

THE BLACK LENS SPOKANE
NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BALTIMORE: OBAMA REACTS

Bloods & Crips Call Truce After Freddie Gray's Death

(President Obama has been criticized in the past for what some have said was a lack of response to Ferguson and other incidents around the country. Here is an excerpt of his remarks about the Baltimore protests during an April 28 Press Conference)

I think there are police departments that have to do some soul searching. I think there are some communities that have to do some soul searching. But I think we, as a country, have to do some soul searching. This is not new. It's been going on for decades.

And without making any excuses for criminal activities that take place in these communities, what we also

know is that if you have impoverished communities that have been stripped away of opportunity, where children are born into abject poverty; they've got parents -- often because of substance-abuse problems or incarceration or lack of education themselves-- that can't do right by their kids; if it's more likely that those kids end up in jail or dead, than they go to college.

In communities where there are no fathers who can provide guidance to young men; communities where there's no investment, and manufacturing has been stripped away; and drugs have flooded the communi-



Bloods and Crips protest together in Baltimore. The Nation of Islam appears to have brokered a truce between the rival gangs, along with the Black Guerilla Family, similar to the truce brokered in Los Angeles in the 1990s. Carlos Muhammad, Minister at Nation of Islam's Mosque No. 6 said, "we can unite and stop killing one another, and the Bloods and the Crips can help rebuild their community." Organizer, DeRay McKesson, added, "this fight has united people in many ways that we have not seen."

ty, and the drug industry ends up being the primary employer for a whole lot of folks in those environments.

If we think that we're just going to send the police to do the dirty work of containing the problems that arise there without as a nation and as a society saying what can we do to change those communities, to help lift up those communities and give those kids opportunity, then we're not going to solve this problem.

And we'll go through the same cycles of periodic conflicts between the police and communities and the occasional riots in the streets, and everybody will feign concern until

it goes away, and then we go about our business as usual.

If we are serious about solving this problem, then we're going to not only have to help the police, we're going to have to think about what can we do -- the rest of us -- to make sure that we're providing early education to these kids; to make sure that we're reforming our criminal justice system, so it's not just a pipeline from schools to prisons.

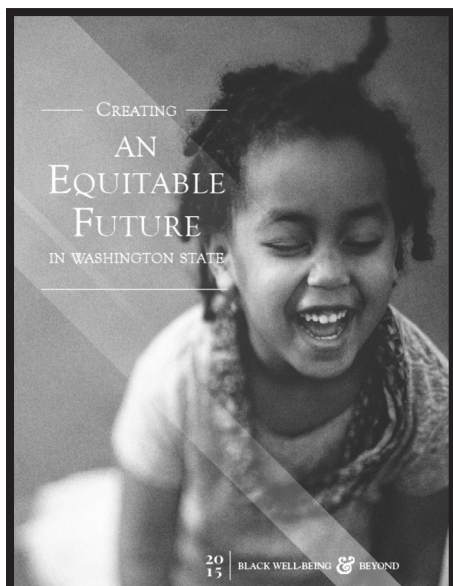
So that we're not rendering men in these communities unemployable because of a felony record for a nonviolent drug offense; that we're making investments,

Continued on Page 14

THE STATE OF BLACK WASHINGTON (PT. 1)

Presented by the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs

Creating an Equitable Future: "There is no progress without equity"



On March 19, 2015, the National Urban League released its annual "State of Black America" study, which it has done every year since 1976.

The report, titled "Save Our Cities: Educations, Jobs + Justice", tracks how well African Americans and Latinos are doing compared to whites in a number of categories. and it is available online in a free e-book version. (<http://soba.iamempowered.com>)

On March 30, 2015 a new Washington State focused study

entitled: "Creating an Equitable Future for Black Washingtonians," was also released.

The study, which was commissioned by an independent coalition that includes the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, the African American Leadership Forum, and Centerstone, states that "racism and inequality is a looming problem in Washington State that cast a shadow over the lives of many Black people, leading to a lack of economic security, poor health, and high

levels of stress." According to the authors, the study seeks to encourage citizens and leaders alike to address the issues head-on, engage in conversations focused on solutions, and develop policies and laws to help Blacks gain equal footing with other races and ethnicities.

Washington State Commission Executive Director Ed Prince was instrumental in bringing the coalition together that authored the report.

"When I was hired as Director one of the things that the

Commission wanted was to do a report on the State of Black Washington. The Commission had done a similar report back in 1996 and we all thought it was time to do a follow up report. I knew that in order to pull off a report that would be valued added, I would need partnerships so I reached out to Centerstone and we brought in the Washington Budget and Policy Center to do research. In late 2013, we brought all of the players together,

Continued on Page 14

SUPPORT THE BLACK LENS

SUBSCRIBE & ADVERTISE

WWW.BLACKLENSNEWS.COM

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

A Little Eye Contact Please

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly"
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Several years ago my daughter made the decision to move to Atlanta, GA to attend a Historically Black College. She had spent all of her life up to that point living in parts of the country where she was in the minority, and for once, she told me, she wanted to experience what it would feel like to be in the majority. I supported her decision and I travelled to Atlanta to help her move.

I too had spent the majority of my life living in parts of the country that were predominately white, landing in Spokane when I was twelve years old because my father was stationed in the ROTC department at Gonzaga University. My life was my life, and I don't think I really paid very much attention to what it felt like to always be the minority, to always feel like I was "the only one," until my daughter and I arrived in Atlanta.

I started to notice it right away. The very first day we arrived. Everywhere we looked there were people that looked like us. Everywhere. The pizza delivery man. The cable installer. The mail delivery person. The police officer in the patrol car. The security guard at the mall. The grocery store clerk. The bank teller. The rental car agent. The teenager in the fast food drive through window.

It was unsettling at first, to be honest. I had never experienced that level of familiarity before, or that level of connection. But the unsettled feeling quickly melted into excitement, and feelings of relaxation and comfort I don't think I had ever experienced before.

There was a park a few blocks from my daughter's new apartment and we decided to take a walk to check it out. As we walked through the park on a beautiful winter afternoon, every Black person that we passed by (and there were many of them) spoke to us. Not only did they speak, but they went out of their way to speak. They smiled, they made eye contact and they acknowledged our presence. Every single one of them. I was taken aback.

I remember visiting South Carolina with my family for summer family reunions when I was growing up, so I was used to the friendliness and hospitality of southern people, but there was something about those encounters in the park in Atlanta on that afternoon that struck me differently and left me feeling sad. Why don't we do that in Spokane? I thought. And years later, I am still wondering.

I was walking down the street the other day, on a sunny afternoon, much like the one in Atlanta, and what I noticed was that when a white person passed by me, they smiled, made eye contact, and said hello. The Black people, on the other hand, would look away. In fact, many would even go out of their way to avoid eye contact and to act as if they had not seen me, when I know that they had.

I'm sure that there are a host of theoretical and socio-behavioral explanations for why we as Black people do what we do, and how oppression, internalized racism, and the impact of slavery all play a part in how Black people treat each other, often negatively. But when I am walking down the street, and I finally see someone who looks like me, FINALLY, and I am ready to turn cartwheels from excitement at the sight of them, and they turn away, I don't really care much why we do it. It just hurts.

We may not be able to exactly recreate the feeling of Atlanta here in Spokane, but maybe we could all start by just making eye contact and saying hi to every Black person that we see. What if we all try to do that for the next month and see what happens. I wonder....

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How much does a Black woman earn in Spokane compared to her white male counterpart?



20 Cents on the Dollar

Source: Gender Pay Equity Press Conference, City of Spokane, 4/29/15 - for information about Spokane's Task Force on Gender and Race Pay Equity contact eracoshrc@spokanecity.org.

KYRS



88.1/92.3
FM

Humaculture, the only locally produced African-American news and views radio program in the Northwest, Saturdays 1-2 PM

The Soul Dimensions of DX Pryme music program Fridays 10 AM - noon

Streaming at kyrs.org

THE BLACK LENS NEWS SPOKANE

The Black Lens is a local newspaper that is focused on the news, events, issue, and people and information that are important to Spokane's African American Community. It is published monthly on the first of the month by: Square Peg Multimedia, 9116 E. Sprague Avenue #48 Spokane Valley, WA 99206, (509) 795-1964, editor@blacklensnews.com

Publisher/Editor: Sandra Williams

Subscriptions: digital-\$12/year; mail- \$3/month or \$30/year

Deadlines: 15th of the month prior to publication.

www.blacklensnews.com; Copyright (c) 2015

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

From Across the Country and Around the World

Loretta Lynch Sworn In As Attorney General...Finally



Loretta Lynch was confirmed on Thursday, April 23, 2015 as the United States Attorney General, becoming the first African American woman to hold the position, and making her the top law enforcement official in the country.

Lynch's nomination to replace Attorney General Eric Holder was stalled for nearly six months, longer than any Attorney General nominee in three decades, despite her undisputed qualifications and widespread support from law enforcement. Many republicans opposed her nomination because Lynch supported President Obama's immigration actions, and Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell delayed the full-Senate vote on her confirmation until lawmakers resolved a partisan abortion issue in a sex trafficking bill that had nothing to do with her nomination.

Angry at the delays, Lynch's supporters got increasingly vocal, the NAACP urged its membership to contact their Senate representatives, Civil Rights Leaders held a press conference to express their displeasure, the Black Women's Roundtable protested, Al Sharpton and others launched a hunger strike, and President Obama told reporters, "there are times where the dysfunction in the Senate just goes too far, this is an example of it."

Loretta Lynch, a Harvard Law School graduate, who has been serving as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, was confirmed by a vote of 56 to 43, with 10 Republicans also voting to confirm her.

For more information about Loretta Lynch and her background, visit: <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nye/meetattorney.html>

Parma Missouri Elects First Black Mayor Then Police and Officials Resign



(By Zenitha Prince Senior Correspondent, AFRO.com) Voters in Parma, Mo., made history recently when they elected Tyrus Byrd the city's first African-American woman as Mayor. But CBS affiliate KFVS reported the election was overshadowed by the resignations of most of the police force and other officials in response.

