

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

ARE AFRICAN-AMERICANS BETTER OFF THAN 50 YEARS AGO?

Reprinted from The San Antonio Observer; <http://www.saobserver.com>; additional source: www.panafricanalliance.com

By: CeCe Leonard

As 2018 comes to an end, we close out a 50 year period that began with the tumultuous 1968. This was the year Martin Luther King, Jr was assassinated; the year the Fair Housing Act passed; the year the Kerner Commission report revealed the cause of riots; and the same year John Carlos and Tommie Smith gave the Black Power salute at the Olympics.

50 year serves as a great opportunity to look back and see how far race in America has come and according to Race and Social Policy Research Center Director, Wornie Reed, "the bottom line is that we have not come very far, if at all, since 1968."

Reed notes "Unfortunately, the data show that with all of this progress on the electoral front there was little if any relative improvement in the lives of African Americans. In fact, with the gutting of the Voting Rights Act by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013, made 2018 one of the the worst years for voter suppression of African Americans and other minorities since 1968."

Here are just a few areas of significant stagnation or retrogression:

Poverty and the Black-White Wealth Gap:

"This year marked the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's Poor People's Campaign when MLK put his life on the line to start a very aggressive push to force the country to address the issue of poverty. He said, "I choose to identify with the underprivileged. I choose to identify with the poor. I choose to give my life for the hungry. I choose to give



my life for those who have been left out...This is the way I'm going." We called the rate of poverty an outrage then. It is worse now. The numbers and proportions of people in poverty in the United States have increased since 1968."

Housing:

"In 2008 the National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, co-chaired by former Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretaries, Democrat Henry Cisneros and Republican Jack Kemp, investigated the state of fair housing. To assess progress since the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the Commission held hearings for six months in five major cities. They concluded that ongoing discriminatory practices in the nation's housing and lending markets continued to produce residential segregation."

"Despite this bipartisan assessment, the current Administration is scaling back fair housing enforcement and moving to make it more difficult to find patterns of discriminatory or predatory lending. They have passed legislation to exempt banks from their obligation to collect and provide data routinely collected on their lending processes."

Economics:

"The Great Recession of 2007-8 was far worse for African Americans. Black homeowners had a higher percentage of their wealth tied up in home equity, and they were much more likely to be victims of predatory lending during the housing boom. Blacks and Latinos were more than twice as likely as comparable whites to receive high-cost loans. African-Americans have lost over half of

their wealth since the beginning of the recession through falling homeownership rates and loss of jobs."

"African American families are continuing to fall behind whites in building wealth — how much a family has in savings, investments, real estate, and cash, less any debts. White family wealth was seven times greater than Black family wealth in 2016. Despite some fluctuations over the past five decades, this disparity is as high or higher than was in 1963."

"Further, there has been no reduction in labor market discrimination. At the Race and Social Policy Research Center at Virginia Tech, we analyzed the income of all Black and white full-time workers in the United States between 1967 and 2005. Controlling for education, we found that for every dollar a white worker earned in 1967 a black worker earned 65 cents. In 2005 a Black work earned 66 cents for every dollar that a white person earned, not a real increase."

Sports:

"During the last 50 years African Americans have become even more prominent in sports, with four current stars arguably considered the best of all time in their respective sports: Simone Biles in gymnastics, Serena Williams in Tennis, Tiger Woods in golf, and LeBron James in Basketball. Nevertheless, just like in 1968, Black athletes are protesting racial discrimination. Two years ago Colin Kaepernick took a knee to protest the disproportionate use of police force against African American males and related issues, That protest was joined by other African American athletes, in football and other sports. And some of it continues."

Continued on Page 19

JANUARY 2019 BLACK LENS ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Celebrating 4 Years in Print!

CALL OR E-MAIL THE BLACK LENS TO ADVERTISE 509-795-1964 OR SANDY@BLACKLENSNEWS.COM - WWW.BLACKLENSNEWS.COM



ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

By Sandra Williams



Embracing that Thing in 2019!

Every year in January, if I am able, I make a point of sharing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's 'Beyond Vietnam' speech. I did it this year as well (on page 7).

I have told the story many times about the day I first heard the speech. It was in Los Angeles in January and I was driving in my car, running errands for my job, listening to the radio. (Remember radios???) I was channel surfing and instinctively stopped to listen when I heard Dr. King's voice. There is just something about that voice that grabs a hold of you some place way down deep inside.

As I drove and listened to the familiar cadence of Dr. King's words, expecting to hear "I have a dream", since those are the words that we are inundated with each year, I realized that I had never heard this speech before. Never. Not in high school. Not during my undergraduate studies. Not during my graduate studies. Not during any of the Black History months or King Holidays that I have lived through. Not once.

The speech was so compelling that I pulled my car over and sat on the side of the road and listened- to the whole thing. Fifty plus minutes. And I share it every year because I am struck by the courage that Dr. King exhibited when he made the choice to speak his truth.

"I cannot be silent," he said.

But he could have been silent. He could have kept his mouth shut and stuck to

the Civil Rights script. Coasting into the history books on the wave of his historic "dream." Admired. Revered. He could have. But he didn't. And one year later, to the day, he was dead.

Sometimes, there is this thing that wells up inside of you, that you just can't keep down. That lives in the corners of your spirit that nobody else can see. That speaks to you in the dark of night, calling you on your shit. Not allowing you to hide from that which you know to be true and right. Not permitting you to be silent. No matter the consequences. I suspect that Dr. King had many battles with that thing. I battle with that thing from time to time as well.

What I'm committed to in 2019 is to honoring that thing. So look out. I suspect that this is going to be very interesting year.

Happy New Year!



THE BLACK LENS NEWS

The Black Lens is a community newspaper, based in Spokane, WA, that it is focused on the news, events, issues, people and information important to Spokane's African American/Black Community and beyond. The paper is published on the first of each month.

Contact Information:

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

Subscriptions:

Delivered monthly by mail - \$45/year - subscribe by mail or online

Submission/Advertising Deadline: 15th of every month

For information visit the website at blacklensnews.com

Facebook: blacklensnews; Twitter: blacklensnews; Instagram: blacklensnews

Published by Square Peg Multimedia LLC Copyright (c) 2019 All Rights Reserved



SPOKANE
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



Enroll for 2019-20 School Year!
www.spokaneintlacademy.org

Public school for families looking for a challenging, but engaging, learning experience.

- Enrollment window for lottery opens January 1st, 2019
- **Tuition-free** public school
- College-prep academic program
- International Baccalaureate World School candidate
- Global studies program
- Spanish language study daily
- High standards for character and academics
- Authentic learning through class field studies

CONGRATULATIONS BLACK LENS



Ty Patterson

BROKER
LICENSED IN WASHINGTON

RETIRED LIEUTENANT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
U.S. MARINES, SEMPER FIDELIS



MOBILE
509-723-7152

ty@typatterson.realtor

www.typatterson.realtor

Windermere
REAL ESTATE

Windermere Manito LLC

Happy 4th Anniversary!!!

BLACK LENS

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We're Still Standing!

*You Are Invited to Join the Black Lens
and Friends of the Black Lens as we
Celebrate Our Fourth Anniversary and
the New Year to Come.*



**Tuesday, January 29
6-8pm**

**Fresh Soul Restaurant
3029 E 5th Ave
Spokane 99202**

**Free and open to the public.
Food will be available for purchase.**

*For more information call The Black Lens at
(509) 795-1964 or sandy@blacklensnews.com*

SPARK SALON

A Benefit & Paddle Raise



Jess Walter

in conversation with



**Sandy Williams
& Sarah Vowell**



FRIDAY, JANUARY 25 2019

DOORS 6 PM

McGINNITY ROOM

116 W PACIFIC AVE #100

SPOKANE, WA 99201

TICKETS \$75 EACH

TABLES \$580

*tickets include dinner & your
first glass of wine*

TICKETS AVAILABLE HERE:
CHARITYAUCTION.BID/SPARKSALON2019

All proceeds benefit **SPARK CENTRAL**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that breaks down barriers to creativity so people of all economic backgrounds can create the future they imagine.

CONTACT [KATE@SPARK-CENTRAL.ORG](mailto:kate@spark-central.org) WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

Imagine Jazz presents:

The Black Art Jazz Collective

Wayne Escoffery
Xavier Davis

Jeremy Pelt
Vicente Archer

James Burton III
Johnathan Blake



In Spokane for Concert & Workshops

January 23rd 2019

www.imaginejazz.org

The Black Art Jazz Collective

The Black Art Jazz Collective is a collaborative ensemble comprised of Jazz's finest rising stars, including New York musicians Jeremy Pelt, Wayne Escoffery, James Burton III, Xavier Davis, Vicente Archer and Johnathan Blake.

Each member of the BAJC is a leader in his own right and has also been an integral part of ensembles led by the pioneers of the music including Wayne Shorter, Tom Harrell, Freddie Hubbard, Ron Carter and many, many, more.

Wednesday Jan 23rd

Spokane Falls Community College

4:30 workshop

8pm concert

Tickets available at Imaginejazz.org.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Largest Museum of Black Culture Opens in Senegal

(Source: Sharelle Burtcom, travelnoire.com)

The Museum of Black Civilizations opened on December 6 in Senegal.

Described as the largest museum of Black culture, the building would not be in existence without the help of China, who donated \$34.6 million to the cause. With over 18,000 pieces of art, the museum is being used for the conservation of cultural values of Black people and to emulate a positive representation of Africa for the world to see.

Opening in the capital city of Dakar, the project was a long time in the making. The country's late president, Leopold Sedar Senghor, first presented the idea back in 1966 during a festival of black artists. It wasn't until 45 years later that Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade laid down the building foundation, but construction was put on hold due to some political issues. Once new leadership was in place, the project was set back in motion between December 2013 and December 2015.

"This building, just like all others within the Cultural Park, will not be considered as a Senegalese monument, but an African monument," Wade said when the first stone was put down.



The museum has two levels that explore the history of Black people, starting from the very beginning to the progress we continue to make today. "Visitors will travel from the Neolithic to the multiplicity of African cultures, through the Iron Age, to understand the contributions of Africa to the scientific and technical heritage," News Africa reports. "The director of the museum boasts a modern scenography, with the latest technologies, to dialogue paintings, sculptures, masks, and some masterpieces."

Henry Bernard McCoy

December 6, 1946 - December 25, 2018

The Black Lens and the Friends of the Black Lens Board send our heartfelt condolences to the family of Henry McCoy, who passed away on December 25, 2018.

Henry was driving down the street and noticed that my mother and I were in the Carl Maxey Center. We were there cleaning the building for our upcoming open house.

Henry said that he hadn't planned to drive down 5th Avenue that day, but "something told him" to take that street to get some gas. Which is why he saw us. He stopped to ask if there was anything that he could do to help, because that's the kind of man he was.

What we needed was help to fix the front door of the building. It wouldn't open all of the way. So, he put his plans on hold, went home, got his tools, came back and fixed the door. I snapped a picture of him just before he finished. I'm glad that I did.

Henry was also a long time subscriber of the Black Lens. Not only did he subscribe for himself, but he also paid for a gift subscription for

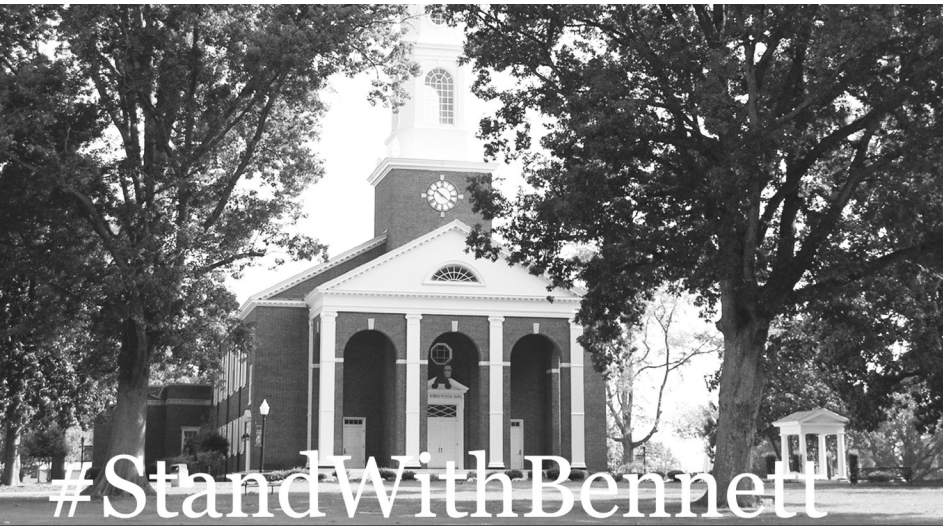


a relative, because that's the kind of man that he was.

I didn't know much about Henry or his background, but what I remember is his smile. His kindness. His support. His wisdom. And the dapper way that he was always dressed. I am grateful to have known him.

A service celebrating his life will be held Friday, January 4th, 11am at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ.

Social Media Campaign Raises \$1 Million to Keep Historically Black Women's College Open



(Sources: Brett Samuels, thehill.com; bennett.edu, en.wikipedia.org)

Bennett College, a historically Black college for women, located in Greensboro, North Carolina has raised more than \$1 million as part of its push to remain open.

NBC News reported that the college needs to raise \$5 million by Feb. 1 after the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) voted to end the school's accreditation, citing "persistent budget issues." The school had already been on probation for two years, from 2001 to 2003, because of financial issues, according to NBC News.

The threat of the school's closure has led to a wave of fundraising from alumni and celebrities, including Jussie Smollett, from the Fox television series "Empire," and his brother, Jake, who shared a photo on social media wearing shirts saying "Stand With Bennett."

Bennett College was founded August 1, 1873 to educate freedmen (or former slaves) and train both men and women as teachers. The college had its beginning in the unplastered basement of the Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as St. Matthews United Methodist Church). Seventy young men and women

started elementary and secondary level studies.

In 1874 the Freedmen's Aid Society took over the school which remained under its auspices for 50 years and within five years, a group of emancipated slaves purchased the present site for the school. College level courses and permanent facilities were added. In 1926, The Women's Home Missionary Society joined with the Board of Education of the church to make the formerly co-educational school, a four-year college for women. Bennett is currently one of only two historically Black colleges that enroll women only.

Over the past two years, Bennett has made significant gains in addressing their financial stability, steadily increasing fundraising from \$3.47 million to \$4.25 million over a 3-year period. Enrollment has also been trending upward for 2 years from 409 in 2017 to 471 in 2018, the retention rate is up from 44% in Fall 2017 to 53% in Fall 2018 and the average GPA



of new freshmen increased from 2.8 in 2017 to 3.2 in 2018.

