

The Black Studies Department at Portland State University is sponsoring a speaker series over the next several months. This Wednesday, March 15, 12:00 noon to 1:30 Hannah Hurdle-Toomey will be speaking about a book she is writing about her dad. What is significant about her and the book she is writing is her father was a former slave. Yes, I know you started wondering how is that possible. He was in his late 80's when Hannah was born and he died when he was 90. Her father was born in 1845 or 1847. Birth certificates were not made for slaves. Do the math. It works. Now she is in her 70's. Please see the article "The daughter of a former slave a link to those who prevailed" written in the Oregonian on January 16th, 2006 for more information. In addition, we will open the event with a short violin/piano recital featuring Anthony Dyer, one of the few Black people to play in the Portland Chamber of Music. Anthony will be playing and discussing a piece Beethoven wrote for a Black person.

Our next speaker series will feature the Reverend Bethel of the Merenetha Church. He will speak on issues of Police Shootings and Brutality in Portland, Oregon. We are looking into also inviting a speaker, Pastor Donald Frazier of the Genesis Community Church to address issues of gentrification along Alberta Street for this event. The date of this event will be the 19th of April, Wednesday and will run from 12:00 to 1:30. We will also be sponsoring another event in mid-May and we are still in the process of organizing the speakers.

Each of these events will be held in the Multicultural Center in the Smith Memorial Building in room 228. Food is provided. All are welcome.

Sincerely,

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"The acceptance of our present condition is the only form of extremism that discredits us before our children." Lorraine Hansberry