Byrd was sworn in April 14, ending the 37 year reign of former Mayor, Randall Ramsey, who lost the election by 37 votes. Ramsey told KFVS that five of the city's six police officers—two full-time and three part-time—resigned without giving notice shortly before Byrd's swearing in. They were joined by the city's attorney, the clerk and the waste water treatment plant supervisor, who also turned in resignation letters citing "safety concerns."

Residents of Parma said they were not concerned about the resignations. "I think it's pretty dirty they all quit without giving her a chance," resident Martha Miller told KFVS. "But I don't think they hurt the town any by quitting, because who needs six police for 740 people." Others even welcomed the departures saying it created a clean slate for Byrd after years of corruption in City Hall.

Dr. Levi Watkins Pioneer Black Doctor Dies at age 70



(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Pioneering Black physician Dr. Levi Watkins Jr., whose invention of the automatic implantable defibrillator forever changed the world of cardiothoracic surgery, died April 11 at his "beloved" Johns Hopkins Hospital where he spent the majority of his professional career. He was 70.

In a statement posted to Facebook, Watkins brother Donald Watkins said he passed away after suffering a massive heart attack and stroke the night before.

Dr. Watkins was born June 13, 1944, in Parsons, Kansas, the third of six children; his father, Levi Watkins Sr., was a college professor who became president of Alabama State College in Montgomery, Ala.

The Kansas native was a trailblazer in many respects. After graduating with honors from Tennessee State in 1966, Watkins became the first African American to be admitted to and to graduate from Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine. And, after graduating from medical school, Dr. Watkins went onto become the first Black chief resident in cardiac surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

In 1980, he broke new medical ground when he performed the world's first human implantation of the automatic implantable defibrillator; he also developed the cardiac arrhythmia service at Johns Hopkins. Watkins would receive a Nobel Prize nomination for his innovation.

7-Year-Old Creates Afro-Puff Superhero Comic Book



(Essence Gant, blackcenterprise.com, 4/22/15)

Natalie McGriff is the 7 year old author of *The Adventures of Moxie Girl*, a new comic book that tells the tale of a little black girl who hates her natural hair, but after using some magical shampoo, her textured coils take on super powers that have the ability to save Jacksonville, Florida's public libraries from being eaten by monsters.

Natalie presented *The Adventures of Moxie Girl* at One Spark, the world's largest crowdfunding festival, and her comic book was a win, as the young author took home a check for \$16,423.69, beating out over 500 other projects.

Angie Nixon, Natalie's mother, helped her write the book after realizing that her daughter suffered from self-esteem issues and hated reading. "She now realizes how powerful and awesome her hair is and that in order for her to write a cool book, she needs to read more books and learn different words," Nixon says.

The Adventures of Moxie Girl comic is set to come out in June. Find them on Facebook or join the e-mail list: adventuresofmoxiegirl@gmail.com.

Black Men and Boys Group Advocate on Capitol Hill

ALL POLITICS MATTER LOCAL TO FEDERAL

April 22 & April 23, 2015

BLACK MEN & BOYS DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

ADVOCACY TRAINING
Wednesday, April 22, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Howard University Blackburn Center Ballroom
2400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

BLACK MEN & BOYS DAY ON CAPITOL HILL
Thursday, April 23, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Dirksen Senate Office Building
First and C Streets, NE, Room #5D-650
Washington, DC

Advocacy Hill Day Training will be led by Former Congressman **Kendrick B. Meek**
Hosted by Howard University's Howard Center for Leadership & Public Policy Center

#Blackyouthvote
#AllPoliticsMatter

Join *Black Youth Vote!* and *Gathering of Black Men* As we take to the Nation's Capital to educate policymakers on the issues impacting Black men and boys.

No experience necessary.
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
<http://allpoliticsmatter.eventbrite.com>
Check www.NCBCP.org for more details, or email: blackyouthvote@ncbcp.org

@blackyouthvote THE NATIONAL COALITION ON BLACK CIVIC PARTICIPATION

AFGE
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

(By Zenitha Prince, TriceEdneyWire.com, Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from the Afro American Newspaper)

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) hosted Black Men and Boys Day on Capitol Hill April 22-23, which brought together men and boys from across the county. The program is a component of the new Gathering of Black Men Initiative of the NCBCP's Black Youth Vote! Civic Leadership and Engagement Program.

"In light of all that's happening in our community around Black lives there was a need for Black men to see how their voices could be heard as lawmakers and policymakers debate on those issues," said convener Rev. Tony Lee, founder and senior pastor of Community Of Hope AME Church, in Washington, D.C. "A lot of people are talking about Black men but not talking to Black men."

On the first day of the event, Congressman Kendrick Meek, D-Fla., and others trained the participants on the how-tos of advocacy, including what to expect and what to do when meeting policymakers. Advocacy experts provided information on and reviewed specific issues, including: criminal justice reform, education, workforce development and jobs, voting and health. The next day, the participants applied what they learned on Capitol Hill when they met with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

The purpose of the gathering, Rev. Tony Lee told the AFRO Newspaper was to shine a light on the legislative process to make it more accessible to regular men. "We don't want to see the usual politicians," he said. "We want regular, everyday brothers to see the importance of their voice in policy [and that] they do have power and influence in those areas that impact them."

Seattle Woman Punched by Cop Files \$1,000,000 Lawsuit



(Lynette Holloway, theroot.com, 4/25/15)

A Seattle woman who was punched in the face by a police officer during an arrest on charges of domestic violence has filed a \$1 million claim against the city, saying her rights were violated, according to Reuters. Miyekko Durden-Bosley, 23, suffered a fractured eye socket in the June 22 incident, which was captured on police video. In the video, Durden-Bosley can be seen kicking at the head of Officer Adley Shepherd as she is handcuffed and placed in the patrol car. The officer then punches her in the face, the report says. Both Durden-Bosley and Shepherd are black.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

DR. JUSTINA FORD

Art and Article by Bertoni Jones

Justina Laurena Warren was born in Knoxville, Illinois January 22, 1871. She was the fourth child of Melissa Warren, who worked as a family nurse. Justina had a childhood unlike most little girls. While other girls dreamed of being nurses, Justina dreamed of being a doctor. Other girls played with toys and dolls, but Justina helped her mother dress and cook chickens so she could examine the inner structures. When kids played outside, Justina would be at neighbor's homes tending to their illnesses and caring for them.

Knowing that knowledge was the key to her dreams, she took the most challenging classes and graduated from Galesburg High School (Illinois) with top grades. In 1892, she married Reverend John L. Ford at the Second Baptist Church in Galesburg. The newlyweds moved to Chicago where Justina was accepted into Hering Medical College and by 1899 she graduated with a degree in medicine. Fullfilling all of her childhood dreams, she could now practice medicine as a doctor with her own license (#16450).

In 1902 the Fords moved to Denver, Colorado where Justina applied for her state medical

license. She was told that she had two strikes against her #1- being a woman, and #2- being of African descent. She paid her five dollar fee and became the first African American woman doctor in the state, and only one of a few in the entire country.

Looking at her medical license from 1902, the words "he" and "him" are used in the writing as there were no concessions for women doctors.

Dr. Justina Ford was a general practitioner but her specialty was in delivering babies (Obstetrics), reproductive health (Gynecology), and child health care (Pediatrics). Because of "race" she wasn't allowed to be a member of the Medical Association, which barred her from working in local hospitals, so Dr. Ford set up an office in her home in the Five-Points Neighborhood of Denver. It was not as well equipped as a hospital, but earned her a city-wide reputation as a doctor who would see any patient regardless.

When hospitals refused poor patients who couldn't pay, African-Americans because of "race", and non-English speaking immigrants, Dr. Ford would see them. She offered free exams to migrant workers in Denver and made house calls, something that most Denver doctors would not do.

In 1915, Dr. Ford divorced her husband and was remarried in 1920 to Alfred Allen, but kept the last name Ford. She would never have any children of her own, but according to medical records, in the fifty years from 1902-1952, Dr.



Young DR. FORD

Bertoni Jones

Ford is said to have successfully delivered more than seven thousand babies. In 1950 Dr. Justina Ford was finally admitted into the Colorado and American Medical Societies, and she continued treating patients up until two weeks before her death on October 14, 1952 at the age of 81.

(Source: Justina Ford, Medical Pioneer Joyce B. Lohse)

LT. COL. MERRYL TENGESDAL

First Black Woman to Ever Pilot the U-2 Spy Plane



By Senior Airman Bobby Cummings, 9th Reconnaissance Wing Public Affairs / Published February 10, 2015 (<http://www.af.mil/News> - "Through Airmen's Eyes" series on AF.mil.)

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, CA (AFNS) As a child she imagined flying amongst the stars, thousands of miles above the earth's surface, and today Lt. Col. Merryl Tengesdal is one of only eight female pilots to ever fly the U-2 aircraft during the aircraft's history, and the only black female pilot.

A Bronx, N.Y. native, Tengesdal is a U-2 pilot and 9th Reconnaissance Wing inspector general who was recently selected for promotion to the rank of colonel. "I have seen the curvature of the earth," Tengesdal said. "I have seen sights most people will never see. Flying at more than 70,000 feet is really beautiful and peaceful. I enjoy the quiet, hearing myself breathing, and the hum of the engine. I never take it for granted."

the Civil Rights Movement began, setting the stage for desegregation.

"The Air Force has always been on the forefront of breaking aviation and racial barriers," Tengesdal said. "I am extremely proud of being the first black female U-2 pilot in history."

The U-2 provides high-altitude intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in direct support of national objectives. The aircraft enables the capture of imagery and delivers intelligence to decision makers worldwide. These missions are often at altitudes equivalent to approximately 13 miles. Pilots are required to wear full pressure suits during flight, similar to those that astronauts wear. According to many aviation experts, limited visibility caused by the required helmets, along with the U-2's bicycle landing gear, makes it arguably the most difficult aircraft to land. "Every aircraft I've flown

Aug. 1, 2015, will mark the 60th anniversary of the U-2; making it one of the few aircraft to operate in the U.S. Air Force for more than 50 years. The U-2 first flew in 1955, in the same year the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott and

has something unique," Tengesdal said. "The U-2 is no exception. I enjoy the challenge of landing on two wheels."