Despite Bennett's accomplishments, the SACSCOC felt that the college fell short and Bennett is appealing that decision. In the mean time, there are less than 30 days until the Feb. 1 deadline.

For more information or to make a donation visit <http://www.bennett.edu/standwithbennett>



Gentrification: The New “Negro Removal” Program

Displacing Black People and Culture

By Dr. Ron Daniels

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Gentrification has emerged as a major threat to Black communities that have been centers for Black business/economic development, cultural and civic life for generations. Gentrification has become the watch-word for the displacement of Black people and culture. Gentrification is the “Negro Removal Program” of the 21st Century. There is an urgent need for people of African descent to mount a serious offensive to defend Black communities from this insidious onslaught.

During the Civil Rights, Black Power era, the term “Negro Removal” was virtually synonymous with “Urban Renewal,” local, state and federal highway and development projects that often disconnected and destroyed stable Black communities. It was not unusual for a local highway project designed to benefit residents from the suburbs or a component of an Interstate Highway system to be routed through the center of a Black community, uprooting and displacing Black people or permanently weakening businesses, institutions, networks and relationships that bound folks together.

As advocates for Black entrepreneurship correctly urge Black people to create and support Black business districts in our communities, it is useful to remember that Urban Renewal destroyed thriving business districts in Black communities across the country in the latter part of the 20th Century. In fact, there is a historical pattern of marginalizing, subverting or outright destroying Black communities to thwart our ability to achieve full political and economic empowerment and equity in this nation. Gentrification is the latest manifestation of this pattern.

There are a multiplicity of testimonies about this destructive phenomena. The caption of a feature article in the May 2, 2018 edition of the New York Times captured the essence of the crisis confronting Black communities across the country:

“When Home No Longer Looks the Same: Rapid Change in Durham Has Left Many Black Residents Feeling Unwelcome.”

The article details how the revitalization of Durham, N.C. has increasingly meant development/progress for middle and upper-income Whites, but displacement for large numbers of Black working-class and middle-class people who can no longer afford to live in certain sections of the city. An article in the October 21, 2018 Edition of the Houston Chronicle is also illustrative of the growing concern about gentrifi-

cation in Black America:

“Historic black neighborhoods disappear all the time. But they don’t have to.”

In Atlanta, the “Black Mecca” of the South, Vine City, the neighborhood where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and civil rights and political leader Julian Bond lived, no longer exists. It was wiped-out by sports stadium projects. Public housing development after public housing development has been felled by an advancing wave of “progress.” The “Sweet Auburn” District, which was once the home of major Black businesses, is now stagnant. In the face of this onslaught, a youthful group of community advocates called the Community Movement Builders have recently launched an Anti-Gentrification Campaign to mobilize community residents and their allies to address the massive displacement of Black working class and poor people from their neighborhoods. One of their slogans is: “Stop Gentrification: Keep Residents in Place.”

“Development” in Washington, D.C., the original “Chocolate City,” has displaced thousands of Black people, forcing them to move to surrounding suburban areas; the prosperous central city neighborhood and Black business district in Seattle, Washington has vanished as Blacks have been forced to flee to Tacoma and other outlying cities where housing is more affordable; in Los Angeles, the Crenshaw Subway Coalition is vigorously resisting a subway extension that would spur gentrification in one of the most storied communities in Black America; in neighborhood after neighborhood in New York City, from Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx to Harlem, gentrification is rapidly displacing hundreds of thousands of Black people. In a few years, Harlem, the cultural-political Capital of Black America, will hardly be recognizable. A Whole Foods Store now stands where Malcolm X once held his legendary rallies!

Chocolate Cities, once the domain of Black political and economic power are vanishing as increasing numbers of Whites who in previous generations abandoned urban centers for the suburbs are now returning to establish more comfortable and convenient spaces in closer proximity to their work places. “Development” to accommodate the newcomers is driving up the cost of housing, especially rental properties in a manner that is unaffordable for large numbers of Black residents. Property taxes are also skyrocketing, putting enormous pressure on Black homeowners as well. As Blacks are displaced and replaced by newcomers, this is inevitably leading



to dramatic shifts in political power from neighborhood advisory boards, to city councils and the office of Mayors. Black power is diminishing.

What is equally egregious are the attitudes of some of the newcomers whom residents of Black communities sometimes characterize as “invaders” or “neo-colonialists.” This is because some newcomers are not content to become a part of the community; they arrogantly attempt to change the rhythms, culture and character of the community. For decades it has been a well-established and accepted custom that scores of drummers gather on a designated date at a regular time in Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem to play African music. But, once a large number of “invaders” became occupants of a nearby apartment building, they began to complain to the police and petitioned local elected officials, seeking to ban this longstanding weekly ritual. In Detroit, three White women, who are newcomers to a predominately Black neighborhood, falsely accused a Black man of being a pedophile and demanded that the police file charges against him. The brother in question was starting a community garden on a vacant lot in the neighborhood and the women protested this activity taking place in “their neighborhood.” Fortunately, the Judge dismissed the charges in a case of “gardening while Black!” Reports of these kinds of attitudes and behavior across the country is breeding resentment and hostility towards the “invaders.”

Let me be clear, as a civil right, any person in the United States has the freedom to live wherever they choose. People of African descent have waged a relentless struggle to achieve this precious right. People also have the right to live amongst their own nationality, ethnicity of ethnic group if they choose, hence there are Irish, Italian, Polish, German and Jewish communities in this country. And, occasionally these communities change in composition. “Little Italy” in lower Manhattan in New York is now mostly shops and stores as people of Italian descent have largely chosen to migrate to other neighborhoods. Voluntary migration is one thing, forced displacement is another matter. Time and time again, Black people have faced schemes, targeted policies and outright violence, e.g., Tulsa, Rosewood, to force their removal from neighborhoods and communities they worked and invested in to “develop” as their home.

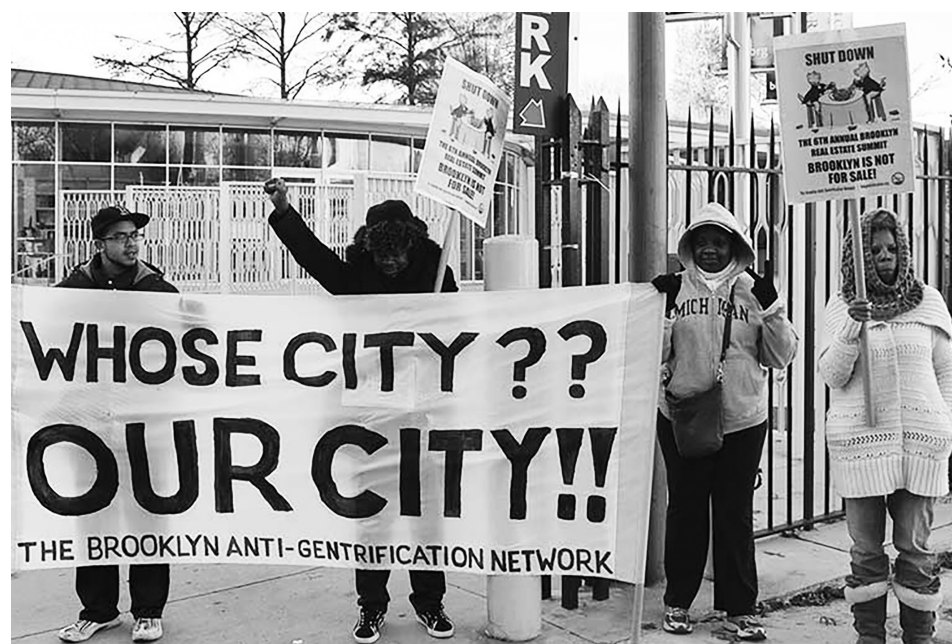
Black people believe in “development” and no reasonable person would be opposed to improvements or progress that would bet-

ter their community. The crucial issue for people of African descent is not development, it is “development” that is displacing Black people and culture. Therefore, the order and challenge of the day is to achieve “development without displacement.” The question is, can development strategies be devised that prioritize improving the lives of the current residents and preserving the culture and character of their communities? The answer to that question is yes. The collective brainpower, skill, experience and will exists within Black America to mount an offensive to defend Black communities against gentrification, the “Negro Removal” program of the 21st Century. Therefore, we must gather our brightest and best, the conscious and committed in our brain trust to devise plans and a policy agenda to rescue, preserve Black communities. We possess the collective genius to develop just, safe, viable, vibrant and sustainable Black communities.

To that end, the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW) is issuing an urgent call for a National Emergency Summit on Gentrification to be convened in Newark, NJ, April 4-6, 2019 in conjunction with the annual commemoration of the martyrdom of our beloved Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Newark has been selected because the City’s ambitious development plans incorporate community-based strategies designed to mitigate gentrification. IBW has requested that Ras J. Baraka, the Mayor of Newark, host the Emergency Summit. This gathering is viewed as an extension of the milestone Urban Marshal Plan and Black Economic Development Symposium convened by IBW in Newark in April of this year. We envision anti-gentrification advocates, community economic development practitioners, Mayors, urban planners, faith, civil rights, labor, business and professional leaders attending the Emergency Summit on Gentrification. The Urban Strategies Program of Faith In Action, National Urban League, Democracy Collaborative and Freedom Caucus of the Center for Community Change have already signaled a willingness to partner with IBW on this crucial undertaking.

Now is the time to act boldly and courageously to defend Black communities from the destructive forces of gentrification. “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” We must muster the collective resolve to stop gentrification from devastating Black communities, from displacing Black people and culture...and we will!

Dr. Ron Daniels is President/CEO of Black World 21st Century



YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

Samuel A. Cartwright: Drapetomania

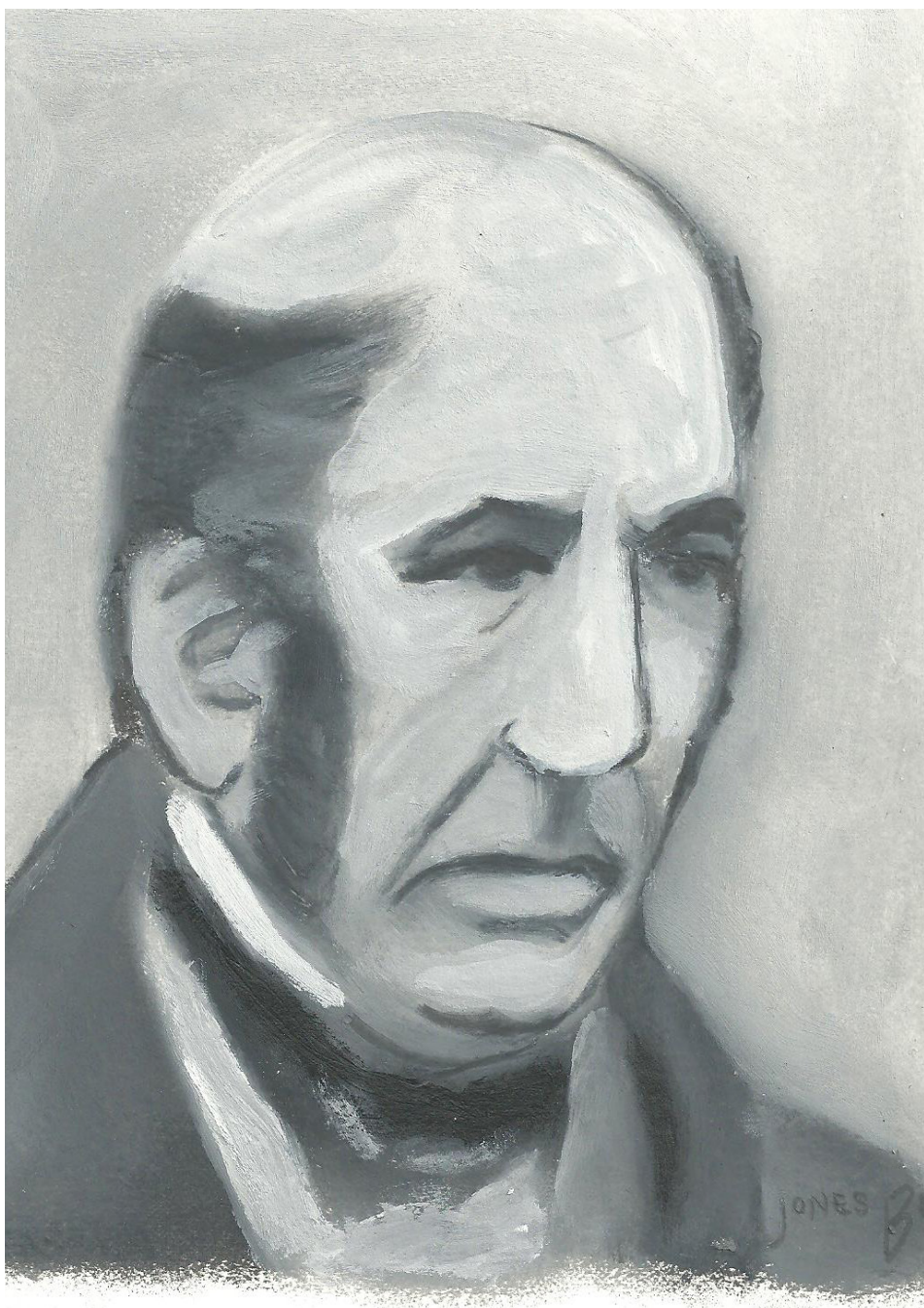
Technology today is revealing more and more displays of hate in all avenues of American society. We have experienced more open vulgarities (ie. comments towards President Obama and his family), unwarranted disrespect and hostility, and new levels of violence that ignore the sanctity of churches, temples of worship, and synagogues.

FBI data shows that hate crimes perpetrated by Caucasians in this country have steadily increased since 9/11 to its greatest heights in 2017. To date the most violent threat to America's domestic landscape comes from the sons and daughters of European Colonists.

But we have to go beyond this surface statement to recognize that the hostility is anchored in a deep-rooted belief in superiority – that God made them genetically superior by design and through this superiority they possess “divine rights” over others. Even sadder this belief tries to legitimize itself using Judeo-Christian doctrine and science.

