

CELEBRATING OUR 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

January 2016

www.blacklensnews.com

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Spokane's Black Community News Source

THE BLACK LENSTM NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The Rarely Talked About Economic Lessons Of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

(Excerpts from - *The Economic Lessons of Martin Luther King* by Dedrick Muhammad, <http://www.bet.com>)

One of the most overlooked aspects of Martin Luther King's legacy is his work around economic justice and poverty. Though the landmark rally in 1963 during which King delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech is now widely known as "The March on Washington," the complete title of that event was "*The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom*." In fact, in the last year of his life, Dr. King was organizing the Poor People's Campaign, a multiracial effort to alleviate poverty and provide guaranteed income for every citizen. King understood that without greater economic equality, racial disparities and divisions could not be overcome.

In 1967, Dr. King wrote the foreword for the *Freedom Budget* — a far-reaching and ambitious social proposal created by economist Leon Keyserling and March on Washington organizer Bayard Rustin. It involved massive investments in public works and infrastructure, training programs that would upgrade skills and education, employment opportunity expansion, affordable public health services, and raising the minimum wage to two dollars an hour — an amount equivalent to \$13.79 in buying power today.

The Freedom Budget, along with many of the economic goals of the civil rights movement, never came to pass, leaving a racial economic chasm that persists to this day. Today the Freedom Budget remains startlingly relevant,



emphasizing issues such as job creation, living wages, access to better health care, and wealth redistribution — relevant and urgent problems that still impair our country.

The Freedom Budget's seven basic objectives were:

1) To provide full employment for all who are willing and able to work, including those who need education or training to make them willing and able.

- 2) To assure decent and adequate wages to all who work.
- 3) To assure a decent living standard to those who cannot or should not work.
- 4) To wipe out slum ghettos and provide decent homes for all Americans.
- 5) To provide decent medical care and adequate educational opportunities to all Americans, at a cost they can afford.
- 6) To purify our air and water and develop our transportation and natural resources on a scale suitable to our growing needs.
- 7) To unite sustained full employment with sustained full production and high economic growth.

In remembering Dr. King and the legacy of the Black Freedom movement for which he gave his life, too often we revise history and speak as though the racism and white supremacy he fought against are now problems of the past.

The truth is since Dr. King's time, the Black unemployment rate has remained twice that of whites, and in the last three decades, racial wealth inequality has ballooned out of control. To truly honor Dr. King, we must remember that he died on the battlefield fighting for an agenda, which to this day remains unrealized. Dr. King's dream of racial equality is still a dream that requires ongoing struggle to make a reality.

This year on Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, let us commit ourselves to Dr. King's economic principles.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS CITY'S MULTICULTURAL WORK "No Changes To Be Made Regarding Multicultural Focus"

By Jaclyn Archer

November 3, 2015, his victory was not only decisive, it was historical. Condon's reelection brought an end to a 40-year "curse" that prevented Spokane mayors from serving more than one term. "We weren't expecting it," said Gloria Ochoa, Mayor Condon's Director of Local Government and Multi-Cultural Affairs.

Ochoa was appointed to the position in December of 2013, and during his reelection campaign, Condon told The Black Lens in October that he was "proud to be the first mayor to appoint a Director of Multi-Cultural Affairs in Spokane and that the city

now celebrates and promotes National Heritage Months." Condon cited the appointment as an example of his commitment to Spokane's population of color.

The Director of Multicultural Affairs is a cabinet level position, and during her tenure, Ochoa created the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Multicultural Affairs (MACMA) to address racial equity in the Spokane area.



ple with "decision-making power", such as former police chief Frank Straub and the Mayor himself, city policies were actually being changed regarding aspects of policing, the body camera program, and other

"There was traction starting to be made," said Inga Laurent, who served on MACMA during Condon's first term.

Laurent further noted that due to the contact MACMA had with peo-

facets of Spokane's justice system. However, due to the unprecedented nature of Condon's reelection, and the information vacuum that followed, racial equity workers were briefly left to wonder what would become of MACMA and the Director of Multicultural Affairs position..

"No one wanted to be presumptuous, so very little discussion was had regarding what the position would be given a second term," said Ochoa in an email statement given to the Black Lens. "There is nothing official," said Laurent on December 27.

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

One Year and Counting

Twelve months ago, if I was honest, I would have told you that I was pretty sure that The Black Lens wouldn't still be standing by the end of the year. It was a measure of pessimism, mixed in with a helping of realism. Newspapers are on the way out is the refrain that is circulating far and wide and most especially print newspapers are going to go the way of the dinosaur. Maybe that is true, but it's January 2016 and The Black Lens is still alive and kicking.

I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the folks without whose support the adventure that I have had over the past year would not have been a possibility:

Thank you to New Hope for being my very first and longest advertiser, and to the other churches, Calvary, Bethel, Morningstar and Holy Temple, who have all been regular advertisers as well. I appreciate your continued support and encouragement. Thank you also to Word of Faith Christian Fellowship and to Pastor Otis Manning for purchasing my very first full page advertisement and for helping me to believe that making a go of this newspaper thing was actually possible.

Thank you to Chkn N Mo and Larry's Barbershop for being faithful business advertisers. Your support has been the foundation on which I have been able to expand the paper. Thank you to Destiny Clothing who supported me despite the struggles that you are going through.

Thank you to my regular contributors, Naima, Larry, Evelyn, Rachel, Jaclyn, Bertoni, and Sharron and to those who contributed as they were able. Your willingness to take the time and expend the energy to put your words, and in Bertoni's case your art, to paper is appreciated more than you will know. As a community we do not often exercise our voices. I am excited that more and more people from the community are stepping up to make their voices heard loud and clear.

Thank you to those of you who have read the paper, talked about the paper, and shared the paper. To those of you who sent me kind notes and tips for stories. To those of you who told me that you learned a little something in the pages that you didn't know before. You brightened my day.

Thank you to my family and my friends who have been my cheerleaders behind the scenes, putting up with my crankiness when I had a deadline and celebrating with me each and every month that I was able to get the paper to the printer!

Finally, I want to say a special to Kenny, who on a day when I was feeling like maybe trying to keep the newspaper going each month was a little more than I was able to handle, took the last five dollars that he had in his wallet and gave it to me because he said that he believed in what I was doing and wanted to support my work. I don't know if you realize how important that five dollars was. It has been an exciting twelve months and I am looking forward to seeing what the next twelve months will bring. I love you dad!

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, 1312 N. Monroe St, #148, Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 795-1964, sandy@blacklensnews.com

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QUESTION OF THE MONTH

HOW DID VACCINES GET INTRODUCED TO THE UNITED STATES?



Onesimus, a slave owned by a church minister named Cotton Mather told Mather about the centuries old tradition of inoculation practiced in Africa. By extracting the material from an infected person and scratching it into the skin of an uninfected person, you could deliberately introduce smallpox to the healthy individual making them immune. Considered extremely dangerous at the time, Cotton Mather convinced Dr. Zabdiel Boylston to experiment with the procedure when a smallpox epidemic hit Boston in 1721 and over 240 people were inoculated. Onesimus' traditional African practice was used to inoculate American soldiers during the Revolutionary War and introduced the concept of inoculation to the United States.

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

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Somali Teen's Death Remains Unexplained, Seattle Family Says It Was A Hate Crime



(Source: Christine Clarridge, <http://www.seattletimes.com>)

The Seattle Times reported on Decemger 8 that Seattle Central College Running Start student Hamza Warsame died after apparently falling from the roof of a six-story building on Capitol Hill in Seattle. The death of the 16-year-old is being investigated by police.

The Seattle Fire Department said medics were called to the rooftop deck of a residential building on Summit Avenue East at 3:46 p.m. The King County Medical Examiner has not yet released the cause and manner of death.

The death sparked rumors, speculation and calls for justice from family and friends and several posters claim Warsame was a victim of an anti-Muslim hate crime and had been beaten by a Caucasian student before being thrown from the roof. But police say that investigations have found no evidence of injuries from an altercation prior to Warsame's fall and "no indication of foul play."

