

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Commissioner Refused Information About Use of Force Against African Americans

A Conversation with Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) Commissioner James Wilburn

Over the past several months, there has been a conflict brewing between the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) and the OPO Commission, both tasked with oversight of the Spokane Police Department, and Spokane's Chief of Police, Craig Meidl. The tensions, which have everything to do with access to information, have left the OPO Commission considering legal action and Commissioner James Wilburn, a long time resident of Spokane, appointed to the Commission in 2016, feeling frustrated and **angry**. The Black Lens sat down with Commissioner Wilburn to get his perspective on the ongoing conflict.

What prompted you to want to be a part of the Ombudsman Commission?

Well I wanted to be a part of the Commission when I was President of the NAACP. We were establishing it when the Department of Justice came from Washington. But the position went to the president that followed me. This time, I was appointed by the mayor to the position.



What do you see as the role of the Commission?

The role and responsibility of the Commission is to provide oversight. I feel that's what the citizens of the city want me to do.

What is the issue that's causing the conflict with the Chief of Police?

The issue is African-Americans having use of force against them by the Spokane

Police Department at a disproportionate number and I'm concerned about that. I've asked the question why and I've gotten no answer. I've inquired into the police department and I've gotten no answer. Then when we cite the ordinance, that we should have access to the information, I'm told that the guild and the city do not have a contract, therefore we can not go into any issues of the police department until there is a contract between the city and guild.

What information are you specifically trying to get access to?

[Pointing at graphs] This is 2014, there were thirty-two uses of force against people of color. Fifteen were against African-Americans. In 2015 there were 32 uses of force. Seventeen were against African-Americans. In 2016 there were 35 uses of force and nineteen were against African-Americans. So my question for the police department, is this racial profiling? Or is this some kind of trend? The only way we can find out is to look into the activities of the police department and ask where are you finding most of these African-Americans? Why are they having force used against them more so than any other group in Spokane, other than European Americans.

I'm hearing complaints from African-Americans that they are being stopped and accosted unfairly. So this is my position and my job as a Commissioner is to inquire into these concerns. But when Bart (Logue) made the inquiry, they refused to give him the information that I asked for.

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The Bail Project

"It's Better to be Rich and Guilty, Than Poor and Innocent"

On Tuesday, January 22, the Spokane branch of the NAACP joined with the Gonzaga University Black Student Union to host a community forum in Gonzaga's Cataldo Hall to discuss a new initiative that has recently started in Spokane aimed at reducing the jail population by posting bail for individuals who cannot afford it.

The forum was co-sponsored by a number of community organization and featured staff from the Bail Project, including Daryl McAdoo, Director of Strategic Partnerships, who discussed the history and

goals of the project, which he said "aims to prove that there is another model out there that doesn't involve a wealth based system to determine who is and who is not in jail."

The Bail Project, which currently operates in eleven locations across the country, started as the Bronx Freedom Fund, a nonprofit organization with a revolving bail fund that began bailing people out of jail in 2007. It was a first for the country and what the project discovered, which was a surprise to some, was that despite having no connection to the Bail Project at all, 96% of the

people that they paid bail for, returned. In fact, The Bronx Freedom Fund is so effective, according to McAdoo, that there aren't many people left to bail out.

The current cash bail system, supposedly in place to ensure that those charged with a crime will return for trial, "criminalizes poverty and devastates low-income communities", according to the Bail Project website, while also "disproportionately affecting women and people of color". The goal of the project is to do something about that.

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

When "Inclusion" Becomes Just Another Weapon



When my daughter was a little girl, there was an annual day that we always participated in called "Take Our Daughters to Work Day." Founded in 1993 by Ms. Foundation President Marie Wilson and its founder Gloria Steinem, the day was an opportunity to proactively counteract the negative messages that young girls get on a daily basis about who we are and what is possible for us to be as women.

The day was hugely successful from the very beginning. According to a 2015 article in the New Yorker Magazine, by the fourth year of the program, five million girls in fourteen countries were participating. And as young girls, like my daughter, tagged along with their mothers and fathers in to boardrooms and offices and fire stations and laboratories and courtrooms and newsrooms, and even into the hallowed halls of congress, they started receiving powerful messages, many for the first time, about what they were capable of accomplishing in life, a message that young boys start receiving almost from the day they are born.

But, despite the day's immensely positive impact on the young girls who participated, there were men (and even some women I might add) that labeled the day as "sexist" and complained loudly about how boys, their sons, were being "excluded." It didn't matter that for the remainder of the year institutions in this country are structured to uplift and empower men and boys, the idea of setting aside one singular day to focus on the interests of girls was too much for some, and as the chorus of angry voices grew more and more insistent, the Ms. Foundation eventually caved to the pressure. In 2003, the annual event was changed to "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day," and it wasn't long before you didn't hear much about the day at all any more.

