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# Celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH



# Portland Observer

Volume XLVI • Number 8



www.portlandobserver.com  
Wednesday • February 22, 2017



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J.J. Moore, the longtime owner of Affordable JJ Lock and Key in northeast Portland, was only a teenager when he participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery civil rights marches that drew Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders to Alabama and led to the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

## 'I Marched in Selma'

Portland locksmith  
recalls the beatings  
and the arrests

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

52 years ago, Portland locksmith and business owner J.J. Moore participated in the historic Selma to Montgomery marches to protest the massive discrimination facing black voters in Alabama. It was a pinnacle of the Civil Rights movement under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King of the Southern Christian Leadership Council, and a young man named John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordi-

ating Committee. Together with thousands of other black protesters, they helped turn the tide with the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 under President Johnson.

The small town of Selma is seated in Dallas County in the Alabama Black Belt. In 1961, while the population of Dallas County was 57 percent black, fewer than 1 percent were registered to vote because of discriminatory voting procedures. Without access to the ballot box, black citizens couldn't choose their mayor, governor, representatives in Congress, president or sit on a jury. Under Jim Crow laws separating blacks from whites, the path to voting was littered with obstacles. Lewis, who went on to become a Congressman, described how

at one Alabama courthouse at the time, black citizens were asked to name exactly how many gumballs were in a jar as a voter registration test requirement. Other black people who worked in the service industry or as sharecroppers in Dallas County were threatened by employers with losing their jobs if they registered to vote.

Moore's mother and father started out as cotton sharecroppers in Selma, where the future Portland business owner was born and raised. His father, Thomas, learned to be a painter by trade and his mother, Ollie Mae became a seamstress. Through their hard work and over time, they saved enough money to build a house from the ground up in Selma, something most black people didn't have the opportunity to do.

Owning their home and having skilled trades also meant they couldn't be pressured to not register to vote, because they had more economic independence than most.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee came to Selma in 1962 to start nonviolent direct action protests and conduct the grassroots work needed to get black Americans registered to vote. The group held training sessions to prepare for the literacy tests and other obstacles that were used to prevent minorities from voting. Many of these meetings were held in the famed Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church of Selma. A teenager at the time, Moore's par-

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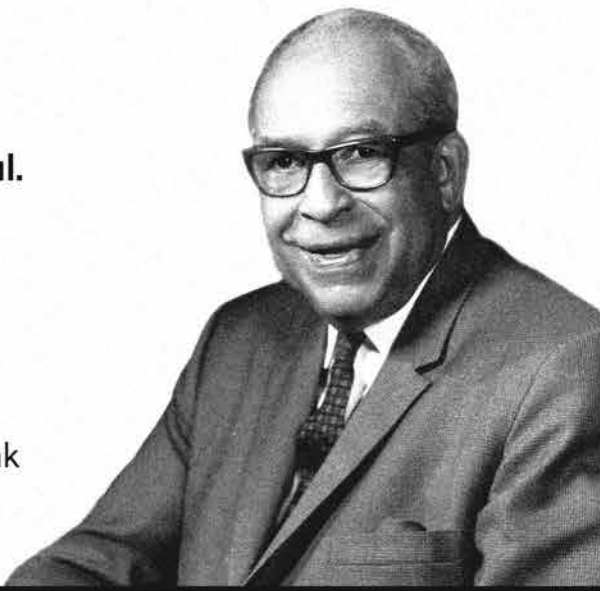


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Dr. DeNorval Unthank  
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CAREOREGON CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY



## The Week in Review

### Nursing Assistant Guilty

A former nursing assistant at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center will spend the next 25 years in prison for raping and sexually abusing female patients. Ad-eladilew A. Mekonen pleaded guilty Friday to 28 charges involving sexual contact with female patients. Nine women accused Mekonen of sex abuse, including two women aged 87 and 94.



### Killed at Insurance Agency

A 32 year old man died from a gunshot wound after a shooting Monday at the Golden Key Insurance Agency on Southeast 82nd between Foster and Woodstock. Police said it appears the man was homeless and threatened the business owner and his wife over some missing personal belongings. The shooting happened during a confrontation in the parking lot next door.

### Naked Burglary Suspect

Around 10 p.m. on Saturday, police responded to a 911 call of a naked man who forced his way into an apartment in the 15200 block of Northeast



Sandy. A 28 year old woman fought off the intruder and she and her two children were able to escape with no physical harm. The suspect, 21 year old Miguel Gomez, has been charged with burglary, kidnapping and attempted rape.

### ACLU Blasts Portland Police

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon is increasing

their criticism of the Portland Police Bureau's treatment of protesters. In their third statement this year, the group wrote on Facebook after a President's Day protest on Monday, "Today, Portland Police Bureau policy led to violence against peaceful protesters including young kids and retired public employees. It was shameful."

### Missing Boy Found

A missing 2 year old boy was found safe in his pajamas in some blackberry bushes Saturday in the 1700 block of Northeast 67th Avenue after a search by local police and the FBI. His mother reported him missing hours earlier. The boy, River, was treated at a hospital for non-life-threatening injuries and exposure to cold temperatures.



### Leaked Immigration Proposal

Congressman Earl Blumenauer released a statement Friday regarding a leaked Department of Homeland Security proposal to use National Guard troops for immigration enforcement: "What we've seen over the course of the last weeks are not, 'routine, targeted operations,' as the Trump regime calls them. These operations, and this leaked proposal, are the result of trump's hateful immigration agenda that serves only to instill fear and destroy lives," he said.

### Arrested on Riot Charge

Police arrested one protester, 19 year old Zachary Lange, during a Thursday march and rally in downtown Portland to demand justice for Quanice Hayes, a black teenager killed by police responding to a robbery and car prowling a few days earlier. Lange faces a riot charge involving damaged to a vehicle.

## 13 Trump Protesters Arrested

Tensions are running high between Portland protesters, the mayor, the Police Bureau and the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon after two "Not My President" protest marches were held downtown on Monday, President's Day.

One permitted protest, sponsored by Basic Rights Oregon, Causa and several labor unions, took place without incident. A second unpermitted march organized by Don't Shoot Portland, ended with 13 arrests.

One female protester, a senior citizen, was left with a bloodied face and broken nose, after apparently rolling on the ground with a police officer. In another confrontation, documented by citizen journalist Mike Bivins, a woman

angrily confronts a row of police officers in riot gear and an officer fires two rubber bullets into the woman's torso at close range.

ACLU Oregon legal director Mat dos Santos said in a statement released 5 days earlier: "Portland's protest policy should emphasize restraint, de-escalation, and the use of force only as a last resort to ensure public health, safety and welfare."

Police spokesperson Pete Simpson responded, "We certainly understand that not everyone agrees with police presence or response to protest events. We encourage people with commendations or complaints about officer conduct to send them to the Office of Independent Police Review."

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PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to Portland Observer, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208



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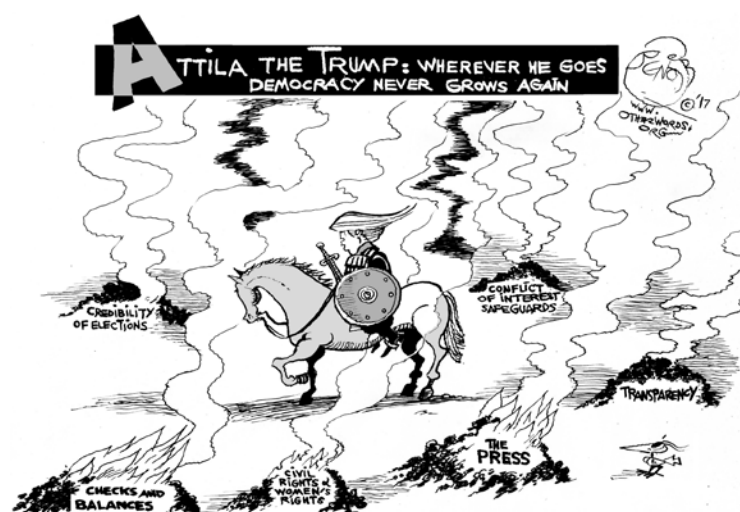




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This page  
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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?



A collection of paintings by black artist James Pate combines the iconography of the Ku Klux Klan and the Civil Rights Movement to focus on the causes and conditions that lead to youth and gun violence.

# Powerful Exhibit

## 'Kin Killin' Kin' focuses on youth and gun violence

"Kin Killin' Kin," a visually powerful and thought-providing exhibition that focuses on youth and gun violence opens this week at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center at 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

The nationally recognized collection of paintings by African

American artist James Pate of Dayton, Ohio, combines the iconography of the Ku Klux Klan and the Civil Rights Movement with contemporary images to take the viewer into the complex territory of the causes and conditions that lead to youth and gun violence. He considers his work, "A call to action." Due to strong images, the exhibit is not recommended for children 12 and under.

