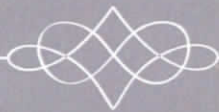


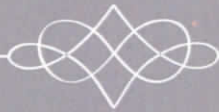
A
GALA

CELEBRATING

OREGON
BLACK
PIONEERS



25TH
ANNIVERSARY



HONORING THE PAST,
PAVING THE WAY
TO THE FUTURE!

MARCH 2, 2019
WORLD OF SPEED MUSEUM
WILSONVILLE, OREGON



Celebrating the Pioneering Spirit

Pioneer Trust Bank congratulates Oregon Black Pioneers for preserving the rich history of black pioneers throughout Oregon.



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Celebrating the Contributions of Oregon's African-American Pioneers

www.oregonblackpioneers.org

March 2, 2019

WELCOME TO OREGON BLACK PIONEERS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

The Board of Directors of Oregon Black Pioneers thanks you for attending this gala in celebration of this milestone in our history. We are celebrating our 25th anniversary at the beginning of our 26th year of existence. We take this opportunity to thank each of you for being a part of our success in telling Oregon's African American history and the contributions that African Americans have made to the development of Oregon since 1788.

What began with three founders, Carole Davis, who was a Deputy Superintendent of Salem-Keizer Schools, State Senator Jackie Winters, and David Burgess, a community activist, as an effort to introduce Salem to Oregon's African American history has risen to stand tallest amongst the voices sharing this history. Our organization has had countless achievements and accomplishments over the last 25 years. These include four major exhibitions at the Oregon History Museum: *Perseverance; All Aboard! Railroading and Portland's Black Community; A Community on the Move; and Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years*. Awards recognizing our work include the Willamette Heritage David Duniway Award for Historic Preservation (2009), the American Legacy Magazine Heritage Award (2010), and the University of Oregon McMath Historic Preservation Award (2017).

We have also curated exhibits at many other venues, given countless presentations and lectures at schools and colleges and to businesses and civic organizations, and collaborated with numerous organizations and historical societies in Oregon. We have produced two books: *Perseverance: A History of African Americans in Oregon's Marion and Polk Counties* and *African Americans of Portland*. We have awarded over \$40,000 in educational scholarships to students around the state. In addition, the Oregon Black Pioneers was the only Oregon organization that had the opportunity to send around state the poster exhibition celebrating the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. We have also partnered with governmental, nonprofit, and community stakeholders on a variety of projects.

Our working board has strived as a cohesive unit to ensure that we performed our mission. Every one of you has played a very important role in our success, either financially or by attending our exhibits and presentations. It is your enthusiasm, support, and dedication that have brought us to this point and this celebration of 25 years of work that is good for Oregon. We are grateful for your support. As we move forward and with the success of this evening, we will hire a staff person to assist the board in carrying out our mission and goals.

For this occasion, we share with you a glimpse of our past activities through this commemorative program book. We hope that you enjoy it.

Thank you for your presence and continued support!

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Oregon Black Pioneers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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PRESIDENT



KIMBERLY MORELAND
VICE PRESIDENT



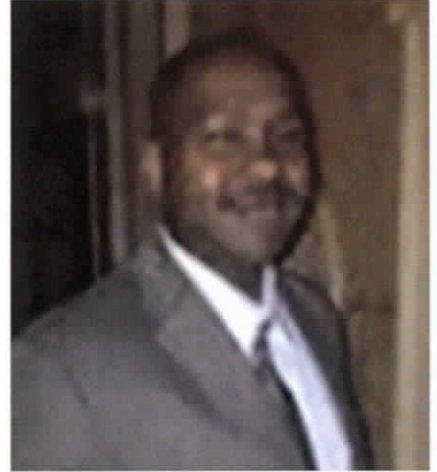
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SENATOR JACKIE WINTERS

