

Former Portlander teaches, writes



Former Portland resident, Luella Cranshaw McKay, has recently published her book on American Blacks.

by Nathaniel Scott

(Detroit) -- With pride, pleasure and appreciation I file this article from the motor city because it presents to Portland and Oregon a native Portlander: Luella Cranshaw McKay, author/publisher of "America's Slave Descendants of the House of Israel".

Ms. McKay, a tall, slender, graceful woman, obtained her formal education in Washington and California. After that, she became a licensed instructor in Cosmetology; she married Jasper Lewis McKay (deceased) and had one son, Nicholas William, who resides in California; and she embraced the Bahai Faith, in which she received the distinguished title, "Knight of Bah'u'llah", for pioneering and teaching the Faith in Spanish Morocco, North West Africa.

She holds many awards and is listed in Marquis "Who's Who of American Women", eighth edition, and "World Who's Who of Women", fourth edition.

The book, "America's Slave Descendants of the House of Israel", shows Blacks as Israelites. It is specifically aimed at the American Blacks -- the descendants of slaves.

She said that she wrote the book for two reasons. "First, so we (Blacks) could become cognitive of our roots. And second, to know our purpose."

She went on to say that "we are the descendants of Jacob, and his name was Israel, so we are the descendants of Israel. And we are like the latent cream of humanity."

Ms. McKay's book is laced throughout with verses from the Bible and in conversation she maintains that basic philosophy, but, the gist of her words goes much deeper. She said, "We are not in an environment that's conducive to education. We are slaves to prostitution; slaves to drugs; and the churches are ineffective as far as I am concerned."

She said the Black man is progressing but he will never catch up because he is at the back of society. And some of the Blacks' criminal plight (entering into criminal patterns) is because of the unseen sin. "The unseen sin is the power and principles taking away who we are; the taking away of affirmative action," she said. "Identity is very important because with identify we will become confident in ourselves."

"The 60s was a beautiful era, but we have gone back into our stupor. Our political Black leaders have been attacked and dethroned. It is because we have been stymied. Let Black people ask themselves, 'Do we have affirmative action? Are we progressing?' We are stumbling around in darkness -- we are in a quandary."

The book, "America's Slave Descendants of the House of Israel" may or may not reach the charts of the literary critics; it might not meet with religious sect approval. If the coming of age is ever to be, it, as well as other books that dispense information about a lost people (the American Blacks) must be read, digested and accepted as informative information.

Young, gifted, Black

By Marie Martin

It's interesting how young people view themselves and the world around them. As a young person, I view myself as intelligent, goal oriented, proud; but most of all, young, gifted and Black.

Young, Gifted and Black; a theme that can never be over used, for all Black youth are gifted. The problem is that we as youth don't know it or utilize that knowledge. We should know by now that we can't depend on Portland Public Schools or similar institutions to teach us our heritage that indeed make us proud. We are going to have to do it ourselves.

Do you know what makes me the proudest? The walking historians in the Black community, who, unlike the generation before me, are taking a stance and holding ground. They

give me the motivation to take a stance here. I have noticed in my early life how cruel this world can be. How can I or anyone else stand back and let things affect them without saying or making any attempts to do something about it? Now, I know the question is, how can we, as young people, do something? It's very simple: Take pride in ourselves and in what we do and positive things will come to us. Read, listen and become aware. I guarantee you young people will lend an ear.

Another important thing is to have a goal; the desire to strive for something. If you are young, gifted and Black or know someone who is, give me a call at: Urban League Northeast Youth Service Center at 288-6708, just so we young people will know what we have going for us!

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INTERESTING FACTS

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Although Franklin Roosevelt won all 4 of his presidential elections by big margins, he never carried his home county -- Dutchess County, New York.

New Year's used to be celebrated on March 25 in the English speaking world until the present calendar was adopted in 1752.

Oddly, hardly anyone knows who wrote the world's most popular song, "Happy Birthday To You." It was written by two forgotten sisters, Mildred and Patty Hill.

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Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
Aka Joe West

(Writer's Comments: The following statements were taken from the testimony of Dr. Della Penna, who testified as a expert witness in the recent prison overcrowding case. The questions were asked by a lawyer representing Prisoners Legal Services of Oregon. Dr. Della Penna talks about the inadequate medical services at Oregon State Penitentiary. He addresses the need for organization in the medical department and other issues but for this first installment we will focus on his testimony concerning unlicensed medical technicians and the tasks they perform in the medical department.)

Q. Can you tell the Court whether or not from your observations and examination of records and other data whether, in your opinion, these unlicensed medical technicians are performing tasks that should only be performed by medical doctors?

