

RELIGION

"What Makes Freedom Possible?"



BY REV. YVONNE V. DELK, PH.D.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. challenged us to think about the commitments and sacrifices we are willing to make for our beliefs. In one of his speeches he said that "if a person has not found something that they are willing to die for, they are not fit to live." That phrase takes on historical and concrete significance as the Community Renewal Society, along with four other UCC-related non profit institutions in Illinois, in its partnership with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, co-sponsors a special benefit performance of the opera "Amistad" on January 15, 1998--the 69th anniversary of King's birth.

This world premiere event precedes the long-anticipated and controversial Steven Spielberg film "Amistad" to open this December. Critics argue Spielberg's film, directed by Debbie Allen, fails to tell the full story of African liberation upon the Amistad.

While judgment is not in, we do know that the four decades since its founding in 1957 the United Church of Christ, born out of the Amistad event, remains engaged in the world struggle for justice and for peace.

The Amistad is the story of 53 Africans fighting for their right to live as free human beings in their homeland--now known as Sierra Leone. In June of 1839, this group of Mende-speaking Africans from West Africa were sold into slavery, loaded onto the Portuguese slaver

Tecora and taken to Havana, Cuba, where they were sold again. As they were being transported to another part of the island aboard a schooner named "La Amistad," meaning friendship in Spanish, the Africans rebelled. Led by Joseph Cinque, as he was called in America, the Africans gained control of the ship, killed most of the crew and demanded the remaining crew sail them back to Africa.

Although the navigator sailed east when the sun shone, he sailed north and west when it was cloudy or at night.

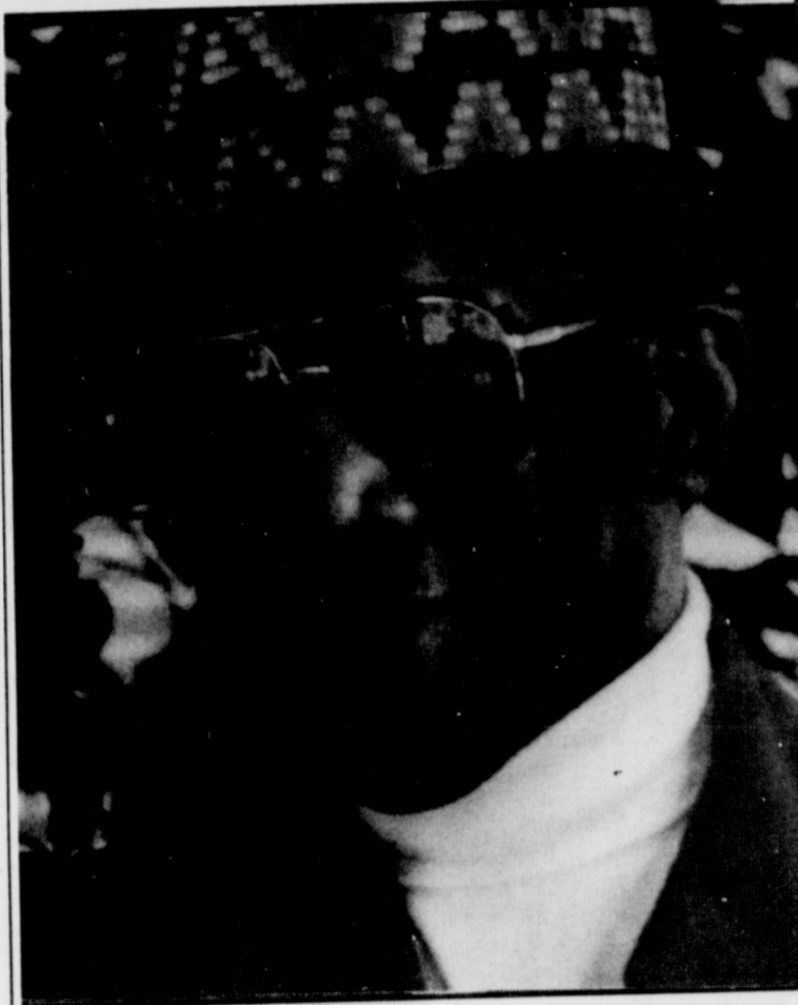
After many days the ship anchored off Long Island in New York where the Africans went ashore to get fresh water and were seized. The 44 surviving Africans were imprisoned, thus beginning a drama which tested beliefs about human freedom in the United States.

At the heart and core of this story is the struggle for a people for their right to live as free human beings. This is a story about being forcibly removed from one's homeland, enduring the inhuman experience of the Middle Passage, engaging in a violent liberation struggle for their freedom on board the Amistad, followed by two years of captivity in a strange land among strange people leading to an international legal battle, a new community of friends and a freedom that was won at a great price.

