

THE

BLACK LENS SPOKANE™

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

MICHELLE OBAMA RECOGNIZES FIVE WOMEN OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Excerpted from First Lady Michelle Obama's speech on February 20 honoring five women who played important roles in the Civil Rights Movement: Carlotta Walls LaNier, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Sherrilyn Ifill, Janaye Ingram, and Chanelle Hardy



These women represent many different facets and eras of the movement. They come from many different professional backgrounds — media, law, activism, so much more. But there is something that connects each of their stories, a common thread that animates their lives, and that is their hunger for and belief in the power of education. Because at some point in their journeys, these women understood that if they were going to reach their potential, if they were going to make a difference not just for themselves but for this country, they would have to get a good education.

Every woman on this stage graduated from college, and

some of them did it at tremendous risk to themselves and to their families. And today, thanks to their sacrifice, there are no angry mobs gathering outside our schools. Nobody needs a military escort to get to class.

But that doesn't mean that our children don't still face struggles when it comes to

education. Too many of our young people attend crumbling schools that don't have the technology, or the college-prep classes, or the college counseling they need to complete their education past high school.

And too many of our young people can't even envision a better future for themselves, or

if they do, they aren't connecting their dreams to the education they'll need.

So today, too many of the opportunities that these women fought for are going unrealized -- today. And while we should be proud that the high school graduation rate for black students is improving, it is still lower than just about

any other group in this country. And while college graduation rates have risen for nearly every group — including African American women — the rate for African American men has flatlined. And we all know that when students fall behind in school, they fall behind in life. They are more likely to fall into unemployment and poverty and incarceration.

So like many of you, I believe that education is the single-most important civil rights issue that we face today. Because in the end, if we really want to solve issues like mass incarceration, poverty, racial profiling, voting rights, and the kinds of challenges that shocked so many of us over the past year, then we simply cannot afford to lose out on the potential of even one young person. We cannot allow even one more young person to fall through the cracks.

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REPORT: BLACK WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Black Women in the United States is an eighty-plus page report, issued in 2014, that was developed by the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and the Black Women's Roundtable to assess the overall conditions of Black women in the United States.

The Black Women's Roundtable is made up of a diverse group of Black women civic leaders of international, national, regional and state-based organizations and institutions. Together, the BWR membership represents the issues and concerns of millions of Americans and families from across the United States and around the world.

Through public policy forums, leadership training, civic engagement and issue education campaigns, BWR provides women with a voice and the skills training to use the

political process to improve the quality of life for themselves and their communities.

Drawing on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Services, the report focuses on both triumphs and challenges in Black Women's health, education, wages, economics, criminal justice, politics, technology and business. The authors conclude: "though, we find that on many accounts, significant progress has been made since key historical markers such as the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Brown v. Board of Education, and the onset of the War on Poverty, there are many areas that remain in need of dire national attention and urgent action."

To read the full report visit: <http://ncbcp.org/resources/reports>

BLACK WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, 2014
Progress and Challenges
50 Years After the War on Poverty
50 Years After the 1964 Civil Rights Act
60 Years After Brown v. Board of Education
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
Black Women's Roundtable
March, 2014

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

Ain't I A Feminist

*"It's not the load that breaks you down,
it's the way you carry it." -Lena Horne*

I was born a feminist, I believe. If it was possible to see me in my mother's womb, you probably would have seen a fierce and determined embryo with my fist raised high in protest about some gender based injustice that was being visited upon me in utero, even before I had any understanding of what it meant to be a woman.

I started at a young age fighting for equality. Challenging my junior high school when I was forced to take Home Economics instead of shop class because "girls needed to learn how to cook and sew for their husbands." Challenging the pressure to use Miss or Mrs to identify myself, long before Ms was considered acceptable. Challenging the hospital that would not submit my daughter's birth announcement to the newspaper because I was not married to her father and I "needed to get his permission first."

Throughout my life I have proudly held up high the title of feminist, even as it seems to have lost popularity with much of the younger generation in recent years, and is used almost as a slur in some circles. I have worn the banner proudly, defining what a woman is supposed to be by how clearly she articulates her support for what I consider feminist principles.

Women are strong and assertive. Women are leaders. Women are change makers and change agents. Women are powerful, intelligent and articulate. Women are the foundation and the bedrock upon which so many of the institutions that make up this country have been built. I am woman, hear me roar!

Sure, there are women that do not fall into those categories, and in the spirit of inclusivity, I accept them and value them, but to be honest, for me, I felt that a *REAL* woman, a *REAL* feminist, had to encompass these categories... and more.

And then I spent that past few months at my mother's side as we cared for my father who passed away on February 7. My mother- a nurse and a military wife, spent her entire married life supporting my father. Moving when he moved. Living where he lived. Raising his children. Keeping his house. Dutifully cooking and cleaning and ironing and washing clothes. Never protesting for equal wages, never marching for equal rights, never challenging systems of patriarchy, or systemic and institutionalized oppression,

Instead, my mother spent day after day and night after night dedicated and devoted to the man that she had lived with and loved for over half a century.

I remember looking at my mom one night as she held my dad in her arms, cradling him and telling him to "let go and let God if that was what he needed to do." and I thought to myself, "Sandra Williams, you have absolutely no idea at all what *real* power is. Real strength. Real feminism."

It is that kind of power and that kind of strength, my mom's kind, that has held back the forces that are determined to drive Black people into extinction. And because of women like my mother, feminists like me, are still here to fight another day.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

(Or Things You Probably Didn't Learn In School)

META VAUX FULLER (WARRICK) ARTIST

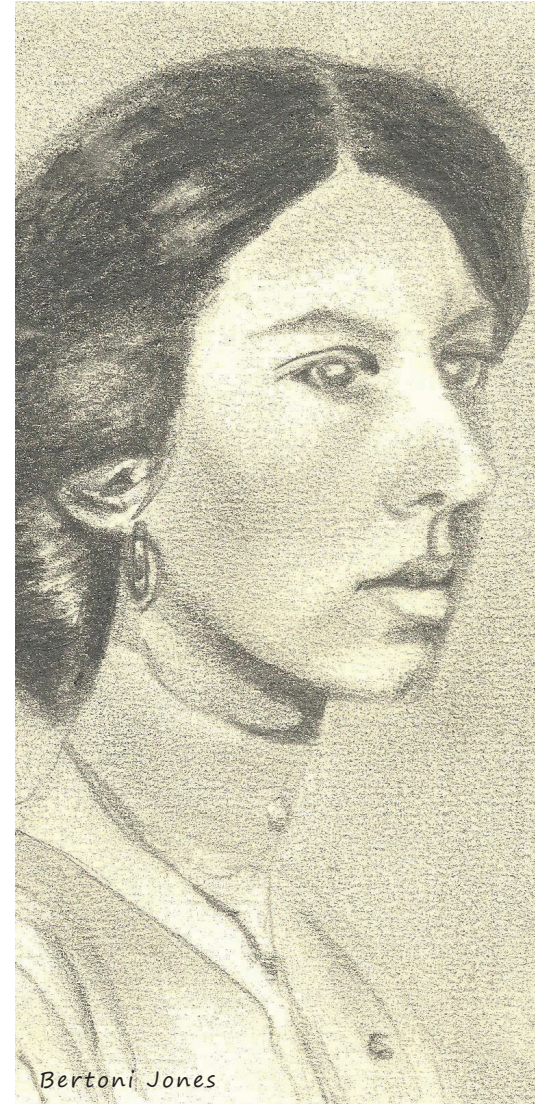
Article and Art by Bertoni Jones

Meta Vaux Fuller (Warrick) was an African American artist that was born the third of three children in Philadelphia, PA, on June 9, 1877. She came from a prominent family of hair salon, catering, and real estate holders. Meta (pronounced Mee-tah) grew up with other well to do children, going to private school, horseback riding, visiting museums and art shows. The artist Henry Ossawa Tanner was a regular family friend who encouraged Meta to pursue the arts. In 1893, while still in high school, one of Meta's sculptures was included in the World's Columbian Exposition where she was awarded a scholarship to the Pennsylvania School of Industrial Arts (now the University of the Arts College of Art and Design).

