

Singing Christmas Tree
And Christmas Shopping in Downtown Portland
With Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC

Just a week after Thanksgiving, the Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC heads to Portland for the final adventure of the season. We have tickets to watch a performance of Portland's Singing Christmas Tree at the Keller Auditorium in downtown Portland. The much-loved Portland's Singing Christmas Tree is celebrating its 45th year!

In 1962 in a small room at a local Portland church, a group of people gathered to discuss the possibility of bringing something new to Portland... a Singing Christmas Tree! Through the faithful dedication and commitment of the volunteer choir, who currently represent 130 churches, the tree has become known to thousands of people. The 150 tree singers come from as far away as Salem, Warrenton and Chehalis, Wash. Auditions are in July, and rehearsals begin in August. Practice is one night a week until dress rehearsals. Jim Boehner has been the director for 29 years. Michael Pershern, 60, of Sherwood has stood at the top of the tree for seven years. "I love it up there," says the 6-foot-9 architect. "It's like I was made for that spot." Mary Boehr, 53, of Wilsonville, has sung for 31 years, longer than anyone else in the tree. A registered nurse in a neonatal intensive care unit, she first attended the show because she was dating a guy in the tree. The first time she sang, she stood beside the woman who would become her mother-in-law. Her father-in-law and two daughters have also sung. Over the 45 year history, over 6,000 people have sung in the tree. The tree is quite a sight with 45,000 lights decorating the tree. Over 24,000 people enjoy the show every year!

There were 4 Guest Artists for this years performance of The Singing Christmas Tree.

Katie Harman, former Miss America 2002, from Gresham Oregon. Katie has been involved with the Oregon Symphony, as well as with the famed Boston Pops Orchestra. She has also served as a guest artist with the Eugene Opera, and will appeared with the Obsidian Opera in May 2004. Harman also released her first solo recording in partnership with The Singing Christmas Tree in 2002, featuring contemporary and classic Christmas favorites, and continues to be featured in The Singing Christmas Tree's annual Christmas recordings.

Michael Allen Harrison released his inaugural album in 1986. Since then, he has released more than 40 albums showcasing his vast variety of performing and composing styles. His songs have touched the sky and circled the earth, as they have been played on the space shuttles Endeavor and Discovery. He and his beloved Steinway have performed for Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Walter Cronkite, Margaret Thatcher, Colin Powell and the Dalai Lama. Michael has also performed at the United Nations in New York City premiering his tribute song, Remembrance, for the 50th anniversary of Israel's independence in 1998.

Georgene Rice is a native Oregonian and a graduate of the University of Oregon. She has been a freelance lobbyist, a campaign consultant, and a special projects coordinator for Oregon Right to Life. She volunteers for a variety of charitable organizations, lectures on

university campuses, and speaks and leads worship at conferences and women's retreats. Georgene also hosts a daily radio talk show and has toured nationally and internationally. She is married to Dan Rice and lives in Northeast Portland.

Timothy Greenidge is one of the most respected audio engineers and artists in the industry. Born the youngest of eight children, the son of a preacher, Timothy Greenidge has been blessed with a rich musical heritage of Gospel and R&B. From his early childhood in the Bronx of New York to his teen years in the Pacific Northwest, Timothy emerged as a passionate and gifted talent whether he's in front of the microphone or behind a mixing console. He has engineered hundreds of live concerts, corporate events and has produced several albums for himself and others in his trademark style of hope, encouragement and celebration.

On the way to Portland, the Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC enjoyed the falling snow, listened to Christmas Music, and played several rounds of bingo – complete with prizes for everyone! We arrived in Portland early enough for lunch at the Olive Garden! Then we spent the afternoon shopping at the new Ikea store in Portland. After checking into the Portland Marriott Hotel with enough time to take a break, and change clothes, we headed out to The August Moon Chinese Restaurant for a wonderful dinner before heading to the performance!

On Friday, we spent the morning shopping in downtown Portland. Many of us shopped in the inside convenience of a 4 level shopping mall – Pioneer Place, while others of us shopped in the numerous downtown Portland favorites, such as Nordstroms. Pioneer Square had their Christmas Tree lit up and all of the downtown Portland area was decorated festively for Christmas!

After a morning of shopping, we rode the MAX light rail 7 blocks up to the famous Jake's Grill for a delicious seafood lunch! After lunch, we boarded the bus for a return trip to Bend with our Christmas treasures! The drive home was festive with snow again, and we enjoyed a modern Christmas movie "The Santa Claus" on the trip over the mountain. We are full of the Christmas Spirit, and ready to celebrate the rest of the Christmas Season! The 2008 Schedule of Adventures will be ready by March, please contact us at 541-593-6200 or at our web site at www.gadaboutadventures.com if you would like to receive a copy of our 2008 schedule!

Gadabout Serene Adventures, out of Sunriver, Oregon, provides scenic and recreational tours designed specifically for the senior citizen, including those who may have a limited level of physical ability. We incorporate the beauty of nature and the great outdoors into most of our adventures. We also believe that you should always keep learning, therefore, we include numerous adventures to discovery centers, museums and other places of culture to spark the mind and the heart. We offer weekly adventures from one to three days, between April and December, and have convenient pick-up locations in Sunriver and Bend. Additional pickup locations are sometimes available in Sisters, Redmond, La Pine, Madras, or Prineville depending upon the direction of our tour destination.

Robin & Danita Parker, Owners / Operators
Gadabout Serene Adventure, LLC