



Black History Month



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Committed to Cultural Diversity

Early Black Leader Recognized

Naming follows new policy promoting racial justice

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When Louisa Flowers first set foot in Portland in 1882, she and her brand new husband Allen joined the city's small African American community of less than 500 people, despite laws that discouraged them from being there at all.

Life was not easy back then when anti-black sentiments led to discriminatory practices in housing, employment and voting rights. According to the Oregon Black Pioneers, "The direct effects of these laws lasted generations, and the harmful impacts continue today."

Despite these challenges, as her 1928 obituary reads, Louisa "presided as a queen with quiet dignity" to build a successful life for her family and community.

In recognition of Flowers' contributions to the city, and a new emphasis on recognizing other people of color and other under-represented communities in Portland, the housing agency Home Forward has named one of its newest properties in Flowers name as part of a new policy to support systemic change for racial and social justice.

Louisa Flowers was born in Boston, while her husband, Allen was born in Columbus, Ohio, arriving in Portland in 1865 as a cabin boy on the Brother Jonathan. He promptly jumped ship and worked at odd jobs for several years, and after he and Louisa were married, he was hired as porter-in-charge between Portland and Seattle for the Northern Pacific



PHOTO BY MOTOYA NAKAMURA/COURTESY MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Community leaders celebrate the opening of the Louisa Flowers apartments last November. Named for a prominent black woman steeped in early Portland history, the 240 unit affordable housing development in the Lloyd District is the largest in 50 years. Joining the celebration was Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, Home Forward executive Michael Buonocore and many others.



PHOTO COURTESY OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Early Portland pioneer and civic leader Louisa Flowers is surrounded by her family. Seated are her husband Allen (left) and son Lloyd. Standing are her sons (from left) Ervin, Elmer and Ralph.



Jeremy Christian

Guilty on All Counts

Hate spewing Max attacker faces life in prison

Jeremy Christian, the man who went on a racist tirade spewing hate against two young black women and others on a Max train in 2017 before killing two passengers and critically wounding a third, awaits a possible life sentence after being convicted on all charges Friday.

A Multnomah County jury was unanimous in convicting Christian, 37, on 12 charges, including murder, attempted murder, assault, intimidation and menacing. The trial took four weeks and included chilling graphic video of the attack and gripping testimony from passengers and survivors on the train.

On Tuesday, the jury returned to the courtroom to decide Christian's sentence in proceedings expected to take two days. A possible death sentence was taken off the table earlier by the judge, the

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