















Special Edition

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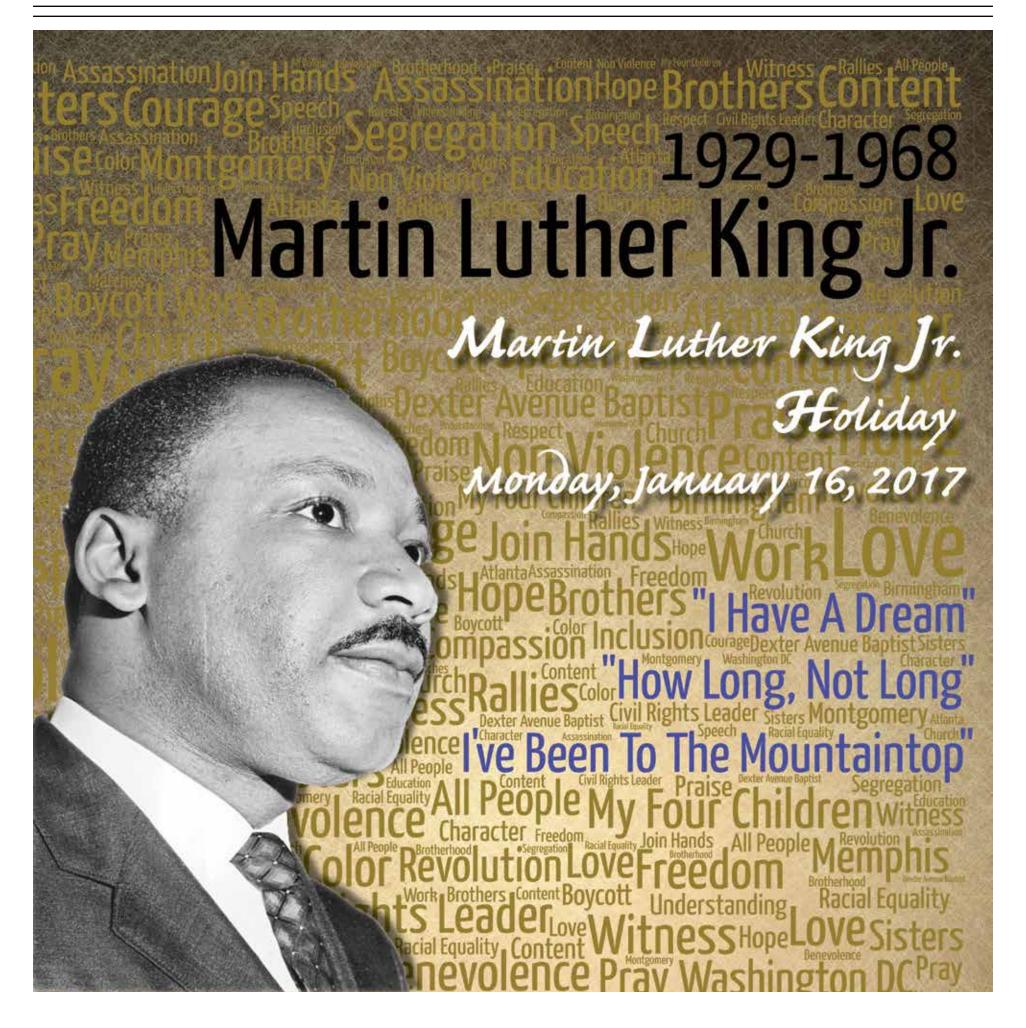
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Established in 1970 Committed to Cultural Diversity



Kate Brown Sworn In

Making it clear that the fight for equality will not retreat after the most bitter and divisive national election in memory, Kate Brown



was sworn in to her first full term as governor of Oregon Monday. In her speech, she outlined plans to address job creation, reforming Oregon's tax system, public transportation funding, passing gun control legislation and expanding the state's Medicaid program for all children.

Third Hypothermia Death

Athird homeless person has died from hypothermia in Portland, the third this month blamed on living outside in freezing temperatures. Karen Batts, 52, was found dead at a downtown parking garage on Saturday. Records show she was evicted last October from affordable housing for seniors and peo-

ple with disabilities because of \$338 in back due rent.

Bracing for More Snow

Just as Portland began to thaw out from a weekend of snow and freezing rain, a new storm front is expected to hit the city overnight Tuesday into Wednesday morning, bringing an accumulation of migration enforcement. 1-4 inches of snow.

Merkley Wants Registry Ban

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon audience acclaimed coming of introduced legislation Friday that age story of an African American would block the creation of any boy in the South won Best Monational immigration-related reg- tion Picture at the Golden Globe istry program that classifies people Awards Sunday. Viola Davis won based upon their religion, race, age, Best Supporting Actress for her gender, ethnicity, national origin or portrayal of Rose in Denzel Washcitizenship. "Contrary to the Pres- ington's directorial adaptation of ident-elect's beliefs, America's di- August Wilson's "Fences."

versity is not a threat; it is, in fact our greatest strength," Merkley

PCC Chair Quits Post

The chair of Portland Community College board has resigned to protest a recent decision to make the college a sanctuary campus. Gene Pitts said his concern was for students losing their federal Pell grants, should the federal government under the Trump administration penalize sanctuary designations that deny federal im-

Viola Davis Honored

"Moonlight," the critically and

justice.



Firefighters respond when a fire erupts at the Hotel Alder, displacing low-income housing residents, downtown.

Fire Victims Given Shelter

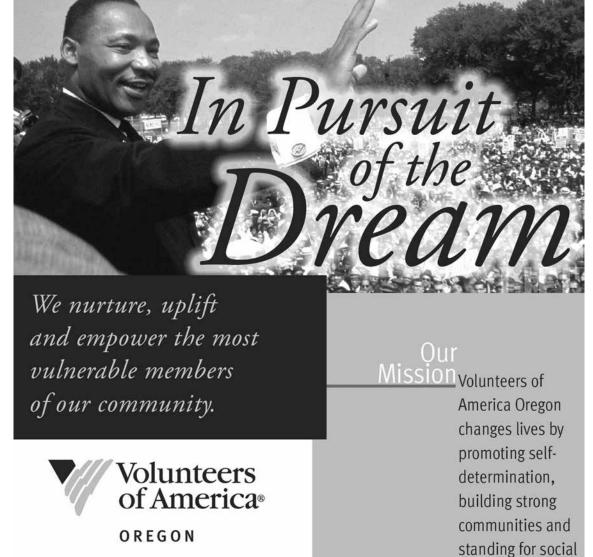
low-income Hotel Alder apartments, hopes to find permanent housing by the end of the week for 62 residents displaced by a fire at the complex. Repairs to the building may allow other residents to return in two weeks, officials said.

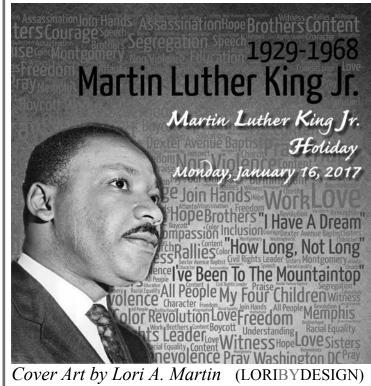
The Jan. 4 fire displaced 98 residents in total. Many were given temporary shelter within a few and later at a new temporary shelter at Portland State University's Howard Hall. Red Cross volun-

Central City Concern, the hous- teers also helped with replacing ing provider which operates the eye glasses, prescriptions, serving warm meals and providing beds for 70 people. Other residents stayed with loved ones.

> Officials have determined that the 3 alarm fire was caused by the historic building's mechanical problems. Significant water and smoke damage affected three

Central City Concern is accepthours of the fire at a nearby church ing cash donations, emergency clothing and other items to help fire victims. Visit centralcityconcern.org/donates.





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This page Sponsored by: Fred Veye

What's on your list today?

Alarmed by Trump

Professor sees parallels to era of Martin Luther King Jr.

BY ZACHARY SENN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As the nation transitions from its first black president to an incoming president-elect who ran his campaign on divisive and racially-charged language, an expert in race relations at Portland State University sees parallels between our current time and the era of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Shirley Jackson is a professor and chair of the Black Studies Department at PSU. Since assuming her position in January of last year, she has continued the department's nearly 50-year legacy of educating students and the community at large about the issues facing communities of color in the Portland area.

Jackson says one of the defining characteristics of MLK's civil rights era was political activism by students, the response to injustices that she believes has once again reached a fever-pitch on today's

"We do see students on college campuses again taking the lead, as they did in the 1960s... Pushing for answers," she says. However, one big difference



Shirley Jackson

Jackson cites between then and now, are fears for the future of free speech, with activists and students of color "feeling as though their voices are going to be stifled with the new administration coming in."

Jackson says that modern-day activists should also prepare to face the same repercussions that

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Drum Major Ecumenical Service

Panel discussion to highlight MLK celebration

BY CHRISTA McIntyre THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

One of the oldest African American congregations in the state, the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, will host people of faith from across the state this weekend to honor of the late civil rights leader Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The two-day commemoration of Dr. King's work for justice, peace and righteousness will begin Saturday, Jan. 14 with a noon luncheon in the church fellowship hall to honor students and comlives in the drum major spirit of King; and conclude with the annual Drum Major Awards and Ecumenical Service on Sunday, Jan. 15, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the words. A special focus will be a



Rev. Matt Hennessee

church's main sanctuary, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave.

Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee munity members who live their will lead the service. Pastor E.D. Mondainé will sing the African American National Anthem, and Gov. Kate Brown and new Mayor Ted Wheeler will share a few brief

panel discussion, "Where do we go from here," led by moderator Bill Deiz.

It has a been a tradition at the Drum Major celebration for a keynote speaker to address the congregation, but when Pastor Hennessee saw the fears, anger and sadness which have risen in the community since the recent presidential election, he decided to address them with a panel of speakers to cover a diverse cross section of community and city leaders.

Members of the panel are Rabbi Michael Cahana from Congregation Beth Israel, Attorney and Portland Urban League President Nkenge Harmon Johnson, U.S. District Attorney of Oregon Billy J. Williams, Portland Police Chief Mike Marshman, Executive Director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Jan Elfers, Director of the Muslim Education Trust Wajdi Said, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill, Nathaniel Williams of Unify

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A Refuge for Immigrants in Uncertain Times

Pastor leads movement for social justice

BY CHRISTA McIntyre THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Pastor Mark Knutson is a national leader in a movement for social justice for immigrants struggling to obtain legal status in the United States. Northeast Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church, a multicultural congregation where he serves as a spiritual



Pastor Mark Knutson



PHOTO BY CHRISTA McIntyre/The Portland Observer

The doors of northeast Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church are posted with notices explaining how the church is a sanctuary with no guns, weapons or any use of force allowed.

leader, is one of the few churches grants in fear of being deported.

When a Portland resident and immigrant named Francisco Aguirre was being pursued by federal immigration authorities, Knutson and his church reached out to provide him protection.

After 81 days of living in the expiration date of a visa. to provide sanctuary for immi- sanctuary of the church, Aguirre small children. It was one of few cases in the last decade where a church has offered physical sanc-

"As faith communities we returned home to his wife and two have to always follow what we preach," Knutson said. "Love. Be as gentle as doves, but as wise as serpents. Be ready to confront tuary to a foreign-born person challenge. Love, without justice, without documents to be in the never works. You have to be ready U.S. or who has stayed beyond the to march, confront and advocate."

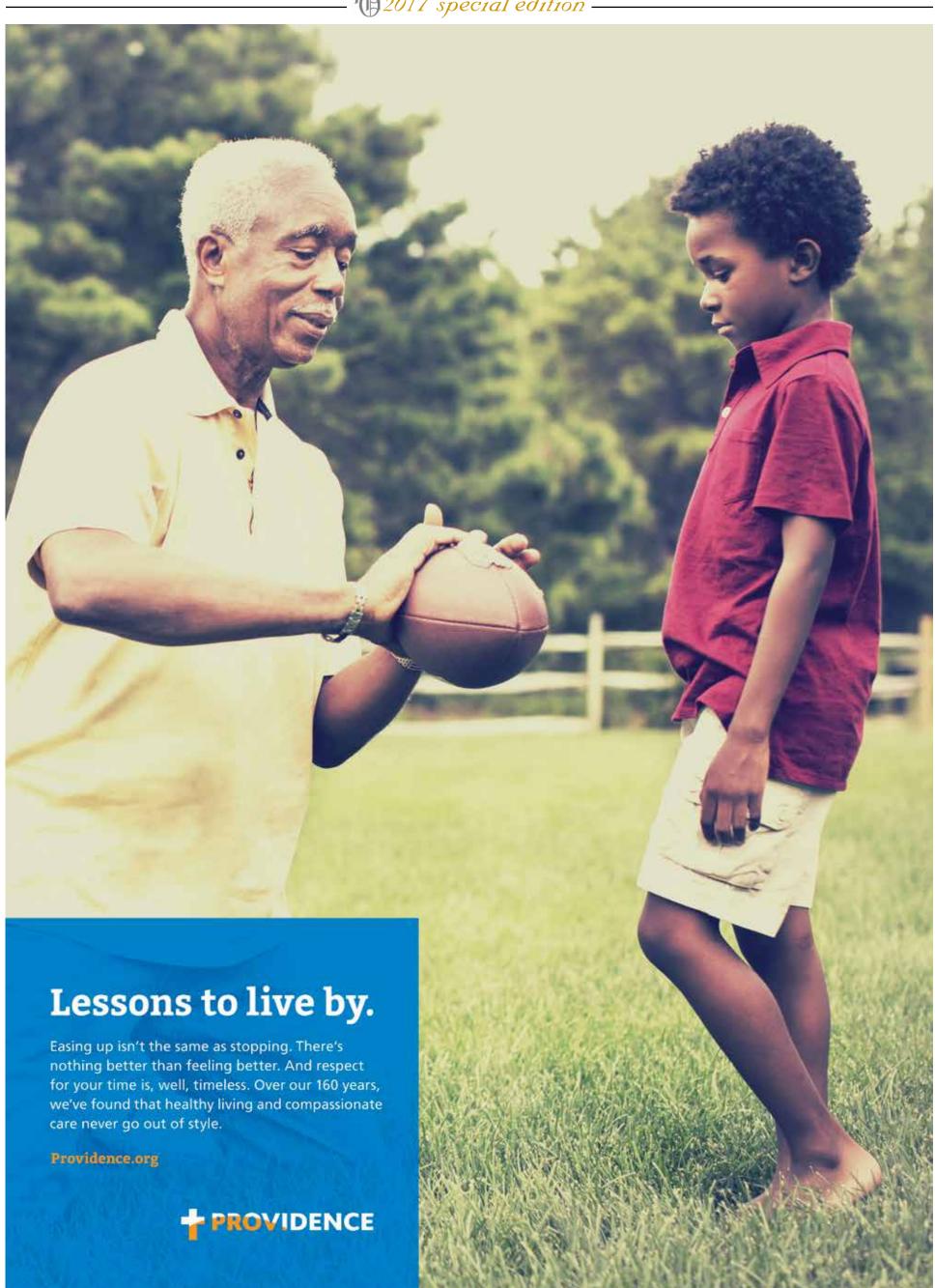
Pastor Knutson was on the coast, presiding over a sea burial, when the call came in that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was attempting to deport Aguirre. Without hesitation, he told his staff to take Aguirre in. Aguirre spent the first night sleeping on the red carpeted church altar, a place where Knutson celebrates communion with his congregation and delivers sermons many times on weekends.