Free and open to the public, the exhibit runs through April 2, open-

ing Wednesdays through Fridays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. An opening reception will be held Friday, Feb. 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"Kin Killin' Kin" is sponsored by PassinArt, Portland's non-profit African American producing theater company, along with the Collins Foundation, McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Marion and James Miller Foundation and Ronni LaCroute.

# Eye on the School Board

## Candidate has local connections, endorsements

An educator connected to the community has obtained a significant list of endorsements to launch a campaign to run for the Portland School Board.

Jamila Singleton Munson is running for the Zone 4 position to represent north and northeast Portland on the seven-member panel. She would be the only black member if elected based on how the board is currently comprised.

Munson graduated from Grant High School in 1997 and was a Pamplin fellow as part of a peer leadership program at Self En-



Jamila Singleton Munson

hancement, Inc. She went on to earn degrees at the University of Oregon and Pace University. Her career has included work as

a teacher and school principal in New York and Los Angeles.

"Having worked directly with students from diverse backgrounds, I can say with confidence that every child can grow and succeed in the right learning environment," said Munson. "The board must establish a clear vision for how we can meet the needs of all students and ensure the administration is accountable for achieving that vision."

Munson has a significant base of local support, including former State Sen. Avel Gordly, early childhood leader Charles McGee, education equity expert Kate Woicke and local business leader Andrew Colas. Longtime equity advocates Lee Po Cha, Kali Thorne Ladd, Hanif Fazal and Nichole Maher

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# My Top 10 Films of 2016

This year,  
there's more  
overlap with  
the Oscars

I see more than 150 films each year, including all the films nominated for Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Documentary and nearly all those nominated for Best Animated Feature and Best Foreign Language Film. This year my list of the 10 best films out of all of those I saw shares more overlap than usual with the Academy Awards -- perhaps in part because of the pressure on Hollywood to notice the work of artists of color, which tend to dominate my list. Often the most remarkable work is done from the margins, never more so than in times of increased oppression and flux. So here's the whole list, with fuller descriptions and links below:

**"Moonlight":** This is that rare year when a universally acclaimed film deserved and received an Oscar nomination along with a lot of other awards -- and, in an unprecedented twist, a movie that lauded on African American men and boys at a level of complexity



"Moonlight," portrays African-American males as beautifully complex and not reduced to the flimsy stereotypes so often presented on-screen. The Oscar-nominated movie is the best film of 2016 as rated by Opinionated Judge Darleen Ortega, the Portland Observer's film reviewer.

#### TOP 10 FILMS FOR 2016:

1. **Moonlight**
2. **I Am Not Your Negro**
3. **13th**
4. **Two Trains Running**
5. **Fences**
6. **Presenting Princess Shaw**
7. **Zootopia**
8. **Loving**
9. **Paterson**
10. **Aquarius**

that we rarely see on screen. Take a note: It is written and directed by two black men. Lifting up the stories of those at the margins must include a commitment to giving them agency to tell their own stories. If this film loses out in the best picture and director category to the vastly overrated "La La Land," my voice will be included in the chorus of groans you may hear. [Not rated; nominated for,

## OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY  
DARLEEN ORTEGA



and should win, Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor (Mahershala Ali), Best Cinematography, Best Film Editing (co-editor Joi McMillon is the first African American woman nominated for an editing award!), Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Supporting Actress (Naomie Harris) and Best Original Score. Moonlight is also on the top 10 lists of at least 189 other film critics.]

**"I Am Not Your Negro"** is so powerful and so resonant that it is really too much to absorb in one viewing. Director Raoul Peck has assembled the script from only the words of James Baldwin to provide a window into race and racism in America that is truly without parallel; every view moments I wanted to pause to absorb the profundity of what had just been spoken. Much is in Baldwin's own voice, including footage from an astounding 1968 television interview by Dick Cavett that would have been mind-blowing if it had happened yesterday; the rest of Baldwin's words are uttered by Samuel L. Jackson. The power of the words is aided by images

assembled from the civil rights era but also from the current day. Baldwin speaks prophetically -- and by that I do not mean predictively, but in a voice so clear and true that it is outside time, even now decades after he uttered them. Baldwin is mindful of his location as what he terms a "witness," rather than someone attempting to lead a social movement; he lived a significant period of time in Europe and returned to engage with the American civil rights struggle largely from the position of astute observer and friend to its leaders. The clairvoyance he displays from that vantage point makes the case for the prophet, and specifically, this prophet, an African American gay man. This film is the best documentary I have seen in a very, very long time, and I expect to return to it again and again. [Rated PG-13 for disturbing violent images, thematic material, language and brief nudity; nominated for, and should win, the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature; on at least 26 other critics' top 10 lists.]

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Students far and wide pack the Center for Self Enhancement, Inc. for a community 'Day of Service.'

## Empowering Youth to Serve

### SEI kids give back on day of service

BY FELICIA SLIDER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Hundreds of youth, male and female, near and far, collectively volunteered for the Center for Self Enhancement, Inc.'s Community "Day of Service."

The seeds of SEI, an educational program serving Portland's African American community, were planted over 35 years ago and rooted in community service. The organization uses a culturally-based curriculum to educate and empower youth into tomorrow's citizens. One recipe to that successful sauce is to empower young people to become the living legacies to their communities. Mixed and served by the enlightenment of education, marinated

with the excitement of social engagement, the students learn as the late Muhammad Ali so movingly said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth".

The SEI elementary to high school student volunteers, alongside their adult leaders were dispatched on Saturday, Feb. 15 to over 15 neighborhood sites for community service projects. From feeding the homeless to the beautification of neighborhood homes, the SEI kids showed up and served.

The students, guided by Helen Keller's words, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do

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*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"*  
— Martin Luther King Jr.

Officer George Hardin, 1884

Officer Madison Ceaser, 2016

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### TriMet Open House

Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 6–7:30 p.m.  
Portland Building, 2nd Floor, Room C  
1120 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97204

### TriMet Board Meeting and Public Hearing

Wednesday, March 22, 2017, sign up 8:30–9 a.m.  
World Trade Center, Skybridge A & B  
121 SW Salmon St., Portland, OR 97205

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## Empowering Youth to Serve

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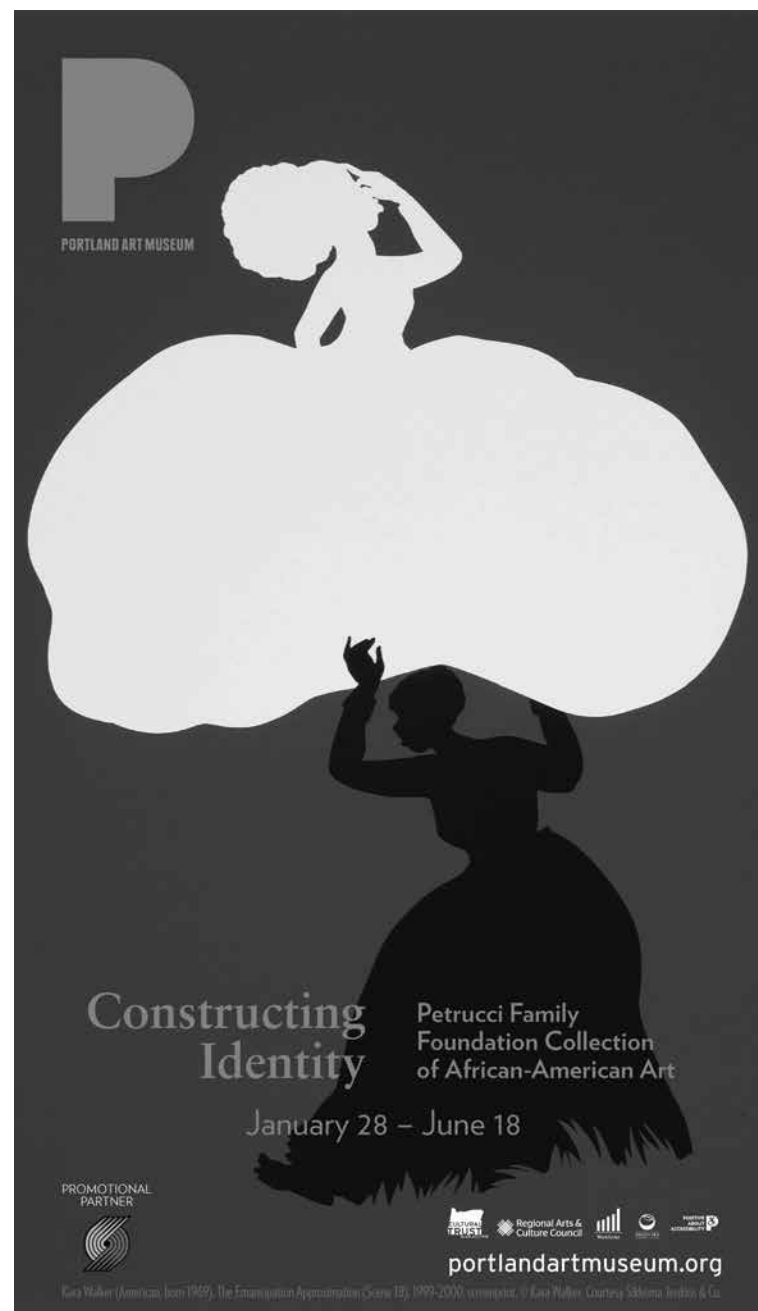
so much,” first gathered at the school to hear from SEI Founder Tony Hopson Sr. and his staff who briefed them on the plans for the day’s departure and duties.