So that the plantation system could function properly, colonists had to adopt certain psychological beliefs. They had to convince themselves that Blacks deserved their place in life and were happy forcibly picking cotton for no compensation. Religiously colonists relied on such scriptures as Ephesians 6:5-8 and 1 Peter 2:18 among others for justification of slavery. Scientifically they relied on doctors like Samuel A. Cartwright to create artificial concepts of inferiority using junk science based neither in scientific evidence nor Mother Nature's natural laws (see also Drs. Carl Linnaeus and Johann Fredrick Blumenbach).

In his November 30, 1857 lecture to the New Orleans Academy of Sciences, Dr. Cartwright states:“If force be used to make them [slaves] do more, they invariably do less and less, until they fall



into a state of impassivity, in which they are more plague than profit- worthless as laborers, insensible and indifferent to punishment, or even to life; or, in other words, they fall into the disease which I have named Dyssesthaesia Ethiopica,” or Drapetomania.

According to Dr. Cartwright, Drapetomania was a medical “disease” a slave had if he/she attempted to flee the plantation for freedom. It was considered a diseased mind that had desires for freedom, a direct contradiction to America's own Declaration of Independence –

“...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Dr. Cartwright later stated:“If the white man attempts to oppose the Deity's will, by trying to make the negro anything else than ‘the submissive knee-bender’ (which the Almighty declared he should be), by trying to raise him to a level with himself, or by putting himself on an equality with the negro; or if he abuses the power which God has given him over his fellow-man, by being cruel to him, or punishing him in anger, or by neglecting to protect him from the wanton abuses of his fellow-servants and all others, or by denying him the usual comforts and necessities of life, the negro will run away; but if he keeps him in the position that we learn from the Scriptures he was intended to occupy, that is, the position of submission; and if his master or overseer be kind and gracious in his hearing towards him, without condescension, and at the same time ministers to his physical wants, and protects him from abuses, the negro is spell-bound, and cannot run away.”

Hostile, angry Caucasians living in America have misused science and scripture to justify a fiction. Don't forget we are still battling those old ghosts where “old times there are not forgotten”.

Sources:

Dr. Samuel Cartwright – *Ethnology Of The Negro Or Prognathous Race.*

King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Declaration of Independence (July 4th, 1776).

fbi.gov/news/stories/2017-hate-crime-statistics-released-111318

wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_A._Cartwright

wikipedia.org/wiki/Drapetomania

Theresa's Salon
Smoothing Treatments - Color & Style Cut - Weaves

Theresa Fisher
Stylist

New Beginnings Hair Salon
3019 E. 5th Ave.
Spokane, Wa. 99202

509-534-2470
fisherta@gmail.com

*Congratulations Black Lens
on your Fourth Anniversary!*

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

MLK: A TIME TO BREAK THE SILENCE

The Martin Luther King Speech We Rarely Hear

When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered and celebrated around the world in January, his famous “I have a dream” speech is the one that is recounted over and over and over again as his legacy and the primary representation of who he was and what he stood for. A Civil Rights leader.

But when Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, he was there for a march in support of striking sanitation workers. He was not only a Civil Rights leader, he was also a champion of the poor, an advocate for economic justice, and a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and America’s foreign policy, although this is not talked about nearly as often.

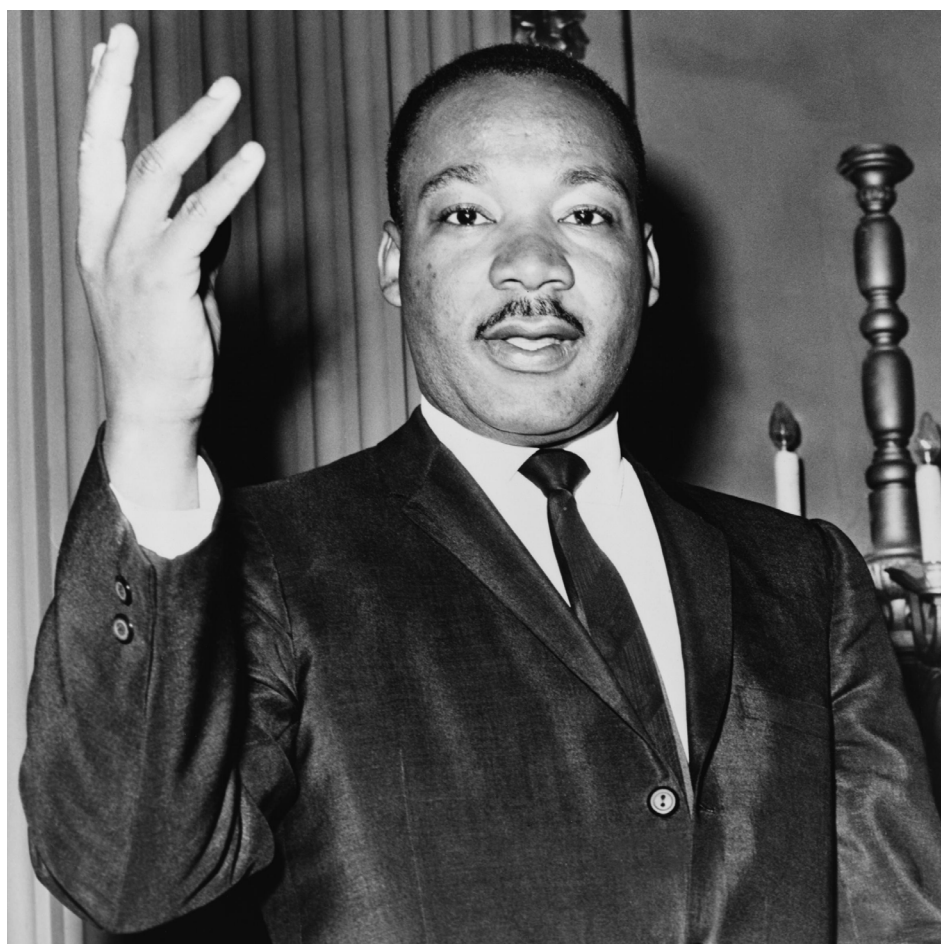
On April 4, 1967, a year to the day before his assassination, Dr. King delivered what was considered a “controversial” speech against the Vietnam War and against the principle of war in general.

Towards the end of Dr. King's life, he was less popular amongst the establishment than we would like to remember. Speaking at Riverside Church in New York City in front of an audience of thousands, King's speech was condemned by many Civil Rights leaders at the time, African Americans included, who felt that his anti war stance was damaging their cause.

The speech angered many in the United States government as well, making Dr. King a target of FBI investigations. According to the Tavis Smiley documentary “MLK: A Call to Conscience”, 168 major newspapers denounced King the day after the speech, and an angry President Lyndon Johnson disinvited him from the White House.

Despite the negative impact of the speech, King felt that he could no longer in good conscious remain quiet about the war and called on others to do the same. The rarely heard speech is considered by many, including me, to be one of King’s greatest, and still just as relevant today.

I cannot fit the entire fifty plus minute speech in this paper, but I offer these excerpts as a contrast to January's docile, "dreaming" King:



Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence

"I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic, destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

We were taking the Black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they would hardly live on the same block in Chicago. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor.

I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the

greatest purveyor of violence in the world today: my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent.

I cannot forget that the Nobel Peace Prize was also a commission to work harder than I had ever worked before for the brotherhood of man. This is a calling that takes me beyond national allegiances. But even if it were not present, I would yet have to live with the meaning of my commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. To me, the relationship of this ministry to the making of peace is so obvious that I sometimes marvel at those who ask me why I am speaking against the war. Could it be that they do not know that the Good News was meant for all men—for communist and capitalist, for their children and ours, for black and for white, for revolutionary and conservative? Have they forgotten that my ministry is in obedience to the one who loved his enemies so fully that he died for them? What then can I say to the Vietcong or to Castro or to Mao as a faithful minister of this one? Can I threaten them with death or must I not share with them my life?

Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence,

when it helps us to see the enemy’s point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.

Increasingly, by choice or by accident, this is the role our nation has taken, the role of those who make peaceful revolution impossible by refusing to give up the privileges and the pleasures that come from the immense profits of overseas investments. I am convinced that if we are to get on to the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin, we must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just.

A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war, “This way of settling differences is not just.” This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation’s homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

To view the text or listen to the audio of full visit: <https://www.american-rhetoric.com/speeches/mlkatimetobreaksilence.htm>

"We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

Two Black Men Elected to Top Leadership Positions in Congress

By Frederick H. Lowe

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - For the first time ever, two African Americans will hold two top leadership positions at the same time in Congress, U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, recently announced.

U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (pictured top), a New York Democrat and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, was elected chair of the Democratic Caucus, and Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, was elected Majority Whip, the third most-powerful party member. Clyburn also is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"When the Congressional Black Caucus was founded in 1971, I know our 13 founding members dreamed of the day we would have more than one member in our ranks competing for top leadership positions in Congress. Today is that day, and I know they are proud," Richmond said.

The majority whip is a member of the dominant political party whose job is to keep voting members in line with the party's ideology and goals. The majority whip ensures attendance at all important votes and legislative sessions.

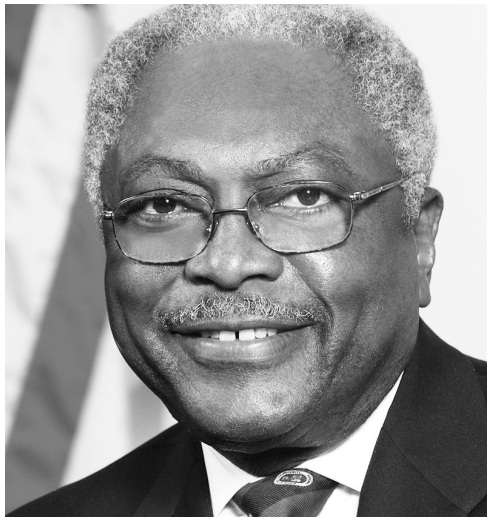
The 78-year-old Clyburn, who represents South Carolina's 6th District, has been a member of Congress since 1993.

Clyburn, who also was majority whip from 2007 to 2011, has been criticized for accepting millions of dollars from the pharmaceutical industry over the past decade. Clyburn has received more money from drug maker PACs over the past decade than any other member of Congress—more than \$1.09 million. During the 2018 election cycle, Clyburn received at least \$170,000.

In 2013, he was the featured speaker at a conference hosted by PhRMA, the industry's leading trade group, according to Kaiser Health News. The conference was held at the James E. Clyburn Research Center at the Medical University of South Carolina, a hub of biopharmaceutical research.

Kaiser Health News reported that voters complained about soaring prescription drug prices during the 2018 election campaign, and Democrats claimed they would do something about them in the next Congress.

Nancy Pelosi, the incoming House Majority Leader, has received nearly \$193,000 from drug maker PACs (political action committees). And Pelosi's number



two, U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, has accepted \$1.02 million from drug maker PACs since 2007. Hoyer received \$128,000 from drug maker PACS during the recent election cycle.

Prescription drug expenditures are nearly 20 percent of health care costs, and prescription spending is growing faster than any other part of the health care dollar. Spending on prescription drugs increased 13.1 percent in 2014—the largest annual increase since 2003. This uptick was largely driven by an unprecedented 30.9 percent increase in spending on specialty medications. In 2015, spending rose another 12.2 percent, according to the Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing.

The chair of the Democratic Caucus makes sure party members achieve a consensus and achieve their goals. The 48-year-old Jeffries has been a member of Congress since 2013. He represents the 8th Congressional District, which includes Brooklyn and Queens, New York.

U.S. Rep. Karen Bass Elected to Lead Congressional Black Caucus

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

By Frederick H. Lowe

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - U.S. Rep. Karen Bass of California is expected to lead a much larger Congressional Black Caucus when the 116th Congress begins January 3rd. Caucus members elected Bass their chair on November 28. She succeeds U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond of Louisiana.

"I commend Congresswoman Bass on becoming the new chair of the Congressional Black Caucus," Richmond said. "There is much work to be done in the next Congress to ensure equality and justice for African Americans and other marginalized communities, and I am confident Congresswoman Bass will continue to provide strong leadership in this regard." Bass served as second vice chair under Richmond.

The caucus could add as many as nine new members since the midterm elections November 6. As of late December, there were 49 members. But in the Midterm elections, U. S. Rep. Mia Love, a Utah Republican, lost her seat, and U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, resigned to run for state attorney general. Voters elected him attorney general. With nine new members, there will be 56 elected officials in the CBC.

Most of the members serve in the House, but Sen. Kamala Harris of California and Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey are also members.

The Congressional Black Caucus was founded in 1971. It is a voice for the concerns of African-Americans, including jobs, education and justice. Gerald Ford was the first president to recognize and meet with Caucus members.



Bass, who represents California's 37th District, which includes downtown Los Angeles, Culver City and Inglewood, is the Caucus' 26 chair and the eighth woman to lead the organization. Yvonne Braithwaite Burke was the first, heading the CBC from 1976 to 1977.

Bass, was born in Los Angeles. She grew up with three brothers in the Venice/Fairfax area of Los Angeles and is the only daughter of DeWitt and Wilhelmina Bass.

She graduated from Hamilton High School, Cal State Dominguez Hills, and the University of Southern California's School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program.

Bass is serving her fifth term in Congress. She is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Also, Bass is the ranking member of the subcommittee on Africa, Global Affairs and International Organizations. In addition, she is a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Prior to serving in Congress, Bass made history when the California Assembly elected her to be its 67th Speaker, making her the first African-American woman in U.S. history to serve in that state legislative role.

Maxine Waters Chosen by House Democrats to Chair Financial Services Committee

Congresswoman Maxine Waters was approved by the Democratic Caucus to be the Chair of the House Financial Services Committee for the 116 Congress, making her the first African American chair of the committee.

In a statement released by Waters following her approval, she stated: "I am honored to have been selected by my colleagues to be the first Chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee in the 116th Congress. Since 1995, I have served as Ranking Member or Chairwoman of every Subcommittee under the Committee's jurisdiction, taking on important issues on behalf of consumers, investors, and vulnerable populations."

She continued, "As Chairwoman, I will continue to prioritize protecting consumers and investors from abusive financial practices, making sure there are strong safeguards in place to prevent another financial crisis, expanding and supporting affordable housing opportunities, tackling the homelessness crisis, encouraging responsible innovation in financial technology, promoting diversity and inclusion in the financial services sector, conducting appropriate oversight and ensuring that hardworking Americans and

small businesses have fair access to the financial system and opportunities to thrive."

Congresswoman Waters has served as a Member of Congress and the Financial Services Committee since 1991. Throughout her decades of public service, Ranking Member Waters has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color and the poor. In her various leadership roles on the House Financial Services Committee, she has fought for the protection of consumers, investors, small businesses and vulnerable populations.