A similar thing happened years ago, I remember, when the Spokesman Review had the audacity to launch a one day a week page focused on women. It didn't matter that for the rest of the week the news was delivered through a decidedly male lens, a similar chorus of angry men proclaimed that looking at a Women's

page one day a week made them feel "excluded", and ultimately the page, which I loved by the way, disappeared.

I can't tell you how many times The Black Lens, and by default me as its editor, has been accused of being "exclusionary" as well. Actually, it happened again this week. So let's have a little conversation about exclusion, and more importantly, inclusion.

There are many, many definitions of the word inclusion, but the intention of the word, as it has become widely used in reference to diversity and equity, is the practice of engaging those who are marginalized because they have historically been excluded, because of race, gender, ability, orientation, etc. What is key to note here is that the focus of inclusion is supposed to be on "those who have been marginalized." It is about bringing those voices that have previously been left out to the table in a substantive and systemic way.

What seems to be happening more and more of late, however, is that "inclusion" is being used as an excuse, and I would argue a tool, to elevate the voices of those whose voices are already heard, and doing it at the expense of the very people that inclusion was supposed to benefit.

And what is the most frustrating and disheartening for me, and even at times angering, is watching us become the ones who use the tool of inclusion to minimize our own voices and our own power. We seem to be so worried about the angry voices that might holler "exclusion", as they point their fingers in our direction, that we beat them to the punch and cower from the idea that it is okay to want to uplift ourselves.

When it is practiced as intended, inclusion is an important and valuable doorway towards connection and healing. But, if we are not careful and attentive, it can also become just another weapon, in an arsenal of weapons, used to perpetuate a system that is designed to ensure that those who have the power, never lose it.

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.

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

California Senator Kamala Harris to seek the Presidency in 2020

(Source: Dawn Onley, thegrio.com/2019; abc7news.com; britannica.com)

California Senator Kamala Harris, a Democrat, announced her candidacy for president on January 21, telling Robin Roberts and George Stephanopoulos of ABC's Good Morning America that she chose the Martin Luther King Holiday as the day for her announcement because of what Dr. King has "meant to her family and to our nation." "I love my country. And this is a moment in time that I feel a responsibility to stand up and fight for the best of who we are," Harris said.

The Oakland native returned home for the official launch of her campaign, holding a rally at Oakland's City Hall on Sunday, Jan. 27. The candidate told the crowd of thousands that the "American Dream and American democracy are under attack and on the line like never before" and that "racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and transphobia are real in the U.S. and must be recognized and dealt with."

Kamala Devi Harris was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland, California. Her father, who was Jamaican, taught at Stanford University, and her mother,



er, the daughter of an Indian diplomat, was a cancer researcher.

After studying political science and economics (B.A., 1986) at Howard University, Harris earned a law degree (1989) from Hastings College. She was elected to the Senate in 2016, becoming the first Indian American to serve as a U.S. senator, as well as the second African American woman. She previously served as the California State Attorney General from 2011–17.

Empire Star Jussie Smollett Hospitalized After Brutal Attack

(Source: Sandra Gonzalez, cnn.com/2019; Ted Johnson, variety.com)

Jussie Smollett, star of the hit Fox television series, Empire, was attacked in the early morning of Tuesday, January 29. According to CNN, the Chicago police are calling the attack a possible hate crime.

Chicago Police said, Smollett was attacked by two people who were "yelling out racial and homophobic slurs" and who "poured an unknown chemical substance on the victim."

Smollett told investigators that the attackers put a rope around his neck and he heard the attackers shout this is "MAGA country." MAGA is believed to be referencing Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make



America Great Again".

Brandon Z. Moore, Smollett's music manager, who said he was on the phone with Smollett during the attack, confirmed that he heard the MAGA remarks. "I heard that clearly. I heard the

scuffle and I heard the racial slur," he said. Moore gave a statement to police.

Following the attack, Smollett took himself to Northwestern Hospital and was reported by authorities to be "in good condition."

The Chicago Police Department has released two images from surveillance video that do not show the attack but contain "potential persons of interest."

According to ABC News, a previous threat had been made against Smollett and it is being investigated by the FBI.

Smollett has starred on Fox's "Empire" since 2015, and Jamal, a successful singer in the musical Lyon family. Like his character, Smollett identifies as gay.