ICE is the country's second largest criminal investigative agency, next to the FBI under the Department of Homeland Security. Once an immigrant enters the U.S. without visas or other official channels, they are legally considered criminals. Since the 1970's many Central and South American citizens have fled oppressive and violent governments; not all of them can afford or wait out the long process to enter the United States legally. Some of them must move quickly to avoid being killed by violent factions or drug cartels in their home countries.

Knutson learned firsthand through Aguirre's showdowns in federal court and the battles with local and national media what it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8





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Scholar on Black Identity

Speaker to honor MLK legacy at Clark College

Clark College will honor the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, with "Transformation: A New Era of Social Activism," a keynote address delivered by Rosa Clemente, a scholar on black identity.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in Gaiser Student Center on Clark's main Vancouver campus from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Clemente is co-founder of the National Hip-Hop Political Convention and a leading scholar on Afro-Latinx identity. From Harvard to prisons, she has spent her life dedicated to scholar activism.

She is currently a doctoral student in the W.E.B. Dubois department of University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Throughout her scholarly career, she has been a constant presence through the many political struggles facing black people and persons of Latin American descent in the 21st cen-

She has sat on various boards throughout her career including Black Lives Matter, the National Priorities Project, The Brecht Forum, and the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Additionally, Clemente served as the Green Party's candidate for Vice President in the 2008 U.S.

Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way. For more information about this event, visit clark.edu/cc/mlk.



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Margaret Jacobsen is the founder of a discussion and education group called Let's Talk, which focuses on community building for racial justice.

'Let's Talk' for Racial Progress

Activist gathers voices to promote understanding

BY CHRISTA MCINTYRE THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland author and photographer Margaret Jacobsen is the founder of a discussion and eduand focuses on community building to address racial justice issues. The group is called Let's Talk.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. know each other, and they don't Canada. know each other because they don't communicate with each other, and they don't communicate with each other because they are separated from each other."

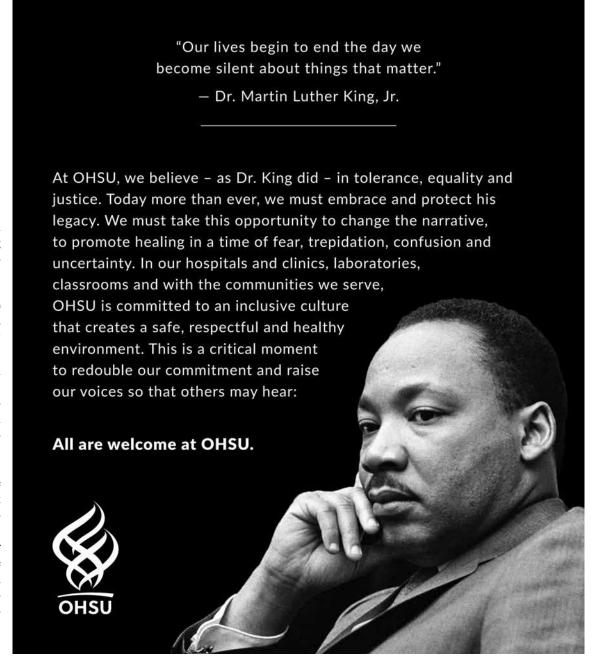
Let's Talk tackles the challenges Rev. King spoke to head on. It began in the summer of 2014 when Jacobsen invited people from across the city to Laurelhurst Park to share their fears, an-

ger, and sadness, and pave a path forward after the police shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo.

A dozen or so meet ups later, cation group that connects people Let's Talk has grown to over 700 members in Portland and is expanding nationally. In January, 17 new chapters will open in Austin, Chicago, Cincinnati, Washington once told a crowd of students at D.C., Los Angeles, Long Beach, Cornell University, "I am con- New York city, Phoenix, Pittsvinced that men hate each other burgh, Reno, Salt Lake City, San because they fear each other. They Antonio, San Diego, San Francisfear each other because they don't co, San Jose, Seattle and Calgary,

> Let's Talk meetings are safe spaces where people can work together on deep-level understanding. Through conversations, members learn from one another how to be supportive of people of color, of different genders and backgrounds, while facing uncomfortable truths and disman-

> > CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



A Refuge for Immigrants in Uncertain Times

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

takes to provide safe keeping for immigrants who face deportation by ICE.

"It's a big commitment for the person doing it," he told Portland Observer. "The courage is not the congregation; the courage is the person who goes into the sanctuary. You've got to be public about it, you're not hiding somebody. They are coming to live here, while you work things out."

In the early 1980's a group led by Jim Corbett, a Quaker, formed a series of sanctuary churches in Texas and the Southwest to help immigrants fleeing violent countries and who were at risk of deportation by the United States back to uncertain futures.

The network of churches was based upon a 19th century system called the Underground Railroad which gave safety to escaped slaves from Southern plantations as they made their way to the free states in the North. Jim Corbett and the others who launched the Sanctuary Movement to help Central and South American refugees were brought to trial but exonerated of committing any crime.

By the early 1990's the Sanctuary Movement had died out. In 1996, shortly after Pastor Knutson arrived at Augustana Lutheran, he declared the church a sanctuary to provide a safe place for undocumented women in abusive households. By doing so, Augustana became one of the first churches to create a new Sanctuary Movement. Since that time, it's estimated that churches have helped at least 15 undocumented persons across the country by giving them sanctuary.

Pastor Knutson's wife is African American and he knows Portland's black community well. His work has been to build a multi-national, multi-generational congregation. The people who fill Augustana's pews each weekend reflect his dedication. There's as many 65 year olds, as millennial; a cross section of every shade of color; LGBTQ members join in prayer; a group of Native Americans practice their spiritual traditions in a neighboring room.

The mixed-use church is also home to social justice organizations, The Community Alliance of Tenants, Wells Art Institute, ary is that God created the world Familias en Accion, the Interfaith and intended it to be a place safe Movement for Immigrant Justice

who are considering becoming sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants, "You are not by yourself. You are part of this bigger move-



Pastor Mark Knutson of northeast Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church leads a protest in support of Francisco Aguirre, a Portland resident and immigrant trying to stay in the United States with his wife and two small children.

keep families intact on the path to citizenship. I encourage churches just to do it. The key is to cultivate lots of relationships in the community. That's ongoing for any justice work, right? You cultivate as a congregation lots of relationships. Even if you're not ready, the resources will follow."

A host of churches, schools and universities in Portland have pledged to be a sanctuary for immigrants since the election of Donald Trump as president who ran a campaign against undocumented immigrants from Mexico and Muslim refugees for war torn countries in Africa and the Middle

Under the law, there is a tradition in Judaism, Christianity and Common Law of respecting sanctuary and the right of habeas corpus. But, tradition is not a legal precedent or a binding legal agreement. In the broadest terms, declaring sanctuary means that local law enforcement, jails and politicians will not cooperate or give resources in helping federal authorities arrest and deport immigrants.

"The bigger piece to sanctufor human beings, Knudson said. " We don't live the world that Pastor Knutson has some ad- way, so that's why we have to crevice for other places of worship ate sanctuaries in the mean time. Until the world is the sanctuary God intended, we have to do it in smaller spaces."

Pastor Knutson works with ment of people of faith, Christian, churches all over Oregon and Jewish and Muslim who want to the national organization Church

provide information about sanctuary churches.

His advice to Portland residents and let them know you are there

World Services to promote and who want to help is to support sanctuary churches and to get to know your immigrant neighbors

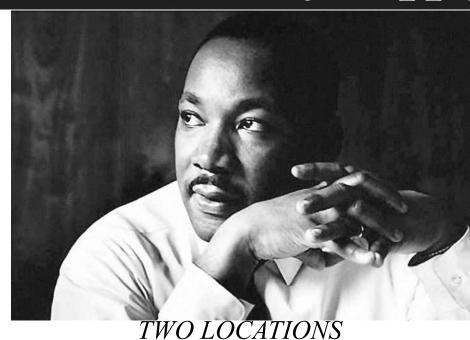
"That's the number one thing right now in this society. Reach out. Given the direction we could go, not just Latino neighbors, but also Muslim neighbors. Immigrant neighbors from other places may feel under siege. That could be the blessing in this, a very scary time, if people start reaching out to each other, our communities become stronger, and that's big. That could be what we should be doing anyway. "

Right now ICE will not move into churches or hospitals, but Pastor Knutson believes that could change under Trump's presidency. He observes that schools and universities haven't had hands-on experience being sanctuaries, yet. He says they still have to figure out how that will work for them.

Pastor Knutson believes the local and state governments must help reinforce the sanctuary values, "We need to keep having that strong conversation around race, culture, gender, inclusiveness, and equity," he said. "If you look at the people who are being deported they're from Central and South America, Syria and Haiti. These are issues of race. This is an issue where we, as Oregonians and Portlanders, can say, we are not going backward."

Saluting Martin Luther King Jr.

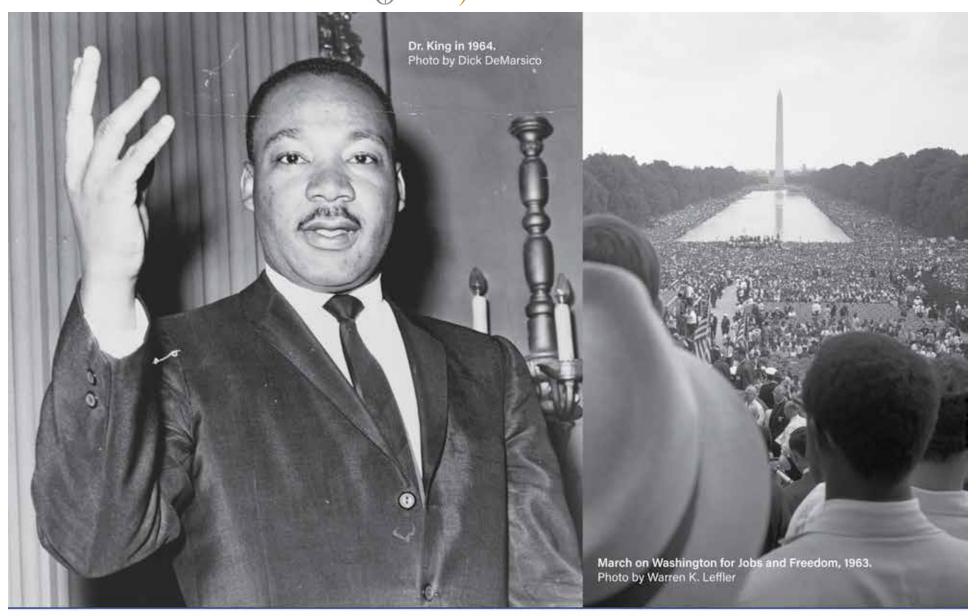
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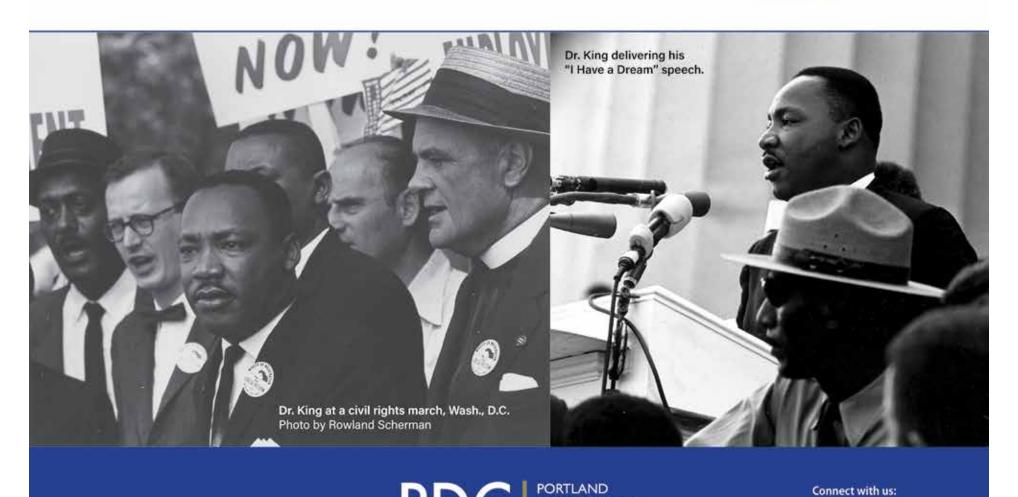
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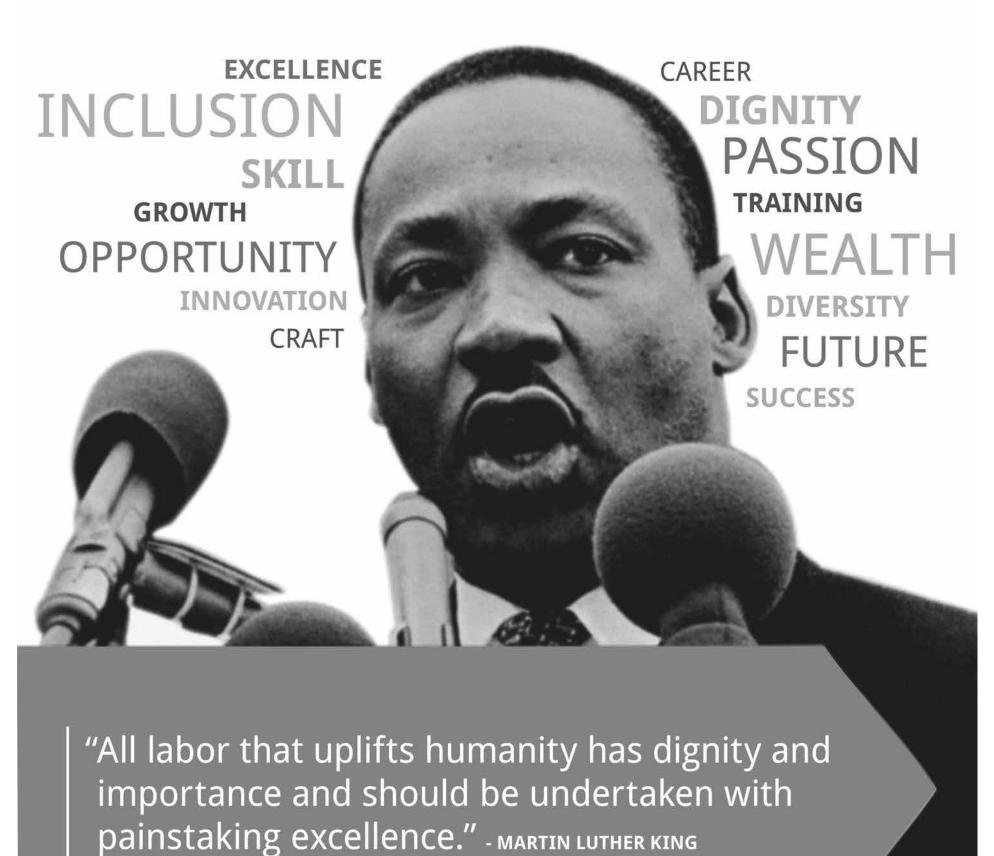
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Cameron Whitten, local activist, non-profit director and citizen journalist live streaming a protest in downtown Portland.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL CARY ARELLANO