Elected in November 2016 to her fourteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives with more than 76 percent of the vote in the 43rd Congressional District of California, Congresswoman Waters represents a large part of South Central Los Angeles including the communities of Westchester, Playa Del Rey, and Watts. She serves as a member of the Steering & Policy Committee, a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and a member and past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. For more information visit: <https://waters.house.gov>.



Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

This One or This One--

More and more, I find myself managing feelings of disappointments and thanks to social media, I have a constant running log of all the disappointments those I know, and love, are experiencing as well. It seems as if we have a constant reminder of all the things that are not working in our lives. The death of a loved one, a failed relationship, challenges with family & friends. The list could go on and on. Life has a way of reminding us just how small we are in a big complicated universe of never-ending circumstances.

It's hard to be positive when there are things that make us sad. Circumstances, many outside of our control, bring opportunities for us to fall into the rabbit hole of darkness. Disappointments are a way of life. They have been here since the beginning of time and will be here at the end of time and let me tell you I've had my share.

Enter Christmas 2018. I am not one of the lucky ones. You know the women who have been blessed to have multiple children. I have one. One son and he is literally one of the most important people in my life. Yep, he's number one and his two children are number two and three. If you know me, you would know that I am a very critical thinker. I think about situations, possible obstacles and most of all solutions. You see, this was to be my first Christmas as a Grandmother, a day that I had been excited about for months. My grandsons live with their mothers. Because of that I knew that I needed to problem solve them needing to spend every Christmas with their maternal families, as well as create the family tradition of them also spending Christmas at my home.

As you may be assuming by now, my son is not married to my Grandson's mothers- yes, two different mothers!

#modern-family-millennials-don't-always-get-married-before-having-children. I digress.

I was thinking ahead, having my son and grandsons with us on Christmas was so important. I thought long and hard and then came up with a spectacular idea! This plan would assure that the boys would get to have Christmas at Granny's every year! I called it "Christmas-Christmas," and it would be held every year on New Year's Eve. Brilliant idea, if I may say so myself,

and quite thoughtful as well. Having Christmas-Christmas on New Year's Eve would also fund a "Super Savings Holiday extravaganza", as I could shop all of the Day after Christmas sales each year. It was a perfect plan. Well thought out and easily predestined to be my favorite holiday of the year. I communicated the plan to all the necessary parties getting the green light from my son and grandson's mothers.

Certainly, 2018 would be the creation of memories for the boys to later in life recall with great affection. Like most families in 2018, this year's "Christmas-Christmas" would be a day filled with selfies with the family, good soul food, smiles and the warmth that being with those you love most brings. I unpacked boxes and boxes of ornaments. I Decorated the house carefully. Each item placed delicately with love. I wanted this year to be extra special. Then out of nowhere, I get the news. My son and grandsons wouldn't be coming for "Christmas-Christmas 2018".

You see my son lives in western Washington and Snoqualmie Pass had already started closing due to bad weather so, on December 21, 2018 I had to accept that there would be no Christmas-Christmas this 2018.

I wouldn't get to take pictures with the boys. No keepsakes of our first Christmas together as a family. I hung up the phone and cried like a baby. I was devastated. What happened to my plan? I had taken into consideration possible disruptions to the plan, but still with the bad weather and a few other mitigating circumstances, there would be no Christmas-Christmas 2018! You guessed it, major disappointment, but this wasn't the first time I had been disappointed, and it surely wouldn't be the last. Like many of us, life happens. Things don't always work out the way we want or hope they will, but we all must learn to manage those disappointments and the best way to do so is by adjusting the lens by which we see life.

We must learn the practice of recalibrating our view of any given situation. Think of when you are getting an eye exam and the Optometrist has your chin in the little chin holder as he or she says "tell me which one looks better, this one or this one? This one or this one? This



one or this one, until finally with corrective lens' and slight variations, you are able to clearly see the letters. You see, the more I thought about it, I was glad that my son and his children would not be on the road in bad weather conditions. More than any memory, I preferred their safety. How horrible would it be to get the news that they were hurt in an accident? Had a spin out or worst yet got stuck on the Pass in the snow? Suddenly, I was grateful that they would be safe and sound.

In life, we are going to undoubtedly face disappointments and disappointing situations. Things aren't always going to go as we plan. When that happens, take a moment to feel the disappointment, then adjust to a lens with a filter of gratitude. When you look for a way to be grateful in every situation, then and only then will you master the art of managing disappointments.

2019 look out, I am fearlessly focused on being grateful. Which looks better, this one or this one? Definitely this one!

Kiantha Duncan is a Principal Development Strategist with The Duncan Brown Group. She can be reached at 206-225-4736.

**GRANTS FOR
SPOKANE ARTISTS
AND ARTS PROGRAMMING
REQUESTS UP TO \$10,000**

SAGA
SPOKANE ARTS GRANT AWARDS

WHAT

Grants for performance, literary, musical, craft, traditional, visual arts, educational programming, and more!

WHO

Individuals, non-profits, + businesses for operational costs, projects, and programs can apply.

WHEN

Applications are due FEBRUARY 1, JUNE 1, and OCTOBER 1 every year.



APPLY NOW!
www.spokanearts.org/grants



KYRS



**88.1/92.3
FM**

Streaming at
kyrs.org

Thin Air Community Radio
Independent Local Music and Perspectives

Girl Talk

By Ariana Jennings



Without A Father

This month on “Girl Talk” I will be discussing another emotional subject that is unfortunately very common in America, children growing up without having both parents in their lives.

I remember just before I graduated from high school, my African-American teacher, Mr. Kraus, had us watch a documentary about how the incarceration system is attacking African-American men in this world. Not only did the documentary open my eyes in a big way by exposing me to a different side of the world that my family never talked about, but it also made me want to go back and reminisce about certain things in my childhood that I do not talk about often, and that is my relationship with my father.

In the documentary, the producer personally went to visit a class of children whose families were incarcerated. In a specific part of the movie, I remember the kids had to draw pictures of what they remember of how it was like living with their family. This boy, I recall, who was about eleven years old, drew a picture of jail bars with most of his family members behind them. When the producer approached the boy about his drawing and asked about his picture, the look on the boy’s face reminded me of me.

His facial expression showed hurt and loneliness but also determination. He talked to the producer so maturely, as if he had found peace even after all that trauma. He made a pretty bold statement. He told the producer that he will not end up being like the rest of his family who are incarcerated. He wants better for himself and has big dreams.

That determination took me by surprise. I’m so proud of him for not giving up and for using his family incarceration patterns to motivate him to break that cycle and to want something more for himself.

Most of the reasons why children grow up without their parents is because one or both are incarcerated. Others grew up without them because their parents split up when they were babies. There are many reasons why.

I grew up with having an estranged relationship with my father. He would be in my life for a few months and then not call or come to see me for six to eight months. My mother had to play both roles as the mother and the father to my siblings and me.

When I was younger, my dad would try to be there. At first, I was really pissed off and started to have hatred towards my dad because there were times that he would tell me “Go get dressed, I’m coming to get you.” I would be so excited to go and I’d be ready. Thirty minutes would pass, no sign of him. An hour would pass, and I would still be waiting. It went from waiting on him for thirty minutes to three hours.

You have seen those movies where the kids would be waiting on the stoop or sitting on the couch with this impatient look on their face waiting for their dad. I would call him multiple times. He wouldn’t answer. I would call him again and he would finally pick up the phone and say “I’m five minutes away.” Five minutes would go by and he still was not there. So, I got tired of calling.

This estranged relationship between my dad and I went on for all my childhood. When he did show up to take me to places, he would mostly likely have a different woman every time. Most of them were women who were on drugs. As I got older, I got tired of trying to have that “Father/Daughter” relationship. And my anger started to grow. One day he called my house and when I picked up the phone to answer I sounded cold-hearted

and distant. My tone had changed. My feelings toward my dad changed.

The worst feeling you can possibly feel as a child is abandonment. Especially, if it is from your own parents. I could not imagine how my life would be if I did not have my mother around. As the years went by, my dad became more distant.

My father also did time in jail. I remember the day when he told me he was going to jail. He did not tell me why he was going, I looked it up on the internet and his mugshot was right in my face. Man, after that, I did not feel hatred, my feeling towards him was disappointment. And when I think about the children who went through the same things, or much worse, I feel empathy.

Why I picked this subject is to wake up parents who aren’t the best parents or who choose wrong by not thinking about their family and children at home. But also, to be the voice for kids who do not know what it is like to have those amazing relationships with their parents.

Your children look up to you as if you are their superhero. Not saying you must be perfect, because in reality no one is. But at least show a good example of what is right for your kids. They need you. We all need you in our lives. You are your children’s mirror. Meaning, if you do bad stuff, or you say inappropriate things in front of your kids, they’re going to repeat them. Educate them about what is right and what is wrong.

And to the parents who are good parents, I applaud you for doing right. Sometimes kids will do wrong anyway but that is on them not on you.

Xoxo,
Ari

I Didn't Know

By Rodney L McGee

I didn’t know I was Black until I was seven years old, and I didn’t know I was white until I was ten.

Yes, I had looked in a mirror, and down at my hands and feet. And I felt the curly hair atop my head, but I still didn’t know.

I didn’t know what it meant to be Black.

Eventually, when I embraced this inescapable piece of myself, I was Black no more.

Yes, I had heard my voice and looked around my household to see my white grandparents and mom, but I still didn’t know. I didn’t know what it meant to be white.

And when I discovered this inescapable piece of myself, I lost another.

Yes, I’ve been called the N word, and in the same year been mocked for not being Black enough.

Now I know though, I know what it means to be Black and what it means to be white. I know what it means to like fried chicken and Kool-Aid. And I know what it means to eat potato salad with zero seasoning.

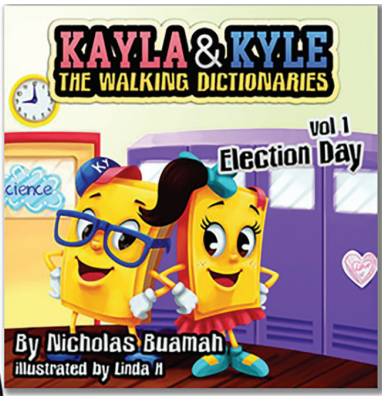
I know what it means to have Black and white Santas scattered throughout my house during the holidays.

And most importantly, I know that I’m neither Black, nor white.

I’m just me.



7-Year Old Author Introduces New Book Series That Expands Children’s Vocabularies



Snellville, GA — Child author Nicholas Buamah, a 7-year old budding author and Honor Roll student, introduced his first book in December. Kayla & Kyle The Walking Dictionaries: Election Day was written to help children expand their vocabulary through the experiences and adventures of characters Kayla and Kyle.

In his debut book, Nicholas introduces twins Kayla and Kyle as they compete against each other to become their school’s next class President. Before votes are cast, they must first have a class debate to demonstrate that they are worthy candidates.

Nicholas’ father, Dominic Buamah, MBA, MA, says he is very proud of his son and encourages him to explore different disciplines to satisfy his curiosity

with the hope it helps him decide what he wants to be in the future. Even though at the moment he’s adamant that he wants to become a mechanical engineer when he grows up, his parents have emphasized that vocabulary and communication are key ingredients to future success and relationships. Nicholas has embraced the concept quite well.

Already accepted into the Library of Congress, Nicholas’ ultimate goal is to have his book available in every elementary school library across the country and he hopes to release Volume 2 by Summer 2019.

Additional information about Nicholas and Kayla & Kyle The Walking Dictionaries can be found online at www.Mother-Hubbard.us.

#BFF More Than a Best Friend for Black Women Entrepreneurs

By George Kevin Jordan

The hashtag #BFF is widely known as “Best Friends Forever,” but now for many entrepreneurs it’s a ray of hope.

According to information from “digitalun-divided,” an organization that helps Black and Latinx women move their businesses from idea to execution, there are 6,691 women at the helm of funded startups. Black women made up less than 4% of that number in 2017, according to the data.

The Site explained that since 2009, Black women–led startups have raised \$289MM in venture/ angel funding, with a significant portion of that raised in 2017. However that is only .0006% of the \$424.7 billion in total tech venture funding raised since 2009.

Black Female Founders, is an organization by and for Black women business leaders to help them navigate the amazing and complicated world of entrepreneurship. Started in 2015 in D.C., by Erin Horne McKinney, Melissa Bradley and Sibyl Edwards, Black Female Founders (#BFF) is a platform and community with the mission to provide awareness, promotion, support and resources for Black women led tech-based* and tech-enabled* startups throughout the U.S. and Black Diaspora.

#BFF is pounding on the tech industry’s door by providing the following for Black female founders: “business development/mentorship via the #BFF Labs pre-accelerator program; business creation and development via our BLASt bootcamps; quarterly events featuring subject matter experts and industry leaders and articles and podcasts featuring up-and-coming founders and funders.



#BFF is also launching #BFF Match Sign Up form which will connect Black women tech founders with potential investors, accelerator and incubator programs, as well as peer-to-peer support.

“We are really excited to expand our support of Black women founders,” said Edwards who serves as CEO of #BFF. “#BFF Match will allow us to showcase the extraordinary talent of women from all backgrounds and abilities. It will level the playing field for a hugely underserved population of entrepreneurs who often have great ideas but lack the capital to transform them into scalable products.”

Edwards said the business is there to fill that knowledge gap between idea and funding. And funding is a huge deal for many Black female founders.

“Probably the biggest issue is the funding,” Edwards said. “It’s probably even more important than exposure.”

Another challenge, Edwards added, was decoding the tech talk.

“We try to educate Black women founders about the things they can do, and what types of resources are out there and learn the language,” Edwards said. “It’s one of those things.”

“The Tech start-up space is a club just like any industry. They have their own language and way of doing things. A lot of women that start business and they don’t know the language that investors are going to look for.”

Kimberley Moore, founder and CEO of “Carpool To School / Go Together,” a transportation app that helps parents,

schools and teams, get their children safely to where they need to go met the #BFF team through the tech ecosystem in the city.

“They saw and heard the need to create a community and program for female African American founders,” Moore said. “When they individually ask me what I thought of their idea and would I be interested, I immediately said yes.”

Moore went on to participate in the #BFF Lab series.

“It was one of the best investments of time building for Go Together, Inc.,” Moore told the AFRO. “The team designed a program that was rigorous, hit the targeted foundational areas to successfully build and scale your business and had expert facilitators that were committed to our success. The community and support from fellow founders and the team made the difference. I graduated equipped with action for my next steps, people and resources to help me achieve my goals.”

