

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jefferson alumnae Maggie Mashia, class of 1980 (from left); Donna Maxey, class of 1966; and Julie Rogers, class of 1974; authored the book "100 Years of Excellence," a tribute to the north Portland school and featuring 100 of its most distinguished graduates.

100 Glorious Years

Jefferson alums publish tribute

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Despite what headlines may lead you to believe, Jefferson High School students have had 100 glorious years, both in school and in their lives following it. And it's all there in print for you to see.

Three Jefferson alumnae—Donna Maxey, class of 1966, Maggie Mashia, class of 1980, and Julie Rogers, class of 1974—have produced "100 Years of Excellence," a tribute to the north Portland school and 100 of its most distinguished graduates.

The effort began as part of the school's centennial celebration in 2009. The Jefferson Alumnae Association polled its members for graduates to be honored in a "People's Choice" pamphlet, and the nominations were supplemented by some research.

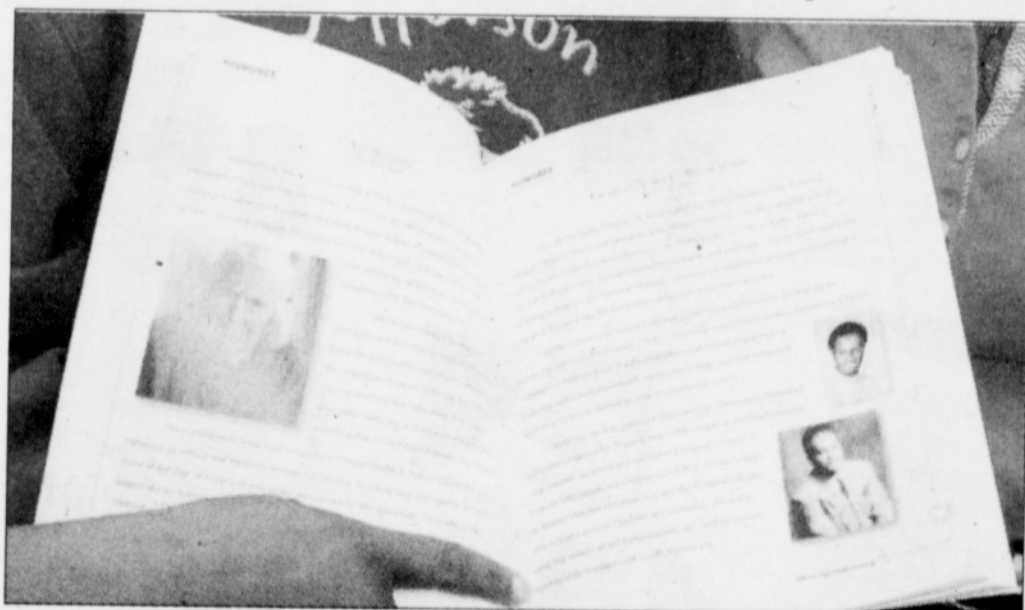
"All that was asked for was a pamphlet, but we came up with some pretty amazing people, and a one-sentence description didn't do them justice," Rogers said. A real book was called for, "and Maggie, Donna and I accepted the task," she said.

Jefferson has long been known as a bastion of excellence in sports, and the book includes some greats: Pro Football Hall of Famer Mel Renfro, Heisman Trophy winner Terry Baker, champion boxer Ray Lampkin.

"We could have filled the book with the sports figures alone," Rogers says, "but it was the scholars who really stood out. We learned about people we hadn't known anything about. It was just fascinating."

The book includes the following:

- **Edward Perkins**, a career ambassador who helped broker the end of the racial apartheid system in South Africa.
- **Dr. Walter Reynolds**, the first African-American graduate of what is now the Oregon Health and Sciences University.
- **Carl Talton**, the first African-American chair of the Portland Development Commission.
- **George Azumano**, interned in a Self-Enhancement, Inc., together with fellow alum Ray Leary.
- **Ancer Haggerty**, a Vietnam War Silver Star honoree who became a state and federal court judge.
- Actress **Virginia Ann Patton Moss**, who played James Stewart's sister-in-law in the film "It's a Wonderful Life."
- Nobel Prize winner **Warren Washington**.
- And let us not forget **Charles Washington**, the publisher of the



detention camp with other Japanese Americans during World War II, who founded one of the city's leading travel agencies.

• **Duncan Campbell**, self-made timber tycoon who used his wealth to create the non-profit Friends of the Children, together with other good works.

• Reporter **Anne Sullivan**.
• Distinguished choreographer **Patti Benson**.
• Muralist **Isaka Shamsud-Din**.
• Jazz guitarist **Norman Sylvester**.
• Attorney and congressman **Wendell Wyatt**.

• **Nancy Ryles**, a Republican state senator so well-respected that, for her final term, she ran unopposed.
• **Tony Hopson**, a sports star who went on to co-found the non-profit

Portland Observer.

The sheer numbers of worthy nominees, and in some cases the lack of available information, meant that some good candidates weren't included. "We're keeping track of them," Rogers says. Many of those who were included "not only gained prominence in their field, but really made major contributions to society and the world," she says.

In addition to the three principal authors, many other people lent a hand in the book's production. "It took longer than we thought it would, but it was a great job by a lot of people," Rogers says.

"100 Years of Excellence" is available at Ainsworth Drug and Gifts, 4027 N. Interstate Ave., or online at jeffersonalum.com.

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