After graduating from high school and college, Meta convinced her parents that her artistic success would be found in Paris, and she left Philadelphia at the age of 22, arriving in France in October of 1899. Unfortunately, some things in Paris were the same as America. Meta was not allowed to stay at the American Girls Club of Paris because of her "race". Ultimately other accommodations were made for her.

In a turn of the century Paris world famous for the arts Meta immersed herself in sculpture studies at the Academie Colarossi and drawing classes at the famous Ecole des Beaux-Arts. She made lifelong friends with W.E.B. Dubois in Paris who encouraged her to bring the emotional themes of African people out in her sculptures. But it was in 1901 that her career would take a major leap when she was introduced to Auguste Rodin, one of the world's leading sculptors.

Rodin could care less about "color" or gender, and his open, honest approach with his student emboldened her. With his help, by 1902, Meta was not only the most regularly featured American sculptor in Paris, she would also become one of the few women ever to put on a one woman show at the renowned gallery L'Art Nouveau in Paris.



Later that year Meta made the difficult choice to return to Philadelphia only to return to a bigoted art community in the US that rejected the very sculptures which had just gained her recognition and prominence in Paris.

In 1907 Meta married Doctor Solomon C. Fuller, a physician who specialized in Alzheimer and Dementia studies, and they raised three sons. Three years later a warehouse fire destroyed sixteen years of Meta's work and along with it much of her spirit.

Starting over completely, Meta's work turned more towards subdued religious and social themes. She would earn modest recognition, becoming the first African American female artist to receive a government commission, and she would sculpt, paint and write poetry well into her eighties. Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller died in Framingham Pennsylvania on March 18, 1968.

Sources: Wikipedia.com, Encyclopedia.com, Now is your time, The New England Journal of Medicine, Jan. 21, 1954.

THE BLACK LENS NEWS SPOKANE

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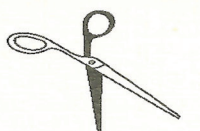
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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

From Across the Country and Around the World

National Women's History Project Honors Two African American Historians



Delilah L. Beasley



Darlene Clark Hine.

(www.nwhp.org) - March 2015 is the 35th Anniversary of the National Women's History Project, an organization that is dedicated to recognizing the achievements of women in all facets of life and "writing women back into history."

In celebration of the landmark anniversary, NWHP has chosen nine women as its 2015 Honorees, including two African American women, Delilah L. Beasley and Darlene Clark Hine.

Delilah L. Beasley (1867-1934), a Historian and Newspaper Columnist, was the first African American woman to be regularly published in a major metropolitan newspaper and the first author to present the history of African Americans in early California.

Growing up in Ohio, Beasley started writing social columns for black and white newspapers while still a teenager. After her parents' deaths, she sought a career path that would better support her younger siblings, working as a hairdresser, massage therapist, nurse, and maid for many years. In 1910 she moved to Oakland California where she immersed herself in the local black community and again started writing articles in local newspapers.

In 1915 Beasley started writing a weekly column in the Oakland Tribune. Her articles protested the stereotypes contained in the movie *The Birth of a Nation*. Through a column called "Activities among Negroes," she campaigned for African-American dignity and rights. Highlighting activities of local churches, women's clubs, literary societies, along with national politics, and achievements of black men and women, her column aimed to give readers a positive picture of the black community and the capabilities of African Americans.

In 1919 Beasley self-published "The Negro Trail-Blazers of California", a groundbreaking book chronicling the lives of hundreds of black Californians from the pioneer period through the early 20th century. Her book included an unprecedented amount of Black women's history, focusing on the strong roles women played in their communities and featuring countless biographies of women leaders. In the thirties, Beasley was the driving force behind the passage of California's first anti-lynching bill. She continued her column and was active in the community until her death in 1934.

Darlene Clark Hine is an Author, Professor and pioneering scholar in the field of African American Women's History. She received her B.A from Roosevelt University in Chicago in 1968, a Master's Degree from Kent State University in Ohio in 1970, and a PhD from Kent State University in 1975. While attending Roosevelt University in the sixties, Hine says it was "hearing black activists refer so often to history, seeing the black culture celebrated by artists, and reading new works by black writers that inspired her with the hope that someday she could change the very definition of "history."

Dr. Hine is considered an expert on African-American history, particularly on black women's history, having edited or written 25 books. In 1990, her book "Black Women in White" received several awards, and was named outstanding book by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights. Additionally she edited the first major encyclopedia on the subject of African American Women in America.

For more information about the National Women's History Project or to read about all nine 2015 Honorees, visit www.nwhp.org.

Kamala Harris to Run for U.S. Senate from California; She Would be the Second Black Woman Senator



(TriceEdneyWire.com) - California Attorney General Kamala Harris announced that she is running for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Barbara Boxer.

Boxer, a Democrat, announced that she will not seek re-election in 2016. She has been a member of the U.S. Senate since 1993.

If Harris wins the 2016 election, she would be only the second Black woman to serve in the U. S. Senate. The first was Illinois Sen. Carol Mosely Braun, who served from 1993-1999. A total of nine Blacks have served in the U. S. Senate since 1789, according to Senate.gov.

Harris said on her website, "I'm excited to share with you that I'm launching my campaign to represent the people of California in the U.S. Senate. From my first days as a prosecutor in Alameda County, to my work as San Francisco District Attorney, to my current service as California Attorney General, I have worked to bring smart, innovative and effective approaches to fighting crime, fighting for consumers and fighting for equal rights." Voters elected her attorney general in 2011.

The 50-year-old Harris was born Oct. 20, 1964, in Oakland, Calif. She is a graduate of Howard University and she is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She also graduated from the University of California Hastings College of Law. She is the daughter of a Jamaican-American father and a Tamilian mother. Her father, Donald Harris, is professor emeritus in the Department of Economics at Stanford University. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, MD, was a world-renown scientist and physician who specialized in breast cancer research and treatment. She died in 2009.

Diversity protest at Oscars cancelled; Selma Director to Set Up Hollywood Meeting

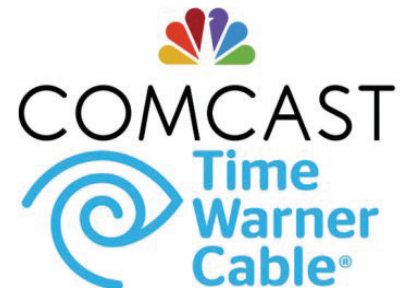


(www.theguardian.com) A protest over a lack of diversity in the Academy Awards was called off at the last minute before the ceremony on Sunday, February 22, at the request of Selma director Ava DuVernay.

The L.A. chapter of the National Action Network (NAN), a civil rights group founded by Al Sharpton, had planned to stage a rally near the Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles, protesting against a lack of diversity among Academy Award voters, who are predominantly white and male.

But the LA chapter called off the protest "due to the request of Ava DuVernay, who is helping set up a meeting" with leaders of the Academy

Black Media Group Files \$20 Billion Lawsuit Against Comcast And Time Warner



(PRNewswire -- AfricanGlobe.net) National Association of African American Owned Media (NAAAOM) and Entertainment Studios Networks, Inc., on Friday, February 20, 2015, filed a \$20 billion lawsuit against Comcast Corporation, Time Warner Cable, Reverend Al Sharpton, Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network, former FCC commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker, NAACP, and The National Urban League for "conspiring to and engaging in racial discrimination in contracting against 100% African American-owned media in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, 42 U.S.C. section 1981."