Tengesdal is no stranger to challenges. The colonel acknowledged that during her childhood, there were many opportunities for her to stray down the wrong path. "Drugs and alcohol were prevalent in my hometown, but I was influenced to pursue other aspirations," she said. With guidance from her mother and teachers, she excelled in high school, particularly in math and science. After high school, she attended the University of New Haven in Connecticut and graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering. Afterward, she attended Officer Candidate School in the Navy, commissioned as an ensign in September 1994, and attended flight training shortly after.

"During the mid-90s, the military had just begun opening more roles for women in combat," Tengesdal said. "Combat pilot was one of the opportunities. There was also a massive push for more minorities into the pilot training program. I remember when I attended flight training, it was racially diverse, which I was surprised to see. It was a good feeling. However, I could tell there were a few people who did not appreciate us."

The first aircraft she flew was the Navy's SH-60B Seahawk helicopter, used for anti-submarine warfare, search and rescue, anti-ship warfare and special operations. She loved the

versatility of the aircraft and its capabilities. In 2004, Tengesdal followed her dream of flying higher and cross-commissioned into the Air Force, joining less than 1,000 pilots to join the U-2 program at Beale. The U-2 pilot training is a rigorous nine-month course. Every candidate must conduct training missions aboard the TU-2S, a dual seat trainer aircraft located only at Beale. A solo high-flight occurs as a final challenge. Upon completion, pilots are often deployed around the world.

Tengesdal has been deployed to multiple locations and has flown missions in support of Operation Olive Harvest in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition, she has also aided in preventing terrorism and piracy in the Horn of Africa.

Continued on Page 14



NAACP UPDATE: SPOKANE

http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com

NAACP Launches Moral Mondays Northwest

By Rachel Doležal, President of Spokane NAACP



The ever-growing work of Spokane's NAACP committees will be brought into public view this month through an innovative community program called *Moral Mondays Northwest*. Hosted live on Spokane City TV, the program will air as a public forum featuring key stakeholders in five "Game Changer" issues of justice.

Starting **May 11th**, Moral Mondays Northwest will spark the first day of each week with a proactive focus on justice issues facing our community rather than returning to the work week with a business-as-usual attitude. It appeals to Spokane's sense of ethics and highlights social justice as the moral imperative for the twenty-first century.

The five "Game Changers" for justice in America, as identified by the national leadership of the NAACP, will be the hub of the first five Monday forums. These top five themes are identified as the leading challenges facing

communities of color across the nation. Spokane certainly is no exception to needing a stronger dose of justice in these areas, which include education, criminal justice, health, economic sustainability, and political representation.

Each topic will be introduced by the local NAACP committee chair that is developing initiatives and programs in the respective theme, and other key community stakeholders with diverse perspectives will weigh in to discuss the concerns, needs and interventions that are in motion in the respective field.

Justice as a moral imperative is not a new concept. Lady Justice has traditionally been depicted wearing a blindfold, sword in right hand and balancing scale in the left. In her graceful pose, she was supposed to represent impartiality and equity, but our faith in her has wavered over several centuries of human rights abuses and ongoing unfair treatment of populations along what DuBois termed "the color line."

The new vision for justice is one of conscious full-sightedness, a justice that accurately identifies the connection between moral-

ity and racial equity, a justice that protects the human rights and equal value of all persons, a Mother Justice who will protect all of her human children with a righteous fierceness and unhindered clarity. With so many injustices pressing individuals, families and communities, now is the right time to do the right thing. Moral Mondays Northwest is a forum to assist Spokane in launching each week with inspiration and just insight.

The idea for Moral Mondays Northwest emerged from conversations with Leoule Goshu, the new Chair of Community Coordination for the Spokane NAACP, who sees Moral Mondays Northwest as a way to move the meaningful work that the committees are doing from behind the scenes into the public view. The Executive Committee liked the concept and approved Goshu's proposal at their April meeting.

The five "Game Changers" are national initiatives of the NAACP, and the movement of Moral Mondays is already practiced in more than a dozen states but is absent in the Northwestern part of the country. Starting each week with a fresh focus on justice is a cutting-edge idea for Spokane that

could lead to some revolutionary outcomes. Moral Mondays Northwest will also connect our geographically isolated region with larger diverse communities and has the potential to put Spokane on the global map of social justice work through virtual videos of the community forum.

Partnering with CMTV, the Human Rights Commission, Spokane Interfaith, and officials at City Hall, the Spokane NAACP is excited to launch this public program.

Moral Mondays Northwest will be hosted by Spokane NAACP President Rachel Doležal and will be held from 4:30-5:30pm on Mondays, starting May 11th at City Hall in the City Council Chambers.

A city council member or public official will be one of the stakeholders attending each session and dialogue inspired by the forum will have the potential to move into public comment or other action at the City Council meetings which follow each forum at 6pm.

Moral Mondays Northwest forums are free and open to the public. Community members are invited to attend. For information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425.



NAACP CHURCH TOUR

The NAACP Church Tour is an effort to nurture a culture of support and unity in Spokane. Hosted by the NAACP President, this interfaith tour will take participants on a circuit to participate in services of faith communities led by people of color in Spokane, including Black churches, the Islamic Center and the Jewish Temple. To be on the call list for the tour or to get more information or the complete itinerary, call: (509) 209-2425.

May Church Tour Dates

May 3rd: Bethel A.M.E. 11am, 645 S. Richard Allen Court

May 10th: Calvary Baptist, 10am, 203 E. 3rd Avenue

May 17th: New Hope Baptist, 11am, 409 S. Greene Street

May 24th: Morning Star Baptist, 11am, 3909 W. Rowan Avenue

May 31st: Holy Temple C.O.G.I.C., 11am, 806 W. Indiana

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT

By Evelyn Anderton

We make critical decisions every day in an effort to secure our future. The decisions we make today are our investments, based on our personal feelings of security. These types of security decisions involve financial investments, educational investments, and family investments. Of all the investment decisions we make for the future, the biggest investment of all should be centered on our children.

Children are the critical part of all societies. It is always the parents' responsibility to invest in their children. Children become the biggest and most influential investment to us for three significant reasons: *security*, *expectations*, and *social responsibility*. Let us examine each area closely, to gain a better understanding.

Security is the warm feeling of knowing that all things of importance are taken care of for you. I'm not sure about you, but I plan to one day give up the home, car, bills and all other things that come with society's definition of independent living. I one day want to live with one or more of my children. The children will be responsible for the bills, and I will eat the dinner that they have provided for me, while I sit and watch T.V. via cable that I am not responsible to manage. I plan to see the warmth on their faces when they come home from work and I am there to greet them, patiently waiting for them to come home,

like a loving mother would. This is what I call good living, comfort and, most of all, security. When we invest in our children, we look to secure them so that in return they will someday secure us.

Expectations are our envisioned desires. When we have children, we look at them early on in their lives and say things such as, "I hope you become a doctor and cure cancer," "a lawyer and fight for justice," "a teacher who cares for the education of others." We have these high expectations of our children that represent our desires for them to succeed. When we invest in our children by providing them with healthy meals, a good education, spirituality, and a solid foundation, we prepare them for not only meeting our expectations, but theirs as well. If you have not put any money in the bank, you cannot expect to be able to make a withdrawal. Similarly, we must invest in our children if there is an expectation for them to succeed. If you are a parent that is not willing to do ALL that it takes for your child's success, Do Not Expect Your Child To Be Successful!

We invest in our children for security and for expectation purposes, but also to prepare them to contribute in some form or fashion to the society in which we all live. This is our **social responsibility**. We desire for our children, in some way, to contribute to the society that has afforded them success. Whether it be through a financial blessing, community service, kindness, or economically, you can never go wrong with contributing to society in a meaningful way. As parents, when we invest in our children and in return they contribute to society, we have just invested in our own future as well.



Being an invested parent in your children is a contribution that does not just benefit you, but it also benefits society as a whole. Investing in your children is a sure way to address your personal security, desired expectations, and social responsibility. It also teaches the basic understanding in children that they are "a piece of the whole"—meaning they are but one piece of the whole pie, and your investment in them is but a piece of that pie as well.

In addition, investing in your children shows them that your concern is not just for yourself or them, but for the society that we all live in. This will bring forth a generation of children with gratitude, but that is a topic for another article.

HONORING OUR ELDERS

JERRELENE WILLIAMSON

Reflections on Growing Up In Spokane (Part 1)



Jerrelene Williamson, founding member of the Spokane Northwest Black Pioneers, and author of the book *"Images of African Americans in Spokane"*, was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 23, 1932. Her father, who was born in Spokane in 1899, moved his family back to Spokane in 1934, when Jerrelene was two years old, and she has lived here since then.

The mother of five, grandmother of eighteen and great grandmother of nine, Jerrelene attended Hamilton

grade school and Rogers High School as she was growing up in Spokane. There was racism, she says, but not as much as most people expect, and "it showed up in a variety of ways, "like name calling, and places that you knew you couldn't go". Some businesses had signs in their windows refusing service to blacks.

But, Jerrelene, says that the church was "what made it different for me and my family". Her church, Calvary Baptist, the oldest African American church in Washington State, was where everybody that she knew went. "Everybody was at the church, everybody came to the church, and they had programs and things for the kids to do. They had everything to mold a Black child."

Jerrelene says she didn't think much about what it was like to live in Spokane when she was growing up because it was all that she knew. "I knew that there were some Black people, and there were a lot of white people."

Jerrelene's family lived on the north side of Spokane, but she says most of the Blacks lived on the South side.

The women worked for families on the South Hill, cooking and cleaning and washing clothes, and the men worked cleaning hotels and other establishments. There really weren't any Black professionals in Spokane, she says, not until she was a teenager.

In high school, there was no forced segregation like in the south, "nobody bothered you or anything like that," Jerrelene says, but "you knew you weren't on the inside." If there were dances or things like that, "you didn't get picked" She said she had a friend that she went through school with and the two of them would always just dance with each other.

