



# Metro/Religion

## Black History Month



*Aretha Franklin, the "Queen of Soul" had dominated the music charts in the 1960s and 1970s with more million-selling records than any other woman in music history. This week's observation of Black History covers the years of 1950-2000. Can you name the most successful black-owned record company Aretha Franklin signed with that helped launch her career? For the answer, look in Focus under the header, M.*

## Center offers wisdom of the elders

**CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER**

The public is invited to attend "An Afternoon with Wisdom of the Elders," the series of four multi-cultural celebrations being held between February and May 2000. The February 19 celebration honors elders of Native American and African-American heritage and the richness of their cultures.

Margaret Carter, Interim Director of the Urban League and former State Representative, is a featured speaker at the February 19 gathering. This remarkable and inspiring community leader has been guardian to her community, raised nine children, and been an advisor to the powerful and disadvantaged. Emerging as a national leader in political and professional circles, Margaret shares how her grandmother, part Choctaw, constantly reminded her family of their history and their women's distinct legacy as mothers. "Her wisdom was always one that guided us and advised us of how we leave this world better than how we inherited it, always cherishing the earth."

African-American highlights include the Buffalo Soldiers, Pacific Northwest Chapter, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Horse Cavalry, gospel music performances by Harmony Expressions featuring Mattie Neal, and a dramatic performance featuring The Drama Queens of Project Network.

This February celebration will be held on Saturday, February 19 between 4-9 PM at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center Ballroom, on the third floor at 1825 SW Broadway in downtown Portland. People of all cultures are invited to attend these multi-cultural celebrations which extend from February through May 2000.

Now in its second successful year, these community celebrations offer us a glimpse at the richness of Native American life by sharing prophetic wisdom, folklore, and prophesy from distinguished Native American elders, as well as tribal drumming, dance, and music. Gatherings also honor and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of other ethnic groups from our region, giving an opportunity to learn from the wisdom of their exemplary elders. By gathering diverse community members together to experience each other's cultural richness and diversity and acknowledge the values we all share as human beings, WOTE aims to alleviate misconceptions and misunderstandings between racial groups, and promote healing and reconciliation.

Donations of \$5-\$20 are accepted, yet nobody is turned away for lack of funds. Wisdom of the Elders, Inc. is primary sponsor of this series of multi-cultural celebrations.

A Native American non profit corporation, their mission is the cultural preservation and sharing indigenous elders' wisdom and cultural values.

WOTE is sponsoring this series in partnership with Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Arts Commission, PSU's UISHE (United Indian Students in Higher Education), National College of Naturopathic Medicine, Oregon Uniting, and Metropolitan Human Rights Center.

## EMO honors interfaith cooperation service

**CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER**

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon will honor interfaith and ecumenical cooperation across the state during its annual community celebration, called "A Time for Jubilee: A Time for New Beginnings," on Thursday, February 24, at St. Henry Catholic Church, 346 NW First St., Gresham. The celebration begins at 6 p.m. with an ecumenical service that includes a homily by the Rev. Ronald Williams of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and gospel music by We 3, a multicultural Portland-area trio whose original compositions are designed to lift up the spirit. A

dinner and celebration will follow the service, with a presentation of community ministry awards and installation of new EMO board officers.

The Ecumenical Service Award, which honors special achievements supporting community ministries in Oregon, will be presented to two organizations: the Muslim Educational Trust, in recognition of the Portland-area Muslim community's work with EMO's refugee and immigration ministries in resettling refugees during the past ten years and the community's dedication to helping Kosovar refugees last year, and Blue Sage Ministries in Burns, for ongoing

interdenominational community work in southeast Oregon.

The Two Pauls Award, presented in honor of individuals or groups that promote ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, service and relations, was established in 1994 to honor two significant Oregon clergymen, the Rev. Dr. Paul Wright and the Most Rev. Paul Waldschmidt. This year's Two Pauls award is made in recognition of the October 1999 signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification in Augsburg, Germany, lifting the condemnations between Lutheran churches of the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church. The two ecumenical

communities that will receive the award are Mission of the Atonement, a Roman Catholic-Lutheran community in Beaverton, and St. Like Lutheran Church and St. John Fisher Catholic Church, neighboring congregations in southwest Portland that gather frequently for shared worship and outreach.

EMO is an association of 15 Christian denominations including Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic religious bodies that work together to respond as a people of faith to the needs of Oregonians. Tickets for the dinner are \$25. Tables seating eight can be purchased for \$200. To order tickets or for more information, call (503) 221-1054.

## Gospel Jamboree to draw in big names

**CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER**

Organizers of the Sankofa Cultural Arts Festival today announced that Grammy Award-winning gospel recording artists Shirley Caesar, Take 6, and hezwkiah Walker as well as the female group Trin-I-Tee 5:7 will headline its Thomas Dorsey Gospel

Jamboree. Set for April 14 at 7PM in New Haven, Connecticut, the gospel concert will take place at Yale University's Battell Chapel. "All of us have grown up singing or listening to Thomas A. Dorsey's music" say's Crystal Emery, Artistic Director of the Festival. "The artists scheduled to headline the gospel Jamboree represent the history and future of

gospel music, and all them have been influenced by his work in some way!" Thomas A. Dorsey's unique style of infusing jazz and blues with sacred music created a revolution in the Black Church and transformed the way African-Americans worshiped God. When asked to describe his music, Dorsey answered, "gospel," a response that earned him the title, "Father of Gospel Music"

As a leader and a visionary, Thomas A. Dorsey was the first to organize a female gospel quartet, and in 1932, he co-founded the National Convention of gospel Choirs and Chorus, Inc. (NCGCC) in Bridgeport Connecticut. "We wanted to acknowledge his contribution to our musical and

cultural landscape," says Emery, "so we've joining in the yearlong centennial celebration and presenting the Gospel Jamboree as tribute to his memory."

Born in July, 1899, Thomas A. Dorsey had composed nearly a thousand songs before his passing in 1993, the most famous being "Precious Load, Take My Hand," "Search Me, Load," and "There'll be Peace in the Valley." Proceeds from the Gospel Jamboree will be used to create the Thomas A. Dorsey Legacy Scholarship, a four year college scholarship to be awarded to an outstanding African-American, Hispanic American or Native American high school music major to attend a college of their choice.

## Obituaries

*In loving memory of*

Earnestine Banks (Willis)

Sunrise  
February 6, 1932

Sunset  
February 11, 2000

Services will be held, February 18, 2000, at Maranatha Church, Minister Rev. John Parker.  
Viewing will be held at Cox Funeral Home on February 17, 2000.  
Earnestine leaves to cherish her memory:  
Veronica Cantue - Hill Daughter Atlanta, GA  
Teresa Banks Daughter Atlanta, GA  
Clarice Banks Daughter Atlanta, GA  
Luther Banks, Jr. Son Portland, OR  
Paul Banks Son Reno, NV.  
Sarah Deadner Sister Ogden, AR  
Lafayette Allen Sister Texarkana, AR  
Vester Willis Sister Reno, NV  
Joe Louis Willis Brother Texarkana, AR  
J. W. Willis Brother Detroit, MI  
Homer Lee Willis Brother Toledo, OH  
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Carl Lee Willis Brother Toledo, OH  
L.W. Willis Brother Toledo, OH

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