The lawsuit states that Comcast and its proposed merger partner, Time Warner Cable, have engaged in long-term racial discrimination in contracting with 100% African American-owned media companies. Comcast, in particular, conspired with governmental regulators, including Baker, and non-media civil rights groups and so-called leaders, including Sharpton and the NAACP, to continue such discrimination in connection with its 2010, \$36 billion acquisition of NBC-Universal. The suit further states that of the over \$25 billion spent annually by Comcast and Time Warner Cable on cable channel carriage fees and advertising, less than \$3 million is spent with 100% African American-owned media companies.

"I had no choice but to file this lawsuit," said Byron Allen, Chairman and Founder of Entertainment Studios Networks. "Everyone talks about diversity, but diversity in Hollywood and the media starts with ownership. African Americans don't need handouts and donations; we can hire ourselves if white corporate America does business with us in a fair and equitable way."

The lawsuit, filed in United States District Court, Central District of California, can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/naaaom-complaint>

Kenyan doctors claim they found anti-fertility agent in UN tetanus vaccine

(www.lifesitenews.com) Kenya's Catholic bishops are charging two United Nations organizations with sterilizing millions of girls and women under cover of an anti-tetanus inoculation program sponsored by the Kenyan government.

According to a statement released Tuesday by the Kenya Catholic Doctors Association, the organization has found an antigen that causes miscarriages in a vaccine being administered to 2.3 million girls and women by the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Priests throughout Kenya reportedly are advising their congregations to refuse the vaccine.

"We sent six samples from around Kenya to laboratories in South Africa. They tested positive for the HCG antigen," Dr. Muhame Ngare of the Mercy Medical Centre in Nairobi told LifeSiteNews. "They were all laced with HCG." But the government says the vaccine is safe. Health Minister James Macharia even told the BBC, "I would recommend my own daughter and wife to take it because I entirely 100% agree with it and have confidence it has no adverse health effects."

Kenya's government has launched an investigation into the Catholic Church's allegations.

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

Getting back to Basics By Evelyn Anderton

As I look back on my childhood, I remember vividly the importance of good manners. In my home, “Yes sir, Yes ma’am, thank you, and excuse me” were words so easily uttered from my lips. Every adult was addressed as Mr. or Mrs. When I entered a room I always spoke, and when I asked my parents for something I always used the magic word “please”.

I would bless my food before I ate, and I ate everything on my plate. Before I went to bed each night I would say my prayers. Every Sunday I would attend Sunday school and church without any questions. There was no such thing as children’s church. I had to sit and listen in regular service with the adults. It was never an issue to use my best manners and I did it with pride.

I learned at a young age that adults honored children that showed them respect and used manners. They seemed to show a great deal of admiration for children when they heard them speaking to adults in a respectful way.

I was recently shopping with my 7 year old grandson when we came upon an aisle that was blocked by an older person’s shopping cart. My grandson approached the lady and said “excuse

me please.” The lady looked at him with astonishment on her face and said, “It is so nice to see a young man with manners, something you do not see very often.” I was so pleased to see him using his manners, which are expected in our home.

It seems to be socially acceptable to give our children a pass on using good manners. I wanted my children and grandchildren to understand how important it is to learn good manners and being polite. Good manners should be taught in the home and it’s a lifelong lesson that a child will take with them even after departing as an adult.

Parents it is not too late. It is important to get back to the basics of teaching our children the simple things in life, such as “good manners.”



EVERYWOMAN

By Oceana Jenkins

Every tear
And each throb of blood in
my temple
They beat down
Not for myself
But for everywoman
oppressed

The eruption in my chest
A rhythm building
Until I melt
Not yet strong enough
To withstand the pain
and grief
Accumulated in the
Memories and DNA
Of my feminine ancestors

I rage
Between bloodthirsty
frustration
And consuming love
I breathe
Awakening knowledge
that Love
Is the only tool the master
Has not claimed
The banner I will fly
As I rush into the fray
Of the struggle
For the freedom of
everywoman

Our liberation is of the mind
The words of our
foremothers
Eat like acid
At the bars and tethers

That for too long
Have restrained my
consciousness

No longer will I accept the
master’s
Frameworks
I am done self-policing
I will not hate myself
anymore
But fill my existence
In the divine force of Love
For my own liberation
And for everywoman

I know that I will face
opposition
The colonizing armies
Of my brothers and sisters
Will pay a visit

First, peace talks;
An attempt at re-colonization
I will not be persuaded
There is no turning back

Then threats and force
As I declare myself an
independent
Nation
United in solidarity with
those who
Have chosen Freedom

For everywoman
For everyperson
I cry, I work, I struggle,
I love.



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GIRL ON FIRE:

Conference Empowers Spokane's Young Women of Color

by Nicole Kidder

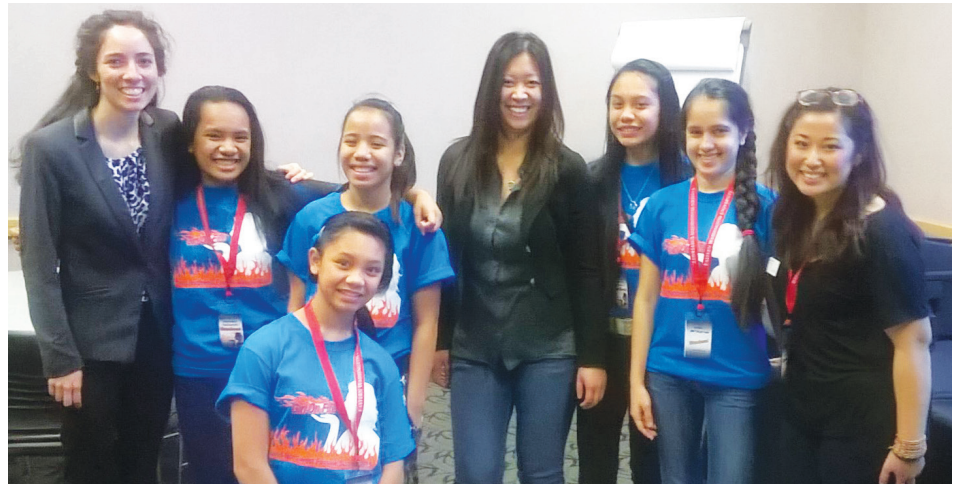
On Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015, 48 young women from across the Inland Northwest descended upon a deserted Spokane Community College campus to discuss sisterhood, leadership and education. The participants of the first Inland Northwest Female Summit (INWFS) spent the day examining how race, culture and gender influence self-esteem and healthy relationships.

Spokane Community College and Eastern Washington University co-hosted the free leadership program for young women in grades 8-12 and underclasswomen at the local colleges and universities. The conference sought to celebrate accomplishments so that the girls felt motivated to excel in their academics, social relationships and career goals. The daylong event focused on providing tools that would help

them gain confidence in pursuing their dreams and taking on leadership roles that contribute to their communities.

"We chose the theme 'Girl on Fire' to help our area's young women ignite their passion for education, social justice and feminism," explained Randy Corradine, the Diversity Outreach Coordinator for the EWU Admissions office and organizer of the event. "The planning committee brought together a variety of professional women from the Inland area to facilitate workshops and lead identity discussions that examined feminism, deconstructed stereotypes and highlighted women in leadership."

