

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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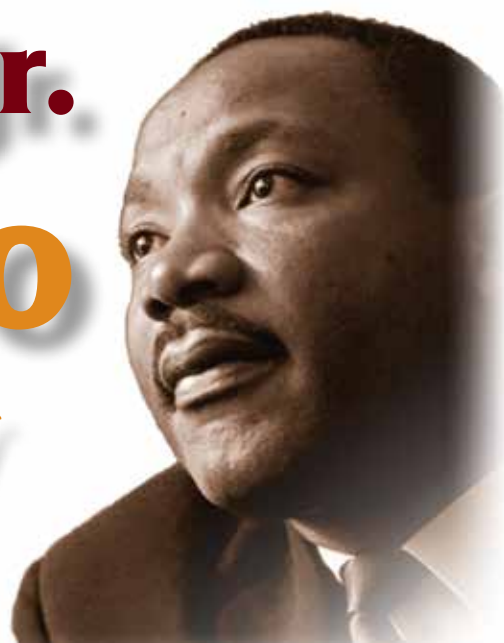


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2020

*Special
Edition*



The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIV • Number 3



'City
of
Roses'

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Wednesday • January 15, 2020

Committed to Cultural Diversity



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discovers
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herself***

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Fire Chief on Dr. King's Message

Sara Boone
embraces roots
in journey of
discovery

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Fire Chief Sara Boone, the first African American to head Portland Fire & Rescue, was born in 1969, a year after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, but as a young girl and woman she discovered his teachings as she was discovering herself.

"It was self-discovery of what blackness meant," Boone explained. "When you're older, you start reading books on African American history because in the U.S. education system you have many a day of celebration, but African American history is not really celebrated within the history of this country and I think that what I realized growing up was, 'Where do I get my identity? Where are my roots?'"

Boone said government and educational systems "completely eliminate objectifiable truth when it comes to African Americans and every other culture that has also



Fire Chief Sara Boone, the first African American to head Portland Fire & Rescue, talks with a little girl at a Juneteenth event last summer.

encounter with a fire inspector that led her to consider working for the fire department. She knew there were few if any people who looked like her in a department that was almost entirely male and white. Advancing diversity in the bureau is now a priority for her.

When she was younger, Boone saw black women become successful in modeling, sports, music and somewhat in politics.

"So I know that is the one thing that I can change at Portland Fire, is that we have to have visual representation, which means we have to be out there in the community.

"I have to be engaged when it comes to, 'Can you see yourself working for Portland Fire?' and not just for the African American community," she said. "Every culture that's out there, every ethnicity that's out there, we do have representation for now, and so I need to be able to message and market that to kids at a younger age. That's why it's so important — so they can see themselves."

Portland Fire & Rescue connects with young people through school fire safety events, community engagement, and hiring events. The department also has a public education office and a job recruitment office, she said.

"My challenge today, since I stepped into the Bureau, is to understand all the systemic and institutional policies and practices and removing barriers so everybody has a chance to succeed," she said.

Boone said the department needs to build trust in marginalized communities, like the thousands of people who lack a place to sleep or eat on a daily basis, "So that's a shift in what we're doing" with the new Street Response Team to primarily serve Portland's homeless population.

The Street Response Team, becoming operational this spring, answers Dr. King's call for compassion and service to others, Boone said. The integrated mobile health team is being assembled by City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's office by working with about 50 local stakeholders, including social and mental health care agencies, fire department, police bureau and 911 dispatch, Boone said.

"I think that Commissioner Hardesty realizes and understands is that there was a vulnerable population that wasn't getting the most appropriate response to meet their needs," she said.

Street Response is the latest evolution of the fire bureau, which earlier expanded to take on emergency medical care, Boone said.

"Where Street Response is dif-

contributed to the founding of this country and where we are today."

Studying great black leaders, like Dr. King, on her own, helped the future Portland leader learn more about her place in the world.

"Whether it was Malcolm X, whether it was Dr. King, or whether it was Barbara Jordan (Texas black activist and politician), whether it was all the great civil right leaders, everybody has a story to tell about what it was like for them and what they were championing," Boone explained in an exclusive interview with the Portland Observer.

It was in college that Boone expanded her reading of Dr. King and other civil rights leaders.

"One of my heroes is Marian Wright Edelman," she said. "She really pours her heart and soul into young kids, and it was her words, 'If you can't see, how can you believe?'" that gave her a lot of inspiration.

Boone said when you have to have kids seeing people just like them, from a diversity of races, taking part in varied occupations and professions, they can dream about their own futures in such lines of work, "So that is one thing that has always stuck with me. Who are your heroes? What is your imagination? What are the possibilities?"

Boone started out to be a teacher, and when she was a student-teacher right out of college, it was a chance

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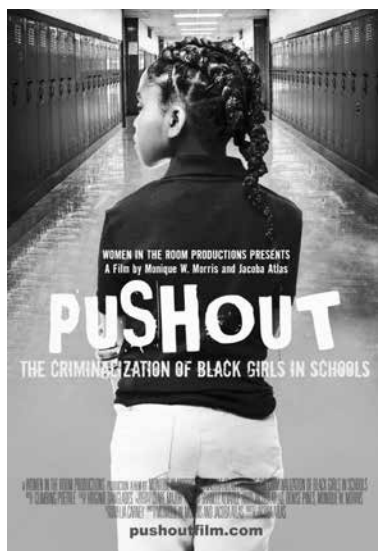


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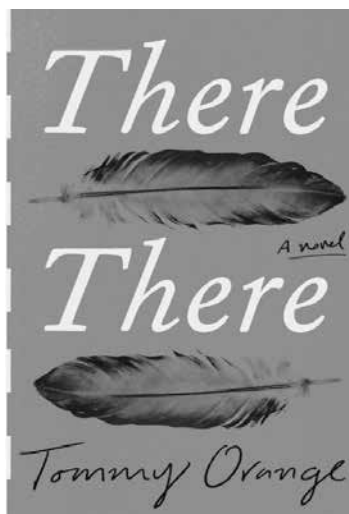
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LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY WORLD ARTS FOUNDATION, INC.

Planners of Portland's 35th annual event to observe and celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. birthday and national holiday are (from left) Michael "Chappie" Grice, president of World Arts Foundation, Inc., Ken Berry, executive producer of "Til the Victory is Won: A Tribute to the Life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and event security chief Steve Hollingsworth.

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

35th annual event includes speakers, entertainment

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

For the 35th year, Portland's World Arts Foundation, Inc. will host a celebration and observance honoring the birthday of America's foremost civil rights leader, titled "Til the Victory is Won: A Tribute to the Life

of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

The event will be held on the MLK National Holiday, Monday, Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St. and will include speakers, arts, awards and "musical tributes to local artists whose contributions have put Portland on the map and will last a lifetime."

The day's events will all focus on Dr. King and will showcase a variety of expressions in song, oration, dance and drumming. It will be live vid-

eo streamed on YouTube and Facebook and aired through Open Signal cable access, KBOO-FM radio (90.7 FM), worldartsfoundation.org on the Internet and also on XRAY.FM (107.1/91.1 FM).

Michael "Chappie" Grice, president of the World Arts Foundation, said one of the most important features of the event will recognize the contributions of individuals and organizations for exemplary community service, a tenet of

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Primary Set for Fish Vacancy

The Portland City Council has approved an election schedule to fill the vacancy left by the death of Commissioner Nick Fish who died Jan. 2 after a more than 2 year battle with stomach cancer.

Under the plan approved last week, the election for the

remainder of the Fish's term will coincide with the May 19 Primary Election. A special run-off election, if necessary, was set for Aug. 11 should no candidate receive a majority of the vote. The deadline to file for the office is March 10.

Fish was the longest serving

member of the Portland City Council. A celebration of life service in his honor has also been scheduled. According to his family, the public memorial event will be held Saturday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. in Hoffman Hall at Portland State University.

Communities of Color Leader Fights for Progress

Marcus Mundy says King's message more important than ever

BY BEVERLY CORBELL

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Editor's Note: As we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Portland Observer invited leaders of the African American community to reflect on the relevance of his message today. Marcus Mundy, president of the Coalition of Communities of Color, shared his thoughts about the civil rights leader:

Marcus Mundy was only 9 or 10 years old when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, but his parents made sure he knew what the great man stood for. Mundy's father was from Alabama and his mother was from Louisiana, so they knew first-hand the injustices that King railed against.

"They knew of him, knew

of his issues and imbued in us a sense of pride, of discipline, of working hard, all the things that he spoke about in his messaging for our families and our race, they taught us," Mundy said. "He was peers with my parents. My dad is in Tuskegee, (Alabama) and he (King) did a lot of his work in Montgomery, (Ala.)."

He said King's pronouncement for equality became more significant to him as he grew older and he internalized King's words to the point that he now often thinks of some of the civil rights leader's more memorable passages in his day-to-day life.

"When you're young, you don't get into it as much, but over time you see the resonance of his message, you see how important it is," he said. "I'm talking now to city leaders on a couple of civic ideas and quoting him from his letter from a Birmingham Jail, about how 'wait' almost always means 'never' and it's like these are things you

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PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Marcus Mundy of the Coalition of Communities of Color works to advance racial justice by organizing collective, cross-culture allies. Pictured at his downtown office, Mundy says the messages of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., America's foremost civil rights leader, influences his life on a daily basis.

