



Diversity Stands Out



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Portland Observer

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Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ricki Coleman (from left), Peggy Hackenbruck, Margaret Ann Jones, and Busch, represent the many volunteers and community members served by the Q Center on North Mississippi Avenue, a public space providing cultural, emotional and physical safety for people in the LGBTQ+ community. The center just completed a successful campaign to raise donations for maintenance upgrades.

On Stronger Footing

Q Center support serves diverse community

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Q Center, a nonprofit providing services and a safe space for Portland and southwest Washington's LGBTQ+ community, has just completed an intense fundraising effort to complete much needed maintenance to their building on North Mississippi Avenue, but advocates say continued community support in funding and volunteering are essential to keeping the Pacific Northwest's largest LGBTQ+ community center up and running.

"If they have that itch to help, that itch to serve, show up, say I'm here to help or volunteer," pleads Busch, a two spirit trans-woman who is a Q Center board member and who also helps lead a Friday night trans women support group at the center. "We're a 503-c non-profit organization and we have a balance sheet that sometimes dips toward the red line. We do not like to have much experience with that, so yeah, time, talent, and treasure is all that we look for here to be able to help."

The Q Center's recent Resilience Campaign raised

over \$100,000 for building improvements to its community space; an effort executive director Cameron Whitten called a "resounding success."

Thanks to support from anonymous donors and a grant from Prosper Portland, the city's economic development agency, the Q Center reached 75 percent of its fundraising drive in early June, then sprinted to raise an additional \$45,000 to inch past the goal.

The new resources will pay for improvements to a ceiling that is in disrepair throughout the building, some dry-wall work and electrical work, and other upgrades, esti-

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President Trump's latest racist tirade was against these four newly elected Democrats of Color in the U.S. House of Representatives, Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

Democrats Defend Congresswomen

Trump's racism called worst in history

House Democrats introduced a resolution Monday condemning the president for racist comments directed at a four newly elected U.S. Representatives of color in Congress, comments widely condemned

by Democrats and civil rights activists and historians.

Trump said Monday that — Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ayanna Pressley

of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan — hate the United States and Israel and should leave the country if they were not happy here. On Sunday, Trump tweeted the Democratic lawmakers, all

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OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY
DARLEEN
ORTEGA



Diverse Films Stand Out

In addition to the documentaries I reviewed last week, I saw 15 narrative features at the Seattle International Film Festival in May and June. Besides the fact that watching movies all day is my idea of heaven, seeing so many together functioned as a sort of world tour of cinematic language, style, and culture that set my brain humming. Here are some of the best worth scouring for; I survey the rest with enough info to help you decide if they are worth that effort.

My favorite of everything I saw was "Vai"—eight short films all directed by native women from different cultures in the Pacific Islands. Each features a fictional girl or woman with some variation of the name "Vai" (which means "water" in several Island languages, including Maori) and, though the stories span different generations, they are not meant to be about the same character. Rather, they capture a sort of common energy, resiliency and spirit among women in these indigenous and colonized cultures; each of these women embodies a spark of joy and wisdom and fight that suggests something important about how these cultures have managed to survive and also what



A common energy, resiliency and spirit among women of indigenous and colonized cultures is captured in "Vai," eight new short narrative films all directed by native women. Photo courtesy Crucial 21st Century Cinema.

centuries have colonization have damaged and in some cases destroyed. The segments share a sense of beauty and movement and language and ceremony that is rich and deep and gorgeous—so much so that I would have watched it again immediately after seeing it. It was distributed theatrically in New Zealand and Australia; I hope it may enjoy an online release even if theater distribution in the U.S. is unlikely.

I feel just as enthusiastic about "Afterlife," the first feature film of Dutch writer-director Willem Bosch which, likewise, doesn't appear to have a U.S. release planned. For whatever reason, Bosch has chosen as his protagonist a 14-year-old mixed-race girl, Sam, whose beloved black mother Vera has tragically passed away. Serious, studious and hyper-responsible, Sam devotes herself to caring for her white father and two younger brothers, until she herself dies in an accident and encounters her mother in the afterlife.

Sam's afterlife encounter—very ingeniously conceived—leads to her return to earth for a sort of do-over, which serves the film's inclination to wrestle cleverly with ultimate questions. I mention the racial mix here because it is so unusual in films made in the similarly white-dominated U.S. and because it here serves the story well in a very non-showy way; Sam and Vera especially emerge as complex characters whose sadness feels deep and isn't minimized or completely explained, which struck me as very true. And Sam's guardian angel, played by a white man, is not put into a savior role; Sam has agency and intelligence to spare, and her journey through grief and her search for the truth of her mother feels grounded and real, even while the film strikes a tone of whimsy. This lovely and original film deserves a wider audience, and I genuinely hope it finds one