Live-Streaming for Political Change

Activist documents Trump protests worldwide

BY CHRISTA McIntyre
The Portland Observer

We carry the images of the Civil Rights Movement with us. The historical battle to advance equal rights for all awakened a country to the struggles of African Americans. In the wake of the recent presidential election in which an attack on immigrants, Mexicans and Muslims played such a prominent role, local activist and executive director of Know Your City, Cameron Whitten has taken up the tradition as a citizen journalist by live-streaming an activist community responding to the latest political events shaping our era.

The way we remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others who fought for equality, including equal opportunity in employment, housing, and education, as well as the right to vote and the right of equal access to public facilities are through powerful images captured by newspaper photographers. Black and white photographs of firemen turning their hoses full force on the bodies of demonstrators in Birmingham, Ala. in the summer of 1963 still haunt and shape our history. The 1968 sanitation workers strike of Memphis, Tenn., with black men marching down Beale Street wearing porkpie hats, well pressed suits and ties, carrying signs which read the rallying cry "I Am A Man" still stirs emotion today.

From 1954 through 1968, it

was common for Americans to see daily images of the Civil Rights Movement on the front page of their newspapers. Dr. King knew the power of the image to soften hearts and change minds. Those photographers helped spread Dr. King's message: "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into [a] friend."

Today's historic moments aren't recorded by newspaper photographers alone. Using smart phones and social media, everyday citizens are documenting and sharing instantly across the world the events as they happen.

Two days after Donald Trump was elected the next president of the United States, thousands of Portlanders filled the streets downtown to voice their concerns. Heading an organization which seeks to preserve and share Portland's history, Whitten was among them. He live-streamed the protests as they continued daily for a week. Thousands of people from around the world tuned in.

Whitten described the protest participants as more diverse and younger than he's seen in previous years.

"I saw so many students out there who feel like that their democracy was stolen from them. Millennial voters voted overwhelmingly against Donald Trump and their choice was not

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Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee, Senior Servant



Annual Drum Major Awards & Ecumenical Service

"Salute to Greatness Luncheon"

Honoring Students & Community Members who live their lives with a "Drum Major" Spirit Saturday, January 14, 2017; 12 Noon 2:00 PM

Dr. & Mrs. O.B. Williams Fellowship Hall

Where Do We Go From Here

Conversations to Solutions • Bill Deiz, Moderator Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 2:00 PM - 4:15 PM, Main Sanctuary

Guest Panel Discussion Members

Rabbi Michael Cahana, Congregation Beth Israel; Nkenge HarmonJohnson, Urban League President; Atty. Billy J. Williams, U.S. Attorney; Chief Michael Marshman, Portland Police Bureau; Jan Elfers, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Executive Director; Wajdi Said, Director of the Muslim Educational Trust; Atty. Rod Underhill, Multnomah County District Attorney; Minister Nathaniel Williams, Unify Portland; Greg McElvey, Portland's Resistance; Kim Dixon, Enough is Enough; Presiding Multnomah County Judge Nan Waller; and Judge Adrienne Nelson

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Dynamic Leader for Justice Emerges

Braving arrest and threats to advance cause

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland acitivist Gregory McKelvey is no stranger to confrontations with law enforcement. A 23-year-old grappling with questions of police reform, social justice and inequitable political structures, he has been at the forefont of a community following the path of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to advance a more just America.

Thanks to his diverse background in law studies, campaign management, and public speaking, McKelvey is one of the most dynamic and versatile figures on Portland's activist scene. His recent arrest during a Nov. 21 protest march, in which he was charged for disorderly conduct, could mark a new era of non-violent civil disobedience in the Northwest and in the nation as a whole.

In the wake of the presidential election of Donald Trump, McKelvey founded a new activist

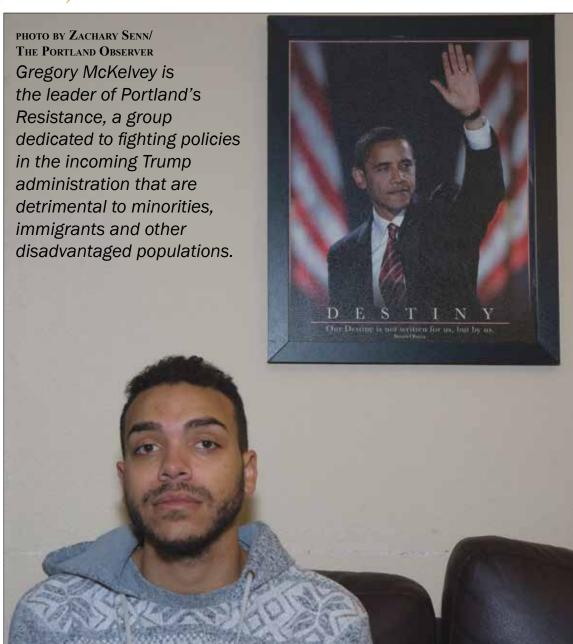
group called Portland's Resistance to give direction and leadership to local residents and members of minority groups and other organizations opposed to the policies of the pending Trump administration.

McKelvey first became interested in enacting political change at a young age. He was in high school and "super inspired" when Barack Obama first ran for president in 2008, and then the shooting death of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin by neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman in 2012 galvanized his activism.

Following high-school, he decided to pursue a degree in Political Science at Oregon State University. Since his 2014 graduation, McKelvey has worked on a host of local and state-level political campaigns, most recently by serving as the campaign manager for James Ofsink's bid for state Senate.

Speaking of his campaign work, McKelvey states, "My style of running political campaigns was always to get people involved in the issues that everybody's talking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22





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Eastside Industrial **Honors King**

First MLK cleanup to bolster community

A decade ago, the Central Eastside industrial area was primarily home to industry and wholesalers. Today, pioneering boutiques, restaurants, and retailers also inhabit the neighborhood, as well build a strong, supportive commuas pedestrians, bicyclists, and an nity while strengthening the enviincreasing number of people ex- ronmental health of the city's core. periencing homelessness.

a.m. to 12:30 p.m., more than 200 businesses, community volunthe health and nurture the commu- CEIC.

nity of this neighborhood.

The clean up will span from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the Willamette River, between Burnside and Hawthorne. The project is spearheaded by a collective of Central Eastside businesses called the Merchants and Makers Committee of the Central Eastside Industrial Council and SOLVE.

The goals of the clean up are to

"The amazing show of support On Monday, Jan. 16, from 10 for our first Martin Luther, Jr. King Day cleanup is a sign that we're peoples from Central Eastside moving in the right direction for the area." says Bridgid Blackburn teers, and SOLVE will join in a from Cargo, a Central Eastside anneighborhood cleanup to bolster chor business and member of the

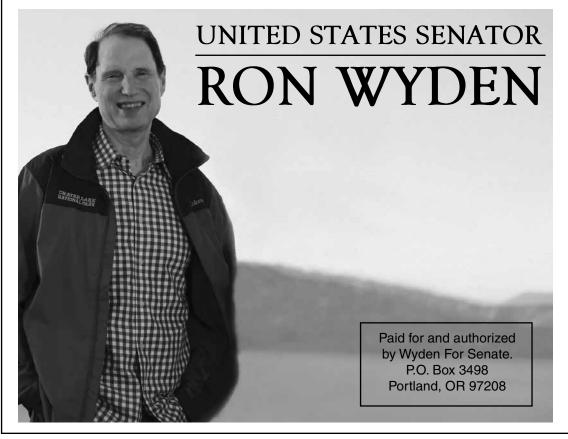
No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they'd die for.





The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. •

-- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.





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Traditions of Giving Back

Concordia exhibit explores black philanthropy

A groundbreaking touring exhibit that explores the giving traditions of African Americans through history and the contributions of black Americans in transforming society will open this weekend for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday at Concordia University.

"Giving Back: The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited, debuts Friday, Jan. 13, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Concordia's George R. White Library and Learning Center, 2800 N.E. Liberty St., and runs through March.

Presented by Oregon's MRG Foundation, the exhibit explores African-American philanthropy experiences and giving traditions, grounded in faith, mutuality, responsibility and social justice.

through giving is nothing new to black communities," said more, it comprises over a doz-Roberta Phillip-Robbins, the en vignette stories and more MRG Foundation's executive than 50 black-and-white imdirector. "This exhibit highlights the unique and valuable ing across generations. Images legacy of African American and stories are from the book Pacific Northwest.



Roberta Phillip-Robbins

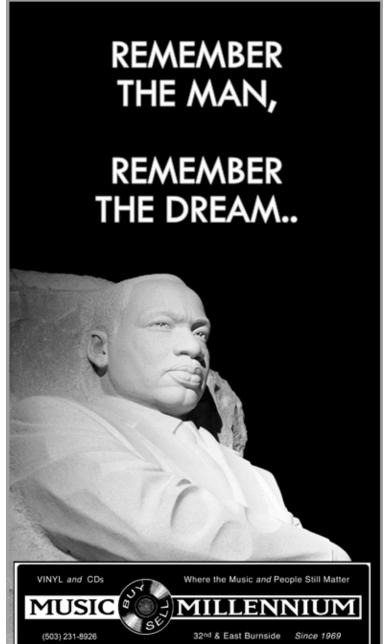
philanthropists."

Illustrated with photographic prints on metal, iPad kiosks, video, and interactive digital "Nurturing social change apps featuring music, poetry, photography, narratives, and ages that depict facets of giv-

"Giving Back: A Tribute to Generations of African American Philanthropists" by author Valaida Fullwood and photographer Charles W. Thomas Jr.

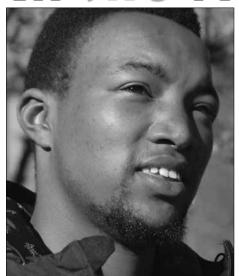
The MRG Foundation has been a leader for racial equity and social justice in Oregon by amplifying the voices of those most affected by injustice and promoting real change to the





In the Neighborhood If Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. were alive today, what do you think would be his first priority?

If Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King



'He would be against the racism, which is a problem in the United States. But, he would be very proud that Barack Obama became president.'

--Eric Nzayiramya, PCC student from the Democratic Republic of the Congo



'I'd be curious to know his views on how much progress we've made or not made. We clearly have a lot left to do. We gotta do better, we gotta be better.'

-- Martha Pelster, pharmaceutical worker



'His main thing would be equal Civil Rights for everyone.'

-- Mia Foster, Portland **Community College student**



'There are so many things. He would be working on voting rights for African Americans, because they are so targeted for having their voting rights taken away.'

-- Diana Lease, PCC professor of **International students**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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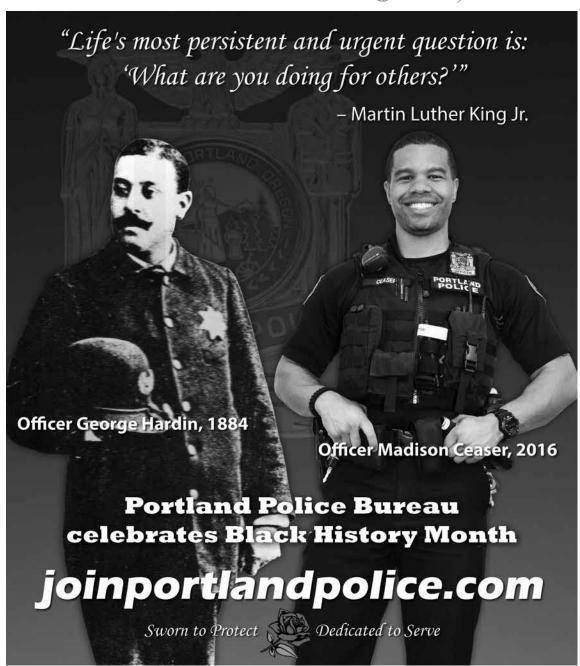
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In the Neighborhood



'Getting communities of color united against systemic oppression.'