South African Business Woman Siza Mzimela Becomes First Black Woman to Own an Airline



(Source: Courtney Connley, <http://www.blackenterprise.com>)

After years of working in the aviation field, South African businesswoman Sizakele Petunia Mzimela is making history as the first black woman to launch her own airline.

In September, Siza kicked off operations for Fly Blue Crane at the O.R. Tambo International Airport in South Africa. The airline currently has two 50-seat ERJ 145s and offers low-cost domestic flights within the South African region, but Siza hopes to expand destinations to Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the near future.

Prior to launching Fly Blue Crane airlines, Siza served as the first female CEO of South African Airways from April 1, 2010 to Oct. 8 2012. Under her leadership, for the first time in SAA history, the company introduced direct flights to New York and Beijing, China. The airline also grew its regional network by adding eight additional routes in one year.

Holding a bachelor of arts degree in economics and statistics from the University of Swaziland, Siza serves as a board member of the South African Tourism Board, as well as the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls. In addition to her new airline, Siza is also the founder and executive chairperson of Blue Crane Aviation, which is an aviation services company that focuses on African airlines and provides them with airline consulting, aviation legal services, and aircraft management services in an effort to give them access to the global market.

Black Community Comes Together to Open a \$2 Million Grocery Co-Op



(Source: Tamiya King, <http://atlantablackstar.com>)

For almost two decades, the residents who live in a predominantly African-American Greensboro neighborhood didn't have a place to shop for food. The community tried to attract the attention of a popular grocery store, but when that plan didn't work, they decided to open their own store.

New Economy Week reported that Guilford County in North Carolina currently has 24 "food deserts." A food deserts is defined as neighborhoods that is considered high-poverty, where at least a third of the resident live a mile or greater from the nearest grocery store. Seventeen of these 24 food deserts are in Greensboro. The Northeast Greensboro community is one of the 24 food deserts. The people who live there haven't had a grocery store in their neighborhood for about 20 years.

Northeast Greensboro residents requested the help of the city to bring a new full-service grocery to the community, but had no success. No major grocery chain was willing to invest in opening a store in a small community, because the investment wouldn't bring about a substantial profit.

In 2012, residents of the community partnered with Fund for Democratic Communities. F4DC is a Greensboro grassroots organization, and through meetings, members of the neighborhood learned that waiting for a company to bring a grocery store to their community wasn't a requirement. The residents learned that they could open a store themselves. That's how the Renaissance Community Co-op (RCC) was born.

The co-op initially started selling memberships to raise money. Community members could pay \$100 to become member-owners. This fee afforded them voting privileges and give them the power to create a co-op they can be proud of. The RCC currently has around 630 members, and the goal is to have 1,000 residents sign up by the time the store opens its doors.

John Jones, who is the chairman of the board of directors for the Co-op, shares that the hiring will reflect the community of RCC as well. He says that the co-op is hiring people from neighborhood, and that 32 jobs will be available— 15 permanent and 17 part-time. The pay will be \$10 per hour (the minimum wage in North Carolina is \$7.25 an hour). The dream of a co-op in Northeast Greensboro is now becoming a reality. RCC organizers are hopeful that their hard work will show others what doing business looks like when the goal is to help the community thrive.

Obama Awards Shirley Chisholm the Presidential Medal of Freedom



(www.whitehouse.gov)

On November 24 President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. The Medal of Freedom is the Nation's highest civilian honor.

Chisholm was the first Black woman elected to congress in 1968. In 1972, Chisholm became the first Black woman to run for president.

Serena Williams Named Sports Illustrated's 2015 Sportsperson of the Year

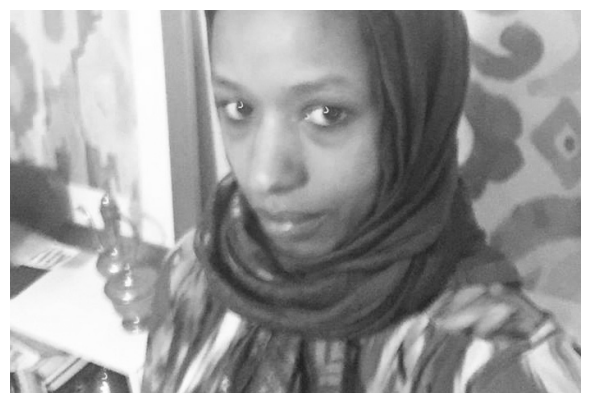


(Source: S.L. Price, <http://www.si.com/>)

Serena Williams was named the Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the year for 2015. The tennis great said she is "beyond honored." Williams is the third woman to win the award outright, coming just short of the calendar-year Grand Slam this year — losing in the U.S. Open semifinals after winning the first three tennis majors.

Williams has won 53 of her last 56 matches and needs one more Grand Slam title to match Steffi Graf's career record of 22.

Christian College Professor Suspended for Wearing Hijab and Saying Muslims and Christians Worship Same God



(Source: Ruth Graham, <http://www.theatlantic.com>)

Larycia Hawkins, an associate professor of political science at Wheaton College, was placed on administrative leave after wearing a hijab, the headscarf worn by many muslim women, and suggesting that believers in the two faiths follow the same God.

Hawkins, who is the first African-American woman to become a tenured professor at Wheaton, was wering the hijab, she said, as a gesture of what she calls "embodied solidarity" with Muslims throughout the Christian Advent season, posting on her facebook page: *"I stand in human solidarity with my Muslim neighbor because we are formed of the same primordial clay, descendants of the same cradle of humankind--a cave in Sterkfontein, South Africa that I had the privilege to descend into to plumb the depths of our common humanity in 2014. I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book. And as Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God."*

Wheaton College, which is a private, Christian, liberal arts college, located west of Chicago, said it was Hawkin's theology—not the hijab—that got her in trouble with the evangelical college. A statement issued by the college said Hawkins had been placed on leave "in response to significant questions regarding the theological implications of statements that [Hawkins] has made about the relationship of Christianity to Islam." In a longer follow-up statment, the college clarified that Hawkins's views, "including that Muslims and Christians worship the same God," seem to conflict with the school's Statement of Faith, which all faculty must sign annually. Hawkins was placed on paid leave through the end of the spring semester. "This Advent, I'm standing up with my Muslim neighbors out of my love for Jesus and the love I believe he had for all of the world," Hawkins told reporters. "And I'm not alone in this."

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

Art and History by Bertoni Jones

QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOPHIA

Art and Article by Bertoni Jones
(jbaguart@yahoo.com)

The history of Europe taught to us in school tends to “whitewash” the genealogical origins of European monarchs. Yet how many people are aware that one of the great queens of England was of African descent?

Queen Charlotte Sophia (May 19, 1744 – November 17, 1818) became the Queen of England with her marital union to King George III in 1761. King George III was the longest reigning monarch in English history representing The House of Hanover. Queen Charlotte was from the German House of Mecklenburg and her native tongue was German.

Her ancestry descended from Mecklenburg’s second branch, the Branch of Strelitz, where the men of this branch were Dukes, including her father, Duke Charles Louis Frederick, Prince of Mirow. Her German ancestry can be further traced back to the Portuguese House of Margarita de Castro y Sousa, a purely African line of Portuguese monarchs.

As a matter of genealogical fact six different lines of Margarita de Castro y Sousa can be traced directly to her, leaving no doubt about her bloodline.

During their marriage, King George and Queen Charlotte produced 17 children, though two died before adulthood. As co-ruler of England her do-

minion included England, Ireland, Scotland, and The Americas. In her spare time she was an amateur botanist who loved to preserve foreign species of plants. The South African flower called the Bird of Paradise is named in her honor (Strelitzia Reginae).

Queen Charlotte’s fourth son, Prince Edward married and produced a daughter later named Queen Victoria. So in actuality Queen Charlotte Sophia is the blood grandmother of England’s Queen Victoria.