INWFS was created specifically for multicultural, first-generation and low-income young women in the greater Inland Northwest. It is modeled after the successful male summit that takes place on the EWU campus, which will be held this year on May 16. "This is truly a passion project and community effort," Corradine said. "All aligned to the purpose of the summit and, as a result, we were able to recruit the passion and commitment of local talent."



Examining Feminism, Deconstructing Stereotypes

Attorney Zaida Rivera, who works with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project in Seattle, fired up the early morning crowd with her inspiring keynote address. In her role with NWIRP, Rivera works with low-income immigrant families in Washington to defend their legal status. An alum of Gonzaga University and the University of Idaho Law School, the first-generation high school graduate credited her Spanish-speaking parents with instilling in her "the importance of education and an incredible work ethic."

The morning session of the conference offered participants their choice of one of four 90-minute workshops led

by admissions counselors from EWU, Whitworth and Gonzaga, as well as Ahyana King, assistant dean of Intercultural Student Development at Whitworth. In one conference room, an intimate group gathered around the table to discuss "Lighting the S.P.A.R.K. of Leadership." After a frank conversation that inspired the girls to "find their inner boss," they enthusiastically set out to develop a mission statement for their own lives.

Next door, another group of girls talked about the negative connotations surrounding feminism and how they can define the term for themselves. In an evaluation, one participant noted that

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NAACP CELEBRATES WOMEN LEADERS

By Rachel Doležal, President Spokane NAACP

February was a busy month for the Spokane NAACP. Many of our officers and committee chairs served on the City of Spokane's African American History Month Committee to organize events sharing Black history and culture throughout the 28 days of Black History Month. NAACP committees rolled out their annual initiatives for reform in criminal justice, education, health and other civil rights causes and shared these plans at the February 16th meeting. Citizens filed complaints with our office, ranging from employment discrimination, unfair termination at work, racial profiling by police, to assault, and harassment in schools.

With so much added to our plates, it is a small miracle we are entering March in good health with energy to spare.

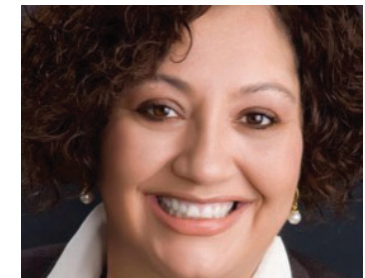
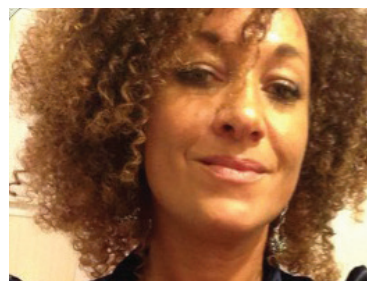
Undoubtedly, every NAACP officer and participant who has given of their time and resources deserves generous recognition. In the spirit of March, which emphasizes the struggle and liberation of women, I would like to highlight the women officers and Executive Board members who contribute their passion and expertise to our local civil rights work and thank the members for their confidence in my leadership as evidenced in their selection of me as President and the ongoing support that so

many have demonstrated since the beginning of my term.

Although the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded by men and women, the election of female presidents for local and regional oversight is rare compared to male executive leadership. In fact, in over a century, there has not been a single national woman President elected to oversee America's oldest civil rights organization. And yet, Black women remain one of the highest demographics for individuals who are politically and socially engaged. I am proud to be one of the few female Presidents in Spokane NAACP history and believe that my appointment of seven men and seven women to serve on the Executive Board fortifies our work with balance and stability.

Among the leading ladies of the Spokane NAACP, my 3rd Vice President, Dr. Naima Quarles-Burnley, hails from New Rochelle, New York. She went to law school in Washington, DC, and practiced law for seven years in Pittsburgh, PA. From her legal work, where she represented the poorest of the poor, to her service in prisons and overseas as a Monitor for Peace during South Africa's first free and fair election of

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YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

DEONNA SMITH

Brown Girls Can!

Deonna Smith has big dreams. She has her sights set on inspiring women “to reach further than they believed was possible.” Her goal is to start a non-profit organization that focuses on the needs of women of color called “Brown Girls Can”, that will work to break down the barriers to full inclusion for women in society, and teach women how to be successful.

The only way to break the cycle of poverty, Deonna says, is to address the root of the problem, “the illusion that we are inferior” and she feels that education is the key that will allow women of color to come together to better their place in society.

Education has definitely been a key to Deonna’s success. She says her parents always emphasized the importance of education, but it wasn’t until she reached high school that she felt for the first time that she had some control in shaping her own destiny. Deonna graduated from Lewis & Clark High School in 2011 and received an Act Six Urban Leadership Scholarship which gave her a full ride to Gonzaga University, where she graduated in 2014 with a B.A. in Political Science, International Relations & Spanish, and a Minor in Womens and Gender Studies.

Deonna’s initial life goals had to do with financial security, but she says that she “didn’t know the path to who I wanted to be.” Without mentors, she felt that she didn’t really really know what direction to go in and didn’t have a clear picture of how to be the person she wanted to be, “so I made it up as I went.”

A six month internship in Chile shifted Deonna’s focus. She worked with an NGO whose mission was to help local people get micro loans to start their own businesses so that they could become financially independent. She also taught English classes and computer literacy to single mothers.

The experience in Chile inspired Deonna with a desire to “solve the world’s problems.” Inequity, she said, “has never sat well with me” A Poly-Sci degree, she felt, would give her skills that she could use and tools that she could leverage to close the gaps of inequity that she had seen in Chile.

But, it was during her time as Gonzaga that Deonna realized “my own people had problems,” and she switched from an international focus to wanting to heal the Black community. She said she realized, “if all of the international and social capitol is leaving



the Black community, it will never be able to move forward.” Deonna went on to say, “I grew up on the east side of Spokane, but as a child I attended Jefferson Montessori, and because of that I was surrounded at a young age by people who thought nothing else but that they would be successful. It allowed me to see how things could be – the possibilities that existed. My Black identity suffered, but it propelled me to see that there were more options than what the average Black child is presented with. I saw the inequity and I wanted more for myself”

And now Deonna wants more for the rest of the Black community as well. “Imagagine if Oprah, Ruth Badger Ginsburg, Beyonce, Angela Davis & Hilary Clinton all got together, what would their brian child be. That’s what I want to do!”

HISTORICAL IGNORANCE ABOUT BLACK WOMEN

By Jaclyn Archer



I’m not particularly well versed in the history of women of color. The history classes I took in elementary school and high school didn’t touch on our struggles or accomplishments much, outside of Black History Month when the names Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks were thrown around.

Now that I’m in college, I’m doing what I can to patch this hole in my education; a hole which is problematic not only because I am a woman of color, but because ignorance of my past leads to social blindness in my present.

It is impossible for me to understand the contemporary struggles faced by me and women like me unless I understand the historical context of these struggles. It is this historical ignorance

which, I believe, is the biggest barrier to understanding and progress across racial and gender lines. People are both unwilling and unlikely to become allies in a cause of which they have insufficient or distorted knowledge.

I was not completely let down by early education. When I was in third grade my teacher organized the entire February social studies curriculum around Black History Month. We colored freedom quilts, learned about the Underground Railroad, and during reading time, crowded around his chair as he read a historical fiction novel about the Civil War. Black History month was capped off with a production of a play about Phillis Wheatley. She was my first theatrical role and my first black female role model. My fourth grade year I got to play Ida B. Wells.

The stories of these women, and many others we learned about during February, made an impression on my classmates as well.

“Wow,” said Melinda, an earnest fourth grader with wide eyes. “I never knew all that. I’m so sorry your people had to go through that.”

