

BLACK HISTORY

Federal Agencies Celebrate Black History Month

The Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker, the nation's top authority on African-American church music and a pioneer in the field of ethnomusicology, is the key note speaker for the Black History Month Celebration sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Sharon Mitchell, KGW-TV news reporter, will host the Feb. 2 event in the Robert Duncan Plaza, 333 SW First. The program begins at 9:30 am in the third floor conference rooms and is free and open to the public.

Reverend Walker, called a "Harlem Renaissance Man" by Jessie Jackson, is a minister, author and essayist, composer, and painter. The Brockton, Mass., native has written eight books including "Somebody's Calling My Name" considered a landmark in the field of ethnomusicology. His research in the field spans a decade. He also is a composer of sacred music and senior pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ.

An astute businessman as well as a minister, he developed more than \$33 million worth of low-income housing in central Harlem under the

sponsorship of his church. He was board chair and later a director at Freedom National Bank for 10 years. He also was Urban Affairs Specialist to the late Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York.

He earned a B.S. and M.S. in Divinity School. Reverend Walker has been awarded several honorary doctorate degrees and also has done graduate work at the University of life in Nigeria and the University of Ghana at Legon.

Walker currently is a Commissioner for the Program to Combat Racism sponsored by the World Council of Churches. He is active in the international peace movement and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and Namibia as chair of the Religious Action Network of the America committee on Africa.

Also on the program is the Martin Luther King School children's choir and soloist Tracy Harris. An exhibit, "Women Against The Odds," will be on display and awards will be presented to winners in the "Color and African-American Scholar" competition for grade-school children.

Night Court And Day Care Offer Healthy Alternatives

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child care programs. The infant and toddler program fills a critical need for the area and can accommodate up to 16 students ages six weeks to thirty months. The second child care program provides before and after school services to children ages 6 to 10, and it can accommodate up to 50 children. Participants enjoy the center's educational toys and games, a gymnasium, outside play grounds, arts and crafts, and caring supervisors.

If you would like to "so something about it," consider volunteering for one of Night Court's activities. For more information, call Lieutenant Ray Yant at the Moore Street Center at 503/282-2571.

This Black History Month Sway To The Beat Of calypso And Reggae With Horizons' "Caribbean Music: History In Motion"

This February, join National Public Radio's (NPR) award-winning cultural documentary series *Horizons* for a black History Month exploration into the rich and colorful heritage of calypso and reggae music.

The series will use archival and live, on-location recordings, and commentary from scholars and musicians to trace both calypso and reggae. Anthropologist, ethnomusicologists, and historians will discuss the role of music in the day-to-day experiences of the people of the Caribbean and the role key musicians have had in shaping Caribbean thought.

The first two half-hour programs focus on calypso, believed to be the oldest Caribbean popular music form. Reggae is the focus of the series' third and fourth programs. "Born in the late 1960s in Jamaica, reggae has emerged as the music form that most reflects the social and political change taking place in the Caribbean," says music expert Von Martin. "It speaks to the people, it speaks for the people, and it speaks with the people."

The Bank That Helps The Community

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parishioners and the community. When its furnace recently failed, St. Marks needed a loan in a hurry or else become anything but the warm place a church should be. St. Marks approached American State Bank with a quick loan request. American State made the loan. The furnace is back in business. And St. Marks service to its parishioners remains uninterrupted.

None of these activities are big name, headline-grabbing initiatives. Nor does American State Bank and its management employ a public relations effort to brag about high profile, often politically motivated loans. No. American State labors here in North-east with the rest of us, without fanfare or public relations gimmicks, but with honest commitment to make progress and help out our community whenever it honestly can. American State always asks "How can we make this loan? How can we help to build our community?"

Showtime Celebrates Black History Month With Festival of Children's Programming

Narrators Include Denzel Washington, Morgan Freeman And Whoopi Goldberg



SHOWTIME celebrates Black history Month with a festival of animated children's stories honoring black culture. The newest episode on the AMERICAN HEROES & LEGENDS series, "John Henry" (top), kicks off the festival on Wednesday, February 3 at 7:30 AM (ET/PT). Denzel Washington narrates the story of the steel-driving hero, with music by B.B. King. Also airing on Thursday, February 4 at 7:30 AM (ET/PT) will be a replay of AMERICAN HEROES & LEGENDS: "Follow The Drinking Gourd" (bottom), a story narrated by Morgan Freeman about a slave family's escape via the underground railroad.