While every entrepreneur faces an uphill battle, Edwards said she was optimistic about the Tech playing field in the District.

“D.C. is really unique,” Edwards said. “It’s one of the highest per capita women entrepreneurs. We are in the top number of women entrepreneurs.

“We have an extremely educated base on average most people have masters degrees or some sort of certification. We also have a higher income. It gives a number of women who want to start businesses an opportunity to do very well. And there are tons of resources.”

This article originally appeared in The Afro (www.afro.com).

CONGRATULATIONS BLACK LENS NEWS!



HAPPY FOURTH ANNIVERSARY & WISHING YOU MANY MORE TO COME!

LOVE RICK, BARB, RACHEL, & ADRIAN



*Bob and Teresa and the
Chkn-N-Mo staff say*

Congratulations

*to The Black Lens
on your
Fourth Anniversary!*

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

“Best Southern Food in Washington”

IN THE SPIRIT

Joseph Zintseme: Teaching Healing & Reconciliation

Joseph Zintseme, which he says is a French spelling of an African name, was born in 1964 in Cameroon in central West African. He was given the name Zintseme, which means "the whole world" by his grandmother.

"When my mother was pregnant with me, my grandmother called her, and because she had a lot of children and grandchildren and great grandchildren, she said 'people are saying of me that I since I have children all over the world, the child in your womb will be called Zintseme', which means all over the world." Little did Joseph know how prophetic that name would turn out to be.

Cameroon had been a German Colony, but after WWI, when the Germans lost the war, their colonies were taken from them and distributed to the other colonial powers. Part of Cameroon was given to England and another part to France. The rulership by the colonial power, Zintseme says, was brutal and "it affected people everywhere, culturally, socially, politically. Everything. We were made to be English or French, and for African people that's a tremendous wound in our society."



Joseph was born shortly after the country got its independence, so the wounds of colonization were still fresh and it triggered activism in Zintseme at an early age. "Our parents fought and shed blood to gain what we might call independence. Over 55,000 people were killed. So you were born in the terror and then you add to that the injustice that you see on a daily basis. You have expatriates [French] that are living better than you, the indigenous person, and you are in your own land. That affects you and so this is how I grew up. My heart was quite resentful because of that. Resentful towards the Europeans in general, but more so against the French people, because I was born and raised in a French speaking part of Cameroon."

Joseph says he became a very very angry young man in his teens and early twenties. He had never traveled across the border of his country but was "fired up" listening to the news and reading newspapers stories about what was happening in Zimbabwe and South Africa and other parts of Africa. His focus was on "liberating his people". But, he says, something happened that changed his life.

"I was born in the Catholic Church. When I was a young boy, my mother took me to a church and I was given the name Joseph. But as a teenager I did not have an interest. Church didn't make much sense because I was not seeing my reality addressed in the church. So I walked away. I concluded that it was a white man's religion, that they came to brainwash us and I walked away."

But, Joseph, who had never read the Bible "because as a Catholic we were afraid to even touch the bible, it was so sacred, only the priest were capable of reading the Bible", took a Bible from his brother's shelf one day and began to read.

"I believed the Europeans had altered the Bible to trick the African people, so my feeling was let me read and I'll find the trick that they have put into the scriptures. But the more I was reading, the more I was attracted to it."



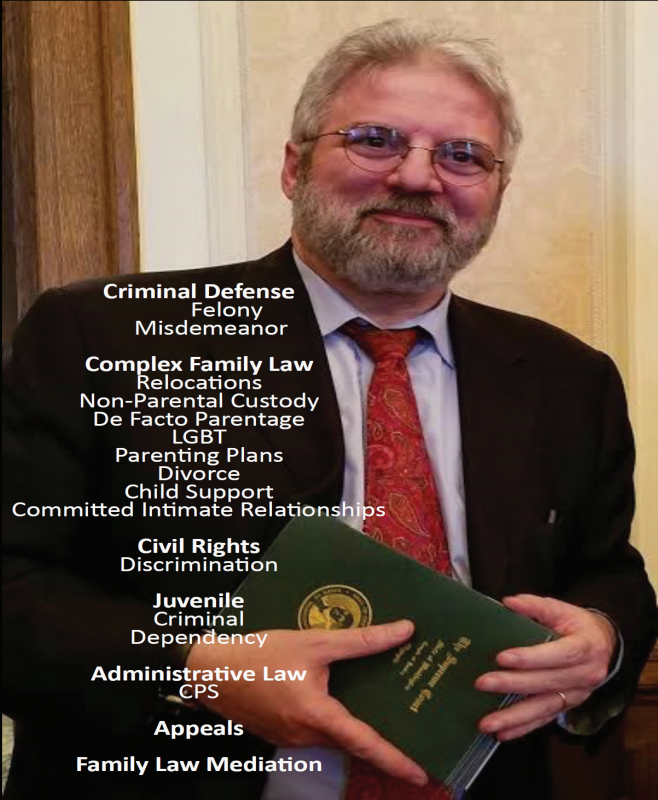
Instead of discovering trickery in the Bible, Joseph says his reading led to a vision that left him tormented for nine days. When his brother ultimately laid hands on him and prayed, "my mind was set free and my heart, and I said, wow this is serious, this is real. I said if this Jesus is that real and powerful, I need to follow him. I need to do more."

Joseph became a Missionary and later I started training young people. One morning, he says, he told his classroom that he wanted to pray for the nation of France, a country that he had held so much resentment towards in his childhood. One of his students, from Senegal, later told Joseph that when he asked them to pray for France, the student almost walked away. He did not know, he told Joseph, why one should waste their time praying for such a wicked nation as France.

"That's how my heart and mind started shifting," Joseph said, "experiencing the healing and the freedom from the anger and resentment that I had harbored for such a long time."

Continued on Page 19

Happy Fourth Anniversary Black Lens
Thank You for All That You Do!



The Law Office of D.C. Cronin



(509)328-5600

www.dccronin.com

Congratulations to the Black Lens
on its Fourth Anniversary
You are Truly Making a Difference in Spokane!



Pastor Otis Manning
&
First Lady
Jarretta Manning

Invite You to Join Us
at the:

WORD OF FAITH
CHRISTIAN CENTER

9212 E. Montgomery Avenue, Suite 400
Spokane Valley, Washington 99206

Sunday Morning Service at 10 AM

Visit our web site at: www.wordoffaithspokane.org or
call 509-924-6504 if you have additional questions.

Spokane Celebrates Kwanzaa 2019

Every December since I've been publishing the Black Lens, I have been asked if there was going to be a Kwanzaa celebration in Spokane. Every year I have said, disappointed, "not that I am aware of." This year I was asked again, but this year I was able to say, "yes".

Spokane's 2019 Kwanzaa Unity Celebration was hosted by Roberta and James Wilburn and sponsored by Wilburn & Associates, LLC.

The celebration of Culture, Family and Community was held on December 26 at the West Central Community Center and sixty people braved the cold and snow to participate in the program featuring African music dancing and sharing in the principles of Kwanzaa: Umoja - Unity; Kujichagulia - Self-Determination; Ujima - Collective Work and Responsibility; Ujamaa - Cooperative Economics; Nia - Purpose; Kuumba - Creativity; and Imani - Faith.

For more information about the services that the Wilburns have to offer visit: wilburnassociates.org.





A POWERFUL TOOL IN THE EARLY DETECTION OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

At Inland Imaging, Volumetric MRI exams allow us to **measure the brain's memory centers** and can **help predict the onset or progression of cognitive impairment** and Alzheimer's disease. Early detection helps physicians decide what treatment options might help prevent or slow the condition and provides families the answers they need to plan the best possible care for their loved one.

To find out more call 509.363.7799 or go: inlandimaging.com/MRI/subspecialties#alzheimers



Inland Imaging®

Answers you can trust and care you can count on.



**Come join
us in our
journey
following
Jesus.**

**New Hope
Is On Fire!**

Worship Service
SUNDAYS 11AM

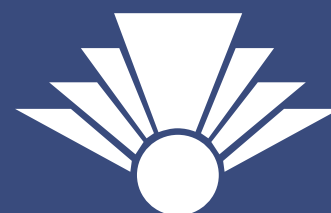
Sunday School
Sundays at 9:30am

New Hope Baptist Church
9021 E. Boone Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99212
509-535-1336
NewHopeSpokane.com



**Pastor James &
First Lady Shawn
Watkins**

CIRQUE ZUMA



FOX PRESENTS

ZUMA

The mystique of Africa
meets the circus with
aerial acts, contortionist
feats, Egyptian limbo,
South African gumboot
dances and more...



FRIDAY

Feb 1 7 PM

MARTIN WOLDSON THEATER AT THE FOX
CALL 509 624 1200 OR FOXTHEATERSPOKANE.ORG

8th Annual Homeless Connect

The 8th Annual Homeless Connect will take place Wednesday, January 30th, 2019, from 10AM to 3PM at the Salvation Army Community Center, located at 223 East Nora Avenue in Spokane.

The purpose of the Connect is to address homelessness in greater Spokane by bringing together more than 50 service providers offering a wide variety of services under one roof for anyone experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Last year’s event saw more than 300 attendees and expects to serve even more at the 2019 Connect.

“It’s a one stop shop for people struggling with homelessness,” says Kari Chapman, Connect Chair-Person. “It’s an opportunity for them to get all or most of their needs met at one place and in one day, instead of taking weeks or even months.”

Spokane Ranks 5th In Homelessness In "Largely Urban" Category

The timing of each year’s Connect is coordinated with the City of Spokane’s Community, Housing, and Human Services (CHHS) Office to coincide with the City’s annual “Point-In-Time” (PIT) Count of Spokane County’s homeless population. The complete results of the nation-wide 2018 PIT Count (taken last January) were reported last week in The 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress and showed Spokane as 5th in the nation for the number of homeless in the geographic category of “Other Largely Urban.” Among states with the largest populations experiencing homelessness, Washington State was 5th with 22,304 people.

A Wide Variety Of Services Offered

Modeled after the San Francisco Homeless Connect, which started in 2004, the Spokane Homeless Connect is now celebrating its 8th year. Services available on-site during the event will include a free meal, emergency shelter referrals, housing assistance, employment services, medical and dental services, foot care, hair cuts (the longest line at last year’s Connect was for hair cuts), ID restoration, cold weather clothing items, and DSHS benefits assistance.

“We’ll even have a Veterinarian available for animals, as well as food bank items that don’t require a kitchen to prep,” says Sabrina Bukowski, Homeless Connect Volunteer Coordinator and CHAS outreach worker.

Last year’s Connect featured a “first-time anywhere” event in the form of a “Warrant Fest” that brought together all three Spokane Courts: Spokane Municipal Community Court, Spokane District Court and Spokane Superior Court. This expanded “Warrant Fest” represented a unique opportunity for the homeless to work with all three Courts to get their outstanding warrant(s) recalled (or “quashed”). Outstanding and unresolved warrants are often a barrier which prevents the marginalized and homeless of our community from accessing services ranging from housing to employment.

Opportunities for Community Support and Business Sponsorships

Addressing and solving homelessness represents a genuine community challenge, and the annual Spokane Homeless Connect is made possible with Community support via sponsorships. The Planning Committee is pleased to acknowledge the support of all our amazing sponsors, including The Black Lens News, Avista Foundation, and our newest sponsor, the Downtown Spokane Partnership.

The Planning Committee is also seeking sponsorship partners to cover the cost of putting on the event. With a contribution of \$250 or more, sponsorships help cover event-related costs such as food (for the free lunch), STA bus passes for attendees, host site expenses, and other misc expenses. The Spokane Homeless Connect wants to support and network with local businesses to bridge the gap between the non-profit and business worlds. The goal is to work together to make Spokane a healthy and vibrant community.

Looking for Volunteers

The Spokane Homeless Connect is looking for Volunteers to help out on the day of the Connect with a wide variety of tasks. It’s a user-friendly opportunity to serve others. Volunteers will be rewarded with pizza and a free “Volunteer” tee-shirt!

The Spokane Homeless Connect is an extension of the Spokane Homeless Coalition, a community Coalition of more than 800 individuals and 100+ agencies, ministries and churches serving the homeless and marginalized throughout Spokane County.

For more information, to donate or to become a sponsor, contact Renée Norris at (509) 340-9329 ext.105 or e-mail rnorris@ccspokane.org. For more information on volunteering, contact Sabrina Bukowski @ 509-710-1471 or e-mail sbukowski@chas.org.



Wednesday, January 30, 2019
The Salvation Army
223 E. Nora Avenue
(Indiana & Ruby, Bus 25 From Plaza)
10am-3pm

2019 Spokane Homeless Connect Services Will Include

A Free Hot Meal
DSHS Services
Behavioral Health Services
Family Services
Veteran Services
Medical/Dental Services
Clothing
Food Bank
Housing Services
Legal Services
Warrant Fest (quash misdemeanor warrants),
Hair Cuts,
Veterinary care for pets
and so much more!

The 8th Annual Spokane Homeless Connect, January 30th, 2019

UNION NOTES

A Season of Thanks

By Rick Colon

During this time of the year many people reflect on 2018 and look forward to 2019. We in our local community have been blessed and have not suffered some of the national tragedies that have impacted other parts of the United States. Floods, Fires, Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, etc.

Many will take several years to rebuild, if at all. Those that have lost family members (including animals) will never be able to replace them and will have to find ways to carry on with their lives the best they can with family members or resources, which may be available to assist them within their limited means.

One thing that remains constant in almost all of these tragedies, is there is almost always Union

members who are involved to a large extent giving aid and helping the affected people. Firefighters, Teamsters, Medical staffs, City and County Employees, Law Enforcement, etc. All these people are skilled at their jobs and are responsible for helping other professional people save the lives of many people caught up in life’s tragic events.

We, living the Northwest, have been fortunate not to suffer many events that are constantly disrupting one’s life. Events that I can recall include: Mt. St. Helens Volcanic eruption, 1980, several fires, (1987, 1991, 1996), a couple of ice storms, 1996, wind storms (2005, 2016), and of course a few snow storms, 2008-09, 2016, which set national records for snow fall.