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PO QR code

PUBLISHER: Mark Washington, Sr.

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A Campaign for Future Black Leaders

Natural Grocers partners with Jack and Jill nonprofit

Natural Grocers, the new natural and organic grocery located at Alberta Commons in the heart of Portland's African American community, and in conjunction with its other stores in Portland and across the country, has joined a public service campaign with Jack and Jill of America to support future African-American leaders.

Kicking off for the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday on Jan. 20 and continuing through Black History Month and beyond, the "Supporting America's Families Together" campaign will raise donations to support Jack and Jill scholarships to students attending historically black colleges and the nonprofit's other programs for young people like job and



The Natural Grocers store at Northeast Alberta and Martin Luther King Jr. and other Natural Grocers outlets are teaming up with the black-led nonprofit Jack and Jill of America to raise money for scholarships and other supports for future African American leaders.

internship opportunities and career training.

On Martin Luther King Day, 2.5% of all Natural Grocers sales across the country will be donated to Jack and Jill programs supporting the future success of black students. Additionally, starting on MLK

Day and running through the month of February, Natural Grocers' customers will have the opportunity to make contributions directly to the Jack and Jill charitable funds to empower future black leaders at any one of Natural Grocers' 154 store locations.

Jack and Jill America, with chapters in Oregon and across the nation, was founded by black mothers in 1938 with the mission of stimulating the growth and development of children through educational, cultural, civic, recreational, health and social programs.

Natural Grocers' goal is to empower people to reach a healthier lifestyle and approach to eating, company officials said.

"At Natural Grocers, our core principles not only define who we are, but also who we partner with in our mission to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities by providing access to affordable, high quality food and nutrition education," said Kemper Isely, Natural Grocers chairman and co-president. "As our partner, Jack and Jill of America, helps us to reinforce our purpose-driven mission to all communities across the country."

The new campaign started in October when Jack and Jill members received a Natural Grocers + Jack and Jill of America Partnership card, which when presented at a Natural Grocers check out automatically triggers an uncapped 5% of sales give-back to the organization.

"We have been thrilled with the response," said Tracy Mack-Askew, Portland Willamette chapter president.


 An advertisement for the Oregon Lottery's "Score Board" app. The background is red with white plus signs. In the top left, the "OREGON LOTTERY SCORE BOARD" logo is displayed. The main text reads "PLACE YOUR BETS FOR NFL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, it says "DOWNLOAD THE APP". On the right side, there is a black and white image of a football player in a helmet and jersey, holding a football. At the bottom, a pair of football gloves is shown. A small disclaimer at the bottom center states: "Lottery games should not be played for investment purposes."

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

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Dr. King's principles.

"Our organization's motto is, 'Working Hard at the Intersection of Arts and Education,' and this gives us an opportunity to live up to, in living color, our motto, our work," Grice said of the event.

"At the center of the production are the Lifetime Achievement Awards," he said. "They identify many unsung heroes

in addition to celebrating people who are known and those whose achievements not so well known, as well as reminding us of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, and that is to have equality and justice and progress and to do it with character and courage."

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award winners are Margaret Peoples, Deena Pierott, Pedro Anglada Cordeiro, Mercedes Munoz, Tamala

Newsome, Robert King, Karen Barker, Sam Sachs, Major Michael Jones, Adair Family Award, Don Wolfe, Arthur Cox and State Sen. Jackie Winters (posthumously).

The event is also an acknowledgement of local artists, a celebration of children and the opportunity "to extend the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by recognizing the struggle that is before us and the courage that it requires or is called

upon in each of us to bring justice to our community as best we can," Grice said. "It is our opportunity to acknowledge both the work and the dream of Dr. King, which we put on the stage."

Entertainment on the stage in the main auditorium will include internationally-acclaimed opera singer Angela Brown, the DaNall Daymon & Greater Works Choir, a variety of regional performers, the

American Music Program of Beaumont, Miss., the Portland Interfaith Choir Ensemble, Sebe Kan Jr. Dance Troupe, Ballet Papaloti and more including dance groups and choirs from Portland public schools, including the famed Jefferson Dancers of Jefferson High.

Ken Berry is the long-time executive producer of Portland's annual MLK observance, and deserves credit for its longevity, Grice said.

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'The Two Popes,' a Compelling Drama

OPINIONATED JUDGE

 BY
DARLEEN ORTEGA


Now that Oscar nominations have been announced, I am preparing by own list of the best films of 2019--and as usual, almost none of my picks are garnering Oscar recognition. "The Two Popes" is one of just two exceptions, with well-deserved nominations for its two lead performances by Jonathan Pryce (for best actor) and Anthony Hopkins (for best supporting actor) and for its wonderful adapted screenplay by Anthony McCarten. Although neither the film itself nor its talented Brazilian director, Fernando Meirelles are receiving recognition they also deserve, it's one of my favorite films of the year.

Writer McCarten has worked some real magic here, building a surprisingly engaging story around a series of necessarily invented conversations between the current Pope Francis and his immediate predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, who took the highly unusual step of stepping down from

the role in 2013. Nearly every other pope has served until death; why did Benedict, a staunch traditionalist who functioned as a guardian of conservative values, make such a dramatically unusual decision, especially with some likely sense that his polar opposite, Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, might well succeed him? Because so much of what happens in the world of the Vatican is shielded from the public view, we will never know for sure--but McCarten has found in this compelling question the basis for a worthy investigation into the state of Catholicism and how two men of integrity might well approach questions of faith, community, and leadership.

It's rare to find a film that approaches questions of faith with such nuance and respect--and that understands the relevance of the examination. Those who are not religious may not immediately be drawn to this material, but



PHOTO COURTESY NETFLIX

A struggle commences between both tradition and progress as two very different men (Anthony Perkins and Jonathan Price) confront elements from their pasts in order to find common ground and forge a future for the Catholic Church in the Oscar-nominated film 'The Two Popes.'

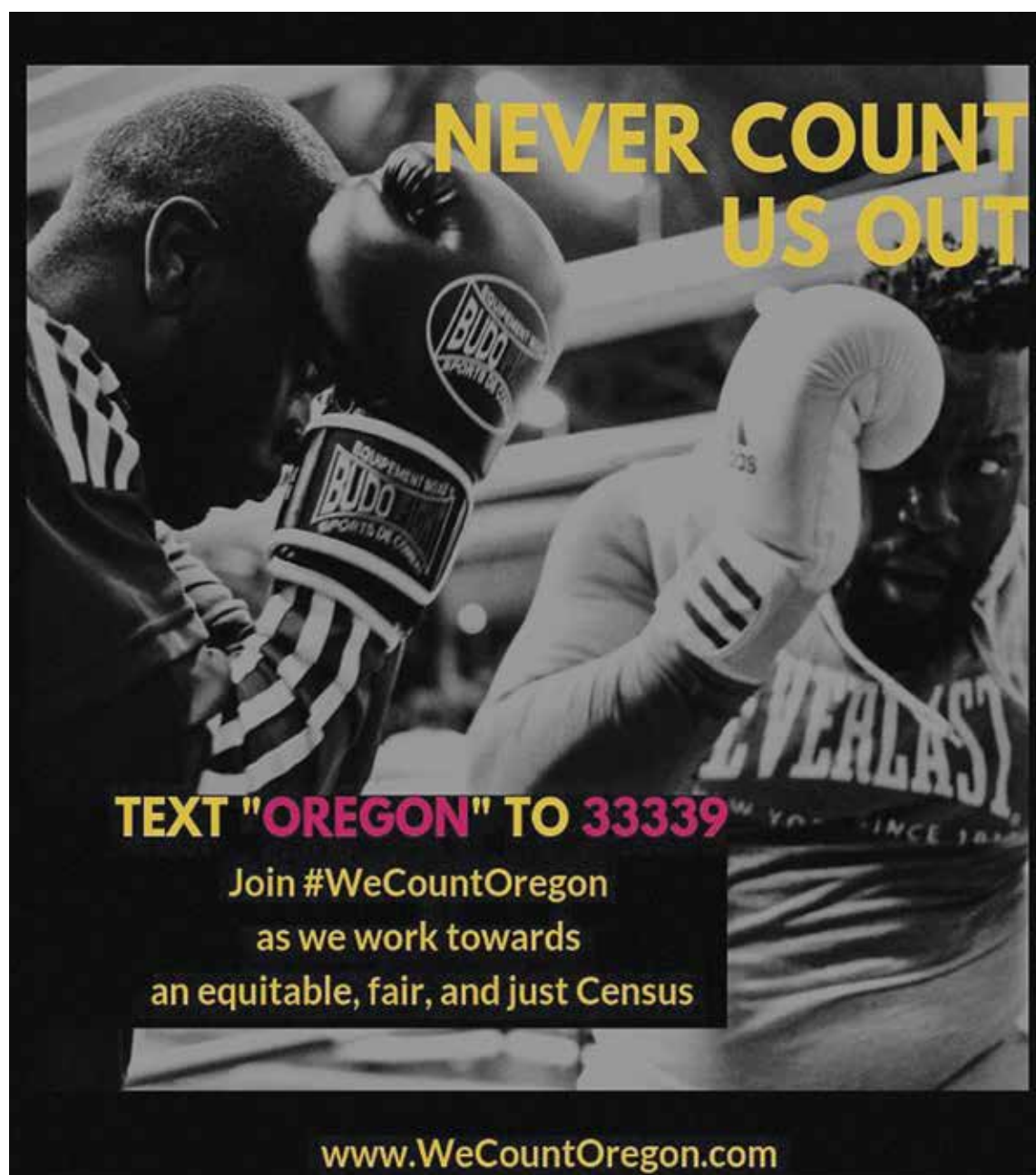
the filmmakers help you understand why you should care. In a world so deeply divided on matters of morality and distribution of resources, religion has so often served to deepen those divides, and these two men have, by all accounts, staked out opposite poles. Drawing from abundant