--Ramona

Fighting injustice. He would keep doing what he did for us before.

-- John Saito, retired dean at PCC Cascade





'He would keep diversity in this country. He would make sure there's equal opportunity for everybody.'

-- Leonard Latin, Gospel singer



DREAMS COME TRUE

Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream burns brightly in hundreds of Kaiser Permanente employees. In January, we honor his legacy by volunteering to make our communities healthier.

Over four days, we'll lend a hand at book banks and food banks. We'll help refurbish a homeless shelter and provide care to low-income, uninsured adults. And we'll pause to reflect on Dr. King's message of service, equality, and community.

"Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.

-Martin Luther King Jr.



#GiveServeThrive

KAISER PERMANENTE Thrive



Mayor to Speak at King Observance

Mayor Ted Wheeler will be the featured speaker at the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observance on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 4 p.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave.

The newly elected mayor is scheduled to give the talk "Now More than Ever" to recognize that the "end" of the Civil Rights era did not end the need to speak out and witness for equality for all people.

The "Black Lives Matter" movement and the demonstrations of Native American tribes against the invasion of oil pipelines on treaty lands and rivers have raised awareness that people of color still in areas for equal justice and civil rights. Church leaders point to an atmosphere of outspoken racism and religious phobia that have prevailed recently in some quarters.

"Citizens are seeking public forums to express support for increased racial awareness and tolerance which Dr. King espoused. Now is the time to say that violence, hate speech, and other persecutions of people of color will not stand," organizers said.



Ted Wheeler

The Maranantha Church commemoration will include music from the Maranatha Choir, speeches from other community leaders and a call to prayer for our nation for all people of faith.

For more information, call the Rev. Joyce Smith at 360-600-3579 or email her at jsmith4077@aol. com.

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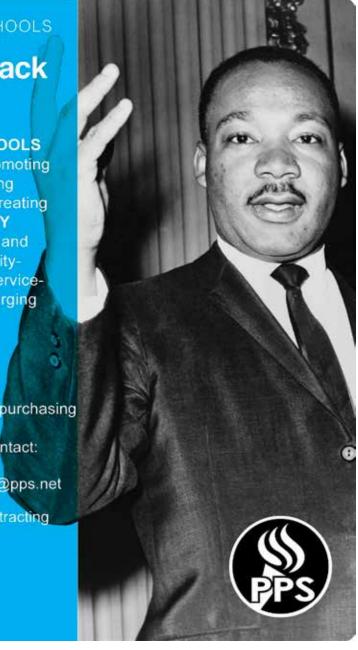
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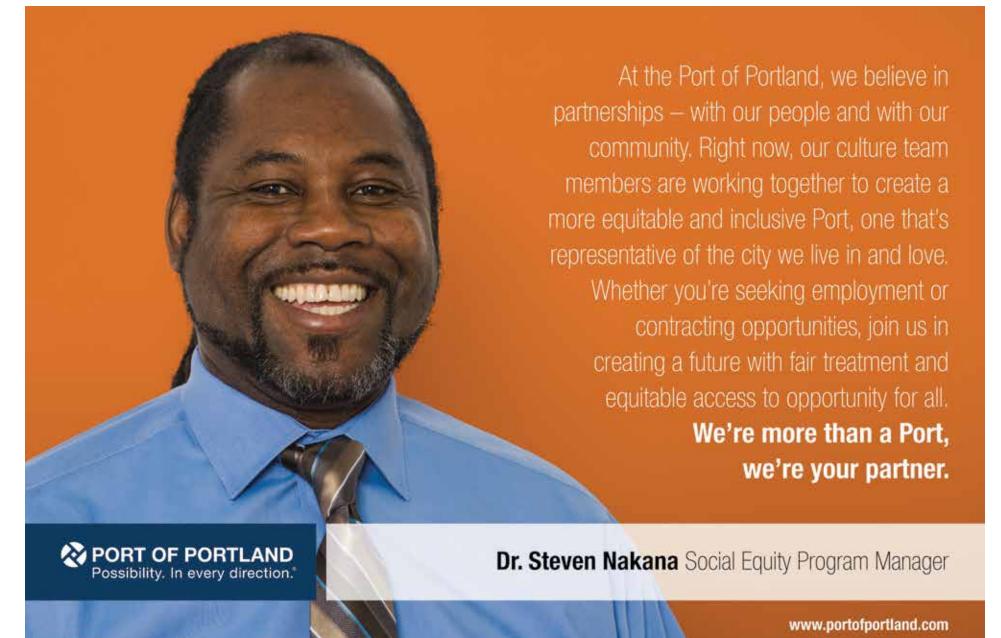
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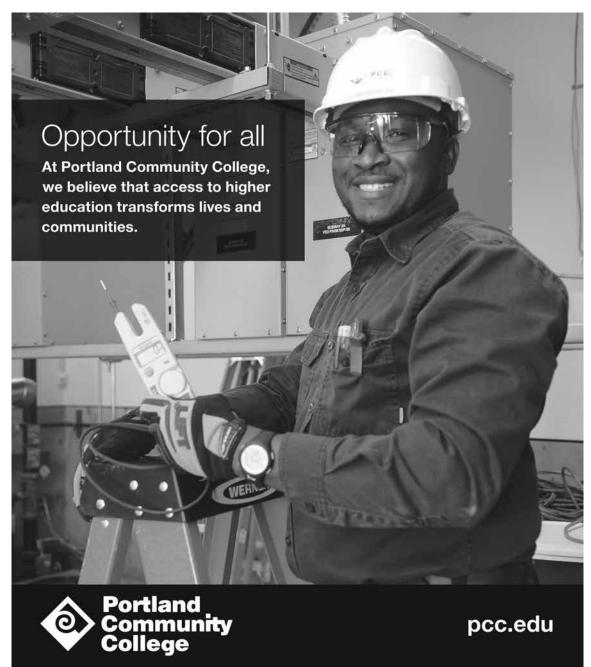
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Margaret Jacobsen brings people together in safe spaces to achieve deep-level understanding of racial issues.

Racial Progress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

tling internal prejudices, which may go unnoticed.

"I want us to build a campaign together, a campaign that is for our city, but is also something that can include people from all over," Jacobson told the Portland Observer. "I want to encourage people to commit to showing up, making changes and standing up for the people around them. Let's continue to be uncomfortable together. Remember, we are a community. We have a lot of work to do."

Growing up in Southern California, Jacobsen describes a bubble of ignorance personally experienced on racial issues.

"In random points in my life, where I had encountered racism, I didn't know it, because I didn't have a context. My context was 'Oh, they used to lynch people and they were slaves. Then Martin Luther King Jr. came and all was better. Malcolm X led people to be violent.' It was a weird narrative," Jacobsen said.

Today the race discussion facilitator has learned how bias and prejudice still exists on so many levels, "People don't even know that they're being racist. They cause we were all taught the same Talk. story in school."

millennial, Jacobsen began to think of how racism would impact the children and what kind of culture and community would give future generations of African Americans strength and a healthy sense of identity.

Jacobsen began writing for national publications to explore number of people.

the narrative of black history and what realities young parents and their kids face.

"I love my friends in Portland, but I work really hard to surround myself with women of color," Jacobsen said. "I think that's really important for them (my children) to see. They've (women of color) have carried so much. They've always laid their bodies down. They use their bodies to carry other bodies. I'm so of proud of all of the black women I come from. The ancestry, the resilience, the power, but also the softness.'

In a recent writing, Jacobsen gives a voice to the struggles of young parents and a diverse community of color and gender, "As a Black nonbinary person who is female bodied, I have raised two brown children in an America that has always been Trump America to me and my Black family. This isn't to play down the pain that so many are feeling right now. That is valid, it is real. But it's not a pain that resonates with people of color and queer folks. We were already existing in a continuous loop of pain and frustration. We were already on the defense, gasping for air."

The same sense of honest dithink they are genuinely not, be- alogue is the foundation of Let's

As our history books are re-Starting a family as a young written to amplify the voices of important civil rights figures such as Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer and Audre Lord, Jacobsen takes a new place at the table. With Let's Talk, its clear more voices in the struggle for equality and civil rights are being heard. Jacobsen's activism is resonating with a large

Live-Streaming for Political Change

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

honored. I've seen a lot of Muslim activists, which is something I've never seen (in Portland). The Muslim community has been marginalized for so long; it feels like it's easier to be invisible, when you're constantly under a barrage of social-societal attacks. I hear so many Muslim activists coming out and saying: "I'm so tired of being silenced and people creating a narrative of me, that's not my own. "

Whitten shared hours of live video on his Facebook page. He joined the protestors by foot and sometime zipped around to different areas of the city by bike to catch different events as they hap-

So many people watched his reporting that he couldn't keep up with the comments on the video transmissions. As with most Internet comment sections, there was a sharp divide between angry and supportive words.

Whitten says his goal was to show events as they happened and to clear away the bias and misinformation which has been a hot button topic since the presidential campaigns began.

this type of recording as a source for their information.'

Whitten interacted with protest- huge honor," Whitten said.

ers as he live-streamed, stopping to talk with people and give them a platform to share their concerns and broadcast their voice. Many took to the streets because they fear that the gains in civil and human rights over the last decades are under threat

Whitten put a human face to and opened the door for discussion in a country sharply divided by political views.

In one moment, for example, Whitten met a small group giving out free hugs at Pioneer Square and he asked them, if they were part of a group and what they wanted to accomplish that evening. The group said they were just there to share love and peace. Whitten asked them, "If Donald Trump were here, would you give him a hug?' Without a pause, they said: "Yes."

He also interviewed Trump supporters, trying to get an understanding about their beliefs and why they voted for the maverick billionaire.

Whitten looks at his citizen journalism as giving a bird's eye view on the resistance to the Trump presidency.

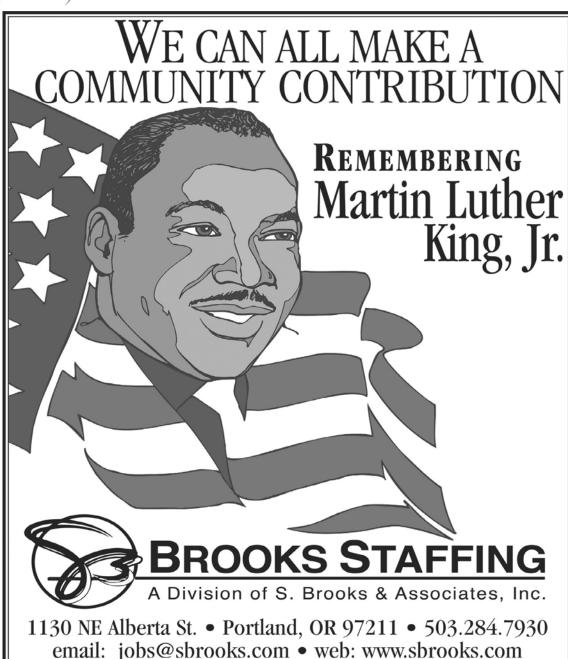
"The most profound, moving "I think the work I'm doing Facebook message I received afis super important," he told the ter one of the protests was from a Portland Observer. "We have to woman who said, 'Hey Cameron, continue citizen journalism. When I'm watching from North Caroliyou are at this level, videotaping na. I want you to know I stopped live, it is very difficult to lie. I watching Netflix every night, behope that people continue to use cause I'm here watching your live stream.' The fact that I'm better than Netflix, that's a huge deal, a

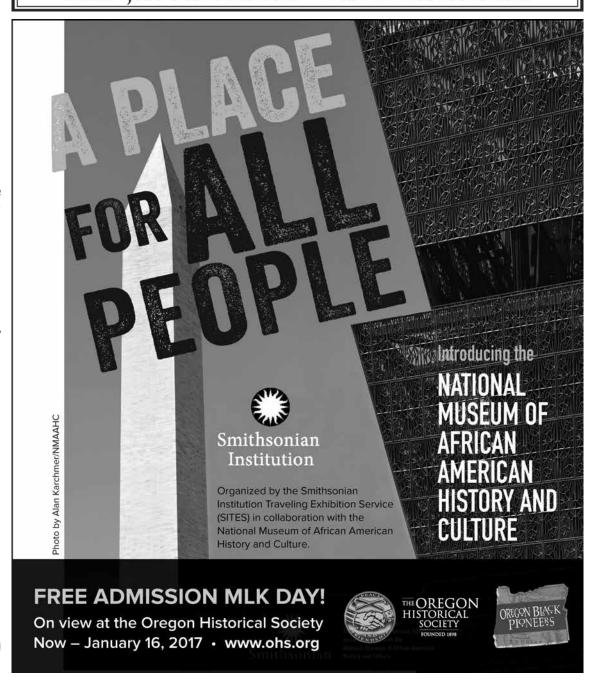
We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and



some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.





