



## PRESS RELEASE

### Black History Month Events Announced

TORONTO [January 3, 2018] Don Heights Unitarian Congregation will present a series of public events for Black History Month in February 2018. All will take place at the church's Don Mills location at 18 Wynford Drive, Suite 102, Toronto.

From February 3 - 28 a rare exhibit will be on view about famous Black Canadian contralto concert star Portia White, who died in 1968 at age 56. Portia White is a federally recognized person of national significance. Her singing talent rocketed her to international acclaim in the 1940s. She was the first African-Canadian classical artist to rise to prominence and shatter the colour barrier. "Celebrating Portia White ... 50 years on" is a community project involving Don Heights, The White Family and the Ontario Black History Society. Admission is free. [www.portiawhite.ca/](http://www.portiawhite.ca/)

Renowned author and poet George Elliott Clarke, a grandnephew of Portia's, will be part of the exhibit opening ceremony at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 3.

Other planned events for the month include:

Thurs., Feb. 8, 7 pm Film Screening "In The Heat of the Night" starring Rod Steiger and Sydney Poitier. Admission: free. Dessert and coffee, \$6 (optional).

Sat. Feb. 10, 7:30 pm Negro Spiritual Sing-Along and Open Mic Night hosted by Portia's nephew and niece -- award-winning, Ottawa folk musician Chris White and his sister, Don Heights Music Director, Sheila White. Admission: \$5 a person, \$8 a family, or pay what you can.

Sun., Feb. 25, 10:30 am Sunday Talk "The Racist Letters" - a true story about a mixed marriage and racism in Canada in 1947, with guest speaker, Sheila White. Admission: free

and 1 pm Film Screening "Think On Me" - the Portia White story, the award-winning documentary by Sylvia Hamilton. Potluck lunch at 12:30 pm. Admission: free

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For information, contact Sheila White, 416-605-0709.