

RELIGION

Faith Groups Honor Local Pastor

Dr. Reverend LeRoy Haynes Jr. active in ministry and justice

Individuals representing the faith community and community organizations from around the state will come together Tuesday, Feb. 22 for the annual community awards and celebration dinner for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Special recognition will honor ecumenical and interfaith leaders in the state, including local African-American pastor Dr. Rev. LeRoy Haynes Jr. The theme of the event is "Be a light that will shine before others."

Haynes is the organization's "Ecumenist of the Year," presented

in recognition of outstanding efforts to promote theological education and dialogue, community ministry and justice advocacy.

Haynes is senior pastor of Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in northeast Portland, president of the North Portland Bible College and presiding elder of the Alaska Pacific Region Conference.

He is active in increasing HIV/AIDS awareness in his community. He co-founded the "Annual Balm Gilead HIV/AIDS Black Church Awareness Week" in Portland and

founded the "Allen Temple HIV/AIDS Education Project." His work has been recognized by the Cascade AIDS Project with the "Angel Award."

As chairperson for the Albina Ministerial Alliance Ad Hoc Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability, Haynes led community accountability and reconciliation efforts on both the Kendra James and James Jahar Perez police shootings. In 2005, he was named recipient of The Skanner newspaper's "Drum Major for Justice Award."

Haynes is also involved with many community organizations. He

is vice president of the Albina Ministerial Alliance and a former board member of Portland Organizing Project. He was secretary for EMO for two years and continues to serve on EMO's Board of Directors.

The event will be held at The Hilton Hotel, 921 S.W. Sixth Ave. Registration and reception for the event begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and table sponsorships are available for \$500. For more information, call Bob Baker at 503-221-1054 or bbaker@emoregon.org.



Dr. Rev. LeRoy Haynes Jr.

Islam Symposium to be held Sunday

In light of Black History Month, the Youth Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, invites local residents to a public symposium entitled "Islam and Today's African American".

The event will be held Sunday, Feb. 20 at 2:30 p.m. at Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4219 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd.

The free symposium will cover the current status of racial equality in America, what role Islam has played in the battle for racial equality, and what can be done to empower the African American community now and in the future.

The presentations will be made by distinguished speakers, including Vanessa Gaston, President of the Urban League of Portland. A question and answer session will follow. A complimentary lunch will be served.

Praise and Worship in the Arts

George Merriweather, senior pastor of Northeast Community Fellowship Church in Northeast Portland, is enthusiastic about dance.

Once forbidden by many churches, dance is an acceptable form of worship is on the rise in many local congregations.

"Dance is an integral part of worship at our church. Throughout the Bible, dance is used as a way of celebrating victories and the faithfulness of God," Merriweather said. Worship dancing adds an exciting and inspiring dimension to our worship service."

The church will host "Igniting the Flame, Living a Lifestyle of Worship," on Thursday, Feb. 24 and Friday, Feb. 26.

The emphasis of this workshop conference is to ignite the hearts of believers, teaching them how to enter into the intimate presence of God through worship and dance.

Pastor Merriweather is encouraging local churches, worship leaders and all of those interested in worship to attend. There is also a special



Northeast Community Fellowship Dance Team.

session for youth on Saturday, Feb. 26.

For more information, call the church at 503-288-2583 or visit the conference Web site at www.necommunityfellowshipfoursquarechurch.com.

Local Church Hosts Food and Farming Justice Event

Community members, farmers, representatives of local congregations and organizations and local businesses will gather at St. Andrew Community Center in northeast Portland Saturday, Feb. 19 for "From Farms to Families: A Community Gathering to Address Food Access for All."

The event is sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns, local congregations, organizations

and businesses including St. Andrew Catholic Church, Oregon Food Bank and Growing Gardens.

Participants will explore how they can work together to make healthy food available to all, including people with low-incomes. Another key topic will be how to better support the local farmers and businesses that bring nutritious food to our table.

"Food insecurity is a reality for too many residents of north and

northeast Portland," said event organizer Lou Boston, a member of the Portland-Multnomah Food Policy Council representing the faith community. "It is a moral imperative that those who sit at the table of plenty should ensure that those who are not as fortunate share the table with us."

The Rev. John Pitney will share creative models of congregations doing food ministries that both support local agriculture and feed

the hungry. Food for the gathering, mostly from local sources, is being donated by Big City Produce and Supernatural Foods; both are businesses with a strong commitment to the north and northeast community and to creating healthy local food systems.

There is no cost for the event, but goodwill donations are welcome. To register, call Dana at 503-221-1054, extension 203.

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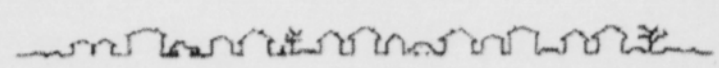
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