



Metro/Religion

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Community attempts to better metro area

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Policy makers, community-focused nonprofits and members of the faith community will gather on the University of Portland campus on Sunday, March 5 to share experiences and form creative partnerships in addressing the issues of affordable housing, gentrification, transportation, natural resources, economic justice and changing demographics in the Portland metro area.

Called "Moving from Consensus to Community: Jubilee Justice in the Metro Region," the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. conference will include presentations by Ellen Lowe, former public policy director of Ecumenical Ministries of

Oregon; Tasha Harmon, executive director of the Community Development Network, and the Rev. Dr. Hector Lopez, Central Pacific conference minister of the United Church of Christ.

"It will be a time to pray, envision, connect and share in ways we have not imagined," said Andrea Vargas, EMO's Jubilee Oregon coordinator. EMO's Jubilee Oregon and Interfaith Network for Earth concerns are co-sponsoring the event with the Religious Outreach Working Group of the Coalition for a Livable Future in partnership with the University of Portland's Campus Ministries.

The day will begin with a short interfaith service, followed by presentations by speakers and small group workshops. Participants will

have opportunities to share their concerns and suggestions for regional cooperation. The event will close with community sharing and a brief service. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$15 for the general public and \$10 for students and seniors.

The Coalition for a Livable Future is a network of more than 50 organizations in the Portland metropolitan area that share a commitment to creating just, affordable and sustainable communities.

One of those 50 organizations, EMO is a statewide association of 15 Christian denominations including Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic denominations working together to meet the needs of Oregonians.

Obituaries

In Loving Memory Of

Florine Elizabeth Britt

Sunrise December 13, 1918
Sunset January 26, 2000

Florine Elizabeth Britt was born in Jackson, Tennessee on December 13, 1918. She came to Portland in 1941, and she was a Public Relations person for Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes Funeral Home, for about 30 years. Florine was a member of Emmanuel Temple Gospel Pentecostal Church, and a former member of Daniel Memorial Church of God in Christ—under the late Bishop Harry Daniels.

Florine leaves to cherish her memory: Barbara Jean Newsom Daughter Portland

James W. Britt Son Portland
Joseph A. Britt Son Portland
Howard W. Starks, Sr. Brother Detroit, Michigan.

Florine was preceded in death by a daughter, Alice Marie Britt in about 1940...one sister, Margaret Catlett and one brother Aaron Conley.

In Loving Memory Of

Geraldine Ashley Christian

Sunrise May 1, 1929
Sunset January 24, 2000

For the Beloved Geraldine Ashley Christian accomplished much during her professional and social life, but she also was a wonderful wife and mother.

In 1957, she became the first black female pharmacist in the state of Oregon and had the honor and privilege of serving on two governor-appointed commissions in the state. She also was active in her community, joining and sometimes running organizations aimed at improving the lives of others.

Born on May 1, 1929, to Elizabeth Ownes and Frederick Douglas Ashley in Denver, Colo., Mrs. Christian was the youngest of four children and the only daughter. As a little girl, she moved to Oklahoma City and returned to Colorado in 1937 to live at a farm in Adams County.

During the course of her education, there were no scholarships offered to black students regardless of their GPAs. Instead, she competed for a business scholarship sponsored by IOTA Phi Lambda, a black sorority, and earned the highest score of 98. Her efforts led to a business scholarship at Denver University.

She attended DU for one year, but forfeited her scholarship because she dreamed of becoming a pharmacist. She was drawn to that profession through her work as a clerk at Radio Drug Store in 1948. In June 1950, Mrs. Christian graduated with a B.S. degree in pharmacy from the University of Colorado in Boulder. She had completed four years of pharmacy courses in three years, plus two classes at summer school because of monetary considerations.

Recently, Mrs. Christian recalled that before her graduation, a math teacher told her that she would flunk out of school and no one would hire her as a pharmacist.

One of Mrs. Christian's key accomplishments, she said recently, was "walking across that stage and getting my degree after all the discouragement and prejudice."

She recently recalled how she

overcame racism and emerged from a poor lifestyle.

"As poor as we were, my mother helped me struggle to get through," she said. "When I lived in the country and white people treated me so badly, I said I was not going to let them get to me. I would ride to the top. Nobody ever gave me a lot of encouragement. I decided I was not going to be poor or become and outcast."

After earning her pharmacy license in 1951, Mrs. Christian was hired as a pharmacist manager at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, which was engaged in making chemical warfare weapons. They included mustard gas (the gas that her father was exposed to in World War I and eventually led to his death from TB), Phosgene gas and eventually nerve gas.

She married Conrad Nagel McConnell in 1950 and moved to Portland, OR., with her son Conrad "Pete" McConnell in 1957, later to be joined by Mr. McConnell.

Mrs. Christian worked as a staff pharmacist for the Veteran's Administration Outpatient Clinic, becoming the first female black pharmacist in Oregon. Mr. McConnell, also a pharmacist, and Mrs. Christian were among the few black pharmacists in the state at that time.

The couple dreamed of starting their own drug store in Portland, but soon realized that the median income in the black communities was about \$4,000 a year. "That's why we didn't operate a drug store: we didn't think we'd get enough business," she said.