It is also the story of a faith-based people who joined them in their determination to be free. Within three days after the African's incarceration, abolitionist met in New York City and formed an interracial defense committee composed of two clergymen, prominent founders and members of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and a well-to-do New York merchant who established the mercantile agency that later became Dun and Bradstreet.

The bond that yoked this committee was their faith-based position that challenged slavery not only from a human rights perspective but equally important, a theological perspective.

Singer/Story Teller Presents Songs And Stories Of The African American Experience On Sept. 13



V. Ted Hutchinson will present "Songs and Stories to Reconcile By" on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 pm at the Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4505 E. 18th Street in Vancouver. The free event, which is a program of the Washington Commission for the Humanities, is sponsored by the Fellowship, the Vancouver Chapter of the NAACP, and the YWCA of Clark County Diversity Task Force.

Ted Hutchinson traces African American history through folk tales and songs, leading the audience on a journey from the villages in Africa to the slave ships, the plantations of the South, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and finally to the aftermath of the war and into the civil rights era. He portrays the transition from the paths of desolation and despair to the road of encouragement through songs such as sometimes, I Feel Like a Mother-

less Child, the repentant song of a former slave trader, Amazing Grace and the "escape songs" of the slaves--Wade in the Water, Follow the Drinking Gourd, Good News, the Chariots Comin' and Swing Low Sweet Chariot. The story continues through the Gettysburg Address, the poetry of the black soldiers, the stirring words of abolitionist both white and black, and the moving speeches of the Civil Rights movement. Hutchinson believes that we are all enriched through mutual understanding and acceptance and that these stories and songs can speak to reconciliation in today's world.

Hutchinson began singing on the stoops and street corners of Harlem where, at age 13, his voice was first used in a quartet as the sound of a bass fiddle. He is a popular soloist in churches, schools, conference, and on stage throughout Washington, Oregon, and Montana.

Thirteenth Annual Salvation Army

Chefs de Cuisine Benefit Banquet Raises Record Amount For Homeless Youth

Through the support of more than 150 local businesses and community leaders and the volunteer talent of top local chefs, The Salvation Army Greenhouse Chefs de Cuisine banquet raised a record \$20,000 at its annual fundraising event August 19.

With the theme "A Summer Evening in Italy," this year's event featured an eight-course dinner of Italian specialties created by volunteer chefs from top area restaurants, including: Brasserie Montmartre, Encore Brokers, Harry's Fresh Foods, JaCiva's Chocolates, Legends at Spirit Mountain, Spotlight Presentations, Tualatin Valley Country Club and Waverly Country Club. Also participating were 14 volunteer professional waiters, including Paul Paz, president of the National Waiters Association. The event also featured fine Italian wines, and entertainment by Michael Allen Harrison and Portland Opera tenor Jose Ordonez.

Sponsors and contributors included Northwest Natural Gas, ACF Chefs de Cuisine Society of Oregon, Aramark Uniform Service, Bowler & Associates, Inc., Boyd's Coffee, Duck Delivery, Flowers by Dorcas, Grady Britton Advertising, Jeff Lee Photography, Justa Pasta, Moe's Piano, Mr. Formal, National Waiters Association, Oregon Ice Sculpture, Pierre's Bakery, Pyramid Breweries, Rose's Equipment and Supply, Inc., SYSCO of Portland, Trident Seafoods, Valley Wine Company and West Coast Productions.

Established 13 years ago as one of the first chef-supported benefit events in Portland, the dinner benefits The Salvation Army Greenhouse Center, which provides critical emergency services for up to 1,000 homeless youth annually, including meals, clothing, crisis counseling, alternative schooling, job placement and recreation services.

Waiting Children



DAESHAUNA, AGE 9

This lovely, somewhat shy little girl is in great need of a special someone to belong to. Daeshauna is just one of over 350 Oregon children awaiting adoption.

Well-rounded with a playful personality, Daeshauna dances in a popular African Dance Troupe, sings in a church choir and has become a junior cheerleader. What a talent! She is truly well-liked by those around her despite her own self-doubt. Academically, Daeshauna is working hard to combat some delays and is truly a delight to have in the classroom.

Prospective parents will need time and energy to build a nurturing relationship with this delightful girl.



ANTHONY, AGE 9

Handsome nine-year-old Anthony, of Native American/Caucasian heritage, has spunk and vigor to spare!

Anthony puts his energy to good use in sports and also enjoys playing computer games. Outdoors, he avidly rides his bike around the neighborhood.

