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THE LIBRARIAN



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Marcellus Turner, the new city librarian, says he looks forward to returning to Northwest from Colorado

Theatre's Tough Talks

Seattle's Taproot creates discussion around race, status

By Brian Stimson
Of The Skanner News

For most of the year, Taproot Theatre's audience is not what you would call diverse. But at least according to new demographic reports, neither is Seattle.

The theatre is hoping to bring together a variety of people to experience the play "Brownie Points" and the accompanying "Neighbors & Strangers" – a discussion centered around the sometimes touchy subjects of race, identity, privilege and more.

"We were aware of these census reports and we thought that now is a good time to host this," said Taproot's Sonja Lowe.

The play, written by a Jewish woman from Atlanta, is about a diverse group of mothers who go on a mother/daughter camping trip and end up exploring themes of race, identity and motherhood, as well as the presumptions they all have about each other.

Every Thursday during the play's run, Taproot will be holding a post-play discussion. In addition, the free event "Neighbors and Stangers" will expand this conversation with a panel of experts that includes Pastor Patrinn Wright, founder of Total Experience Gospel Choir; Rabbi Mark S. Glickman, congregations Kol Ami and Kol Shalom; Dr. Ron Ruthruff; and Karen Lund, director of Taproot. The event will be held 7 to 9 p.m. on June 13. Admission is free, but an RSVP is required. Priority Seating is given to ticket holders of any performance of "Brownie Points."

Lowe, who helped organize the events at Taproot, says they wanted to create a way for the audience to interact with the show. They asked The Johns Perkins Center at Seattle Pacific University to help. So far, Caenisha Warren, of the John Perkins Center, says the discussion has related to the personal experiences of the residents of Seattle and surrounding communities.

"You never know how people will respond," she told The Skanner News.

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Public Library Appoints Marcellus Turner

New city librarian says he looks forward to returning to Northwest

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

The Seattle Public Library board has named Marcellus Turner as its new City Librarian. Turner, who comes to the job from Jefferson County library system in Colorado, will manage a budget of \$50 million and 640 employees in 26 branches. Originally from Mississippi, Turner earned his master's degree from the University of Tennessee. He has 20 years of

experience in libraries including three years supervising the reference library in Tacoma. *The Skanner News* caught up with him this week in this phone interview.

The Skanner News: What are your thoughts about coming to Seattle?

Marcellus Turner: Professionally it is a wonderful opportunity to come and work for and with a group of staff and citizens and community who love libraries and the role that we play in the community. I think

the city is right for what libraries do and I'm just excited to be in that environment. Personally I am really excited to be returning to the Northwest. I lived and worked there from 1997 to 2001 and I just fell so in love with the Northwest. I don't mind the rain at least I didn't in the three years I lived there. It's a wonderful city and I'm fortunate to be part of such a successful library program.

The Skanner News: Have you plans for what you want to do.

One of the first things I want to do is get out and meet with the staff and visit the libraries. Being in the library field I've heard about the libraries but I've not visited all of them, so that will be one of the first things that I want to do. I also want to get to know the staff and get to know what they are interested in and what they are trying to do. Third, I'd like to understand the culture in Seattle. Every library system has its own culture which is a combination of how

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WWII Vet Recalls Fight in South Pacific

Russell Jones, 90, withstood abuse, horror, but still loved the Army

At 90, Russell Jones is a portrait of health. The World War II vet is spry and could outwalk most 80-year-olds in his downtown Vancouver apartment building.

While he's been retired for some time now, Jones spent a considerable amount of time serving in the U.S. Army.

Enlisting in the months prior to the outbreak of the United States' involvement in

World War II, Jones said his time in the military shaped his life.

Despite mistreatment from southern White officers, having ammunition confiscated before battle and watching tons of food go to waste as Black soldiers were told their rations sank at sea, Jones says he stuck with the military.

Now living in downtown Vancouver, Wa. near his daughter Sandy, the veteran decid-

ed to tell at least part of his story to The Skanner News.

SIGNING UP

Ever since seeing his uncle come home in his uniform from the 10th Cavalry – of Buffalo Soldier days – did Jones want to

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