sources reflecting the histories, habits, and ideas of the two men, McCarten has imagined--assuming the best of both and according them appropriate respect--how they might converse about their faith, their doubts, and their fundamental disagreements. Like the British royal family, popes are famous and objects of great scrutiny while also being shielded from public scrutiny in other respects--yet, in the tradition of "The Crown," McCarten's imagined conversations convince us that

his speculations have captured some of what is more deeply true about the two leaders, even if the specific details are invented.

Pryce portrays Cardinal Bergoglio/Pope Francis as a person of ease, humility and compassion. His instinct is to connect, as he does with the limo driver sent to retrieve him at the Rome airport, the gardener at the pope's summer estate, the young guard at the Vatican. His conversations

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Communities of Color Leader Fights for Progress

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grow up with, and they just naturally flow off your tongue and in your thoughts.”

King was writing about things 50 years ago that resonant today, Mundy said.

“It’s just as real – that people in power don’t want to share power. They don’t think you’re as good as them, as smart as them, as capable as them, as strategic as them,” he said.

Mundy said King had such an influence on him that he often looks back at King’s language for inspiration.

“Whether I’m talking about the code change at city housing or homelessness issues or who gets to decide how a campaign is run in the city of Portland and the state of Oregon,” he said, “it’s beautiful that his words were so beautiful and striking, and it’s miserably sad that you’re still dealing with the same stuff today.”

Mundy said when he is disheartened by the futility of the struggle, he thinks of the necessity of the struggle and the relentless nature of the battle for full equality.

“You shouldn’t have to fight for those things,” he said. “You shouldn’t ever have to fight for what should be a basic human right, and certainly shouldn’t have to still be fighting for the same things that were exposed decades ago.”

The Coalition of Communities of Color, of which Mundy is president, is an alliance of 19 culturally-specific community based organizations with representation from communities of color, with a mission “to address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities, and to organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity.”

Mundy said each organization in the Coalition was founded to provide a social service, including housing, education and health care.

“Each one of our members was founded on principles of service to others, which is a lot of what Dr. King stood for, and fairness,” he said. “Fairness in contracting, fairness in access to public funds, and fairness in funds for services that can be delivered in a culturally specific way.”

About a third of the Coalition’s members are black-led and black-run organizations, including Self-Enhancement Inc., Africa House, KairosPDX, the Portland African American Leadership Forum and Unite Oregon, but other member or-

ganizations are geared toward other culturally-specific groups such as Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, Middle Eastern and even the Slavic community.

And even though Mundy is leading an organization that represents “different, disparate communities,” he can’t help but see the world through the eyes of a black man.

“I view the world, yes, through an equity lens, but there’s another lens – the lens of a black man having gone

through for decades and decades – American stuff,” he said. “And I can’t ever leave that behind when I’m making decisions or interacting with people or understanding how to get myself and our organization a place in this city, this world. How you see things affects everything.”

Mundy agrees that there is a lot of attention being given to diversity and equity by government and other organizations, which have expressed regret for the gentrification of North-

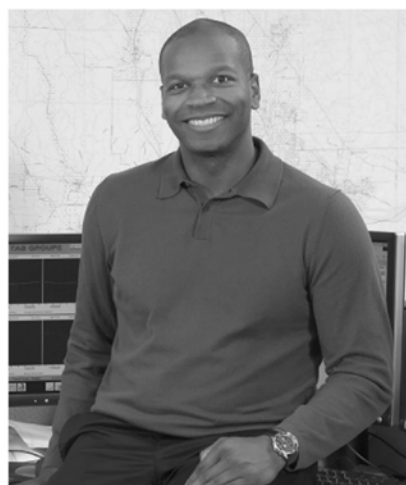
east Portland and unfair treatment of the African American community in the past, but he wants to see results, not just more words.

“That’s crocodile tears. I don’t need that,” he said. “If you don’t make policies that are inclusive and have some teeth and that there’s penalties if people don’t adhere to them, I don’t want to see your tears or hear your laments. It doesn’t mean anything.”

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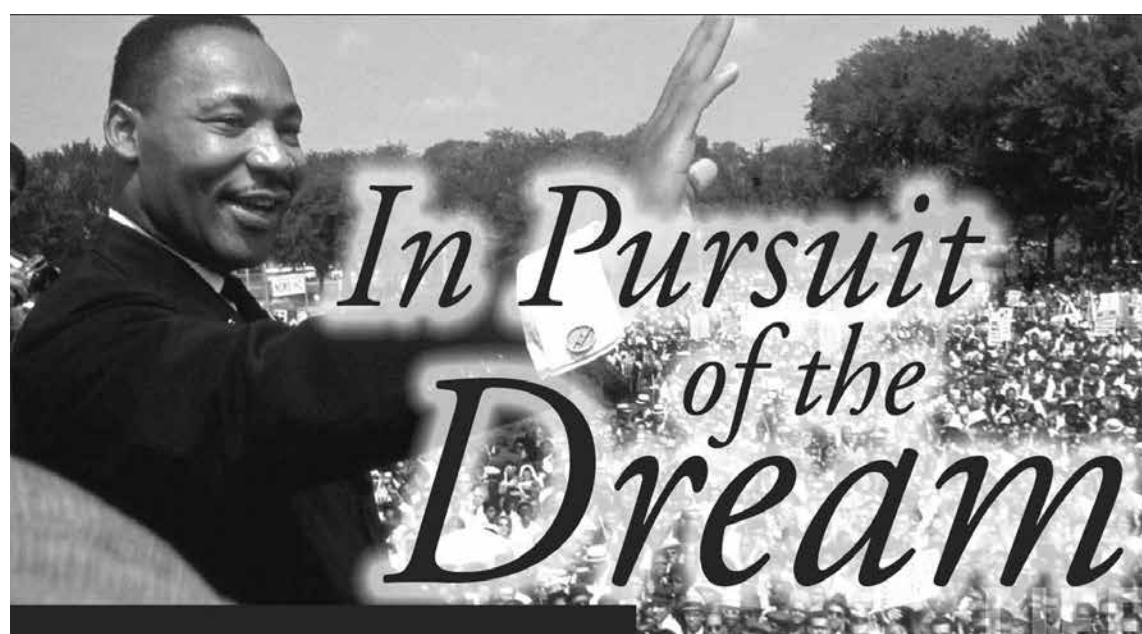
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'The Two Popes'

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with Pope Benedict give him pause to reflect on his past, as the younger Bergoglio (beautifully played by Argentine actor Juan Minujín) comes to his sense of calling and, as a young church leader, makes decisions he comes to regret during the time of the Argentine military dictatorship. We gain some perspective on what it means to have, for the first time, a pope from the Americas, a Jesuit, and the first pope from outside Europe since the eighth century.

In some ways, Anthony Hopkins has the more difficult task; the film's sympathies are unmistakably with Pope Francis, and his Pope Benedict is more formal, particular, and guarded. Yet he is astute; his point of view is based on principle, not merely habit or attachment. Arguments between the two afford compassion to their differing points of view and deftly convey a sense that each can be rigid in his way. They earn our respect as each convincingly earns the respect of the other.

Director Meirelles has recreated the privileged world of the Vatican with specificity and, at times, good humor. We see the opulence, the attention to protocol, the elaborate costume changes, the protection for power. Important scenes take place inside the Sistine Chapel, which has been convincingly recreated. Pryce, who has never visited the real Sistine Chapel, has said that he no longer needs to, and indeed, its depiction here is memorable. The film humanizes the trappings of power, allows us to marvel as we question them.

In a pivotal scene late in the

film, each man addresses his core struggles, his regrets, and each offers the other compassion and, ultimately, absolution, even while Bergoglio acknowledges that "confession cleans the sinner's soul" but "does not help the victim." Yet when Benedict, the guardian of tradition, indicates that he is considering stepping down, it is Bergoglio who advocates for tradition. There are many such shifts in the film, where the two men shift to opposite sides of the argument. And what emerges is a sense of how people of deep conviction might engage in genuine dialogue that engages both, and that assists both in the recognition of deeper truth.

