

Bronze Sculpture of Civil Rights Heroine Debuts in Nation's Capital

ST. LOUIS--A 2-foot tall cast bronze statue of renowned civil figure Rosa L. Parks is slated to make its national debut at a celebration in Washington D.C., commemorating Mrs. Parks' 77th birthday.

Created by Artis Lane, acclaimed portrait artist and sculptress, the bronzing of the statue was commissioned by St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch Companies in time for the black-tie birthday gala which was held on February 4th at the Kennedy Center. The lifelike sculpture captures both the dignity and quiet courage of its subject, who is referred to affectionately as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

In 1955, Mrs. Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white passenger led to a yearlong boycott that sparked a national movement for racial justice.

Commenting on the serene strength and determination of the sculpture, Wayman F. Smith III, vice president of corporate affairs at Anheuser-Busch Companies, said, "This is a captivating work of art that reflects Mrs. Parks' dignity and commitment." He added, "Anheuser-Busch is very pleased to make the presentation of this sculpture possible in time for Mrs. Parks 77th birthday."

Artis Lane, creator of the sculpture, is nationally known for her portraits and bronzes of famous people, including many Hollywood celebrities. A recent exhibit of her bronze works at the M. Hanks Gallery in Santa Monica, Ca. drew critical acclaim for their sensitivity and spirituality.

Lane has exhibited her works all over the world and has pieces included in the collections of President and Mrs. Bush, Oprah Winfrey, Quincy Jones, Bill Cosby and Sidney Portier.

According to Anheuser-Busch's Smith, efforts are under way to have the Rosa Parks sculpture permanently displayed in a prominent museum for the general public to see and enjoy.



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AFT Celebrates Black History Month

To kick off Black History Month this February, the American Federation of Teachers proudly salutes two of its charter members, both leaders in the Black community and in the labor movement.

"The pursuit of civil rights is one of our union's proudest achievements," said Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). "Since our first day of operation in 1916, the American Federation of Teachers has been in the forefront of the civil rights movement."

As early as 1918, the AFT embarked on a campaign to demand equal pay for Black teachers and called for the election of Blacks to local school boards.

The AFT struggled to integrate its own ranks and, finally, in 1957 expelled those locals that refused to admit Blacks. In the process, the union lost nearly 7,000 members. The result, a fully integrated union, was worth it.

PCC Literacy Program Sets Tutor Training at Rock Creek

The Portland Community College Literacy Program will present a training session for prospective tutors Saturday, March 24th, at the PCC Rock Creek Campus, 17705 NW Springville Rd., Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tutor trainer Marie Hermanson will give an overview of the Volunteer Tutoring Program and list volunteer opportunities in the PCC district.

Tutors are needed days and evenings to provide literacy help to adults of diverse backgrounds. Volunteers will receive college credit and free tutor handbooks, said Dorothy Brehm, program supervisor. Further information is available from Brehm at PCC, 244-6111, ext. 4903.

Black leadership quickly developed during this nascent period. Two worthy examples of outstanding leadership were Mary Church Terrell and Layle Lane.

Mary Church Terrell dedicated her life to the advancement of Blacks, women and the labor movement. In 1895, she was appointed to a District of Columbia school board, the first Black woman in the country to hold such a position. Terrell was also a charter member of the National Association of Colored Women and served as its president from 1896 to 1901. She was a charter member of the American Federation of Teachers.

Layle Lane was active in the teacher union movement for 50 years, from the early 1900s to 1952. She chaired the first human rights committee for both the AFT and its local in New York City in the early 1990s.

Lane, a New York City social studies teacher, also ran a summer camp for disadvantaged Black children. Her last assignment was as an exchange teacher in Puerto Rico.

"These women are representative of the many Black leaders, both past and present, who fight for civil rights and human dignity," said Barbara Van Blake, AFT director of human rights. "We proudly remember their accomplishments during Black History Month."



B. Dalton Bookseller Celebrates Black History Month With A Black Interest Book Catalog

Growing Trend in Black Interest Books Noted and Nurtured by the Bookselling Enterprise

NEW YORK, NY--To celebrate Black History Month, B. Dalton Bookseller is offering a free catalog - featuring over 90 books concerning Black people, history and culture - to customers in select B. Dalton stores.

The full-color catalog includes a variety of categories such as biographies, women's literature, classic Black litera-

ture, fiction and folklore, children's books, history, and culture and revolution. John Edgar Wideman, author of a number of award-winning and critically acclaimed works, provides an inspirational introduction to the catalog. All of the featured books are available at participating B. Dalton stores.

Sensing a growing demand for Black interest books, B. Dalton significantly expanded the existing Black Interest section in its top 100 stores last year. The move proved to be an especially successful one, resulting in an overwhelming increase in sales in that category. And while the trend seems to be growing nationwide, Black Interest sections in a number of stores -- such as Decatur, Georgia, where the local B. Dalton has 1/3 of its space dedicated to

Black interest books -- continue to grow at an astonishing rate.

Currently, the most popular Black interest subjects are biographies, especially those about Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and fiction including works by Toni Morrison and Alice Walker, which consistently show strong sales. 'I Dream a World,' a collection of interviews and photographs of Black women, who changed America, Mark Mathabane's 'Kaffir Boy' and 'Kaffir Boy in America,' Rev. Ralph Abernathy's 'And The Walls Came Tumbling Down' and Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mockingbird' are a few of the titles doing exceptionally well at this time. Stores have also reported a blossoming interest in juvenile books, as more and more parents select titles which include Black characters, folklore and history.

According to Steve Riggio, Executive Vice President, "We're delighted that the Black Interest category is being explored to a greater degree. Our intention is to keep providing a varied selection of quality books in that section and continue to nurture its development through expansion, promotion and increased awareness and dedication from the buyers and store personnel."

Last Week To See, Field To Factory: Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940

(A Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition)

Opened Until February 11th
Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center
5340 N. Interstate Avenue
Portland, Oregon
(Tri-Met Bus #5)
(503) 243-7930

Mon. & Thurs., 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.;
Tues. & Weds., 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.;
Friday, 12 Noon - 4:00 p.m.; Saturday, 12 Noon - 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Fred Meyer Charitable Trust, Oregon Committee for the Humanities (an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities), Oregon Art Institute, Oregon Historical Society, Pepsi-Cola Company, Oregon Arts Commission, Metropolitan Arts Commission, and City of Portland.

Black Families and the Railroad in Oregon and the Northwest: An Oral History Shown Feb. 11, Lecture and Show

Michael Grice will lecture and show his video production, Black Families and the Railroad in Oregon and the Northwest: An Oral History, at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Avenue, Sunday, February 11, 1990 at 4:00 P.M.

The traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution exhibition, Field To Factory welcomes the public to come share their experiences at this event on the final day of the exhibit sponsored in part by the Oregon Committee for the Humanities and Fred Meyer Charitable Trust.

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