Willamette Week,

Artichoke Music, & Leopold Ketel.



Simple sentiment displayed during march and celebration last year. Photo from www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org.

MLK March and Celebration Planned

Sisters Of The Road Cafe, Inc. announces its 11th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. March and Celebration, 6pm, January 20, 2002.

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 co-ordinator and Sisters' Workforce Development Manager.

The NW neighborhood March will begin at Sisters Of The Road Cafe in Old Town/China Town, 133 NW 6th, marching through the neighborhood, over the Burnside Bridge, then north on Grand Avenue. The NE neighborhood march will begin in the Dawson park area, NE Stanton and Williams, marching through the neighborhood and heading south on MLK Blvd. Both marches will gather at 5:30pm and begin marching at 6pm. They will come together near the statue of Martin Luther King Jr. on MLK Blvd., and then proceed to the Portland Conference Center (300 NE Multnomah St.) for an evening of celebration beginning at 7pm. The focus of that celebration will be an open mic platform for marchers and celebration attendees to share thoughts, poems, ideas, hopes, dreams. There will also be drummers, a gospel choir, performance poetry, and challenging political inspiration from local political leaders.

"Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love."

Martin Luther King Jr.

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

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

For more information, contact Marlene Howell at Sisters Of The Road Cafe, 503-222-5694, ext 18.

"You are all my family here. I know you care about me and look out for me - you are my new brothers and sisters. I would hate to be in a world where I could not come in here and see all of you. Thanks a lot!"

Sisters Customer

Yes on Measure 28

Our state has experienced one its worst recessions in years. As a result, many of our neighbors, friends and family are unemployed and struggling to maintain basic necessities such as food, shelter, health care, education and public safety. Our state saw a decline of state revenues of close to \$2 billion that have led to over \$800 million in cuts to basic state services such as education, public safety and human services during 2002.

Our social principles call upon us to come together as a community and do what is necessary for the common good. Measure 28 is critical to ensuring that basic human needs are supported in this tough economic time.

Measure 28 brings back what we lost in cuts made by the Legislature in September 2002:

- \$95 million for K-12 education,
- \$14 million for community colleges,
- \$27 million for higher education,
- \$90 million for human services and
- \$45 million for public safety.

Sisters works with the real faces behind these numbers every day. Oregon's churches, community ministries and faith-based social services know first hand that if we do not do something to stop the cuts from going into effect, things will get even worse. Our society cannot afford a shortened school year, overcrowded classrooms, more laid off workers, more hunger, reduced public safety and reduced healthcare for seniors and the poor, especially now, when our friends', family and neighbors' needs are the greatest.

Measure 28 is affordable and necessary. It will immediately stop these cuts and will cost Oregonians less than the social price of paying for the long-term impact of problems caused from reduced education, public safety and human services.

Election Day is January 28, 2003.

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve.

You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Trillia Puffin Graduates

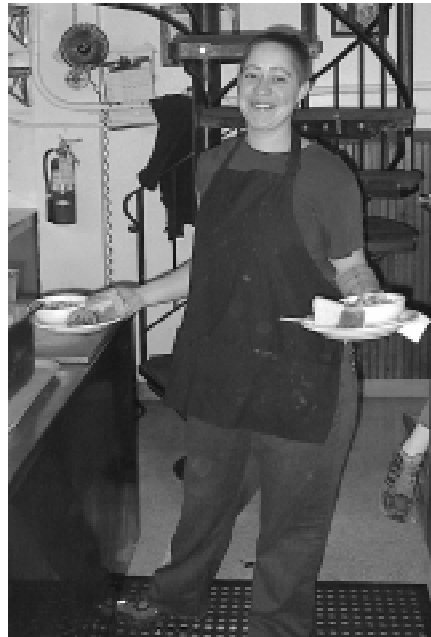


Photo by Robert James

Dear Sisters' customers, supporters, and staff,

I have been a staff member here at Sisters of the Road Café for one year today. I came to Sisters with a felony on my record and three and a half years of unemployment. I had been homeless from age 18 to 20, then served a year and 3 months in Oregon State prison.

"From that first day that I came to Sisters...Carl smiled at me, said hi, and welcomed me. I knew I had found my home."

I came into Sisters, as a customer, the first day I was out of prison. I felt very alone, and after 15 months of isolation from society, the world felt huge and overwhelming. Since my early teenage years I had used alcohol to overcome my fears of rejection, so that I could function in a somewhat social way and be able to just start conversations with people. Now I was coming to the world naked, without my shield and armor of numbness. The thought of trying to start a conversation with someone I didn't know seemed almost like an insurmountable task. But Sisters took me in. From that first day that I came to

Sisters Carl Robert, a member of the board of directors, was sitting in front of the café in his wheel chair, greeting people. I walked up and he saw the vulnerable state I was in. Carl smiled at me, said hi, and welcomed me. I knew I had found my home.

