

Vows Exchanged



The union of Ronnetta Walker and A. Lee Wilson, Jr., at the Crenshaw Christian Center in Los Angeles, Ca. in a private outdoor ceremony, was officiated by Pastor Fredrick K. Price, Jr. The couple's daughters Loren Zaire, 20, stood as "best-person," with her father and Aaliyah, 10, stood with her mother and "gave-her-away" during the ceremony. The couple met 30 years ago as performing artist during a theatrical production at Portland State University.

After Losing a Son Last Summer, The Walter Dines Family Reaches Out to Help Portland Youth

By Helen Silvis
Of *The Skanner News*

Last June, two weeks after graduating from high school, 18-year-old Walter Dines died in a tragic drowning accident in the Clackamas River. Talented and with a 3.8 GPA, the basketball player and track star had won a scholarship to the University of Newhaven in Connecticut.

"He made a great impact on a lot of people," says his godfather Paul Kelly, who is Walter Dines Sr.'s best friend. "It was a very difficult loss to accept because here was this handsome young man with so much promise."

Thanks to the Dines family and Kelly, Walter Dines continues to have a great impact. They created the Walter Dines Memorial Basketball League, a memorial they felt would truly reflect the spirit of their young son.

"I couldn't let his death pass by without turning it into something positive, because that's what he would have wanted," Kelly says.

Now wrapping up its first season, the league offers a chance to play competitive basketball to high school students who attend alternative schools, are home-schooled, or who simply want to continue playing but don't make it into their high school programs.

This year eight teams competed — four from alternative high schools and four clubs that brought together unaffiliated teens. They played eight games in the regular season then came together for single elimination playoff tournament. Reynolds Middle School offers the league a place to play.

It's important, Kelly said because sports

give young men a way to express themselves in a positive arena. through the newly founded Walter Dines memorial basketball league. The lessons you can learn on the court, Kelly says, can help you succeed in life. But too many teens lose the chance to play just when they need sports the most.

"What made me the proudest was the way they conducted themselves, even in losing," Kelly said. They kids were great, they had great attitudes and they embodied what

Walter wanted to see in the world."

Originally from Portland, the family had moved to Maryland, but retained strong ties back home. In Maryland, Walter's team retired his basketball jersey. A

scholarship too has been created in his name.

Last Friday, the league's successful first season ended with the championship tournament. After a hard fought final, the Dragons triumphed over the Whosits. The Dines family were in Portland to present the first championship trophy.

Coach Kelly says he hopes the league will expand as more players and coaches learn about it.

"We are more than happy to work with anyone," Kelly says. "There are so many lessons that kids can learn through games, versus real life. If we didn't have this

league, then they wouldn't have the opportunity to express themselves and learn those lessons."

Contact him at super-duper1@att.blackberry.net or call him at 503-866-6598

Visit *The Skanner News* You Tube Video Channel to see Paul Kelly and Walter Dines Sr. tell how they started the league.

18-year-old Walter Dines died in a tragic drowning accident in the Clackamas River

They created the Walter Dines Memorial Basketball League, a memorial they felt would truly reflect his spirit



Pastors
Jerry & Annie
Gutierrez

We would like to invite you to our
**Good Friday
Passover Service**

Join us for this very special night of celebration

First Fruits Offering

Friday, Apr 22nd at 7pm

New Song Community Center

**2511 NE MLK Blvd • Portland, OR 97212
Corner of NE MLK Blvd and Russell Street**

Doors open at 6pm for every service.

**For directions or more information, call 503-488-5481
or log on to www.mfhmportland.com**

520 SW 3rd Ave. Portland, OR
(503)796-9250
Avalonflowers@msn.com
avalonflowerspdx.com

Avalon Flowers
Creative, original designs
Anniversaries, weddings, funerals, birthdays!