



Religion

o b i t u a r y

In Loving Memory Brenda J. Pearson



Brenda J. Pearson

Brenda J. Pearson was born Jan. 5, 1950 in Winfield, La., the daughter of Ollie Mae and Ardmore Canton. She was called home to rest on Dec. 29, 2001.

Pearson was raised in Spokane. In 1988, she moved to Portland. She was a member of St. Luke Memorial C.O.G.I.C. and a board member at Port City Development Center.

She leaves to mourn her mother, Ollie Mae Canton; brothers, Ardmore Canton Jr., James Canton, Berry Canton, Henry Canton, and Shephard Canton; sisters, Carrie Fordan, Delorse Gunn and Audrey Canton-Kyom; her children, Taft Washington Jr., Michele Canton and Michael Canton; grandchildren, Kayla Moody, Michael Canton II, Shaunce Washington, Brianna Sabb and Brittany Sabb; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Christ made her free.

Task Force Addresses Islam Misconceptions

Diversity panel fights Sept. 11 backlash of anti-Islamic sentiment

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, a backlash of anti-Islamic sentiment has played out across the United States, ranging from the defacing of mosques to the harassment of Middle-Eastern taxi cab drivers.

Most Americans decry these actions and, in response, have shown an intense interest in learning more about Islam and its followers.

Washington State University

Vancouver's Diversity Task Force is responding to that interest by inviting leaders and students from the Muslim community in the Portland-Vancouver area to host an interactive discussion about Islam, its tenets and common misconceptions associated with this 1,400-year-old religion.

The discussion is set for 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 28, in the WSU Vancouver lecture hall.

The panel of speakers encourages hard-hitting questions from the audience and promises frank responses to audience questions about Islam and its practice.

Featured speakers include: Dr. Shahriar Ahmed, president of the Bilal Mosque Association in Beaverton; Madiha Sultan, an undergraduate student at Portland State University; and Waasel Kareem, a senior

at Jesuit High School in Portland.

Members of the WSU Vancouver faculty also will comment on the role of women in Islam and the view of Islam from a Judeo-Christian perspective.

The forum and a reception are free and open to the public. For more information call Dr. Tahira Probst, faculty diversity fellow at 360-546-9746.

Portland Center Promotes Racial Harmony

Race unity will be the topic of a talk at the Portland Baha'i Center at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 18.

The speakers are an interracial couple from southeast Portland, Laila and Yohannes Murphy.

Laila's father is Persian and

her mother is European-American. Yohannes' mother is Ethiopian and his father is African-American.

"In honor of Martin Luther King Day, our presentation will focus on racial unity and harmony and will include music," Laila said.

Laila studied flute and musical theater at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill, while singing, acting, and playing guitar are major focuses of Yohannes' life.

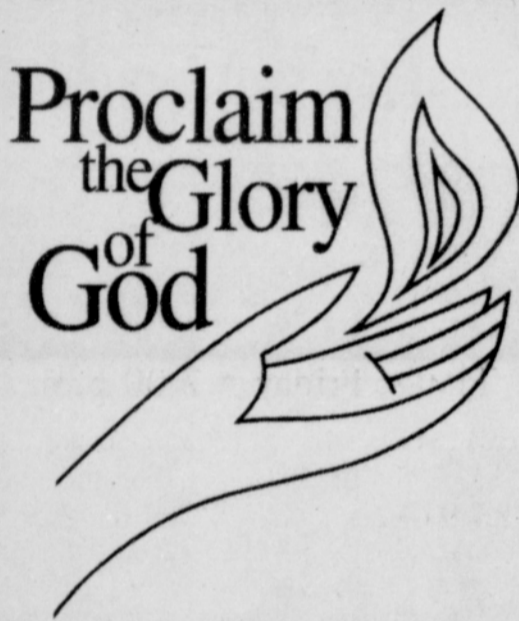
The Baha'i Center is located at 8720 N. Ivanhoe, next to the fire station, just off the

St. Johns Bridge.

The Portland Baha'i Community presents talks/discussions on important religious and social topics on the 3rd Friday evening of every month. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 503-289-6331.

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