



# Metro/Religion

## Obituary

### Portland activist Josiah Hill dies at age 61 Hill fought for a better life for his community

By Brent Hunsberger

Whether battling racial profiling by police or testing toddlers for lead poisoning, the common goal of Josiah Hill's community activism was a better life for Portland's African Americans.

So it numbed that community to learn of Hill's death Thursday, Oct. 12, from a heart attack he suffered while shopping at Nature's Northwest in Northeast Portland. He was 61.

"It's a terrible loss for the community," said state Rep. Jo Ann Bowman, D-Portland. "Some activists are very confrontational. He was just very gentle."

Friends describe Josiah Hill III, a former physician assistant, as a tireless warrior known for the gentle, disarming approach he brought to a broad array of community concerns, ranging from health care to social equality.

"I can close my eyes now and see him sitting at the table and see his smile," said Lorenzo Poe, chairman of the Coalition for Black Men. "I know as an organization we'll all miss him because he was such a stabilizing force. He was a wise

elder."

Gov. John Kitzhaber chose Hill to serve on a statewide committee studying environmental justice and racial and ethnic health issues.

As a member of the Coalition for Black Men and a board member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Hill and Dr. Rick Bayer poked the fingers of an estimated 700 children to check their lead blood levels.

The results of the free monthly screenings helped the state Health Division track lead poisoning rates in Portland's high-risk neighborhoods.

"The day before he died, we were talking about how the goal at our clinic was trying to drive ourselves out of business," Bayer said. Now, Bayer is unsure whether the screenings will continue after year's end, saying Hill's absence "is just a big hurt."

Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker dedicated Monday's meeting of the Chief's Forum—a group of community leaders who meet

regularly with the police chief—to Hill's memory. Hill was co-chairman of the forum and recently sat on the chief's blue-ribbon committee examining the issue of police profiling.

Hill also mentored fourth- and fifth-graders at Humboldt Elementary School and offered medical help to the Northwest Afrikan American Ballet, occasionally appearing in its annual heritage concert as a village elder.

"It was a perfect role for him," said his wife, Martha Carter Hill, whom he married Dec. 12, 1987. "He's always been so nurturing to everybody."

Hill was born Feb. 20, 1939 in Washington, D.C. He grew up in Seattle and graduated from the University of Iowa. He worked in Albany for a year before joining the medical team of the Minnesota Vikings.

He returned to Portland in 1973 and worked as a physician assistant for Kaiser Permanente for 23 years, specializing in orthopedics and sports and dance medicine. He retired in 1995 for health reasons.

Hill is survived by his wife; mother, Virginia Humes Hill Gallo-way; daughters, Elizabeth Virginia Simpson and Delane Kennice Hill; sons, Josiah Hill IV and Shanti Bay Hill; sisters, Veronica K. Jones and Juanita M. Washington; and four grandchildren. A public memorial has not yet been scheduled.



Josiah Hill

### 'Mama' Served Others with Quiet Spirit



Helen M. McGee

9 months. Also preceding her in death was her special grandson, Richard J. McGee who was also born on Mama's birthday, on July 25, 1986. Rishard and Mama now also share the same date of going to their eternal home, Oct. 4.

Mama was a strong, living and giving woman. She served others with a meek and quiet spirit. She strived to make a very deep and spiritual impression on her children, grandchildren and friends.

She was a devoted member of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church where she toiled tirelessly as welcoming and dedicated member of the usher board, always extending her welcoming smile and uplifted hand. She also served actively in one of the church's cell groups. Mama Loved the Lord and truly knew that the Lord loved her.

In 1982, Mama began her 15-year career with Kaiser Permanente working in various departments, including medical records, environmental services, human resources and finally office services, from which she retired in 1997. Mama was a joy to others in the workplace.