In that late pivotal scene, Pope Benedict speaks with pain about his recent inability to hear God's voice. By the end of their conversation, he observes that "I've heard [God's] voice again . . . and it was the last voice I expected to hear Him speak with. It was your voice." That may well be something that Pope Benedict never said and never would have said to Pope Francis—but it is exactly the mindset a truly devout person would and could have in dialogue with an equally devoted adversary, not the kind of no-win conflicts we normally see and expect. As depicted here, the two popes are two men, evolving and listening for what is deeply true. And there is hope.

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

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"His vision is no different from the vision of other organizations that try to do the same thing, to celebrate our community, but 35 years is a mighty long time to do it consecutively," he said. "So this year's program is a really lifetime achievement award in itself for the World Arts Foundation," Grice said.

Another feature of the day-long celebration will be the Victory Village and Market-

place with a full range of arts, crafts, services, educational materials, food, photographs, films and "a cultural-rich network of arts and education advocates."

"Sunshine Dixon coordinates the Village, and it's like a big reunion," Grice said. "You can talk in there, while in the auditorium, it's hush-hush."

To learn more about the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, log onto the World Arts Foundation website at worldartsfoundation.org.

Fire Chief on Dr. King's Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ferent, is that if somebody's life is not in immediate harm, we have time," she said. "We have time to be compassionate because we're not treating the emergency heart attack where we have no time, we just have time to stabilize and transport."

Boone said most emergency calls to Portland Fire & Rescue are concerning chronic health is-

sues, mental health issues and substance use disorders.

"So that is a big area where first responders have to identify what is the right need and then what is the appropriate resource," she said. "And it's not the emergency room, because it's not life threatening, but it's how you navigate the health care system. And so that's where I think of Dr. King and his message, that you have to think of others first."

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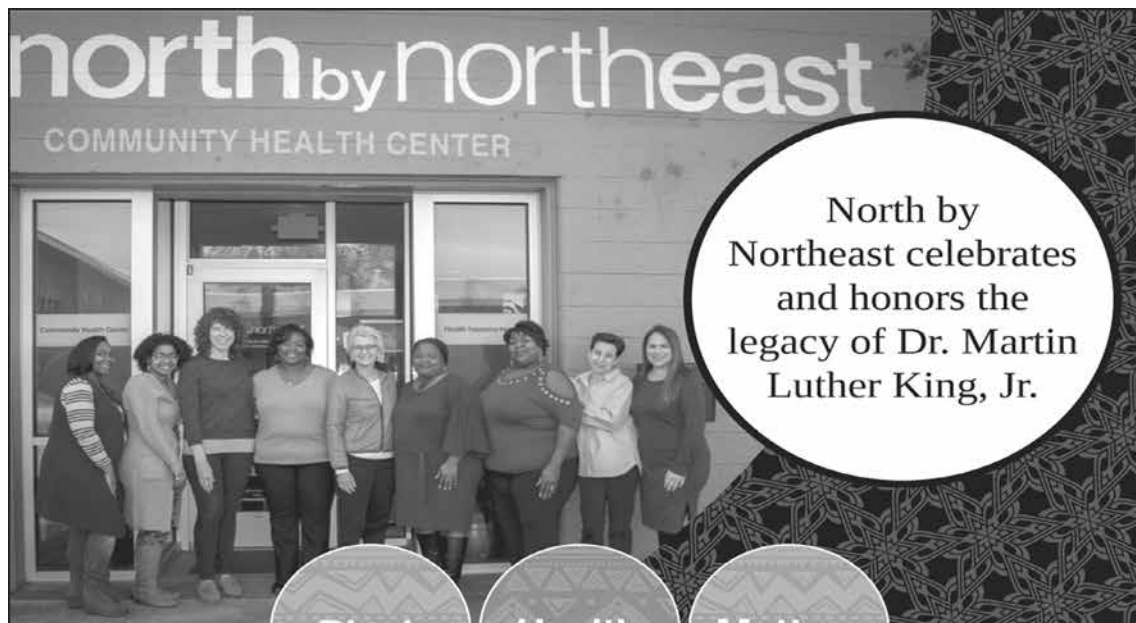
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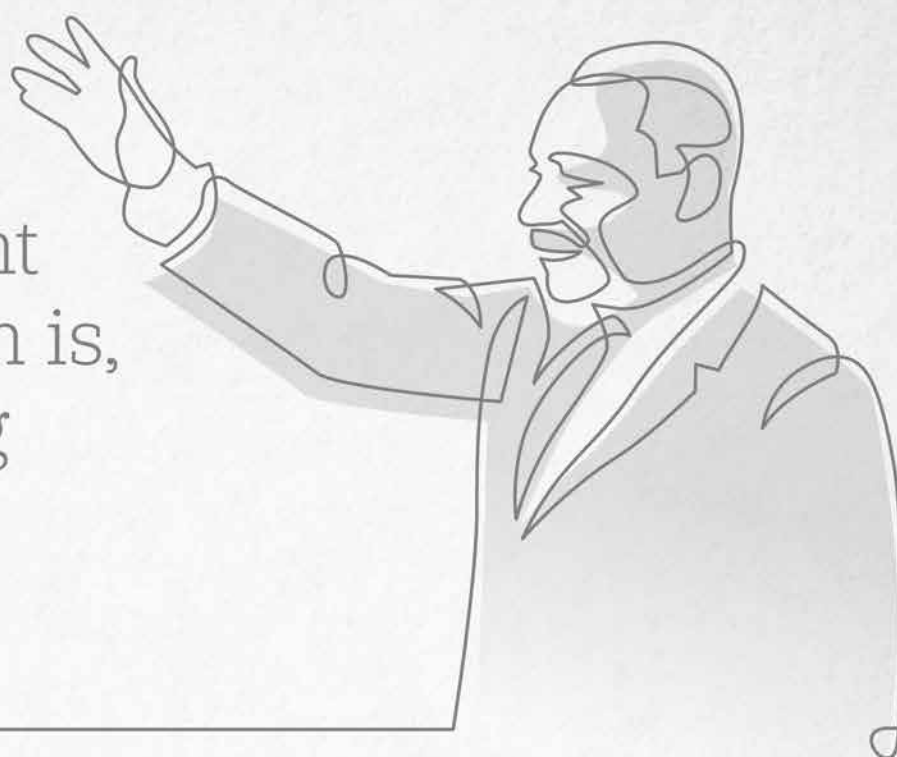
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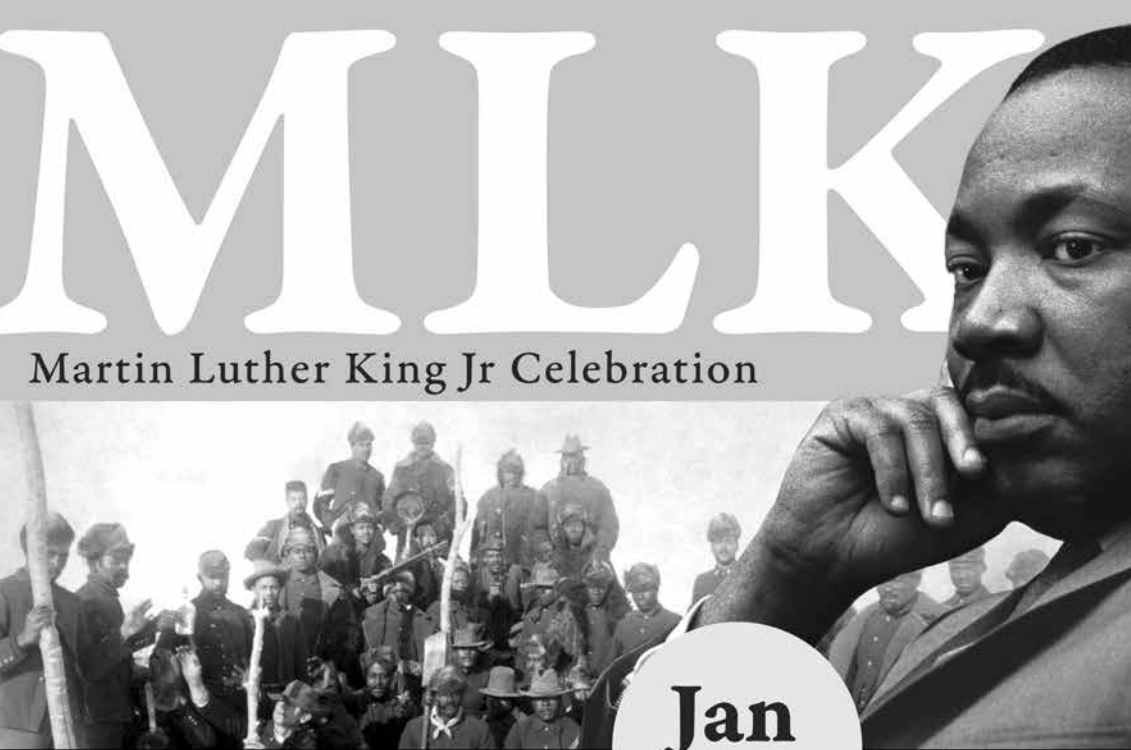
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King Meets Malcolm X

Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X meet for the first and only time, on March 25, 1964 in Washington, D.C. The two civil rights leaders had different approaches to their advocacy for racial progress. Malcolm X was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965 at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City, nearly three years before King was assassinated.