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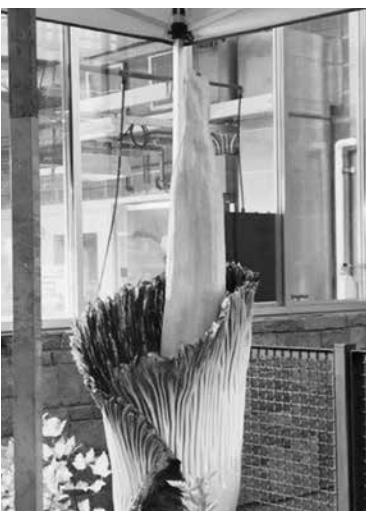
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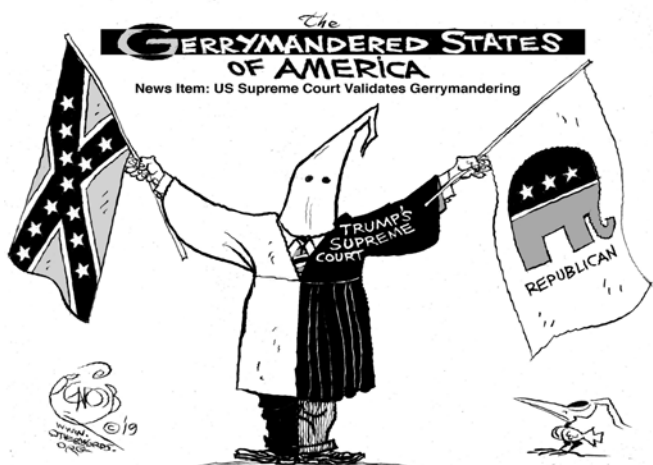
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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Chelsea Whipple (left) joins a "Portland Resistance" rally calling for police accountability in the city's upcoming police bargaining union contract.

Demanding Police Accountability

Activists want seat in new police union contract

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland activists are calling on the city to reverse course from the past and allow meaningfully public participation and civilian oversight during its upcoming contract negotiations with rank and file police officers negotiating a new contract over the next year.

"Many of the city's most volatile issues will be at play, as organizers aim for a milestone 2020 contract victory that could pave the way for some long overdue repair in trust between the police and many Portland citizens," reads a statement from Portland's Resistance, the local protest movement

that was formed in reaction to the presidential election of Donald Trump in 2016.

Activists from other civil rights groups like Dr. LeRoy Haynes of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform, agree that the public should have an opportunity to listen in and participate in the contract negotiation.

"They should be open, publicized meetings," Haynes told the Portland Observer.

In 2016, community activists were forcefully removed from City Hall during police contract negotiations under then-Mayor Charlie Hales. Commissioner Jo

Ann Hardesty, who was then the President of the Portland NAACP said the incident is what inspired her to run for her current post, though she did eventually get let in to the proceedings. It also spurred at least one lawsuit from a woman who claimed she merely stumbled upon watching the incident unfold when she was twice struck from a police officer with a baton.

Portland's Resistance held a rally last week to put a spotlight on the issues.

Among them was Shelly Morgan/Hall of Pacific Northwest Family Circle, a group represent-

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Incubator for Minority-Owned Taxis

A new incubator to help bolster minority-owned taxi companies in Portland is kicking off with a resource fair next Wednesday, July 24, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Alberta Abbey, 138 N.E. Alberta St.

Designed to make minority-owned taxi companies more visible and more competitive in the broader transportation marketplace, the session is co-sponsored by the Portland Bureau of Transportation, the African American consulting firm FM Burch and Associates, Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon, and the Professional Business Development Group.

FM Burch founder Faye Burch has experience working to in-



Faye Burch

crease diversity in Portland's construction trades and continues to help companies craft and execute equity plans in the public and private sectors.

Information about business services, such as lending, matched savings grants, and credit enhancements, will be presented. Resources to help run an independent taxi company like towing, car detailing, meeting potential new customers, legal services, and an app for customers to locate the service will also be discussed.

The outreach comes years after Portland's introduction of ride-share services like Uber and Lyft took a notch out of the profits from local taxi services, including a significant portion of which that were run by immigrants of color.

To RSVP, contact Irene at 503-951-9220 or email Irene.FMBA@gmail.com.

Highland Welcomes New Pastor

Dr. Shon Neyland, a charismatic religious leader who was raised in New Orleans and served as a military chaplain in Hawaii and a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is the new senior pastor of the Highland Christian Center in northeast Portland, a historically black and diverse congregation that was most recently led by their beloved pastor Dr. W. G. Hardy Jr. who died last year.

Originally trained as an industrial engineer, Neyland served in the Air Force as a nuclear launch officer and as an aerospace flight commander in the Milstar Communications Satellite program. At the

same time, he and his wife of 34 years, Madeline, have served as devoted evangelicals, finding churches in communities from England to Abilene, Texas.

Neyland comes from a religious family. His dad was a church deacon and musician and his mom served as a worship leader and singer.

Highland church leaders say there is an atmosphere of joy and relief in having new leadership to fulfill the late Pastor Hardy's vision of a church founded on firm biblical principles and an active involvement in the community.

Neyland has authored four books. His latest "The



PHOTO BY JOHN LAMPKIN

Dr. Shon Neyland is the new pastor of the Highland Christian Center, a historically black and diverse congregation in northeast Portland.

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Courage to Stand: A New America" touches on the state of our society today, exploring race and religious stereotypes. He writes, "It is time to eliminate the antiquated race and color identification terms of "black" and "white" and begin a new nomenclature--we are Americans!"

He describes his philosophy of life as centered on unconditional love and a positive attitude, qualities that comes through his exuberant preaching style, a warm sense of humor and a dazzling smile.

Pastor Neyland and his wife have three adult children and one grandchild.

Democrats Defend Congresswomen

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but one of whom were born in the United States, should "go back" and try to fix the "crime infested places" they "originally came from" before telling the U.S. government how to handle its problems.