“I just thank SEI for letting me and my peeps make a difference, make something happen for the people who really need this help,” one student said. “It was so cool to lend a hand to people that really need help in our neighborhood.”

“Volunteering made me proud to make a make a difference in someone’s life, especially when you know they need the help,” said another young person. “Today was life changing for me.”

The dedication erupting from the student’s synergy was dynamic, and bonds were built.

The SEI Day of Service taught the youth about the difference one day can make to a community it serves, as Dr. Martin Luther King once said, “Everyone can be great because anybody can serve.”



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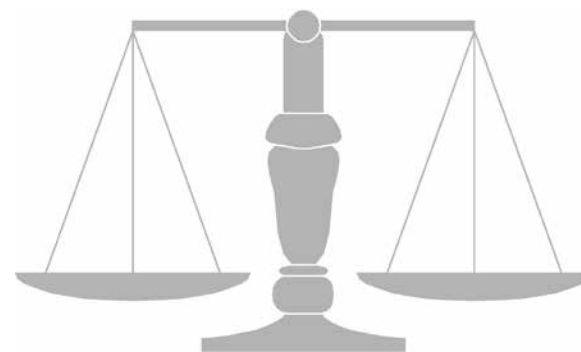


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The Portland Observer





"I Am Not Your Negro" uses archival footage of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements to explore the racial violence that continues to permeate American culture.

## My Top 10 Films of 2016

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

"13th" is, in a way, the perfect companion to "I Am Not Your Negro," though I definitely don't recommend seeing them together. Director and co-writer Ava DuVernay (whose "Selma" topped my 10-best list in 2014) has assembled a comprehensive cinematic case for how mass incarceration came to be the most recent iteration of racism and oppression of black and brown people in the United States. The sheer volume of data and voices and analysis that DuVernay has marshaled to make this case clear is staggering; she has enlisted the insights of a host of experts, including Michelle Alexander, Angela Davis, Bryan Stephenson, Henry Louis Gates, and many others, as well as abundant news footage and other evidence to connect the dots between the economic dilemma presented by post-Civil War Reconstruction, the lasting impact of "The Birth of A Nation" in sewing images of the menacing black man into our collective consciousness, the early use of incarceration as a tool for keeping black people in subjugation, the crime-scare tactics of the 1970s that manipulated the electorate into supporting the drug wars that multiplied the size of the U.S. prison population far beyond that of any other country. The impacts on communities of color who have lost generations of their leaders, whose families are decimated, and who have permanently lost the right to vote is illustrated with astounding clarity. In the end, this is more than the story of mass incarceration and race in America; it is a huge chunk of the truth of American history to which we have collectively blinded ourselves. With Peck's film, this is essential viewing for every American. [Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature; on at least 22 other critics' top 10 lists.]

"Two Trains Runnin'" is, sadly, the most obscure title on my list, though it was the best documentary that I saw at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festi-

val last April and played for two nights in Portland last fall. The very summer -- indeed, the very weekend -- that Andrew Goodwin, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner were murdered by the police and the Ku Klux Klan, two other groups of white men, oblivious to the extent of the dangers afoot in the South, traveled there in search of two obscure black country blues singers who had disappeared into obscurity. Using interviews, archive footage, and beautiful animated sequences, this wonderful film captures their improbable journeys, illuminates some important pieces of what happened during Freedom Summer, and illustrates the role of music in spiritual awakening. Keep an eye on the film's website and Facebook page for further screenings and, hopefully, a digital release; this one is too good to miss. [Not rated; should have been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.]

"Fences": Many of us who love theater have reveled for years in August Wilson's rich explorations of the African American experience. Now audiences have their first shot at seeing his work on screen, under the very able direction of Denzel Washington and with a screenplay written by Wilson before he died. Wow. The cast is uniformly phenomenal, and Wilson has no equal when it comes to perceptively capturing the impacts of generational trauma on the lives of ordinary black folks. As with "Moonlight," this is deeply empathetic storytelling and rings with emotional truth. Absolutely as good as it gets. [Rated PG-13 for thematic elements, language, and some suggestive references; nominated for, and should win Academy Awards for Best Actor (Denzel Washington) and Best Supporting Actress (Viola Davis); also received nominations for Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay (August Wilson); on at least 22 other critics' top 10 lists.]

"Presenting Princess Shaw" was another of my favorites at Full

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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— Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Images of bloodied men, women and teenagers in 1965 who were beaten by police in Selma, Ala., for protesting voting restrictions shocked the nation.

## 'I Marched in Selma'

### CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ents took him to a lot of the meetings. He said that out of his entire extended family, his parents were the first to try to register to vote.

Moore himself was arrested as a teenager on Jan. 19, 1965 when he joined his mother for a sit-in at the Selma courthouse to register to vote. Throughout the South, SNCC concentrated much of their efforts on getting young people involved with the Civil Rights Movement. On some days during those years, high school classrooms in Selma would clear out as students went to volunteer their time for Civil Rights work, Moore said. Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark, a vocal opponent to integration in Selma, often wore military style clothing and worked with the Ku Klux Klan. Clark and his officers arrested the young Moore along with other protesters that day, the first time Moore went to jail fighting for the right to vote.

He recalled how police officers took him and his friend and neighbor Willie Travis Bonner to a cattle yard. There, police ordered the protesters to put their hands up against the barn walls. Officers told everyone to be quiet, and when his friend kept talking, a police officer took a 6 volt cattle prod to Bonner's leg until the skin broke and bled.

All of the arrested protesters were next taken to the Selma jail, Moore remembers.

"Lucky I had money on me; because I think they kept us in jail for three days or so," he said. "I was able to have the guards go to the vending machines and get some stuff out of them so I could eat. I also had a long jacket to sleep under. You have nothing to sleep with, just a bare cell."

On March 7, 1965, activists decided to march from Selma to Alabama's capitol, Montgomery in an event that would become known as "Bloody Sunday." The first leg of that journey meant crossing the

Edmund Pettus Bridge. Moore remembers the reaction by a sheriff's posse to the first attempt to cross the bridge:

"They shot the teargas, set the dogs and horses on us. I'd never smelled teargas before. It was scary. My eyes were watering. We just all took off and ran across the bridge and tried to get to the church. Matter of fact, when I went into the church, there was teargas in the church. I couldn't breathe in the church and I had to get out of the church."

The images of beaten and bloodied men, women and teenagers shocked the nation and Dr. King was able to persuade President Johnson to pass the voting rights act.

Moore went on the final march from Selma to Montgomery, a 54 mile long journey made safe by President Johnson's National Guard troops who were sent to protect the Civil Rights protesters from Sheriff Clark and the Ku Klux Klan. By the end of the five day trek, Moore was exhausted. He snuck into a press tent, where he was offered food and comfortable rest. From inside the tent he heard the sounds and voices of an all-star concert put on by Harry Belafonte, Nina Simone and others.

As a student, Moore picked up a love for history which continues to this day. Swept up into a defining moment of strength and bravery in black history, Moore looks back, proud he was able to participate.

"I was young at the time and it was fun for a while, because they let you out of school. When they turned the dogs and teargas on us, it wasn't fun no more," he said. "The whole thing about it is that things do change. Since that happened, the same building that where my mom and dad tried to register to vote, where they blocked them, since then, there have been three black mayors. There's a black mayor there now."

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An immigration rights rally brings hundreds of people to the Capitol in Salem on Sunday. (AP photo)

## Deportations to Grow

### Sweeping rewrite of enforcement policies

(AP) -- The Trump administration is greatly expanding the number of people living in the U.S. illegally who are considered a priority for deportation, including people arrested for traffic violations, according to agency documents released Tuesday.

The documents represent a sweeping rewrite of the nation's immigration enforcement priorities.

The Homeland Security Department memos, signed by Secretary John Kelly, lay out that any immigrant living in the United States illegally who has been charged or convicted of any crime -- and even those suspected of a

crime -- will now be an enforcement priority. That could include people arrested for shop lifting or minor traffic offenses.

The memos eliminate far more narrow guidance issued under the Obama administration that resources strictly on immigrants who had been convicted of serious crimes, threats to national security and recent border crossers.

Kelly's memo also describes plans to enforce a long-standing but obscure provision of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act that allows the government to send some people caught illegally crossing the Mexican border back to Mexico, regardless of where they are from. It's unclear whether the United States has the authority to force Mexico to accept foreigners. That provision is almost certain to face opposition from civil libertarians and officials in Mexico.

