

Resource Fair on Housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The event will begin with breakfast, followed by a few introductions and will then break out into informational sessions and workshops for the final two hours.

The Community Energy Project will give a weatherization workshop on saving energy, and visitors can also learn about first-time homeowner programs, including counseling, down payment assistance and tax credit information.

"The Housing Bureau helps repair homes for health and safety and accessibility updates," Lincoln said. "This is a great opportunity for the community. There will be lots of tradespeople there to help show and demonstrate energy conserving methods."

Other groups participating in the fair include Constructing Hope, Hacienda, Oregon Tradeswomen, and Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (PCRI).

BID/CLASSIFIED



Maintenance Supervisor - full-time, Oregon Convention Center, \$56,251 - \$81,563 annually. Deadline date: September 20, 2019

These opportunities are open to First Opportunity Target Area (FOTA) residents: This area includes the following zip codes located primarily in N, NE and a small portion of SE Portland: 97024, 97030, 97203, 97211, 97212, 97213, 97216, 97217, 97218, 97220, 97227, 97230, 97233, 97236, and 97266, whose total annual income was less than \$47,000 for a household of up to two individuals or less than \$65,000 for a household of three or more.

Visit oregonmetro.gov/FOTA for the complete job announcement and a link to our online hiring center or visit our lobby kiosk at Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland.

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OPINION

A Sense of What We Lost with Last Election

I'm reading Michelle Obama's memoir

BY TOM H. HASTINGS

It is summer, I'm a teacher, nearly unpaid, and have the gift of prep time for fall classes. I'm also being indulgent and reading a bit for enjoyment, currently *Becoming*, the Michelle Obama memoir.

This is a moving story, not the least reason for that being the aching sense of what we lost in the last presidential election and what we are still missing.

We had a First Lady whose watchword was, "When they go low, we go high."

I hope we all miss that. What we witness on a daily basis now is the we-can-go-lower approach. I mean, we even have a regime who just informed the parents of children with life-threatening conditions that they have a month to leave our country. I am struggling to think how any US presidency has ever sunk lower than that.

In her autobiography, Obama describes getting to know Barack, a man who had been a community organizer making \$12,000 a year, working to improve conditions in poor neighborhoods. She tells of waking up at 2 a.m. to find him reading some policy paper and thinking about income disparity and structural solutions. That sort of focus, she tells the reader, is when she knew Obama was simply a good man. He was a hotshot young law intern for a prestigious Chicago law firm—Michelle was actually his senior mentor, which is how they met—but his heart was still in worrying about how to help create more systemic justice.

She writes about accompanying Barack to an African Methodist Episcopal church where he



helps the social committee—primarily mothers and grandmothers—develop a plan to create some betterment for the community. She recounts how he described to the church women how a similar small group of women in a very poor neighborhood in Chicago organized and successfully forced the city, the state and corporations to remediate pollution at the Altgeld Gardens section of town.

Now, of course, we have a "leader" devoted to increasing income and wealth disparity. We have someone in charge who just yanked methane pollution emission standards so corporate owners can take a bigger slice of profits because they won't be burdened with paying for the technology to prevent so much climate chaos causal contamination.

Was Barack Obama perfect? No, of course not. But what a stark difference. He reduced the federal deficit; Trump radically increased it. Obama got the best health care plan possible given stiff Republican opposition; Trump and his Republican Senate have done zero despite fabricated promises. Barack Obama spoke in modulated, well formed complete sentences; Trump's public utterances and tweet storms are a showcase of self-reversing, truth-avoiding, gaslighting, impenetrable, enraged ignorance.

I recommend *Becoming*, Michelle Obama's delightfully and movingly written memoir of an American story of rising from working class to a far higher social, income and political stratum. She and Barack were both given the richness of family love growing up, and both were lower middle class at "best," far more relatable to far more of us than the pampered spoiled brat who never quite escaped the cruelest years of adolescence we see in power now.

The total stock of what we are missing is too voluminous to entirely adduce. I sincerely hope we grow enough collective wisdom to begin to rectify that in 2020, if not sooner.

Tom H. Hastings of Portland is the director of PeaceVoice.



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