House Democrats introduced a resolution Monday condemning the president for the comments, and a black Democratic lawmaker from Texas, says he will again force a vote on articles of impeachment against the president by next week, citing him as a bigot.

Rep. Al Green said Trump's latest tweets were the impetus for his third effort to push through an impeachment vote. In 2017 and 2018, when the Republicans ran the House, he cited similar controversies, including Trump's comments about demonstrators in Charlottesville and his description of African nations as "shithole" countries.

About 60 of Greens' colleagues joined him to support him in the previous impeachment votes, but the moves were easily defeated. His bill drew no support from Oregon's Congressional delegation.

Also on Monday, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian said President Trump has joined Andrew Johnson as the most racist president in American history.

John Meacham said Trump has stoked racism with both his recent comments as well as his "birther" lies about former President Barack Obama.

He said that America has never been about the concept of birthright but rather the belief that "all men are created equal," as stated in the Declaration of Independence.

Police Accountability

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ing family members of those who have been killed by police.

Morgan/Hall's son, Brad Lee Morgan, was fatally shot by police in 2012 after threatening to jump from the top of a downtown parking garage and pointing what was later determined to be a replica firearm at officers.

"I wish they'd do the walk away method. If you're mentally ill, and you think you're going to be in danger, especially the cops, they need to walk away. They don't need to be there. Let the mental health workers come out and help you," Morgan/Hall said to the crowd of demonstrators, who were flashing protest signs at motorists and passersby in front of City Hall. She added that dealing with the incident caused her mental instability, too.

"I don't care if you're on the street or whatever. But cops shouldn't kill us because we're mentally ill, or we're homeless, or we're just in crisis."

She lamented that she could no longer give her son a hug, and that he could no longer hold the eight month son he left behind.

James Ofsink, an organizer with Portland's Resistance, told the Portland Observer that a new police contract, which only gets negotiated every four or five years, should require stronger community oversight and police

accountability.

Currently police cannot be compelled to give testimony for a misconduct allegation to the Independent Police Review board, nor does the board—designated as a community oversight entity—have a role in use of deadly force cases, according to the current contract, Ofsink said. And those are just two of many other policy decisions that are "baked into" the current contract, he added. "One of the big things is accountability, a willingness to fire officers when they break policies and codes and the laws of the city."

Haynes said the public should have the right to petition the City Council to give recommendations of what is needed in the contract to make the Police Bureau "a department that is building trust." He said one of the big issues is accountability, a willingness to fire officers when they break policies and codes and the laws of the city.

Ofsink said police associations across the country have used their employment contracts to limit the accountability for their officers.

Campaign Zero, a police reform campaign associated with the national Black Lives Matter movement and launched in 2015 with an aim to reduce police violence, supported a 2018 University of Oxford study by Abdul Rad that found there was quantitative

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A photo from a new traveling exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society called 'Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II,' shows the all-black World War II era U.S. Army 41st Engineers, assembled for a color guard ceremony at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Photo courtesy National Archives.

Fighting for the Right to Fight

Downtown exhibit tells story of African Americans in WW II

In the years leading up to World War II, racial segregation and discrimination were part of the daily life of many in the United States. For most African Ameri-

cans, even the most basic rights and services were fragmented or denied altogether. To be black was to know the limits of freedom – excluded from the opportunity, equality and justice on which the country was founded.

Yet, once World War II began, thousands of African Americans rushed to enlist, intent on serving the nation that treated them as second-class citizens. They

were determined to fight to preserve the freedom that they themselves had been denied.

A new traveling exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society tells the important stories of the thousands of African Americans who enlisted during the war. From the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, "Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World

War II, opened Friday with a reception attended by black veterans and officials of the museum, and runs through Jan. 12. The exhibit includes oral histories, profile panels and artifacts.

The centerpiece of the show is an original eight minute video about the Tuskegee Airmen, who in many ways became the

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Diverse Films Stand Out

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in the U.S.

"Yomeddine," set in Egypt, takes its name from the Arabic word for judgment. It's been racking up audience awards at various film festivals, which may improve its prospects for an online and limited theatrical release in the U.S. It tells the story of Beshay, a leper who has spent most of his life inside an Egyptian leper colony. After his wife dies, he undertakes an arduous cross-country journey to find the family who abandoned him in the colony in childhood, and ends up with an orphan boy tagging along. The storytelling here is simple, but the lens is not; the first-time actor playing Beshay lives in a body ravaged by leprosy, and the film is shot in parts of Egypt that don't appear on a tourist map, yet the film doesn't feel like poverty porn. Rather, I experienced it as an opportunity to journey alongside perspectives and experiences that I am unlikely to encounter and might well recoil from, approached with humanity and care. Judgment is operating on many levels, in terms of how we judge people, and what sort of judgment animals and humans may face as they pass from this life to the next. There is beauty here beyond what we typically see or even look for, and a journey worth taking.

"The Days to Come" isn't win-

ning any audience awards; audiences like their romances to be more in the realm of sheer fantasy, as a rule, and this depiction of how pregnancy changes a relationship is relentlessly real. But for those who, like me, can't abide fake romance, no one does relationship realism better than Spanish director Carlos Marques-Marcet. Here he is aided by the fact that his lead actors are a real-life couple becoming parents; the film has an immediacy that would be well-nigh impossible to capture this well otherwise. We witness their struggle with how to talk about whether to carry the pregnancy to term, their disagreements over the career and economic consequences of parenthood, the way the raised stakes also surface resentments that might otherwise have remained dormant. Honest parents will especially experience many moments of recognition here; real relationships, for all their occasional beauty, are also mysterious and anything but easy. I'm guessing this film will find at least an online home.