New York City Settles With Family of Kalief Browder for \$3.3 Million



(Source: Ibn Safir, https://www.theroot.com; Photo courtesy "Time: The Kalief Browder Story")

New York City will pay 3.3 million dollars to the family of Kalief Browder, who was accused as a 16 year old of stealing a backpack. Browder was held for three years at Rikers Island prison after his family could not afford his \$3,000 bail, most of that time in solitary confinement. He was never charged with a crime. Browder took his own life in 2015, two years after he was ultimately released due to lack of evidence.

The New York City Law Department said in a statement, "Kalief Browder's story helped inspire numerous reforms to the justice system to prevent this tragedy from ever happening again, including an end to punitive segregation for young people on Rikers Island. We hope that this settlement and our continuing reforms help bring some measure of closure to the Browder family."

In the aftermath of Browder's death, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said the city "would end the use of solitary confinement for minors aged 16 and 17." However, a NY Times investigation in 2018 found that "the number of teenage inmates transferred to correctional facilities upstate has increased, where they continue to be held in solitary confinement where the practice remains unrestricted."

A six-episode documentary series titled "Time: The Kalief Browder Story" is available on Netflix. The settlement will be finalized by New York Supreme Court Judge Mitchell Danziger.

Dr. Nadine Burke Harris Becomes California's First Surgeon General



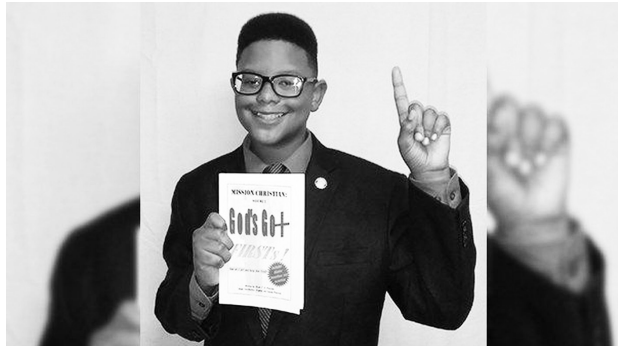
(Source: Ashleigh Atwell, https://blavity.com; centerforyouthwellness.org)

Incoming California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Pediatrician Dr. Nadine Burke Harris to serve as the first surgeon general in California's history. Harris is founder and has been CEO for six years of the Center for Youth Wellness, an organization in San Francisco that started as a community pediatric clinic and is now a national leader in the effort to advance pediatric medicine, raise public awareness, and transform the way society responds to children exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress. According to Lake County News, Harris also served as an adviser for the Let's Get Healthy California Task Force and as a member of the Boys and Men of Color Trauma Advisory Committee.

Harris is also author of "The Deepest Well," a landmark book about toxic stress. In an interview, she described the patient that was the catalyst for the book and for her work addressing trauma. "For a long time, I had suspected that there might be a biological connection between early adversity and health, but it was Diego, a seven-year-old boy who stopped growing after a sexual assault who really forced me to dig deeper. As a doctor, we do all of these complicated and expensive work-ups to determine the cause of our patients' health problems, but in this case the most important thing that we had to address was the trauma."

This will be Harris' second time working under Newsom. When he was the Mayor of San Francisco, he appointed Harris to the San Francisco Citizens' Committee for Community Development. In response to Newsom's appointment, Harris tweeted, "Looking forward to rolling up my sleeves as CA's first surgeon general," she wrote. "Thank you @GavinNewsom for your bold vision for health for all Californians. #preventscreendandheal!"

Eleven Year Old Prodigy Will Study at HBCU



(Source: Rachael Thomas and Elizabeth Vowell, wafb.com; News One Staff, newsone.com)

Eleven year old Elijah Preccieley will be studying physics and mechanical engineering at Southern University Honors College, a Historically Black University (HBCU), beginning in the spring of 2019. He will be attending college on a full scholarship.

According to WABF, channel 9, the Baton Rouge, Louisiana native was home-schooled and began taking college level classes in biology, physics, and business through Southern starting at the age of 8-years-old. Because of the credits that he received from those classes, he will be starting college as a sophomore.

Southern announced that Elijah, ho has also published a book, applied for several patents, and hosts a weekly radio show, would be receiving the prestigious J.S. Clark Presidential Scholar Award, created in honor of the institution's first president Joseph S. Clark. As a result, according to WABF, he is being called a prodigy, but Elijah prefers instead to say that he is blessed. "God has given me the ability to soar with excellence and to never forget where I come from," he said.