Doing well in school, he likes to read and will read story after story to willing listeners. Anthony does well with structure, discipline and supervision.

Anthony will be challenging, but will also be a rewarding child to parent when the right family is found.

Oregon agencies are waiving fees for persons adopting children in state care.

Single adults are also asked to consider adoption.

To learn more, call The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at The Boys and Girls Aid Society, (503) 222-9661.

Obituaries

Charlie C. Combs

Sept. 22, 1919 - August 22, 1997
Services were held at Little Chapel of the Chimes on Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon.
Burial followed at Lincoln Memorial Park.
Charlie leaves to mourn:
Margaret Crolley Niece Portland, OR
Patricia Knight Niece Portland, OR
Audrey Sims Niece Portland, OR
Linda Walton Niece Portland, OR
Evelyn Harris Niece Portland, OR
Margaret Greene Portland, OR
Alene Grice Niece Portland, OR
Charles Daniels Nephew Portland, OR

Herman Hendrix

August 15, 1927 - August 17, 1997
Mr. Hendrix has lived in Portland, Oregon since 1952. (He lived in Louisiana prior to Portland.)
He was married on February 11, 1962. He worked for 25 years for Esco Corporation in Portland in the foundry. He retired in 1973.
He was a member of Albina Christian Life Center in Portland, Oregon. Services were held on Monday August 25, 1997 at Albina Christian Life Center - 5522 N. Albina St. Portland, Oregon.
Burial followed at Rose City Cemetery.
He leaves to mourn:

Wife Dorothy R. Hendrix Portland, Oregon
Twin Daughter Chris Hendrix Portland, Oregon
Twin Daughter Celeste Hendrix Portland, Oregon
Son Acie Lee Johnson Las Vegas, Nevada
Daughter Virginia Johnson Portland, Oregon
Daughter Joyce Ann Johnson Portland, Oregon
Daughter Pauline Johnson Portland, Oregon
Son Chester Lee Johnson Portland, Oregon

Remembering Fred Grear

On August 6, 1997 Fred and Verla Mae (Washington) Grear celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows among their family and friends at the Urban League Multicultural Senior Service Center.

The couple were first married in a front yard ceremony officiated by the bride's father in Groesbeck, Texas, August 6, 1938.

This "wedding" was a first for the center and a great opportunity for the Center to be a part of the celebration of one of their clients.

The Grear's have been participants in the Senior Service Center's

activities since moving to Portland from Groesbeck, Texas in 1995.

Reverend Lee Arthur Madison, from New Jerusalem Baptist Church, officiated the services. Attendants to the couple were Jacques Harris as ring bearer and Alexa Harris as flower girl. Duane Blackall was the escort for the "bride".

A reception attended by 80 guests was held for the couple at the Multicultural Cultural Senior Service Center following the ceremony.

Fred D. Grear pass away the day after he renewed if vows. The funeral was held Friday, August 15, 1997.



FRED D. GREAR

Attending Religious Services Cuts Death Rate, California Study Finds

People who regularly attend religious services live longer than those who don't according to a 28-year study of more than 5,000 Alameda County, Calif., residents. The annual death rate among those who shied away from religious services was 36 percent higher than those who regularly attended, said William J. Strawbridge of the California Public Health Foundation.

The lower death rate among those who attended services could partly be explained by improved health practices, increased social contacts and more stable marriages, he reported in the American Journal of Public Health.

"Celebrating The Faces Of Belmont"

2nd Annual Belmont Street Fair & Neighborhood Carnival When: Saturday, September 6, 1997 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

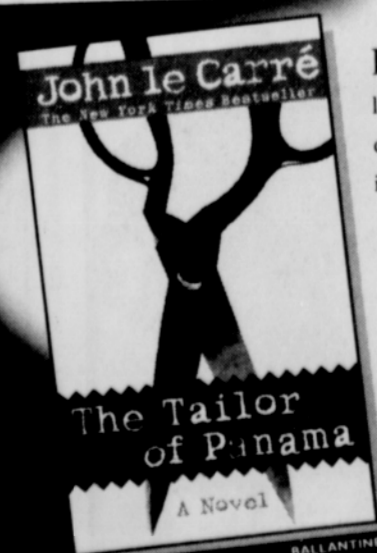
Where: Southeast Belmont, between 30th and 39th Avenues

What: A street fair and carnival promoting the unique character of the Belmont Business District and the Sunnyside Neighborhood

Contact: Kim Burnett at Reach Community Development
Ph: 503/231-0682
Fax: 503/236-3429

Happy Birthday Audrey Washington

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Diversity

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