**"We may have all come on different ships,  
but we're in the same boat now."**

*- Martin Luther King Jr.*



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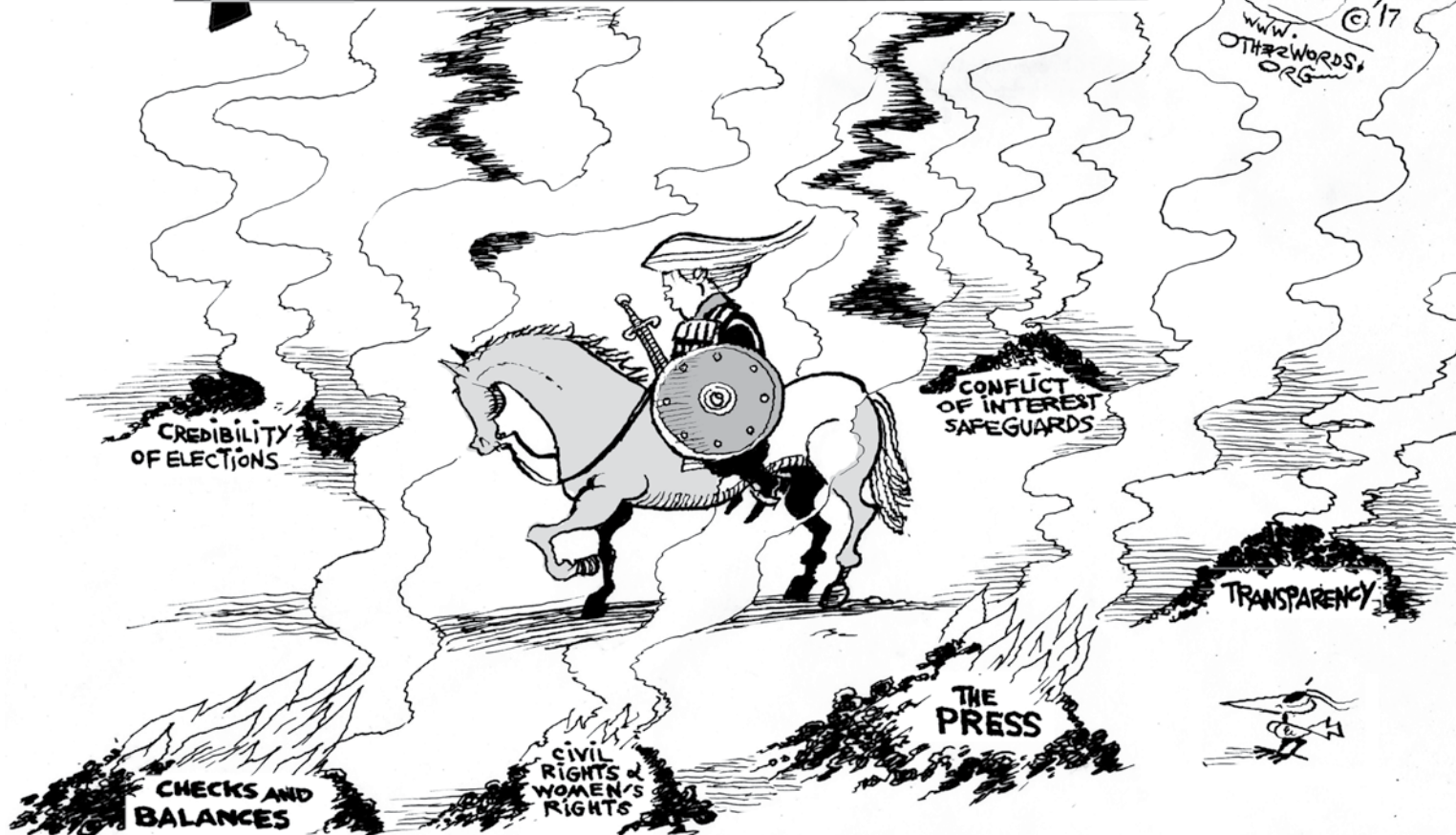
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# OPINION

## ATTILA THE TRUMP: WHEREVER HE GOES DEMOCRACY NEVER GROWS AGAIN



## Another Young Life Tragically Cut Short

### The need for alternatives to the streets

BY LORETTA SMITH

Our community recently shed tears for yet another young life tragically cut short in a police shooting. According to those who knew him best, Quanice Hayes was a much loved young man, full of life and promise.



His family mourns his loss, and we mourn with them.

Mayor Wheeler and the Portland Police Bureau have pledged a full investigation. They have my full support and confidence.

One thing is certain: Too many young people in our community are at risk of suffering the same fate as Quanice Hayes because they lack meaningful alternatives to the streets. Right now, today, right here in

Multnomah County, there are 30,000 young people ages 16 to 24 who are not in school or at a job.

When I first got into office in 2011, I held a community meeting and asked the black and brown men in the room what it was they needed. Jobs and jobs training, they said.

These young people need opportunities to gain life skills, job training, mentorship, and positive role models.

We know this works! For too long we have failed to pri-

oritize programs that can help at-risk teens get a foothold on opportunity and become productive members of our community.

Let's not wait for the death of another of our youth to act - let's grow these investments in critical programs today. Together, there's nothing we can't conquer.

*Loretta Smith is a member of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, representing north and northeast Portland.*

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# OPINION

## The End of an Alliance for Police Reform

### White House ridicules accountability

BY EBONY

SLAUGHTER-JOHNSON

In July 2016, then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch committed the Department of Justice to investigating the shooting of Alton Sterling, a black man who was murdered by police outside a convenience store in Baton Rouge.

The move represented the deepening of a tangible (if tenuous) relationship between the Department of Justice and the Black Lives Matter movement, which gained national prominence in 2014 after the police shooting of Eric Garner.

Until this year, civil rights advocates and critics of police violence had allies in both the Department of Justice and the White House — one of whom was President Obama himself.

At a minimum, these allies were sympathetic to the fight for racial justice. Not infrequently, they were willing

to expend their institutional resources to secure it. The fruits of this relationship included a series of damning reports on police misconduct from Ferguson, Missouri to Cleveland, Chicago, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

In the age of Trump, that alliance has come to an end. In the false dichotomy between holding police accountable and advocating for communities of color, Trump has made it clear that his administration will come down on the side of the police.

Under Trump, the official White House website now ridicules the movement for police accountability as an effort to “to make life more comfortable for the rioter, the looter, or the violent disrupter.” In the Trump administration’s version of the world, protesters are disorderly agitators whose demands for justice only interfere with the work of good men and women in blue.

If law enforcement has found a new friend in Trump, it’s consistently had one in Jeff Sessions, the Alabama senator

just confirmed as attorney general — during Black History Month, no less.

As a senator, Sessions published an opinion on consent decrees, which are agreements local departments make with Washington to reform policing practices that violate their citizens’ rights. Sessions called those deals “dangerous.”

In 2015, Sessions participated in a Senate hearing provocatively titled “The War on Police,” during which he lambasted the Obama administration’s aggressive investigations into police misconduct. He called those actions evidence of “an agenda that’s been a troubling issue for a number of years.”

During his confirmation hearings, Sessions again reit-

erated his disdain for consent decrees, claiming that they “undermine respect for our police officers” and testifying that he might be interested in doing away with them altogether.

Nor has Sessions ever bothered to hide his disdain for civil rights activists. At the same 2015 hearing, Sessions chastised, “I do think it’s a real problem when we have Black Lives Matter making statements that are really radical, that are absolutely false.”

Trump’s censure of the movement has been even more provocative. After lamenting the murders of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling as “terrible” in the summer of 2016, Trump quickly changed his tune. He condemned police reform advocates for “dividing

the country” and blamed them for the murders of two police officers in Baton Rouge.

Candidate Trump went so far as to claim that he’d charge his attorney general with leading an investigation into the Black Lives Matter movement — an assignment that Sessions, by the looks of things, would enthusiastically accept.

There will be more police shootings of black men in the future. There will be more protests that call for justice for these victims. But with a Department of Justice led by Jeff Sessions, people who want justice will be on their own.

*Ebony Slaughter-Johnson is a freelance writer whose work covers history, race, and the criminalization of poverty. Distributed by OtherWords.org.*



“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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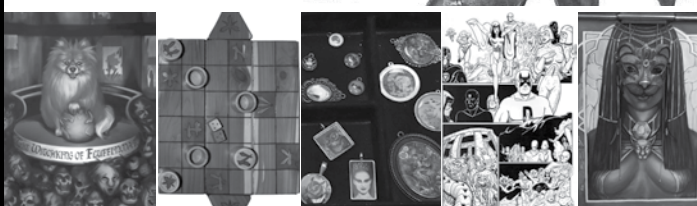






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# *Honoring Black History Month*

Capt. Jeffrey Ward (center), the commanding officer of the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard, joins representatives of the ship's heritage committee to celebrate Black History Month. The Navy ship is forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan.

