

# Events & Announcements



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

## 100 Black Parents

Amira 9, writes a list of things she wants for Christmas during the 100 Black Parents Free Santa visit at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute Dec. 16. Kids could have their picture taken with Santa, write him a letter and drop it in a special mail box.

### Briefs cont'd from pg 4

ing and the Dead: Three Generations of Exile along the War Roads of Europe, was published in 2017. Her work as a feature writer for the Oregonian was recognized by the Pulitzer Prizes.

Kimberly A.C. Wilson is director of communications for Meyer Memorial Trust. She has worked as a news reporter and investigative journalist at the Oregonian, the Baltimore Sun, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and the Associated Press.

Les Zaitz is editor and publisher of the Malheur Enterprise newspaper, based in Vale, Oregon. He has worked in journalism in Oregon as a reporter, editor, and publisher for more than forty years. He recently cofounded the Salem Reporter, an online media outlet covering the Salem area.

This event will take place from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta St., in Portland. Snacks and conversation will follow the program. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and minors are welcome when accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and are available at albertarosetheatre.com. No-cost tickets are available. The event will be streamed live at oregon-humanities.org and on YouTube.

Since 2008, Think & Drink has sparked provocative conversations about big ideas. Past presenters have included local and national civic leaders, journalists, writers, community organizers, scholars, and politicians.

Oregon Humanities connects Oregonians to ideas that change lives and transform communities. More information about our programs and publications—which include the Conversation Project, Think & Drink, Humanity in Perspective, Public Program Grants, Responsive Program Grants, and Oregon Humanities magazine—can be found at oregonhumanities.org. Oregon Humanities is an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a partner of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

## Seattle News Briefs

### Mayor Durkan Signs into Law Her Legislation to Create an Independent Office of the Employee Ombud

Joined by members of the City of Seattle's Anti-Harassment Interdepartmental Team (IDT), Mayor Jenny A. Durkan signed into law her legislation to establish an independent Office of the Employee Ombud (OEO) to combat harassment, discrimination, and misconduct at the City of Seattle. The OEO is expected to begin functioning in early 2019.

Mayor Durkan's legislation was passed unanimously by the City Council on Monday.

The mission and function of the Office of the Em-

ployee Ombud will be to:

- Assist individual employees in understanding and assessing their options and resources for addressing concerns about or claims of workplace misconduct;
- Provide analysis and recommendations on potential policy and rule changes to address departmental or systemic inefficiencies;
- Submit an implementation plan by the second quarter of 2019 to the Mayor and the City Council; and
- Deliver an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council that includes recommendations on how to improve City Personnel Rules, complaint and investigations systems, workplace expectations, and other applicable City processes and systems.

In January 2018, Mayor Durkan quickly established the IDT to review the City's policies on harassment, discrimination, and other forms of misconduct. Following an extensive analysis, in September, Mayor Durkan issued an Executive Order to implement a series of changes, including the creation of the OEO, to reform and update how the City addresses allegations of harassment, discrimination, and other forms of misconduct. In October, she transmitted her legislation to the City Council. These actions were informed by the 35 recommendations and 125 strategies developed by the IDT and submitted to Mayor Durkan.

The City is currently accepting applications for the director's position, which will remain open until filled.

### Mayor Jenny Durkan Nominates Human Services Department Interim Director Jason Johnson and Office for Civil Rights Interim Director Mariko Lockhart to Serve as Permanent Directors

Jenny A. Durkan announced today she is nominating Human Services Department Interim Director Jason Johnson and Seattle Office for Civil Rights Interim Director Mariko Lockhart to permanent positions, pending confirmation by the City Council.