MLK

Martin Luther King Jr Celebration




Buffalo Soldiers

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
An interactive hands-on display of the history of buffalo soldiers/black cowboys.

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Jan 21



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United Way Weekend of Service

Volunteers sign up for projects honoring King

To honor Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy, United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and partners will be mobilizing hundreds of volunteers this weekend to perform community projects as part of its 13th annual MLK Weekend of Service.

From sprucing up libraries and school

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



PHOTO BY MEGAN ZABEL HOLMES FOR UNITED WAY OF THE COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE

Volunteers honor the legacy of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. by participating with SOLVE in the United Way's MLK Weekend of Service picking up litter on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Sixty community projects are part of this year's weekend of service and you can still signup at unitedway-pdx.org/mlk.



"WHAT DOES THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEAN TO YOU?"

"As a person of color, Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy serves as a daily reminder of my obligation to make my community a better place everyday. The sacrifices made by him and his peers have afforded me the opportunity to succeed in places my family never dreamed of, and I hope I can lay the groundwork for other people like me to find success in new places."

Horacio Peña
Fan Development Coordinator

"Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy has impacted me because I can live as a black woman, and pursue countless opportunities, in America due to his sacrifice. While I still face many dangers due to the color of my skin and gender, I am grateful, blessed and inspired to live each day to the fullest and by my best self."

India March
Brand Strategy Production Coordinator

"His legacy impacts me every day as he paved the way for me to be able to do what I do with the Trail Blazers (advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion). When I think of him and his legacy, I think of a quote by Lilla Watson, "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." He embodied that quote, and part of my life mission is to be the embodiment of what King fought and died for."

Octavia Chambers
Director of Equity and Inclusion

"MLK has impacted my entire life. From facing adversity head on to keep fighting and working for a life that I know I deserve."

Brian Buck
Corporate Ticket Sales Manager

"Without Martin Luther King Jr., I wouldn't understand the power my own voice has in speaking up for others that may not feel seen or heard. I am thankful for his contributions and without him, I wouldn't be fortunate enough to experience things my grandparents couldn't experience in the Jim Crow south."

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King Defined by Rousing Speeches, Letters

His words
continue to have
relevance today

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Though he wrote five books and delivered up to 450 speeches a year, Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is often defined by his most famous speech, "I Have a Dream" delivered at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March

on Washington, and his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" written in the same year.

The words of America's foremost civil rights leader stirred great emotions across the country and the world at the time, and are still so relevant even today. An excerpt from the "I Have a Dream" speech illustrates his commanding use of language to illustrate the racial divides and the hopes for progress, ending with its most well-known passage.

"In a sense we have come to



Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers a speech in Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

our nation's capital to cash a note to which every American check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory

note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pur-

suit of happiness.

"As we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, 'When will you be satisfied?' We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

His "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" is also relevant, especially when we consider the last year's student-led Climate Strike demonstrations and the earlier Women's March.

"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct action campaign that was 'well timed' in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word 'Wait!' It

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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May 23

Oregon Symphony and Resonance Ensemble join forces to present the World premiere of An African American Requiem, Portland composer Damien Geter's bold, thought-provoking musical response to violence against African Americans in the United States. Combining traditional Latin Requiem texts with civil rights declarations, poetry, and the famous last words of Eric Garner, "I can't breathe," this performance will honor past and present victims of racial violence and spur reflection on how to build a more hopeful future.

FOOD




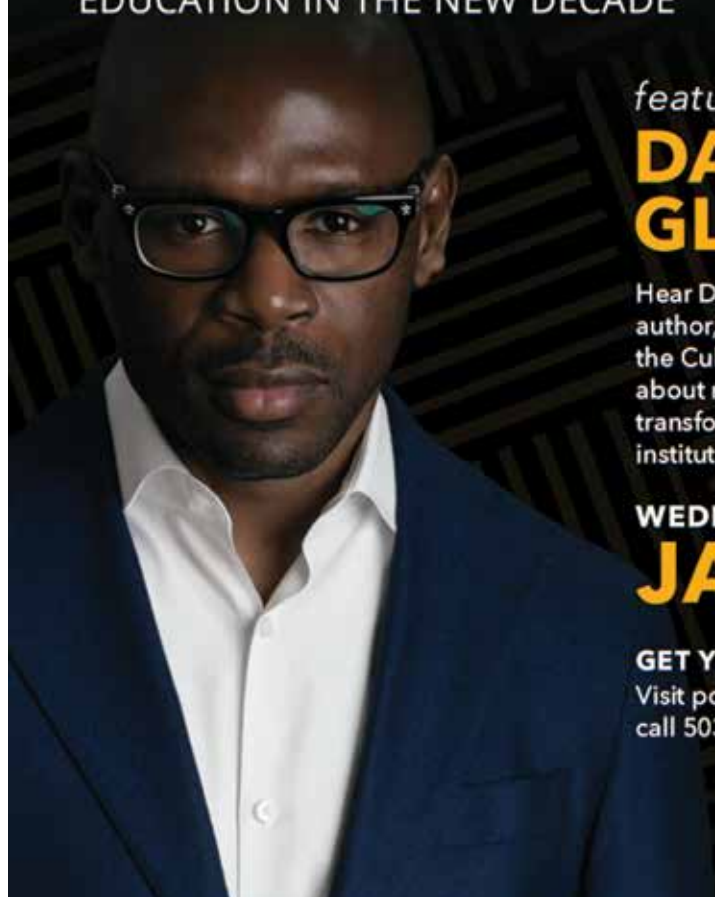
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New Low Carb Bread

Franz Bakery is ringing in the New Year by introducing a new bread with no carbs, no added sugar and is high in fiber. The northwest's family-owned baking company's new KETO white bread is building upon the resurgence of low-carb dieting and a growing demand for healthy low-carb baked goods. At only 40 calories per slice - it's ideal for individuals on a keto or low-carb diet. Gone are the days of having limited options for making an excellent sandwich with low carbs. Now, there's an excellent option available from Franz.

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Keynote Speaker: Dr. Miles Davis, Linfield College

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Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his most famous "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington, Aug. 28, 1963.

King Defined by Rousing Speeches, Letters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "wait" has almost always meant "never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

Although some of King's language, like the use of "Negro" are now dated, and some justice and equality issues for black Americans have changed for the better, the racial divide in America is still stark. His words still carry a clear ring of truth today, and perhaps as never before.

Other speeches King gave may have been less well-known, but just as controversial and moving, like his "Beyond Vietnam – A Time to Break Silence" speech on

April 4, 1967 at Riverside Church in New York City.

Although many of his advisors begged him not to give this speech about his opposition to the war in Vietnam, and President Lyndon Johnson stopped speaking to him afterward, King's words echo today as the current escalation of conflict with Iran unfolds in the headlines.

"We are taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them 8,000 miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in Southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools."

On March 25, 1965 at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala. at the end of the Selma-to-Montgomery march, he delivered the speech "Our God is Marching On!" marking a triumphant end of the first phase of a modern civil rights movement and a successful fight for voting rights while showing his determination to continue the civil rights movement for other advancements of full equality.

"They told us we wouldn't get here. And there were those who said that we would get here only over their dead bodies, but all the world today knows that we are here and that we are standing before the forces of power in the state of Alabama saying, 'We ain't going to let nobody turn us around.'"

"I come to say to you this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because 'truth crushed to earth will rise again.' How long? Not long, because 'no lie can live forever.' ... How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

On July 4, 1965 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King delivered the sermon "The American Dream – A Nightmare?"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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PHOTO BY OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO

King Meets with the Reverends — Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (center) visits Portland's Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church in 1961 where he met with faith leaders from the African American community during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. This weekend, the church at 3138 N. Vancouver Ave. will host its annual Drum Major celebrations for the whole community in honor of the civil rights leader.

Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

Church celebrations empower the dream

Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave., invites the community to join them for its annual Drum Major celebrations honoring Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Two special events will be held

over the MLK holiday weekend, a "Salute to Greatness" awards and scholarship luncheon on Saturday, Jan. 18 at noon, and a community wide interfaith church service on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. with musical entertainment and spe-

cial speakers, including keynote speaker Dr. Miles Davis, the first black president of Linfield College, and greetings from Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, Mayor Ted Wheeler and other government leaders.

Saturday's event will honor community leaders as drum ma-

jors for progress, living up to the ideals of the late civil rights leader. Ms. Rukaiyah, the chief investment officer of the Meyer Memorial Trust and chair of the Oregon Investment Council, will be the luncheon's keynote speaker.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

OPINION

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.

College Admission Tests Biased and Unhelpful

SAT and ACT can't predict student success

BY JILL RICHARDSON

A lawsuit is taking on the University of California system's use of the SAT and ACT standardized tests in admissions. The suit claims the tests are "deeply biased and provide no meaningful information about a student's ability to succeed."

As a sociologist who's looked at the research, I agree the tests are biased.

For instance, studies show that students whose parents have more education and/or higher incomes do better on the tests. Test scores are also racially biased, with whites and Asians scoring better than blacks and Latinos in ways that are "unlikely" to be "explained away by class differences across race," according to Brookings researchers.