PSU Celebrates Black History Month

Departments throughout Portland State University have banded together to present a diverse selection of events in celebration of February as Black History Month. All events are open to the public. They are free unless otherwise noted. For complete information call Gwen Jagermuth at 725-5652.

February

1st Black historian Carl Mack lectures on the black experience, 12-1 p.m., Room 296 Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, sponsored by Black Studies, 725-3472

Black history film *They Shall Moulder Before They Shall Be Taken*, 12-1:30 p.m., Smith Center's Parkway Commons, first floor, 1825 SW Broadway

2nd Sandra Awang, University of Toronto, discusses "Afrocentric Resistance In The Diaspora: Slave Women Higglers In The Caeribbean," Room 298 Smith Center, sponsored by Black Studies, 725-3052

3rd Jazz performance by the

Andre St. James Quartet, 12-1 p.m., Smith Center's Parkway Commons, first floor, 1825 SW Broadway, sponsored by Pop Music Board, 725-5661

5th Reggae performance by the African Kings, 12-1 p.m., Smith Center's Parkway Commons, first floor, 1825 SW Broadway, contact Pip Music Board, 725-5661

8th Black history film, *Harlem Renaissance*, 12-1:30 p.m., Smith Center's Parkway Commons, first floor, 1825 SW Broadway

9th Tribute to Black Women, presentation by black male students, 12-1 p.m. Room 327 Smith Center, sponsored by PSU's Black Cultural Affairs Board, 725-5660

12th Dance Step Show presented by the black sorority on campus, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and by PSU's black fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi, 12-1 p.m., Nordic Room (Room 26, basement of Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway)

(The remaining events will continue in next week's issue.)

Keeping The Dream Alive

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respected gathering place? That's what happened at Geneva's across the front of the lounge. This was in honor of a performance we had done at Jefferson High School with the *Herero Dancers*. Also, we had travelled to Oregon State Penitentiary and given free dramatic performances, our first real road trip.

It wasn't long before the road trips began to come more and more frequent. However, it was the formation of the *Sojourner Truth* poets that really started the ball rolling. "The core of the poets consisted of myself (Ruby Reuben), Louise Moaning, Pam Smith and Ayamma Askari," Ruby recounted. "Organizations started requesting our service and the next thing we knew, we were traveling the state. Much of the literature we performed, people had never heard. That made us more determined to expose the works of African American women, wherever and whenever we could."

Writing and organizing its own scripts, the theater company produced a number of stage productions, including, "Voices From The Blackness Deep," "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," "Sketches: A Family Portrait," and "It's For The Both Of Us." In 1983, the company rewarded Ruby Reuben with "The Most Improved Actress" award.

Ruby's accomplishments continued. Representing *Sojourner Truth*

Theater, she was a member of the cast that won the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center's First Playwrights festival. Students at Jefferson High School inducted her into their "Student Hall of Fame." In 1987, she appeared in Marshall High School's Yearbook. From 1985-88, she participated as a performing member of Oregon's Artist-in-education program. As her artistic skills grew, so did her community involvement. For the past four years, she has created and supervised Summer Youth programs for the Northeast YWCA. During her first two years with the 'Y', she helped create and supervise After-School programs with grants from United Way, Black United Fund and Meyer Trust Foundation.

Determined to make the voices of African Americans heard, and with the help and support of federal black workers, Ruby has graced the stages of Bonneville Power, PP&L, The Forestry Service, U.S. Postal Service, Blacks in government and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Internationally, she was a featured performer for the American Heritage Foundation, who had sponsored an American tour for twenty students from Japan.

Statewide, she has made the college and university circuit: Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Lane Community College, and others too numerous to name.

Recently, she took her act to the

Eugene Hult Performing Arts Center, in Eugene, Oregon, as part of that city's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration.

Come February, Ruby and several members representing *Sojourner Truth Theater Company* will take their program on the road to Battle Creek, Michigan, the last home of *Sojourner Truth*, the freedom fighter. While there, the company will visit *Sojourner's* home, perform at several schools, meet with the Arts Council, community persons and board members of the Kellogg Foundation. Also, the company will become the first African Americans to perform at Battle Creek's new Discovery Theater.

"Going to Battle Creek is just a part of the whole cycle," Ruby said. "I get chills just thinking about standing in the same house *Sojourner* lived in. It will be a great honor. But more than anything, I am happy that this honor is being bestowed upon the theater itself. Our trip will be for all of those members, past and present, who has helped keep *Sojourner Truth Theater* alive in Oregon. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here."