The royal bloodline of The English House of Hanover owes its existence in part to an African princess, and on the night of her wedding to King George III this poem was written in her honor by a poet of the royal court:

*Descended from the warlike Vandal race,
She still preserves that title in her face.
Tho’ shone their triumphs o’er Numidia’s plain,
And Alusian fields their name retain;
They but subdued the southern world with arms,
She conquers still with her triumphant charms,
O! born for rule, - to whose victorious brow
The greatest monarch of the North must bow!*

Sources:
Nature Knows No Color Line – J.A. Rogers
Sex and Race Vol. 1 – J.A. Rogers
Black Heritage Day III – Jamiyo Mack
Pbs.org/wgbh/royalfamilyhtml
royal.gov.ukUt poratiis net am int accum et que veror assi dolent od



EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER

One Year Later: How Are Things Going Now

One year ago, there was a great deal of tension surrounding the East Central Community Center. Community members were complaining, very loudly, about changes in the management of the center, saying that East Central no longer felt like the community center that had been the hub of the neighborhood for so many years.

Ultimately the city got involved in the dispute between residents and ECCO (East Central Community Organization), the non-profit that the city of Spokane had contracted to run the center, forming a review committee that would decide whether or not to recommend that ECCO’s contract was renewed. The contract was renewed in January of 2015 and ECCO eventually hired a new Executive Director. So how are things now?

“I think that we’ve had a real huge change of direction here,” said Chris Venne, President of the Board of Directors for ECCO, responding to the question. The contract for the former Center Director, Landon Carrol, was not renewed. “I think bringing on a new center director was a great change here,” Venne continued, “Carol Christnacht had just the piece that’s been missing here. She has been ‘friendraising’, rebuilding relationships with the community, and also fundraising. The staff have responded really positively to her.”

Christnaught who is a native of Montana, came on board in May of 2015. What she discovered, she said,



was a staff that seemed depressed, and didn’t know which end was up, “so I brought them in and I said are you guys willing to play in my sand box and the first month the team was leary, but after doing some digging and searching and learning what my style of management is, which is relationship and team building, the staff came on board.”

The result, she says is a center that has a different feeling to it. “You will notice that the vibe here at the center is alive. There is laughter and we are very progressive in what we are wanting to do.”

Carol says she has also been focused on listening to what the community says it’s needs are. “The community has asked me to look into health care. They are asking for GED classes, self improvement programs, and youth recreation.” In response to the community feedback, Carol says that she is working with EWU, the Spokane Community Colleges and Amerigroup to bring GED classes to the center. East Central is also working with Pastor Shon Davis, Michael Brown’s Eastside Side Reunion Association, and the Spokane Police Athletic League to bring midnight basketball to the community center on Friday nights from 9pm - midnight.

“The atmosphere just feels so much better here,” Chris Venne added. “There was so much tension for so long and the tension does not appear to be here now. People are laughing and having a good time. We have our struggles and we’re working to address them.”

Some members of the community, however, say they continued to be leary of working with ECCO. Evelyn Anderton said she was hopeful about the changes, but is still disappointed with the Senior Program at ECCO, and Pastor Happy Watkins, who initially raised complaints about how the center was being managed, said he hasn’t met the new Director yet. “I haven’t been to the center since we were there picketing. I didn’t feel like I had a voice and so I lost my feeling for the center after that whole process. I’ve just been finding other places to go.”

NAACP UPDATE:

SPOKANE
http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com

A LEGACY OF COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

By Naima Quarles-Burnley
Spokane NAACP President

The Latin root of the word January is “Janus” for the Roman God of gates and doorways, depicted with two faces looking in opposite directions. January is a month to look back as we plan for the future. Looking back on this past year, the Spokane NAACP has faced some challenges but we are moving forward with a sense of determination and purpose. We stand on the shoulders of many who have come before us. We stand in the shadow of a legacy of courage and commitment to justice. We are building upon the work of many who challenged the status quo and spoke out against the injustices and inequities in our community.

January is also a time for the community to celebrate the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He once said “The ultimate measure of a [person] is not where [he or she] stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where [he or she] stands at times of challenge and controversy.” This past year was fraught with challenges and controversies that lead to an abrupt change in the Spokane NAACP leadership. In the midst of controversy I took the reins of the Spokane NAACP presidency in June 2015.

As a branch we have pressed on, endeavoring to carry forth the 96 year legacy of our branch. We are determined to demonstrate that this legacy cannot be derailed by the actions of one individual. From June to January our Executive Committee has worked to restore trust and rebuild our relationships with community and governmental partners. As we continue to carry out our mandate to ensure Civil Rights and breakdown racial barriers, we do so with integrity.

Our work has been centered on the five “Game Changers” identified by the National NAACP as major areas of inequity facing African Americans and other people



of color: Economic sustainability, Educational Access, Health Equity, Public Safety & Criminal Justice Reform and Voting Rights / Political Representation. Our Executive Committees have pursued justice in the Spokane community despite the challenges we have faced. This year, in spite of many difficult circumstances, we have made great strides in many areas of our work.

A few examples are:

The Economic Development Committee held a two-part “Employment Bootcamp” where community members received information on how to prepare their resume, tips on interviewing, as well as how to dress for success directly from the HR staff of Eastern Washington University, Community Colleges of Spokane, and Avista;

The Education Committee developed a “Partnership for Professional Development” where Spokane Public Schools administration and employees along with Education Committee Members attended lectures, had common readings and culminated in a day long retreat on multicultural education as a way of exploring di-

verse cultural perspectives and ways they can diversify the curriculum.

Our Education Committee awarded two \$1,000.00 scholarships to deserving high school seniors from our Lt. Col. Michael P. Anderson Scholarship Fund;

The Healthcare Committee gave a presentation on diversity to a nursing class at WSU and participated in the End AIDS Walk by sharing information at a booth on the disproportionate impact of AIDS in communities of color and having a team walking;

The Political Action Committee held two city-wide forums for City Council Candidates and the candidates for Mayor; Committee members and community members submitted questions that the candidates answered;

In partnership with Smart Justice Spokane, the Vera Institute for Justice and the Office of Police Ombudsman Commission, the Spokane NAACP co-sponsored three “Community Conversations on Criminal Justice Reform.”

The President represented the Spokane NAACP on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Multi-Cultural Affairs, the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council’s Racial Equity Disparity Subcommittee and the Police Leadership Advisory Committee.

As we look back we can see that significant progress has been made because our leadership team remains committed to our 96 year old legacy of fighting for freedom and justice. Looking ahead, our future is bright as we carry out our legacy of courage and commitment. We have weathered the storm and will continue to work with our community partners on projects and programs that are helping make strides towards creating a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.

For morning information, contact the NAACP at (509) 209-2425 (extension 1141), or visit <http://spokanenaacp.com>.

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

RESOLUTION & SOLUTIONS

By Evelyn Anderton

It’s a New Year, a fresh start and the time when many people will be making New Year’s resolutions. However the average person’s commitment to their new year’s resolution lasts less than 30 days.

These are the 5 most frequent failed resolutions. Lose weight, quit smoking, eat healthier, stop drinking, and get out of debt and saving money. Therefore this year I challenge you to forget about resolutions and let’s concentrate on solutions.

1. There is no magic bullet to losing weight. It takes a determined person with a made up mind. How many have tried one or more fad diets like Paleo, Atkins, South Beach, Weight Watchers or Nutri-system, just to name a few. These diets have had many successes, but keeping the weight off is quite a disappointment to many. The answer to losing weight is not fad diets but making smart choices about how much and what you chose to eat. Until we are ready for a lifestyle change our weight problem will always be problematic.

2. Quitting smoking is not easy but many have done it. You must first realize what

you are up against. Smoking is not just a habit in many cases it’s an addiction. Nicotine is a drug found naturally in tobacco which is as addictive as heroin or cocaine. When you inhale the smoke, nicotine is carried deeply through your lungs and it affects many parts of your body. Some solutions to help you with quitting smoking are to control your craving by using nicotine gum, patches, nasal spray and tablets. To prevent ways of relapse you need to stay away from family and friends who continuously smoke. For many, smoking reduces stress. As hard as it may be you will have to resist the urge to light up a cigarette and find other ways to deal with stress.

3. It is easier than you think to start eating healthy! Small changes can make a big difference to your health. Commit yourself to incorporating one main eating goal each week. a) make half your plate fruits and vegetables and chose products like whole wheat bread instead of white bread; b) switch to fat free or low fat milk, it has fewer calories and less sat-



urated fat; c) choose lean, protein foods, meats, dry beans or peas; d) cut back on solid fats like ice cream, pizza and processed meats; e) lastly drink water instead of sugary drinks, if you want some flavor try adding a slice of lemon, lime or watermelon to your water.

