

Excerpted from

# *NY Nonprofit*

Issue 8; Tuesday, September 29th, 2003

## **Portals Of Wonder Brings Magic & Music To Youth at the Supreme Court**



**Students learn to dance the Charleston in aisles of  
the U.S. Supreme Court, in New York City**

Portal of Wonder is an arts education organization that serves children facing life-threatening illnesses, and homeless and underprivileged youth.

Portals Of Wonder's performances, workshops and staff development programs using music, song, dance and magic bring pride and healing to the American spirit after 9/11 [World Trade Center tragedy].

Portals Of Wonder recently joined with Not Just Blacks & Jews in Conversation **to promote understanding and acceptance between cultures to New York City public schools students.** Portals Of Wonder works with schools and community programs to tailor programs for children that fit their needs.

Judge Shannon Taylor, Exec. Director of Not Just Blacks & Jews in Conversation introduced the precedent-making Portals Of Wonder workshop-performance.

Fifteen dancers, singers and musicians from the Portals Of Wonder Roarin' 20's Dixieland Jazz Show-Band filled the court room with magic, music, comedy, song and dance involving students and court referred youth at the United States Supreme Court.

As participants sharpen their perceptive and critical thinking skills, they enhance their social, academic, and career development. Portals Of Wonder programs, presented in a supportive social group work setting, have served more than 10,000 children and hundreds of elders.

Portals Of Wonder offers a unique form of arts education focusing on vaudeville, magic, music, myth, and mime. These media combine to simultaneously **increase individuals' self-esteem and improve communication and community building skills.**

Supreme Court Judge Milton Tingle spoke to fellow judges and young students. Judge Tingle led the discussion with topics ranging from prejudice and discrimination to the state of the city's high schools.

Portals Of Wonder works with people of all ages to **awaken the imagination with wonder, curiosity, and inspiration.** Through non-competitive, multi-cultural, and gender-sensitive activities. **Portals Of Wonder celebrates the conviction that every life is full of hope and possibilities.**