"It wasn't blatant, it wasn't that you weren't allowed, it was more subtle than that, a subtle kind of segregation. You just knew that you didn't do that."

Jerrelene remembers

watching the 1963 March on Washington on television, which included Dr. King's famous "I have a Dream Speech" and how excited her family was. "Oh we were so proud," she says, "we just knew that everything was going to change completely after that. Well, it changed some things, but not completely." And even now, she says, "you can really see that things have not changed completely."

Continued on Page 14



Jerrelene and Sam Williamson

ROBERT LLOYD

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ART AND MORE (PART 2)

When Robert Lloyd was asked if he thinks that things have changed in Spokane from the time that he was publishing his newspaper *The African American Voice* in the 90s, he said no. "I don't think things have changed. I think it's the same issues and the same battles." But, he added, the Black community has some advantages now and one of those is social media.

"When I had an encounter with a police officer and I didn't think he treated me right or fair, it was my problem, but with Ferguson, this thing is not just a local thing. It's not just in my world, with social networking, it's in a bunch of worlds and it's a vehicles for folks to say look what's happening here."

In the 1960s, Robert said, "we thought we had straightened all of this mess out." But,

he says, he and others soon discovered that there were not the ones making policy, so they couldn't really help anyone the way that they wanted to. It was a hard lesson.

"I had a crazy belief that if people knew what the problem was, they'd straighten it out. That was naïve. I never thought it was somebody's vested interest to keep things the way they are."

That's why Robert says he turned to art.

"I took the things that I wanted to do in the streets and in the community, and the classroom became a vehicle where I could do those things." By that he says he wanted to teach people to see. Not to see what he wanted them to see, but to actually see. "I say, if you can see a picture, you can see the world."

It's all about perspective, he says, reminiscing about a lesson that he learned when he was growing up.

"I lived in Chicago, on the West Side and the Congress Expressway ran through my neighborhood. It ran from the

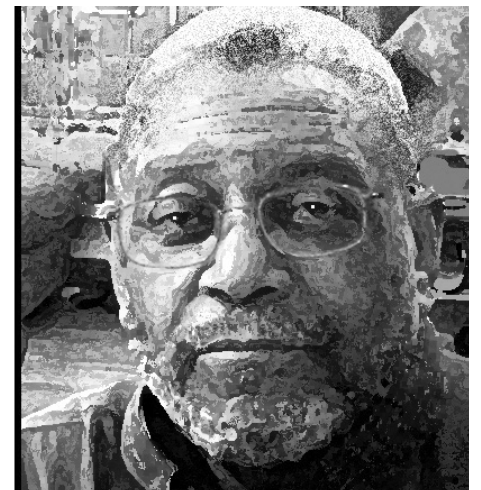
suburbs to downtown Chicago and there was this huge wall with grass and flowers that kept the people in the suburbs from seeing the poverty that they were driving through every day. Robert decided to show the people of Chicago what they were "not seeing." During the Chicago Riots, the national press came to the neighborhood, but they were "afraid to walk the streets" so they hired teenagers like Robert to carry their equipment and show them around.

"Here comes my opportunity," he says he thought to himself, "I'm going to take these people and show them my community." He took the reporters to a housing project where he had been organizing a tenant's union and showed them the terrible condition that the buildings were in. "I showed them the plaster falling down, and the lead paint peeling off of the walls."

When Robert read the articles in the paper, he discovered that what he had shown the reporters is not what they had seen.

"I said, wait, wait, wait, they didn't see what I saw. They didn't see it. They saw all of these poor people. All of this depressed stuff. They saw all of the problems in the people. But the people didn't own the buildings. The absentee landlords owned the buildings." The reporters did not make that connection, so Robert decided that he would tell the stories himself.

When teaching photography to his students, Robert would tell them, "we are going to talk about these pictures, but first



you have to put all your prejudices and your preconceived notions in your back pocket," then he would ask them, "now, what do you see?"

They were lessons that started with discussions about lines and shapes and colors, but that ultimately delved into topics of point of view and religion and interpretation and the influence of the media. Discussions about how the artist is always in the picture. A former student, who recently connected with Robert on Facebook, told him, "I learned a lot of photography from you Mr. Lloyd, but you know what I learned more, I learned how to be human." "That's what it's about," he smiled.

Robert says that he was surprised to discover the bigotry that exists in the art world. "You have to be an oil," he says, "if you are a watercolor, you are on the outs." But, he says, he is determined to challenge that thinking, in the same way that he challenged the community with his newspaper and challenged his students to see the world in a new light. "What I want to do with my pictures is mix media, mix messages and mix metaphors." So, he says, "the protest never stops really, it just changes forms."



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

YOUNG GIFTED AND BLACK



19TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Family, friends, community members, clergy and representatives from local colleges and universities gathered in Cataldo Hall on the Gonzaga University campus on Saturday afternoon, April 25, to celebrate the accomplishments of twenty-nine graduating high school and college students from the Spokane area.

The Nineteenth Annual African American Graduation Celebration, which was dedicated to the memory of Senior Master Sergeant Wilbert "Tre" Norton III, who passed away in August of last year, is held each year to recognize the unique challenges that are faced by African American students in pursuit of their educa-

tion and to celebrate their accomplishments.

The sound of African drums filled Cataldo Hall as James Wilburn of Spokane Public Schools opened the ceremony by leading the Celebration Processional of graduates and dignitaries. Lakeisha Jones, Admission Representative at Eastern Washington University, acted as the Mistress of Ceremonies and Dr. Thayne McCulloh, President of Gonzaga University, offered the welcome and greeting.

Dr. Lawrence Burnley, Assistant Vice President for Diversity & Intercultural Relations at Whitworth University offered Libation, educating the audience

about the sacred ritual that traces its origins back to ancient Egypt.

He then invited the audience to call out the names of their ancestors as he poured libation to honor them, reminding the graduates that they come from a tradition where their community includes "those who are present with us, those who have transitioned, and those yet to come."

Rev. Andre Dove of Restoration Church provided the Celebration Nommo, telling the students to "be yourself and realize that's enough", he then quoted from the Kermit the Frog song, "It's Not Easy Being Green" to point out the difficulty in being differ-

ent. "When green is all there is to be," he added, "it could make you wonder why, but why wonder? I am green and it'll do just fine, it's beautiful, and I think it's what I want to be." Finally, Rev. Dove shared a story of survival, telling the graduates that no matter the turmoil that arises in their lives that if they "hold on to their spaghetti" through the crisis, they will be satisfied in the end.

Denise McKinnon of Spokane Community College honored students who had reached transition years in Kindergarten, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, Community College and University with a Rites of Passage Celebration to mark the important

turning points in their lives and to remind them that the community is there to support them.

Dr. Chrissy Davis Jones and Daniel Whye of SFCC, and Lori Hunt of SCC, participated in the Celebration Zawadi, presenting the graduates with stoles made of kinte cloth and providing special medals of Academic Excellence to honor the graduates who had received a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The audience joined together to sing the closing anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," followed by the Celebration Recessional which was led by James Wilburn.. Congratulations graduates! The Black Lens wishes you success.

A LITTLE LIFE OF MINE

Living as a Young Black Male in Spokane

By Franklin Amadeo Moore

My life as an African-American male in Spokane (or just in America) is interesting. Saying my life is like a roller-coaster would be an understatement. Kids make fun of me for being Black— sometimes just for fun, and others just want to be rude. I don't get as much attention for how I act, or even for if I'm handsome or ugly. Sometimes I feel like I will always be put down for being Black and nothing else.

What also is a hard thing to deal with is that if I was any other race, I would probably get more attention and more acceptance than I am getting now. If I was Asian, Native American, White, etc., I think I would probably get more respect.

There is also the issue of hanging around kids that aren't my same race. People will always think that I am doing something I shouldn't when I am hanging around kids that are a different race, especially white people, and especially white girls. Some Black kids that are younger than me have gotten thrown in jail for kissing a white girl or being alone with a white girl.

I also just have a hard time making friends sometimes. It's not always easy to know the cause of this.

It might not be because I am Black, but just because I'm unique. Either way, though, it's hard to have kids make fun of me and make other kids think I am a loser for being laughed at by a bunch of peers.

I've noticed that not even most Black kids will hang around me for being laughed at. Sometimes I wonder if it's because I am light-skinned or something else. There are also a constant amount of people, both kids and adults, belittling my opinion about everything. I don't feel like anyone really listens to me, or values what I think.

I would be fine by myself without a bunch of friends, but there are other concerns in my life beside socialization. I have to be scared for hate groups targeting me and my mom, and getting called degrading things like "nigger," or "monkey," or "coon" in public. I also have to look behind my back constantly, so I don't get kidnapped or worse.

Then there are my parents. Whenever I am with my Black dad with my Black self, I always see women clutching to their purses, people locking their parked cars, or sometimes people locking their cars as they drive by. There is also constant staring and whisper-

ing when I am with my dad.

My mom, on the other hand, is always busy talking to her coworkers, making meetings and/or adding more hours to her schedule. I am really proud of all the work she does and know it's making the world a better place, but I usually have to wait my turn to get in a conversation with her. Sometimes it's frustrating. Sometimes I have to go with her to her events and work, and other times I can stay home.

If I'm home, I always have to lock the doors and I am worried if she doesn't come back on schedule. If her phone dies and I don't hear from her, I wonder if she's still alive. I am scared when I am home alone, but sometimes I feel like I need space to relax and get thoughts off my mind.

This is my life as a thirteen-year-old Black male living in a world of racism and trying to become a young man in Spokane. This is my story, and I am always hoping that things will get brighter in this little life of mine.