Hearing the stories of influential Black Americans had inspired her to empathy, and the whole class ended the February unit a bit more curious, open, and interested in the stories of those not outwardly like ourselves.

I learned a lot from these women. Phillis Wheatley was the first Black woman ever published, and the second published Black poet. Ida B. Wells was a journalist, newspaper editor, sociologist, and an early civil rights leader during a time when most women in the United States couldn’t vote or even attend most institutions of higher learning. They were persistent, humble, un-daunted, smart, and smashed the social boundaries of their era. In many ways Phillis Wheatley and Ida B. Wells were precisely the type of women I wanted to grow up to be—and still do.

History class after third and fourth grade, however, was a bit more typical. The Black History Month unit rarely lasted more than a week, and during that time we focused primarily on Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and occasionally watched films about segregated schools and drinking fountains.

Outside of my performing class, no one else knew who Wheatley and Wells were. In my mind, and in the minds of my peers, these historical role models were replaced by the only prominent Black women that we knew; women like Hallie Berry, Mariah Carey, and Beyoncé.

Years later, as a junior in college, I got into an argument with a friend about the need for better representation of Blacks and women in history curriculums. “I just think,” said Jonathan (not his

real name), a white male, “that maybe there isn’t much in history books about Blacks or women because they just didn’t do as much.” I was incensed, but when I sought to conjure examples to counter his claim, I couldn’t think of many, certainly not any Black women.

Jonathan was never particularly sympathetic to contemporary Civil Rights efforts. He seemed to hold the attitude that the United States is basically post-racial and beyond any serious gender-based injustice. Unlike the members of my third and fourth grade classes, he had not been exposed to historical narratives which might have inspired empathy for suffering or respect for accomplishment.

It would be easy for me to write off Jonathan as a bigot or chauvinist, but I think the failing lies in his education, which was much like mine. Outside of Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman, neither of us were able to think of many prominent Black Women who weren’t first and foremost entertainers. I had forgotten most of what I had learned when I was nine, and I suffered from the same historical blindness that Jonathan did, mitigated only by my experience of being a Black female.

I know all too well that we do not live in a post-racial society because just last month the local news media reported that the Ku Klux Klan had distributed

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IN THE SPIRIT

INLAND NORTHWEST MINISTER'S WIVES AND WIDOWS FELLOWSHIP

The Women Beside the Men

The Inland Northwest Minister's Wives and Minister's Widow's Fellowship (INMWAMWF) is a close-knit fellowship of six women in the Spokane community that represent a cross section of Christian Churches.

Founded by Dr. Leotta Jarrett in May of 2006, the Fellowship offers support for women who are in the difficult and sometimes thankless role of Minister's Wife. But the Fellowship is much more than a support group for the ladies, the purpose of the Fellowship, according to the current President, Sister Willie L. Davis, is "to work in and around the city of Spokane trying to help others find their way or if they have any needs, to try and help."

The Fellowship has many contacts in the community where members give of their time. For example, Field of Diamonds House of Blessing is a non-profit home located on the South Hill that offers women and children a place to stay

for up to twelve months while they focus on their wellness. Fellowship members also work with The Union Gospel Mission's Crisis Center for Women and Children, and African American Reach and Teach Health Ministry, which is a faith-based capacity building nonprofit organization that was established to respond to HIV/AIDS and other major health issues affecting people of African descent and is dedicated to increasing health care awareness and knowledge among people of African descent and promoting responsible health choices and practices

Current Fellowship members include: First Lady and past President Doris Rhodes, Mt. Olive Baptist Church (Rev. A.L. Rhodes Pastor); First Lady Etta Watkins, New Hope Baptist Church (Rev. Happy Watkins Pastor); First Lady Alisha Mitchel, Bethel A.M.E. Church (Rev. Lonnie Mitchel Pastor); Sister Tina Singleton, Calvary Missionary Baptist Church (Rev. C.W. Andrews Pastor); Sister Faith Washington, Holy Temple



Sister Willie L. Davis, President INMWAMWF

Church of God in Christ (Rev. Ezra Kinlow Pastor); and current President Sister Willie L. Davis, Morningstar Missionary Baptist Church (Rev. Walter J. Kendricks Pastor).

The women of the Fellowship are dedicated to service and being an example of Christ's love. "We serve as much as possible," said Sister Davis, "like Christ our great example."

WORDS OF INSPIRATION: DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD

By Rev. Dr. Suzanne Johnson Cook
Excerpt from: "Moving Up: Dr. Sujay's Ten Steps to Turning Your Life Around and Getting to the Top"

In ancient Israel the property of a deceased person was usually distributed according to law or tribal custom. Written wills were rarely used. The real and personal property of a father was normally divided among his sons. A larger amount, usually a double portion, went to the oldest son who assumed the care of his mother and unmarried sisters.

No sons available, no suffrage, women's rights, or civil rights law. What's a woman to do? Would the family legacy be transferred to an uncle by bypassing the rightful women heirs? Those sisters, even without a constituted voice, found their voice to move up into prominence instead of down into obscurity. The five collected themselves corporately as one and stood before the most imposing male figure their culture had ever seen – Moses.

Zelophehad was a dad, a son, and a grandson, but he had no son. The story takes place in a time when male patriarchy and dominance ruled – what men did, said, and wanted was all that mattered. Women were property whose primary worth was measured in the birthing and raising of children (particularly



male heirs). They were to care for the home, but not own the house. When Zelophehad died having no son, the question that would have most probably resounded in the minds of male relatives was this: Which man would receive the inheritance?

No man would advocate for them. All that the men had to go on was precedence. But the women had more going for them- they had upward-moving boldness rooted in a legacy of faithful loyalty. "Our father died in the wilderness, but he was not in the company of those who had gathered against the Lord" they declared. Their family lineage was just

as worthwhile as that of their uncles. Their claim to a future was just as valid as anyone else's and they were willing to go up to Moses and ask for their rightful inheritance. They reached up to grasp their rightful inheritance and God "caused the inheritance of their father to pass to them," setting up a new precedent for future.

These are the daughters of Zelophehad. They are not the names you normally hear when you think of famous women in the bible. They're not Mary Magdalene and not Mary the mother of Jesus...not Ruth or Deborah and not Esther or Rahab, but rather Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah, five sisters who were united. United in going forward not backward, being blessed not cursed, seeking more than that's traditional, speaking up not staying quiet, moving up not staying down... You don't have to be a woman to look up to a woman. Anyone can learn how to "be up" from those who show the way.

Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook was appointed by President Barack Obama as the United States Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom. She was founder and senior pastor of Bronx Christian Fellowship Church in New York and is editor or co-author of several books, including the acclaimed, "Sister to Sister: Devotions For and From African-American Women", and the best seller, "Too Blessed To Be Stressed."

New Hope Baptist Church
Pastor Happy Watkins

409 S. Greene Street, Spokane WA 509-535-1336
11am Sundays www.NewHopeSpokane.com



BUSINESS / ECONOMICS

SPOTLIGHT: EVENTS! BY KAREN HERFORD



kane in 2004 and earned a Business Degree from SFCC in 2009, as well as Hospitality degrees from Hyatt University and the University of Phoenix. She started in the hospitality industry over twenty years ago, working within the Hyatt Hotels Family, Marriott, Wyndham and Red Lion Hotels. Most recently Karen was the Director of Sales and Event Planning for Catered for You, a locally owned full-service catering and event planning company, before launching her own business.

“The idea for my business is from over 20 years in the industry and deciding to just finally get out there and do it for myself. It’s been a long time coming.”