**"I've been at the Port for 19 years and have seen the organization change over time. We've embraced diversity in small pockets, but now we're taking it to a grand scale. It will take work, and we need to speak freely."**

At the Port of Portland, we believe in partnerships — with our people and with our community. Right now, our culture team members are working together to create a more equitable and inclusive Port, one that's representative of the city we live in and love. Whether you're seeking employment or contracting opportunities, join us in creating a future with fair treatment and equitable access to opportunity for all.

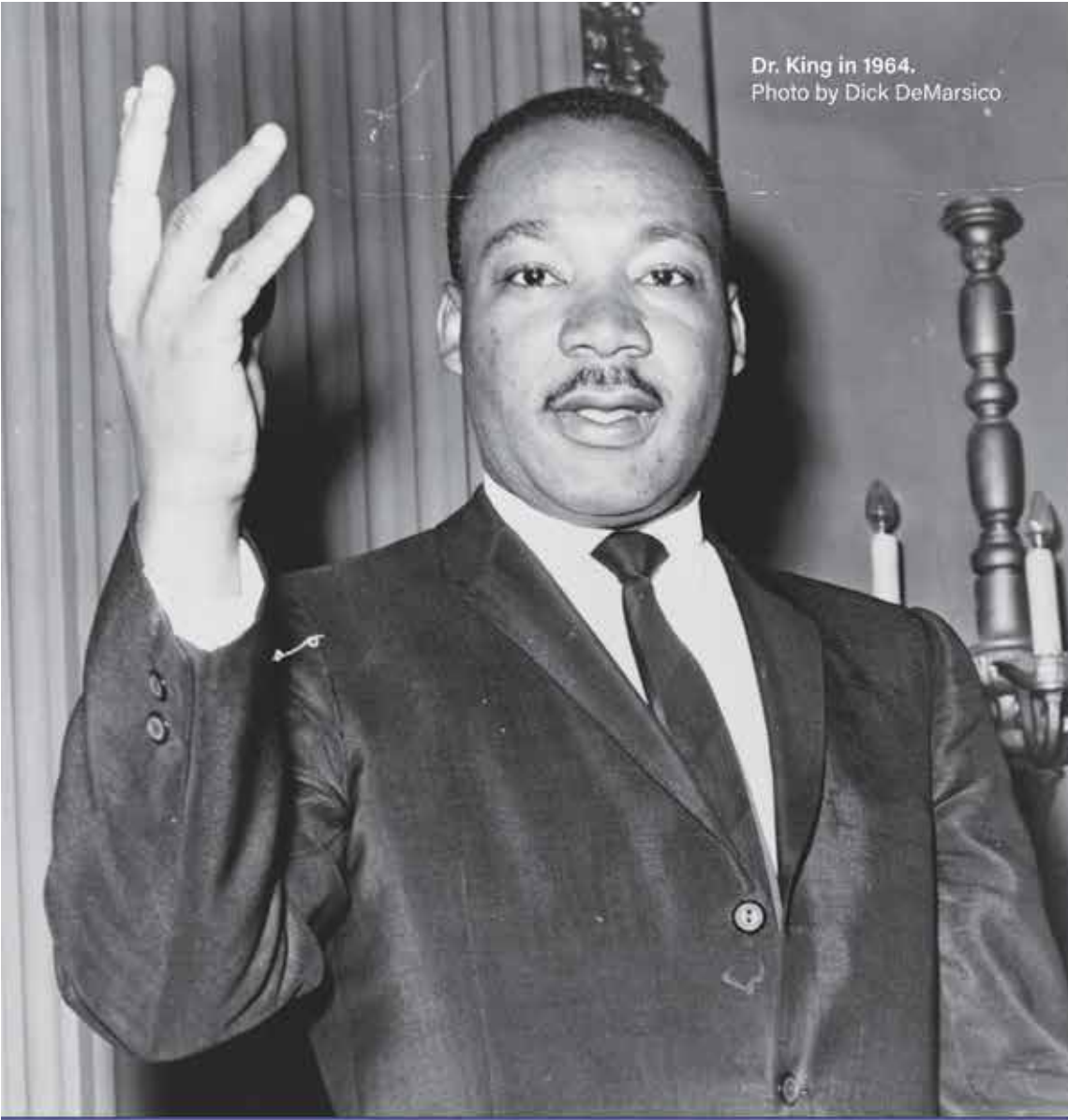
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Dr. King in 1964.  
Photo by Dick DeMarsico



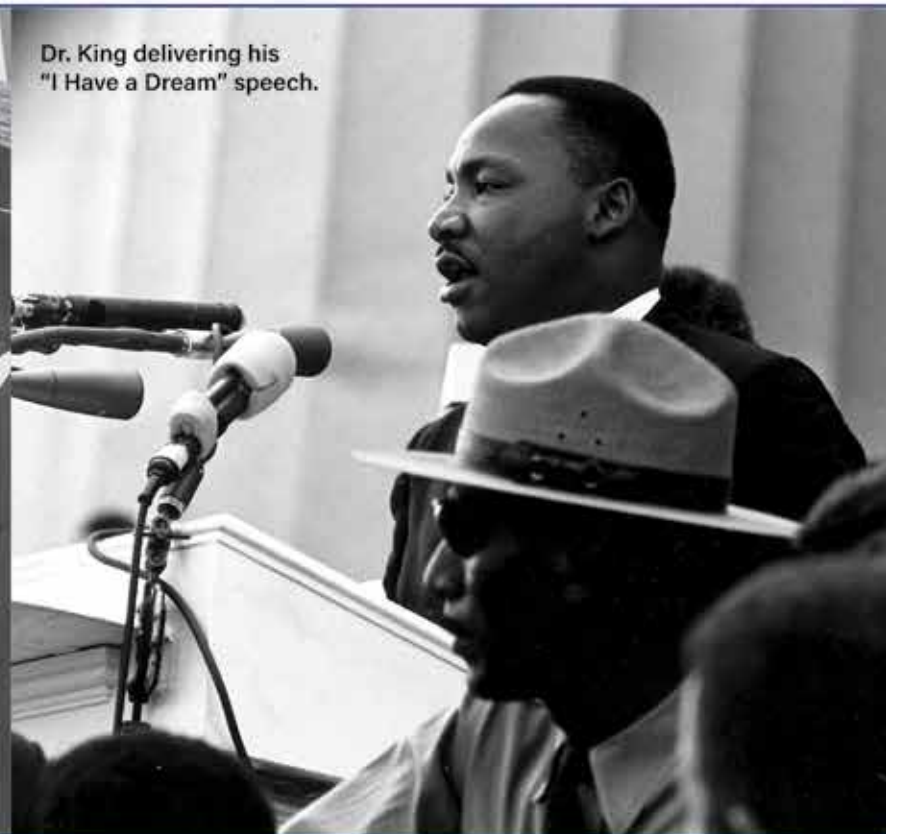
March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 1963.  
Photo by Warren K. Leffler

As we commemorate Black History Month, we continue to be inspired by the life, leadership and legacy of

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. King at a civil rights march, Wash., D.C.  
Photo by Rowland Scherman



Dr. King delivering his  
"I Have a Dream" speech.



# My Top 10 Films of 2016

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Frame and the Portland International Film Festival. It invites you

to travel for awhile with a talented black woman, Samantha Montgomery, who channels her yearning to be a singer into videos post-

ed on YouTube. The filmmaker set out to make a film about YouTube users and ended up stumbling on a goldmine; Montgomery's raw authenticity and hope will inspire you, as it did the Israeli music



Samantha Montgomery in "Presenting Princess Shaw," in inspired film about a talented singer who becomes an Internet sensation after toiling in obscurity for years.

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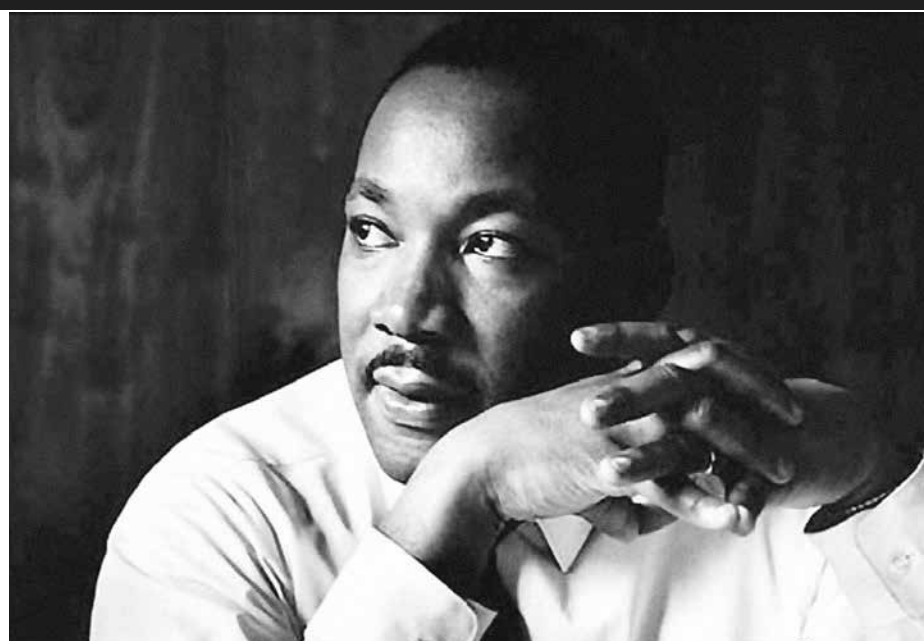
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producer who found her and built some amazing recordings around her work using the work of other YouTube musicians. The process and the result resonate profoundly of all the voices who never rise above obscurity because of their social locations; this buoyant voice, who fought so valiantly to be heard, deserves a listen. The film is available by streaming. [Not rated; should have been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature; on at least one other critic's top 10 list.]