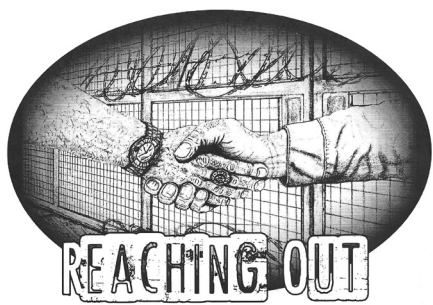
We normally have a relatively stable climate, but keep in mind global warming is changing weather conditions around the globe. Keep in mind as you and your family, friends and associates celebrate the Christmas season, those who have not endured



a difficult time over the years, be it personal or part of a massive tragedy, be thankful a massive major tragedy has not affected our holiday season.

Happy Holidays.
Rick Colón

Rick Colón is the Community Services Liaison and Director Community Engagement for the AFL-CIO, rickc@United-Wayspokane.org, 509-324-5025.



THE BLACK PRISONERS CAUCUS

Coyote Ridge

Amerikka the Great: A Legacy of Plunder

Constitutional art form articulated in acts of eloquent racism, imperialism, hegemony, oligarchic hierarchy- killing fields authorized by federal policies. Here we are all again, plundered of our dignity, our families, our wealth and our lives. A legacy of plunder, a network of laws and traditions, a heritage, a dream. “Black on Black crime” is jargon, violence to language, which vanishes the men who engineered the covenants, who fixed the loans, who plundered the projects, who built the streets and sold red ink by the barrel.

And this should not surprise us. The plunder of Black life was drilled into this country in its infancy and reinforced across its history. So that plunder has become our heirloom, an intelligence, a sentence, a default setting to which, likely to the end of our days, we must invariably return. To yell “Black on Black crime” is to shoot a man and then shame him for bleeding.

Furthermore, criminalization serves to confer legitimacy on all the inequities and indignities that the system perpetuates on people of color. The practices are then rationalized as being aimed not against a particular ethnicity, but rather against a category of persons- implicitly

unworthy- who have rejected the norms of civilized society. The suffering rendered by such criminals is presumed to flow directly from their own mindsets and therefore not to merit any concern on the part of “law-abiding” citizens.

Stereotyping of prisoners as criminals or “offenders” in the official language (lingo), makes it possible for many of us to unthinkingly except the preposterous idea that within the space of a generation there could have occurred a sudden quintupling of an identifiable character-type within a given society, to wit a surge of “criminals” in the U.S. that suddenly arose starting in the mid-1970s. In fact, the ballooning of the U.S. prison population reflects key measures taken by the government to address a systematic crisis, suppressing the political presence, protest and clout of the Black voice.

But no longer able to target people on the basis of “race”, the specter of crime was invoked. State agencies, acting either directly or through surrogates, could then assassinate the most inspirational Black leaders and could frame and lock up many others. But that was not enough to assure participation of their popular base. Hence the war on drugs. The legislation passed under Presidents Reagan,

Bush 1 and Clinton, lengthened sentences for even minor drug related offenses.

The lure of the illegal drug trade was augmented as neoliberal economic policies- including corporate globalization, de-industrialization, and attack on welfare- cut into working class job opportunities and incomes. From the standpoint of capitalism’s need for a labor force, there were more hands available than necessary. Welfare had to be undercut because it made the unemployed less vulnerable.

Well paying jobs gone, welfare gutted, and with the resultant volatile populations, a high level of control was seen as necessary. Hence the disproportionate presence of police in poor neighborhoods, in the overrepresentation of those communities in the prison, whose primary function is to warehouse what from a capitalist perspective is a surplus population.

In this general structure of control, prisons stand at the apex. The offender label is thrown into question, however with the preponderance of plea bargaining, as opposed to conviction at trial, in determining prison senses. Plea bargain determines 97% of criminal cases. This

refers to the Federal level, but the state practices are virtually within the same range.

Even relatively short prison terms amount to many more years of punishment. Ex-prisoners are subject to being denied employment opportunities, student loans, food stamps, access to public housing and crucially the right to vote. Many of these hardships vary by state or locality, but the disenfranchisement is estimated to extend nationally to about 6 million potential voters, overwhelmingly people of color.

Behind this whole constellation of practice lies a self-perpetuating culture of mistrust. The culture in question is not of course embraced by everyone, but it is reinforced at the highest levels. It is inequality that has arisen beyond alarming and acceptable rates, when we recognize that the people “mass incarceration” ensnares are not just locked up for a certain period of time. We are continuously subjected to additional punishment, which not only makes our confinement more painful, but extends itself far into the rest of our lives for those who are fortunate enough to be released.

Contact The Black Prisoners Caucus with any comments or questions: www.bpceast@gmail.com

Congress Moves to Help Inmates in Federal Prisons But Not in Predominately Black State Prisons

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

By Frederick H. Lowe

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Congress has passed legislation reducing sentences for some inmates serving time in federal prisons, but the law won’t affect state prisons and jails where the majority of Black men are serving time.

The legislation called “First Step Act,” Senate bill 2795, passed by a vote of 87 to 12. The House of Representatives passed the legislation 358-36. Now it will go to President Trump who has promised to sign it.

First Step is designed to reduce recidivism, according to GovTrac, which monitors federal legislation.

The bill also would place inmates in prisons close to their homes to increase the likelihood of more family visitation, order home confinement for low-risk prisoners, prohibit the use of restraints on pregnant prisoners, expand adult employment for returning prisoners through federal programs and treatment of prisoners for heroin and opiod use and addiction, and ease federal sentencing laws.

The Sentencing Project, a Washington, D.C.-based advocate for a fair and effective justice system by promoting reforms, called the Senate’s passage of First Step “an important milestone in the long road to ending mass incarceration and curbing the excesses and harm in the federal justice system.”

“The last time Congress passed legislation to reduce sentences was in 2010 when Congress

reformed the racially disparate mandatory minimum penalties governing crack cocaine offenses,” The Sentencing Project reported.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups, also praised the legislation, but the Law Center said the legislation will have no impact on state sentencing laws or on people who are incarcerated in state prisons or local jails.

In 2016, The Sentencing Project published “The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons,” which noted that African Americans are incarcerated in state prisons across the country at more than five times the rate of whites.” In some states, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, Vermont and Wisconsin, the disparity is 10 to 1.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that 35 percent of state prisoners are white, 38 percent are Black and 21 percent Hispanic. Oklahoma has the highest incarceration rate of Black males, which is 1 in 29 adults and 1 in 15 for Black boys 18 to 21.

At the end of 2017, there was an estimated 1,489,600 inmates in state and federal prisons, according to the Vera Institute of Justice, which is based in New York.

There were 1,306,300 inmates in state prisons, 9,900 fewer than in 2016, and 183,300, or 5,900 fewer in federal prisons than in 2016. As of December 13, the figure was 180,790 in federal prisons.

The decline in the number of inmates in state prisons is not across the board. Some state prisons have added inmates.

Spokane NAACP General Meeting

“The Presumption of Innocence.”

Conversations about Bail & Incarceration in Spokane



Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019

6pm – 8pm

Cataldo Hall; Globe Room

429 E Boone

Gonzaga University



THE BAIL PROJECT

Join us for needed discussions about Bail, our Local Jail and the Bail Project in Spokane.

What this means for our community and what you can do!

- Hear From The Bail Project
- Hear from Power to the Poetry
- Meet The Bail Disruptors
- Panel of Professionals & Impacted Persons
- Panel Moderator “Gloria Ochoa-Bruck”
- Light Snacks & Beverages

Special Acknowledgement to our additional co-sponsors

Racial Equity Sub Committee, Spokane Human Rights Commission, Northwest Justice Project, Gonzaga Criminal Law Society and the Spokane Envision Center

Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears



New Years Resolution: More Love-Less Fear

Here we are at the dawn of the new year. It may be my imagination, or more probably my age, but these years seem to be passing by a lot quicker than they used to. Perhaps the last few years have just been filled with so much horror, conflict and strife around the world, and in our own country that I just want them to be over quickly. In any case, 2019 is here.

People don't seem to talk as much as they use to about making new years resolutions. It's a little passé, I suppose. And I suspect that what we traditionally have declared to be our resolutions for the new year are not resolutions at all, but rather our intentions. There's a big difference between a resolution and an intention. The dictionary defines a resolution as a firm decision on a course of action—a serious and formal declaration—here is where I will stand!

Consider the difference using one of the most common resolution/intention issues in life. I hereby resolve to exercise more! That's a strong powerful declaration. We can only make such a vow if we are determined to treat our bodies as the temples they are, with loving care

and respect. If we only intend to exercise more, well there's a lot more wiggle room. In December we'll find ourselves saying, well I intended to go to the gym three times a week, but you know life got in the way and it didn't happen. Eh...whatta ya gonna do?

I'm not a big fan of intentions. As the saying goes, the road to hell is paved with them. Lots of people have good intentions that never, ever come to fruition, and if they are acted upon, we often don't consider the impact those good intentions may actually have on others. Intentions are just too ineffectual and weak for me. A resolution on the other hand is a strong and serious declaration of what I will make happen, versus what I will only try to make happen.

I've been guilty in the past of calling my good intentions, resolutions, but mostly I've not been very new-year-resolution oriented. This year is different for both my husband and me. We are making a true new years Resolution. We hereby resolve to live in more Love and less Fear. That means that we are going curb the noise, the ceaseless chatter and hyperbolic rhetoric

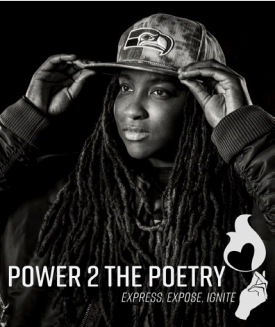
that assaults us on a daily basis. We're going to stay aware, awake, and involved, but we will no longer consent to be controlled by the forces that would divide us as a human family. Operating out of fear disorients us, destroys our confidence, hardens our hearts and robs us of our humanity. To live in Love is to be mindful, grateful and resilient, no matter the turmoil around us. To live in Love is to BE the eye of the storm—the calm region in the center of the ferocious whirlwind of raging wind and water.

To resolve to live in Love is to live more consciously—to place ourselves in situations that evoke our higher natures instead of our lower. To live in Love requires disciplined meditation and prayer in any of its diverse forms. When we feel anger and fear arising, we're going to stop, take a breath, and center ourselves in the Mystery that is both in us and far greater than us. We're going to center ourselves in God—we're going to center ourselves in Love. Please join us in the center.

Happy New Year in Love!
© Copyright Beverly Spears 2019

What is Poetry?

Written By Bethany Montgomery



Poetry is what you think quietly out loud
Or written down
Emotions within screamed out

Questions
Solutions
Conclusions
Revolution

The release of energy
Whether negative or positive
Whatever you digest
Will be what you emit
Poetry are the truths you are willing to admit
Facing your fears
And creating something so beautiful
You will never forget

Feelings being expressed through words
Poetry is not only said
But also heard
Poetry is not just nouns, adjectives, and verbs
Poetry is more than letters put together to form words

It is witnessed through vision
Poetry is feeling
All revealing
A transparent art form
Exposing insecurities
Poetry is intimacy
Vulnerability
Letting your guard down
To open up
To be judged
Poetry is soft
Poetry is rough

Poetry is a platform for sharing
your perspective

Voicing your aggression
Poetry is activism
Poetry is purpose
Poetry is passion
Poetry is encouragement
Poetry can be typed on a phone
Or written down on paper in cursive
Poetry is more than what meets the surface

Poetry is motion
The movement and vibrations of the tongue
Poetry is the air that fills up your lungs
Poetry is spoken
Poetry is sung
Poetry is light
Poetry is love

Poetry is anything
Poetry is everything
The internalization of being
Poetry is what gives life meaning
The reason for believing
Poetry is what stops all the bleeding
Poetry is healing

It is more than just art
Poetry is your heart
Literally who you are
We are poetry
Poetry is God
Poetry is forever
Poetry is memory all put together
Poetry is pleasure
Poetry cannot be measured
Poetry is Heaven
Poetry is infinity
Poetry is power

That is why we give.
Power 2 the Poetry.

Thank You
Sandy and
Black Lens News
for your unique,
courageous, proud
and loving lens
on Black lives.
~Elaine

Mary Ann Murphy
respects and loves
Sandy Williams.
Thank you
for all you do!
Happy Anniversary

Joseph Zintseme: Teaching Healing & Reconciliation

Continued From Page 12

Gradually, Joseph ended up in the work of reconciliation because of the experience with his student and because of experiences in his own life. He sees it as a powerful addition to his mission work.

"I realized that the work is very very deep and it shifted my mission work because I realize that we have a lot of things in us and in our lives that we are not even aware of and we don't know how to deal with them, and the people that are teaching us are not even aware. So it shifted my mission work and that's how I ended up in the U.S."

Joseph was invited to move to Virginia to work with an organization that was having difficulty overcoming historical barriers with the African American community that they desired to serve.

"We felt it was the right thing for us, so in 1995 I moved my family to Virginia and started working with African American churches in communities, building bridges, and traveling with groups to different African nations."

As Joseph worked with the Black churches, he began to notice something. "I realized that the wounds of the transatlantic slave trade were still fresh and had not been properly addressed, and even if they had been properly addressed, there was still a lot of work that needed to be done. Those born and raised in Africa and those born and raised in the Americas, we were facilitating the reconciliation between the two groups."

When he came to the United States in 1995, Joseph says he thought it would only take a few years to finish up the work that he had been asked to do.

"I thought, in five years I would knock down the work here and move on, but it's been twenty-three years and I haven't even scraped the surface."

Why is the work taking so long?

"There are a lot of factors," Joseph replied, "The first factor we have to consider is that we're dealing with centuries of history. There have been many efforts to address it and we have to give credit to that, but we have not gone all the way to the root, to the bottom of it, and it is a big history."

It is also a spiritual issue, Joseph says. "It is an issue of the heart, in both parties, the Black and the white. Our hearts and minds need to be healed, so that we start viewing ourselves differently, and when we view ourselves differently,



then will view our counterparts, whether they are Black or white, differently."

Joseph says he has experienced resistance though when addressing the issue of slavery in America. Why are you trying to address slavery now, it's long gone, people will ask him. Why are you trying to stir up hatred? His response, that the history of slavery is gone "but we live with the legacy of slavery everyday and we cannot ignore that legacy. The legacy of slavery exists not only for Blacks but for whites as well, and we have to deal with it."

The work that Joseph is doing to deal with the legacy of slavery and the need for healing and reconciliation varies. "Sometimes I'm invited. A group organizes a seminar or conference. Sometimes when I travel, I teach on the subject of reconciliation from the biblical perspective, but also addressing the specifics of the transatlantic slave trade and the institution of slavery. I travel in the Caribbean, where we have the same history and Latin America also. Sometimes those who have known me or heard of me will invite me to come and speak. Sometimes I offer my service and say here's my experience, can you use my experience."

