

RELIGION

Church reveals history of Black Jews Finding a Forgotten Past

PHOTO AND TEXT BY DAVID PLECHL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Israelite Church of God and Christ is making its presence known in Portland by introducing the community to the Black Jews.

"We're going out into the community to reach all walks of life," Priest Joseph Watson said.

Watson says he tries to save souls and enlighten minds all at once.

"We don't beat them over the head with the bible," he said. "We just show it to them to the best of our interpretation."

That interpretation includes information contained in the Apocrypha, which is a collection of books that have long been removed from the bible. What some of that removed material revealed, is that many of the Jews in ancient times were black.

The Israelite Church tells the story of the Black Jews by looking at the history of Judaism as it relates to the history of man across the earth.

The church says many prophets and figures of historical importance have been made white over the



We're trying to rehearse the righteous acts of our forefathers.

—Priest Joseph Watson of the Israelite Church of God and Christ.

years.

According to the Israelite Church, one million Jews fled to Africa in 65 B.C. when the Romans conquered Israel. Watson says many of those Jews eventually ended up in America.

"The slave markets of America were full of black Jewish slaves," he said.

Israelite Priest Damien Wilson said it is not about rewriting the past, but revealing the true course of history as they see it.

"If you take the bible seriously, you want to make sure your interpretation of the bible is correct," Wilson said. "You should know what your culture is, what your history is."

Watson says their church is not a religion but a way of life, one that follows Christ's example and God's ten commandments.

"Religion has held us back, restricted us and divided us. Man made all these religions, but we teach gods

laws," Watson explained.

He sees the Israelite Church as an antidote to the poison of a morally corrupt entertainment and media-based culture.

"We want a whole bunch of foolishness when knowledge is right here." He says, laying his hand on a well-worn bible.

The Portland location is a satellite branch of the central church in New York City. A large Passover ceremony that includes members from across the country is held there every year.

Watson hopes to establish the Israelite church in Portland then move on to spread the message into Seattle.

The church also produces a television show about the Black Jews called "The Hidden Truth" that airs locally on cable access. There is no Sunday service but a Wednesday night bible study class comprehensively outlines the church's teachings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at 4839 NE MLK Jr Blvd. Attendees should use the entrance on Wygant.

For more information on the Israelite Church of God and Christ, call 503-282-1599

Labrynth Workshop

The Center for Spiritual Development will present a Labrynth workshop titled, The Sacred Labrynth: The Advent Journey of Waiting, on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Kempton Hall at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral located at 147 NW 19th Ave.

Led by Eunice Schroeder, the workshop will include both lecture and several periods of walking on the church's beautiful in-laid wood Labrynth.

Eunice Schroeder, M.A., M.A., founder and director of Sacred Journey Ministries, has been researching and teaching about the sacred labrynth through Marylhurst University for several years. Schroeder works one-on-one with individuals seeking to deepen and integrate their spirituality into all facets of life, as a spiritual director at the Interfaith Spiritual Center in Portland, OR.

The cost for the workshop is \$45 and lunch is included. Tickets are available at The Center For Spiritual Development at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave. in Portland. For more information, contact Eunice Schroeder at 503-233-2026 ext. 4 or email her at sacredjourneymn@aol.com.

Addiction Recovery Program Supported

Union Gospel Mission received grants from Meyer Memorial Trust and from The Collins Foundation to support a new building on the corner of Northwest Third and Burnside.

Meyer Memorial Trust provided a grant of \$250,000 and The Collins

Foundation provided a grant of \$150,000.

The new building will replace the two dilapidated, condemned buildings now at the site with a new five story building designed by SERA Architects. The building will allow Union Gospel Mis-

sion to expand its LifeChange addiction recovery program from its current capacity of 30 residents to 70 residents. The building will also allow Union Gospel Mission to expand services for the homeless.

LifeChange is a unique, long-

term recovery community focusing on "hard core" addicts. Residents of LifeChange live and work at Union Gospel Mission for a period of two to four years learning to overcome their addictions, acquiring job skills and re-building their lives.

Ceramic Nativity Scene Class for Families

Anyone interested in crafting a personalized ceramic nativity set for Christmas can do so at the Grace

Institute in northeast Portland on Saturday, Nov. 16 and Nov. 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Artist-in-Residence Penny St. Claire will teach students to create an original ceramic nativity set or to modify existing sets. Students can shape ceramic figures on the first Saturday session and return the

next week to add colorful glazes to their pieces.

Cost for the class is \$40 for each nativity set. To register, call 503-331-8155, extension 131 or visit the institute at 1511 N.E. 17th.

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all who call upon
Him, to all who call
upon Him in truth.**

Psalms 145:18

gospel spots.com

continued from Metro

Thanksgiving Farmers Market

Portland's farmers, bakers, chocolate and cheese makers will get together for the first annual Thanksgiving Farmers Market on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Portland State University. Additionally Shoppers can purchase natural centerpieces and order pies and customized holiday wreaths. Free cooking demonstrations are scheduled on wild mushroom soup, bread stuffing and ginger cranberry sauce. For more information, call 503-241-0032.

Thanksgiving at Kennedy School

McMenamins welcomes friends and families for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner buffet from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Kennedy School at 5736 N.E. 33rd. The menu features chipotle pepper, pesto and traditional devede eggs, maple baked ham with honey-beer mustard, herb-roasted turkey breast, baked yams with Jonathan apples and brown sugar glaze, traditional sage stuffing and fresh baked pumpkin pie with whipped cream. For reservations, call 503-249-3983.

Winter Wonderland Light Show

Enjoy the Northwest's biggest light show from the comfort of your own car at the Thriftway Winter Wonderland light show this year at the Portland International Raceway from Nov. 28 through Jan. 1. The show features 40 fully animated display scenes, 25 vehicle drive-through arches and 12 themed display areas. The raceway is open Sunday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday nights until 11 p.m. For more information, call 503-821-4342.

Thanksgiving Blood Drive

The American Red Cross invites blood donors to give the gift of life at its Eight Annual Thanksgiving Day Blood Drive. Children's Theatre's Sacagawea will make a special appearance, along with broadcasts of the Macy's Parade and national football games, hands-on children's activities, food, beverages and a visit from the Portland Fire Bureau. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. at the American Red Cross Donor Center, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave.

Anxiety and Depression Remedies

New Seasons Market - Concordia welcomes Dr. Tim Shannon, ND, to address the use of homeopathic drugs to replace traditional drugs in the treatment of anxiety and depression. On Thursday, Dec. 5 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Shannon will strive to empower patients with self-sustaining healing remedies. Call 503-288-2323 to reserve space.

Ainsworth Holiday Home Tour

The public is invited by Ainsworth Elementary School to tour five prestigious Portland Heights properties on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in an event to benefit Ainsworth Elementary School. Tickets are \$20 per person which can be ordered by calling 503-916-6288.

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Israelite Church of God & Jesus Christ Portland, Oregon Satellite Church



4839 NE MLK Jr. Blvd, Suite #201
(Wygant entrance)

Free Bible Studies, Biblical History & Hebrew Classes
every Wednesday night 7pm - 10pm

(503) 282-1599

Hidden Truth TV Show:

Chn 11 - 11/17 9am
Chn 11 - 11/19 12:30pm
Chn 22 - 11/2 6pm
Chn 22 - 11/5 10pm
Chn 23 - 10/28 12pm
Chn 23 - 10/31 9am

Learn more about the Black Jews
& Israelites of the Holy Bible!

Revelation 1:13,14,15 & Jeremiah 14:2
www.icupk.com <http://www.icupk.com>

Community Calendar