

Four Black Queens – Then and Now

continued **▲ from Front**

After high school, Marks attended the University of Arizona. She has lived in Texas, West Virginia and Georgia. She has more than 10 years of high school volleyball and basketball coaching experience.

WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Robin Marks, 45 currently lives in Tucson, Ariz. and works as a middle school math teacher. Her advice to aspiring Queens of Rosaria is to listen to your friends if they urge you to try out. Marks says without following that advice for her, she would have never become involved with Rose Festival.

RAINABEAVERS

Fast forward five years and the Rose Festival crowned Raina Beavers from Franklin High School, the only person of color on the court in 1985.

"Rose Festival was just the thing to do if you were a senior in high school," said Beavers. "But I didn't think I had a chance of winning."

When she was named queen, all she could remember is crying and applause.

"I remember Emily Perry from Grant High School hugging me from behind," she said. "I was so excited and I couldn't believe it happened."

Beavers said people often wrongly assumed that because she's black that she attended Jefferson High School. She went on the graduate from Portland State University with a degree in speech communications.

It then took 13 years before another black queen was crowned.

"I started to think about are we ever going to have another queen of color. And then we had it two years in a row," said Beavers.

WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Raina Beavers-Evans, 40, recently remarried and is enjoying married life while living in Beaverton. She owns her own consulting company and hosts a Queen's Tea each year for past Rose Festival royalty. She has had a stint as an actress in the Portland area and hosted Portland Cable Access show NE Spectrum for 10 years. She has a daughter, 13 and a stepson and stepdaughter.

ALISHA MORELAND

In 1998, Jefferson High School senior Alisha Moreland decided that she needed to run for Rose Festival to bring some positive news about her school.

Moreland said she was in an awkward position, because people were not very excited about Jefferson as an institution or a place of learning.

"I thought I could change their perception," she said.

Moreland affirms that she received a quality education at Jefferson, both socially and academically. At the time, she felt she was the best person to represent

Portland. The 4.0 student also knew she was going places.

"No one else was going to Stanford. I had a full scholarship," she said.

Moreland went on to graduate from Stanford University and then to George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capua recently moved back to Portland. She is the mother of one-year-old Daniel Jr. Her message to students attending Jefferson today is not to give up.

"You can achieve and learn anywhere despite the circumstances," she said.

AMBER STARKS

Amber Starks didn't think she had a chance of being crowned in 1999, considering it was the year after Alisha Moreland won the title. But Starks remembers her assistant vice principal at Harriet Tubman, Joseph Gallati, telling her she would be Queen of Rosaria someday.

"Every time he would see me in the hall he would address me as Queen Amber," said Starks. "He just believed it and I started to believe it as well. If it wasn't for him maybe I wouldn't have done it."

Starks attended Jefferson for a short time during her freshman year but transferred to Cleveland because she felt there was more opportunity for college.

When Rose Festival time came around, she thought about the words of wisdom from her former vice-principal. But Starks was also doubtful because she didn't consider herself popular.

But Mr. Gallati's "You are going to be Queen someday" kept reminding her to try out. Starks says the Rose Festival process is very long and she didn't think she was going to make it.

"It was really kind of scary and intimidating," she said.

Starks remembers being treated like royalty during the Rose Festival process. Her advice to someone wanting to do Rose Festival or anything is to go for it and not listen to negativity.

There were five black women on the court in 1999, the most ever. But Starks holds the title as the last African-American Rose Festival Queen.

WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Starks, 26, graduated from University of Oregon in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in general science.

She worked at the university's neuroscience lab for three years studying Fanconi Anemia and DNA to prevent cancer.

Recently, Starks moved back to Portland and works in a lab at Oregon Health Sciences University. She is also a model.



Contributions Recognized

continued **▲ from Front**

increased Wells Fargo's customer base by offering financial planning workshops at Albina Head Start and Rosa Parks Elementary, among other locations in north and northeast Portland.

Stigler says, "Nine times out of 10 these people come back to me, because some people are afraid of being part of a huge financial institution."

Banking management has spotted an opening for marketing where neighborhood schools have fallen short.

"Because of the schools' challenges not being able to provide Home Ec and other types of financial classes, this gives Wells Fargo


the opportunity to come in there," Stigler says.

The importance of developing areas with strained public resources is not lost on Andy Anderson, chief historian for Wells Fargo, considering the company's early years mixing with struggling Native and Spanish-speaking populations

"Wells Fargo is not the history of one company, but the history of over 2,000 companies across the United States, Canada and Latin America. The vast majority of the companies were independent community banks," Anderson wrote.

Juneteenth celebrations are all in a day's work for a company that runs nine museums and sets aside key public-relations roles to historians.

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Free Concert at Emmanuel Temple

The Portland community will be favored with one of its very own — author, singer and songwriter, liturgical worship dancer and motivational speaker Prophetess Gloria Stidum, as she performs in a free admission concert.

"A Praise and Worship Experience to Remember—Part 2" begins at 6:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Temple Church, 1033 N. Sumner, on Saturday, June 9.

Additional performing guest artists on that night will be ROTA from Seattle, The Brown Sisters of Portland and the dynamic dance team God-N-



Gloria Stidum

Charge.

Gloria's CD "I'll Bow Down to Worship Him" and her book "Prophetic Poetry: From the Father's Heart to Yours," will be available.

To request free tickets, call Iris Ramiz at 503-309-967 or Corinne Peters at 503-758-4556.

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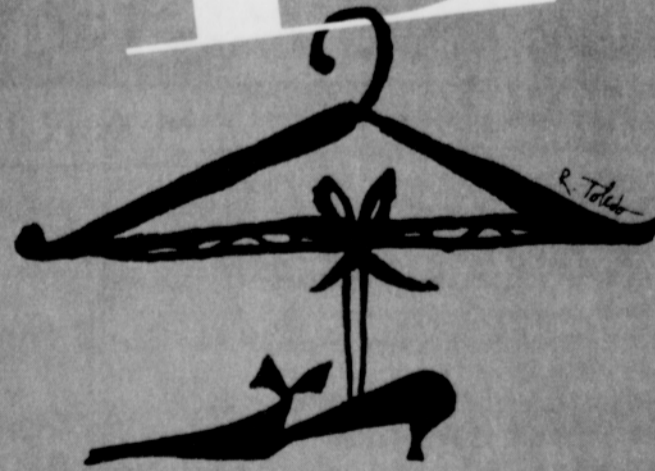
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