

# Celebrating Women's History Month

## Promoting the community

continued **▲ from Metro**

Her responsibility includes PDC's minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small business (M/W/ESB) and construction workforce diversity initiatives. She is a member of PDC's Diversity Council and conducts training for PDC staff on topics such as generational differences and cultural competency.

Burnette previously was a program manager at Providence Health Systems, where she assisted the Office of Diversity with workforce diversity, community partnering and cross-cultural care giving.

She has also served as Director of Public and employee Relations at the

City of Gresham and spent 20 years in a series of leadership positions at US West Communications, AT&T Communications, Pacific Bell and Pacific Northwest Bell.

Burnette has a BA in Behavioral Psychology from Reed College in Portland. She is a lifetime member of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs and has memberships in the Northwest Diversity Leadership Forum and American Society for Training and Development.

She is a member and past Diversity Director for the Society for Human Resources Professionals. She holds a certificate in Equal Employment Opportunities Studies from Cornell University.



Karen Bass makes U.S. history as the first African-American woman to be named speaker of the California Assembly.

## California Lawmaker Makes History

### Speaker first to serve

Change happened this month when the California Assembly elected Karen Bass as its 67th Speaker, catapulting a Democratic woman to the post for the first time in the state's history, and the first African-American woman to serve in this powerful state-elected role in the country.

Bass has been a part of the leadership since her first term when she was appointed to Ma-

majority Whip. In her second term, she was elevated to the post of Majority Floor Leader, making her the first woman to hold the post and the second African American to serve in the position.

As vice chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, Bass highlighted the disparities between blacks and other ethnic and minority groups throughout the state. Under her leadership, she was able to improve the state's foster care

system.

She grew up in the Venice/Fairfax area of Los Angeles, the only girl of DeWitt and Wilhelmina Bass. Her father worked as mail carrier, and her mother, who once owned her own beauty salon, was a stay-at-home mother.

"I'm excited to be a history maker," said Bass. "It's an honor that my accomplishments will inspire others to get involved in the process to make change a reality."

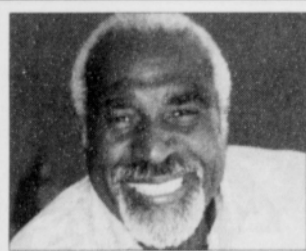
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## Church Leader Supports Sister Study

### Challenges other faith leaders

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the presiding prelate for the 13th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is spreading the word about the Sister Study, a landmark breast cancer study to learn how environment and genes affect the chances of getting breast cancer.

Bishop McKenzie also challenges other faith leaders across the country to help spread the word to women in their congregations and communities.

"When a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, it affects her

family, her church and the community in which she serves. African-American faith leaders can motivate women to find ways to help prevent diseases like breast cancer that are plaguing our communities. African-American women should join the Sister Study so our young sisters won't have to face the disease," said McKenzie.

Much of what is known about breast cancer risk comes from research studies involving mostly white women. However, breast cancer occurrence and survival are different for black women, who often develop the disease at a younger age and have more aggressive tumors, than white women. Even though white women are more likely to get the disease, black women are more likely to die from breast can-



Bishop Vashti Murphy

cer. the over 200-year history of the A.M.E. Church in which a woman had obtained that level of Episcopal office.

In 2004, she again made history becoming the first woman to become the Titular Head of the denomination, as the president of the Council of Bishops, making her the highest-ranking woman in the predominantly Black Methodist denominations.

She has been honored for her community service, outstanding achievement and for being a religious role model by a number of diverse civic, educational, business and governmental leaders.

To learn more about the Sister Study, visit the website sisterstudy.org. A toll free number is also available at 1-877-7837.

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## Chamber leader promotes advancement

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business consulting firm: Castillo and Associates. Consulting contracts included projects funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Economic Development Department, and Tri-Met to provide technical assistance to minority and women-owned businesses throughout Oregon in the areas of management, marketing, finance, construction and contract opportunities.

Castillo has also conducted international training seminars for groups from Latin America regarding strategic planning, leadership development, training of trainers and other topics.

Her public-service record includes working as an assistant to

former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and serving as a state manager of the Oregon Economic Development Department's Job Training Administration.

In the private sector, she has worked for AT&T, Pacific Northwest Bell, and RESTOR Communications.

Castillo is of Mexican-American descent and was raised in Oakland, Calif., in an ethnically diverse community. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Linfield College and a Masters degree from Portland State University.

She is married to Gerald "Jerry" Brown and has two sons Anthony Castillo Brown and Robert Castillo Mejia.

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### Endangered Runaways



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Date Missing: Feb 16, 2008  
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**RYAN BARRAGAN** Current Age: 14 Date Missing: Jan 25, 2008  
Missing From: Chicago, IL  
Both photos are of Ryan; he has a birthmark under his right eye.



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The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

This public service announcement provided by the Portland Observer Newspaper.

## Executive achieves top post

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served as a vice president at PacifiCorp. Her experience includes work in electricity transmission and distribution, construction and maintenance, sales and marketing, human resources, procurement and communications.

## Building careers in public service

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of Portland Police Bureau donated a police cruiser to the PCC Emergency Services Department for student training purposes.

Robertson also participated in "Project Clean Slate," providing an opportunity for persons with outstanding warrants, DMV issues, and

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other legal problems to clear up their records with public service, education and other forms of restitution.

Her career and volunteer activities in Oregon spans 35 years. This includes being the First African American Oregon Junior League member and recognized as an Outstanding Young Woman of America.

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