4. If you have made the decision to stop

drinking alcohol completely, giving up completely may not be easy, especially if you are a heavy drinker. It is good to avoid situations where you may be tempted to drink. This could mean opting out of the weekly pub visit with your friends. If you tend to drink while eating, try to go to restaurants that don’t sell alcohol. Reducing the amount you drink can also be a stepping stone to giving up alcohol completely. Cutting down doesn’t have to be complicated. If you currently drink every night, try designating a couple of day a week as your alcohol free days. Whether you are cutting alcohol out of your life completely or cutting down gradually, you may notice a number of improvements to the way you look and feel. In the long term you will also be

helping to reduce your risk of developing cancer, liver or heart disease and can lower your blood pressure.

5. What do you do first, pay off debt or start saving? It is very possible to do both, but it would take some strict and creative budgeting, along with a solid commitment to do so and stay within your spending plan. Debt can be stressful both financially and emotionally and it’s important to stay on top of it. The most important thing to start now is to stop acquiring new debt and stop spending. You need to get rid of credit cards. Spend your money on what is necessary like groceries, utility bills, gas, etc. (cable TV is not one of them). Make a few adjustments and you will be surprised how much you would save if you watch yourself closely. Establish an emergency fund. It is very important to have a little bit of money saved before paying off your debt. Open a saving account for an emergency fund and start an automatic transfer to your savings account. This money is for emergency only. Don’t tie your emergency to a debt account. Continue to cut back on non- essentials spending as much as you can so you will be able to stick with your spending plan.

No matter what your New Year’s resolution were let’s kick those resolutions to the curb and concentrate on solutions for 2016.

SPOKANE LOOKING FOR A NEW POLICE CHIEF AGAIN

City Holds Three Forums to Get Input From Community on Search

The Police Leadership Advisory Committee, a new citizen committee that was created by Mayor David Condon to lead a conversation about what the community is looking for in its next police chief, held three community forums in the month of December to gather input from Spokane residents and incorporate the community's comments and suggestions into the selection process.

The committee, which includes Mary Ann Murphy, former Director of Our Kids: Our Business; Toni Lodge, CEO of the NATIVE Project; Naima Quarles-Burnley, President Spokane NAACP; Jim McDevitt, former US Attorney; Ken Hohenberg, Chief of the Kennewick Police Department; Jon Synder, Spokane City Council; and Gabriel Caballero, Federal Public Defender Investigator, is tasked with soliciting community input in three areas: reviewing and making recommendations to strengthen the current chief of police job description, identifying the attributes that the community is seeking in

the next police chief and recommending the hiring and selection process that should be used.

The committee will also provide guidance to the city on the development of a cultural audit for the police department. They will give input about what should be included in the audit, how the audit should be conducted, and the expected outcomes. The cultural audit was a suggestion from the Use of Force Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services.

The community forums were held at the Northeast Community Center, West Central Community Center and East Central Community Center during the month of December.

Member of the community who were not able to attend the forums are invited to provide input via email and phone at the following e-mail address and phone number: policechiefsearch@spokane-city.org or 509-625-6281.





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Spokane Valley:
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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

NILE LIVINGSTON Philly Artist to Visit Spokane

The Richmond Gallery, in partnership with Eastern Washington University, is celebrating its official opening with a series of events featuring Philadelphia-based contemporary artist and social activist Nile Livingston.

Ms. Livingston was born in 1988 and grew up in West Philadelphia. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Kutztown University in 2010, and since that time has become one of Philadelphia’s most sought-after artists, creating stunning images on large canvases, murals and vacant lots. She also works in illustration, sculpture, media art, and mosaic, and was recently featured in the Philly Voice’s historic Philadelphia Ten—a selection of 10 women making bold statements through art.

“There is so much to discover in this world. Consequently, my passions are extremely charged and my art is the by-product of human consciousness. Biographic interpretations of growing up in a home filled with rolls of drafting papers, collections of teapots, and acoustic instruments have inspired me to explore endless aesthetic propositions. I produce artworks in various mediums that include painting, drawing and sculpture. Themes present in my art range from genealogical dementia, loss, character encounters, decadence, and poverty. Similar to a public diary entry, each installation reveals pieces of an evolving story of who we are as people.”

-Nile Livingston



NILE LIVINGSTON SPOKANE EVENTS

Thursday, December 31 5-9pm. Exhibition of works by Nile Livingston. Richmond Gallery, 228 W. Sprague Ave. Spokane, WA 99201.	Thursday, January 7, 2016, 6-9pm. Artist’s Reception with Nile Livingston. Richmond Gallery, 228 W. Sprague Ave. Spokane, WA 99201.	Monday, January 11, 2016, 11:30-1pm. Visiting Artist Lecture by Nile Livingston. Eastern Washington y—Pence Union Building, Rooms 263-267.
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For more information contact Rebecca Chadwell, Richmond Art Collective at (509) 590-8046

Eleven Million Watch NBC’s ‘The Wiz’



(TriceEdneyWire.com) NBC is giving thanks that it was able to revitalize its holiday musical hopes with the success of “The Wiz Live.” The special, which is an all Black reinterpretation of The Wizard of Oz, aired on December 3, 2015. The live program featured Stephanie Mills, Mary J. Blige, Common, Ne Yo, Shanice Williams as Dorothy, and Queen Latifah as the Wiz, and drew 11 million viewers overall, six million of whom were black. The audience was two million more than watched last year’s Peter Pan.

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For more information and for persons with special needs contact Randy Corradine at 509.359.4879 or Lori Hunt 509.533.7378 to make arrangements by January 18, 2016.

MALAWI PRISON BAND IS NOW A GRAMMY NOMINEE

Special to the Trice Edney News
Wire from Global Information
Network

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – With voices as gentle as angels, inmates at a maximum prison in Malawi have recorded an album which could capture top prize at the upcoming Grammys.

“I Have No Everything Here” was recorded at Malawi’s Zomba prison and is among the first batch of nominations for the 58th Annual Grammy Awards.

Slotted for Best World Musical Album” alongside musical giants like Angelique Kidjo and Anoushka Shankar, they are Malawi’s first ever Grammy nominee.

The album, recorded in prison by music producer Ian Brennan, captured the attention of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the US who hand out the hotly-contested prize.

Released in January 2015, the album features 16 singer-songwriters in the 20 tracks, 18 of which were written by the prisoners, both male and female.

“It is a great accomplishment,” gushed Brennan in an interview with Al Jazeera.

“I am very happy for the prisoners and quite shocked really,” he said. “The awards have become extremely celebrity-driven, and ironically, the World category in particular has become so predictable - it’s the same names almost every year ... so to see a group of unknown individuals get a nomination makes it that much more of an accomplishment.” A portion of the proceeds



from the sale of the music will fund legal representation and provide support for the inmates, he said.

The album, in the Chichewa language, combines guitars, solos and softly-pulsing melodies with powerful lyrics.

Brennan and his wife, photographer and documentarian Marilena Delli, have been working with incarcerated people to bring underrepresented voices on the world stage.

A group of men at the prison already had their

own band when Brennan arrived, and a prison officer allowed them to practice for a few hours a week. Women did not immediately join up until near the end of Brennan’s time in the prison when one of the women finally stepped up to the mike.

“It was the dam breaking,” he said. “Once one of them stepped forward, they started queuing up. And some of them came back a second or third time. Some of the best songs are from people who claimed they weren’t songwriters or singers.”

Many of the tracks depict the harsh conditions in which the inmates live and the journey that brought them to their incarceration. One song, written and sung by Thomas Binamo, is called, “Please, Don’t Kill my Child.” Another, by Josephine Banda, is titled, “I Kill No More.” And Officer Ines Kaunde wrote one song titled, “I See the Whole World Dying of AIDS.” Brennan says not all the tracks made it on the record but, in total, there were four with the “AIDS” in the title.

“Out of context, ‘I see the Whole World Dying of AIDS,’ could seem overstated. But for them, within a country with some of the highest HIV rates in the world, that’s a very real perception,” he says.