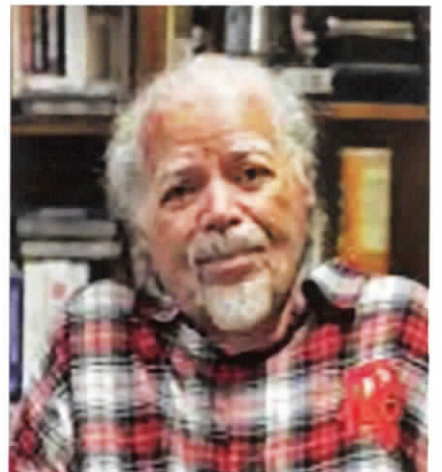
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MARY OBERST



MARTHA RUTHERFORD



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Justice Adrienne Nelson

Justice Adrienne Nelson was appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court on January 2, 2018, making her the first African American to sit on the state's highest court and any appellate state court. In 2006, she was appointed as a trial judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court in Portland, Oregon, making her the second African American female judge in the state of Oregon. Prior to her judicial appointments, she worked as a public defender with Multnomah Defenders, Inc., then as an associate with the Bennett, Hartman, Morris and Kaplan, LLP law firm and as the Senior Attorney/Coordinator of the Portland State University Student Legal and Mediation

Services. Justice Nelson earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Criminal Justice, summa cum laude, from the University of Arkansas.

Over the years, Justice Nelson has been very active in the legal community and the greater Oregon community. She is a frequent speaker on a number of topics including diversity, inclusion, equity, leadership and professional development. Justice Nelson also serves as a mentor to many people. Currently she sits on the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Public Education, is the Oregon delegate to the ABA House of Delegates (before this position, she had been elected seven times as an Oregon State Bar (OSB) delegate), chairs the Lewis and Clark Law School Judge Roosevelt Robinson Scholarship Committee and is vice-president of the Owen M. Panner American Inn of Court.

In the community, Justice Nelson sits on the Reed College Board of Trustees, the Self-Enhancement, Incorporated (SEI) Board of Directors, the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Advisory Board, and the Oregon Community Foundation Metropolitan Portland Leadership Council where she chairs the Outreach to the Black Community committee. Justice Nelson is a tireless encourager and connector helping people succeed by living their best lives.

Justice Nelson has been recognized for her service and mentorship to others. On September 15, 2018, Self-Enhancement Inc. named her its Soul of the City Award recipient. On April 27, 2018, Dress for Success Oregon's named her one of its Athena Award recipients. On October 20, 2016, the Boy Scouts Cascade Pacific Council named her a Whitney M. Young Jr. award recipient for her community service. In May 2016, the Multnomah Bar Association presented Justice Nelson with an Award of Merit. In February 2016, she was honored by the Portland Prime restaurant at its Black History Month Program. In December 2015, the Oregon State Bar presented Justice Nelson with its Diversity and Inclusion Award. On September 16, 2015, the Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington named her a Marie Lamfrom Woman of Distinction. In May 2015, Justice Nelson was named a member of the Class of 2015 of the Council on State Government (CSG) Henry Toll Fellows, making her one of eight Oregonians selected for this leadership program. On October 2, 2014, Portland State University Center for Women's Leadership honored her for her leadership at their Eighth Annual Women's Leadership Luncheon. On May 21, 2012, Justice Nelson was named a White Rose honoree by the Oregon Chapter of the March of Dimes for her community service. On October 1, 2011, Lewis and Clark Law School named her a distinguished honorary graduate for her mentoring and diversity activities at the school. In 2003, Justice Nelson received the Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) Judge Mercedes Deiz award for promotion of women and minorities in the legal profession and in the community.

WELCOME
Kim Moreland, Vice President

INVOCATION
Michael Moreland

BUFFET DINNER

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Willie Richardson, President

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Excellence in Historical Research of Oregon
Black History Award PresenterGwen Carr
Business Legacy Award PresenterKim Moreland
“First” Award Presenter.....Elise Gautier
Friend of Oregon Black Pioneers Award Presenter.... Willie Richardson

GUEST SPEAKER
The Honorable Justice Adrienne Nelson

ORAL AUCTION
Wesley Hardin & Steve Holgate, Auctioneers

PADDLE RAISE
Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director, Oregon Historical Society

RAFFLE GIVE AWAY

CLOSING

DANCE

MUSIC
Ocean 503



KATE BROWN
Governor

March 2019

Willie Richardson
Oregon Black Pioneers
Pioneer Trust Bldg., Ste 210
117 Commercial Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear President Richardson,

Congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Oregon Black Pioneers (OBP). Though I am unable to join you in person, I send my best wishes for this special celebration.