Events! By Karen Herford offers corporate and social event planning services that include planning conferences, meetings and social networking events. Wedding planning services include a “Day of” wedding package that handles coordination for the entire day of the ceremony; a full service

“You do Nothing” package that handles everything from the engagement to the aisle; and 100% customized wedding proposals, providing people with 2-3 very unique proposal ideas that relate to them only.

“I just adore creating ideas and unique looks that no one else has seen. Helping each client feel as if their corporate event or wedding or birthday celebration is not like everyone else’s.”

Events! By Karen Herford is a proud member of IN-PRO, the Spokane Valley Chamber and The Inland Northwest Business Alliance.

For more information contact Karen Herford at 509-216-7030 or events@karenherforevents.com or visit the website at www.karenherforevents.com.



Karen Herford, the owner of the Spokane based business *Events! By Karen Herford* is a self-described “people person and problem solver”, both strong assets for her company that offers corporate event planning and wedding planning services.

Karen originally moved to Spokane from Dallas, Texas in 1985. After a tour in the U.S. Army that took her Military Police Unit to Panama as a part of Operation Promote Liberty and to Iraq as a part of Desert Storm/Dessert Shield, she returned to Spo-

BLACK ENTERPRISE

WOMEN OF POWER SUMMIT 2015

BLACK ENTERPRISE WOMEN OF POWER SUMMIT
Hosted By State Farm
March 2-5, 2015
FORT LAUDERDALE MARRIOTT HARBOR BEACH RESORT AND SPA
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL

2015 BARBARA GRAVES LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENT
Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum
President, Spelman College

Register NOW!

The Black Enterprise Women of Power Summit is a professional leadership conference designed especially for executive women of color and 2015 will be a landmark year for the Summit as they celebrate 10 years of honoring, acknowledging and uplifting female leaders of color through networking and empowerment.

More than 800 Mid to senior-level managers, HR officers, diversity officers, executives, and professionals. from across the country will attend the 2015 Summit which will take place March 2-5, 2015 at the Ft. Lauderdale Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa and will gain access to and learn from industry leaders about how to optimize their potential for professional advancement. Participate in interactive workshops and sessions that examine corporate trends, lead-

ership and management skills, and small business issues, opportunities to network with executive women from across the country, and enjoy restorative activities such as morning workouts, golf clinics, one-on-one coaching sessions, nightly entertainment, and much more.

Sponsored by State Farm Insurance, Chevrolet, Fedex, Intel, and Merrill Lynch, to name a few, the summit will feature powerful women from every walk of life, including Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President, Spelman College; Carla Harris, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley; Melody Hobson, President, Ariel Investments LLC; Bozoma Saint. John, SVP & Head of Global Marketing, Beats Music; Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron, CEO, YWCA; Judy Smith, President and CEO of Smith & Company,

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OUR VOICES

Measuring the Worth of Black Women

Rachel Doležal, President Spokane NAACP

Black women arrived on the shores of North America as mothers, wives, young girls and even infants. An ever-present force in the Black Freedom movement, our foremothers fought in strong and strategic ways to realize emancipation and equity for themselves and the African American community as a whole.

From the days of Black feminists like Harriet Tubman, who was a powerful woman packing a gun and freeing her people from slavery, to The Red Book and international anti-lynching campaign of Ida B. Wells, to the Civil Rights & Black Power movements with Fannie Lou, Mamie, Ella, Rosa, Melba, Angela, Assata and so many others, to modern times of Black feminists like Bell Hooks and Janet Mock, we have been reliable and valuable to the Cause at every turn.

So, why is it that our lives have consistently been valued less, from the auction block in the 1700's, to the media attention when we are kidnapped, assaulted or killed in 2015? Where is the reciprocity, acknowledgement and celebration of Black women?

We are up to our necks in holidays and monuments celebrating men, but where is the day the nation takes pause to remember the birth or death of a Black woman? We march, petition, and live our lives in support and connection with the struggle of our brothers. We make and wear Trayvon hoodies, #BlackLivesMatter apparel, and "I Can't Breathe" shirts, but who will memorialize us when we are gunned down by police, assaulted in our homes, or killed in a crossfire?

We remember the first AND last names of our sons who have been killed: Trayvon Martin, Ezell Ford, John Crawford, Amadou Diallo, Eric Garner, Oscar Grant, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown,

Kimani Gray, Kendrec McDade, Sean Bell, and Jordan Baker (just a few names I can quickly recall from memory). Their experiences recall the brutal deaths of mothers' sons from the past, such as Mamie Till's young son, Emmett.

In the wake of the heart-wrenching death of Michael Brown, three Black women linked this incident with the broader scope of racist history and lynching in America through the phrase and hashtag: #BlackLivesMatter. So successful were their efforts, that we are all now familiar with the phrase.

But history is repeating when we forget to remember the women behind the movement. Ashley Yates, Alexis Templeton and Brittany Ferrell coined #BlackLivesMatter and are among the women who have been the fire propelling the cause of justice in the wake of this ongoing unjust loss of life.

While we remember the names of our sons and fathers, we should also memorialize our daughters and sisters who experienced beatings and bullets to the body. At the young and tender age of seven, Ayiana Jones was shot and killed by police officer Joseph Weekley while sleeping

on her grandmother's couch. The case against Officer Weekley was dismissed with no consequences. Where were the protests upon his acquittal? From age 7 to 92, Black women have been assaulted and killed by officers, without widespread marches or protests.

Among the eldest to be brutalized was Kathryn Johnson. At 92, she was shot and killed by police who wrongfully suspected her house as a drug site and planted marijuana after the shooting to cover-up their crime.

Among our sisters slain in their 20's are: Shantel Davis, Shereese Francis, Shelly Frey, Tarika Wilson, Kendra James, and Rekia Boyd. A partial roll call for the lost lives of ladies in their 30's would include: Alesia Thomas, Tanisha Anderson, Malissa Williams and Miriam Carey. Most of these women died from bullet wounds, but Alesia Thomas expired after being kicked at least seven times in her abdomen and genitals by the police. Rekia Boyd was brutally killed at age 22 by a bullet to the back of her head.

This entire paper could be filled with stories of our brothers and sisters who have died at the hands of police brutality, but

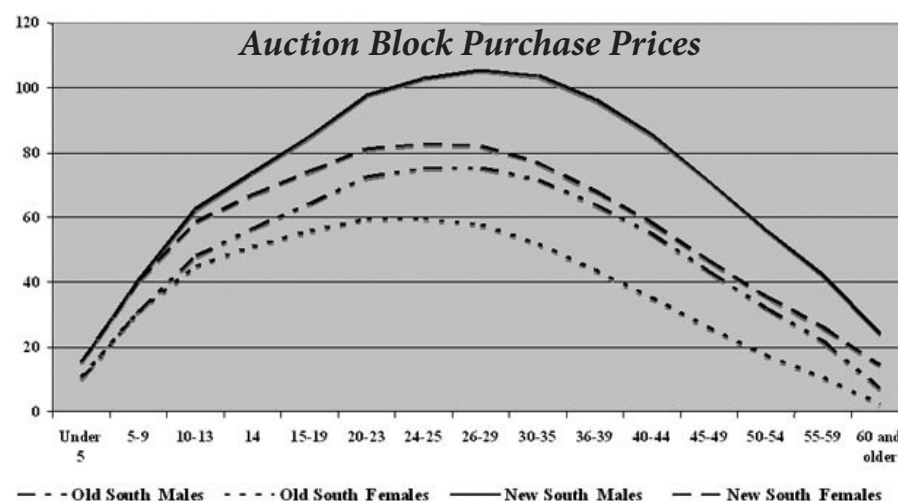
while mainstream news media continues to highlight only a few stories, and usually those of Black men, we have a responsibility to give equal value and shed equal tears for the injuries and deaths of Black women. Similar to the disparity in value between Black men and women, as seen in disproportionate auction-block purchase prices in the 1700's, we have a disparity in valuing the lives of Black men and women today, as seen in disproportionate media attention and unequal collective memory.