(Franklin is the son of NAACP President, Rachel Dolezol)



LESSONS FROM

Share your stories and lesson learned from your mother on the Black Lens News Facebook Page



MISS HELEN

Although this month is the 1 year anniversary of her passing, I can still hear her voice.....Whenever I did something that she had instructed me NOT to do, and it was time for me to be punished, she'd fire off with, "Oh you don't think fat-meat's-greasy-do-you"; and she always told me not to solely depend on anyone. Whenever I left the house to go to any event, she told me to make sure I had bus fare home and a dime to call from a pay phone, even if I was riding in a car with a friend. She stressed being independent as a teenage girl and grooming me to be an independent young lady. I shall never forget

-Faith Washington



LOUISIANA MOORE

My mom taught me that "strength comes from serving those in need and a generous hospitable spirit opens many doors" When Servant Leadership became the new buzz word, I realized that was how I was raised. Being the daughter of two ministers, helping others was all I knew. I am thankful for the role model my Mom was for me and many others, and her lessons that continue to guide me today.

-Betsy Wilkerson



IDELL HATTER

What I learned from my mother was how to be a very good cook, how to take care of a family, and how to be a strong black woman.

-Jean Jordan



JESSIE MAE BUSH

Most of my mother's lessons were physical. She had a deep insight about people. She said to always strive for something, and "can't nobody ride you if you ain't stooping over."

-Ivan Bush

OUR MOTHERS

or e-mail your photos and lessons to me at Sandy@BlackLensNews.com and I will post them for you.



JESSIE HAMPTON

My mom taught me that love is not just words, but it's also action. When I was probably six or seven, we live in this old house that was drafty in the winter time and had holes in the roof that leaked when it rained. At the time, I didn't know that we were poor because she constantly showed me love by her actions. On cold winter nights, before she would tuck me into bed, we would stand by the wood stove to get warm. My Mom would take the blanket from my bed and stand next to the wood stove, heating up the blanket. Once the blanket was almost too warm to touch, we would count to three and run to my bed. Mom would quickly place the blanket on the bed, I would hop into bed, and my Mom would wrap me in the warm blanket. Then we would say our prayers, "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep." At that point I would always fall asleep feeling loved and very happy. That was my mom's lesson to me.

-Curtis Hampton



SARAH ALICE JOHNSON

The life lesson I learned from my mother was that the most important relationship you can ever have is the one you develop with your Heavenly Father. My mother was a woman of faith, and I'm proud to say that she passed on to me that legacy of faith and commitment to serving God. I would not be the woman I am today had it not been for her prayers, and her example of a faith-filled life.

-Roberta Wilburn



JESSIE SMITH

We learned a lot of things from our mother. She said "get something in your head 'cause that's something no one can take from you"; "If you have to borrow something twice, buy your own"; "When you finish doing something, look back to make sure it was done right"; "Keep your dress down and your legs crossed", and "Always read your bible and don't ever forget to pray."

-Wilhelmenia Williams & Jessie Rogers



VIRGINIA SMITH

What I have learned from my mother is resilience. She is an awesome woman and mom, a servant and loves everyone. We admire her so much.

-Gayla Thomas

IN THE SPIRIT

GREENING THE CHURCH

Black Churches Around the Country are Going Green

Leaders of the *Green the Church* movement launched a new effort in March of this year to help one thousand African American Church congregations take action on climate change.

Recent polling conducted in July 2014 by "Green For All", an organization whose mission is to "build an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty", found that three-quarters of minority voters "expressed an interest in climate change and wanted to know more about it", while sixty-eight percent said that they thought "climate change threatens their communities."

Founded by Rev. Dr. Ambrose Carroll, Senior Pastor of the California based Church by the Side of the Road (<http://www.cbsor.org>), Green the Church (GTC) is an initiative designed to "tap into the power and purpose of the African American church community, and to explore and expand the role of the Black Church as



a center for environmental and economic resilience."

In a recent Huffington Post article written by Kate Sheppard, Green the Church organizers said that their aim was "to bring the benefits of sustainability directly to black communities" and to "tap into the power of the African-American church as a moral leader and a force for social change." Green the Church is also working to educate church

leaders and religious academics on biblical teachings that support the "Green Movement" and to empower church leadership and lay people to develop practical solutions to economic and environmental issues in the Black community.

Green the Church has three focus areas: **Building Power for Change:** supporting member churches in identifying how they can flex their shared political and

people power to transform how the government acts on climate change;

Promoting Sustainable Practices: working with church leadership to make church buildings and operations more sustainable (ie. energy audits, healthy food programs), measures that are good for the environment, good for the church's bottom line, and good for the health and wellbeing of church members;

Amplifying Green Theology: emphasizing the message that Christians have a duty to protect God's creation, and working to lift up the many voices of church members across the country who are already doing powerful work to care for the Earth and increase prosperity in Black communities.

"We get hit first and worst by everything negative in the pollution-based economy," said Van Jones, the founder of Green For All. Green The Church will advocate for "equal protection from the worst, and access to the best."

Pastor Ambrose plans to reach 25 denominations and 8 million people in Black churches across America. "The Black Church has always been a major agent of community change and still today has much untapped potential when it comes to Ecological Justice."

For more information or to get involved contact Green For All at (510) 663-6500 or visit <http://greenforall.org/green-the-church>

WORDS OF INSPIRATION: Greater and More Powerful Than Any Calamity

By Delores Shack, MHA, RN, BSN
Elder, Unspeakable Joy Christian Fellowship

Do you remember where you were when the first plane hit the World Trade Center? Do you remember the feeling in your chest when you saw the breaking news clips of infant toys, shoes and clothing scattered across the landscape, when the Alfred P. Marsh Federal Building exploded in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995? Or recently, did it send a chill down your spine when the German Airbus co-pilot purposely locked out the pilot and crashed the plane into the French Alps murdering 150 innocent passengers and crew aboard?

These are chilling events depicting a dangerous era where men are ruthless, treacherous, and without mercy.

The Apostle Paul warned his protégé Timothy (II Timothy 3:2-4) that: "In the last days, people will be abusive, boastful, proud, without love, brutal, not lovers of good, slanderous, unfor-



giving, etc." (NIV) It will be a time that is hard to deal with and hard to bear... I believe these are those times that he so vividly described in 62-64 AD...both perilous and dangerous. Yet, in these times where the threat of death

pervades, we can find refuge in the storms and have confidence that we are not alone or without security.

Someone greater and more powerful than any calamity or disaster exists and desires to help each and every one of us. That someone is the One true God, who is the Creator of the universe (Elohim). Psalms 46:1 says "God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need Him". (Message Bible)

If you need comfort & aid from the shroud of apprehension that surrounds you due to loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of medical coverage, loss of a roof over your head, or loss of a friendship...turn to God. He stands ready to help. He wants to drive out the torment fear incurs and show you the way to a victorious life where you will no longer be anxious or fretful.

American journalist, Dorothy Thompson said "Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live. Will you let God help you live today?"

New Hope Baptist Church
Pastor Happy Watkins

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



NEW TO SPOKANE

PERSPECTIVES FROM A SPOKANE TRANSPLANT

By Marilyn Euseary

Back home in Michigan, I was a volunteer at the VA Hospital. One day, one of my fellow veterans asked me to help him drive to Seattle, WA to relocate there. As we were passing through Spokane, I said to my friend, "This is the town where my son just moved to," but I continued on to Seattle as I agreed to. When I arrived in Seattle, I called my son and told him I was in Seattle, but that I would be flying back to MI in two days. My son said to me, "Oh no, I must come there and see you before you leave." Well, I knew that it was a long drive between Spokane and Seattle and he was new on the job, so, I begged him not to take the very long drive and promised him that I would take the Greyhound bus to Spokane to see him instead. He settled down and went along with my suggestion.

I arrived in Spokane in April 2014. While in town, this young lady was telling me about this 55-plus living community and the awesome amenities that were offered there. I went to visit Affinity on the South Hill, a 55-plus living community and I fell in love with it. Plus, they offered me \$3,500 just to move in. Well, my little township in Canton, MI was far too dead for me and I was ready for change. I have always been one to grab the opportunity, to take a risk and try something different. So with a little anxiety, I launched out into the deep and here I am living my life in Spokane.

Moving to Spokane, WA has been a major cultural shock for me. I felt like someone put me in the time machine and took me back a couple of decades. I did not see any folks of color for weeks. Where were



they? My apartment complex had told me that the facility was "well-diversified". Each day that passed, I never saw anyone of color. So, I started asking the residents, "Where is the diversity that I was promised?" The answer was, "Well, we have a Mexican living here." I think the Mexican guy thought that he had assimilated into the mix and did not know that he was equated with me. The European Americans were in a state of shock also. Some of the ones in my complex had never been around folks of color and they made ignorant statements to me daily. I later found out I was called "the new black lady living in this expensive retirement complex." They wanted to

know how could I afford to live there. There was a period that I was running to the doctor every week in tears about the racial statements.

I reported a few incidents to the managers and they dealt with the situations. But I got tired of reporting the attacks, and a couple of times I just snapped and let some folks have it in an old-fashioned Detroit manner. They labeled me "an angry black woman" and told me that I could "break my lease." They even gave me my security deposit back. (Ha, ha.)

Due to the fact that I have lived with whites all my life and have seen them as Americans just like I am, I thought I could just fit in. Well, in some crowds in Spokane I guess it just doesn't work that way. I think the younger generation is more open-minded and inclusive than some people who are still stuck in the old days. I now live in a beautiful apartment home with an attached garage in a quiet neighborhood.

I have lived in many places in my life, including living abroad, so, I am able to adjust and adapt to my environment. And since I had already given most of my furniture away in MI, and everything else was on its way here, there was no turning back.

I did not see any African Americans for over a month. So, I started asking people on the street: where could I find the black neighborhood? I got the same response. "There is no black 'hood here."

OK. "It is what it is. Now adjust and adapt Marilyn." That is exactly what I have done. I have gotten involved in social settings, to include the church, NAACP, and even met some friends on my own where I felt like I could be a fit.

Get Big Money Out of Elections!

By Stacy Cossey

It is interesting to note that in the year our Constitution was ratified, you had to be a white, male, property owner to be entitled to the rights of the Constitution. Incidentally, that was roughly 5 percent of the population. It took massive social movements, over many years, to expand those rights to include all Americans.

But through a series of Supreme Court decisions, the rights outlined in the Constitution and intended for "We the People," were expanded out to corporations. Rights originally meant to protect the people from the potential oppression of our government now belong as well to the corporation. They call it "corporate personhood," and corporations claim these rights in court as they work to overturn, weaken or get around laws designed to protect people or the environment.