It’s highly unlikely that the Zomba Prison Band will be able to attend the 2016 Grammy ceremony in Los Angeles. Though some may be released in the future, most will remain in a place with “no everything.”

A website for the Zomba Prison Project with links to their songs can be found at <http://zombaprisonproject.bandcamp.com/>

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TO ME
WATCHING YOURS...
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**DREAMER
MOTHER
EDITOR**
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THE BLACK LENS

“We are all tied together in a single garment of destiny... An inescapable network of mutuality,... I can never be what I ought to be until you are allowed to be what you ought to be.”
-Martin Luther King Jr.

“Therefore, I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream to make room at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people.”
-Coretta Scott King.





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HEALTH & MEDICINE

Doctor Joel McCullough Spokane County's Health Officer

Dr. Joel McCullough has been in Spokane for nearly 6-1/2 years, but many do not know him or what he does. Dr. McCullough is Public Health Director and the Health Officer for Spokane County, which means that he is the one responsible for being the head of the Spokane County Health District.

Born in Charlotte, N.C., Dr. McCullough grew up mostly in North Carolina and also in New Haven, CT. His parents divorced when he was around ten years old, so his family was his mother and sister, who was two years younger. They moved back and forth between Connecticut and North Carolina, before he finished high school in Charlotte and then went to college at Stanford in California.

Dr. McCullough's guidance counselor encouraged him to look at schools outside of his area, or he might never have considered it. "Most people generally look at schools in their general area, north carolina and south carolina. So I did that too, but then I decided to reach out to other academically known schools like Stanford. I applied to different schools and like Columbia and NYU, and I got a decent academic ride."

At Stanford, Dr. McCullough, who considered himself "very nerdy" when he was growing up, was in pre-med and also majored in linguistics, something he had been so interested in that he would go to libraries and try to teach himself languages. He first became interested in medicine in high school.

"I did well in sciences like most docs and medicine was a way to do science and still deal with people and deal with some of the needs in the community, so that was the initial attraction. I was also interested in engineering and other areas, but it seemed like medicine was the more natural fit for me so that's what I decided to pursue."

In his neighborhood, Dr. McCullough says that most of the neighbor's kids didn't emphasize academics, making him one of the few from my neighborhood that did that. His mother wasn't necessarily strict, either, he says. "I would say she was about had an average amount of strictness, but I think the good thing is that I had a really good support system in North Carolina. We had grandmother right down the street, aunts and uncles that were in the same city, and cousins, so a pretty good support system that valued you as a person so you could develop self esteem and some centeredness."

Going to school on the other side of

the country and away from his support system was not easy. "You were about 3000 miles away from anyone you know." But he says, what was good about Stanford is that they had a really good orientation program. "They met you at the airport with a van and took you to your dorm, so that made it a lot easier because you didn't have to find your way. Once you got in the dorm and got to know people and other students that made it a lot better in terms of transitioning from being away, but it was still a pretty different culture from Charlotte, N.C. to the SF bay area."

The most challenging thing, Dr. McCullough says is that he felt disoriented because I didn't know people, didn't know cultures and there were different expectations of different people and also the academics. "People were coming from really different places because I went to public school and some of the other students were coming from really advanced private schools, so it did take some time to get oriented to the people, to the academics." But once he started making friends that helped a lot. "The social interaction helped and feeling part of a group."

Stanford also had a really good Black Pre-med Society, which Dr. McCullough joined, which had an admission rate to medical school for members in the society of roughly 100%.

Following his graduation from Stanford, Dr. McCullough went to medical school at Vanderbilt in Nashville, which was "four years of survival." After that he did his residency, which included a twelve month internship at the Milwaukee Medical College of Wisconsin, where he also participated in the National Health Service Corp, a program that pays for your medical school tuition if you serve in medically underserved areas.

He completed his specialty in internal medicine in upstate NY. Followed by a Fellowship in Occupational and Environmental Medicine and also a residency at the same time in Preventative Medicine.

Dr. McCullough became interested in public health in medical school. "I was interested in preventing illnesses and investigating illnesses, in addition to treating them, so I was fascinated by epidemiology, the study of the determinants of disease. That was my initial attraction to public health."

Dr. McCullough received his Public Health Degree University of Washington in Seattle.



Dr. McCullough says he hasn't counted how long it took him to complete his schooling. "Four years of medical school, three years internal medicine, two years fellowship and residency, and I also did another year and got a Master of Science in Preventative Medicine and a Master of Public Health, so I got two master's degrees." He said it made him tired thinking about it too.

Reflecting on the underrepresentation of people of color in the medical field Dr. McCullough reflected, "obviously we are underrepresented, but I think

one of the main things that I would say is its important not to be intimidated by the science and math, because its within us to do it. We just have to have the right attitude and also the right instruction and mentors to do that work."

"I think because we are underrepresented, people don't have a sense that it's a possibility, that's where we could achieve. We obviously have role models in other more visible fields, athletics, etc , but some of these other areas, science, math technology it's not as apparent. None of us can do this alone."



OPENING DOORS: CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN ACADEMIC SURGEONS

This banner exhibition celebrates the contributions of African American surgeons and educators to medicine and medical education, and follows the lives of four pioneers in the field.

The exhibit is a collaborative effort between the National Library of Medicine and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.

Sponsored by the Diversity Events Subcommittee of WSU Spokane and EWU Spokane.

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IN THE SPIRIT

BRITISH SCIENTISTS REVEAL THE “REAL FACE OF JESUS”

(Source: Mike Fillon, <http://www.esquire.com>)

According to an article published in Esquire Magazine in December, British scientists, assisted by Israeli archeologists, have re-created what they believe to be the most accurate image of the face of Jesus in human history.

The technique they used is called forensic anthropology, which is an outgrowth of physical anthropology and uses cultural and archeological data, as well as the physical and biological sciences to study different groups of people, using methods similar to those police have developed to solve crimes.

According to the article, experts in forensic anthropology, which is a high specialized field, require a working knowledge of genetics, and human growth and development, also drawing from the fields of primatology, paleoanthropology (the study of primate and human evolution) and human osteology (the study of the skeleton). Even seemingly distant fields like nutrition, dentistry and climate adaptation play a role in this type of investigation.

Operating on the assumption that the features of Jesus would be similar to the Galilean Semites of his era, Richard Neave, a medical artist retired from The University of Manchester in England,

and co-author of the book “Making Faces: Using Forensic And Archaeological Evidence”, working with his research team, used three well-preserved skulls from the time of Jesus and computerized tomography to create X-ray “slices” of the skulls to reveal details about their structure.

From this data, according to the Esquire article, the researchers built a digital 3D reconstruction of the face, then created a cast of the skull. Layers of clay matching the thickness of facial tissues specified by the computer program were then applied, along with simulated skin. The nose, lips and eyelids were then modeled to follow the shape determined by the underlying muscles. Neave’s team turned to drawings found at various archeological sites, dated to the first century to determine that Jesus had dark rather than light-colored eyes. They also pointed out that in keeping with Jewish tradition, he was bearded as well.

Not everyone agrees with Neave’s version of Jesus. “The fact that he probably looked a great deal more like a darker-skinned Semite than westerners are used to seeing him pictured is a reminder of his universality,” says Charles D. Hackett, director of Episcopal studies at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. “And [it is] a reminder of our tendency to sinfully appropriate him in the service of our cultural values.”



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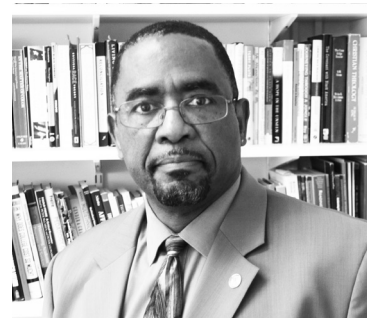
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AFRICAN AMERICANS AND EDUCATION

Looking Back in Order to Move Forward:

A Seven Part Series By Lawrence Burnley, Ph.D.

Part V: “The Cost of Learning: Anti-Literacy Laws and Violent Opposition to Black Education” - The Northern Experience



Blacks in the North had greater access to education than Blacks in the South; they were subject to what Lawrence Cremin refers to as a similar “pedagogical paradox.” While they were subjected to White efforts to teach inferiority, they also benefited from Black efforts to teach pride, resistance and community solidarity.