St. Andrew Hosts MLK Service | Alarmed by Trump

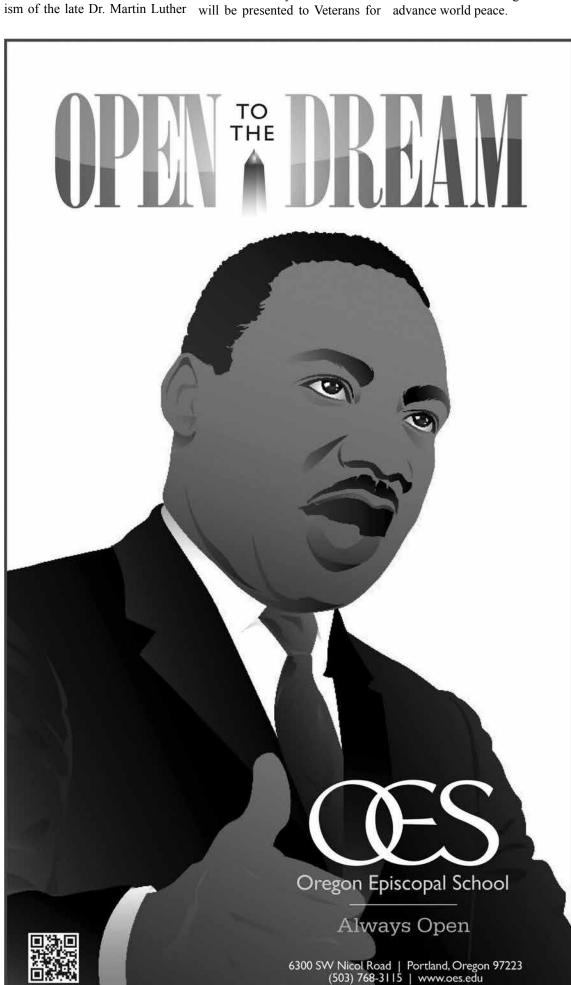
St. Andrew Parish in northeast Portland invites the public to join them for their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Mass and service awards which will be celebrated on Sunday, Jan. 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 11.am.

Awards will be presented to Catherine Bax and Ann Turner of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, honoring their work to provide health care to underserved communities. The awards honor leadership embodying the racial and economic activ-



King Jr.

Peace which uses non-violent A community service award means to achieve its goals and



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Civil Rights crusaders were subjected to decades ago.

"I don't want to sugarcoat things. I do think that there is a lot of reason for concern," Jackson says, alluding to conversations with international friends who believe that the United States is sending alarming messages through its recent electoral cycle.

She said the mass surveillance by government in today's environment to fight terrorism and other criminal activities has the potential to suppress protest move-

"Many of the activists who are doing the work that they think is necessary at this point in time should be prepared for possible, serious backlash," Jackson says. "During Dr. King's time, there certainly was a lot of surveillance that was going on... Those individuals understood the ways that surveillance could occur, and the way in which those people who were involved in that surveillance might infiltrate those organizations."

Activists must remain vigilant for the possibility of infiltration within their ranks, she warns, while also lamenting that a changed attitude by the public towards surveillance may rob the public of understanding its gravi-

Though communities of color are entering a period of uncertainty under the incoming Trump ad-

collaboration between community organizations can help galvanize and protect disenfranchised groups. In addition, keeping a positive public perception of organizations and communities can be instrumental to their ability to enact change, she says.

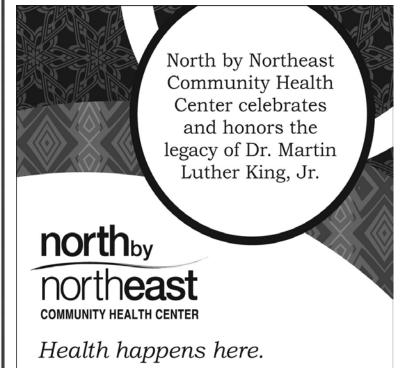
Jackson says that many in Portland's protest community have clearly communicated their goals and kept their public image positive. She cites Portland as an example of a city in which, "There are groups that understand the importance of collaborative efforts. I think that that will become more and more important."

She says while, "Dr. King certainly had ideas about the promise of the future... That we would be judged by the content of our character, and not the color of our skin," the 2016 election cycle showed this is not yet the case.

"We're not really a society where people are being seen as equals, and that becomes extremely problematic to solve," she says.

Jackson, who earned her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, says PSU's Black Studies Department was founded out of what had formerly been the college's Center for Black Studies in 1969, and has grown to an interdisciplinary school with appeal to a diverse array of students.

"I think we have the same purpose that we had when we initially started. And that is to educate and to serve the community," Jackson



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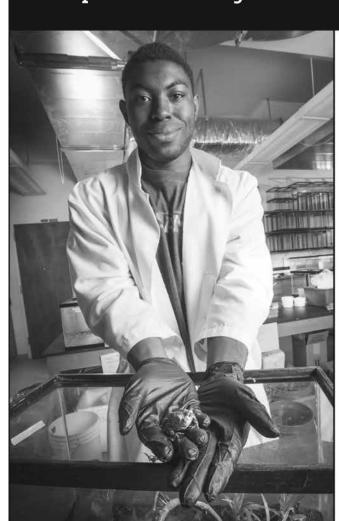
World Arts Tribute to MLK



Top entertainment stars from 1965 are pictured with Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (second from left) in this historical photo featuring singer, songwriter and actor Harry Belafonte (far left) film producer Hilliard Elkins (second from right) and entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. (right).

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32nd annual celebration at Highland Center

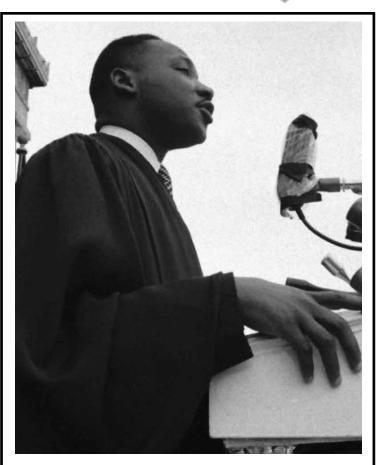
The 32nd Annual World Arts Foundation tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will take place Monday, Jan. 16 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Highland Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St.

Packed with musical and stage performances, speeches and more, Portland' public Martin Luther King tribute is one of the country's largest and most recognized

The 32nd Annual World Arts celebrations of the late civil rights bundation tribute to Dr. Martin leader's work and legacy.

This year's theme will be "Keep the Dream Alive." Dozens of spiritual, artistic and community leaders are scheduled to perform, including Portland jazz great Thara Memory, the Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School Jazz

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



ALBINA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

You are cordially invited to join the community as we celebrate the life work and witness of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Featured Speaker:
Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler
Sunday, January 15, 2017, 4:00pm

Maranatha Church 4222 NE 12th Ave Portland, Or 97211 503 288-7241

ynamic Leader for Justice Emerges

with me."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

about... I hrough that, I met all of these amazing activists, and kind of became one myself."

McKelvey's activism bloomed, he says, as a result of Bernie Sanders' run for the Democratic presidential nomination and a rally the candidate held at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

"I had the opportunity to meet Black Lives Matter," McKelvey

It was also the first time he was called on to give a big speech before the thousands of Sanders sup- day," McKelvey tells the Portland ture Trump administration. porters who gathered for the rally.

"Ever since then, people have been having me speak everywhere," McKelvey explains, stating that he has since been asked to speak alongside the likes of Green Party presidential nominees Dr. Jill Stein and Ralph Nader. McKelvey was formerly an outspoken leader of the group Don't Shoot PDX, which advocates against with him and talk with him about police brutality through actions of mass civil disobedience, until he housing crisis here," he says, addleft the group to form Portland's Resistance.

"I just met with the mayor to- of the group's opposition to the fu-

Observer, in an example of the power that can come from protesting. "If I didn't have the power to put people in the streets, these people would never have to meet

McKelvey's immediate plans for Portland's Resistance are a series of targeted protests and civil actions aimed at influencing local and state-level policies.

"We're really focusing on the ing that forcing regional action on climate change is another priority

McKelvey laughs off the surprisingly prevalent internet-based conspiracy theories that he and Portland's Resistance are funded by the likes of George Soros.

"Being an activist is not fun. Most of us have jobs or school, most of us are broke, and then we work tons of hours each day for free," McKelvey says, "We're not the lazy Americans. The lazy Americans are the bankers and politicians."

While he views his volunteer work as necessary for making progress for civil rights and racial justice on a local scale, McKelvey has paid personal costs due to his organizing efforts.

"I've lost relationships because of activism," including a former fiancee, he explains. In addition, he says, his work opportunities are now strictly limited to positions in happen."

which a highly public persona and lots of political savvy are valued.

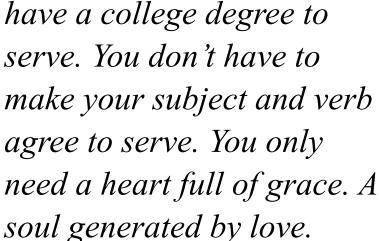
"A lot of people think that I love the limelight," McKelvey says, "But the people that work with me know that I don't like it at all. I don't enjoy being the one to get the death threats."

Despite the day-to-day challenges that he and other local activists face, McKelvey says that they will continue their crusades, no matter what, "It's what we feel that we have to do to push for change."

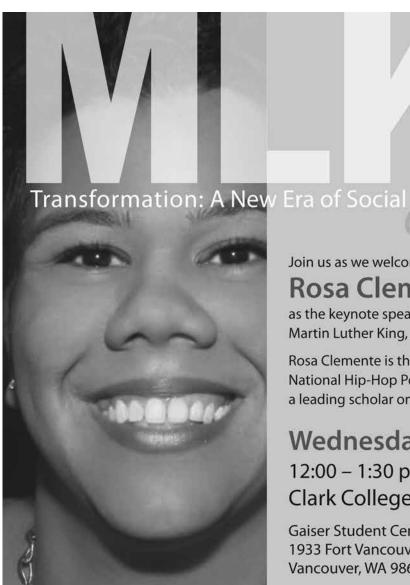
While McKelvy is optimistic about the future of his movement, he understands the very real danger that he faces.

"I will die for this. I think that Martin Luther King was willing to die for what he did, and he knew that he probably would," McKelvey says. "I think that it would be a miracle for me to live my entire life fighting the way that I'm fighting now, and not have something

Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to



-- Martin Luther King, Jr.



Join us as we welcome

Rosa Clemente

as the keynote speaker at our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

Rosa Clemente is the co-founder of the National Hip-Hop Political Convention and a leading scholar on Afro-Latinx identity.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Clark College

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TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY **MONDAY SUNDAY FRIDAY** SATURDAY

New Year's Day Betsy Ross born, 1752

Paul Revere born 1735

Isaac Asimov born, 1920 New Year's Day Observed

Festival Of Sleep Day J.R.R. Tolkien born, 1892

Trivia Day Isaac Newton born, 1643 Jakob Grimm born, 1785

First Woman Governor, Nellie Ross, Inaugurated 1925 George W Carver Recognition Day National Bird Day

Bean Day **Epiphany** Sherlock Holmes born, 1854

First U.S. Presidential Election held, 1789 Old Rock Day

Secret Pal Day Elvis Presley born, 1935

First iPhone introduced in 2007 National Apricot Day National Static Electricity Day

9

10 Remy Charlip born, 1929 First Meeting of Unit-

ed Nations, 1946

Dreams Come True Day Milk Day Amelia Earhart flew Pacific Ocean, 1935

18

Work Harder Day Author Jack London born, 1876

Poetry Break Day Michael Bond born, 1926

13

20

National Dress Up Your Pet Day The Revolutionary War ended (1784)

14

First Super Bowl Played in 1967 Hat Day; first top hat was worn (1797)

Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. Day

Prohibition, 1920

Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) born, 1942 Benjamin Franklin born, 1706

Gold Discovered in

California At Sut-

ter's Mill in 1848

by John Marshall

Raymond Briggs born, 1934 Beginning of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial

Artist Paul Cezanne born, 1839 Popcorn Day

Inauguration Day (Every 4 years: 2013, 2017, 2021) Cheese Day

National Hugging Day First flight of the Supersonic Concorde (1976)

Brian Wildsmith born. 1930 National Blonde Brownie Day

Measure Your Feet

Day National Handwriting Day National Pie Day

evelt born, 1882

(23rd President)

25 Opposite Day First Winter Olvmpics held, 1924

26 Australia Day (first

settled, 1788)

Lewis Carroll birth-National Geographic Society Founded (1888)

Chinese New Year -Year of the Rooster Jackson Pollock born, 1912 (Artist)

National Kazoo Dav

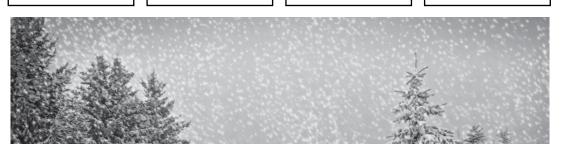
29

Baseball Hall of Fame established (1936)National Puzzle Day

30 Franklin D. Roos-

Backwards Day Jackie Robinson born, 1919 (Baseball Great)

31



Drum Major Service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Portland, Lewis and Clark Law student Gregory McElvey from Portland's Resistance, Kim Dixon from Enough is Enough, and Multnomah County judges Nan G. Waller and Adrienne Nelson.

This year's Drum Major recipients are Wajdi Said and the Muslim Educational Trust, JoAnn Hardesty and the NAACP Portland Branch 1120, Julianne Johnson-Weiss and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Lou Radja and EduCongo.

Vancouver Avenue First Bap-

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tist Church has a rich history of its active role in the Civil Rights Movement, including hosting historic leaders like Dr. King, Ralph Wilkins and Congressman John Lewis. Pastor Hennessee was a godson to the late Coretta Scott King. The term "drum major" is found in a sermon Dr. King delivered on Feb. 4, 1968 at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga: "Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. Yes, I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter. Yes, I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But, I just want to leave a committed life behind. "

Vancouver Avenue First Baptist's MLK celebrations are free and open to the public. A seat reservation, however, is recommended by calling the church at 503-282-9496.

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PHOTO BY ZACHARY SENN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Raymond Burell brings the history of Rev Martin Luther King Jr. visit to Portland's Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church to life as church historian. Burrell was recently responsible for having the church listed in the National Register of Historic places.