I applaud OBP and its volunteers' tireless efforts documenting the essential role played by African Americans in Oregon's cultural, social, and economic history, helping to educate and inform our community for 25 years. You have done much to preserve and promote African American culture and heritage while inspiring others to join you in your efforts.

As you celebrate the successful completion of your 2018 exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society, "Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years," please accept my gratitude on behalf of all Oregonians. Your organization's work and dedication will continue to enrich our state through your educational lectures, research, tours, publications and partnerships.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

GKB:sc

254 STATE CAPITOL, SALEM OR 97301-4047 (503) 378-3111 FAX (503) 378-8970
WWW.GOVERNOR.OREGON.GOV



JEFF MERKLEY
OREGON



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 2019

Dear Oregon Black Pioneers:

Congratulations on your 25th anniversary of educating and honoring African American history in our great state of Oregon. Your work in local communities through exhibitions, books, and interactive educational experiences has shined a light on previously unknown history throughout the state.

The ability of Oregon Black Pioneers to achieve so much as a volunteer organization is a testament to the energy and power of Oregonians. As you hire your first paid staff member, I look forward to seeing continued dedication to the celebration and preservation of the African American legacy in Oregon.

Your work is so appreciated on this momentous occasion. I thank you once again for your expansive advocacy for African American history and recognition.

Best of luck in this next step.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Merkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jeffrey A. Merkley
US Senator for Oregon

RON WYDEN
OREGON

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

March 2, 2019

Dear Friends,

Although I am unable to be there today, I did not want to miss the opportunity to honor the Oregon Black Pioneers on their 25th anniversary.

We cannot understand the history of Oregon without understanding the history of all Oregonians. By telling the stories of African Americans throughout Oregon, the Oregon Black Pioneers continue to provide thought-provoking history and reframe the telling of that history statewide. This research and knowledge impacts all of Oregon's citizens and needs to be heard. Through lectures, bus tours, book publication, and perspective-challenging exhibits, the message is spreading to all corners of the state. This history is so important because it is largely unknown in much of Oregon. Fortunately, the Oregon Black Pioneers are doing their part to make sure that this history no longer remains hidden.

The Oregon Black Pioneers have not done just a lot of work, but excellent work too. They have been recognized for their historic preservation efforts, winning many awards including the Education Award from the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs and the prestigious McMath Historic Preservation Award.

Finally, the Oregon Black Pioneers have worked hard to expand their footprint and are now represented in 32 of the 36 counties in Oregon. This is a great feat and it is critical to support their full expansion throughout the entire state.

Thank you again for inviting me today. Good luck on upcoming future projects, including an online museum and a brick and mortar museum. Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Here's to another 25 years and many more of the Oregon Black Pioneers making Oregon a better place.

Sincerely



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

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(503) 326-7525

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RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Willie Richardson
President
Oregon Black Pioneers

Dear Ms. Richardson,

Congratulations to the Oregon Black Pioneers for 25 years of illuminating Oregon's African American history! The incredible volunteers who so powerfully tell this story give us an important gift. We all benefit when we learn more about history. The exhibits and presentations you have provided around the state enlighten Oregonians about the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans. Thank you for your dedication to this important work. We look forward to many more years of broadening our knowledge about the full Oregon story.

Additionally, I was profoundly moved by the *Racing to Change* exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society. As we continue the fight for civil rights, I'm honored and excited to be part of a diverse new Congress that increasingly looks more like the U.S. population. I'm committed to working with my colleagues to advance policies that build a country where everyone can succeed and all voices are heard.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration of your past accomplishments and your future goals.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



MAYOR'S OFFICE

555 Liberty St SE / Room 220 • Salem, OR 97301-3513 • 503-588-6159 • Fax 503-588-6354

February 5, 2019

Ms. Willie Richardson, President
Oregon Black Pioneers
117 Commercial St. NE, Suite 210
Salem OR 97301

SUBJECT: Celebrating Oregon Black Pioneers' 25th Anniversary

It is truly amazing what a group of dedicated volunteers can achieve. In the case of Oregon Black Pioneers (OBP), a small cadre of individuals has worked tirelessly for 25 years to keep Oregon's African American history alive. With impressive work that includes educational programs, tours of historic sites, preservation activities that promote scholarly research, history books, and major museum exhibits, OBP has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that people understand the impacts and importance of African Americans in our state.

