

CHURCH & TOWN BULLETIN

Banner Day Launches Black Women in American Culture & History



Dr. Laurie Fluker

George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center presents Black Women in American Culture & History Guest Speaker Dr. Laurie Fluker Associate Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication Dr. Fluker received her Ph.D in Radio, Television & Film from the University of Texas at Austin. Fluker has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, such as the "Everett Sweeney Award for Excellence in Teaching" (2006) and the "Mariel M. Muir Excellence in Mentoring Award" (2006). Friday, February 3, 2012 Time: 10:00 -



Noon Refresh ments to follow program.

The Banner Day program will kick off a month of celebration, commemoration, and conversations about African American Women in History. The program will include celebration in song, presentation of the latest banner honoring notable Austin citizens, and a presentation by Dr. Laurie Fluker, Associate Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Texas State University.

The new banner, honoring Ms. Onie B. Conley, long-time educator and community activist, Ms. Azie Taylor Morton, United

States Treasurer; and, Ms. Myra McDaniel, Texas Secretary of State, will hang with banners from years past along Congress Avenue.

The month-long celebration will continue with theatre productions, musical performances, and a genealogy workshop. The culminating event is a lecture entitled "Ancestors Talking" by Myra Sampson, the descendant of a black man whose photograph is on the cover of the current issue of "Civil War Times" magazine.

Two exhibits featuring the significant contributions of women, one national, the other local, will be on display. "Against All Odds" provides insight to historically prominent women from around the country, while "Women Who Do" focuses on contemporary women making a difference today. Personalities from "Women Who Do" may also be heard on KAZI FM radio, sharing information about their personal 'sheroes' or African-American women they find inspiring, encouraging, and important.

Visit the Carver website at www.carvermuseum.org or call the Museum at 512-974-4926 for details about events throughout the month.

ProArts Series Celebrates The Written Word

Pro Arts Collective along with its partners Austin Community College's Department of Arts and Humanities, the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, University of Texas' Division of Diversity and Community Engagement and Teatro Vivo present a staged reading of Cherrie Moraga's "Digging up the Dirt".

On Saturday, February 11 at 2:00pm at the Mexican American Cultural Center 600 River Street Austin, TX 78701, Austin based playwright and director Amparo Garcia Crow will direct an all-star cast in a staged reading of Cherrie Moraga's "Digging up the Dirt". The story takes place, as Moraga writes, "Inside the poet's head, somewhere in the fragmented Chicano nation of Aztlan." Here, as in most Moraga plays, the playwright uses the imagined landscape of the Southwest to poignantly explore Chicana lives. And, as in most Moraga plays, such depictions give all of us pause - regardless of race or gender or sexuality. This is especially the case in "Digging up the Dirt" where the plot thematically interweaves two murder stories. One is the tale of "Sirena Cantante's" murderer, "Zanzibar," serving a life sentence, while engaging in lesbian romances and being mercilessly visited by the probing "Poet." The second is an intimate account of the murder of "Amada," a Chicana lesbian killed by the hand of her own son.

Cherrie L. Moraga is playwright, poet, and essayist whose plays and publications have received national recognition, including a TCG Theatre Artist Residency Grant in 1996, the NEA's Theatre Playwrights' Fellowship in 1993, and two Fund for New American Plays Awards. Moraga is the co-editor of This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, which won the Before Columbus American Book Award in 1986. For over ten years, Moraga has served as an Artist in Residence in the Department of Drama at Stanford Univer-

sity and currently also shares a joint appointment with Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity.

The presentation of "Digging up the Dirt" is a part of its on-going partnership between Austin Community College's Department of Arts and Humanities and ProArts. Over the last several years the collaborations have provided Austin audiences with seldom produced plays and readings by important contemporary black writers such as Percival Everett and Camille Dungy. Producing the reading of Moraga's play affords us the opportunity to hear the stories of our neighbors and to join in conversation with those communities that are close to ours, says Lisa Byrd Executive Director of ProArts Collective. Moraga's stories are stories that relate to all feminists, lesbians and women who hold space for their consciousness and that of their community. Everyone should hear these stories. Teatro Vivo jumped at the opportunity to participate says Joann Reyes, Teatro Vivo's Executive Director. We have always wanted to produce one of Moraga's plays; they are so rich in its language. The presentation of the staged reading is a part of a larger three -day residency project sponsored by the University of Texas' Gen-

der and Sexuality Center along with Queer People of Color and Allies. Related Events February 9, 2012, Creative Writing Workshop with Cherrie Moraga February 10, 2012, Noon- 2PM First Annual Gloria Anzaldua Luncheon honoring feminists of color. Moraga will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon. February 10, 2012 7PM, The Benson Library will host the opening reception for "A Chicana Codex of Changing Consciousness", an exhibit of work by Celia Herrera Rodriguez. For information, Contact: Lizette, Pro Arts Collective 512-236-0644 or visit www.proartsaustin.org Email: lizette@proartsaustin.org

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Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

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