Some Blacks argued for segregated schools believing that segregated schools offered opportunities for Blacks to obtain good jobs and claimed that Black children in mixed schools suffered from the insults of White children and the cruelty and bias of White teachers. Others supported integrated schools, making the claim that separate schools were inherently unequal.

Both Frederick Douglas and David Walker supported integrated schools, but for different reasons. Douglas believed Black and White children would develop healthier relationships with one another as a result of getting to know each other in school. Walker was more concerned with making sure Black children received the same education as White children.

Prior to the Civil War, Northern states were fairly consistent regarding their opposition to integrated schooling. There were differences, but the bottom line was segregation. Pennsylvania and Ohio provided common schools for all children and at the same time established separate schools for Blacks. In Ohio there was violent opposition to schooling for Blacks by townspeople in and

around Cincinnati who destroyed buildings and books. By 1850, most Northern states provided schools for children and at the same time condoned separate schools for Blacks. Western states opposed Black education for fear of increased migration and offending constituents who migrated from Southern states.

Black schools were housed in substandard buildings; had substandard materials; and had difficulty in securing qualified teachers. The state responded with some assistance for improvement, but only because of the increased demand to integrate. Interestingly, however, many segregationists charged that Blacks themselves, those who started separate schools, were also segregationists.

Some Blacks started separate schools because this was the only option available to them. Other Black leaders who supported separate schools saw it as an opportunity to demonstrate their equality by producing scholars as good as or better than Whites.

In Black public schools, at least initially, Blacks insisted on having Black teachers. Black teachers often opposed legislation to end race-based hiring practices for fear of losing jobs and for fear of depriving Black children of teachers. Concerns about loss of jobs due to desegregation were warranted because desegregation often resulted in loss of jobs for Black teachers.

Additionally, economic disparity between Black and White teachers was broad. For instance, in

1853, Black teachers were paid an average of \$100 less per month than their White counterparts in New York City.

In the Northeast during the latter part of the eighteenth century, the “Sunday” or “Sabbath” school was another type of schooling made available to Blacks. Black children were attending Sunday schools in significant numbers in the Northeast, especially in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

It’s important to point out here that Sunday schools of various types were popular during the antebellum period. It became an extremely important method of religious and secular schooling for Blacks in the South before and after the Civil War. Some Sunday schools remained in operation after the Black insurrections of the early 1830s; however, many were forced to limit their teaching to oral instruction out of fear of the power literacy would afford Blacks. In 1831 an Alabama instruction book stated that it was “designed for the use of families, Sabbath schools, and Bible classes, and especially for the oral instruction of the colored population.”

Attempts to establish schools in the North were often met with White resistance. In 1831, there was an attempt by William Lloyd Garrison, Arthur Tappan, and Simeon Jocelyn to open a college for Blacks in New Haven. The citizens of New Haven opposed this effort.

In August of that year, White opposition to schooling for Blacks was intensified by Nat Turner’s

revolt. Some were concerned that the creation of a college for Blacks would thwart the plan of colonization that sought to repatriate Blacks to Africa. They believed that providing educational opportunities in the United States would create incentives for Blacks to stay rather than return to Africa.

Prudence Crandall, a Quaker, was another example. She attempted to establish a school for Black girls in Canterbury, Connecticut, in 1834. It opened, but met with great opposition that culminated in legislative action and closed its doors.

As support for integration increased among Blacks, abolitionists began to rethink their plans to open separate schools for Blacks. Increasingly, White Northern schools such as Dartmouth, Harvard, and Oberlin began to admit Blacks. This called into question the wisdom of opening new schools.

Prior to 1861, schools such as Princeton, Union College, Amherst, Rutland, and others had opened their doors. There may have been other schools that had policies to admit Blacks; however, the number of Blacks who had the level of secondary educational instruction to qualify for admission to these schools was limited. John Russworm was the first Black college graduate in the U.S. In 1828, he graduated from Bowdoin College, Maine.

Black women in the North were among the throngs of teachers who courageously went south to provide schooling for Blacks.

Having the status of “free” did not necessarily mean easy or automatic access to formal schooling or even informal methods of literacy training. Free Black women who managed to obtain such access, however, often recognized the utility literacy had not only for their own advantage, but as an indispensable tool to help other free and enslaved Africans to achieve freedom and socioeconomic upward mobility.

The moral responsibility to help transform the conditions of their people embodied by many literate free Black women is a point worthy of note. Sarah Mapps Douglas serves as an example of a pioneering Black educational reformer. Douglas took medical courses at the Ladies Institute of Pennsylvania Medical University between 1855 and 1858 and would later establish the Institute of Colored Youth. The institute would later become known as Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

A number of Black female teachers traveled south to teach Blacks during the war years. Their unique circumstances provide an interesting bridge between the Northern and Southern educational experience of Black people in the U.S. prior to 1865. Without question, challenges faced by Black people in the North to attain an education were arduous; however, they pale in comparison to what they faced in the Southern states.

Next in this Series - Part VI: “The Cost of Learning: Anti-Literacy Laws and Violent Opposition to Black Education” – The Southern Experience

BLACKS AT HBCU’S MORE SUCCESSFUL

Study Says Success of HBCU Alumni Exceeds that of Black Grads from Other Institutions

By Zenitha Prince

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Despite their ongoing struggles, HBCUs are doing a better job than other institutions of producing Black alumni who are thriving, particularly in their financial well-being and career purpose, according to recent results of an ongoing Gallup study.

That is “positive news” for the nation’s embattled HBCUs, Brandon Busteed, executive director of Gallup Education and Workforce Development, told Inside Higher Ed.

“There are still noticeable challenges around completion rates and loan default rates, and this data doesn’t change that,” Busteed said. “But this data does add a whole new dimension to the

conversation about the value of HBCUs. Black students are having very meaningful experiences at HBCUs, compared to Black graduates from everywhere else.”

The findings were published in the new “Gallup-USA Funds Minority College Graduates Report.” The study is the result of an ongoing Gallup-Purdue University survey that has collected data from more than 55,000 college graduates. The study seeks to ascertain what colleges are doing to effect the future social, financial, purpose, community and physical well-being of their graduates.

Fifty-five percent of Black HBCU graduates were more likely to “strongly agree” that their colleges prepared them for life after graduation compared to 29 percent of Black graduates of



other institutions. That assessment seemed to correlate with experiences such as having a professor who cared about them as a person, a professor who made them excited about learning and a mentor who encouraged them to pursue their goals and dreams.

Black graduates of HBCUs were also more likely to report involve-

ment in applied internships, long-term projects and extracurricular activities.

Such experiences strongly impact graduates’ well-being later in life, Gallup found.

Black HBCU alumni reported higher thriving rates in all five areas of well-being, the largest gap coming in the area of financial well-being. While four in 10 Black HBCU graduates reported doing well in managing their finances to reduce stress and increase security, fewer than three in 10 (29 percent) of Black graduates of other schools reported the same.

There was also an eight percentage point difference in reports of “purpose well-being” between Black HBCU graduates and

Black graduates from other institutions.

Examinations of other minority graduates and institutions did not produce similarly striking results.

“Although HBCUs are struggling in a number of areas, their overall success in providing Black graduates with a better college experience than they would get at non-HBCUs needs to be examined more closely, and potentially modeled, at other institutions,” the researchers wrote. “The profoundly different experiences that Black graduates of HBCUs and Black graduates of non-HBCUs are having in college leave the HBCU graduates feeling better prepared for life after graduation, potentially leading them to live vastly different lives outside of college.”