While fulfilling the vision of being the premier resource for information about Oregon's African American culture and heritage, OBP projects educate people about the essential role that African Americans played in the social, cultural, and economic history of Oregon. I know that your future plans include building on what you've already accomplished, and I look forward to seeing more projects aimed at educating all Oregonians about our state's African American history.

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your 25th Anniversary!

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett
Mayor

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Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

February 7, 2019

Oregon Black Pioneers
117 Commercial St NE, Rm 210
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Oregon Black Pioneers,

Congratulations on your 25th anniversary. You have done extremely valuable work in the community, educating Oregonians about African Americans' contributions to Oregon's history and preserving the rich history of Black Pioneers throughout Oregon. Your accomplishments as an all-volunteer organization speaks volume of your leadership and commitment to your mission to educate all Oregonian about the contributions African Americans have made in our great state of Oregon.

Your educational programs, tours of historic sites, preservation activities that promote scholarly research, and history books have helped to shape Oregon's collective understanding of our history. This is vital work. Your publication entitled "Images of America: African Americans of Portland" shed valuable insight on African American heritage and contributions to the City of Portland.

Your four major museum exhibits at the Oregon Historical Society have been seen by thousands of Oregonians, each one leaving with a greater understanding of African American history. It is essential that every Oregonian learns about the history of our state, for this is the only way to work towards a better future.

Your partnership with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Architectural Heritage Center and City of Portland to document historic places provides a deeper understanding and appreciation for historic places significant Oregon's African American History. This hard work culminated in OPB being awarded the prestigious McMath Historic Preservation Award, representing the first time a non-profit organization received this recognition. This is a tremendous honor.

Congratulations on this amazing milestone and I wish you much success on your efforts to take your organization to another level of excellence. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to support your work. Your work is vital to our entire community. Thank you.

With warm regards,

Mayor Ted Wheeler

1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 340 ♦ Portland, Oregon 97204
MayorWheeler@PortlandOregon.gov



Carole Davis

Carole Davis was the Deputy Superintendent in the Salem-Keizer School District from 1992 to 1997, the first African American to hold that position. After arriving in this community, she observed that very little recognition was given to Oregon's African American history. Knowing that Northwest Black Pioneers in Seattle was researching the history of African Americans in the Northwest, Carole thought to introduce that history to Oregon by way of the Salem-Keizer Public Schools, and thus she established Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers in 1993 with co-founders Senator Jackie Winters and David Burgess. In 2012 we changed our name to Oregon Black Pioneers, as we concentrate our research on Oregon's African American history.



Once the board leadership was established, Carole was instrumental in securing support for our annual celebrations and funding for scholarships available through a competitive process to Oregon's graduating seniors. Upon retiring and returning to Lacey, Washington, she maintained contact and interest in the accomplishments of the organization, and she said that it had exceeded her hopes and vision.



This gift of Oregon Black Pioneers is Carole's greatest legacy to the Salem community and Oregon. For without Oregon Black Pioneers, the history of Oregon's African Americans and their contributions to the development of Oregon would not be as widely known.

Carole passed away in Seattle, Washington, on December 22, 2018. We thank her for her foresight and wisdom, and we honor her by continuing to fulfill her vision for the organization and the mission it has established.





David Burgess

Co-founder David E. Burgess was born in Portland, Oregon, where he lived until moving to Salem in 1972. He was active in the community, serving as President of the Salem Chapter of the NAACP and a member of the Salem Social Service Commission. He was one of the organizers of Neighbor to Neighbor, the conflict resolution program sponsored by the City of Salem. His overall community involvement and friendship with both Carole Davis and Jackie Winters led to his becoming a willing partner in the organizing of Oregon Black Pioneers. His insight to Oregon's, particularly Portland's, African American history was invaluable in the producing of OBP's first two booklets distributed to local schools. He stayed active with the organization and remained a trusted advisor until his death. David passed away in 2006.



