

in Review



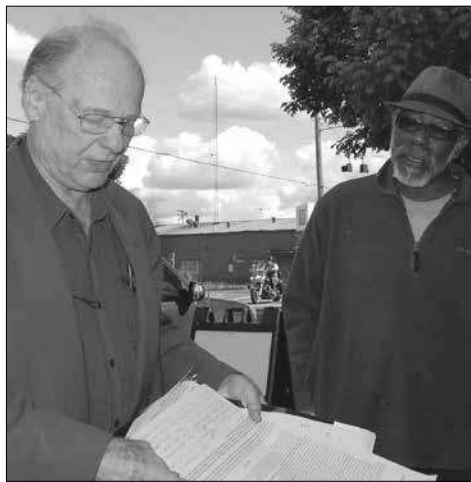
Soul Harmony

April 15 – The Portland theater group Stumptown Stages tackles the birth of R&B with its all-original musical “Soul Harmony,” based on the real life history of Deborah Chessler, a young Jewish woman, and the dynamic black male vocal group Sonny Till and the Orioles.



Picking up the Baton

May 20 – Activists and community members honor the memory of Keaton Otis, a young African American who was killed in a hail of police gunfire during a 2010 traffic stop, and his father Fred Bryant who pursued justice in the case with monthly vigils until his death more than a year ago.



Struggling to Hold Its Place

May 27 – Friends and neighbors form a petition to get relief from the city over code violations and fines that threaten the future of the historically African-American St. Joseph Grand Lodge, one of the last vestiges of the black community on North Mississippi Avenue.



Solidarity with Charleston

June 24 – A community vigil brings hundreds of people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds to Bethel AME Church in northeast Portland to mourn the lives lost in Charleston, S.C., where a 21-year-old self-proclaimed white supremacist killed nine members of a black church during bible study, including the church pastor.



A Rightful Place

July 22 – Social justice and art-focused organizations sponsor a new mural at the Black United Fund building on Northeast Alberta Street to provide a dramatic visibility to an African American community that is struggling to hold on in the area.



50 Years of Praise

April 8 – Emmanuel Church, a historic African American congregation serving north and northeast Portland, celebrates 50 years of ministry, community service and helping vulnerable populations with a weekend of celebrations, music and sermons.



Voices for Justice

May 6 – Activists from Black Lives Matter and other groups march from Portland State University to City Hall to raise issues over police brutality to raising the minimum wage. The outcry follows the death of Freddie Gray, an unarmed black man who died at the hands of police in Baltimore.



Sucked into Debt

June 10 – A group of Portland State University students give a voice to a generation of students who are accumulating heavy debt burdens to go to school.

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