He has often spoken before political and community leaders, as well as religious leaders. He has challenged them on their past, encouraged them toward their future and partnered with them on their path; all with the single aim of reconciliation. In his commitment to reconciliation over the past thirty-plus years, Joseph has led the School of Reconciliation at the University of the Nations in Kona,

Hawaii and is one of three international leaders of Life-line Expedition, a reconciliation ministry focusing on the transatlantic slave trade. Over the years, Joseph has taught on reconciliation in Europe, North America, South America and Africa. But more than teaching, Joseph says, he and his students have had the privilege of watching God use his ministry to bring about reconciliation and healing within himself and others.

"In my walk with God. I have experienced progression. I came from a world where I was in revolt against establishment, against the established religion. I was in revolt because I did not see any good in it. I came in a different way. It is not the church. It is not the religion. It is that personal experience. So I came in a different door than you or somebody else. I was resentful and angry and I suffered from an inferiority complex because of the history of oppression. I looked at my life, my society, from their perspective. I looked at myself from their lens, and of course that is a terrible, terrible way of living. The more God is working with me, taking away the shame and oppression of my spirit, I am finding myself and I am looking at him as an African person and my approach to the work is not as a European person but I approach him and the work that he is giving me as an African and that makes a difference."

Joseph acknowledges that the work of reconciliation can be difficult work. Not only for those that he teaches, but for himself as well. When you talk about hatred and what is the root issue, you have to go down deep.

"Each one of us has responsibilities. As an African, born and raised, this is not an easy subject for me to address because when it comes to the history of the transatlantic slave, we had some African Kings and others who participated in it, that betrayed their own into the hands of foreigners that they did not know. So it is not an easy subject to talk about, but if we really want to see the healing and we want to flip the page, it will cause us to be uncomfortable, but that discomfort is good for us and it's good for this society and for the society that we want to build."

Fluent in both English and French, Joseph is a strong and dynamic speaker, full of love and conviction. His teachable and patient spirit enables him to continue learning about God's ministry of reconciliation from others around the world. While his natural gift for teaching propels him to share his experiences with others.

For more information about Joseph Zintseme and his work on healing and reconciliation visit: <https://calledtoreconcile.com>

Are African Americans Better Off 50 Years Later?

Continued From Page 1

Mass Incarceration:

According to Michelle Alexander, author of the groundbreaking book had this to say:

"For a very long time, criminologists believed that there was going to be a stable rate of incarceration in the United States. About 100 of 100,000 people were incarcerated, and that rate remained constant up until into the early 1970s. And then suddenly there was a dramatic increase in incarceration rates in the United States, more than a 600 percent increase in incarceration from the mid-1960s until the year 2000.

An exceptional growth in the size of our prison population, it was driven primarily by the war on drugs, a war that was declared in the 1970s by President Richard Nixon and which has increased under every president since. It is a war that has targeted primarily nonviolent offenders and drug offenders, and it has resulted in the birth of a penal system unprecedented in world history."

Alexander went on to emphasize that "Many people imagine that our explosion in incarceration was simply driven by crime and crime rates, but that's just not true. That is sheer myth, although there was a spike in crime rates in the 1960s and 1970s. During the period of time that our prison population quintupled, crime rates fluctuated."

Kerner Commission Report:

"One month before Martin Luther King was assassinated, the Kerner Commission released its report. This Presidential commission investigated the riots and disorders of the mid-1960s and reported what MLK called a "physician's warning of approaching death, with a prescription for life." The Commission offered the most forthright analysis and

discussion of the racial situation in America that has ever been done by a high-level commission or committee."

"The Kerner Commission stated that "White racism is essentially responsible for the explosive mixture which has been accumulating in our cities since the end of World War II." And they continued, "What white Americans have never fully understood but what the Negro can never forget—is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

"The Kerner Commission concluded that the United States had three options for dealing with the situation. One was to do nothing, which was not acceptable. A second option was to work on improving black ghettos, which was useful but not desirable. The third was to integrate cities, suburbs, and transportation to workplaces (factories and plants). Many Americans thought we would choose the third option and be on our way to a better America. However, one month later Martin Luther King was assassinated, blacks rioted all over America, and the narrative changed—from correcting what white society had wrought to blaming it all on the problematic culture of black folks. To this day we have not overcome the political and policy effects of that narrative."

About Wornie Reed

Reed is the Director of the Race and Social Policy Research Center at Virginia Tech. He is an expert on race, ethnic health disparities, social policy, criminal justice and his research focuses is on criminal justice, discrimination, healthcare, and labor. Reed's expertise has been featured in Huffpost, CTV (Toronto, Canada), WBFO (Buffalo, NY NPR Affiliate), WFAE (Charlotte, NC NPR affiliate), WCVE (Richmond, VA PBS member station) and WVTM (Virginia NPR affiliate).



**We can help making heating
your home more affordable**

Get help paying your heating bill.
Income guidelines vary.
More details at snapwa.org/IncomeGuidelines

**Make an appointment and check online for
what you need to bring for verification**

December 20 January 17

February 14 March 21

Visit snapwa.org or call 242-2376 to make your
appointment



Be the first to know!
@SNAPspokane



Funding provided by the Low Income Energy Assistance Program and the Avista Low Income Rate Assistance Program

OUR VOICES

To Be Young, Gifted, and Dead

By Julianne Malveaux

((TriceEdneyWire.com) - McKenzie Adams wanted to be a scientist. The gregarious 9-year-old Alabama girl was just that, a girl, a little girl, a brown-skinned baby girl with braids or, in one picture, just a side ponytail. She wanted to be a scientist, and her family described her as "bubbly" but bubbles burst, sometimes in the worst way. McKenzie hung herself in her grandmother's home in the face of racist bullying and taunting, which included the vile directive to kill herself. Her fellow students didn't like the fact that she was friends with a white boy, and we don't know enough to know whether the deathly hazing came from Black or white students. All we know is that a child is dead, a baby black girl is dead. Her suicide has shaken me to my very soul.

Cleo Manago and I talked about this on December 12 on Roland Martin's Unfiltered program. What I observed are the many ways that African American women are the targets of racist hatred. The man who occupies the People's House on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue feels free to diminish and demean Black women, and his vendetta against African American Urban Radio journalist April Ryan is obscene. But he is not the only one. Our culture rejects Black women, rarely affirming our womanhood and attractiveness unless it is in a way that glorifies our bodies, not our person. Why is this important? Because beauty is currency in our capitalist society, and a woman without currency is at the bottom of the societal totem pole. What, you might ask, does that have to do with public policy? The demonization and denigration of Black women seep into the ways we are dealt with in the public space, and even in the workplace.

Little McKenzie could not take being called ugly, Black, and more. She was not immunized from the ways we live in a racially hostile space. She could have been a scientist. Instead, she is dead. She is not the only young Black child who has died by her own hand. Earlier this year, US News and World Report writer Joseph P. Williams reported that suicide rates among Black children were rising. He highlighted children, both male and female, promising young people who ended their own lives. According to Williams, "More elementary aged African American children have been taking their own lives, and Black boys and girls be-



tween the ages of 5 and 12 are doing so at roughly twice the rate of white kids the same age."

Researchers say they don't know why young Black children are killing themselves, but if we speculate we can factor in mental illness, family dysfunction, unstable socioeconomic conditions and, in my opinion, hostility to African American people that many Black children cannot help but internalize. How might young Black people process the killing of Tamir Rice? The murder of Sandra Bland? In Baltimore, the vicious killing of Freddy Gray? Some young people might look at these incidents, and the barrage of episodes directed at Black people, and wonder if there is a safe space for them.

Part of the challenge with Black children and suicide is that Black people are not accustomed to sharing their feelings. Indeed, mental health issues are often dismissed among African Americans. Folk are told to "pray" about

depressed feelings, forgetting that prayer without works is dead. Adults and children are advised to shrug it off when there is no shrugging to do. The feelings of dystopia, nihilism, and depression that many African Americans experience because of the hostility they experience by merely living in their skin shows up in suicides, but also in homicides and in other acting out. And while young Black men may indulge in senseless violence, young Black women too often turn their pain inward not outward.

Gender stereotypes are not always appropriate. Both Black girls and boys are killing themselves. Both Black girls and boys are working out some of their pain through violence. According to some data, Black girls are now involved in violent incidents with each other almost as often as Black boys (blame the housewives, just kidding). Both Black girls and Black boys are being marginalized and demonized by a racist, patriarchal, predatory capitalist system.

Suicide is currently a national phenomenon, one of the top ten causes of death in the United States. There are one hundred and twenty-three suicides per day in this country, with 70 percent of suicides being white men. African Americans are far less likely suicides than whites are, but the numbers among African Americans are growing, and the numbers among African American children are growing alarmingly. While I am riveted by the suicide of McKenzie Adams and outraged about the societal treatment of Black women and girls, data suggest that Black boys are more likely to experience suicide than Black girls are. We are letting Black children down, abandoning them to bullies and brazen racism. Why?

Black children are experiencing the same stresses that Black adults are. But they are children, and they should be protected. So many of us say that we celebrate our children, their amazing resilience, their artistry, their music, and their song. We must protect them as well as celebrate them. The alarming rise in young Black suicides suggests that too many will be young, gifted and dead.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianne-malveaux.com

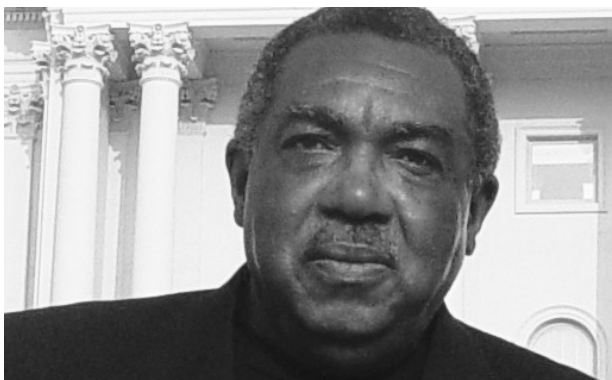
It's Time for a Focus on Economics

By A. Peter Bailey

((TriceEdneyWire.com) - Now that the midterm elections are over, it's time, once again, to alert Black folks to the peril and stupidity of putting nearly all of our time, energy and resources into electoral politics. If we spent at least half of that time, energy and especially resources into maximizing our individual and group economic potential we would be in a much stronger position to advance and protect our campaign for equal rights, equal opportunity and equal justice.

Our continued neglect of economics has a long history. Way back in 1899, Wilberforce University president, William S. Scarborough stated "I would be false to the race and my own convictions did I not pause to give the warning that, after all, neither parties nor politics alone can save the Negro....He must pay less attention to politics and more to business, to industry, to education, to the building up of a strong and sturdy manhood everywhere...He must lop off, as so many incubi, the professional Negro office-seekers. The professional Negro office-holder and the Negro politician who aspires to lead the race, for the revenue that is in it..."

Marcus Garvey also spoke out on the importance of economics in the fight against white supremacy. "The most important area for the exercise of independent effort is



economic. After a people have established successfully a firm industrial foundation they naturally turn to politics and society, but not first to society and politics because the latter two cannot exist without the former."

Agreeing with them, Booker T. Washington is quoted as saying, "At the bottom of education, at the bottom of politics, even at the bottom of religion, there must be for our race, economic independence."

A current proponent of the importance of economics is Prof. James Clingman, whose book, *Black Money Matters*, is a must-read. He insists that "Economics is about empowerment, and our dollars should be used more wisely to that end. Politics is about self-interest and our votes should

reflect that truth...we must organize and rally around basic economic principles. And until we are really serious about playing the politics game, we must wean ourselves off the milk and pabulum of political dependence and get on a steady diet of cooperative economics and mutual support."

W.E.B. DuBois, Brother Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune, Carter G. Woodson, Harold Cruse and Chancellor are others among our ancestors who have attempted to alert us on the importance and necessity of a group economic agenda. Williams was the most emphatic. "The second great understanding should be that economic activities are so fundamental in any truly upward movement, so clearly indispensable at this stage in history that is should be unnecessary to state it even. The still existing slave mentality causes millions of us to shy away from these basics of life itself because it requires more initiative, training and work and less talk than politics."

I will close with a stern warning attributed to Dr. DuBois. "May God write us off as asses if ever again we are found putting trust in either the Republican or Democratic parties."

*A. Peter Bailey, whose latest book is *Witnessing Brother Malcolm X, the Master Teacher*, can be reached at ape-terb@verizon.net.*

OUR VOICES

“Green Book” - Not Our Story His-Story, Their Fiction

By Dr. Wilmer J. Leon, III

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - “The greatest struggle of any oppressed group in a racist society is the struggle to reclaim collective memory and identity. At the level of culture, racism seeks to deny people of African, American Indian, Asian and Latino descent their own voices, histories and traditions. From the vantage-point of racism, black people have no story worth telling; that the master narrative woven into the national hierarchy of white prejudice, privilege and power represents the only legitimate experience worth knowing.” Dr. Manning Marable – “Escaping From Blackness: Racial Identity and Public Policy” September 2000

Dr. Marable also referenced Frantz Fanon’s book, *Black Skin, White Masks*, “...that the greatest triumph of racism is when black people lose touch with their own culture and identity, seeking to transcend their oppressed condition as the Other by becoming something they are not.” This is the false impression of Dr. Donald Shirley that one is left with given the many false narratives that are perpetuated in the film “Green Book”.

“Green Book” is the story of Dr. Donald Shirley, a world-renown African-American classical and jazz pianist and composer who embarks on a concert tour from New York City into the Deep South in 1962. In need of a driver, Shirley hires Tony Lip, a racist Italian-American nightclub bouncer for the job. This is just about as far as the facts in the film go.

The film is formulaic. It plays to the prejudices of a predominantly White audience employing the too often used tropes and worn out stereotypes about African Americans to weave a totally false narrative about Dr. Shirley and his relationship with Lip. Even though Lip is Dr. Shirley’s driver, the film portrays Lip in the traditional but false position of the white “bwana” who introduces Dr. Shirley to African-American culture and who he “should be” as an African-American man.

To discover who the real Dr. Shirley was, I spent an hour interviewing his youngest brother, Maurice Shirley, Sr., his sister-in-law Mrs. Patricia Shirley and his niece, Mrs. Karole L. Shirley-Kimble. In addition to the interview, I also spent several hours speaking one-on-one with Mrs. Karole L. Shirley-Kimble about her uncle and family.