Why does wealth impact your SAT score? There are several reasons.

Public schools are funded by property taxes, so students from wealthier families in poorer neighborhoods can use their financial wealth to go to better-funded schools. They can afford to take test prep classes, and they can afford to take the test multiple times to improve their scores. Additionally, students from wealthy families are more likely to get access to disability accommodations (like extra time) on the exam if they qualify for them.

But there's a second part to the lawsuit's claim: These test scores don't even predict a student's ability to succeed in college.

This appears to be correct as well. What does predict college success? High school GPA. This makes sense: The skills students use to get good grades in high school are more or less the same ones they use to get good grades in college. The skills used to take a standardized test general-

ly aren't.

In America, we like to think we live in a meritocracy, where people get ahead through brains, grit, and hard work. We don't.

Instead, students from low-income families are already at a disadvantage in the school sys-

tem, for a long list of reasons. Even the most talented and hard-working child born into a poor family is going to struggle to compete with wealthier peers.

ly aren't.

In America, we like to think we live in a meritocracy, where people get ahead through brains, grit, and hard work. We don't.

At the time the reporter visited, the school had been failing for so long that it had lost its accreditation, and yet it was still teaching students — or failing to. How could even the best

and taught.

apply to college.

That said, if standardized tests are biased against low-income students and students of color — and if they don't even predict success in college — then what are they even for?

Under these circumstances,

Public schools are funded by property taxes, so students from wealthier families in poorer neighborhoods can use their financial wealth to go to better-funded schools. They can afford to take test prep classes, and they can afford to take the test multiple times to improve their scores.

tem, for a long list of reasons. Even the most talented and hard-working child born into a poor family is going to struggle to compete with wealthier peers.

In an episode of This American Life, a reporter followed an honor student around his high school in Ferguson, Missouri. In an entire day he had only three academic classes, and only one

students in that school compete with peers who had full days of classes with teachers teaching in their schools?

While the school system cannot single-handedly correct for all social ills and inequalities, it should do what it can to level the playing field for all students. And efforts to increase equity need to start long before students

the only function they can possibly serve is as a roadblock to social mobility for students who were not born into privilege — and as an extra unearned advantage for those who were.

OtherWords columnist Jill Richardson is pursuing a PhD in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Distributed by OtherWords.org.

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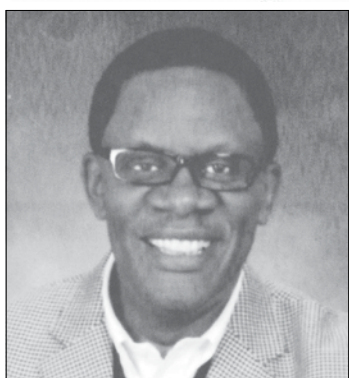
Part 23

Chiropractic And Knees:

Knees need to know how Chiropractic helps too.

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Dr. Billy R. Flowers

headaches disappeared. In short, he got that healthy happy feeling of Chiropractic. If you have knee pain or if you have any question concerning your health at all, call us today. Isn't it time you stepped up to Chiropractic?

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OPINION

Don't Expect Fair Elections in 2020

We are in a fight and it won't be a fair one

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

The African American journey through American history can be summed up in two words – unjust and unfair.



From the moment we first set foot on the North American continent, we have been subjected to atrocities both great and small. Armed with a culture of white supremacy bolstered by their religion and world view, Europeans seeking to create empires spanning the globe built their dream with the lives and labor stolen from Africans and other peoples from around the world.

And while the flames of former imperial aspirations have settled into the glowing embers of financial and military hegemony, control over much of the world's resources remains in the grip of European nations and the Western nation states they spawned.

America, one of those spawns of European colonialism, is a curious mix of posturing as a rebellious breakaway from old European values while being the most ardent advocate of the old-world concept of white supremacy. America has managed for centuries to juggle its race hatred and

notions of democratic fervor with a skill unmatched elsewhere in the world.

As 2020 dawns, it is imperative that people of color accept the reality that significant numbers of European Americans are willing to deny us of our rights in order to maintain a world order that favors them. These people who identify most with their European ancestry and have an explicit or implicit bias against people of color are preparing to trash the constitutional values they hypocritically claim to love so dearly in order to put people of color "back in our place."

With the national disgrace who squats in the White House leading the hate-mongering, Republicans and other conservatives are preparing to strip the vote from people of color and make it impossible for our voices to be heard in the nation's elections in November.

People of color are being purged from voting rolls, and the polling places most convenient to us are being closed. Conservative judges recently appointed by Trump are not likely to find fault with these tactics. They will find no fault in these injustices and illegalities being carried out by even the worst violators of the Constitution.

But this is not the time to give up. Nor is it the time to give in. I am old enough to remember when white bigots ruled the South and threw up barricades in front of every black

person who wanted to exercise his or her right to cast a ballot. I remember the marches, the fire hoses, the dogs and the baton wielding "law enforcement officers" used against our people. And I remember the courts ruling that this was the way it should be in America.

Today, there are many European Americans we can count as our allies, just as there were during the civil rights movement. But we must not lull ourselves into believing that they are in the majority. Fifty-three percent of white women voted for Donald Trump despite his crudeness, dishonesty, ignorance and all the other negative qualities he possesses.

Many pundits tried to sugarcoat the reason for Trump's popularity by saying his message of economic prosperity was his appeal. But they never tried to explain why his message had no appeal for poor people of color. The truth is Donald Trump had only one thing to sell to America, and that was white supremacy. This nation had just been through eight years of a president with dark skin, and it is no secret that this drove many European Americans into a type of madness. They saw their world of white supremacy, that took centuries to build, beginning to crumble before their eyes. And this was something they could never allow.

With the law once again bending back towards their advantage, white supremacists want to keep

people of color away from the voting booths in order to continue this regression. And we must do everything we can to prevent that.

We must organize and support groups to review the latest voting rolls in order to identify people who were unfairly purged.

We need to urge those who have been unfairly purged to re-register to vote.

We must help those who have been purged for cause to become qualified to register and vote. But if a person is ineligible to register, they need to be informed so that they do not fall in the trap of violating local election laws by trying to register.

And we need to arrange to get people to the polls, especially in communities where nearby polling places have been closed and transportation is needed to reach the new ones.

We also need to encourage people to vote by letting them know how important this election is.

Finally, we need to encourage qualified people to become candidates and support them, both during their campaigns and once they have been elected to office.

We are in for a fight and it will not be a fair one, but it is a fight we can win, just like we won more than a half century ago.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices law in Virginia.

Injustices Created the Racial Wealth Divide

Bridge the gap for kids with 'baby bonds'

BY JESSICAH PIERRE

The gap between America's ultra-wealthy and the rest of us is growing dramatically as wealth continues to concentrate at the top at the expense of the rest of us. One major symptom of this economic rift is the racial wealth divide, which is greater today than it was nearly four decades ago.

The median black family today owns \$3,600 — just 2 percent of the \$147,000 of wealth the median white family owns. At the extreme top, the Forbes 400 richest Americans own more wealth than all black households, plus a quarter of Latino households, combined.



When analyzing the racial wealth divide, it's important to note that this is a systemic issue — a result of policies, not individual behavior.

Darrick Hamilton, executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State, emphasizes that the key ingredient of how successful you'll be in America isn't how hard you work individually — it's how wealthy your family is.

For instance, the racial wealth gap continues to grow despite rising rates of black employment and education. These other things simply can't make up for enormous, systemic disparities in family wealth.

Hamilton's proposed solution? "Baby bonds."

Baby bonds are federally managed accounts set up at birth for children and endowed by the government with assets that will grow over time. Neither the child

nor their parents would be able to access these funds until the child reaches adulthood, at which point they could use the money to get an education, purchase a home, or start a business.

Baby bonds could play an essential role in balancing the historical injustices that created the racial wealth divide.

One recent study shows a baby bond program has the potential to reduce the current black-white wealth divide more than tenfold. Another shows that had a baby bond program been initiated 40 years ago, the Latinx-white wealth divide would be closed by now — and the black-white wealth divide would have shrunk by 82 percent.

Baby bonds are an essential, universal, race-conscious program to provide everyone with an opportunity to start life off secure, irrespective of their race and the financial position in which they're born.

And they're just 1 of 10 bold

solutions offered in a 2019 Institute for Policy Studies report on closing the racial wealth divide, which counts Hamilton among its coauthors.

"Large scale policy change," it concludes, "is the most promising path to addressing the racial wealth divide and many asset poor whites as well." The report also recommends solutions ranging from Medicare for All and higher taxes on the wealthy to setting up a congressional committee to study reparations.

Just like all other issues of inequality in America, the racial wealth divide is a structural problem that requires structural solutions. In order to create economic prosperity for every American, we must start with taking bold action to close the racial wealth divide once and for all.

Jessicah Pierre is the inequality media specialist at the Institute for Policy Studies.



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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Performing for King's Birthday

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Angela Brown, an internationally acclaimed opera star, will sing at the World Arts Foundation's annual Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration on Monday, Jan. 20 at the Highland Center in northeast Portland, and at other local churches the same week, along with free concerts on Jan. 22 and 22 at Roosevelt

and Franklin high schools.