If Ayiana Jones was born in the 1700's in America, she would have been worth about \$200 at the age of 7, when she was killed. For Rekia Boyd, her value would have been \$600 back then, and the worth of 47-year-old Yvette Smith would have been equal to Ayiana Jones. Priced at a higher rate, Black men on average were valued at about \$800 in the 18th century.

While it is uncomfortable to remember this horrific era of dehumanization, we must recall the past to prevent history from repeating in another form. As Black women, our social justice imperative is to protect and support our sisters as much as we protect and support our brothers.

My dream is that the Black Family in America and globally will be liberated from external and internalized racism and sexism altogether.

Black women stand at the intersection of both oppressions, and when our lives are measured, the weight of our legacy will attest that we are of equal value to Black men, white men, white women, and every other person on the planet. Black life matters. Black men's lives matter and Black women's lives matter both collectively and individually, because all lives matter.



Progressive Candidates Ignore Race Matters



By Julianne Malveaux

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - From everything I read - I like Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Her progressive ideas are just what we need while Hillary Clinton is straddling the fence, and still cozying up with bankers. Warren says she isn't running for President, but

there are quite a few political action committees urging her to run. And like President Barack Obama, she released a biography (A Fighting Chance) just two years before the 2016 election that provides details of her hardscrabble childhood, her early pregnancy and marriage, and her struggles combining work and family when she had a small child. Men and women can relate to her story, as well as at the ways she became the guru for consumer rights and financial literacy. When senators would not confirm her for the permanent position in the Department of Treasury, she ran for the Senate. Running for office for the first time, and she won.

Warren has consistently articulated a progressive agenda focused on those at the bottom, but she has consistent-

ly ignored race matters. Perhaps this is because progressive politicians feel they will alienate part of their base if they talk about race. This makes Warren and the others not much different that conventional politicians, ignoring the economic differences between African Americans and others.

How would Elizabeth Warren deal with declining revenues for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)? Would she step in to close the unemployment rate gap or the achievement gap? Would she deal with the housing discrimination that too many African Americans face? Or would she hide behind the common progressive refrain that when challenges at the bottom are addressed, African Americans are lifted up and their circumstance

will change.

The progressive Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) has articulated a progressive agenda from the Senate for more than a decade. He hails from the swing state of Ohio, and many are wondering why he doesn't command the same kind of attention that Elizabeth Warren does. While his ideas are solid he, too, has pretty much ignored the issue of race.

At the same time that progressives have been ignoring race, we have been barraged with report after report that race matters. Whether we are talking about those in kindergarten or in high schools, African American students face stricter discipline (with some of

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GIRL ON FIRE

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the most valuable thing she took away from the summit was “being able to explore the line between femininity and strength and how they are the same.” The session ended with the girls talking about how they can personally establish and defend women’s rights.

Meanwhile, participants in the adjoining rooms chatted about ways to increase confidence and how cultural capital affects education choices, career paths and quality of life.

Exploring Self-Esteem through Cultural Identity

After listening to a live performance from local Spokane band Sessions during lunch, the participants broke into six Racial Identity Caucuses. Similar conversations took place throughout SCC’s Student Union Building for nearly an hour and a half as African-American, Native American, Latina, Asian Pacific Islander, Multiracial and European American young women talked about how cultural identity has and will impact their journey through life.

In the African-American group, an eighth-grader from Gary Middle School sat with three EWU students who are members of the Black Student Union. Despite the age gap, the girls commiserated on the struggles of “not being black enough,” “never being fully engaged with one group” and “always trying to find someone to identify with.” The youngest member of the group, who shared that she only knows her white culture because she doesn’t know her African-American dad, said, “Other black girls don’t want to be friends because they say I act too white.”

The facilitator led the young women in a discussion about how to navigate these issues and ways they can find support. “Being a woman of color, we have to become resourceful in finding allies,” she advised. “We also have to pull off those layers society tries to put on us – skin color, gender. When you know who you are, you stop looking for validation from others. Letting others shape us limits what we can accomplish.”

Around the corner, a group of 10 Latina students compiled giant-sized Post-Its of stereotypes they encounter in the media. Words like beautiful, mother-homemaker and outspoken were quickly scrawled across the page. Another page labeled “Ashamed” listed cultural practices that make them feel embarrassed. After listening to the girls share stories about wearing thrift store clothing and translating for their parents, the moderator shared a sentimental story about how much she misses her madre’s tin-foil wrapped lunches now that she lives on her own.

The girls also discussed the difficulties of growing up as a young Latina in America. Many heads nodded around the room as they talked about their parents not understanding what they are going through and how they feel like they must be a constant bridge of communication and culture for their parents. The conversation ended on a lively note with the girls shouting out all the things they are proud of about their culture. Surrounding the words faith, familia, food and fiestas were upbringing, hard-working and sacrifice.

A Stirring Snapshot of Success

The daylong empowerment event concluded with a Professional Career Panel discussing their pathways to success as women of color. “We wanted these young women to see successful women and what that looks like,” Corradine said.

A recurring theme from all the panel members was the advice to know and celebrate yourself. “Having a strong sense of self means that you don’t have to prove who you are,” shared recently elected Pend Oreille County Prosecutor Dolly Hunt.

Tennille Jeffries-Simmons, who is the youngest person to hold the Chief Human Resources Officer position for Spokane Public Schools, discussed the struggle she experiences as an African-American woman to fight the perception that she earned her job because of affirmative action rather than hard work. She encouraged the girls to continue pushing forward even when they have doubts and to be willing to make mistakes but pick themselves up and then make a new plan.

The event concluded with the guest panel sharing their favorite quotes. Among them was KREM 2 reporter Frances Wang’s preferred quip, “You can’t compare yourself to someone else’s highlight reel because you don’t know what’s going on behind the scenes!”

NAACP WOMEN LEADERS

Continued from Page 5

Nelson Mandela, Naima has consistently demonstrated grace and humility in her acts of ministry. After her extensive international work, she returned to the U.S. to help with rehabilitation efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Her team worked on replacing roofs and rebuilding houses that had been gutted by the flood water. Since relocating to Spokane with her husband, Dr. Lawrence Burnley, Naima has advocated for children with disabilities and is a founding member and officer of the Spokane County Special Needs PTA, the first of its kind in Washington. Naima currently devotes her time to African American Reach and Teach Health (AARTH) as the Spokane Area Outreach Coordinator for the Affordable Care Act and consistently shows love to her beautiful family. Her gracious presence is warmly received by all who meet Naima.

Dorothy Webster is the CEO of all things financial, and I count it a distinct honor to have her experience on staff. Dorothy served as the Treasurer for Calvary Baptist, the Spokane Chapter of The Links, Inc., and the WA State Minority Affairs Directors in addition to serving as the Treasurer of our local NAACP. Dorothy also holds past titles as the President of the Spokane Chapter of the Links, Inc., President of the WA State Minority Affairs Directors, and Chair of the Board of Trustees at Calvary Baptist. She is a former member of the Board for Providence Health Care, Girls Scouts of America, and the Red Cross. Ms. Webster taught at Pasco High School and was the Financial Aid Director of Columbia Basin College. In addition to holding prestigious executive titles, Dorothy has demonstrated her care and compassion in volunteerism. One example is when she volunteered her time to support victims of Hurricane Katrina and still is in touch with a young girl she has mentored since then. With strong roots in Alabama’s Tuskegee University, Dorothy went to WSU to receive her Master’s Degree and then moved to the Spokane area. She is not only an asset to our branch in her financial and local expertise but is also a beautiful woman to be around in every way.