But Ruby's story won't end in Michigan. As the theater's director, she is determined to help bring respectability to African American culture. "That," she says, "is a lifetime commitment. So, like *Miss Sojourner*, I'm in it for the long haul."

DYNAMIC CONGRESSWOMEN

BARBARA JORDAN

US REPRESENTATIVE (D) FROM TEXAS. THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN EVER ELECTED TO CONGRESS FROM THE SOUTH (1972). A NATIVE OF HOUSTON SHE WAS GRADUATED MAGNA CUM LAUDE FROM TEXAS SOUTHERN U. SHE RECEIVED HER LAW DEGREE FROM BOSTON U. IN 1959. PRACTICED LAW IN HOUSTON. ENTERED POLITICS IN 1982 AND RAN FOR THE TEXAS HOUSE BUT LOST TWICE. IN 1988 RAN FOR STATE SENATE AND WON. A BRILLIANT CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER. REP. JORDAN WAS APPOINTED

Grant Cluster Director of Instruction, Linda Simington, 280-5770. Jefferson Cluster Director of Instruction, Edith Wilson, 280-5773.

In February, Showtime presents a festival of animated children's stories honoring Black History Month. They will include: "Anansi" February 1 & 19

Narrated by Denzel Washington; music by UB40

In this traditional Jamaican tale, Anansi the spider spins a web of trickery to outwit the prideful snake and win all the stories of the world for himself.

"Follow The Drinkin Gourd" February 4

Narrated by Morgan Freeman; music by Taj Mahal

This story recounts the compelling adventures of a slave family's escape via the Underground Railroad.

"Koi And The Kola Nuts" February 11 & 17

Narrated by Whoopi Goldberg; soundtrack by Herbie Hancock

When the son of an African chief only inherits a kola tree, he decides to find respect in this humorous re-telling of a classic African folk tale.

Believe It Or Not!

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lems or concerns may befall you, in life, you can find an example and its answer in the Holy Scripture. Like the Prego commercial says, "It's in there!" Yes! Whatever you need and for whatever reason you may need it, you can find it in the prophetic teachings of the scripture.

As I arose to see another glorious day, which my God had given to me, I realized that something was different in the house. I opened my eyes and I listened... Then--it came to me. During the night, the space heater had gone off; so, I checked the control knob, on the heater, and there was no response. I then checked the wall plug and confirmed that it was still plugged into the socket. I checked other sources to see if everything was off; but--everything else worked fine. Then I discovered that the refrigerator was also off. "Oh man!" I sighed, "Now what?"

I stood quietly, for a moment, seeking direction from the Lord. Remember--I had just opened my eyes and sleep was still upon me. I went in

to the basement and checked the main source: the circuit breaker-box. I looked at all the switches; and then I saw it. The switch that controlled the space heater and the refrigerator had been tripped. I flipped the switch and while I was still in the basement, I heard the heater come on.

As I was walking up the stairs, I said to myself, "Isn't this a wonderful example on how mankind tends to get him/herself side-tracked?" Instead of going to the main power source, we waste time looking in other directions; other places; and asking the wrong people.

God is the "Supreme Power Source". Everything that was made was made by God Almighty. "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." [Genesis 1:31] Believers need to get the sleepiness out of their eyes and realize who the real power source truly is in their lives. God is so perceptive. He knew that man would have problems understanding and grasping on to the fact that He is who He said He is and just accept it. God

instructed men to record His works, His very thoughts, so that we could have a blueprint (or guide lines or a handbook or an instruction manual.) to direct us through life--The Holy Bible. So--you see, we have no excuses. Read! Read! And read some more! "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." [Timothy 2:15] There are going to be those who will never know or understand God's Work--because, they never opened their hearts to accept God's Son, Jesus Christ. And in those last days, god will say, "I never knew you. Depart from me O ye workers of iniquity." Let us use the time wisely--that god had given us. Go to a Bible teaching church where God's Word is being opened up to you. Seek to serve rather than be served. Think no of yourself more highly than others. Pray before you speak. Live a life in harmony with God and your fellowman. Follow these simple instructions and you will surely find favor with God.

Believe it or not!

Black History Month Art Show, February 1993

"Spades on the Blocks Mis-handled"

The Private Industry Council invites you to attend a show by

Artist Ray Eaglin

The Private Industry Council
3034 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd