

Documentary

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made my job difficult in some respects - choosing which interview clips to use!

I would have liked to have included more about some of the earliest urban renewal projects in Portland – for example the impact of the building of the Memorial Coliseum on the Black community; perhaps more about the work of the Urban League and NAACP.

The show really ‘ends’ in the mid 1980s so I couldn’t examine current issues facing the African American community. But the good thing is that immediately following the documentary Tuesday night, OPB is hosting a live panel discussion featuring

community leaders and activists on the front lines today.

The documentary really is a jumping off point for further conversation and dialogue which I hope continues.

TSN: What do you think are the most important things for television viewers to know about “Portland Civil Rights: Lift Ev’ry Voice?”

Jelsing: This is a very personal look at some of the issues and challenges that were facing Portland’s African American citizens during the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Institutional racism and powerful negative stereotypes

thrived in Portland. I wanted people who lived through these times and were leading the struggles for human rights to tell the stories from their perspective.

What struck me as I was producing this

show was that many of the issues and headlines in the documentary mirror current issues today.

Find out more about the show at www.opb.org.

James E. Gray

Date of Birth: July 12, 1938
Date of Death: April 1, 2015

James E. Gray was born on July 12, 1938 to Lilly Jones and Herman Gray in Hinds County, Mississippi.

At the age of 19 his childhood friend Obrey convinced him that Oregon was the place to go for jobs. James joined his friend in starting a new life in the West. James completed an AA in Civil Engineering and an AA in Criminal Justice at PCC.

Obrey and James stayed close friends across the years holding “office hours” at the Starbucks on Fremont.

When James first applied for a job as an Oregon State Trooper, the supervisor took his application, crumpled it and tossed it in the trash can while saying, “This isn’t going to happen.” James muttered, “We’ll see.” James Gray became one of the first African American State Troopers in Oregon.

Later in his career, he worked at TriMet, the Coliseum, and Mount Hood Community College as a police officer in security. Jim retired in 2002 after finishing his career as a federal officer providing court security.

James loved to raise, train, and ride horses. He was a good cook and could make a good sweet potato pie. He was a sweet, kind man who was often very generous. One of his neighbors said,



“Everyone loved Jim.”

He studied and practiced Buddhism for many years before he turned his attention to studying the works of Joel Goldsmith. In the last eight years of his life he turned his attention to meditation and spiritual healing. His years got increasingly quiet and focused as his commitment deepened to the Practice of the Presence.

James Gray was a warm, private man with a rich laugh and many friends and family members.

He was one of eight siblings with only his sister Jo Anne Travis surviving him in West Palm Beach, Florida.

James leaves behind a wife, Maribel Gray; three daughters: Deidre Gray, Tonya Gray and Karin Williams; a son, Lance Warren; his adopted daughter Dinah Warren; twelve grandchildren: Ariannia; Labrye; DeAndre; Dashante; Aaliyah; Shatoya; Tyree; Shae’Lynn; Cedric; Arthur; DeAnjournell (DJ); Mercedes; adopted granddaughter, Victoria. three great grandchildren: Godys, Vaylen, and Onaya; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces, nephews, as well as many close friends and neighbors.

He will be greatly missed but will always be with us.

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Bobbie Jean Black
March 13, 1935 - April 8, 2015

Bobbie Jean Black was born March 13, 1935, in Curtis, Arkansas, to Christopher Guinn, Sr., and Florine Gleason Guinn. Bobbie departed this life in Portland, Oregon, on April 8, 2015, after battling an illness for several years.

A Home Going Celebration will be held at 1:00 PM on Thursday April 16, 2015 at Zeller Chapel of the Roses 2107 NE Broadway St. Portland, OR 97232. Please visit www.zellerchapeloftheroses.com for more information.

Volunteers of America Oregon Presents:
Reimagining the Dream
A Symposium on Diversity, Inclusion, and Economic Stability
Friday, May 8, 2015 | 1:30 – 4:30pm
Chiles Center at the University of Portland

Join business leaders, educators, members of the faith community and non-profit organizations in an exploration of ways to increase diversity and equity to promote a community with opportunity for all.

Stedman Graham, author, educator and entrepreneur, will give the keynote address, followed by a moderated panel discussion with local corporate and community leaders on how to achieve workforce diversity.

Tickets: \$50 | Scan QR code to buy tickets, or go to www.voao.org

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Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily. Isaiah 58:8

Friday, April 24th 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.mfhimportland.com