"Ms. Purple" benefits from an intriguing performance by Tiffany Chu as Kasie, a young Korean-American woman stuck in the trap that beauty lays. Her beautiful mother left the family when Kasie was a child and leveraged her beauty for a more lucrative match, leaving Kasie and her brother Carey and



"Yomeddine," tells the story of a man who spent most of his life inside a leper colony in Egypt and who takes a cross-country journey to learn about the family who abandoned him as a child, tagged along by an orphan boy who joins him.

their father devastated--and now Kasie has left behind her dreams of being a concert pianist, forced to leverage her own beauty to care for her father, who is unable to care for himself, by working as a karaoke hostess. The plot does no more than connect those dots, without much added insight--but Kasie is never less than compelling, including in her relationship to Carey, who she finally enlists for help.

"Them That Follow" is headed for a theatrical release, but deserves it less than any of the films above, though it is filled with good performances. It's set in a backwoods community where a small number of folks find in scripture an encouragement to treat deadly rattlesnakes as faith detectors. I don't doubt that such communities exist, but artistic renderings of faith--particularly faith outside the experience of most of audience members--often strike me as voyeuristic and not very true. This film, despite the work of a solid cast that kept me intrigued, never fully won me over; the extreme circumstances seem to be exploited for dramatic effect.

Nine other films are likely to appeal to a more limited set of viewers. **"Another Day of Life"** inventively combines animation and documentary footage to shed light on the Angolan Civil War, through the life of a gutsy Polish journalist. **"All My Loving"** manages to tell parallel stories of three privileged and self-indulgent German siblings in an absorbing way though, in the end, it is hard to find someone to like. In **"Take It or Leave It,"** a young Estonian man finds in single parenthood a reason to evolve a bit from irresponsible toxic masculinity, and **"Ghost Town Anthology"** tells a story of grief in a remote Quebecois town; both those films make up for their narrative shortcomings by providing interesting windows into Estonian and small-town Canadian life. The campy **"Knife+Heart"** was not my cup of tea but was a huge hit with queer audience members, who came and cheered in force for this crime thriller set in the late-'70s gay porn industry. **"Before the Vows"** is a rare opportunity to see a film from Ghana; its young director has

been dubbed "the Shonda Rhimes of Ghana" for her series "An African City," and the plotting here is as conventional as they come, though set among gorgeous Africans. **"The Sharks"** is likely to be too opaque for all but the most dedicated of viewers, but gained awards recognition at the Sundance Film Festival for its first-time Uruguayan director Lucia Garibaldi; it's a close observation of an impassive young girl's dicey exploration of her power and desire. **"EXT. Night"** takes a chaotic journey with a filmmaker, a cabbie, and a prostitute who are thrown together for a night; it aims to shed light on the unrelenting turmoil and social stratification of Cairo in the wake of failed revolution but bogs down narratively. Finally, **"A Faithful Man"** is an overrated vanity project in which carelessly handsome French actor-director Louis Garrel directs himself starring as a carelessly handsome man being fought over by two gorgeous women (one played by his real-life gorgeous model wife and the other played by the lovely daughter of Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis). My advice is to hunt for everything else on this list first!

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. Find her movie blog at opinionated-judge.blogspot.com.

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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Gresham Arts Festival Weekend

It's fun for all ages when the Gresham Arts Festival draws people from all around to historical downtown Gresham. The annual event returns Friday and Saturday, July 19-20, with more than 100 artists, live music, Guinness World Record attempts and more. "We worked hard this year to create a community event that has plenty of free entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. Whether you're an art lover or looking for family fun, you'll find it at the Gresham Arts Festival," said Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis.



A celebration and show of support for and with Portlanders from around the globe returns Sunday, July 21 with a one mile walk from the East Portland Community Office to Knott Park at 117th and Knott St.

Celebrating People of All Backgrounds

You can show support for Portlanders from around the globe when Portland Parks & Recreation holds its third annual Walk with Refugees and Immigrants on Sunday, July 21.

A walk from the East Portland Community Office, 1017 NE 117th Ave., will begin at 11 a.m. and proceed along 117th to Knott Park, one mile away where a community celebration will take place that recognizes the unique experiences of new Portlanders of all ages and backgrounds.

Refuge and immigrant stories will be shared and there will be diverse music, food and other family activities to enjoy. An esti-

ated 5,000 people took part last year.

"This event is a highlight of our Parks for New Portlanders program," says Portland Parks Commissioner Nick Fish. "We're proud to welcome people of all backgrounds to Portland."

All neighbors, faith-based organizations, local businesses, neighborhood associations, and nonprofits are invited to join to inspire a more compassionate, generous, and welcoming Portland!

With one in five Portlanders now foreign-born, addressing the needs of this new and diverse population is crucial as they transition to Portland's community.

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TA-NEHISI COATES

• IN CONVERSATION WITH RENÉE WATSON •

Monday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
Tickets start at \$15, Portland5.com

Join Literary Arts for an evening with acclaimed author and journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates in celebration of his first novel, *The Water Dancer* (publication date September 24). In this boldly imagined work of magic and adventure, Coates offers a bracingly original vision of the world of slavery.