"Zootopia" is one of the best animated films I have ever seen. It combines a very engaging story and lots of clever elements with a remarkably solid illustration of the principles of equity and inclusion, all without feeling the least bit preachy or forced. I was shocked to find that a group of eight people are credited with the screenplay; usually that results in a studio product with no emotional core. Not so here; even in a fantasy world where animals live together in harmony, the story aspires to demonstrate what it might look like to actually do the work of creating a society that creates space for each person to succeed as themselves. It also illustrates the challenges of doing so. I literally have been referring people to this film for some good instruction on what equity looks like practiced well. I love the idea that this film is sewing the principles of equity into the minds of children everywhere. Brilliant. [Rated PG for some thematic elements, rude humor and action; nominated for, and should win, the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature; should have received a nomination for Best Original Screenplay (eight writers); on at least 26 other critics' top 10 lists.]

"Loving" beautifully tells the story of the couple who successfully challenged miscegenation laws all the way to the Supreme Court and won. It's important that stories like this are told, and told well, and writer-director Jeff Nichols does so here with emotional honesty and restraint that befits its subjects. Ruth Negga deserves the accolades she has received for her performance as the gentle Mildred Loving; both she and Joel Edgerton capture the dignity of this couple and the courage

it took them to simply love each other. [Rated PG-13 for thematic elements; nominated for, and should win, the Academy Award for Best Actress (Ruth Negga); should have received nominations for Best Picture and Best Director and Best Original Screenplay (Jeff Nichols); on at least 24 other critics' top 10 lists.]

"Paterson" manages to capture something quite profound about the importance of poetry and contemplative practice. Its protagonist, a bus driver poet beautifully played by Adam Driver, inspired me with his mindful approach to living, aligning with a rhythm that hums around us but that most of us ignore. Even watching this film helped me to slow down and savor a sense of flow, and I appreciate writer-director Jim Jarmusch's relentlessly intuitive approach to the artistic process. [Rated R for some language; should have received Academy Award nominations for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay (Jim Jarmusch), and Best Actor (Adam Driver); on at least 69 other critics' top 10 lists.]

And finally, "Aquarius" offers an all-too-rare opportunity for in-depth exploration of the vitality and complex perspective of an older woman. Clara, played by the great Sonia Braga (who deserved an Oscar nomination for Best Actress), is a widow, a grandmother, a charming friend, a doting mother and aunt, and also a formidable person who insists on standing her ground in a fight that she is unlikely to win. In a time when fighting corruption feels especially vital but also often hopeless in the short term, Braga and writer-director Kleber Mendonça Filho give us a uniquely Brazilian story which also contains real and universal wisdom about the dynamics of standing up for one's own truth. [Not rated; in Portuguese; should have received nominations for Best Foreign Language Picture, Best Original Screenplay (Kleber Mendonça Filho), and Best Actress (Sonia Braga); on at least 5 other critics' top 10 lists].

**Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer.**





PHOTO BY SIERRA RICKARDS

Local high school students who are semifinalists this year's August Wilson Red Door Project are pictured with members of the Red Door team. On Monday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Newmark Theater, downtown, the students will perform works by the master black playwright August Wilson and compete for a chance to perform at the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway in New York.

# Unapologetically Ethnic

## Students perform works by master black playwright

What does it mean to present an evening of theatre and music that is unapologetically ethnic? According to the August Wilson Red Door Project, you start with talented and determined Portland area high school students performing works from the master black playwright, then move to Hands Up, a series of monologues about law enforcement and the black community, and then weave through it all music that has helped forge a culture – from

blues to jazz to hip hop.

The August Wilson Red Door Project Monologue Competition will be held Monday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Newmark Theater, downtown. The event is free, but reservations are required by visiting [reddoorproject.org](http://reddoorproject.org) for tickets.

Red Door is a national showcase for high school age students who have the grit and spirit to embark on a challenging journey. Professional actors and directors train students to master Wilson's complex characters, lyrical language, and astute depiction of African American experience and culture.

At the Newmark, the students will

vie for a chance to perform at the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway in New York, competing against peers from 10 other cities, including major theatre centers like New York, Boston, Chicago and Seattle. Local and national contest winners receive cash prizes, exposure, and opportunities to continue their studies. In 2014, the national winners in New York met Denzel Washington, director and star of August Wilson's play, *Fences*, which is now enjoying tremendous critical and audience acclaim as a film.

"This is an important program for Portland especially," said Kevin Jones of Portland, the chief executive officer and artistic director of the Red Door.

"We have more millennials moving here than any other city in the country, and they're bringing a different paradigm. They don't think of race the same way older generations do. The fact that the AWMC celebrates a playwright of color and performers of all colors makes it not only about theatre—it's directly connected to equity and our city's future."

The Red Door Project's mission is to change the racial ecology of Portland through the arts. In 2016, they presented Hands Up, a series of seven monologues about law enforcement and the African American community, written by black writers and performed by black actors.



# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



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A young woman walks into the afterlife in 'Kati Kati,' a remarkable first feature by director Mbithi Masya of Kenya, playing again Wednesday, Feb. 22 at the Portland International Film Festival.

## International Films to Enjoy in Final Days

### OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY  
DARLEEN  
ORTEGA



As the Portland International Film Festival draws to a close, it looks like I will catch at least 40 screenings. Here are five films that are among those you can see in the final days of PIFF:

**"Kati Kati,"** a Kenyan/German production set in the afterlife, is one of the most intriguing films I've seen at PIFF this year. It opens with a young woman wandering in the Kenyan grasslands. She walks onto the grounds of a resort with about 20 other young Kenyans, and one of them informs her that she has arrived at Kati Kati, and she is there because she (like the other residents) is dead. Her predictable attempt to run reveals that isn't an option. Apparently unlike the rest, the young



PHOTO COURTESY ZEITGEIST FILMS

Chen Gang is taxi driver Lao Shi in 'Old Stone,' a gritty, realistic style film presenting a grim view of modern-day China.

woman, Kaleche, has no idea of her own history or life, and her questions frequently don't elicit

answers that satisfy. It's a smart choice for the filmmaker, who keeps us in a state of emerging consciousness that helps us empathize with these souls, who need to make a transition but fight to understand what and how. Their world contains enough details to feel real, but the director still leaves a lot unanswered, so that we, like Kaleche, are left to struggle to find what progress from this place requires and will mean. It's a remarkable first feature for director Mbithi Masya, and plays again on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

**"Maliglutit"** seeks to be a western, but one faithful to the life of Inuit people. Inspired by the classic John Ford film, "The Searchers," it immerses the audi-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 23**



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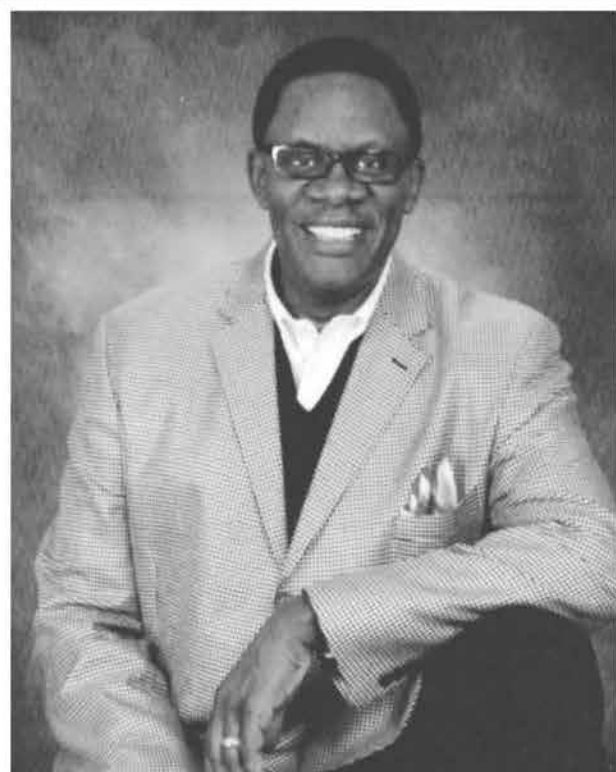
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years for this!" That's one comment I'll never forget! The story had a happy, but isn't it sad that it had such an unfortunate beginning. So many suffer for so long with their pain. They literally waste years of their lives, waiting, thinking that it is just a temporary condition. Life itself is a temporary condition. We are all here

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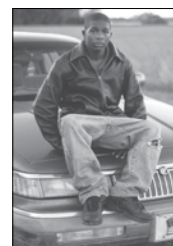
# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

**Black in America Exhibit**

— As part of Black History Month, the Pan-African Commons at Portland State University is hosting an exhibit of 20 posters depicting artifacts from the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture. The exhibit is free and open throughout February from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. daily in PSU's Smith Memorial Union.