Cathy Galbraith

We would like to take this opportunity to honor Catherine Galbraith, who passed away on November 23, 2018. She was a dear friend and supporter of Oregon Black Pioneers.

In 2017, Oregon Black Pioneers recognized Cathy for her longstanding commitment and contributions to the preservation of African American historic places. Cathy served as the founding Executive Director of the Bosco-Milligan Foundation from 1993 to 2016. Her nationally recognized and award-winning leadership in documenting historic places associated with Portland's African American community was encapsulated in *Cornerstones of Community: The Buildings of Portland's African American History*, related exhibits and public presentations. She also wrote the nominations for several sites to the National Register of Historic Places, including the Otto and Verdell Burdine Rutherford family home.

Cathy will be missed tremendously, and her legacy of honoring, documenting, and preserving African American historic sites will not be forgotten.



Excellence in Historical Research of Oregon Black History Award

Dr. Robert Zybach



“First” Award

The Honorable Justice Adrienne Nelson



Business Legacy Award

Dean's Beauty Salon



Friend of Oregon Black Pioneers Award

The Oregon Historical Society

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| Artistic Bliss Portraits | <i>Portrait Gift Certificate</i> |
| Jodi Both | <i>Certificate for Student Consultation</i> |
| Shelly Friedenber | <i>Ceramic</i> |
| Shannon Hardin | <i>Art Jewelry</i> |
| Roslyn Hill | <i>Painting</i> |
| Bonnie Kahn | <i>Donation of Native Piece</i> |
| Bonnie Meltzer | <i>Art Jewelry</i> |
| Zoe Morrison | <i>Art Box</i> |
| Willie Richardson | <i>Multimedia Art Collection by Betty Jean Jones (deceased)</i> |
| Bill Rutherford | <i>Wire Sculpture</i> |
| Rick Steber | <i>Three (3) Autographed Books</i> |
| Mary Volm | <i>Glass Art</i> |
| Emmett Wheatfall | <i>Six (6) Autographed Books; 4 CDs</i> |
| Crystal Williams | <i>Autographed Book</i> |

ORAL AUCTION ARTISTS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Murphy Caldwell | <i>Collage</i> |
| Sheri Mason-Cruise | <i>Photography</i> |
| Elise Gautier | <i>Donation of Purchased Carving</i> |
| Lillian Pitt | <i>Four (4) Prints</i> |
| Sheila Roth | <i>Painting</i> |
| Christopher St. John | <i>Drawing</i> |
| Quin Sweetman | <i>Painting</i> |
| Chip Thomas | <i>Photography</i> |
| Chris Vardas | <i>Autographed Book</i> |
| Roberta Wong | <i>Fabric Art</i> |

RAFFLE ITEMS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Shirley Richardson | <i>Crown Royal Quilt</i> |
| Revvit Realty | <i>Gift Basket</i> |

OREGON BLACK PIONEERS
OUR LIFE IN PICTURES



The Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers
Steering Committee
1993

First steering committee, formed by the founders
to plan the annual gala celebration.
Not all members are present.

OREGON BLACK PIONEERS
OUR LIFE IN PICTURES



Seated: Janet Jacquier, Zoe Morrison; Gwen Carr
Standing: Suesann Abdelrasul, Tatiana Bryant, Natalia Fernandez, Jonathan Cain, Martha Rutherford, Kimberly Moreland, Willie Richardson

OREGON BLACK PIONEERS
OUR LIFE IN PICTURES

THANKS, PIONEER TRUST BANK
2007 Office Opening Ribbon Cutting



OREGON BLACK PIONEERS
OUR LIFE IN PICTURES



Kathryn Bogle

Velma Maia Thomas

OREGON BLACK PIONEERS
OUR LIFE IN PICTURES



Willie Richardson, Sedonia Harsh, Bill Wilkson



Salem Pioneer Cemetery Monument Dedication