A month and a half later Sisters hired me as an employee, but Sisters had already taken me in as a person. Sisters has provided me a space to heal and grow.

I am 22 years old now, and life is much clearer and brighter than it has ever been before for me in my life. I am so grateful for the existence of Sisters of the Road Café. I truly do not have words to express my gratitude and thankfulness. To Genny, for co-founding the café, and for pouring her life, heart, and soul into it. To all the staff who work here now, who have given me so much support and encouragement throughout this past year, and who I know will continue to be here for me to come to for support. Sisters is a big family, where we all provide support and compassion to each other.

I am grateful to all the supporters who make it possible for Sisters to exist, through their donations of time and money. I am grateful to everyone who volunteers in the café and helps keep things running on a daily basis. And I am grateful to all Sisters customers who are the lifeblood of the café, making Sisters the community we are.

Through doing barter work in the café, we as poor people, most of us experiencing homelessness are empowering ourselves. We are moving away from being told we must take charity because we cannot do for ourselves, to contributing to, and being part of the organization we receive from. We, as homeless and low-income individuals, are beginning to change the entire paradigm of our lives and on which society operates.

And I think, most of all, I have to be grateful to the philosophy of non-violence. The philosophy of non-violence is the foundation on which Sisters is built. To treat each other with dignity and respect, and to reach out across boundaries: culture, class, ethnicity, personal beliefs, abilities, age, sex, gender, addiction, our histories, who we are, and where we are in our lives, to touch each other's humanness. To see ourselves in each other and in each person who comes through the door of the café, and them in ourselves. The philosophy of non-violence is about human compassion. "In here there are no strangers, only friends we haven't met."

I must state my gratitude to all those who have

contributed to the development of the philosophy of non-violence: Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Catholic Worker movement, and our own personal hero: Genny Nelson who has shared so much wisdom with us, through sharing her experiences with her work in non-violence.

This last year has been an amazing year for me. So much has happened, yet it has gone by so fast. I have now been clean and sober almost 2 & ½ years. I am going to school part time at Portland Community College. I am in stable housing. I am actively involved in volunteer work and activism. I have spent more time and had more communication with my family in the last year than I had since I was 13 or 14 years old. Life is good for me. Sisters has helped me become more a more relaxed and social person, and happier. Sisters has given me so much, words cannot do it justice.

Thank you all, for everything,
Much love, Trillia

Trillia will be leaving Sisters for a position with Willamette Bridges/Janus Youth Programs as a Recovery Transition Advocate, assisting homeless youth in accessing services to get off the streets. We will miss you Trillia! Good luck.

Last Chance to Win a Vintage Martin Guitar!

Artichoke is generously donating a CF Martin Guitar for raffle at this years Winterfolk concert benefiting Sisters. Time is running out to buy raffle tickets for this one of a kind guitar. This year's guitar is a vintage 1971 CF Martin D-35 with a deluxe hardshell case. View the Martin and purchase raffle tickets in November for \$10.00 at Artichoke Music, 3130A S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., (503) 232-8845. Only 1000 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held at Winterfolk, Saturday February 1st, 2003 at the Aladdin Theater. Ticket holders need not be present to win, but we sure would like to see you there!

Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. 2003 Events Calendar. Please Join Us!

Regular happenings at the cafe:

- Second and Fourth Wednesday, 5:00 – 7:00 pm Volunteer Training
- Third Wednesday, 6:00 pm Movie Night – Come by!
- Second and Fourth Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm *crossroads* meeting – Come by!

Monday, January 20th Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. Meet at the Café at 5:00 pm for a March to the Portland Conference Center and a celebration.

Saturday, February 1st Winterfolk XV, at the Aladdin Theatre (See article on page one of this newsletter)

Saturday, February 22nd from 1:00 to 4:00 pm Richard Hunter of Portland State University will present on Poverty and the Economics of America.

Saturday, April 5th from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm Introduction to Gentle Personalism: Building Relationship Across Class Lines. Call or e-mail Monica to sign up, 222-5694, ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org.

*Sponsor a House Party or Hold a Garage Sale
to Support Sisters this Summer!*

Saturday, May 3rd Revelry! Second Annual Celebration of Sisters' Community. See the website or newsletter for time and location information.

Saturday, May 31st from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm Gentle Personalism Part II: Deepening Our Commitment. Call or e-mail Monica to sign up, 222-5694, ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org.