Johnson began serving as Interim Director on May 2, 2018. In his role as Interim Director, Johnson helped oversee the largest emergency shelter and bridge housing expansion for people experiencing homelessness in the City's history; coordinated with King County and community stakeholders to help lay a path towards a regional structure and approach to tackling the homelessness crisis; and oversaw a significant improvement in the City's homelessness crisis response, with HSD programs helping 30 percent more households exit homelessness to permanent housing than in the same time frame in 2017. Johnson, a licensed social worker, has managed housing and human services at the City of Kent, Washington, and

## Community Calendar 2018

cont'd from pg 4

### Seattle Metro

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

**BLOEDEL SOLTICE WALK:** Experience the beauty and fellowship of Bloedel's trails by candlelight, as we celebrate the shortest days of the year. We trek the trails with glowing lanterns, making a spectacle out of ourselves for owls and other creatures of the night, quietly winding through forests and meadows for a truly magical experience. Arrive as early as 4:30 p.m. for cookies, cider and holiday cheer; walk leaves promptly at 5:30 p.m. Bloedel Reserve, 571 NE Dolphin Dr, Bainbridge Island.

**NIGHT MARKET AT PIKE PLACE:** Pike Place Market's pavilion will stay open late for your last-minute gift needs. Find hand-crafted goods and fill up on food truck offerings. Located at the MarketFront Pavillion. From 5 - 8 p.m., 1501 Pike Place.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

**BENEATH THE MISTLETOE, THE LESSER-KNOWN BOTANY OF CHRISTMAS:** Come join us and learn more about the plants and fauna behind the traditional holiday festivities, all the while enjoying a few glasses of wintry cheer. Ada's Technical Books, 7 p.m., \$5 entry, 425 15th Ave. E.

**FILM & DISCUSSION: THE BLACK CANDLE:** Watch the "first feature film on Kwanzaa," narrated by Maya Angelou and directed by M.K. Ashante, then discuss it afterwards with Africatown members. Free, 6:30 p.m., Africatown Center for Education and Innovation, 3100 S Alaska St.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

**SEATTLE SECULAR SOLSTICE:** Join us to celebrate humanity's accomplishments, reflect on our past, and consider the future with food, light, song, and camaraderie. Donations accepted, 4-9:30 p.m., The Factory Luxe, 3100 Airport Way S.

**SOUL HOLIDAY MARKET:** Africatown-Central District will host a local vendor market with food trucks, games, and live music from Zach Bruce and Omega. Free to attend, 1 - 8 p.m. 1150 23rd Ave.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

**SILENT WALK:** We trek the trails with glowing lanterns, making a spectacle out of ourselves for owls and other creatures of the night, quietly winding through forests and meadows, for a truly magical experience. Arrive as early as 4:30pm for cookies, cider and holiday cheer; walk leaves promptly at 5:30 p.m. Bloedel Reserve, 571 NE Dolphin Dr, Bainbridge Island.

.....  
View the Community Calendar and regularly updated News Briefs for Seattle and Portland at



has a long tenure in the nonprofit sector managing housing programs for seniors, families, and people living with terminal illness or permanent disabilities.

Effective January 2018, Lockhart began leading the Office for Civil Rights. Under her leadership, the department has made critical contributions to the Mayor's work to reform the City's policies on harassment, discrimination, and other forms of misconduct, including participating in the Anti-Harassment Interdepartmental Team with the Seattle Department of Human Resources; has developed and held the 2018 RSJI Summit; and helped create the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, among other significant achievements. She previously led the 100,000 Opportunities Initiative - Demonstration Cities for the Aspen Forum on Community Solutions working to connect young people with private sector employment, and served as the Director of the City of Seattle's Youth Violence Prevention Initiative.

In November 2017, the City Council passed Ordinance 125470, which requires the Mayor to solicit advice from Office for Civil Rights staff, the Seattle Women's Commission, the Seattle Human Rights Commission, the Seattle LGBTQ Commission, and the Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities on an appointment of a director for the Office for Civil Rights. The Mayor's Office had conversations with these stakeholders, as well as additional stakeholders from community organizations that work closely with OCR, before nominating Lockhart as OCR's permanent director.