Here are a few of the lies told in the film that are important for the public to understand.

The film portrays Dr. Shirley as being raised by a single mother. In fact, he was one of five children born to Pastor Edwin Shirley, Sr. and his wife Mrs. Stella Shirley a school teacher. The children were Calvin, Lucille (died at birth), Edwin, Jr., Donald and Maurice. His mother passed when he was nine. The four boys were raised by their father. All four boys obtained advanced degrees; two were physicians. They all were very successful in their own right. Contrary to the film narrative, Dr. Donald Shirley remained very close to his family until his death in 2013.

His talent was recognized when he was 2 years old. His mother was his initial piano teacher and he was quickly



recognized as a prodigy and provided with formal piano lessons. With a father who was an Episcopal Priest with a large congregation in Pensacola, FL, the boys were raised upper middle-class. Contrary to the film narrative, he and his mother never “panhandled” for money.

Dr. Shirley did not have an issue with alcohol. The rare times he drank scotch he preferred Chivas Regal or Pinch. He did not have a bottle of Cutty Sark delivered to his room every night while on the road.

Tony Lip did not “introduce” Dr. Shirley to fried chicken, Kentucky Fried or any other kind. As a “PK” or preacher’s kid, there was plenty of “gospel bird” consumed on Sunday’s after services during his childhood.

Tony Lip did not “introduce” Dr. Shirley to the music of Little Richard, Aretha Franklin, R&B or Soul. Dr. Shirley was well versed in and appreciated all types of music genres and incorporated them into his own compositions. According to Karole, the Black community was, “...the center of his world...he pulled from African proverbs and spirituals...he was a Black man...” He was not out of touch with the Black community, its people or its culture. In fact, he was very good friends with the giants of his day, Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Leontyne Price, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also had long-lasting and great friendships with Paul Robeson, William Warfield, Harry Belafonte and many others.

Dr. Shirley did not sit on a throne in his apartment like the “king of the coons” as was described. He did not own a throne. He knew who he was and from whence he had come.

There was no green Cadillac. He only rode in Black limousines. Tony would not have worn a personal suit. All of Dr. Shirley’s drivers wore a grey chauffeur’s uniform provided to them by Dr. Shirley. According to Mr. Maurice Shirley, “there was no friendship relationship between Donald and Tony...in fact, Donald could not stand him. He fired Tony.”

There are many other fallacies in the film that would take too long to point out. So you may ask. “Why is it important to point out all of these inconsistencies?” Why is the Shirley family upset over the portrayal of their brother/uncle? It’s simple, Marable writes, “Under colonialism and Jim Crow segregation, people of African descent were constantly pressured to conform to the racist stereotypes held of them by the dominant society.” This proud, educated and accomplished family cannot sit idly by and allow “Hollywood” to make them out to be anything other than what they are.

This film purposely and lazily infuses generally accepted stereotypes about African-American people such as being born impoverished to a single mother, no strong male figure, disconnected from his family, community and self. Here is a man that earned a doctorates in Music, Psychology and Liturgical Arts. Dr. Shirley was fluent in eight languages and was a talented painter. Still the film would have us believe that it wasn’t until the great White benefactor rode in on his trusty White steed (on in this case a green Cadillac) that Dr. Shirley was able to find himself and connect. Actually, he was never lost or out of touch with his family or who he was as a Black man.

Dr. Shirley’s real-life story would have made a much better film. Had the screenwriters and producers taken the time to perform even the most rudimentary research and reached out to the Shirley family they would have uncovered a much more interesting, enlightening and empowering story. A story about a brilliant African American man, born in the deep South in 1927. A man born into a highly educated family, earns three Ph.D. degrees, becomes a world-renowned pianist and composer, millionaire, friend of Dr. King’s and supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. A man that died beloved by his entire family and community and is missed to this very day.

Unfortunately, for the Shirley family and all of those who have viewed this film, they have been denied this great American story because those involved with the film chose to misinterpret this phenomenal man through the blurred lens of the American ethos of the White Man’s Burden. This racist mythology that the white man has a moral obligation to rule the non-white peoples of the earth, whilst encouraging their economic, cultural, and social progress through colonialism.

They were unable to properly assess and comprehend the complexities of Dr. Donald Shirley’s everyday existence as the man that he always was because they cannot understand Dubois’ “double-consciousness” – the American, the Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.”

Langston Hughes wrote in 1946, “America does not yet permit Negro artists and intellectuals to wash their hands in the water of cultural freedom.” So, it was in 1946; so, it is with “Green Book” today.

Dr. Wilmer Leon is the Producer/ Host of the nationally broadcast call-in talk radio program “Inside the Issues with Leon,” on SiriusXM Satellite radio channel 126. Go to www.wilmerleon.com or email: wjl3us@yahoo.com.



How Can You Support the Black Lens?

SUBSCRIBE • ADVERTISE • DONATE • SHARE

Visit blacklensnews.com • 509-795-1964 • sandy@blacklensnews.com

EMPLOYMENT

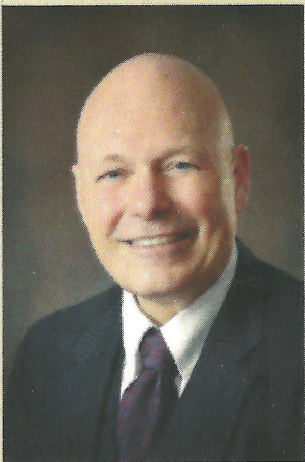
May I professionally help you to sell, buy, or lease a property?

GILLESREALTY.COM
GK Hansen Real Estate

Robert A. Gilles
WA & ID



Direct 509-939-6420
Fax: 1-800-520-5794
rgilles@gillesrealty.com
1608 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205



Put our experienced team to the test!
Are You Interested In A Career in Real Estate? Call Me.

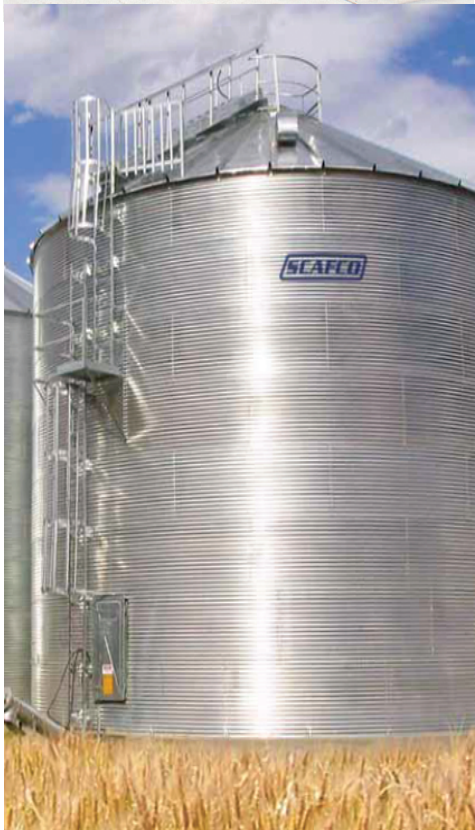
Career Opportunities SPOKANE

Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for management, sales, office, machine operators and laborer positions. To view all of our current openings, please visit our website www.SCAFCO.com and/or CWallA, our authorized distributor of SCAFCO products www.CWallA.com to fill out an application.

You can also send your resume to SCAFCO at 2800 E Main Ave Spokane, WA 99202.

Benefits Package Includes:

Medical, Dental, Vision Insurance, Vacation, Excellent 401(K) and Profit Sharing.



**Congratulates Black Lens for
Four Years of Service
to our Community**

Congratulations Black Lens On Year Number 4

**WEAVES
WIGS &
SUPPLIES**





Wright Way
BEAUTY SUPPLY

2103 N DIVISION STREET | SPOKANE, WA 99207
WRIGHTSBEAUTYSUPPLY@OUTLOOK.COM
509.703.7772

**BLACK VETERAN
OWNED & OPERATED**

JANUARY EVENTS

JANUARY 8

FUSE - DIVERSE VOICES BOOK DISCUSSION

January Book - *Barracoon* by writer and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, written in the 1930s and published in 2018. She talked with Cudjo Lewis, the last living person to come off the last slave ship (1859), and the book is the record of those discussions. More information about the book here: <https://www.harpercollins.com/9780062748201/barracoon/>
6:30pm -8:00pm
Shadle Library
2111 W Wellesley Ave, Spokane 99205
Free and open to the public. Anyone who participates in the Fuse Book Club receives a 15% discount when purchasing the book at Auntie's. Mention this at checkout. Questions email Erin at EJToungate@gmail.com

JANUARY 10

JUSTICE NIGHT

Speak with an attorney for free, sponsored by Center for Justice.
5:30 pm
Center for Justice
35 W Main, Spokane 99201
Cost: Free
For more information call 509.835.5211 or visit their website at www.cforjustice.org.

JANUARY 15

THE BLACK HISTORY 101 MOBILE MUSEUM

Founded by Khalid el-Hakim, the Black History 101 Mobile Museum is an award-winning collection of over 7,000 original artifacts of Black memorabilia dating from the trans-Atlantic slave trade era to hip-hop culture.
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Whitworth University
Hixson Union Building,
300 W. Hawthorne Rd. , Spokane, 99251
Cost: Free
For more information contact Jonathan Royal at 509.777.3583 or visit their website at <http://www.whitworth.edu/news/index.aspx>.

JANUARY 18

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MARCH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

11am - 2pm
Spokane Tribal Gathering Place
347 Post St., Spokane 99201
Cost: Free and open to the public
For more information visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com>

JANUARY 19

WOMEN+S MARCH - SPOKANE

10am - 3pm
Spokane Convention Center
334 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane
Cost: Free
For more information, visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MarchOnSpokane>

JANUARY 19

HOW TO BUY OR SELL

A HOME SEMINAR

The housing market is making a shift. Join Latrice Williams of Keller Williams Top Agent Team and guest speaker Nick Garcia of PRMG Lending for a FREE informational lunch that will prepare you and show you how to capitalize your value for the years to come!
RSVP by January 12.

10am

Church of Berachah

508 E 25th Ave, Spokane, WA. 99203
Contact Shelana "Latrice" Williams at 509-431-0773 to RSVP and/or for questions.

JANUARY 20

MARTIN LUTHER KING CHURCH SERVICE

The Spokane Minister's Fellowship will be celebrating the legacy of Dr. King with a community church service.

4pm

Holy Temple COGIC

806 W Indiana Ave, Spokane, WA
For more information contact the MLK Center at 509-455-8722 or www.mlkspokane.org.

JANUARY 21

MLK ANNUAL MARCH AND RESOURCE FAIR

10:00 am (Unity March)
Noon-2pm (Resource Fair)
Spokane Convention Center
334 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane
Cost: Free and open to the public
For information contact the MLK Center at (509) 455-8722 or www.mlkspokane.org

JANUARY 22

NAACP MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting and a discussion about our Local Jail and the Bail Project in Spokane. What this means for our community and what you can do! Light Snacks & Beverages

6 - 8pm

The Globe Room at Cataldo Hall
Gonzaga University

1200 N Addison St, Spokane 99202
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425.

JANUARY 22

POWER 2 THE POETRY - OPEN MIC

Come hear and share poetry, music, stories, comedy, etc. share what ever you would like in 3 minutes. Sign-ups start at 5:45pm.

6 - 7:30pm

Downtown Spokane Public Library
(3rd Floor)

906 W Main Ave, Spokane, 99201
Free and open to the public. For more information visit power2thepoetry.com

JANUARY 23

POWER 2 THE POETRY - SHOWCASE

Showcase of poetry from Power 2 The Poetry.
7 - 8pm

The Roost

1007 Elm St, Cheney, WA 99004
For information visit power2thepoetry.com

JANUARY 23

THE BLACK ART JAZZ COLLECTIVE

A collaborative ensemble comprised of Jazz's finest rising stars
4:30pm - Workshop
8pm - Concert
Spokane Falls Community College
3410 W. Fort George Wright Dr., Spokane, Washington 99224
For tickets visit imaginejazz.org.

JANUARY 25

SPARK SALON - ANNUAL BENEFIT

Jess Walter, Sarah Vowell, and Sandy Williams
6 - 9pm (Doors open at 6, event starts at 7)
The McGinnity Room
116 W. Pacific Avenue, Spokane 99201
For information call (509) 279-0299 or visit spark-central.org.

JANUARY 26

EW LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

"Inform, Inspire, Involve"
9:00am – 3:00pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
316 E 24th Avenue, Spokane 99203
Cost: Suggested donation of \$20.00
For more information and/or to RSVP, call 509.535.4112 or email info@thefigtree.org.

JANUARY 29

BLACK LENS 4TH ANNIVERSARY

6-8pm
Fresh Soul, 3029 E 5th Ave, Spokane

JANUARY 30

8TH ANNUAL HOMELESS CONNECT

Modeled after the San Francisco Homeless Connect, then event brings together more than 50 service providers offering a wide variety of services under one roof for anyone experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.

10am - 3pm

Salvation Army Community Center

223 East Nora Avenue, Spokane
For more information see page 16.

Send information about upcoming community events to sandy@blacklensnews.com.

Why rent when you can buy...

What's my home worth if I sold it today.

How to Buy or Sell a Home Seminar

The housing market is making a shift.

Things you should know to be sure you benefit during this new season.

Come join me, Latrice Williams with Keller Williams Top Agent Team, and my guest speaker Nick Garcia of PRMG Lending, for a FREE informational lunch that will prepare you and show you how to capitalize your value for the years to come!

Please RSVP by Jan 12th 2019 as we would like to have enough food for everyone that would like to come.

January 19th 2019 at Church of Berachah
508 E 25th Ave
Spokane, WA. 99203



Latrice Williams
Real Estate Broker
(509) 431-0773
Latrice@TopAgentTeam



Contact Shelana "Latrice" Williams at 509-431-0773 to RSVP and/or if you have questions.

SPOKANE,
WASHINGTON!



REAL
COMEDIANS
OF SOCIAL MEDIA

@TONYBAKERCOMEDY @TAHIRMOORE @KEVONSTAGE

JANUARY 31ST, 2019

THE BING

901 W Sprague Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201

Show starts @ 7pm

TICKET INFO	\$15	General Admission	Entry @ 6:30pm
	\$25	VIP Admission	Early Entry @ 6:00pm 1st to take pictures w/ Comedians



Get Your Tickets at
BETHELYENTERTAINMENT.com