Saturday, July 19th from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm Introduction to Community Organizing. Call or e-mail Monica to sign up, 222-5694, ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org.

September 5th, 6th, and 7th - Sisters' First Annual Bluegrass Festival! Join us for a toe tappin', good time and raise funds and awareness for Sisters! See the website or newsletter for specific times and locations.

Saturday, September 20th, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm Introduction to Non-Violence. Call or e-mail Monica to sign up, 222-5694, ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org.

*Make a donation during November and December and your contribution
will be matched 50 cents on the dollar during Sisters' Matching Grant
Challenge!*

Wednesday, November 26th Soul Food Meal in the Café!

Friday, December 19th Holiday Meal & Caroling in the Neighborhood

Help Sustain Sisters!

Why Sustaining Membership? If the majority of our committed partners donated between 50 cents a day (\$15/mo) and \$1 a day (\$30/mo) the vital services of Sisters would be sustained on a day-to-day basis, regardless of the economy. It's easy and safe! If you are already a Sustaining Member—**THANK YOU!**

For more information, call Marilyn for a brochure at (503) 222-5694, ext. 12. or go to our website at www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org. If you are ready to become a Sustaining Member—fill out the attached return envelope and return it to Sisters Of The Road Café. You will help sustain Sisters day-to-day. Thank you!

Including Sisters Of The Road Cafe, Inc in your Estate Planning?

Charitable bequests by our committed partners through their estate planning is an important source of support to Sisters Of The Road Café. There are several ways you may include us when you update or create your estate planning documents. An outright bequest can be made for either a set amount or a percentage of your estate or a percentage of any remainder after other distributions.

To ensure your requested funds will revert to Sisters, we encourage you to use the following language in your estate planning documents: “I devise to Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc., whose legal name is Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc., an Oregon Non-Profit Corporation, the sum of \$___ (or___%) (or all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate) to be used for carrying out its mission.” Our tax I.D. number is 93—0748169.

In all planned gifts please consult your legal council and indicate your intention to include Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc. in your estate planning. Also, contact Monica Beemer, Director of Development and Finance at (503) 222-5694, ext. 19 or Monica@sistersoftheroadcafe.org to share your intention. We would also be happy to talk with you and your attorney to structure the type of gift that will benefit you and your loved ones and Sisters' services and mission. Thank you for your continued commitment to Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc.!

Gifts of Stock

Don't forget Stock Gifts. Stocks are a great way to donate to Sisters! Call Debbie Fox (503) 222-5694 ext 15 for more information.

Donate safely on-line



You can now donate securely to Sisters on-line. Just go to Sisters website at www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org

and click on *ways to give*. Then click on the *donate now through the network for good* button and directions will follow—you just need a credit card, debit card or bank account number to donate. All money is donated directly to Sisters!

Thank You!

Thanks to the following businesses for sponsoring meals in the café during the holidays: Northwest Natural Gas, Microsoft, and One More Mind. Thank you for your support!

Holiday Matching Grant Campaign

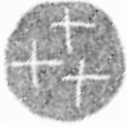
WE MET OUR GOAL! Thanks to all the individuals and businesses who donated this year for another successful Holiday Matching Grant Campaign. The funds raised during the holiday campaign are crucial to Sisters operations throughout the entire year. Sisters couldn't do it without all of your generous support!

Thanks to our Holiday Gift Donors

A great big thank you to everyone who responded to our call for hygiene items, warm clothing, and toys! We handed out these items at our holiday meal on December 20th, which was a huge success again thanks to your efforts! Thanks for thinking of Sisters.



Sisters' staff and volunteers serving food at the annual Holiday Soul Food Meal.



Sisters Of The Road Café, Inc.
 133 NW Sixth Avenue
 Portland, OR 97209

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Trillia Puffin

Donation & Meal Coupon Order Form

Yes,

I want to help Sisters work toward alleviating hunger and building supportive community in Old Town/Chinatown by making a donation.

\$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other \$ _____

Yes,

I want to respond to the needs of the growing number of homeless and hungry people in our community by purchasing and using Sisters Meal Coupons.

Send me _____ Meal Coupons.

(\$2 each; include \$.37 postage for 1-19 coupons and \$1.00 postage for 20-50 coupons.)

Please note change of address.

Name: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

My check is enclosed. Please charge my VISA/Mastercard.

VISA/Mastercard No.: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please help us expand our mailing list. Pass on the name of a friend or relative who would like to learn more about Sisters.

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

E-mail address: _____ E-mail address: _____

Sisters Of the Road Café, Inc. 133 NW Sixth Avenue Portland, OR 97209 503.222.5694

Thank you for your support of Sisters Of The Road Café!