Our Mama has gone on to another eternal home and leaves be-

hind many who loved, cherished and will miss her, including her parents George and Osie Carney; children, Howard McGee, Jeffery McGee Sr., Barbara McGuire, Janet Rogers, Joyce McGee-Smith, Linda McGee-Branch, Anthony George McGee, Tina McGee, Zina Woods, Vanessa McGee, Marquita Jones and Diana Lowery; sisters: Georgia Mae Andrews and Nina Ruth Storry; brothers, Theo Carney, Alvin Carney and Morris Carney; aunt, Mable Woods; sister-in-law, Bessie Cunningham of St. Louis, Missouri; and brother-in-law, Leonard McGee.

Also sharing in her memory are 17 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her son, Robertest Leo McGee Jr.; brother, Williams Lee Carney and grandson, Richard James McGee. Mama will also be remembered by a host of nieces, nephews and very close friends and devoted church members.

## Compassion Sabbath Engages Oregon Faith

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is launching a new initiative called Compassion Sabbath, encouraging congregations across Oregon to designate time Oct 27-29 to worship, pray, study or discuss end-of-life issues.

Compassion Sabbath will help people focus on the role of the faith community in caring for those who are terminally ill or bereaved. More than 30 Christian, Buddhist and Jewish congregations from Baker City to Roseburg have registered to partici-

pate. EMO will provide resource materials to participating congregations at a cost of \$10 to cover copying and postage.

"Our sponsorship of Compassion Sabbath grows out of our conviction that the health care system alone fails to meet a dying person's need for companionship, understanding, and spiritual comfort," said the Rev. Melinda Smith, director of EMO's Compassionate Care and Education Division, who is spearheading Com-

passion Sabbath. "Faith communities can offer significant support to people who are dying or those who are bereaved."

EMO will also offer workshops during October on Advanced Directives and Children and Grief at Hopewell House Hospice Center, 7161 S.W. Capitol Highway.

Plans are underway to further develop workshops for clergy to offer them practical skills to enhance their ministry to people at the end of life.

### Long Time Resident Dies Suddenly

Frank R. Thompson - Born Oct. 19, 1957, passed away suddenly of cardiac arrest on Oct. 7 while visiting his stepdaughters and grandchildren in Gladstone.

A long time resident of the Portland metropolitan area, Frank enjoyed a variety of interests which included but were not limited to his family, church, helping others, fishing, nature, and camping.

He attended Grant and Washington High School and Irvington Grade School. Frank is survived by his mother Betty Thompson; his companion of 20 years, Emlyn Harris; sisters Connie, Gail, and Shama; brother-in-law Don; Stepdaughter Ronna; nephew Julian; grandsons D'Vario and Amando; grandniece Azaesha; and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, extended family members and friends.

Services celebrating his life were held at Caldwell's Colonial Chapel in Portland, on Tuesday.

The family wishes to thank everyone for their loving support, and asks that you pray for the peaceful repose of his soul, and the consolation of the family.

### Funeral Tribute to Josephine James

A funeral was held Tuesday at Rose City Funeral Home for Josephine James, who died Oct. 11 at age 65.

Mrs. James was born March 19, 1935, in Vicksburg, Miss. Her maiden name was Wright. She moved to Richmond, Calif., as a child and was raised there. She later lived in Los Angeles before moving to Portland in 1969. She was a grinder for Omak Industries (later Blount Inc.) for 27 years until retiring in 1998. In 1972, she married Curtis James.

Survivors include her husband; daughter, Donna Quinones; son, Keith; mother, Margaret Thompson; sisters, Veara Wright, Eddie Davis, Alyce Webster and Renee Dockery; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Interment will be in Rose City Cemetery.

### Fall Revival at Allen Temple

"...He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain... Hosea 6:3."

"The Latter Rain" is the theme of a revival to be held over three nights, Oct. 25-27 at 7 p.m. at the Allen Temple CME Church, 4236 N. E. Eighth Ave. Area residents are invited to join in

the healing, deliverance and restoration of God's word.

God's gifted anointed healer, prophetess and evangelist prophetess Betty Johnson of Beaumont, Texas will be the guest speaker.