By Romeal Watson



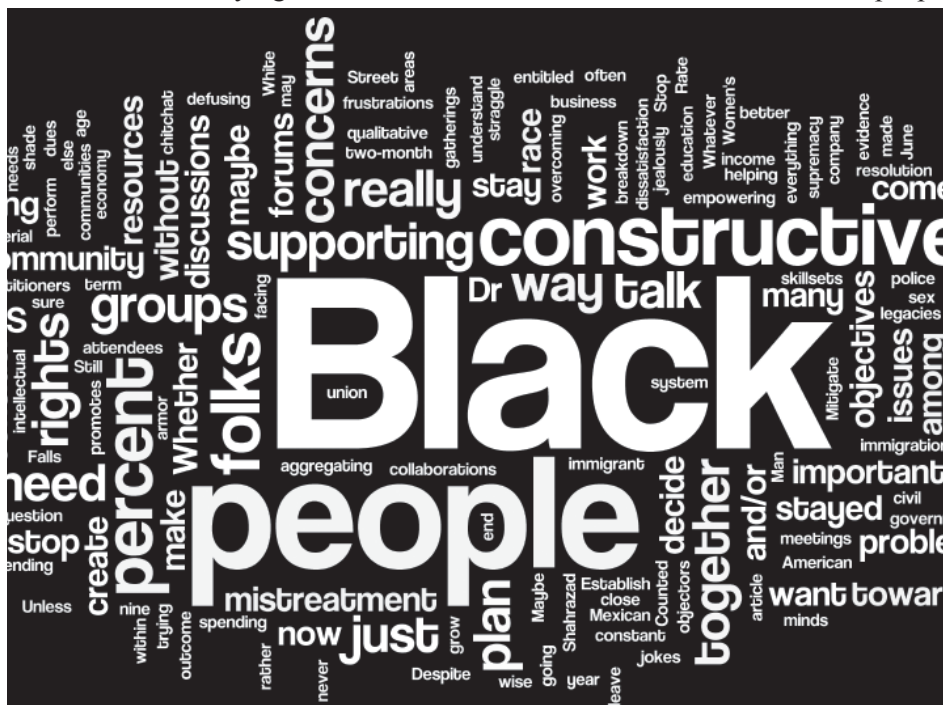
If we really want to have a talk about the conditions of Black people, let's really have it. Stop dancing around these

There have been many discussions supporting the notion that Black people need to “get together”. Get together and do what? How many meetings, forums, and conferences will there be, where people straggle in, perform a brain dump, genuflect with other attendees, then leave with your money, and without a plan for what to do next? That hustle has to stop. A plan needs to be proposed, and with that, both short and long term objectives need to be stipulated at the end of each meeting. If it’s a spiritual rejuvenation, then say

If you don't have a constructive reason for engaging with other Black folks, maybe it is wise to keep it to a minimum. Given the constant mistreatment and unending frustrations, consider how conflicts evolve (often times negatively towards each other) when there aren't proper channels for defusing these situations. What starts of as

Whether you decide to follow Dr. Neely Fuller's breakdown of the *Nine Areas of Activity*, and/or Dr. Claud Anderson's *Powernomics*, or Shahrazad Ali's *Guide to*

“The future belongs to those who prepare for it today” – Malcom X.



Black folks generate 1.1 trillion in annual disposable income. Imagine if just



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OUR VOICES

I WAS CERTAIN THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE SERVED

By Jaclyn Archer

I was certain that justice would be served. The case was unlike other cases. There was clear video evidence, and audio recordings of phone calls to 911 and dispatch communications. The facts are as clear and as forthcoming as they ever are in the case of a police involved shooting:

On November 22, 2014 a twelve-year-old boy was playing with an airsoft gun in a city park. The city was Cleveland, where violent crime rates are high, but has been steadily dropping over the last couple years, according to the FBI. The state was Ohio, which allows the open carry of a firearm without a permit or license.

But someone was concerned, and that concerned citizen called the 911 dispatch to report “a guy with a pistol, it’s probably fake, but he’s pointing it at everybody.” The concerned citizen also notes that “the guy is probably a juvenile.”

Dispatch passes this information on to the police, but the message is abridged, now it is “a male” who “keeps pulling a gun out of his pants and pointing it at people.” No mention is made of the possibility that the gun is fake. No mention is made of the fact that the person wielding it is a child.

Two policemen, Officer Timothy Loehman and Frank Garmback respond to the call, and before the squad car had even stopped moving, Loehman shot at the solitary boy twice, hitting him once in the abdomen. First aid is withheld for four minutes. The boy died the next day.

These are the facts of Tamir Rice’s shooting. And yet the Cleveland police lied about confronting a group of males in the park, lied about warning Rice three times before firing (impossible, given that Loehman fired his gun before the squad car had even stopped moving, according to a Cleveland Municipal Court report), and over a year later, was given the opportunity to pedal those lies to a grand jury, which denied the family of Tamir Rice the opportunity to see his killer face up to his actions in court.

Worse than declaring him not-guilty, on December 28, after a mismanaged indict-



ment hearing, a grand jury declares that the actions of Officers Loehman and Garmback were “reasonable,” not even worthy of continued legal interrogation.

This case was unlike any other. There was clear evidence and the facts were as forthcoming as they ever are. There was a simple narrative, and a sympathetic victim: An “innocent child,” from a “respectable family.” But respectability has not,

will not, and cannot save us. Innocence has not, will not, and cannot save us. Even a harmless child becomes a twenty-year-old man and dangerous threat in the eyes of a system that historically has not viewed people of color as fully human being, much less worthy of respect or regard for innocence.

I was certain justice would be served, and when it was not I felt rage, followed by hurt, disappointment, and then apathetic resignation. I realized that my hurt was the result of buying into the myth of the perfect victim, the notion that a lamb could secure justice for its slaughter even if the rest of us, older and blemished, could not. I had surrendered, on some small level, to the fence circumscribed around the actions of Black folk, sold to us as a safety boundary-- “If only you behave this way, nothing bad will happen to you,” but in reality, a corral intended to secure our easy submission to the notion that we should not be permitted the luxury of living with as much vibrance and error as those who live beyond the barrier.

Tamir Rice flipped a switch for me. Not only am I done with respectability politics, and recognize that living my life unabashedly as a Black woman is itself a revolutionary act in a country that literally threatens my life and limb. But I am done placing any trust in the American corruption: the system of law-enforcement from the beat cop to the judge that can somehow make the shooting a child the child’s fault.

Those facets of the system that show themselves sincerely ready and willing to radically reform will retain my respect. The rest deserve neither our sympathy nor our respect. This is not about individual cops, lawyers, or judges. This is about a living organism that is choking the life out of thousands of people of color every day in this country. It’s time to slay the beast.

The Art of Suffering

By Sharron A. Davis

Suffering.
The only way to
incomparable
glory, at the end
of it all we’ll tell
the story
Of how we made
it through

Nights of weeping that make joy outshine
the Mourning
Blessed, we find comfort in the midst of
incomparable pain

Overflowing rain
Tears fall like waterfalls and the pain
sinks everything
Built upon sand
Only on rock solid can we stand
Food
May soothe and a touch of affection but
Nothing satisfies like love’s perfection,
perfect love
From God that bears it’s name
We’ll never be the same
When the moment’s over
Affliction won’t last much longer

So whenever we’re tempted by sugar and
sweet nothings remember
Increased weight makes it harder to run
the race
Do whatever it takes
To reach the place
Where joy and pleasure await
In God’s presence, we find grace
To obtain help in our time of need
Watch the clock
Tell of victories we’ve never seen - coming
Seek His face.

It will all be over.

Sooner or later.



CONGRATULATIONS BLACK LENS
ON YOUR 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

THANK YOU SPOKANE FOR A WONDERFUL FIRST YEAR!



Community Supports Multicultural Work

Continued From Page 1

Brian Coddington, Director of Communications & Marketing responded to queries on the status of MACMA on behalf of the mayor’s office saying, “As far as I know everything is the same. The same position, the same person. Nothing is changing.”

Then, on the 29th, Ochoa responded by email and said, “As of now, I have been advised that no changes will be made regarding the Multi-Cultural Affairs focus

of the position for the first 60-90 days.

The Mayor values community input and my understanding is that he fully intends to engage and consult with the community and MACMA before making final decisions.”

Information was scarce in the wake of his reelection, but when pressed for comment the mayor’s office has made it clear that

Condon will not make immediate changes to his commitment to Spokane’s people of color.

Racial equity advocates like Laurent and Ochoa, however, are less concerned with the term-to-term changes in government, and instead hope that racial equity work can become an institutional priority for the city of Spokane.