Growing up, Brown said she had "a keen awareness" of Martin Luther King Jr. through her grandfather's church, and like many black families, hers had photos of the civil rights leader at home, along with pictures of Jesus and President John F. Kenney. In an interview with the Portland Observer, Brown said the country has made some strides in



PHOTO COURTESY ANGELA BROWN

Internationally acclaimed opera star Angela Brown will be in Portland for multiple performances this month, including the annual Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration on Monday, Jan. 20 at the Highland Center, free 11 a.m. performances on Jan 21 and 22 at Roosevelt and Franklin high schools, and a public reception on Thursday, Jan. 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the June Key Delta Center, 5940 N. Albina.

race relations, but still has a long way to go. When asked what she thinks Martin Luther King would say about race relations today, she was blunt.

"He would probably feel like things have been turned back," she said. "We made a lot of strides, of course, in his time as far as social acceptance, going to school where you want to and eat where you want to.

"But other things are about the soul – how people treat one another, things no mortal man can fix," she said. "That's a God thing, and I think he would be disappointed, to say the least."

When Angela Brown was in high school in Indianapolis, she told the magazine Psychology Today that a voice teacher told her she could

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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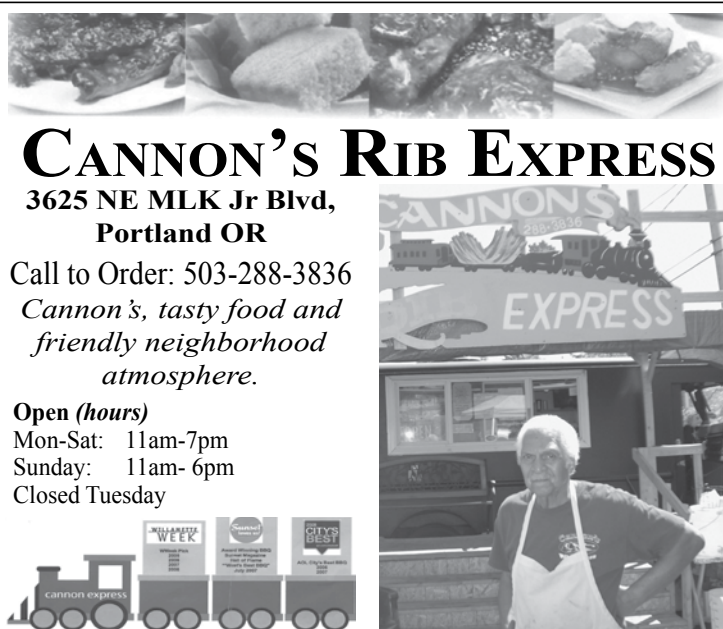
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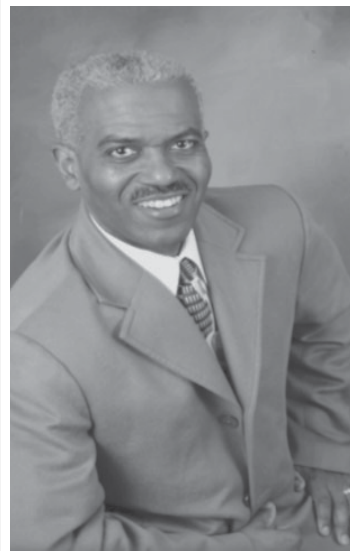
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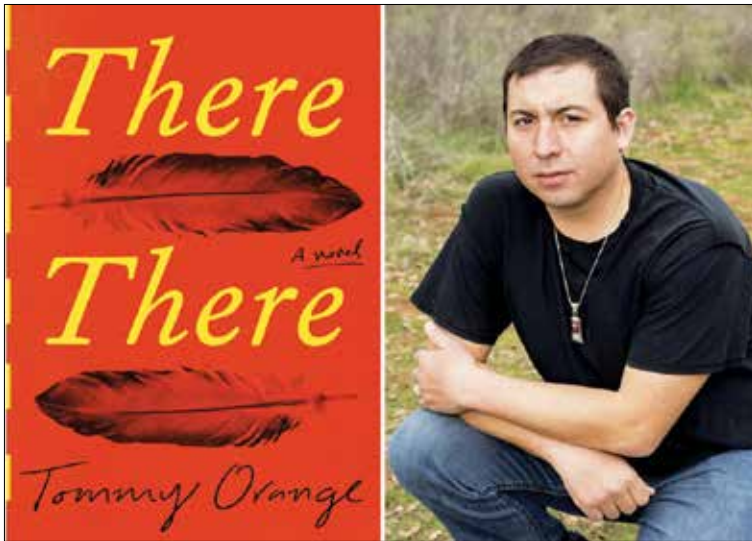
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Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Tommy Orange is the bestselling author of "There There," a novel about the urban Native experience. (AP photo)

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Multnomah County Library invites the community to participate in Everybody Reads 2020, featuring Tommy Orange's debut novel about the urban Native experience, "There There."

Free copies of "There There" are available to pick up at all library locations without a library card while supplies last or down-

load the e-book or audiobook from the library catalog. The library encourages readers to discuss the book, and share their copies with friends, coworkers and neighbors.

The library will host a series of events from Jan. 15 through March 5 to support discussion of the book and its themes.



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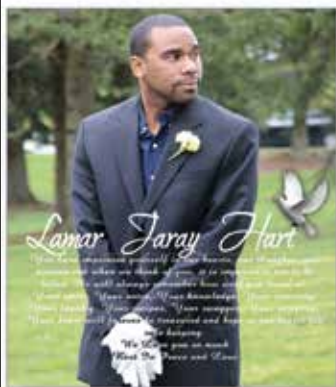
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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Performing for King's Birthday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

"stop right there" and be the next Aretha Franklin, or she could "be the best Verdi soprano the world had ever seen" by working hard for at least a decade, mastering vocal techniques as well as foreign languages.

Brown opted for the latter and never looked back. And after her debut with the Metropolitan Opera as Verdi's Aida, she received accolades far and wide. Brown said she's grateful to the black women opera singers who came before her, people such as Jessye Norman, Kathleen Battle and Leontine Price.

"I've been blessed and had so many trailblazers, she said. "I have a better opportunity than black men, and it's harder for them to break in, especially in leading roles where they may be kissing someone who's not black."

"I definitely have heard stories where black male singers have been hired, but once they get to rehearsal they are let go because the director wants to 'go in a different direction.' It helps to grow that thick skin that you will need."

Brown's path to stardom was a long one and she had to go through several auditions with the Met before she was finally accepted. The answer, she said, is just to keep on

trying.

"You have to keep going back. If they offer feedback, take it and take it seriously, because that is the upper echelon of our business," she said. "Sometimes it's not the right fit at that moment, but it's just for that moment they say no. When your ticket comes up, you'll be cake in the oven. Just try not to get depressed and weary."

This is the first time that Opera in the Park, which sponsors opera performances in Washington Park during the summer, has sponsored a wintertime performer in an expansion of their mission, said Sharon Buckmaster of Opera in the Park.

Brown said she's particularly excited to perform for the high school students. "I think it's exceptional that so many schools wanted me to come and present opera," she said. "From a cultural point of view, it demystifies opera."

Brown says Opera is for everyone. "It is not an elitist art form that is unattainable," she said. "Yes, it originated in Italy, but the subjects are far and wide, about people of the world. Opera is you. There are African operas like "Aida," there are Asian operas like "Madam Butterfly," there are Spanish operas like "Carmen," and American operas like "Susannah" and "Charlie Parker's Yard Bird."

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Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

The theme of Sunday's community service is "Now is 'still' the time!" The Pa-

cific Youth Choir under the direction of Mia Hall will render music as will the Linfield College Choir under the direction of Dr. Anna Song.

The public is encouraged to attend both programs.

"In times like these, it is imperative that we gather as community to work together, celebrate together, and collaborate together to en-

sure a vibrant, inclusive and constructive future," said Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee. "The spirit and legacy of Dr. King, Mrs. King, Mrs. Parks, President Mandela, Malcolm X and so many who came before us is what gives us encouragement and hope that we will overcome the difficul-

ties, stresses and strains of now and continue to build the 'Beloved Community.'"

Vancouver Avenue is one of the oldest African American congregations in Portland and the only church in Oregon where Martin Luther King Jr. addressed what he called the Beloved Community in November 1961 as part of his trip to the Pacific Northwest during the Civil Rights Movement.



Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave., hosts its annual Drum Major celebrations honoring Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with two community wide events, a 'Salute to Greatness' awards and scholarship luncheon at noon on Saturday, Jan. 18 and a community wide interfaith church service with musical entertainment and speakers on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

He said rosy statistics by some major companies to show their diversity and inclusiveness are often deceptive.

"Nike likes touting itself, but whenever there's layoffs, a lot of blacks lose their jobs," he said. "It's a national company and they use national numbers, but most of their employees are lower paid employees at their Memphis distribution center, their hub for distributing all their stuff. And so the people in Memphis – that's a lot of black employees."

But the highest paying jobs at Nike are all in Beaverton, at the company's world headquarters, and those employees are mostly white, he said.