**Cascade Festival of African Films**

— Portland Community College hosts the longest-running annual African film festival in the U.S. during Black History Month and into the first week of March. The screening of 23 vibrant films will mostly take place at the Moriarty Auditorium on the PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth. For a complete schedule, visit [africanfilmfestival.org](http://africanfilmfestival.org).



**Portland International Film Festival** — The Portland International Film Festival pulls together a multi-faceted experience during February with over 160 films from around the world with the screenings and special events at venues across the city in association with the NW Film

Center at the Portland Art Museum. Explore the lineup and get information about tickets at [nwfilm.org](http://nwfilm.org).

**Music Millennium Free Shows** — The Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside, regularly hosts a series of in-house live performances. Enjoy free music and the opportunity to meet artists. Call 503-231-8926 for a current schedule.

**One-Woman Musical**

— "His Eye is on the Sparrow," a stirring one-woman musical that celebrates the life of groundbreaking black artist Ethel Waters, a groundbreaking Vaudeville performer who broke racial barriers to emerge a Broadway and Hollywood star, is now playing through March 26 at The Armory, downtown.



**Norman Sylvester** — 'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Feb. 24 at Clyde's; Saturday, Feb. 25

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

for the Mardi Gras Party at Prime Time in Forest Grove; and Tuesday, Feb. 28 at Duff's Garage for a special Fat Tuesday show with the New Iberians.

**Life on Their Own Terms**

— "Swimming While Drowning," a world premiere play about two homeless teens who find inspiration to live life on their own terms, is now playing through Saturday, Feb. 25 at Milagro, Portland's premier Latino theater at 525 S.E. Stark St.



**Black Out Beer Fest** — Lompoc Brewing presents its "Black Out Beer Fest" featuring more than 25 rotating dark beers from Oregon and southwest Washington, Saturday, Feb. 25 from noon to 10 p.m. at the Sidebar, 3901A N. Williams Ave., a heated tent in the Fifth Quadrant Parking Lot. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Community Transitional School.



**History Hub** — Oregon Historical Society exhibit for young people explores the topic of diversity with interactive objects and pictures that tell the stories of the people of Oregon, past and present. With puzzles, touch screen activities and board games, History Hub asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?," "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?," and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?"

**Breakout Tuesdays Hip Hop** — JAMN 107.5 and Cool Nutz from the Breakout Show present Breakout Tuesdays each third Tuesday of the month at the Ash Street, 225 S.W. Ash. The shows will feature performances from some of the top rappers from the Northwest. Hosted by Juma Blaq and DJ Fatboy.

**Clothing Closet** — Each first Saturday of the month, a complimentary breakfast and clothing drive takes place at First AME Zion Church, 4304 N. Vancouver Ave. The goal is to clothe and feed Portland one person at a time. For more information, call Nydia Campbell-Pullom at 503-317-1089.



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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## The Music of William Grant Still

### UP orchestra celebrates Black History Month

The community is invited to celebrate Black History Month with a free concert by the University of Portland orchestra featuring the music of the late William Grant Still, known as “The Dean” of African American composers.

The free and open to the public performance will be held Sunday, Feb. 26 at 3 p.m. in Buckley Center Auditorium, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd.

Led by conductor David De Lyser, the orchestra will perform Still’s 1930 “Af-



William Grant Still

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Michael Allen Harrison and Julianne Johnson will perform a concert benefitting youth at the Salvation Army in Rockwood on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

## Benefit Concert in Rockwood

As part of its daily mission to low income families and children, the Salvation Army in Rockwood will host a benefit concert to support after school programs including the Gresham Music Academy. Admission is just \$15 per person.

“An Evening with Michael Allen Harrison and Julianne Johnson” will be on Thursday,

Feb. 23 at 7 p.m., featuring the two talented musicians from Portland along with member of the Salvation Army Gresham Music Academy. Admission is just \$15 per person.

The evening will also include hors d’oeuvres, desserts, a silent and live auction, and student and family testimonials.

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## Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



## Alternative Hip Hop Live

Kilo Kish, an alternative hip hop, experimental and psychedelic pop singer based in New York City comes to Portland on Wednesday, March 1 for a performance at the Rosewood Theater, downtown, part of a national tour of 26 cities with Vince Staples.

## Gender Bender Rap Poet

Finding fame as a fearless noise rap poet in New York, Mykki Blanco, brings his explosive gender bender show to Portland's Holocene on Wednesday, March 1 at 7 p.m.

First rising through the Afro punk scene, Mykki has been called the most compelling rapper of his generation. After two years as living as a transgender woman in his personal life, Mykki eventually stopped transitioning and settled into the non-binary, gender-queer artist he is today, according to the publicist for the show.



Mykki Blanco

**The Book can be found at four locations:**

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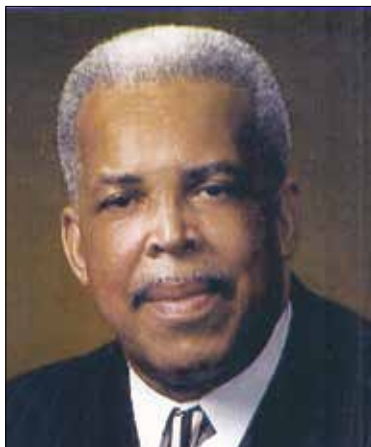


# Allen Temple Marks 68 Years

Allen Temple CME, under the direction of senior pastor and presiding Elder Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr., invites the community to join them for two special events to celebrate the congregation's 68th anniversary.

Rev. J. Walter Hills II, senior pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and a gifted visionary who is leading his church to fulfilling God's purpose, will be the keynote speaker. The Allen Temple Family and Friends anniversary worship service will be held on Sunday, March 5 at 4 p.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.

The festivities continue with a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday,



Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes Jr.



Rev. J. Walter Hills II

March 11 at 10 a.m., also at Maranatha, highlighted by praise and worship, fellowship, and a delicious southern breakfast. Tickets

are available in advance or at the door for \$20. Contact Sister Regina Green at 503-282-9813 or email rgreen6025@gmail.com.

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# CLASSIFIED/BIDS

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### METRO

#### On Call Creative Development and Design Services RFP 3285

The Communications department of Metro, a metropolitan service district organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and the Metro Charter, located at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, is requesting proposals for On-call Creative Development and Design Services.

#### Pre-Proposal Conference

A voluntary pre-proposal conference will be held on Friday, Feb. 24, 2017, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Metro Regional Center building, Room 270, located at 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR.

Sealed proposals are due no later than 2:00 p.m., March 23, 2017 in Metro's business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Riko Frohnmayer RFP 3285

Proposals can be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN), at <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/>.

Metro may accept or reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, or waive irregularities not affecting substantial rights if such action is deemed in the public interest.

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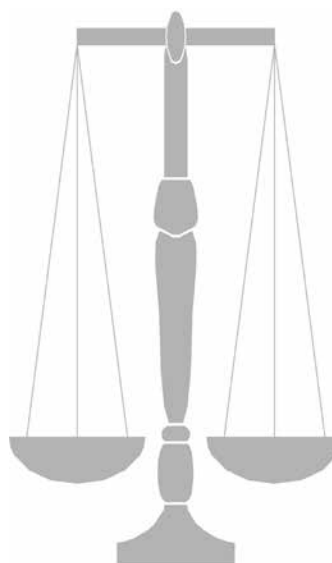
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# William Grant Still

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

ro-American," a jazz and blues-influenced Symphony No. 1 in A-flat. Student conducting associate Shelby Covington will conduct Still's Serenade for Orchestra. 2016 Student Concerto Contest winner Tram Bui will also perform.

William Grant Still composed more than 150 works during his lifetime, including five symphonies and eight operas. He was the first American composer to have an opera produced by the New York City Opera, the first African-American to conduct a major American symphony orchestra, and the first black American to have an opera performed on national television.

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# Eye on the School Board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

have also endorsed her.

"Jamila is a leader of high character whose experience as an educator, administrator, researcher, and advocate for opportunity uniquely orients her to effect positive change in Portland Public Schools," said Andrew Colas, president of Colas Construction. "Her intelligence, passion for service, collaborative spirit and proven commitment to equity and inclusion would be an unmatched asset to our young people and I am proud to wholeheartedly support her candidacy."

"We need smart, capable leaders at the Portland School Board to help us improve achievement and forge partnerships with the community," said Avel Gordly. "She has the skills, experience and style we need working for us. Please join me in supporting her."

