

BLACK HISTORY

Alliance Works For Economic Prosperity

(Editor's note: Portland's Albina Ministerial Alliance dates back to the 1950s when a group of African American Ministers formed a union to foster goodwill and fellowship in the community. This is the second part of a series.)

Christian Church located on North Mallory and Alberta.

Funding Drops

The mid 1970s brought difficult times to community-based programs. Federal funds and demonstration program dollars began to disappear and



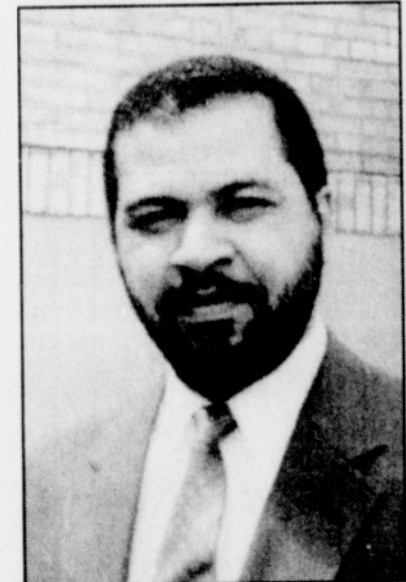
Rev. Mike Lindsey (left) and Rev. Donald Frazier.

During the early 1970s, the Albina Ministerial Alliance assisted in the fight against sickle cell anemia by providing educational materials to the community.

Reverend Samuel Johnson was coordinator for the effort and was also instrumental in helping expand services at the Highland Community Center. He went on to become the Pastor of Highland United Church of Christ and resigned his position as Social Action Director for the Alliance. The Alliance accepted his resignation and acknowledged his efforts in assisting the membership in establishing their role as a community development organization for the Albina District.

Reverend Rozell Gilmore became the new Social Action Program Director for the Alliance in the Fall of 1972. During his tenure the Board and the general membership began an in-depth assessment of the organization to determine how the Alliance could best serve the community. The discussion and consultations that took place during this period resulted in the decision to enhance the Albina Ministerial Alliance's role as a community development organization. The Alliance would act as an umbrella agency and would not only provide direct services but would endorse and allow other ministries and groups to organize and operate under its non-profit status. The primary basis for acceptance under the umbrella was the

From 1976 to 1980, the Family Day and Night Child Care Program and the five Head Start Child Development Centers were the only programs operated by the Alliance. In 1980, Mariah Taylor's Nurse Practitioners Clinic became Alliance's first Incubator/Technical Assistance Project and in 1981, Self-Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) which was then known as "Community Kids" became the Alliance's second Incubator/Technical Assistance Project. In late 1981, the Alliance began to acquire properties and in 1982, the AMA along with the Urban League and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon initiated a joint ventures project which came to be known as the Northeast Emergency Food Program, which addressed the problems of hunger in the community. This program continues to exist today under the fiscal administration of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.



Rev. Dr. James Martin.

assurance that such ministries and groups would enhance the quality of life in the Albina District. It was also during this time that the Alliance relocated its headquarters from Northeast Union (Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.) and Alberta to Mallory

by 1975, the AMA Family Day and Night Child Care Program was the only program that remained with the Alliance. In late 1975, as a result of the consolidation of Model Cities programs (due to funding cuts), the Alliance took over management of the Model Cities 4-C Child Care Information and Referral office. In 1976, Portland's Community Action Agency better known as the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee (PMSC), started by the War on Poverty, became defunct, and The Alliance became the sponsor/grantee for the five Head Start Centers that had been a part of PMSC. During this time Reverend B.E. Johnson was serving as Social Action Program Director for the Alliance. In 1978, the Alliance moved its headquarters again, this time to Woodlawn United Methodist Church located at 1425 NE Dekum, and in the following year 1979, Reverend John Garlington Jr. became President of the Alliance.