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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Rare Flower at WSU Vancouver



A rare corpse flower at Washington State University began to reach full bloom on Monday. The flower is among the world's largest and rarest. It has grown in a stairwell in WSU Vancouver's Science and Engineering Building. On display outside the greenhouse at the east end of the WSU-Vancouver Science and Engineering Building, the flower's progress was also on view via a webcam at youtube.com/wsuvancouver. The corpse flower is infamous for its odor—comparable to that of a decomposing animal. The bloom will last only 24 to 48 hours. The species (Latin name *Amorphophallus titanum*, also known as *titan arum*) is native to Sumatra, Indonesia's rainforests, the only place in the world where it naturally grows.



Portland's African American producing theater company PassinArt is recruiting singers for its annual 'Black Nativity' performances this December.

Singers Wanted for 'Black Nativity'

Portland's African-American producing theater company PassinArt is seeking a maximum of 12 singers for its upcoming holiday production of "Black Nativity" by Langston Hughes, directed by Jerry Foster and Elder Onnie Allen.

All singers are required to audition and are asked to prepare and sing "Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood. Auditions will be held Saturday, July 20 and Saturday, July 27 from noon to 4 p.m. at Bethel AME Church in northeast Portland. (There will be a pianist available to accompany you. You may also be paired up to sing with other artist after your initial audi-

tion.) To schedule a date and time slot, submit your head shot and resume or bio to kendembo65@gmail.com no later than July 18 and 25. Performance dates are Dec. 1-15. Rehearsals will be Thursday - Saturday's beginning on Sept. 19 leading up to the opening. Performers must be available for all or most rehearsals and show dates.

The mission of PassinArt is to entertain, educate and inspire artists and audiences while addressing critical issues facing the African American community; and to celebrate our history and culture.



PHOTO BY DANNY PETERSON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

An Aging with Pride discussion group at the Q Center's library draws participants Margaret Ann Jones (from left), Peggy Hackenbruck, Ricki Coleman, Janet Martinez, and Busch. Thanks to a community fundraising campaign, the library ceiling will undergo repairs, along with other upgrades in the next year, the first maintenance done to the Q Center building in 10 years.

On Stronger Footing

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

mated to be completed by June of next year, the first upgrade to the building in 10 years, Busch said.

Whitten said the organization is launching a "Colorguard" membership program this month that is especially geared for community members to make monthly contributions of \$10 or more to help keep the facilities and services running. Their goal is to recruit 40 monthly donors by the end of summer.

Ricki Coleman, a retired former Q Center volunteer, said she looks forward to the continued support for helping keep a valuable community resource open.

The Q Center was created to provide a culturally diverse and emotionally and physically safe place for members of the LGBTQ+ community, an outreach that helped Coleman find footing as a trans-woman when she moved to Portland 11 years ago.

The fact that the Q Center, which was founded in 2005, had a phone number for people in the LGBTQ+ community to call and find resources, was fundamental to starting a life here, Coleman explained. She later volunteered to answer similar calls for people interested in moving to Portland on behalf of the Q Center, as a receptionist.

"They ask about housing, they ask about the community in general: is it safe to be out and visible? And then people who walk through the door the first time, that is, that's pretty special. That's what gets me right here," Coleman said, tapping her chest.

Margaret Ann Jones, a senior African American community activist and co-chair of the Resilience Campaign, said the Q Center was key to finding acceptance.

"As a woman of color, as a black woman, there are not a lot of places I go into my own community, to the black community here. There are a lot of us that have been rejected by our families and

all like that. So this is where I've come, my chosen family I've met here," said Jones, who came to Portland in 1992. "This is my port in the storm, so to speak, when things get insane out in the larger community, where I know that because I'm a black woman and because I'm a lesbian woman that I'm not accepted in a lot of places, but I'm accepted here. This is my place, my safe place."

Jones added that she's developing a discussion group at the Q Center to cover topics for people of color, such as police shootings and other topic where people "will not be judged and share what they feel."

"And be supportive," added Peggy Hackenbruck, also a member of the senior LGBTQ+ community.

"I come here for activities, for community, and just feeling like it is such an important place in Portland, so that we have a place to meet and have lots of activities going on," Hackenbruck said.

The Q Center has been a great place for LGBTQ+ seniors to receive services through their Aging with Pride program, which provides information, education, and social events for the elderly. Hackenbruck, in addition, is also part of a Services and Advocacy for Gay Elders program at northwest Portland's Friendly House, the only other program geared toward queer seniors in the city, of which Jones is also a member.

Hackenbruck, Jones, and others meet regularly at the Q Center's Aging with Pride discussion group in its library, which is filled with donated LGBTQ+ literature, which Hackenbruck said is another valuable asset for gay community members.

"If I were coming out now—I'm 76 now—if I were coming out now, I could come in here and read the things that are about who I am and the stuff I couldn't read 40 years ago when I was coming out," she said.

"We can just be ourselves, without ridicule, without judgment, without censure," Busch added.

In addition to serving the LGBTQ+ senior community, providing information and referrals, and fronting fiscal sponsorship of other, smaller nonprofits whose aim complements their mission, the Q Center also hosts nearly 50 support groups and provides spaces available for rent, which have often been utilized by Mississippi Business Association, for example.