Munson serves on state of Oregon's Next Generation Working Group contributing to education accountability systems. She also works with novice educators and trainers to provide professional educational development, particularly in providing rigorous and culturally relevant instruction, and content that resonates with today's diverse student population.



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# International Films to Enjoy at PIFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

ence in the life of a family in the Arctic who experiences a brutal attack and must fight back to survive. The conditions and lifestyle here will be utterly foreign to most American audiences, which is part of what makes it fascinating viewing; acquiring and eating food, building shelter, and sharing family intimacies demand full-body absorption, and perhaps as a result, dialogue does not drive this particular story. Impressively staged and filmed, this is a fascinating visit to what may feel like a different planet. It plays again on Thursday, Feb. 23.

“Apprentice” opened to good reviews at the Cannes Film Festival and is the second film of a young Singaporean director, Boo Junfeng. Its focus is Aiman, a stoic young prison guard who becomes the protégée of the prison’s executioner, Rahim. The tight focus on Aiman, who lives with an older sister whose objection to his prison job gradually becomes apparent, and on the realities of working inside, opens space to contemplate the toll that such works takes on those who carry it out, and the little stories we tell ourselves in order to survive (or avoid) the larger impacts of our own actions and the actions of others which irrevocably alter us. It plays again on Thursday, Feb. 23.

“The Olive Tree” is a crowd-pleaser, with its story of Alma, a young farmer who is fiercely devoted to her gruff grandfather, who was fiercely devoted to a 2,000-year-old olive tree that Alma’s father and uncle sold against his wishes when she was a child. As her grandfather disappears further and further into dementia, she vows to locate the tree and, against all logic, promises to bring it back to the family land. The film sounds appealing notes of respect for nature and one’s literal and metaphorical roots, and is well-acted and produced. The script, however, is predictable and doesn’t bear the ring of emotional truth; the family conflicts are too crudely presented, Alma’s love interest is under-developed, and there is a predictable corporate bad guy. Enjoyable only if you don’t think about it too hard. It plays again on Thursday, Feb. 23 and for an encore on Sunday Feb. 26.

“Old Stone” presents an exceedingly grim view of modern-day China. Told in a gritty, realistic style, the film follows the story of Lao Shi, a cab driver who comes to regret his decision to save the life of a person whom he has accidentally hit with his taxi by taking the man to the hospital rather than waiting for an ambulance. His reward for doing so is to be treated with brutal coldness by the hospital who treats the man, the police, an insurance company, and the drunk passenger who caused the accident, and to be saddled with endless hospital bills for the man’s care.

The China that is relentlessly revealed by director Johnny Ma (born in Shanghai, raised in Canada, and educated in New York) is one where all incentives are to avoid helping anyone and, indeed, to finish off anyone who might have a claim to recompense or help of any kind. Strap yourself in for a bleak ride; this film plays on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 22 and 23.

“Sieranevada” will wear out all but the most alert and determined audience members. It takes place almost entirely in a labyrinthine apartment in Bucharest, where a family has gathered for an Eastern Orthodox traditional memorial gathering 40 days after the passing of its patriarch, Emil. Over nearly three hours, and perhaps from the viewpoint of Emil himself, we move from room to room and eavesdrop as the family members clash and talk around the family’s barely buried secrets and conflicts. The connections between them are mostly not explained and can only be discerned with the most focused attention -- which pays off to some extent, but perhaps not as much as the effort required would suggest. It plays again on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer.



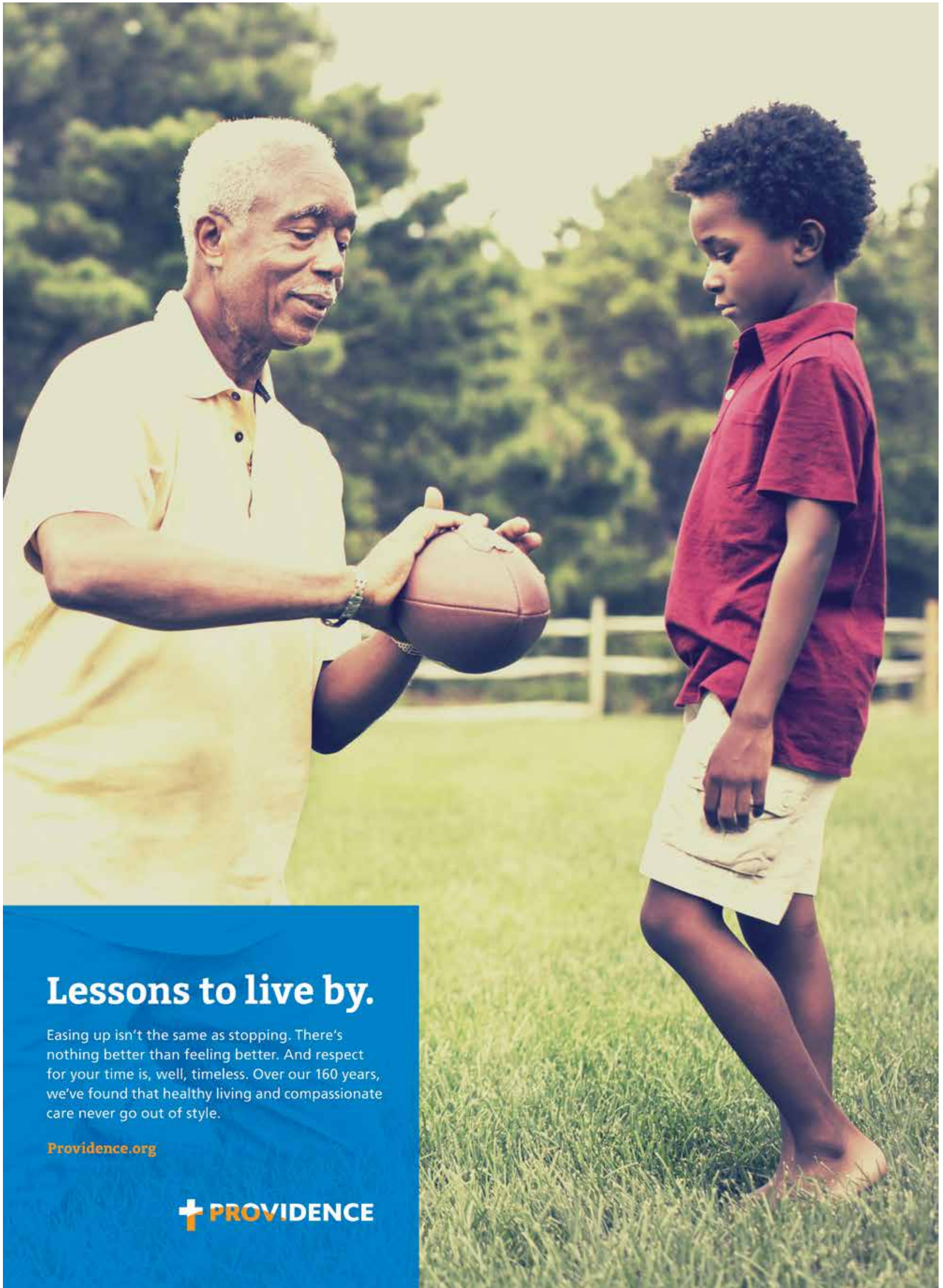
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12 <i>Judy Blume</i> born, 1938 <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> born, 1809 (16th President)	13 Get a Different Name Day First Public School established (1635)	14 <i>George Washington</i> <i>Gale Ferris</i> born, 1859 Ferris Wheel Day <b>Valentine's Day</b>	15 <i>Norman Bridwell</i> born, 1928 <i>Susan B. Anthony</i> born, 1820	16 <i>Nylon</i> Patented By DuPont in 1937 <i>King Tut's Burial Chamber</i> opened in 1923	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day National P.T.A. Founder's Day (1897)	18 ☾ Former planet, <i>Pluto</i> , Discovered By <i>Clyde Tombaugh</i> in 1930
19 <i>Phonograph</i> Patented, <i>Thomas Edison</i> in 1878	20 <b>President's Day</b> <i>John Glenn</i> Orbits Earth in 1962 Love Your Pet Day	21 <i>Malcom X</i> Assassinated (1965) <i>Washington Monument</i> dedicated (1885)	22 <i>George Washington</i> born, 1732 Be Humble Day World Thinking Day	23 International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day U.S. Flag raised at <i>Iwo Jima</i> (1945)	24 <i>Steve Jobs</i> born, 1955 <i>Wilhelm Carl Grimm</i> born, 1786	25 Quiet Day <i>Artist Pierre Auguste Renoir</i> born, 1841
26 ● <i>Levi Strauss</i> born, 1829 <i>William F. Cody</i> born, 1846 (Pony Express Rider)	27 <i>Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</i> born, 1807 International Polar Bear Day	28 Mardi Gras Public Sleeping Day <i>Gold Seekers</i> arrived in San Francisco (1849)				





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