Self Enhancement Begins

Following Reverend B. E. Johnson's tenure as social Action Program Director which began in 1975, the duties and responsibilities

of the AMA Social Action Program Director which included supervision and management of all AMA programs and projects were combined with that of the Family Day and Night Child Care Program Manager due to the lack of funds. The duties and responsibilities remained combined from 1977 to 1985, when funds were

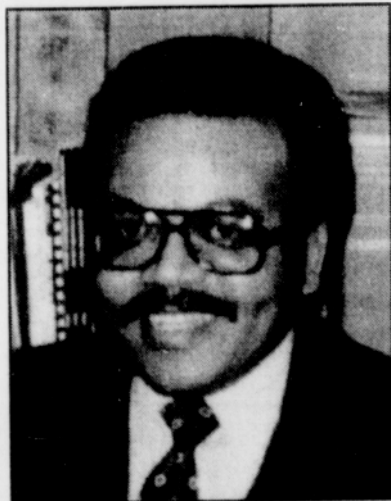
raised to hire a full time executive director. In July, 1985, Reverend Rodney Alexander was hired as the Alliance's first full time Executive Director.

Garlington Dies

In January 1986, the AMA as well as the entire Portland area suffered the tragic loss of Reverend John Garlington Jr., Rev. Garlington and his wife died in a tragic automobile accident. In April of that same year Rev. Rodney Alexander resigned as Executive Director. He had been faced with many demands from the Board, Programs and the community, along with the loss of Rev. Garlington, the Alliance's President. The Board accepted his resignation and the duties and responsibilities of the executive director returned to the Family Day and Night Child Care Program Manager. Reverend John Jackson, who was vice-president at the time of Rev. Garlington's death assumed the role of President of the Alliance.

In October 1986, Cornetta J. Smith became Interim Organizational Coordinator and by December 1987 was named Executive Director. She continues to serve in this capacity in 1995.

Reverend John Jackson retired as Pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and became a Minister-At-Large for the American Baptist Association of Churches in August 1987. In that same year he was appointed by Gov-



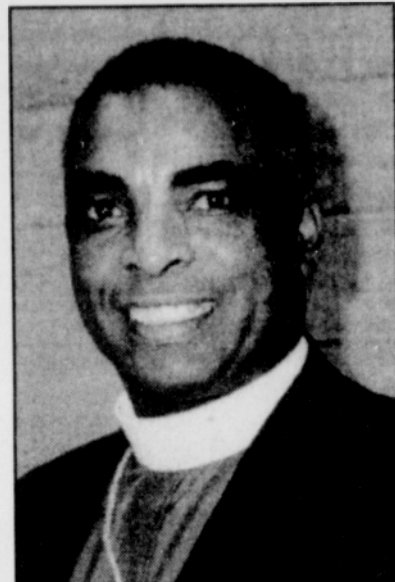
Rev. John Garlington Jr.

ernor Neil Goldschmidt as an advisor to his administration on matters related to the N/NE Community. In July 1988, Rev. Jackson was reassigned to Providence, Rhode Island by the American Baptist Association of Churches and Reverend Joe. S. Hardie became President of the AMA. By this time, AMA programs had expanded to include One Church, One Child an adoption/foster care recruitment and support services program and Neighborhood Connections, a youth employment, training and development program.

New Challenges

The late 1980s and early 1990s brought a new set of challenges to the AMA and the community. The three main programs of the AMA, Family Day and Night Care, head Start, and Self-Enhancement experienced tremendous growth, and along with that growth came the need to begin to restructure the organization in order to provide more accountability and stability. It was also during this same period that the Portland community, particularly the N/NE community began to experience youth gang activity. The community responded with a search for a model program that could address the growing youth gang problem. The House of Umoja Model out of Philadelphia was selected and in August 1989 the AMA accepted a Planning and Project Development Grant from the City of Portland and began the Portland House of Umoja Incubator Project. The Portland House of Umoja Project stayed with the AMA until January 1990. Meanwhile, the Urban League of Portland was still in the process of determining its new focus which called for the reorganization of its programs. The Urban League of Portland was still in the process of determining its new focus which called for the reorganization of its programs. The Urban League relinquished its sponsorship and contractual obligations for the Emergency/Community Services Program and the AMA became the program's new fiscal agent, responsible for the delivery of emergency services in the Northeast. The growth experienced by the Alliance from the late 1980s into the early 1990s found the AMA with sponsorship of seven (7) community-based programs with services for families, children and youth. Children and youth ranging in age from six weeks to well over 18 receive services from the AMA.