Another aspect of abuse involves the right to freedom of speech as outlined in the First Amendment. The courts have recently broadened to allow corporations to use "money as speech" in unlimited amounts, to give campaign contributions, lobby legislators, buy advertising or even exercise the right not to speak.

Indeed, US Politics is an extremely profitable investment. The Sunlight Foundation researched the top 200 politically active corporations to calculate

the benefit of every dollar invested in politics. What they found was stunning. For every dollar spent influencing politics, corporations received \$760 back, making our democracy the very best money can buy.

But there is an active and growing movement where ordinary citizens are saying, "enough is enough," and working to reclaim their Constitutional rights. These citizens are working for a constitutional amendment to clarify that it should be natural persons who are entitled to the rights of the Constitution—not artificial entities—and that money should never be substituted for freedom of speech. Sixteen other states have requested such an amendment to the US Congress. Washington State is gearing up to be the seventeenth through an initiative to the legislature sponsored by Washington Coalition to Amend the Constitution (WAmend).

This is an issue that is the key to productive change in every aspect of American life. It crosses all political division and is the key to economic and social justice, the key to jobs, healthy food and a clean environment. "We the People" must stand up, speak out and claim our rights. No one else is going to do it for us.

Please contact Stacy Cossey, Spokane Area Coordinator for the WAmend campaign for more information: scossey@robertcossey.com, (509) 893-9771.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS APPLY NOW LINKS INC. SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE MAY 15

The Spokane Chapter of The Links, Inc is accepting applications now for the V. Anne Smith Educational Scholarship to be given at the White Rose Brunch on Saturday, May, 30 at The Ramada Inn at the Airport.

Scholarship Criteria:
High School Student
2.5 GPA or better
Participated in Community Service or
School Activities

Must include an official, sealed transcript with the application or it will not be considered.

For an application, contact any Links Member or Mrs. Mary Jane McCoy scholarship chair at 509-466-2763 or edmaryjane@comcast.net.

OUR VOICES

THE BACKLASH AGAINST MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Why It Should Concern The Black Community

By Jaclyn Archer

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first of the United States to marry same-sex couples. The backlash was almost immediate as 11 states pushed through constitutional amendments that banned same-sex marriage and, in some states, even forbid civil unions.

Despite this setback, 36 more states have followed Massachusetts' lead in the 11 years since, overturning those same amendments. In seven more states, pro-marriage judicial rulings await implementation by the state legislature.

Now most states have—or will soon begin recognizing—same-sex marriage, and the fate of marriage equality nationwide rests with Supreme Court, which has already flagged its intention to rule in favor of marriage equality.

Yet the backlash continues, as states are drafting and passing bills which would give private citizens the ability to refuse services, avoid interaction, and generally participate in

the disenfranchisement of Gender and Sexual Minorities (GSMs) from the social and commercial aspects of public life. The effect is the social minimization of legal victories: "Sure you can get married, but good luck buying a cake!"

This backlash should concern us for several reasons, first as a civil rights issue that has the potential to affect over 9.5 million people across the nation, and because the acceptance of social inequality in any capacity sets a dangerous precedent for current and future marginalized groups.

Furthermore, and perhaps most compellingly, a recent Gallup Poll found that Black Americans are more likely to identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender than any other racial or ethnic group in the United States, and a full third of the LGBT population are people of color. Legislative backlash against the LGBT community will personally affect nearly one in every 20 Black Americans and

their families, codifying and thus increasing the double-burden of oppression already experienced by queer people of color.

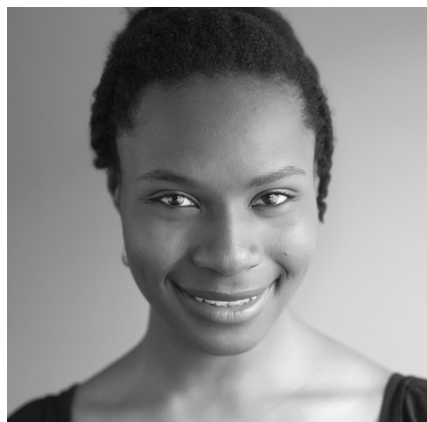
One of the most recent examples of legislative backlash includes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) as it originally passed in Indiana, which gave for-profit businesses religious rights, much the way the Supreme Court did with *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores*, and allowed religious freedom to be a defense in legal proceedings with private individuals.

Indiana faced heavy criticism nationwide, and celebrities, businesses, and state legislatures—including Washington's—boycotted business and travel to Indiana. Some even compared Indiana's RFRA to Jim Crow.

Indiana has since "fixed" its RFRA with an amendment saying that it does not "authorize a provider to refuse to offer or provide services, facilities, use of public ac-

commodations, goods, employ, or housing to any member or members of the general public on the basis of ... sexual orientation; [or] establish a defense to a civil action or criminal prosecution for refusal by a provider to offer or provide services."

This language has settled much of the national furor and ended the state boycotts. However, according to the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), 21 states also have RFRA laws, and this year 17 more states introduced legislation creating or amending existing RFRA's, indicating that a national conversation is taking place on the legislative level about how freedom of conscience interacts with civil rights. This conversation may lead to yet more controversy and more legal victories.



The Future and the "It" Generation

by Angel Tyson

Now that we have more media activities to hide our pain, we are also seeing more cyber bullying that leads to suicidal and homicidal deaths.

As more and more people sign up for media friends, some of the members are sending messages that express their struggle with life. Not everyone has thick skin, and for those that say they do, their skin gets weak when they experience too much negative impact at one time.

As a society, the younger generation is being shown that it is easier to commit suicide than it is to talk about their feelings towards a problem.

Children are also softer than they were a decade ago. Don't get me wrong, they do not have to be strong every second, but they have to know that when they fall down, it's ok to brush your bruises off and get back up.

When children play a sport, they are no longer being recognized for their individual hard effort. You can no longer give out MVP, etc trophies. Every person on the team gets a "participation" trophy. What message does that send to them.

Yes, kids are not dropping out of middle school like they did in the 80's, but the number of children receiving a high school diploma vs. a GED is still low. Becoming a parent at a certain age is not the problem, it is the support behind the parent that is what's missing. So, let us remember, it takes a STRONG village to raise a child.

mony. For more suitable relating, Nityama says a man must move in this world and move in and around his woman as though his every movement is making love to her.

The work of Shantam Nityama provides a tool for healthy relationship, those interested, can go to <http://www.nityama.com> to get more information. His work is also relevant to same sex relationships.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON BLACK RELATIONSHIPS

Introducing the work of Shantam Nityama

By Romeal Watson

"Most of our relationships have totally been based in romantic pursuits. Mostly based in fear and mostly based in some form of accommodating and seeking to please one another, a lot of times in unconscious ways."

- Shantam Nityama

Black woman seem to go through so much heartache and pain in their attempts to find (and keep) a Black man. And in all the failed relationships, single parenthood situations, and domestic disputes, I think it's important to attempt to shed light on some very important aspects of relationships, which I think would greatly reduce the suffering that is going on with Black women (and men).

I watch as ladies line up in the hair/nail salons, beauty stores, department stores, and spend endless hours on the treadmill. Black women are the number one consumers of beauty supply products and "make 85% of the brand purchasing decisions of black consumers," said Miriam Muléy, CEO of the 85% Niche, a marketing consulting firm that focuses on women and women of color as key consumers.

Our most beautiful women on the planet, original mothers of the earth, are locked into this vicious cycle for appreciation. Many attempt to gain the eye and respect of men, compete with other women, appropriate themselves for a career, and try to defy the natural and beautiful progressions of aging.

A lot of Black women hang their self worth on things like this and I would like to respectfully

offer an alternative that would suggest placing that energy elsewhere.

I feel that it is important to understand that the primary goal in a relationship is to expand consciousness. This is one of the ways that couples are able to prevent the pain that exists within them. To understand this premise, I look to the work of Shantam Nityama and his revolutionary form of bodywork, designed to take men and women on a journey from sex to super-consciousness.

Nityama begins with the basic concept of the man as the conscious mind and the woman as the subconscious mind. He says that the man is responsible for providing the energy that is essential for the functions of a healthy relationship. If the man has no sense of direction or understanding of that energy and how it is to be used (as a gift to the community he is in), then he is dangerous to whatever degree he is lacking.

Nityama says that the woman as the subconscious mind, and she is to manifest not only children, but to bring more abundance to life: more love, a greater sense of community, and better harmony in the relationship. However, if much of what a woman encounters in her life actually diminishes her feminine power, (because our attitude as a society is to forget the feminine and go straight for the masculine), then that energy instead will manifest as fear, guilt, rage, anger, the lack of self worth, and jealousy in the environment.



Nityama says: "I have tons of women that come to see me and they all have self worth issues. What is a self worth issue? Can somebody please tell me, I am still waiting to be enlightened on that one? Its not a self worth issue, it is a self-hatred issue. You're as complete as you will ever be, you came here already totally okay. The only way that you can even stand there and say that you have a self worth issue means that you got up one day and decided that based on something that you encountered on this insane planet. You encountered something that told you that you should hate yourself, and you bought it. Whoever and whatever that was that started that insanity for you has gone on and now you go on everyday and continue it on yourself."

Whether the "something" that Nityama talks about is a man or woman, the undeniable truth is we have control over the things we let into our lives. Choosing a partner that is not living in their conscious space is to allow disharmony and confusion into your life.

Women who pick men that are not living in their conscious state are setting themselves up to be misguided by that man. The man who chooses a woman that is not in her subconscious state, is setting himself up for dishar-

OUR VOICES

THE RETREAT FROM EQUAL JUSTICE

By Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr

(TriceEdneyWire.com, 3/30/15)

We celebrate our history as a march towards justice. The limited franchise of the early Republic was slowly extended to all white men, then after the Civil War, to blacks, and then to women.

Citizen movements – abolition, worker rights, populist, women, environmental, civil rights, gay rights – struggle and win, making America better.

