

**A Portland Renaissance**  
**By LEAH STENSON**  
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Oregon Territory held its sixth Renaissance Faire at the community center here this weekend. Conceived in response to the idea of Soka Renaissance, the annual fair features the artwork and musical performances of members as well as friends of the SGI.

Don Spears, the territory chief, aptly expressed the spirit of the event: “The fair is a great way to share the SGI spirit of peace, culture and education with our community. It is wonderful to have so many new artists participating each year.”

Gwendolyn Martia Watley, an SGI member who sang some sentimental and sultry jazz numbers, said: “We are letting people come to us and learn about Buddhism through art and music. We are showing them that we are people first and Buddhists later.”

Ms. Watley was very thankful for the opportunity to perform, especially because she hadn’t done any singing in public since a thyroid operation a year ago. She said her fears of singing poorly were overridden by her desire to express her thanks to the members who had supported her during her illness.

Bob Mohler, a cartoonist and fine artist who displayed 65 of his colorful, computerized cartoons, waited a year to show his art at the fair — even though he had offers for showings elsewhere.

He felt that by showing his work at the community center first he would be making a cause for the success of a children’s cartoon he is creating for public television. “I appreciate the opportunity to participate,” he said. “It is difficult for some artists to show their work, but I feel very comfortable about showing mine here.”

Members always enjoy the fair, but people came away feeling this year’s was extra special. Jazz band member Jim Cheek summed it up: “People came and stayed for hours. There was lots of good energy.”

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