Martin Luther King Visited Here

Church steeped in Civil Rights history

BY ZACHARY SENN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER historical significance to Portland's black community was honored this past year with national recognition. Vancouver rich history. Raymond Burell, Avenue First Baptist Church is known as one of the histor-

A Portland sanctuary with ical centers of Portland's black great social, educational, and community, and has hosted civil rights icons such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph Wilkins throughout its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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World Arts Tribute to MLK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Band, rapper-poet-social justice advocate Mic Crenshaw, and the nationally acclaimed Jefferson Dancers.

World Arts will present lifetime awards to people from the community who have advanced the cause of civil rights, including Carole Smith, Armando Gonzales, Ron Silver, Rolia Manyongai, Ray and Ada Tellis, Pearl Thomas, Raymond Burrell and Eldon T. Jones. The celebration will also recognize those who have passed with posthumous awards: Anne Granville, Karen Bowles, Pastor Mary Overstreet and Geoffrey Brooks.

World Arts Foundation, Inc. was established in 1978 in Portland to promote and preserve African-American contributions to the American culture, and to support community education through the interface of arts and education in interactive, visual and performing media that showcases local and regional talent.

The celebration honors and celebrates with live performances of African American song, spoken word, dance and music in the spirit of keeping Dr. King's dream alive.

That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody



blind. The time is always right to do the right thing.

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Martin Luther King Visited Here

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

the church's historian, was re-rishioners to more than 1,200 sponsible for having the church in 1955. listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

"It's a very storied site," explains Burell, whose passion narrative stems from his own upbringing within its active community, and its importance to the black community of Portland.

Burell, who has dedicated an untold amount of time as a church volunteer and local exdesignation was "the preservation of a culture."

has a very layered and intricate Martin Luther King Jr.'s assashistory, he told the Portland Observer, "There's so little city-wide memorial service. documentation... That's really what thrust me to do it,"

ship of the Rev. Oliver Booker plains. The final document was to list the building.

tion went from a handful of patailed the church's rich history.

ticipants, so it became quite the of North Portland. place," Burell explains.

for preserving the church's has not only met the spiritual and preservation... By having needs of its community, but it it deemed a national landmark, has served as one of the city's it's much more important to the social and cultural centers, drawing a large number of historical figures through its tended Vancouver Avenue First

"Anytime anyone of significance on a national level visitpert on black history, says that ed Portland, they spoke here," says Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church played a tre-Portland's black community mendous role following Dr. sination in 1968, by holding a

The church was founded in church on the National Register overwhelmingly positive. 1944 by the Rev. James Brown of Historic Places took nearly during the time of World War II seven months. "Even though with pride," says Burrell, who when Portland's black commu- I knew the history, it was just is being honored by the World nity grew. Under the steward- putting it into context," he ex-

Williams, the church's popula- more than 130 pages, and de-

The church's new national recognition will help it survive "These were very active par- in a rapidly gentrifying stretch

"It just puts it in a different Over the years, the church place in terms of recognition community." Burell says.

Burell, whose family has at-Baptist for four generations, traces his interest in history to his own familial genealogy.

"It really gave me perspecthe impetus behind the historic Burrell says. In addition, he tive for who I am as a being," he explains. Similarly, he says, his work documenting the history of the church, "Celebrates who we are as a culture. It helps people to say, 'our culture matters."

> Burell says that reaction to Burrell's efforts to place the the historical listing has been

People were just beaming Arts Foundation for his efforts

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- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Obituary

In Loving Memory

Denita Young

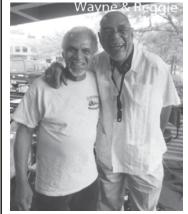
Denita Young was born Sept. 17, 1964 and died Jan. 4. 2017. Services are scheduled on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at Philadelphia Community Missionary Baptist Church, 238 N.E. Mason St.

She will be missed by her family and friends.





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Obituary



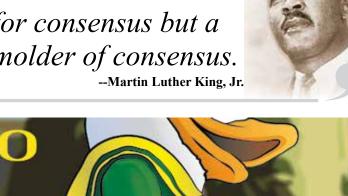


In Loving Memory Carl Edward Gibson Sr

Carl Edward Gibson was born April 1, 1960 and died on Jan. 5, 2017.

Services will be held at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 4009 N. Missouri Ave., on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 12 p.m. Viewing will occur one day prior on Jan. 17 at 1 p.m. at Omega Funeral Home, 233 N.E. 122nd Ave.

A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.









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-Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Activities Schedule

Welcome to the 24th Annual African American Wellness Village on January 21, 2017 At: New Song Community Center 220 NE Russell Portland, Oregon 97212, 9 am - 3 pm

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AAHC's 2016 Wellness Village

		Trees.	Demos, a	nd Exhibits
Location	Time	Activity		- 1

	The state of the s				
Time	Activity	Location	Time	Activity	Location
All Day	Registration	Welcome Area	9:00 - 9:15	Opening	
			9:15, 10:00 am	Georgann Pierce-Low Impact Aerobics	Main Stage
All Day	AAHC Diabetes/Cancer Self-Management	Table I	All Day	Aetna	Table 3
9 am-1 pm	Casey Eye Clinic-Glaucoma Education	Room 8	All Day	Multnomah Co. Healthy Birth Initiative	Table 7
9 am-1 pm	Casey Eye Clinic Eye Exam	Outside Van	10:15 - 10:45 am	Functional Training for all levels - Isaiah Holt.	Main Stage
All Day	Casey Eye Clinic Eye Exam	Table 14	10:10 - 11:00 am	Healthy Cooking Demo I - Dr. Brian Frank	S. End Village
All Day	MODA	Table 4	11:00 -11:30	Allyson Spencer - Tai Chi Chi Gong	Main Stage
All Day	Providence	Table 5	11:45 - 12:00	AAHC Raffle-Prizes	Table 2
All Day	Portland Fire Bureau-Blood Pressure	Table 6	12:00 - 2:00 pm	Bodywork by Luke - Luke Gutgsell, LMT	S. End Village
All Day	OHSU Dental	Table 8	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Electric Slide Demo II	Main Stage
				Groovin High Steppers	
All Day	Multco Breathing Test	Table 17	12:10 - 1:00 pm	Healthy Cooking II - Blk Men's Coalition	S. End Village
All Day	North by Northeast Blood Pressure	Table 18	12:30 - 1:15 pm	Electric Slide Demo I - 503 Steppers	Main Stage
All Day	Molly's Fund Lupus	Table 13	All Day	Miracles	Table 15
All Day	African American Behavioral Health	Table 12	1:15 - 1:45 pm	Lydia Hemandez - Zumba Kids & Zumba Gold	Main Stage
All Day	Avel Gordly Center-depression screening	Table 9	1:45 - 2:00	AAHC Raffle-Prizes	Table 2
All Day	Access Health	Table 10	All Day	Lifeworks	Table 20
9 am - 2 pm	Medical Teams Dental Van	Outside	All Day	Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness	Table 11
			All Day	ECS	Table 16
			All Day	Store to Door Senior Services	Table 19
			All Day	DJ Michael Morris	Main Stage
			All Day	American Cancer Society	Table 21

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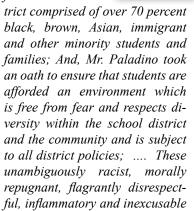
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Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

Awash in Racially-Motivated Confrontations

Standing out among the others

"Mr. Paladino is an elected official charged with the responsibility to represent children and families in a dis-



comments by Mr. Paladino have of failed New York gubernatorial stereotypes." Carl Palidino wants jection of Paladino's hateful stategarnered both local, national, and international attention that reflects negatively on the Buffalo Board of Education, the City of Buffalo and its leadership and its citizens, the State of New York, and every decent human being in America and abroad who has been shocked and offended by his words." -- Resolution by the Buffalo School Board demanding Carl Paladino's resignation BY MARC H. MORIAL

The national wave of racist, vicious invective unleashed by the 2016 Presidential campaign is well-documented. Hundreds of hate crimes have been reported to watchdog groups like the Southern Poverty Law Center. Social media is awash in cell-phone video of racially-motivated confrontations invoking the name of the President-elect.

But the recent hateful tirade

among the others. Warning: his words are difficult to read.

When the Buffalo weekly newspaper Artvoice asked locals their hopes for 2017, many gave positive, community-minded answers: "A return to shopping in communities and brick-and-mortar stores," "the Bills get in the playoffs," or "more kindness." Carl Paladino hopes President "Obama catches mad cow disease after being caught having relations with a Hereford. He dies before his trial and is buried in a cow pasture next to Valerie Jarret, who died weeks prior, after being convicted of sedition and treason, when a Jihady cell mate mistook her for being a nice person and decapitated her."

What do Buffalonians want to see go away in 2017? "Hate."

being a male and let loose in the outback of Zimbabwe where she lives comfortably in a cave with Maxie, the gorilla."

In response to the horrified national outcry over his reprehensible remarks, Paladino first rebuffed inquiring journalists with an obscenity, then penned a defiant non-apology, defending his words as "deprecating humor."

Paladino is certainly no stranger to this brand of so-called "humor." During his failed 2010 gubernatorial run, a local news site exposed racist and pornographic emails Paladino had shared with associates. While he lost the election in a landslide, garnering only a third of the vote, he managed to be elected to the Buffalo School Board in 2013.

"Discrimination." "Preconceived to be commended for its swift re- National Urban League.

candidate Carl Paladino stands out to see Michelle Obama "return to ments, and its recognition that a man who holds such views cannot be entrusted with the education of children. If Paladino does not heed the demands of the Board and resign, we expect NYS Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia to pursue his removal.

> The president and chief executive of our Urban League affiliate in Buffalo, Brenda W. McDuffie, has been outspoken on this issue, and we urge the entire Urban League community to unite in opposition to Paladino's hatefulness by signing the petition urging his removal.

> In fairness, when ArtVoice asked Investigative Post editor Jim Heaney what he's like to see go away in 2017, Heaney responded, "Carl Paladino." We couldn't agree more.

Marc H. Morial is president The Buffalo School Board is and chief executive officer of the

Precisely the Wrong Man to Lead Justice Department

Opposing the Sessions nomination

BY CORNELL WILLIAMS BROOKS

America yet stands at the beginning of presidential administration but also in the middle of a Twitter age civil rights movement based on old divisions. Sen. Jefferson Beauregard Sessions is among the worst possible nominees to serve as Attorney General amidst some of the worst times for civil rights in recent memory.

Following a divisive presidential campaign, hate crimes rising, police videos sickening the stomach while quickening the conscience, protesters marching in the streets and politicians mouthing the myth of voter fraud while denying the reality of voter suppression, Sen. Sessions is prethe nomination of Sen. Sessions to become U.S. Attorney General for the following reasons: a record on voting rights that is unreliable at best and hostile at worse; a failing record on other civil rights; a record of racially offensive remarks and behavior; and dismal record on criminal justice reform issues.

the bill "a piece of intrusive legislation" just months earlier. Ses-



sions has consistently voted in favor of strict voter ID laws that place extra burdens on the poor and residents of color, Shelby County v. Holder gutted the protections of the VRA, Sen. Sessions cheered. For decades, he has pursued the rare and mystical unicorn of voter fraud, while turning a blind eye to the ever-growing issue of voter suppression.

While Sen. Sessions' historical record on civil rights remains one of dismay, it is his unrepen-

ing Rights Act in 2006, but called seeking to dismantle them. When Civil Rights Movement, then-Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach's commitment to democracy allowed him to help write the Voting Rights Act. Today, our nation stands on the verge of selecting an AG who has never shown the slightest commitment to enforcing the protections Katzenbach and others wrote into law.

How can our communities who tant stance against the vote that have born the both historical and remains our issue. The threat of current brunt of the attacks on the

legislation four times from 2000 to 2009.

Notwithstanding, he has also repeatedly voted against the Violence Against Women Act that expanded protection for victims of domestic violence and repeatedly stood on the wrong side of immigration and LGBT issues.

During his failed 1986 federal judgeship hearing, four DOJ attorneys and colleagues of Sen. Sessions testified that he made several racist statements. J. Gerald Hebert testified that Sessions had referred to the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union as "un-American" and "Communist inspired" because they "forced civil rights down the throats of people."

Additional accusations of racist behavior were attributed to Sen. Sessions by Thomas Figures, an African American Assistant U.S. Attorney, who testified that Sessions said he thought the Ku Klux Klan was "OK until I found out er said that the comment was not serious, but did apologize for it. Mr. Figures also testified that on one occasion, Sen. Sessions railed against civil rights cases, threw a file on the table and called him the derogatory racist term "boy," and later advised him to watch what he said to white people.

In a time of expanding protests against the scourge of police CONTINUED ON PAGE 39

Rather than enforcing voting rights protections, Sen. Sessions has instead made a career of seeking to dismantle them. When Shelby County v. Holder gutted the protections of the VRA, Sen. Sessions cheered. For decades, he has pursued the rare and mystical unicorn of voter fraud, while turning a blind eye to the ever-growing issue of voter suppression.

cisely the wrong man to lead the across the country. When the Su- voter suppression is not a histor- right to vote, sit idly by while an Justice Department. The NAACP, preme Court struck down federal ical but current challenge. At least enemy to the vote is now given they smoked pot." Sessions latas the nation's oldest and largest protections in 2012 that prevent- 10 times in the past 10 months, the responsibility of enforcing this civil rights organization, opposes ed thousands of discriminatory state laws from taking effect since 1965, Sessions declared it was "a good thing for the South." As a prosecutor in 1985, Sessions maliciously prosecuted a former aide to Martin Luther King for helping senior citizens file absentee ballots in Alabama.

Rather than enforcing voting Sen. Sessions supported the rights protections, Sen. Sessions re-authorization of the 1965 Vot- has instead made a career of

the NAACP defended voting rights against coordinated campaigns by legislators targeting African-American voters in Texas, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and many other states.

While the NAACP could gain the assistance of the Justice Department in fighting back against voter suppression, a Sessions-led DOJ would likely lead to the exact opposite. During the height of the

right? The simple answer is that

Since 1997, Sen. Sessions has received an F every year on the NAACP's federal legislative civil rights report cards. He's voted against our policy positions nearly 90 percent of the time. Sen. Sessions has repeatedly supported lawsuits and attempts to overturn desegregation while shamelessly voting against federal Hate Crime

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.