But justice and freedom are not inevitable. The march towards justice is not unopposed. Particularly when it comes to race, America's progress has always been contested, and too often reversed. And a new reaction is what we witness today.

Many of the Founders – even slaveholders like Washington and Jefferson – were haunted by slavery and hoped that it would slowly die out. But in the South, a plantation economy based on slave labor, the practice spread rather than declined. In the end, it took the Civil War, the bloodiest war in American history, to bring an end to slavery.

After the War, the 14th and 15th Amendments were passed; the former guaranteeing equal pro-

tection under the laws; the latter outlawing discrimination in voting on the basis of race. The defeated confederate states were allowed back into the union, but only with what became known as reconstruction.

Across the South, newly freed slaves, endowed with the right to vote, forged multi-racial Lincoln Republican coalitions. Sixteen African Americans served in Congress, including two in the US Senate, and more than 600 in state legislatures across the South.

Reconstruction governments established the South's first state funded public school system, made taxation more equitable, and outlawed racial discrimination in public transportation. They also sought to entice railroads and other industries to help develop a "new South."

That political revolution spawned increasingly violent opposition from former slaveholders. Terrorist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan targeted local Republican leaders for beatings or assassination. Lynchings grew in number.

Eventually, federal troops cracked down on the extremists,



but Southern resistance continued to thwart progress. In 1876, a corrupt political deal returned federal troops to their barracks, and allowed Jefferson Davis and Confederate Democrats to take control across the South in return for helping to elect Republican Rutherford B. Hayes to the presidency.

By the turn of the century, the South had once more asserted states rights, and installed a new, racially segregated system, locking blacks out of schools and public accommodations, disenfranchising black voters, and limiting African Americans to low wage

jobs. Slavery was still illegal, but racial apartheid took its place. It was enforced by both legal decision --with the Supreme Court ratifying segregation – and by extralegal violence. The Civil Rights Amendments were shorn of their meaning.

It took another 100 years and the Civil Rights Movement to end legal apartheid in the South. Once more, African Americans joined in multi-racial coalition to win political office. Once more a "new South" sought to develop new industries – CNN, automobiles, and more.

But reaction set in immediately. As Kennedy-Johnson Democrats became the champions of civil rights, Nixon-Goldwater Republicans provided the home for the former segregationists. Private charter schools were developed to avoid desegregated public schools, and sap funding from them.

Now, we are at the height of that reaction. The Civil Rights reconstruction is under assault. The Supreme Court has disemboweled the Voting Rights Act, effectively ending prescreening of

laws designed to limit the right to vote. Now efforts to constrict the vote – voter ID, closing the polls on Sundays, limiting voting hours and days, gerrymandering districts – are moving in states controlled by Republicans.

Our criminal justice system deeply biased against people of color, has stripped millions of their voting rights. Segregation is still illegal, but our public schools are still largely separate and unequal. African Americans suffer about twice the unemployment, greater poverty, greater homelessness, more children going hungry.

We cannot watch another 100 years go by before this new reaction is confronted. We cannot allow the reactionary gang of five on the Supreme Court to once more dishonor our laws by elevating states' rights and trampling on equal rights.

In a country that is more and more diverse, equal protection under the laws, and liberty and justice for all become ever more essential. It's time to stop celebrating and to start organizing. This new reaction is serious and intent on turning back the Civil Rights revolution. We must not let it succeed.

WHITE PEOPLE CAN'T BE TERRORISTS

By: Zak Cheney-Rice (Senior Staff Writer, Mic.com)



(Mic.com, 3/27/15)

White people can't be terrorists. We've been told this for years. Not directly, perhaps, but when a white person bombs a church or massacres a school or flies a plane carrying 150 people into a mountainside, killing everyone on board, it's hard to draw any other conclusion.

Disturbed? Yes. Mentally ill? Probably. A troubled outcast? Of course. But "terrorist"? That term is reserved for a special type of person, someone with brown skin, a foreign-sounding name, roots in the Middle East or North Africa and a progressively anti-Western Internet history — probably typed in Arabic.

Terrorists, we're told, are Muslim. And if anything happens to disrupt that notion, we have a really hard time explaining it.

Details are still emerging in the case of Andreas Lubitz, the 28-year-old Germanwings co-pilot who allegedly locked his captain out of the cockpit and ran Flight 9525 into the French Alps.

We don't know his motive. We know very little about him at all. Yet the media coverage and testimony around his actions suggest something remarkable: a clear, almost desperate effort to avoid calling Lubitz what, for a Muslim in his position, would likely be a foregone conclusion.

But white terrorists go by other names. Before authorities identified Anders Breivik as the person responsible for the massacre of 69 children at a Norway summer camp in 2011, observers jumped to the conclusion that Muslim terrorists were to blame. They were wrong about the "Muslim" part, but "terrorist"? That was true. Terrorism is violence driven

by politics or ideology, and Breivik was both very political and violently ideological.

He was once a member of Norway's far-right Progress Party. He was demonstrably anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant. He even documented his beliefs in a 1,500-plus-page manifesto titled "2083: A European Declaration of Independence," in which he railed against the so-called "Islamisation" of Europe and the "multiculturalist elites" who enable it.

Breivik was, by definition, a terrorist. Yet here are some of the terms the media used to describe him: "Radical loser." "Lone crusader." "Angry fantasist." "White supremacist." "Terrorist" was rarely mentioned in U.S. coverage, if at all.

We do not know if Lubitz, the Germanwings co-pilot, was a terrorist. He may very well not have been. But even 14 years after 9/11, it feels odd to imagine anyone assuming that commandeering a plane with the intention

of killing everyone on board is anything but a terrorist act. Yet somehow, we're at a loss for words here.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the crash "simply incomprehensible." Marseille Prosecutor Brice Robin told reporters Lubitz crashed the plane "for a reason we cannot fathom." Reuters, BBC and the Boston Globe have all labeled Lubitz's act a "suicide" — but with the caveat that 149 other people died in the process.

"For the pilot, it's suicide perhaps," Charles Bosshardt, a mountain risk adviser, told the BBC. "But it's an attack on the other people. Yes, an attack."

What do we know? People have avoided applying the "terrorist" label to Lubitz, largely out of uncertainty, which is fair. We don't know if it's true. But history suggests that, were he a killer of any other shade, we'd be far less generous with our reservations. White killers get the benefit of humanization. We explain their

existence through their broken dreams, their struggles and their afflictions. It's part of why Muslim killers are consistently presented to us in mug shots, or why black victims — like Michael Brown, who never killed anyone at all — are presented as scowling, threatening "thugs."

Meanwhile, one of the most widely circulated photos of Lubitz has him smiling peacefully in front of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge as the sun sets in the background.

This is not an argument for jumping to conclusions. Nor is it meant to accuse Lubitz of terrorism. On the contrary, it is an argument for holding people who commit mass murder to similar standards, regardless of their race or religion. If one gets to be portrayed as a complex human being, they all should be portrayed as such. Because the fact is, every killer — terrorist or not — has complexities. Brown people aren't the only people capable of terrorism. And white killers aren't the only ones with stories.



Jerrelene Williamson



Jerrelene and Mary Emma

JERRELENE WILLIAMSON (PT 1)

Continued From Page 6

Jerrelene's memories of her teen years are filled with activities at the church, Christmas programs, Easter Programs, and singing in the choir. She and her sisters started out at Calvary Baptist Church, but eventually they began "hanging out" at Bethel AME, a Methodist Church, because, she says, "they discovered that there were more guys over there."

"There were Methodists in the Baptist Church and Baptists in the Methodist Church," Jerrelene says, and everybody got along." She started going to Bethel AME and singing in their choir, and that's how she eventually meet Sam Williamson, a handsome young man who moved to Spokane from Cleveland Ohio in 1948 to work in his uncle's floor sanding business.

Sam Williamson acted different and dressed different from the other boys. In fact, he thought the boys in Spokane were "hicks", and Jerrelene's mother thought that he was a "gangster." But there were married two years later, in 1950, the same year that Jerrelene graduated from Rogers High School.

To Be Continued Next Month....

Jerrelene Williamson is the author of "African Americans in Spokane" (2010), a photo history of Spokane's Black Pioneers.

Lt. Col. Merryl Tengesdal

Continued From Page 4

Throughout her career, she has logged more than 3,400 flight hours and more than 330 combat hours. "I have been truly blessed to have experienced all I have during my time in the military," Tengesdal said.

According to Tengesdal, many women have contacted her to tell her they are proud of her accomplishments and that she is an inspiration to them.

"I'm incredibly fortunate. It's surreal," Tengesdal said. "From my time in the Navy to my experiences in the U-2 program, I like to think I've played a part in helping some of the troops on the ground get home safely."

She has flown at the edge of space and witnessed a shooting star from the inside of a cockpit. She achieved what no African American woman ever had before.

"It is very uncommon, even for this day and age, to be a female pilot, much less a female minority," Tengesdal said. "My career field is very male dominated, but I hope I have helped other females with similar aspirations to realize this is an option. I think we are all limitless as to what we can accomplish."

Backlash Against Marriage Equality

Continued From Page 12

the "Papers to Pee" law, as it is being called, not only criminalizes transgender people but their allies as well, demanding that employees and business owners take "remedial action" if they learn of transgender people using single-sex facilities that do not correspond with the gender they were assigned at birth.

Even as the country moves toward marriage equality, the civil rights and dignity of gender and sexual minorities should continue to concern us. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reports that transgender women of color are targeted for deadly violence more than any other LGBT demographic, and according to the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, anywhere from 20-40 percent of homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Suicide, hate crimes, discrimination, and oppression continue to plague the LGBT population and this oppression is compounded for LGBT people of color.

It falls to us, as conscientious community members, to confront the challenges to justice which affect valuable members of our Black community, members of our schools, churches, workplaces, and city, and to mold these spaces into zones of acceptance, equality and respect. No one else can, or will, do it for us.

OBAMA REACTS TO BALTIMORE

Continued From Page 14

so that they can get the training they need to find jobs. That's hard. That requires more than just the occasional news report or task force. And there's a bunch of my agenda that would make a difference right now in that.