“We’ve done a lot of work,” said Laurent. “You’ve got a lot of

members in the community of color who are volunteering to put time and effort into these things.

All that work can be for naught pretty easily unless the position is institutionalized.

“I would really like to see some kind of commitment to all of the work we have as a community been doing. We just want to capitalize on that work and continue to do it together.”

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JANUARY EVENTS

JANUARY 9

MLK CENTER BENEFIT PRAYER BREAKFAST

9-10:30am

Gonzaga University
Grand Ballroom
3909 W Rowan Ave, Spokane, WA 99205
For more information contact the MLK
Center at (509) 455-8722 or
visit www.mlkspokane.org

JANUARY 10

WORD OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER CELEBRATION SERVICE

Join Pastor Otis and First Lady Jaretta
Manning for their Celebration Service
in their New Building!

3pm

Word of Faith Christian Center
9212 E. Montgonery Avenue
Bldg 402- Suite 400
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

For information contact 509-
891-5253 or visit [www/](http://www/wordoffaithspokane.org)
wordoffaithspokane.org

JANUARY 17

MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION

4-6pm

Morningstar Baptist Church
3909 W Rowan Ave, Spokane, 99205
For more information contact the
MLK Center at (509) 455-8722 or
visit www.mlkspokae.org

JANUARY 18

MARTIN LUTHER KING ANNUAL MARCH AND RESOURCE FAIR

10am - 2pm

Spokane Convention Center
334 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane
For more information contact the
MLK Center at (509) 455-8722 or
visit www.mlkspokane.org

JANUARY 18

NAACP MONTHLY MEET- ING

Join the NAACP for our monthly
general membership meeting

7:00pm

Community Building - Lobby
25 W. Main Street, Spokane WA
For more information contact the
NAACP
at 509-209-2425 or [http://spokane-](http://spokane-NAACP.com)
[NAACP.com](http://spokane-NAACP.com)

JANUARY 19

FINANCIAL SEMINAR

An interactive and fun workshop on
financial literacy and wealth building
by Dycelia Weiss of World Financial
Group

**For information on the Location
and registration call Dycelia at**
509-327-0165. Cost: 10

JANUARY 30

2016 EASTERN WASHING- TON LEGISLATIVE CONFER- ENCE

Our Responsibility for the Common
Good
featuring keynoter
Linda Haydock, SNJM,
Intercommunity Peace and Justice Cen-
ter - Seattle
9 a.m.-3 p.m. St Mark's Lutheran
Church
316 E. 24th Ave. - Spokane
For information, contact
Malcolm Haworth - (509) 535-1813
Scott Cooper - (509) 358-4273
Paul Benz - 625-9790
TO RSVP Send suggested donation of
\$20
To The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spo-
kane WA 99202, Call (509) 535-4112
or email info@thefigtree.org

SAVE THE DATE

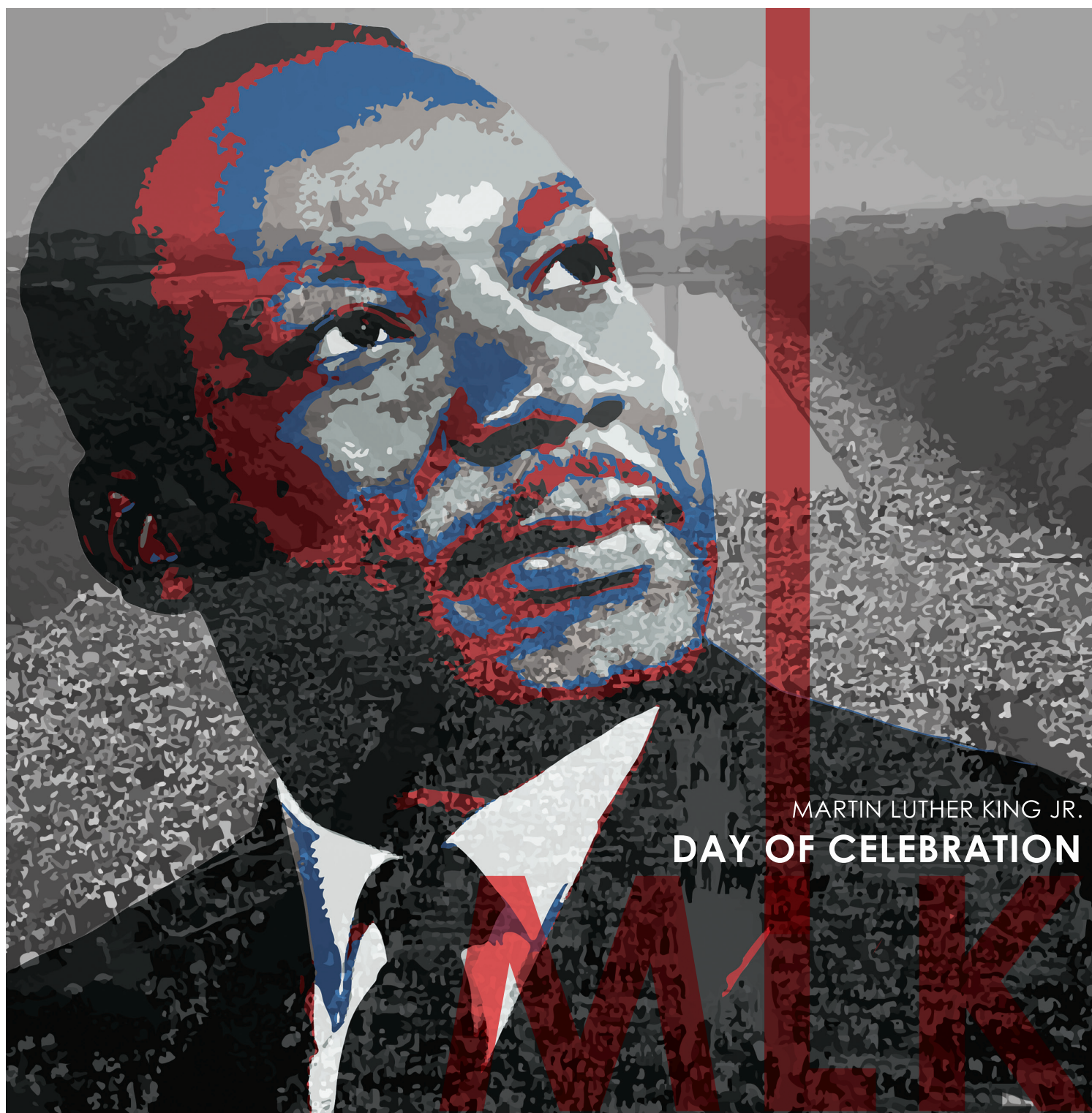
KSPS Documentary Premiere Screening

CARL MAXEY: A FIGHTING LIFE

Based on the biography of
Carl Maxey by Jim Kershner

FEBRUARY 18, 7PM

Bing Crosby Theater



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
DAY OF CELEBRATION

01-09-16	01-17-16	01-18-16
PRAYER BREAKFAST	COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION	ANNUAL MARCH AND RESOURCE FAIRS
9:00 - 10:30 AM Gonzaga University, Grand Ballroom	4:00 - 6:00 PM Morningstar Baptist Church	10:00 - 2:00 PM Convention Center

For more information call (509) 455-8722 or visit our website at www.mlkspokane.org

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



Bob and Teresa and the
Chicken-N-More staff say
Congratulations

to The Black Lens
for a successful first year!
The Black Lens is well written
and informative. Keep it up!

414 1/2 Sprague Avenue
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BLACK LIVES MATTER.
BLACK ISSUES MATTER.
**BLACK NEWS
MATTERS.**

**HAPPY ONE YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
BLACK LENS!**

Spokane NAACP
25 W Main Ave, Ste 239
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 209-2425 (ext. 1141)
<http://spokanenaacp.com>

CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR 1ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

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Congratulations and Happy Anniversary
to The Black Lens for one year in print!
Thanks for being a voice for our community.



Eastern Washington University
Africana Studies Educational Program
Dr. Scott Finnie, Director

**CONGRATULATIONS
BLACK LENS NEWS!**



ONE YEAR DOWN!
MANY MORE TO GO!
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!