Calling Working People of All Colors

Our mutual economic

interests

BY EBONY SLAUGHTER-**JOHNSON**

A little over 80 years ago, NAACP founder W.E.B. Du Bois "Black wrote

America," Reconstruction in a groundbreaking essay that looked at the racial politics of the post-Civil War years.

The major failure of those years, Du Bois insisted, was that poor whites and poor blacks failed to form an alliance around their mutual economic interests and challenges. Instead, white elites doubled down on their efforts to divide poor people of different

"So long as the Southern white laborers could be induced to prefer poverty to equality with the Negro," Dubois lamented, "a la-

impossible." Though similarly edly neglecting the white working alization, and de-unionization exploited by white elites, econom- class. ically disenfranchised whites and blacks "never came to see their into the fold would make the those in income. Where the Great

common interest." More than eight decades later, we're still waiting.

2016 presidential election, ed disaster. the resounding explanabeen that Democrats failed

needs of the white working class. As a result, this story goes, the white working class turned towards Donald Trump and contributed significantly to his victory.

for the party's malaise is simple: these economic challenges are Bring the white working class back into the fold.

"If you are going to mention groups in America, you had better black Americans is twice that mention all of them. If you don't, for the white community across those left out will notice and feel education levels. excluded," Columbia University the income gap between black professor Mark Lilla wrote. He and white households grew to research assistant with the Crimsharply criticized Hillary Clin- \$25,000 as of 2014, a statistic inalization of Poverty project at ton for "calling out explicitly to" due in no small part to the same the Institute for Policy Studies. bor movement in the South [was] blacks and Latinos while suppos- wage stagnation, deindustri- Distributed by OtherWords.org.

Bringing those white voters Democratic Party a formidable force, but not if it means marginalizing the concerns of people of In the aftermath of the color. That would be an unmitigat-

loss to Donald Trump has white working class isn't to reverse this progress. It's to argue to respond to the economic forcefully that the economic conand people of color are more alike than different.

people understandably complain For some, then, the diagnosis of lower wages and lost jobs. Yet part and parcel to those confronting communities of color.

> The unemployment rate for Similarly,

plaguing many Rust Belt whites.

Trends in wealth have mirrored Recession led to a 16 percent loss in wealth for the average white family, it led to a 53 percent loss for the average black family. As of 2014, around of quarter of black The best way for progressives and Latino Americans lived in tion for Hillary Clinton's to realign themselves with the poverty, compared to 10 percent of whites.

> The racism that's worsened conditions for many Americans of cerns of the white working class color needs to be addressed headon. But many of the same populist economic policies that would lift For instance, working white them up would also help struggling whites.

> > Instead of erasing race from the equation, working people and their progressive advocates should take their cues from Du Bois and get to work building what he called a unified "proletariat" of all colors.

At this rate, we don't have another 80 years.

Ebony Slaughter-Johnson is a

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The Greater Truth of One Planet, One Humanity

Bending the Arc towards justice

BY ROBERT C. KOEHLER

Maybe this much is true. Donald Trump, pseudo-president-elect, loser of the real election, charismatstump-speech populist whose actual ability to gov-

ern may well be non-existent, has inflicted significant damage on America's political infrastructure.

This is scary, of course, but not necessarily a bad thing. I say this even, or especially, if he manages to assemble a far right, white-nationalist-friendly cabinet and inner circle and starts attempting to implement some of the promises orientation. he made on the campaign trail. If the Trump pseudo-presidency is I see I am sure it bends towards and 1946, as a "precedent." "normalized" and we-the-people justice." and the media shrug our shoulders at the rebuilding of Jim Crow Na-self. tion — the Wall, the Muslim regisnext — then yes, this is a disaster and moving to Canada is a viable

to power may be the harbinger of that Trump himself expects. Perprofound, positive change.

"I do not pretend to understand the moral universe," abolitionist idea of creating a Muslim regis-Theodore Parker wrote more than

one, my eye reaches but lit-

haps he's just the trigger.

Consider, for instance, the try, notoriously defended by for-150 years ago, prefiguring mer Trump-backing super PAC the words of Martin Luther spokesman Carl Higbie, who told King. "The arc is a long Megyn Kelly of Fox News, "We did it during World War II with the tle ways; I cannot calculate Japanese." He proceeded to cite the curve and complete the the internment camps, quasi-prisof sight; I can divine it by Americans of Japanese ancestry

Thus: "We need to stand in solidarity with Muslim people who are being targeted by Donald Trump," "Daily Show" host Trevor Noah said to a cheering studio audience. "If they start registering Muslims in America, we all register as Muslims."

And slowly the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice.

"Noah said that if all citizens figure by the experience ons in which as many as 120,000 stood with immigrants and said, 'I am a Muslim,' it 'would take conscience. And from what were forced to live between 1942 away any power the registry might

We pledge to stand together with Muslims across the country, and around the world. Because when we stand as one, no American can be singled out by their race, religion, income, gender identity or sexual

try and God knows what happens less by the damage he inflicts than by the outrage he incurs: the outrage of a public that loves this option. But if Trump, instead, is country but also manages to love protect America gains publicity, the reincarnation of Bull Con- the whole planet and revere the determination to oppose it also nor, someone who makes a dark, principles of compassion and congrows, and, in that opposition, hidden ugliness suddenly clear to nection. This may, indeed, be an bring deeper values into play in the public at large, then his rise era of change, but not the change our national politics.

But the arc doesn't bend by it-needs to protect America first."

What does it mean to "protect The Trump era may be defined America"? This is now a concept that is up for grabs, thanks to the non-election of Donald Trump. As his baldly racist plan to pretend to

have,' according to Huffington "Look," he said, "the president Post reporter David Moye.

And several websites have sprung up creating this opportunity, including a site called Register

"Donald Trump has said he would 'absolutely' require all Muslims to register in a database. This is just one of Trump's racist and Islamophobic proposals that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39



Lunch Program Honors King

Volunteers for a backpack in need in northeast Portland," lunch program for kids invite reads the invite from the Northnity service and remembrance for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monday, Jan. 16 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Maranatha Church, 4222 N.E. 12th Ave. The event will be hosted by Fremont United Methand Concordia University.

"In this time of uncertainty for our country and the challenges we face, let's gather in remembrance to draw inspiration bring cans of soup and ravioli from the memory of Dr. King, our dreams for our country, and as just a \$25 donation sponsors show our care for our children 12 weekend lunches.

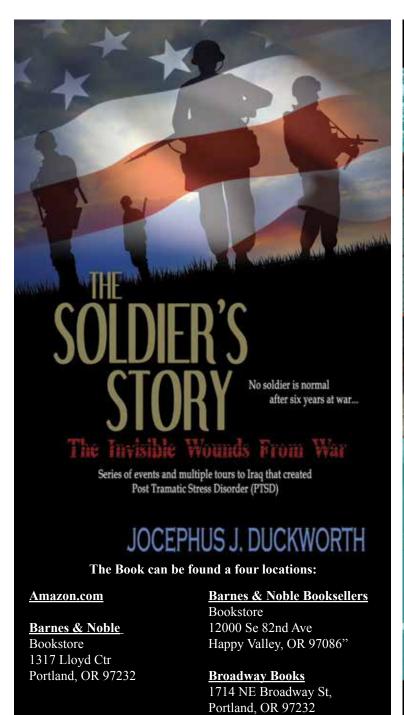
friends and families to a commu- east Portland BackPack Lunch

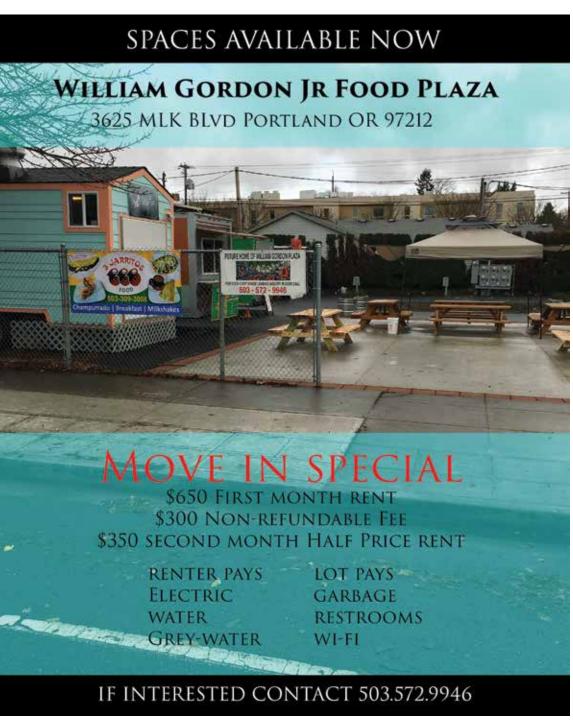
After the MLK program, paron the MLK National Holiday, ticipants will pack 825 lunch sacks for the 226 children that backpack program serves, create care cards to be tucked into the sacks; fold origami cranes odist Church, Maranatha Church for peace and healing; and share dreams for a better future. Children can take part in King-related activities

> Participants are invited to to help fill the lunch sacks. Cash



encourage each other to pursue donations will also be accepted Paper is folded into cranes to represent peace and healing, one of the activities that will take place during a special community service event to pack lunches for kids and a Martin Luther King Jr. remembrance coming to Maranatha Church on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.









The New Year started with Multnomah County being led by a County Commission in which all the elected members are from minority groups for the first time ever. Pictured (from left) are County Chair Deborah Kafoury and Commissioners Sharon Meieran, Jessica Vega Pederson, Lori Stegmann and Loretta Smith.

Role Models of Color

County achieves first majority minority board

new commissioners to its board and setting a new bar for diversity in representative government with every elected member of the commission representing a minority group, the first time that has ever happened.

the New Year by welcoming three land, and Lori Stegmann, who represents east Multnomah County and Gresham. They join in- American elected to the board. She cumbent Commissioner Loretta Smith, who represents north Portland and Chair Deborah Kafoury, who leads the board.

Sharon Meieran, who rep- Stegmann. "As an immigrant, as resents west Portland, was sworn a minority woman, as someone stamps, sticking actual stamps to in along with Jessica Vega Ped- who grew up in Rockwood, one a card in what was like a shameful

Multnomah County ushered in erson, who represents east Port- of the poorest neighborhoods in version of Bingo in exchange for didn't have any role model of col-Oregon."

Stegmann is the first Asian was adopted as a baby from South Korea and raised in a low-income family. Her father worked as a logger and her mother cared "This is a milestone," said for the family. She still remembers the stigma of receiving food

blocks of cheese, powdered milk and other donated foods.

"Why is there so much shame in being poor?" she wonders. "Often times you don't have anything to do with it."

Growing up in the 1970s, Stegmann said she wanted to be like Marsha Brady of the Brady Bunch TV series, blond and fair skinned.

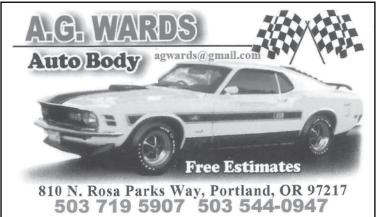
"When I was growing up, I

or," she said.

That has changed. Stegmann grew her own business as an insurance agent, bought a house in a middle class neighborhood, and raised a daughter, who at 18 can now see a woman serve as Gresham's police chief, women lawmakers in both her house and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

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Millennium Music 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.



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?"

Teen Late Night Returns -- A popular Teen Late Night program through Vancouver Parks and Recreation is back. Young people between the ages of 11 and 18 are invited to enjoy a safe night of free recreational activities every Friday night at either the Fistenburg or Marshall community centers.

Norman Sylvester --'Boogie Cat' Norman Sylvester plays Friday, Jan. 13 at the Spare Room; Saturday, Jan 14 at the Vinyl Tap in Oak Grove; Friday, Jan. 20 at



the Rogue Pub in North Plains; Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Blue Diamond; and Saturday, Jan. 28 at Clyde's.

Democracy's Blueprints -- The Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, and other bedrock documents that

ENTERTAINMENT laid the foundation of American democracy are on view in a new exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society, downtown, through Feb. 1.





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 503-317-1089Fourth Sunday Jam Night -- A friends and family variety comedy show in a Saturday Night Live format with local recording and performing artists, bands, dance crews, poets, and drama groups, takes place each fourth Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. at Celebration Tabernacle, 8131 N. Denver Ave. The free event is open to the community.

Discount Tickets -- Local low-income families and individuals can purchase \$5 tickets to classical musical performances in Portland as part of a unique program called Music for All. Participating organizations include the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theater, Chamber Music Northwest, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Friends of Chamber Music, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Piano International, Portland Symphonic Choir, Cappella Romana and Portland Vocal Consort.

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A Hunger for Films about 'Hidden Figures'



I am often struck by the narrow range of stories that see the light of day in American films and popular media. The films we have had up to now about the American space program, for example, depict rooms full of white men and, in general, what few films we have depicting black women rarely center on their experience and certainly don't involve their contributions to American history or scientific exploration. Contrary to the excuse offered by Kevin Costner in a recent MSNBC interview, the stories we are missing on screen are *not* necessarily found in history books, nor can their absence from popular media be explained by the view that, really, "how many stories can you tell?"

The black women whose mathematical skills powered the American space program in the 1960s would still be unknown to most of us were it not for a recent book by Margot Lee Shetterly, which became the basis for the new film "Hidden Figures." The film focuses on three of the many women whose lives are explored in Shetterly's book, and provides a long-neglected window into their particular stories and the larger context for the women who worked as "computers" in the space program in the mid-20th century.

It is about time we learned these stories, and I do mean to urge everyone to see this film, which gives a flavor of the contributions of such women and the barriers they faced to build their careers. I hope, however, that we will avoid what appears to be a widespread temptation to minimize those barriers and to over-applaud Hollywood for giving us one film in which accomplished and intelligent women of color are the central focus. This is at best a start, and by no means a perfect one; our hunger for such stories should not divert us from pushing for a broader range of narratives and for those stories to be told with less pandering to the dominant culture.