Now, I'm under no illusion that out of this Congress we're going to get massive investments in urban communities, and so we'll try to find areas where we can make a difference around school reform and around job training, and around some investments in infrastructure in these communities trying to attract new businesses in.

But if we really want to solve the problem, if our society really wanted to solve the problem, we could. It's just it would require everybody saying this is important, this is significant -- and that we don't just pay attention to these communities when a CVS burns, and we don't just pay attention when a young man gets shot or has his spine snapped. We're paying attention all the time because we consider those kids our kids, and we think they're important. And they shouldn't be living in poverty and violence.

That's how I feel. I think there are a lot of good-meaning people around the country that feel that way. But that kind of political mobilization, I think we haven't seen in quite some time. And what I've tried to do is to promote those ideas that would make a difference. But I think we all understand that the politics of that are tough because it's easy to ignore those problems or to treat them just as a law and order issue, as opposed to a broader social issue.

Read the full transcript of President Obama's remarks concerning Baltimore at: <http://www.colorlines.com/articles/here%E2%80%99s-everything-obama-said-about-baltimore> or read the White House Press Release: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/28/remarks-president-obama-and-prime-minister-abe-japan-joint-press-conference>

STATE OF BLACK WASHINGTON (PT. 1)

Continued From Page 1

and started working towards putting together a world class report."

The report is the first phase of a longer effort by the coalition to elevate and amplify the voices of Black Washingtonians in the decision-making processes that influence their everyday lives.

The report outlines some of the major ways our social, economic, and political systems in Washington State intertwine to create barriers to opportunity that impede progress within the Black community. The report also identifies solutions for improving opportunities for Blacks in our state. According to the report's authors, these solu-

tions would not only help to improve the well-being of Blacks as individuals and as communities, but they would also serve to strengthen our state's economic and civic future.

"Many poor or struggling Blacks are living out their lives quietly in our cities and neighborhoods, working diligently to make it on their own," said Ed Prince, Executive Director of the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs. "They are living and working next to us. They are Americans and they are going after their chance at a better life. This study improves their chance—by clearly revealing the issues at hand and

opening the door for immediate solutions."

Over the next seven months, I will be covering the contents of the report, starting with a snapshot of the demographics of Washington state, then covering each of the five focus areas included in the report: Economic Security, Education, Criminal Justice, Health, Civic Engagement., and the seventh sixth month I will provide a wrap up and conclusion.

I report is available online. I invite you to read the entire report and share the information far and wide.

http://center-stone.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SOBW_report_r701_Final_032515_LowRes_spreads.pdf

DO YOU LIKE THE BLACK LENS? WANT TO KEEP READING IT? WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT. SUBSCRIBE TODAY ONLY \$30 PER YEAR

Send your Check or Money Order to:
Square Peg Multimedia
9116 E. Sprague Avenue, #48
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
(Please include phone number with order)

Subscribe online at www.blacklensnews.com



Master Barbers
LARRY
Q.C.



LARRY'S BARBER & STYLING
Specializing In Tapers & Fades
Appointments Available

3017 E. 5th Ave.
(509) 534-4483

Tues.-Fri. 9:30am-6:00pm
Sat. 8:30am-5:00pm

MAY EVENTS

MAY 6 (WEEK IV)

EWU AFRICANA STUDIES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES

The Role of Music in the South African Freedom Struggle

Dr. Sheila Woodward, Chair and Associate Professor of EWU Music Department

6-8pm

SCC Upper Den (Building 6-202)

Spokane Community College

1810 N Greene St Spokane, WA 99217

No Credit Course - Free and Open to the Public

Call 509-359-2205 or email rwondimu60@ewu.edu

MAY 9

NAACP BENEFIT CONCERT

Live music & wine. Local musicians share blues, soul, R&B, folk, jazz & rap music to benefit the cause of civil rights in Spokane. Dancing & DJ after 9pm.

Suggested Donation: \$25 at the door.

7pm

Saturday, May 9

35 W. Main Street, Spokane

MAY 9

END POLICE BRUTALITY

The NAACP stands in solidarity with the family of Antonio Zambrano-Montes, an unarmed Mexican man that was killed by police in Pasco, WA on February 10. Antonio was shot seventeen times by three different police officers. A final report has not yet been released. The family and community are seeking justice.

2pm

Saturday, May 9

1125 4th Ave, Pasco WA, 2:00pm

MAY 13 (WEEK V)

EWU AFRICANA STUDIES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES

BAM: How the Black Arts Movement Set the Standard for Art as Revolution

Rachel Dolezal, MFA Africana Quarterly Faculty/Spokane NAACP President

6-8PM

SCC Upper Den (Building 6-202)

Spokane Community College

1810 N Greene St Spokane, WA 99217

No Credit Course - Free and Open to the Public

Call 509-359-2205 or email rwondimu60@ewu.edu

MAY 16

2ND ANNUAL INLAND NW MALE SUMMIT

The Male Summit is a free leadership program for young men in grades 6-12.

Register by 5/9 at ewu.edu/malesummit

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Eastern Washington University

Hargreaves Hall, 706 7th St

Cheney, WA 99004

For more information contact Randy C. Corradine at 509.359.4879 or rcorradine@ewu.edu; or Lori Hunt at 509.533.7378 or LHunt@ccs.spokane.edu.

MAY 18

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for the monthly general membership meeting

7:00pm

Community Building - Lobby

25 W. Main Street, Spokane WA

For information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://www.spokaneNAACP.com>

MAY 20 (WEEK VI)

EWU AFRICANA STUDIES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES

Conclusion and Reflection: A panel discussion with previous lecturers

6-8PM

SCC Littlefoot Conference Room 124, A/B (Building 6)

Spokane Community College

1810 N Greene St Spokane, WA 99217

No Credit Course - Free and Open to the Public

Call 509-359-2205 or email rwondimu60@ewu.edu

MAY 21

SALT-N-PEPA

Grammy Award winning trio from the 80s-90s, one of the first all-female rap groups, winners of AMA & MTV Awards.

Tickets: \$40-\$50 - Call - 775-784-9400

7-10pm

Coeur d'Alene Casino 37914 S Hwy 95,

Worley, ID

MAY 30

LINKS, INC. ANNUAL WHITE ROSE BRUNCH

The White Rose Brunch is the Links annual event to honor outstanding community members and to award scholarships to outstanding students to assist with their college endeavors.

The cost is \$35.00 per person.

11a.m.

Ramada Inn at the Airport

8909 W Airport Dr, Spokane, WA 99224

For more information contact any Link member or Mrs Mary Jane McCoy at 509-466-2763 or edmaryjane@comcast.net

SPOKANE CULTURAL GRADUATONS

Thursday, May 7, 2015

20th HBPA Grad/Young Scholar Ceremony

Recognition of all Latino/Hispanic high school and college/universities graduates and young scholars in grades 7th-11th.

Time: 5:00 pm-8:30 pm

Location: SCC Lair

For more information contact Yvonne Montoya Zamora at 509.979.8590 or hbpaspokane@gmail.com

Friday, May 8, 2015

6th Annual Lavender

Graduation and Ally Awards

Recognition of LGBTQ and Ally graduates from Spokane area colleges, universities and high schools.

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Location: EWU Showalter Auditorium, Cheney Campus

For more information contact Sandy Williams at 509.359.7870 or swilliams@ewu.edu

Saturday, May 16, 2015

19th Annual Native American Graduation Ceremony

Recognition of Native/American Indian graduates from Spokane area colleges, universities and high schools.

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: SFCC Building 17

Contact: Tina Aguilar at (509) 354-7340 or tinaa@spokaneschools.

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

HOSTED BY **EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**
start something big

2nd Annual Inland Northwest
MALE SUMMIT
2015

BEYOND OUR MASKS
INTO OUR TALKS

MAY 16	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	FREE
---------------	-------------------------	-------------

BROTHERHOOD • LEADERSHIP • EDUCATION
Register at ewu.edu/malesummit | priority cutoff is May 9

What it is? The Male Summit is a free leadership program for young men in grades 6-12 in the Inland Northwest. The program has a special emphasis on diversity of all kinds.
Why should you attend? You'll get tools and ideas that help you increase your confidence, prepare for college, and feel more comfortable in social settings. You'll also be challenged to see and think about the world in new ways.

CO-SPONSORED BY

CHKN-N-MO
SOUTHERN STYLE COOKIN'

COUPON
ONE DINNER 1/2 OFF

When you Buy One Dinner You Receive a Second Dinner of Equal or Lesser Value for Half Price

414 1/2 Sprague Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201
509-838-5071
<http://chicken-n-more.com>

"Best Southern Food in Washington"

REV. DR. C.W. ANDREWS & FIRST LADY DORIS ANDREWS

C
O
N
G
R
A
T
U
L
A
T
I
O
N
S



41 YEARS OF PASTORAL SERVICE

The welfare of the sheep depends solely upon the care they get from the shepherd. Therefore, the better the shepherd, the healthier the sheep.

Marcia Cottrell
 Brenda Fisher
 Nickol Herin
 Elmer Anderson
 Brandy Green
 Christopher Bethel
 Jamie Butler
 Londa Bethel
 Amari Troutt
 Rev. Singleton/Turner
 Cornelia Hill
 Christopher Van Anderson
 Grace Spivey
 God Bless Pastor
 Dora Jones
 Lue Tain
 James T. Fisher
 Zayden T.
 Matthew McPherson
 James E. Johnson
 James & PEGGIE TROUTT
 Betty J. Dumas
 Marilyn Lewis
 Madal White
 Wanda Dumas
 Malachi Troutt
 Alana Atkinson
 AUNTAYE Kelley
 Tommy Gilbert
 DARELL ANDREWS
 Curt and Mona Berg
 Mark Duncan
 Malik
 Christina Duncan
 Chuck Arderton
 Quana K Moore
 Tiyanna Williams
 Julian & Jan Phillips
 Shadae Kennedy
 Anthony Jr.
 Patricia Mabbot
 Margaret Kennedy
 Colynna Cobbs
 Charles L. Williams

HAPPY 41ST ANNIVERSARY FROM YOUR CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY