



# Metro/Religion



## Augustana Lutheran Church calls Native American for Associate Pastor

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

At their annual meeting on Sunday, January 30, the members of Augustana Lutheran Church voted unanimously to extend a call for the position of Associate Pastor to Ramona Soto Rank, a member of the Klamath Tribe.

The call has been accepted, and her Ordination and Installation will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at Augustana (2710 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Ave.) The public is invited to this historic event. Ms. Soto Rank will be the first Native American ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oregon; and the 17<sup>th</sup> nationwide in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Ramona Soto Rank is an enrolled member of the Klamath Tribes of Southeastern Oregon. Ramona has served as the Secretary to the General Council, on the Klamath Tribes Executive Committee and as a member of the Tribal Restoration Committee. In addition to her work with the Klamath Tribes, Ramona served as

the Executive Director for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), an organization representing the voice of the 49 federally recognized tribes in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and SE Alaska.

Ramona is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California and has just accepted a call as Associate Pastor at Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland, Oregon. She has served as the Inter Lutheran Native American Concerns Coordinator for Oregon, as the Multicultural Ministry Chairperson for the Oregon Synod, ELCA and as a member of the ELCA National Church Council. She is currently the President of the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association.

Ms. Soto Rank has worked with Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA on curriculum and experience that help train church professionals in the context of American Indian and Alaska Native perspectives. Ms Soto Rank

was one of the founders of the "One In The Spirit" gathering that brings together clergy and lay people with American Indian and Alaska Native theologians.

Ms. Soto Rank was born on the Klamath Reservation in Klamath County, OR and currently resides in Portland, Oregon.

Augustana Lutheran Church is a growing multicultural congregation in the heart of Portland. Beginning as a Swedish congregation in 1906, today Augustana has members who are African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Asian, and European American, as well as members who are gay and lesbian. Augustana is a 94-year-old congregation with a history of community outreach and service. Today Augustana has 400 members with over 200 people in attendance each Sunday. Over 100 members are children below 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Four services are offered each week: Contemporary, Traditional, Open Circle, and Gospel/Jazz. For more information, contact Ramona Soto Rank, or Lead Pastor Rev. W.J. Mark Knutson, at 288-6174.

## Black History Month



Members of the Shiloh Baptist church in the Montavilla neighborhood. This week's observation of Black History Month cover the years of 1900-1950. At the beginning of the century, there were four large, Black churches in Northeast Portland. One of the churches was moved to First and Schuyler and rebuilt at the same location in 1912. The lumber used to construct the building was donated by a local branch of the Klu Klux Klan. Can you name that church that currently exists? Answer: Mount Olivet Baptist Church.

## On record: 'I can help people overcome anyone or anything blocking their prosperity'

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These incredibly powerful words come from Thaddeus Muhammad, one of the nation's leading personal growth and development trainers and author of the now popular book, *Set Yourself in Heaven At Once* and the upcoming book, *The God of the Living*.

"It's not about what the good old boys network, democrats or republicans, conservatives or liberals, foreigners or anybody is doing to you—it's about what you are doing to yourself," said Thaddeus who has helped thousands of people, from all walks of life improve their lives. "It's time to move away from the era of protest and blame into a new era of pro-action, building, growing and establishing our place in the sun by learning universal

principles that apply to all regardless to class, religion, or color."

Thaddeus has received critical acclaim from his audiences in a variety of religious institutions, colleges, mentoring programs, and various media outlets throughout the country with his unique brand of spiritual, self-improvement tips developed through years of practical application. The Chicago-based author is a superb interview who will fill your audience with information that will be of value to them today and for the rest of their lives. His new book, *The God of the Living* (galley copy) was published by Emerging Light International and is available for review. Publication date is Feb. 24, 2000. To schedule an interview call (773) 536-2699.

Thaddeus Muhammad honed his skills as a peak performance trainer, lecturer, and motivator while serving for over 15 years as a top lieutenant

and the First Officer of the Nation of Islam under the leadership of the Honorable Louis Farrakhan. As First Officer he was directly responsible for the teaching, training and motivation for the men known as the F.O.I. at the Nation of Islam headquarters in Chicago.

Known for his strong work ethic, principled leadership and sincere concern for the welfare of the individual, he has helped thousands transform their lives for the better. He has worked with everyone from high school dropouts to college students, from the unemployed to professionals, drug addicts and entrepreneurs. In addition, he has served for over five years as dean of Boys at Muhammad University of Islam where he acted as guidance counselor, mentor and disciplinarian. He currently lives in Chicago's Hyde Park community with his wife.

## Chata Addy and Susuma in concert

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Sunday, February 13, at 3:00 p.m., Rose City Park United Methodist Church will present Chata Addy and Susuma in concert. This concert is the seventh of twelve concerts in the 1999-2000 concert season.

Chata Addy, a local recording artist, comes from a long tradition of master drummers and dancers from Ghana, West Africa. He leads the group

Susuma with his highly-acclaimed, unforgettable three-Conga drum playing, and performs as well on the talking drum and other percussion instruments. Susuma plays music which Chata calls "Afro-Reggae, Funky Highlife"—an upbeat blend of traditional African and contemporary world music styles with a rhythm that makes people want to move. The band consists of eight pieces including bass guitar, drums, keyboard, guitars, horns and flute as well as vocals.

Susuma has just released its first CD, "This is What I Feel."

Rose City Park United Methodist Church is located at 5830 N.E. Alameda. Admission to the concert is a free will offering taken at intermission with net proceeds to benefit two local agencies, FISH and Loaves & Fishes. Free child care is available. The church is located on Tri-Met bus lines #12 and #71 and is handicapped accessible by an elevator.



### LOCATION CHANGE NOTICE\*

### Community Budget Forum for the FY 2000-02 Budget

Mayor Vera Katz and the Portland City Council invite you to join them at the last in a series of forums to gather input about the community priorities.

Thursday, February 10  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

\* Scottish Rite Center, 709 SW 15th

For more information: 823-5288, TTY: 823-6868  
If you have special needs, please call 823-4519 in advance.

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