

CHAIR ROSENBAUM, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED
COMMUNITY MEMBERS, GUESTS- GOOD MORNING!

I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO BRIEFLY SPEAK ABOUT A CHERISHED
FRIEND AND EXTRAORDINARY INDIVIDUAL- MRS. EMILY GEORGES GOTTFRIED.

EMILY WAS A WOMAN OF ACTION AND MOVED IN A DIRECTION THAT
MATTERED. SHE SAW THE COMMON HUMAN THREAD IN ALL OF US

I MET HER ABOUT 14 YEARS AGO WHILE SERVING ON THE BOARD OF OREGON
UNITING DURING AN ASHKENAZI AND BLACK RACE DIALOGUE. FROM THE BLACK
COMMUNITY CAME BLACK ACTIVISTS AND BUSINESS LEADERS; FROM THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY CAME SOME LAWYERS AND RABBIS – NO PRESSURE

THESE DIALOGUES WERE DEFINING MOMENTS FOR BOTH COMMUNITIES

THE DAY EMILY PASSED, I COMPOSED AN ODE TO EMILY AND I'LL READ IT:

DON'T WORRY-IT'S NOT LONG

A Beautiful Concept...Emily Georges Gottfried

Once again, we are confounded with the unexplainable

Swift departure of MORE than a loved one

Emily had the insight others couldn't even hallucinate about

You created a bridge between & amongst

Jews, Muslims, Mormons, Catholics, Buddhists & Christians;

You created a bridge between Blacks and Whites;

You created a bridge between U.S. Citizens and those of other Nations;

And particularly between individuals

That probably thought they had nothing in common.

Sometimes, Emily explained her community activities and I would respond with...

Seriously- this sounds like a beautiful dream of the 60's...with recreational drugs☺

So Emily...You say you're from that SOMETIMES conservative City of Portland and we agree it's no bastion of liberal thinking ALL THE TIME.

And you say you attended Wilson High School-we know that's a school of privilege

You say you were raised as a Reformed Jew, but we've been to the Mosque-No?

And you don't say it- but are you are a child of great privilege and STILL

You care about others that are not

Your CONCEPT worked... For 10 years, I attended the Interdenominational Passover Seders attended by priests, nuns, ministers, monks and rabbis.

Your CONCEPT worked with Oregon Uniting or at least it was a start...Facilitating a meeting among Portland Public School Board Members & Members of the Black Community about race issues

Your CONCEPT worked... you said,"*When some of us Jews say never again on our watch, that includes African genocide, too. So, the Oregon Jewish Committee will be raising funds for Darfur and the Boys of the Sudan.*"

Your CONCEPT worked...The Yom Ha Shoah Reading of the names of Jews that died in the Holocaust - read by numerous Jewish & non-Jewish Communities at Pioneer Square. My hope is that the tradition continues, so we never forget the inhumanities of War in Europe

Your CONCEPT of extending a friendship beyond Hi & Good-bye worked. You & Jeff treated my family like family and introduced us to Krystal Nacht, Yom Hashoah, Passover, Purim, Sukkoth, Shabbat, Hanukah, Yom Kippur, good latkes and choruses. Your family's customs, values, drive and respectfulness will never be forgotten by this Black Christian.

Four years ago, you said, "I haven't done enough"! It appears that you have completed the work you were sent here to do and perhaps you've done some of ours- now we are up to bat. If WE can continue to sow the seeds of respect, understanding, integrity, equity and friendship, Oregon will continue to be a beacon.

This Resolution of Memoriam is so appropriate for all that you have accomplished. "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

With sincere love & appreciation – Barbara O'Hare-Walker