"You can find black people everywhere, but the people at the top making the big, big bucks, they don't look like people of color," he said. "But they (Nike) still get to report decent numbers (for diversity)

because they have a flood of lower income (black) employees they can count in Memphis."

Mundy said he is always suspicious of glowing reports on employee diversity.

"You can play with stats, but you need to get underneath them," he said. "Is it anybody who ever worked on the job? Is it permanent employees? Sometimes you can get a flood of employees but they're only in there for a week's worth of work. You have to get underneath how they count."

One wonders how Dr. King would see progress in race relations today – or the lack thereof – but although he's relentless in his goal of ensuring Portland's communities of color have a place at the table, Mundy was realistic when asked if some people are "cooking the books" in reporting diversity in their organizations.

"Always. Always," he said. "There's nothing new under the sun."

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

- Martin Luther King Jr.



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United Way Weekend of Service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

gardens to sorting books for kids to packaging donated food for families in need, four days of activities begin Friday and continue through the MLK holiday on Monday, offering countless opportunities for community members to give back and help build Dr. King's vision throughout the Portland metro region.

The MLK Weekend of Service is presented by Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon and supported by Intel, Nike, Dunn Carney, Tonkon Torp LLP, Umpqua Bank, with special thanks to U.S. Bank.

"Dr. King's legacy of service continues to inspire and remind Oregonians that we all have a role to play in bettering the health of our communities," said Angela Dowling, President of Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon. "Regence and our employees are proud to partner with United Way and Hands On Greater Portland in support of this mission."

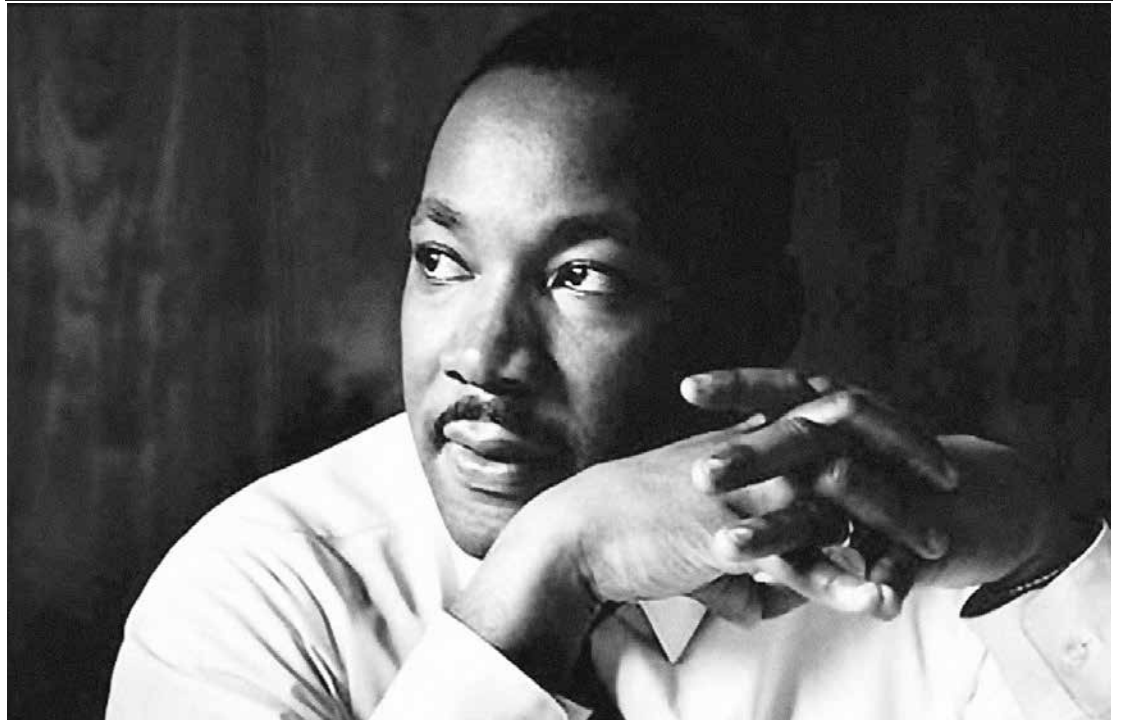
"Our MLK Weekend of Service is an incredible opportunity for people to come together to honor Dr. King's legacy," said Cindy Adams, President and CEO of United Way of the Columbia-Willamette. "With over 60 volunteer projects and 1,500 volunteers across the region this year, community members can continue striving for the changes Dr. King championed – including ending poverty and advancing racial equity – and make a real impact for tens of thousands of children and families."

This year also kicks off United Way's centennial celebration. Since 1920, our local United Way has been bringing the community together to do good. In addition to honoring Dr. King's legacy, the local non-profit celebrates its historic role in strengthening schools, families and communities across the region.

For a full list of MLK Weekend of Service volunteer activities and to sign-up, visit united-way-pdx.org/mlk.

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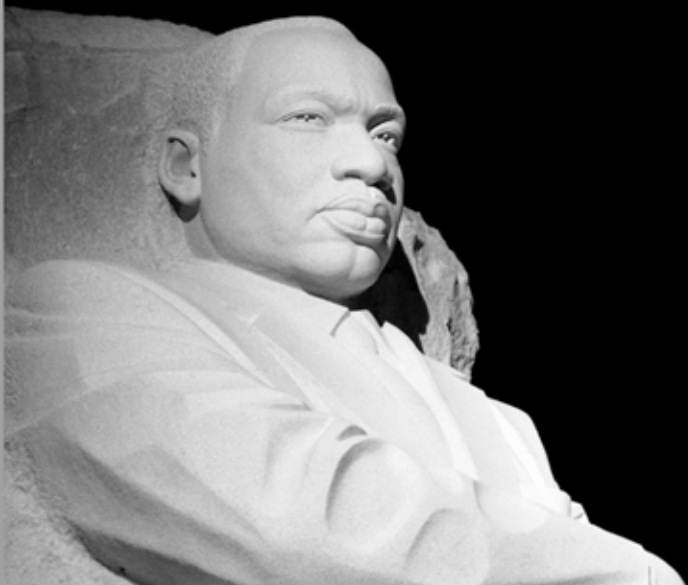
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King Defined by Rousing Speeches, Letters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

about the need to give living wages to workers with menial jobs, an issue that certainly still rings true today. He talked about the dignity of all work, saying that even menial workers should make enough “so they can live and educate their children and buy a home and have the basic necessities of life.”

“About two years ago now, I stood with many of you who stood there in person and all of you who were there in spirit before the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. As I came to the end of my speech there, I tried to tell the nation about a dream I had. I must confess to you this morning that since that sweltering August afternoon in 1963, my dream has often turned into a nightmare.

“I’ve seen my dream shattered as I’ve walked the streets of Chicago and see Negroes, young men and women, with a sense of utter hopelessness because they can’t find any jobs. ... I’ve seen my dream shattered as I’ve been through Appalachia, and I’ve seen my white brothers along with Negroes living in poverty. And I’m concerned about white poverty as much as I’m con-

cerned about Negro poverty.”

On July 18, 1952, a year before his marriage, King wrote to his future wife, Coretta Scott King, sharing his affection for her:

“My life without you is like a year without a springtime which comes to give illumination and heat to the atmosphere which has been saturated by the dark cold breeze of winter.”

Then he switched gears, reminiscing about a book he had just read on economics that mirrored his “radical” views on economic justice, views that continue to be discussed today, that equality won’t happen in America until there’s a radical redistribution of wealth.

“I imagine you already know that I am much more socialistic in my economic theory than capitalistic. And yet I am not so opposed to capitalism that I have failed to see its relative merits. It started out with a noble and high motive, to block the trade monopolies of nobles, but like most human systems it falls victim to the very thing it was revolting against. So today capitalism has outlived its usefulness. It has brought about a system that takes necessities from the masses to give luxuries to the classes.”

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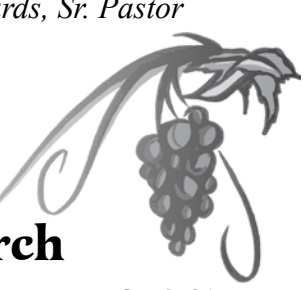
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While racial equity is the primary lens to focus our efforts, we understand the connection between racism and other forms of bias that lead to oppression.

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PHOTO COURTESY WARNER BROS.

Michael B. Jordan (left) and Jamie Foxx in a scene from "Just Mercy," a new historical drama about a young black lawyer, Bryan Stevenson (Jordan), and his history-making battle for justice.

NAACP Screens Film on Justice

The Vancouver NAACP will celebrate the national Martin Luther King Jr. holiday by sponsoring a public screening of "Just Mercy," a new film about a young black lawyer, a recent Harvard graduate, as he defends an innocent man accused of murder.

Starring Jamie Foxx, Brie Larson and Michael B. Jordan, the movie tells the story

of poor black men being railroaded into death sentences while encountering racism and legal and political maneuverings.

The screening will take place Monday, Jan. 20 at 3:30 p.m. at the Vancouver Mall AMC movie theater. Tickets are \$10.06 per person and available on the Vancouver NAACP website at naacpvancouverwa.org.



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