For more information, contact Pastor Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr.

## Books Look At Life And Experiences

### Speakers Help Celebrate Month-Long Event

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center proudly sponsors Jewish Book Month as part of the national celebration of Jewish books demonstrating the full range of Jewish life and experiences. The event is sponsored in part by a grant from the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

From Oct. 31-Dec. 3, the MJCC and numerous Jewish organizations and synagogues, bring to Portland a wide range of authors reading in venues throughout the city. In addition, Broadway Books helps turn the MJCC lobby into the largest Judaica bookshop in town for the month, selling Judaic books from the religious, to the humorous, historical to great Jewish fiction. Kids books and cookbooks, also.

Perhaps since Jews have been traditionally called the "people of the book," it is only fitting that this month long national event, now held in ven-

ues throughout the United States, has become a major force in the book-seller world. This year's Portland celebration features both national and local authors.

Starting off Oct. 31 will be Mimi Sheraton, former food critic for the New York Times and author of the new book, *The Bialy Eaters*. A patron party, held at a private home, will feature Ms. Sheraton. This event costs \$25 and is open to the public. Please call the MJCC at 244-0111 for reservations and location.

Sheraton will read for the public on Nov. 1 at the MJCC. Other national authors include: Myla Goldberg, author of the highly acclaimed novel *The Bee Season*, and Nomi Eve, author of the new novel *The Family Orchard*, Nov. 30 at Congregation Havurah Shalom; and author Seth Rogovoy Nov. 28 at Congregation Shaarie Torah.

## Concordia Celebrates 50th Christmas Choral

The Concordia Choir is already preparing for the holiday season. This year is the 50th Anniversary of Concordia University's annual Christmas Choral.

The public is invited to come celebrate Christ with the 80-voice Concordia University Choir and Handbells Ensemble.

Selections will include traditional Christmas carols, sung by all, as well as musical selections for the Advent/Christmas season composed by David Willcocks, Morten Lauridsen, John

Gardner, William Mathias, J.S. Bach, Randall Thompson, John Rutter, and more. Concordia alumni and staff will be invited to join the choir at the conclusion of the program in singing the choral selection "E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come" by Paul Manz. The concert will be presented at St. Michael's Lutheran Church at Northeast Dekum and 29<sup>th</sup>, adjacent to the Concordia Campus, at 7 p.m. Dec. 2. There is no admission charge, but offerings will be accepted. Please call 503-280-8614 for more information.

PROVE GOD NOW MIRACLE CRUSADE, INCORPORATED

Media Evangelistic Missionary Outreach  
P.O. Box 12423  
Portland, Oregon 97212

**ONE DAY**  
BIBLICAL FAITH MIRACLE AND  
DELIVERANCE SEMINAR



*Trusting God's Promises*  
*Beyond the Instant Tangible Miracle*  
WITH

Evangelist W. Pritchett

**ONE GREAT SEMINAR ON HOW TO TRUST GOD'S PROMISES**

In this seminar, you will learn from God's word  
How to exercise faith in God so that He will fulfill His promise.

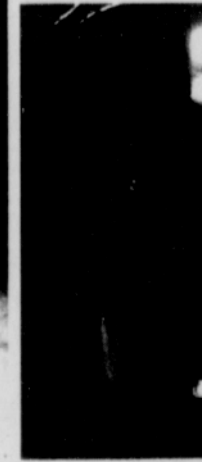
Everyone is invited!!!

SATURDAY—OCTOBER 28, 2000

Red Lion Inn Coliseum  
1225 North Interstate  
Portland, Oregon 97227  
2:00pm-5:00pm

Celebration Tabernacle Presents:

# An Evening of Eighty Eight Keys



*Eighth Annual Gospel Scholarship and Awards Program*

*Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at 7:00pm Jefferson High Performing Arts Center*

*Arts Center*

*\$10.00 in advance, \$11.00 at the door*  
*Tickets available at Fridays Espresso and all Fastix outlets*

*For information call 503-224-TIXX*