Films that are not in wide release or that hold an important milestone for the LGBTQ+ community are also sometimes screened at the center, Coleman added.

The Q Center also raises aware-



PHOTO COURTESY Q CENTER

Community activist Margaret Ann Jones said coming to the Q Center helped her find acceptance as a black lesbian woman.

ness on how to deal with hate crimes and what constitutes the mentality that fosters violence. Q Center Program Coordinator Page Smith facilitated public discussions on the topics in the wake of

back-to-back bias assaults in the community.

To find out more about the Q Center, located at 4115 N. Mississippi Ave, visit pdxqcenter.org or call 503-234-7837.



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Police Accountability

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

linkage that supports the notion that police union contract protections insulate police abuse.

Even though Portland's current

police contract does not expire until June 30, 2020, the city and union are expected to begin their negotiations soon.

"Right now, the next 60 to 90 days, is basically when the com-

munity has...should have the opportunity and it will be up to the city, especially the mayor but not only the mayor, to determine how much community involvement is going to be allowed. But now is the time when basically the priorities are being set," Ofsink said.

The Ministerial Alliance's jus-

tice and police reform panel previously successfully lobbied for the random drug testing of officers and for regular employee evaluations of officers. The organization is currently putting together public forums for the community to give remarks and goals for the new contract and Haynes adds he

looks forward to working with the police department on the issues.

"We continue to believe that the Chief of Police is moving in the right direction and we want to be supportive of her as much as we can, but at the same time be able to critique her and the Portland Police Bureau," Haynes said.



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School children protest the treatment of African American teachers in Norfolk, Va., in June 1939. The photo is part of a new exhibit of African American experiences from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, now showing at the Oregon Historical Society, downtown through Jan. 12. Photo courtesy Library of Congress.

Fighting for the Right to Fight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

focus of African American participation during the war. The piece is narrated by TV personality Robin Roberts, whose own father flew with the Tuskegee Airmen during the war.

The presentation also exam-

ines how new hopes of equality collided with a discouraging reality of the segregated noncombat roles given to black recruits, and the continuing fight for "Double Victory" that laid the groundwork for the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Visitors discover the wartime

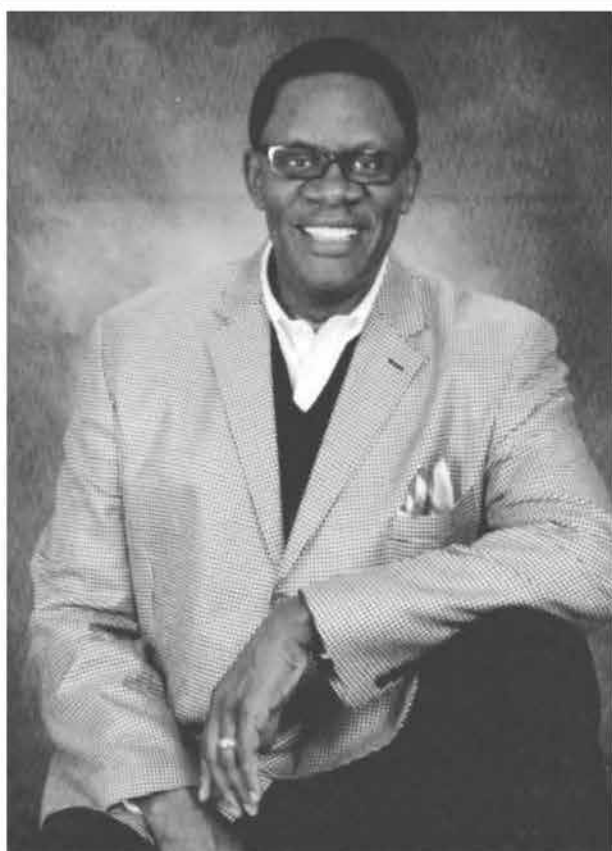
stories of individual services members who took part in this extraordinary challenge, from unheralded heroes to famous names, including Alex Haley, author of Roots (U.S. Coast Guard); Benjamin Davis Jr. (US Army Air Forces); Medgar Evers (U.S. Army); and more.

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vertebra. To relieve the patient's pain and reposition the vertebra, Dr. Palmer placed him on a table and pushed down on his back, performing a spinal manipulation or "adjustment." He performed this adjustment three days in a row. By the third day, not only had the patient's back pain disappeared, his hearing reappeared. Today's Chiropractors know that the central nervous system (housed within the body's spinal column) provides the energy, which governs all bodily