Mrs. Christian also worked at Crestview Convalescent Hospital before returning to the VA. She received two superior performance awards from the VA in 1963 and 1974, with bonuses. During her 39-year career as a pharmacist, Mrs. Christian implemented ideas to improve efficiency in the workplace.

She left the VA in 1979 because of a disability and worked part-time until 1984.

While pursuing a career, begin a wife and mother, Mrs. Christian also was active in local and state affairs. She served on the board of directors of the Portland Urban League from 1970-78, and presided as the league's first female president in 1977-78.

She also was a member of the Portland School Board advisory committee, appointed by Oregon Gov. Tom McCall to serve on the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, and appointed by Gov. Vic Atiyeh to the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs.

Mrs. Christian was a lifetime member of the NAACP, and was active in the American Bridge Association. She also was the first moderator of the Ainsworth United Church of Christ in Portland when it was formed in 1982 and was a long-time member of Links in Portland.

Her other affiliations were Alpha Kappa Alpha and the Jack & Jill of America, Inc.

She and Mr. McConnell were avid readers, subscribing to both daily newspapers, black publications and dozens of magazines. Being surrounded by the wealth of reading material prompted the couple's son to pursue a career in Journalism.

Mr. McConnell died on April 6, 1973,

at the age of 44. Mrs. Christian remarried in 1975 before divorcing in 1980.

Because of her illness due to cancer, Mrs. Christian left Seattle and moved to Aurora, Colo. In 1998 to live with her niece, Denise.

Mrs. Christian is survived by her son, Conrad Peter McConnell of Houston, Tex.; a granddaughter, Jihieshia Hull of Corvallis, Ore; and eight nieces and nephews: Denise, Gil, Eric, Michael, Fred and Carl Ashley, Michele Wheeler and Mari Hammock.

The family requests contributions to the American Cancer Society or to the Edmunds Missions, 1428 Broad Street, Selma, Ala., 36701-4304.

In Loving Memory Of

Eugene Paul Hiney

Sunrise May 30, 1917
Sunset January 28, 2000

Eugene Paul Hiney was born in Springfield, Ohio on May 30, 1917 and served in the Army, Air Corp branch. Eugene came to Portland in 1927 and worked for the City of Portland as a Building Inspector. Eugene retired in 1978. He was a member of St. Johns Catholic Church. John married Louise Hiney, maiden name Cutter in 1937. Louise died in August 1987.

Eugene leaves to cherish his memory: Marta Lynne Retz Daughter Sun River

Martin Lee Parr Grandson Bend
Darlene Leslie Parr Granddaughter Bend

Christian Lee Parr Great Grandson Mollala
Madison Abby Parr Great Granddaughter Bend
Anita Karstetter Companion Sun River

In Loving Memory Of

Fannie Grace Malone

Sunrise December 5, 1897
Sunset January 22, 2000

Fannie Grace Malone was born Dec. 5, 1897 in Perry Houston, Georgia, she was a Domestic worker, and belonged to Fellowship MBC. Fannie came to Portland in the early 1940's. She was 102. Cause of death, natural. Fannie Grace Malone leaves to cherish her memory:

Anette Steele Franklin Daughter Portland
Louise Edge Daughter Portland
Jannie Ott Daughter Portland
Mary Gordon Daughter Portland

In Loving Memory Of

Mamie L. Simington

Sunrise June 3, 1922
Sunset January 24, 2000

Mamie L. Simington was born in Bradley, Arkansas on June 3, 1922, she was a Home Maker. Mamie married Birl Simington on Nov. 29, 1943. Birl Simington passed away on Dec. 22, 1999.

Mamie leaves to cherish her memory. Rosie Thompson, Janice Betty, Barbara Simington Daughters Portland

Carl, Birl Jr., Sevedious, Lewis, Tony, Sylvester, Timothy Simington Sons Portland

Margie Nelson Sister of Stockton, CA
Eddie Lee Brother Little Rock, Ar.

The History of the Church



Flood evacuees at the Trinity Episcopal Church in 1948.

Next millennium of children's ministry

- Where: Rolling Hills Community Church of Tualatin, Or-Portland area
- When: Friday and Saturday February 18th and 19th, 2000, from 9 AM-3 PM
- What: For Kids Only Children's Ministry Seminar

- Why: Friday-for professional children's workers, Saturday-for everyone
- Who: Johanna Townsend, Dean-o Lies, Kathleen Chapman, Jay Hostetler

For Kids Only is a nonprofit, Christian organization which strives to equip those who work with children to minister more effectively, FKO, conducts regional seminars offering the latest training in Children's Ministry. A team of four seasoned speakers travel to each seminar site, including Johanna Townsend, the president and founder of FKO, and Dean-o Lies, head of Dean-o and the Dynamos Christian contemporary pop band for children. Also presenting are Kathleen Chapman, children's drama and performance expert, and Jay Hostetler, a Children's Pastor for 20+ years as well as college professor and author. Both seminar days have been developed to help today's church leaders deal with the rapid changes that are accompanying the new millennium, through a discussion/brainstorming format on Friday, and 12 Workshops to select from on Saturday.

For additional information, the community can contact For Kids Only at the toll free number: 888/646-4562

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