The internal focus of the AMA during this time was the maintenance of growth, accountability, and stability of the organization. This called for the Alliance to review, assess and evaluate its structure. In November 1989, the Board of Directors called for an internal assessment of the organization for the purpose of strengthening the administrative infrastruc-



Bishop A. A. Wells.

ture and enhancing Board skills. In February 1990, the internal assessment of the organization was completed and as a result the Board developed a plan to implement capacity building activities called for in the assessment. The Alliance applied for a federal grant from the Volunteers in Services to America Program (VISTA Program) and received the grant which was to assist the organization in developing a capacity building program, to look for resources and volunteers, to restructure its By-laws, develop a new structure for its Board and Standing Committee meetings and to strengthen its fundraising capacity. Joyce Foreman became the first program manager for this project. She helped to

develop the By-laws and to establish the Standing Committees of the Board. Reverend Ralph Greenidge became the second program manager for this project. Under his guidance and management several fundraising activities took place including the musical extravaganzas that are currently held in the community. The VISTA Program grant lasted through 1990. However, Kenneth P. Ives, a minister in the Disciples of Christ Christian Church who served as a volunteer with the program continues to volunteer and assist in the program.

Wells Takes Helm

In October 1991, Bishop A.A. Wells became the President of the Alliance. He continued to stress the need for the organization to focus on growth, accountability and stability. During his tenure, the Board has distributed a survey to the AMA membership seeking input on the future direction of the Alliance for the purpose of continued refinement and development of the organization. He has overseen the successful graduation of two AMA Incubator Programs; Head Start and Self-Enhancement Inc., and serves today with a membership of over 100 churches located in N/NE Portland. The diversity of the Alliance has also expanded to include twenty Christian denominations, all united in their efforts to provide fellowship and render service to the community.

Vessels

Tableware With Meaning
Hosts

A BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION
AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

SATURDAY'S IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 11, 11AM-4PM
"EASY BAKING, EVEN SO"
Derise Carthern, co-owner of Even So...Bakery Company, discusses the bread mix business and offers samples of her tasty products.

FEBRUARY 18, 1-3 PM
BLACK MEMORABILIA, DOMESTIC IMAGES OF BLACKS IN STEREO
Dr. Darrell Miller will show his personal collection of Black Memorabilia, including plates, cups, spice holders and salt & pepper shakers, contrasting the images of the past with the present.

FEBRUARY 25, 1-3 PM
"BASKETS FROM THE MOTHERLAND"
Sharrian Haggard talks about baskets from Nigeria and other countries, explaining the history, function and designs of these unique items. Most baskets will be for sale.

Tuesday - Saturday
10 am - 6 pm
2605 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97212
(Corner of N.E. Russell)
(503) 249-1952



Martin Luther King Jr. and the Rev. Glenn Smiley on the first integrated bus ride in Montgomery, Ala. in 1956.

The PCC Cascade Campus continues its month-long celebration of Black History Month.

Black Family Genealogy Wed. Feb. 15, noon to 1 p.m.
Daniel Hayes will discuss and offer suggestions for tracking your own family.

Buffalo Soldiers Thurs., Feb. 16, noon to 1 p.m.
A portrayal of the Black soldiers who served in the 9th and 10th Cavalry and their impact on the Oregon Trail.

Black Business Expo in the Cascade Gym
Sat. Feb. 25, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun. Feb. 26, noon to 6 p.m.
Black entrepreneurs, craftspeople and business owners will display a wide selection of clothing, crafts, art and jewelry.

Family Film Day Sat. Feb. 25, 2 p.m.
Four short films based on West African folktales.

African Film Festival 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. Feb. 16 Samba Traore (from Burkina Faso) A young man returns to his village bringing his big-city wealth.

Thurs. Feb. 23 Mandabi (from Senegal) When a money order arrives from a nephew in France, a contented man's life is turned upside-down.


Thurs. March 2 African Women's Documentary Day
Both films shown at 2 and 7 p.m.

These Hands Shows the hard manual work of women in Tanzania and how they cope.

Women With Open Eyes Four West African women discuss marital rights, women's health, political and economic issues. A 1994 Silver Medal winner. In French with English subtitles.

Free and open to everyone!
Location is Terrell Hall Room 122
(except where noted)

978-5256

 **Portland Community College**