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Opinion

Happy New Year – and Thank You – From The Skanner

Looking back at 2015, I want to say a big Thank You to all of our readers and friends. This year, our 40th year of service to the Northwest community, you have been behind us in so many ways.

Many of you came to The Skanner Foundation's Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast to hear Ben Chavis speak about voting rights and education.

We hope you'll join us in January for the 2016 Breakfast and hear from a brilliant lawyer and a legend in his time: Charles Bonner.

We have been humbled by the generosity that has seen us recognized in ways we never expected. The Oregon



Bernie Foster
Publisher

Historical Society indexed our photos. Our awards also belong to all of you. Without you we would not be here. So, please, keep contributing your stories and sharing your views. They are important.

The Skanner celebrated its 40th birthday. And you celebrated with us.

On the political stage we made some progress. It was the year of Black Lives Matter and Don't Shoot Portland.

It was the year of Black Male Achievement and Ban the Box.

President Obama did his best to humanize prisoners and reform the justice system.

But this year was tough too. Thank you to all the activists

ple. And thank you to those working for justice reform.

From Ferguson to Chicago to Baltimore and Charleston, we wept and raged.

We lost good people. We lost some illusions.

But we did not lose our fight. And we do not lose our hope

and faith in a better future for all people.

If 2015 was eventful we can expect 2016 to bring just as many changes.

Let's help each other make those good changes.

So from everyone here at *The Skanner* we wish you and your loved ones all the very best for 2016.

Happy New Year.

“A big Thank You to all of our readers and friends

and the nonprofits working to help weather the renters state of emergency. Thank you to those working to take guns out of the hands of young peo-



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Trayvon's Mom

A packed house came to Maranatha Church in Portland in April to hear Sybrina Fulton, mother of the late Trayvon Martin, speak on her advocacy work and youth empowerment.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Sanders Interrupted

Black Lives Matter activists Marissa Johnson and Mara Jacqueline Willaforde took over the stage during a speech by Bernie Sanders in Seattle in July.



PHOTO BY KATE WILLISON

Friends Reunited

Hiab Ghebregherghis and Filmon Elyas attended grade school in the East African country of Eritrea; both their families escaped war there to become refugees in different parts of the world. Earlier this year they bumped into each other again at the Multnomah County Rockwood Library Computer and Homework Helper program.

Check out the Computer and Homework Helper program online at www.multcolib.org/events/computer-homework-helper. Rockwood Library is at 17917 SE Stark St., Portland.