Our third officer in the President’s Cabinet, which includes the Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Branch, is Secretary Ariel McMillan. Ariel is our youngest officer who brings thoughtfulness and a gorgeous smile to all she does. Originally an East Coast girl, she spent her earliest years in Boston and New Jersey then moved to Moses Lake and finally Spokane. She started college at Spokane Falls Community College, then went abroad to study cultural anthropology. Now at Eastern Washington University, Ariel is majoring in Communications with an intercultural focus. She hopes to graduate with a Leadership Certificate before continuing toward her Master’s degree. Ariel plans to eventually finish her PhD in human rights and social justice. While a student, she has volunteered with Interfaith Hospitality, World Changers, VBS, EVHS, SOCS, SCRAPS, Odyssey Youth Center, Starr Road Baptist, and the Black Student Union at EWU. She splits her spare time currently between teaching English as a second language through Jacob’s Well refugee center and her role as the Secretary of the NAACP, all while studying and holding down a regular job. Ariel is an avid reader and brings a wealth of research and lived experience to the table at the NAACP. We all look forward to helping this dynamic young woman reach her goals as she facilitates the important logistics of our NAACP office operations.

Also integral to our Executive Board are the Committee Chairs and Members At Large, who serve as decision-making movers & shakers. All three of our elected Members At Large are beautiful, professional women: Dr. Gloria Baynes, Deborah Rose, and Wesley Gardner. Our two extraordinary female committee chairs are: Regina Malveaux and Dorothy Webster (also Treasurer). Without these seven dynamic women, the organization of the Spokane NAACP and the future vision for our work would not be the same. My loudest applause, biggest embrace, and most sincere gratitude to Naima, Dorothy, Ariel, Jeanne, Deborah, Wesley, and Regina, for all you do and all you are to me, the NAACP, and the City of Spokane!

PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES IGNORE RACE

Continued from Page 10

them, regardless of age, handcuffed and expelled from school), while teachers rely on their sociology classes to justify keeping white kids in school for the same infractions. Conversations about disproportionate rates of incarceration, and racial disparities in the application of the death penalty are rarely raised in Congress unless members of the Congressional Black Caucus bring it up. Progressives should not talk about race matters exclusively, but they exhibit a pathetic myopia when they fail to talk about race at all.

African American Democrats will hold their noses and vote for Elizabeth Warren, or if they are Clinton loyalists, they will vote her instead. Indeed, Elizabeth Warren has as much a change of winning a presidential contest as I do, but her committees will challenge the Clinton positions on domestic public policy. If she is able to get Senator Clinton to alter her positions on just a few matters she will have done her job.

Still, like President Obama, the matter of race is off the table. The President addresses race gingerly, mainly because as an African American President he must debunk the

myth that he is racially biased. I don’t agree with position, or the way he dealt with it in the State of the Union address when he had nothing to lose by dealing with race or simply saying the words “African American” or “Black”. Race still matters in our nation. What national leader has the courage to say it? Warren, Clinton and Brown have more leeway than President Obama, but they have as much fear as President Obama does for addressing a key national issue.

There is significant excitement about the role Senator Elizabeth Warren will play in the 2016 election. Maybe she will garner enough delegates to force a roll call, or at least the opportunity to nominate Senator Clinton. Maybe she will have a chance to address the nation in one of the prime-time spots during the convention, just as President Obama did in 2000. Certainly her name will be whispered or even shouted as she gains popular support. But if she is unwilling to talk about race, she will not have met the expectations of some in the African American community.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, DC.

MARCH EVENTS

MARCH 3

Ladysmith Black Mambazo



An all-male South African a cappella singing group that celebrated 50 years in 2014..

7:30 pm

\$39-\$49
Bing Crosby Theater
901 W Sprague Ave
Spokane, WA 99201

Tickets available online at
www.bingcrosbytheater.com

MARCH 7

Awadagin Pratt

Northwest Bach Festival - Thematic Transformations



Awadagin Pratt, an international award-winning pianist, will present Thematic Transformations. A no-host wine bar with award-winning Barrister wines will be open. Concert Conversations at 7:10 pm with Artistic Director Zuill Bailey.

7:30 pm

\$35, \$18/students
Barrister Winery
1213 W Railroad Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

MARCH 12, 13, 14

It's Time for a Revival

Theme: Alpha & Omega-
The Beginning and the End

Preachers:

Thursday - Rev. Earon Davis, Morning Star
Friday- Rev. Dwayne Washington, Holy Temple
Saturday - Rev. Boris Rhodes, Mt. Olive

7pm - 12th & 13th

6pm - 14th

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
3909 W. Rowan Ave, Spokane, WA

For more information call 509-244-3237

MLK Center 2015 Dinner & Silent Auction

April 18, 2015

5:30pm-7:30pm

Spokane Convention Center
Centennial Lobby Ballroom

Tickets: \$40 per person

All proceeds will be used to continue and expand services offered to area families at The Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center.

Contact: (509) 455-8722 or varguello@mlkspokane.org

19th Annual African American Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, April 25

1-3pm

Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University

RSVP online at <http://bit.ly/1JnUZKV> or visit the facebook page

For more information contact: aagradspokane@gmail.com

Please send information about upcoming community events to events@blacklensnews.com.

HISTORICAL IGNORANCE

Continued from Page 6

hateful propaganda in Post Falls and Spokane Valley. I also know that gender-based oppression isn't behind us because it was reported that seven transgender women have been murdered in the United States since January 1 of this year, most of them women of color.

I am aware of this information because my own self-interest and the scope of my social passions have motivated me to keep abreast of this kind of news. For people like Jonathan, however, the activities of the local Klan, the murder of transgender women, or the accomplishments of Black women outside of the entertainment industry may never find their way into his textbooks, newsfeeds, or social media threads. And as far as he is concerned, there is no reason to seek this information out.

It is because of this day-to-day lack of awareness by Jonathan and so many others like him that a recognition of the history of women of color is so important. With insufficient or distorted information about their history, Black women are at risk of not understanding their own struggle, and thus how best to rise above it. They may even come to buy into the myth that Black women haven't done much to deserve recognition in the annals of history, or similarly aren't doing much today. Furthermore, without voices to lift up the history of Black women, people like Jonathan will never have their understanding of history challenged, or their grasp of current social struggles broadened.

However, if we, as Black women, not only seek out our own histories, but share that history as educators, inheritors, and members of its lineage, we will not only empower ourselves, but we will also bring awareness to potential allies in our ongoing struggle for justice.

MICHELLE OBAMA

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Because who knows where the next great leader is going to come from, right? Who knows what mind will produce the next bold idea that will change the world? And I know the promise is out there, because I've seen it with my own eyes.

It's on us to lift up our young people as parents and preachers, as neighbors, as teachers. It's on us as advocates and policymakers to do everything we can to give our kids the resources they need. But here's the thing -- it is also on the young people themselves to summon that hunger every single day.

So to all the young people here today who are listening, I just want you to take these stories to heart. Listen to them. And I want you to translate the victories that these women won into habits in your own lives. That means going to class every day -- every day. No matter what obstacles life may throw your way, go to school. Go to the bad school that you have. Go to school. It means reaching higher and understanding that completing your education past high school is an absolute necessity today to achieve your dreams.

If you've got a friend who's not coming to school, who isn't trying their best, talk to them. Urge them to reach higher for themselves so that they can join you on a college campus one day. Then all of you can fulfill your potential and help carry forward the dreams of all those who have come before you. To read the full text of the speech visit: www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-and-remarks; video on the www.whitehouse.gov/blog.

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James 5:14-16