

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Facets of Africa at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center

Visiting Kenyan artist welcomed

Portland most vibrant story tellers, representing the many facets of African cultures are featured during special performances and a gallery exhibit for Black History Month at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

Local musician Caton Lyles, Ghanaian dancer Habiba, Nicaraguan healer Graziella Teofel, South African story specialist Samantha Vandermere and IFCC resident actor Jennifer Lanier will participate in Facets of Africa performances each Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. during the month of February; and on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students.

The gallery exhibit features works by Kenyan artist Jacob Wachira Ezigbo, the IFCC Resident Artist for the spring of 2009.

Ezigbo will attend an artist's reception on Thursday, Jan. 29, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The gallery exhibit is free and open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and

Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. through Feb. 21.

Born in Nairobi, Kenya in 1975, Ezigbo cannot recall a time he was not drawing or painting. One of his favorite things to do was to create brightly colored murals on the sides of the houses in Mathare.

Mathare is a gigantic slum in Nairobi where Ezigbo was born and spent his childhood. He has traveled about the world yet he has chosen to return to Mathare where he lives today. He adopted the name Ezigbo (ezigbo meaning "the good one" from the Ibo community of Nigeria).

Ezigbo will also be featured during an Artist Lecture on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Jacob Wachira Ezigbo of Kenya is the current resident artist at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. His works are going on display in the IFCC's Facets of Africa gallery exhibit celebrating Black History Month.



PCC Hosts Provocative Speaker

One of America's most provocative public intellectuals and a longtime champion for racial justice, Dr. Cornel West, will give an exciting and timely presentation on the election of President Barack Obama and speak to America's challenges, successes and the restoration of hope during a public lecture Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Newmark Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway.

Sponsored by Portland Community College, the speaking engagement will kick off Black History Month events that follow in Febru-



Dr. Cornel West

ary. Tickets are \$25 to \$45 and available through Ticketmaster outlets.

Dr. West's writing, speaking, and teaching weave together the traditions of the black Baptist Church, progressive politics, and jazz. The New York Times has praised his "ferocious moral vision."

Currently the Class of 1943 Professor at Princeton University, Dr. West burst onto the national scene in 1993 with his bestselling book, *Race Matters*, a searing analysis of racism in American democracy. *Race Matters* has become a contemporary classic, selling more than a half a million copies to date. In addition, he has published 16 other books and has edited 13 texts.

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Free Talks on Race, Law

Paul Finkelman, a specialist in American legal history and race, will be delivering two free lectures at Washington State University in Vancouver on Thursday, Jan. 29.

Finkleman will speak on Asian Immigration to the U.S. and the Chinese Exclusion Act at Noon in the

Paul Finkelman

school's Administration building, room 110.

He will deliver the talk "Law in the Service of Evil: How Southern Lawyers and Judges Defended Slavery," at 7 p.m. in the Multimedia Classroom building, Room 6.

On Friday, Jan. 30, Finkelman will also be running a workshop on slavery in U.S. history and the Dred Scott case for select Washougal history teachers through the Teaching American History Grant funded through the U.S. Department of Education.

Finkelman is the author of more than 100 scholarly articles plus more than 20 books. He is an expert in the law of slavery, constitutional law, and legal issues surrounding baseball.



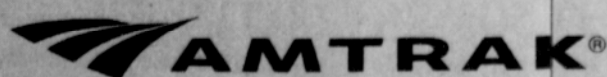
Take Time to Share A LITTLE HISTORY.

Black History Month is about discovery. And with routes from the Carolinas to New York, Florida to DC, and all points in between, Amtrak makes it possible to discover history in any part of the country. Relax in roomy Coach seats, grab a bite to eat from the dining car, or take in the views from the lounge car. Amtrak is the perfect way to connect with family as you reflect on the past and build possibilities for the future.

We welcome everyone on board – especially those with a heart for discovering history. And best of all, kids ages 2-15 ride half price.

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For more information:
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