A. Well, they are performing tasks - some of the things they are doing should be performed only by doctors - yes.

Q. Now, are there other types of tasks that they could perform under the medical supervision of a physician?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you elaborate briefly on what they are doing and what type of supervision they should have?

A. They are doing a number of things. First of all, they are screening inmate complaints during the dispensing of pills downstairs near the control area in the morning, and inmates come with various medical complaints, and it's through a door without any medical instruments, without any examination table, with nothing except being able to talk to an inmate across a doorway. People are screening for specific complaints and decisions are made as to whether they should see the doctor for that complaint.

Again, there are no guidelines for this. And it's also an inappropriate way to make that decision. So they are in that capacity making diagnosis and diagnostic decision about the needs for treatment.

Q. Is there any accountability in the work that they do to a physician?

A. No. One of the issues that I addressed was the issue of whether there is any regular supervision of staff or whether there is any regular audits or review of medical records in performance of staff, through the medical records.

And another thing which indicated to me that Dr. Diaconi was not really aware of how these people performed was in his deposition he was unable to give the name of the medical assistants. And so that this

activity which again is going on without any written guidelines or any directions with people doing it who have different backgrounds, who are not licensed. It's also going on in a way that is unmonitored and unauthorized.

Q. Now, they don't even keep a log of contacts each day, do they?

A. There are several lists that are generated. But it's clear to me how many of the activities is represented in these lists. There are lists for example, of people who come to see the doctor in the clinic area. There is not a list or any entry in the medical records of an inmate that comes up with a complaint who may be dealt with by the medical assistant at the window, who never does get to the clinic. The decision for that inmate not to see the doctor might have been the wrong decision, but there is no reviewing of that. There is no record of that.

(Writer's comment: Dr. Diaconi is the Chief Medical Officer and Chief physician for Oregon State Penitentiary. The above illustrates the power of unlicensed medical assistants at Oregon State Penitentiary. It is clear indictment of what can happen if and when that power is abused for whatever reason. Dr. Della Penna goes on to talk about the records kept on the actual wards.)

Q. Doctor, let me ask you, did you have an opportunity to examine the records kept on the actual wards?

A. Yes I did. And this is at the penitentiary?

Q. Yes. And can you tell the Court in your opinion, whether those records are adequate records?

A. They are also inadequate records. There were patients in there with complicated medical problems who might have been there for weeks and weeks, but during that period of time they might have had a note from three doctors for two or three times. Again, inmates are also writing in those records. And they did not contain any overall treatment plan. There were patients that were on the ward for example, a man had been admitted for chest pains the night before, yet, there was no admission history or physical or anything relating to the admission other than the reason why he was admitted there. This is unacceptable practice.

Q. Now sir, can you describe for us, what, in your view, would be the necessary training that the medical technicians should have that they currently do not have?

A. Well, it's difficult to answer that question because at this point they are performing at so many levels. They are performing as physicians at some levels and therefore, a great deal of training

would be necessary in order to bring them up to that level.

I would say that the physicians or the medical assistants, or the, let me rephrase that. I would say that many of the activities that are being performed by the physicians or the medical assistants properly should be performed by registered nurses or physician assistants or nurse practitioners, and I think that they would have to have training that those classes of individuals have, or the credential processes that they have met.

Along this line, I would point out

Vigil seeks prison visitation

A vigil on the steps of the Capitol Building in Salem will continue until the prisoner visitation bill is adopted on the legislative session ends. The bill would allow corrections officials to establish a family visiting

program at no cost to the State. The bill passed the House with a 44-15 vote and went to the Senate Monday. It has been referred to Ways and Means, where supporters fear it will be shelved.

(Writer's Comment: We will continue with Dr. Della Penna's testimony and that of Dr. Gualitieri who also testified as expert in the case. This material is brought to you to broaden the picture of the medical facilities at Oregon State Penitentiary.)

Beware check protection plan

The built-in checking account protection plan intended to prevent checks from bouncing is one of the many services offered to consumers by financial institutions.

"An account protected by this type of overdraft service usually costs the consumer more than a regular checking account, and the bank will protect checks only up to a certain limit," says Marilyn Lunner, Clackamas County Extension agent.

Those who have one of these protective features with their checking accounts and find themselves relying on it regularly might be getting into a debt problem

rather than protecting themselves against overdrafts.

"Face the fact that you are writing checks for money you don't have when you use this service," Ms. Lunner advises. "You are, in effect, asking for a loan each time you use the protection. These loans may be easy enough to pay off now, but if you continually rely on them, your debt may continue to grow."

Using an overdraft service, especially on a regular basis, is going further into debt. Consumers should stop this practice before the debt problem gets out of hand.

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