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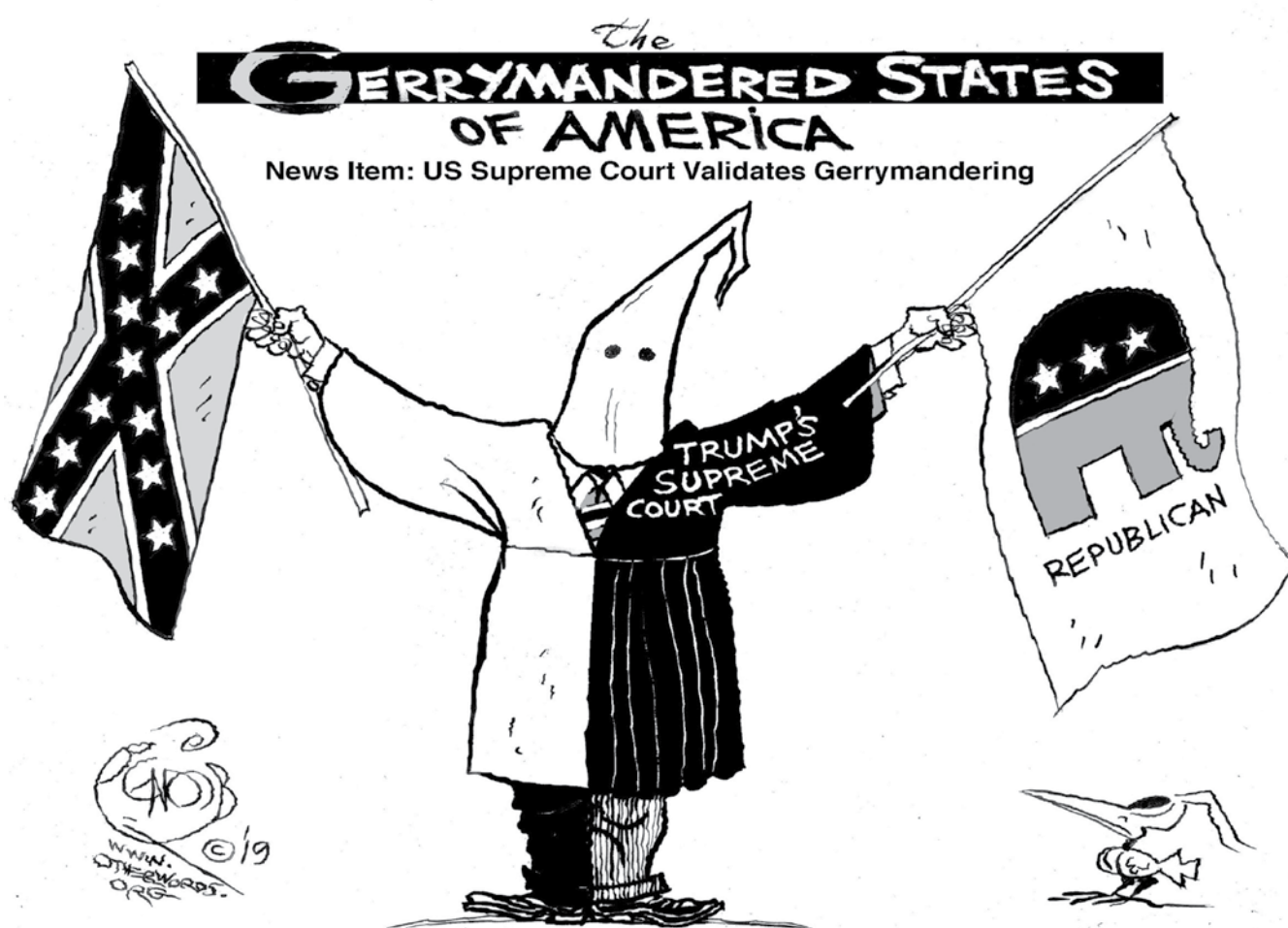
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Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

OPINION



The Moral and Ethical Case for Reparations

Movement gains traction with 2020 candidates

BY TOM H. HASTINGS

Aaron Campbell of Portland was young, black, unarmed, and suffered from mental illness, exacerbated by his brother's death that day from kidney failure. He was distraught, of no danger to anyone, but police were called, and they shot him dead.



With his hands up. Unarmed.

Even off-duty black cops report being pulled over at alarmingly high rates. How much worse must it be for young black drivers who are not police officers?

The significant issues with racial profiling include, but are not limited to black drivers and even black pedestrians being searched much more frequently and for dubious probable causes. With the higher rates of police interest, it naturally leads to higher rates of discovery (e.g., drugs), higher rates of arrest, charges, convictions and incarceration.

Other impacts include a lower rate of employment as a consequence of minority workers who face increased scrutiny because of criminal charges; more poverty, and even more profiling as a direct result of the higher rates of crime.

Thus behold the perfect positive feedback loop with negative consequence. Profiling leads to more arrests of the profiled group that leads to all the other social and personal consequences and then to the resultant additional profiling.

Now comes a social movement gaining traction straight into the US presidential primary--at least amongst Democratic candidates. Marianne Williamson was first to declare she would make it a central campaign issue, then Cory Booker, with Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris supporting a Senate inquiry into it.

Amongst the black intellectual peerage, Ta-Nehisi Coates and others are cogent about the justice, moral, and ethical rationales for making reparations.

In many ways, Coates is the spark for this modern revisit and rethink. His 2014 essay from The Atlantic, "The case for reparations," is a magisterial work, a litany of egregious treatment of African Americans from colonial-era slavery through 20th century legal theft--really robbery, since the discriminatory laws were ultimately backed by the armed agents of the state if it came to that. He broadened and deepened our understanding of this question and we see it finally seriously emerging now.

My partner, who is African

American, rejects the notion of reparations that start with sending out money before fixing the core problems that still drive such high rates of pain and suffering in the black community.

"Start with universal health care," she says. "That looks like equal benefits for all and that is exactly what we don't have right now. Fix that first."

She is the daughter of a health care professional who made her own emendation to that disparate delivery system in her Ohio town by bringing a small but significant mobile clinic to provide at least a fraction of the basic health care so unfairly missing from the black community there.

