

Allen Temple CME Church PASTOR'S APPRECIATION



Please join us in honoring our Pastor
Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr.

Pastor • Teacher • Civil-Rights Leader
Author • Spiritual Leader

Speaker: Reverend Robert C. Jointer
Bethesda Baptist Church

Theme

"Pressing Toward The Higher Calling"
Philippians 3:13-14

Date: Sunday, June 05, 2016
Time: 4:00 pm
Where: Maranatha Church
4222 NE 12th Avenue
Portland OR

2016 PORTLAND OBSERVER AutoReview Sienna



The 2016 Toyota Sienna has all the room you need for comfort and cargo but value is also tops as the Sienna is rated the 2016 Best Resale Value for a Minivan/Van by Kelly Blue Book.

The Sienna comes with a sunroof, heated leather seats, a third row seat, Bluetooth, iPod/MP3 Input, and power liftgate,

The SE preferred packages has alloy wheels and satellite radio. Gas mileage comes at 25 MPG Hwy/18 MPG city.

Key features of the SE trim are silver sky metallic exterior, a black interior and leather seats. The materials quality is very good and the dash design is modern and attractive. Seating is

plush and there's abundant storage space along with user-friendly controls.

An optional push starting system, with smart key system on all doors and illuminated entry and touch-sensor lock/unlock feature, and lane change assist is also available. The manufactured suggested retail price is \$39,930.

Lofty Dreams and Aspirations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

acceptance rate into the school and Sekai's lack of a high school theater program to tout, her reservations were warranted.

Yet SEI wasn't going to let Sekai's talents go unnoticed. Enrolled with the non-profit organization since her freshman year, her abilities were recognized early by her teachers and mentors, according to SEI President and Chief Executive Officer Tony Hopson. SEI was more than happy to morally and financially support her efforts.

"The idea has always been to take our African American students in the community and get them to reach their full potential," says Anthony Deloney, the director of SEI's After School and Summer Programs. "But Sekai is so driven; she knows the things she's trying to do."

Jefferson is one of a few PPS institutions under SEI's wing and has so far seen a great deal of success with improving student outcomes, especially the 30 percent increase in Jefferson's graduation rates since SEI began offering their various support services like mentoring and tutoring.

"In our culture, a lot of people think 'what's the way you can be successful? Play basketball, be a rapper' -- basically all these things

the media tells us we can be. But we've always said that life has options. That's our motto. There are so many things you can do to be successful, so many different avenues," says Deloney. "Whatever we can do, we want to jump in. The only thing we ask is that when you become that super celebrity that you come back and inspire that next generation of kids. That's how we've been able to do this for 35 years."

Sekai is one of just seven African American students nationally accepted into the renowned school this year, though she doesn't recognize this as any sort of competition and more as an opportunity to be a part of a thriving black creative community.

"I think sometimes we're taught that the reasons we are places are because we're black and not because we have the talent. I have to remind myself that I have the talent. I know what kind of actor I am and it encompasses me being a black woman, but a lot of that encompasses other parts of me and who I am," says Sekai. "I don't want to be seen as the only black woman in the room. I want to be seen as Sekai, the actress that can do this and that. Either I'll be right for the part or not, but it won't be because I'm black."

As part of her transition into the next chapter in her life, Sekai has

chosen to drop her last name Edwards. "That name isn't a part of my people," says Sekai. "It comes from our family's slave owners. I don't want any part of that."

She hopes that other students don't let their inhibitions stop them in their tracks, like they almost did for her.

"Sometimes we see what people want us to see. With social media, you're seeing what that person wants you to see. When someone looks at me, they see me as someone who got into Juilliard and is really successful. What you don't see is the scholarship that I didn't win, the school I didn't get into, the time I took third place or didn't place and the time that I failed. We tend to look at every time someone succeeds but we don't see the 20 times that they failed in between. A lot of times we get discouraged when we fail or fall down but understand that you learn from that. You get up and you apply for the next thing. You don't know if that's what will get you to the next level or not, you have no idea what's going to happen down the road. You try. If you're shooting all the time for things, eventually you're going to hit something. That's what I say, keep going and keep trying."

For more on Sekai and her journey, go to her recently launched website sekaibeni.com.



Reo's Rib's

New Location:
Now in Hollywood District,
4211 NE Sandy Blvd
Phone: 503.310.3600
menu at reosribs.com

\$6.00 Coke Special:
BBQ Chicken Sandwich or Pulled Pork Sandwich, with French Fries or Coleslaw & a Soft Drink.

Homemade Soul Food, Mississippi Style

Fried Fish: Catfish, Buffalo, Gasper Goo

Ribs: Pork Spareribs, Baby Back Ribs, Beef Ribs

Specialty Soul Side Dishes: Hush Puppies, Fried Okra, Collard/Mustard Greens, Red Beans & Rice, Yams, Cornbread.

Desserts: Sweet Potato Pie, Banana Pudding

**Friendly
Great Staff
Everybody Welcome**

**"Best Soul Food in Town,
Hollar if You Hear Me."
"If it's Smokin', We're Open"**