The three real-life women at the center of the film, engagingly played by Taraji P. Henson, Octa-



PHOTO COURTESY HOPPER STONE/20TH CENTURY FOX

A scene from the film 'Hidden Figures' depicts black employees at NASA during the 1960s when the workforce was segregated by race.

via Spencer, and Janelle Monáe, male colleagues undermine her are among a large number of black women who were employed as human "computers" before machines could do that work. Women with the right skills were thought to be more likely to approach the task of mathematical calculation with the necessary dogged attention to detail -- but in the segregated South, black women did the work in a separate section of NASA, with separate bathrooms and cafeterias.

The film devotes some attention to the realities of life under segregation. Henson's character, Katherine Johnson, has to run half a mile in heels in all weather just only taught in an all-white school. to get to the nearest "colored" ladies room to relieve herself; her here is more than we usually see.

and take credit for her work, and install a separate "colored" coffee pot for her, the only person of color in her unit. Spencer's character, Dorothy Vaughn, supervises a department for years without the benefit of the title or pay that goes along with it, and she and her sons are kicked out of the local public library for not confining themselves to the poorly-stocked colored section. Monáe's character, Mary Jackson, has to petition the city to allow her to take the courses she needs to pursue an engineering degree because they are The level of specificity depicted

Yet in many ways the struggles are smoothed over, suggesting the filmmakers' likely unconscious desire to spare viewers too much discomfort. The women live in nice homes and have wardrobes, hair, and make-up that is too art-directed to be realistic (a common Hollywood problem), suggesting that their lives, though separate from white folks, are basically otherwise equal. They vigorously call out racism with a clarity that was much more dangerous and unlikely in 1962, with consequences no worse than being ignored. And the impact of their words on white people is overplayed, as when Johnson blows up at her office colleagues about her long treks to the ladies room, and is met with stunned and chastened silence from her entire department. Her white male supervisor then marches down to the colored restroom and knocks down its signage.

I'm confident that scenes like that just didn't happen. Johnson's white supervisor never tore down any Jim Crow signs. Her most obstructionist male colleague did not suddenly experience a change of heart and begin bringing her coffee. Vaughn's nemesis likewise did not suddenly begin treating her with respect. Somehow Johnson, Vaughn, and Jackson and women like them survived despite the impediments of racism and white supremacy, but it cannot have been primarily because of changes of heart in their white counterparts. That is not how racism and white supremacy manifest, and as much as I appreciated the pieces of their story that were told in "Hidden Figures," I left longing for a more insightful and honest rendition of how oppressed people manage to endure slights that don't have an end date, how they manage to pull out their best work over and over again when no one supports them and no one applauds or even sees it. I'm still looking for the film that more honestly grapples with how it is that such figures remain hidden. This film brings important bits to light, but still leaves them partially obscured.

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 opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.

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Arts ENTERTAINMENT



Portland vocal artists Neka and Kahlo make a return performance at the annual Girl Fest, Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Crystal Ballroom,

Making Noise in the Northwest

All-girls music festival makes return



Girl Fest, Portland's own, allgirls and all-ages mini-music festival returns to Lola's Room at the Crystal Ballroom, downtown, on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Founded three years ago to support and spotlight the talented young women making music in and around the Northwest, the Girl Fest 2017 lineup will feature an array of genres; everything from hip hop, to alternative, singer songwriter, and pop infused modern jazz.

Hosted by Blossom, this year's lineup will include performances by Coco Columbia, Karma Rivera, Neka & Kahlo, Haley Heyndrickx, Courtney Noe and students from My Voice Music's Student Mentorship Program.

The show starts at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6 p.m. For more information, visit girlfest.org.

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Role Models of Color

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

senate districts, and now her mom in county government.

Stegmann wept as she reflected for residents who feel unheard or

"My election isn't about me. County," she said. "Their voices. Their concerns."

Stegmann plans to work on finding solutions to homelessness, the rising costs of housing, and disparities in criminal justice. phy of the group One Key Ques-She supports programs such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion pilot launching this year the next year?" "If the answer is in downtown Portland which will divert drug users from arrest to recovery.

The Multnomah County Board was entirely white and male until 1974, when Alice Corbett -- a former teacher, hardware-store owner and state senator -- was elected. Gladys McCoy, a social work- to more than 50,000 Latino resier from Georgia, was elected in 1978, the first African American member of the board. And in 1987 voters ushered in the first all-women board. The commissioners included Gretchen Kafoury, mother later. of current Chair Kafoury.

as a girl her mother talking about how she was treated as a first-term legislator in the state House of Representatives. "People would call her sweetie, and honey and pinch her butt," Kafoury said.

Gretchen Kafoury dedicated her adult life to getting women elected to office, as co-founder of the Oregon chapter of the National Organization for Women and later the Oregon Women's Political

"She was all about women and was her thing," Deborah Kafoury said. "It wasn't that she was a woman. She was a woman."

ron Meieran has learned to navigate male-dominated arenas, first the highest in the county. Rising

as a lawyer, then as an emergency-room doctor, then sitting on boards and committees mostly led

She champions access to menon what her election might mean tal health services for people in crisis and culturally-appropriate services for immigrants and refugees. She's also advocated for It's about my community, East reproductive health, especially for low-income women and women of color, who experience the highest rates of unintended pregnancies; a driver that perpetuates poverty.

> Meieran supports the philosotion, which asks simply, "Would you like to become pregnant in said. Maybe that means folic acid supplements or controlling diabetes. "It honors women who want to become pregnant. It honors a woman's choice."

Multnomah County is home dents, but the county has had few elected Latino leaders. Serena Cruz was the first Hispanic American elected, in 1998, followed by Maria Rojo De Steffey three years

Jessica Vega Pederson is the Deborah Kafoury remembers county's third Latina commissioner. She previously served in the Oregon House where she was the first Latina elected and where she fought for access to government-issued driving cards for undocumented Oregonians, equal pay for women, paid sick leave and higher minimum wages. Locally, she has lobbied for money to install flashing crosswalks on some of the busiest and darkest four-lane roads that carry east Portland commuters to downtown jobs. Health and sustainable comwomen's' rights. Gender politics munities top her agenda going into her four-year term.

"In east Portland we're tired of politician who happened to be a being the exception to services, being told, 'oh we'll get to it next Like the Kafoury women, Sha- year," she said. Pedestrian fatalities in her neighborhood are



'yes,' then let's make sure you're Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann, the first Asian American elected to the county's five as healthy as you can be," she member governing board, is sworn into office on Jan. 3 by the honorable Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Adrienne Nelson.

of color, immigrants and refugees and low-income families further

Commissioner Loretta Smith, elected to represent north Portland, takes pride in her roots in the African American community and her role of representing diverse disadvantaged residents. Serving as an "ambassador" lands on her shoulders.

"You have to serve two communities," she said. "When people see someone who looks like them, kids of color.

housing costs are pushing people they want to engage. They think you're more apt to listen. There's an expectation that we'll be more receptive to their needs, that it will define how we administer public policy, and how we spend our resources."

> Smith has heard concerns about a lack of access to social services for families in east Portland, and she pushed to implement the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative, providing culturally specific. community-based services for

Shortly after being elected in 2010, Smith held a town hall meeting for African American men and more than 300 attendees expressed their frustration over the lack of summer jobs for teens. So she created the Summerworks internship program. What started with 25 kids has grown to provide jobs to more than 500 young people a year.

For the first time, last summer, Smith saw the seeds of that advocacy. An intern told her, "I want to be you."



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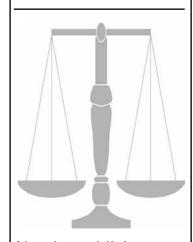
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ERTAINMENT



Holocaust Survivor to Jazz Musician

Frank's Song, a jazz film that documents a Portland man's life, but also the city itself with hits history of ship builders and jazz musicians, screens on Thursday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum. The documentary highlights Frank Wesley's life is a holocaust survivor, World War II combat veteran, psychology professor to renowned author and finally jazz musician.



PHOTO BY MILAGRO THEATRE PHOTO BY RUSSELL J. YOUNG

The Latino arts and cultural center Milagro presents the world premiere of El Payaso, a play born from the incredible story of the late Ben Linder, an engineer and clown for a cause whose memory lives on in the work of Clowns without Borders.

A Clown for a Cause

Latino theater group brings story to life

Southeast Portland's Milago Theater presents a world premier of El Payaso.

Amidst chaos, confusion and war, Ben Linder, an American engineer and clown for a cause ry lives on in the work of Clowns gro.org or call 503-236-7253.

worked to bring electricity to rural villages in Nicaragua 30 years ago. He participated in rallies and health campaigns that brought vaccines to children. El Payaso is told through the eyes of Elías, a Latino college student who encounters people who are still carrying on Linder's work.

Linder was killed by Contras in Nicaragua in 1987 but his memo-

without Borders and various environmental groups that are collaborating to bring his story to life.

With red noses and humor, El Payaso shares the value of "thinking globally, while acting locally."

El Payaso is presented as part of the 2017 Fertile Ground Festival, an 11-day arts festival showcasing new work from local Portland artists. Shows run Thursday, Jan. 12 through Saturday, Jan. 21 at Milagro Theater, 525 S.W. Stark St. For more information, visit mila-

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Fort Vancouver Regional Li- raiser that helps support the library Foundation is hosting a three-brary's programs and services day used book sale with thousands and will be held in Library Hall, of books on Thursday, Friday, and the former Vancouver Community Saturday, Jan. 12-14 from 9 a.m. to Library building, at 1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd.

The event will feature used

books for kids and adults in a wide variety of genres. Books will be bargain priced at \$1 for most hardbacks and paperbacks and 50 cents for mass-market adult fiction paperbacks. We will also have DVDs and CDs for \$1 per disc. You'll find something for everyone.

Precisely the Wrong Man to Lead

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

brutality, Sen. Sessions stands on opposite ground. He has repeated stood against the consent decree, a main tool of the DOJ to reel in racist and unaccountable police departments. In a report by the Alabama Policy Institute, Sen. Sessions called consent decrees: "One of the most dangerous, and rarely discussed, exercises of raw power is the issuance of expansive court decrees. Consent decrees have a profound effect on our legal system as they constitute an end run around the democratic process."

While under the administration of President Barack Obama, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division made investigating police departments charged with racism and police brutality a key focus by intervening in high-profile cases in Ferguson, Missouri and Baltimore. Maryland to impose consent decrees and reforms to correct misbehavior and the violation of citi-

Sen. Sessions would become ident who supports nationalizing the racist and disproven "stop and frisk," strategy. Both Sessions and the incoming president are supporters of the DOD 1033 program il rights of the American majority. which allows police department's access to surplus military equipment including tanks, armored vehicles, grenade launchers and more. He also opposes the removal of mandatory minimum America of the Majority. The vote sentences and blocked efforts to remains the most important rereduce nonviolent drug sentencing despite wide bi-partisan support for doing so. If not enough, Sen. Sessions has repeatedly vot- NAACP will continue to stand ed against safe, sane, and sensible against Senator Sessions and any measures to stem the tide of gun violence.

sworn to protect and enforce his nomination represents an ongoing birthrights –particularly, and the *the NAACP*.

We call upon the Senate to the Attorney General under a pres-reject Sessions and for President-elect Donald J. Trump to 1 replace Sessions with a nominee with a record of inclusion and commitment to protecting the civ-

> The NAACP does not believe that an election where the incoming president lost the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes represents a mandate to overhaul the source in making democracy real for all people.

As we have since 1909, the attempts to unravel the progress earned through the blood, sweat Given that these are issues and tears of our people to enjoy our nation the attorney general is the same rights under law as all Americans.

Cornell William Brooks is presand dangerous threat to our civic ident and chief executive officer of

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Greater Truth of One Planet, One Humanity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

threaten our ideals of freedom and equality. We must come together and fight back before he takes these dangerous, hateful and unconstitutional ideas any further.

'We pledge to stand together with Muslims across the country, and around the world. Because when we stand as one, no American can be singled out by their race, religion, income, gender identity or sexual orientation."

If such a movement grows, its effect would not be simply to defeat a bad plan and return the country to some sort of pre-Trump normal, but rather to push the nation further beyond the us-vs.-

them mentality that still imprisons call it patriotic absolutism, which it and keeps it tied to fear and yes, oh Lord — war. Trump could foment a revolution that is the thinking has had its day. The priopposite of the one his campaign rhetoric called out for.

I believe a larger consciousness is waiting to lay claim on American politics.

Trump says build a wall. Even if the wall is mostly a metaphor, the effect of that metaphor is to lock in consciousness, as though "America" is the only truth Americans are capable of understanding: Fifty states and that's it. We're exceptional and the rest of you, keep out. never keeps people safe, but it award-winning journalist and eddoes keep them scared. You might itor.

yields fear, violence and war.

Trump or no Trump, this caged mary characteristic of truth, someone once said, is that it willingly yields to greater truth. It's convenient to organize a nation state around the lesser truth of us vs. them and the ever-lurking presence of The Enemy, but the time has come for this truth to yield to the greater truth of one planet, one humanity.

Perhaps it begins with these words: "I am a Muslim."

Robert Koehler, syndicat-Locked-in consciousness ed by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago



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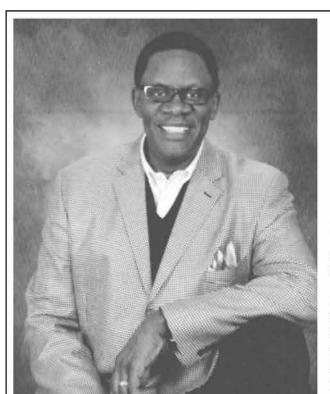
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: I feel exhausted all the impossible. He still climbed the steps at If the nerves are trapped or irritated. our energy will be drained as well. He took my advice and now instead of stopping halfway, he charges up the stairs, two steps at a time! If your vitality is giving up at the halfway mark, get charged up with Chiropractic. It's a natural!

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