My partner is a health care professional herself and hopes to bring such services to more who need it. She practices and thinks about health care and declares that racism is a threat to public health--indeed, there is a movement to push the Centers for Disease Control to make the same declaration, a movement she helps lead.

So reparations are a complex set of inquiries, not just an up-or-down 40 acres and a mule question.

From my standpoint in my field of Conflict Transformation, it's the multivariate nature of such a problem that may provide a complex but effective way forward with more, not less, opportunity. Each facet of the problem--from serious debt directly owed for

slavery itself, to the awful long trail of residual consequences of the racism inherent in that slavery history, right down to the skewed social indices in health, wealth, incarceration, education, and employment--presents opportunities for creative and authentic problem-solving.

My sons are African American. They are unarmed. I want them to live out their natural lives and it's disproportionately unlikely they will. Ask yourself, my fellow white people, how that might make you feel about starting a truly helpful, human national conversation about fixing as much of this as we can, as is actually reparable? What if a social construct were a direct threat to your children? Would you not want it fixed? Can you support fixing racism by whatever nonviolent means we can employ?

Aaron Campbell and thousands of others are never coming back--no repair is possible. But it is just possible that he and other Portlanders who have lost their lives to police actions, Kendra James, Oscar Grant, James Jahar Perez, and others summarily executed young unarmed African Americans, did not die in vain--if we manage to radically reduce racism going forward and make reparations thus more than simple legal settlement that ignores ongoing harm.

Dr. Tom H. Hastings of Portland is director of PeaceVoice.



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This project will start with a planning/feasibility study by the design-builder to analyze, scope, and cost estimate design options for upgrades to the AM building based on condition assessment data held by the College and further assessment by design-builder. Impact to surrounding campus buildings, spaces and/or infrastructure will be analyzed and incorporated into the study. A PCC-selected design option that meets budget will be designed and constructed by the design-builder. Anticipated scope of work includes, but is not limited to: replacement of the roof system and upgrades to the mechanical and electrical systems. Timely, organized PCC stakeholder engagement is a requirement. P&CC will assist design-builder with determination of pertinent stakeholder list, an engagement work plan, and stakeholder engagement schedule. More detailed information is available in the full RFP.

Interested proposers must submit a proposal pursuant to the provisions of this solicitation to Robert Lowe, or designee, at Office of Planning & Capital Construction, Suite #260, 9700 SW Capitol Highway, Portland OR 97219.

SOLICITATION DUE DATE AND TIME (CLOSING): August 14th, 2019 at 2:00 PM Pacific Time

Proposals will be opened and recorded. The number of proposals received, the identity of proposers, or the contents of any proposal will not be disclosed to the public until all proposals have been evaluated, negotiations completed if required, and a recommendation for award has been published.

Proposers are solely responsible for ensuring that Portland Community College receives its proposal. LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING is scheduled for 7/26/2019 from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at the PCC's Sylvania Campus, 12000 SW 49th Ave Portland, OR 97219, TCB Building, Room 212.

Prospective proposers may obtain the RFP and its mandatory addenda at our solicitations website:

<http://www.pcc.edu/purchasing>. Interested proposers who are not equipped to download the document may request a copy of the RFP by contacting: Robert Lowe, Office of Planning and Capital Construction by email: robert.lowe3@pcc.edu.

Emerging small businesses, as well as minority-owned, women-owned, and service disabled veteran-owned enterprises are encouraged to submit a response to this RFP solicitation.

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All questions and comments regarding this solicitation shall be directed ONLY IN WRITING to Robert Lowe, by email to: robert.lowe3@pcc.edu.

PROPOSALS SHALL BE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SOLICITATION. THE COLLEGE MAY REJECT ANY PROPOSAL NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL PRESCRIBED REQUIREMENTS.



Walidah Imarisha

Inclusive Community Public Forum

Oregon has a history not only of black exclusion and discrimination but also of a vibrant black culture that helped sustain many communities throughout the state — a history that is not taught in schools.

The West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community is partnering with other diversity advocates to bring “Why Aren’t There More Black People in Oregon: A Hidden History” author and educator Walidah Imarisha for a public forum to speak on black history in Oregon, the history of race, identity, and power in this state and the nation.

The free public event will be held on Tuesday, July 23 at 7 p.m. in the Dunn Community Center (Cascade Hall) on the Mary’s Woods retirement community campus in Lake Oswego.

Imarisha is the co-editor of two anthologies including Octavia’s Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements. She spent 6 years with Oregon Humanities’ Conversation Project as a public scholar facilitating programs across the state about Oregon Black history, alternatives to incarceration, and the history of hip hop.

The West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community works to ensure that all members of the community have equal opportunities to participate in the quality of life that our town offers; that all of our neighbors are safe from hate crimes, abuse or harassment; and that no person or group is subjected to discrimination, bigotry or prejudice.

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Obituary

In Loving Memory Charles Cason

A memorial service for our brother Charles Cason will be held Thursday, Aug. 1 at 10:30 a.m. at Life Change Church, 3635 N. Williams Ave.

He was born to Booker and Sarah Cason in Phoenix, Ariz., and passed away on June 24, 2019 in Atlanta, Ga.

The eldest of 10 children,



he was a longtime Portland resident, Army veteran, business owner and friend who will be missed. He leaves to mourn seven siblings and a host of relatives and friends.

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