In a speech accepting the J.S. Clark Award, Elijah shared, "When I reflect on this Joseph S. Clark Presidential Scholars Award it means absolute legacy, nothing but legacy to me. Southern University is our inheritance to sharpen and affirm our skills and carry out our initial standards to transform lives and be the best God has called us to be." He continued, "Those that have paved the way, I want to thank you for paving the way in my education, and I will absolutely pave the way for others to do the impossible. I am elated."

"Find that child's genius, what they like, and nurture that even if you have to seek outside help, that's what you do and that's what we did," Elijah's father Stephen Preccieley told The Advocate.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Misty Copeland and Calvin Royal III

First Black Couple to Dance Lead Role for the American Ballet Theatre

(Source: Laura Bleiberg, latimes.com/entertainment; abt.org; Photo: Instagram, Calvin Royal III)

Four years ago Misty Copeland made history when the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) made her the first African American female principal dancer. Now four years later she is making history again.

Misty Copeland and Calvin Royal III made their debuts on January 18 as Pirrette and Pierrot in the West Coast Premiere of “Harlequinade” at the Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa, California. They are the first Black couple to perform lead roles for the American Ballet Theatre.

Harlequinade is a 19th-century ballet about a clown who seeks to marry a woman against her father’s wishes. The father prefers that she marry a wealthy suitor. Copeland and Royal play secondary lead roles to Harlequin and his love interest, Columbine.

Misty Copeland was born in Kansas City, Missouri and raised in San Pedro, California. She began her ballet studies at the age of 13 at the San Pedro City Ballet and at the age of fifteen won first place in the Music Center Spotlight Awards. Copeland was declared the American Ballet



Theatre's National Coca-Cola Scholar in 2000 and joined ABT’s Studio Company in September 2000, then joined American Ballet Theatre as a member of the corps de ballet in April 2001 and was appointed a Soloist in August 2007. Copeland received the 2008 Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Arts and was named

National Youth of the Year Ambassador for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America in 2013. In 2014, President Obama appointed Copeland to the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. She is the recipient of a 2014 Dance Magazine Award and was named to the 2015 TIME 100 by TIME Magazine. Copeland is the

author of the best-selling memoir, Life in Motion, children’s book Firebird and Ballerina Body. Copeland was appointed a Principal Dancer in August 2015.

Calvin Royal III began his formal dance training under the direction of Suzanne Pomerantzeff and Patricia L. Paige at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was a finalist at the Youth America Grand Prix Scholarship Competition in New York City in April 2006 and joined the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre in September 2006. Royal was the recipient of the Ethan Stiefel Scholarship in 2006 and 2007. Royal joined the main Company as an apprentice in October 2010 and the corps de ballet in April 2011. He was appointed a Soloist in September 2017. Royal was named a finalist at the 2013 Clive Barnes Awards and, in 2014, was awarded the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship Fund grant. He was featured in two consecutive campaigns for GAP’s dance-inspired fitness line GAPFit.

The American Ballet Theatre will present "Harlequinade" in Washington, D.C., starting in January in New York starting in May.

University Study Finds Racial Disparity in Solar Panel Installations



(Source: jbhe.com/2019)

A new study, “Disparities in Rooftop Photovoltaics Deployment in the United States by Race and Ethnicity,” published in the journal Nature Sustainability and authored by researchers at Tufts University in Massachusetts and the University of California, Berkeley, found that the deployment of solar panels has predominately occurred in White neighborhoods, even after controlling for household income and levels of home ownership.

The research team combined data from Google’s Project Sunroof on existing rooftop solar installations across the United States with demographic data, including household income, home ownership, and ethnicity and race, from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Project Sunroof data includes information on more than 60 million rooftops and almost 2 million solar installations.

The results found that for Black-majority neighborhoods with similar income levels there are 69 percent less rooftop solar panels installed compared to same-income neighborhoods where no single race or ethnicity makes up the majority of the population. When correcting for home ownership, Black neighborhoods installed 61 percent less solar panels. The authors believe that more research is needed to help determine the root causes of the racial disparity. They believe their findings could be useful in developing better and more inclusive energy infrastructure policy and outcomes.

“Our work illustrates that while solar can be a powerful tool for climate protection and social equity, a lack of access or a lack of outreach to all segments of society can dramatically weaken the social benefit,” said Daniel Kammen, professor of nuclear engineering at the university of California, Berkeley.

Furloughed Employees Launch "Furlough Cheesecake" Business During Government Shutdown



(Source: Angel Radcliffe; blackcenterprise.com)

During the recent government shutdown, which lasted 35 days, sisters, Nikki Howard, who is employed by the Food and Drug Administration as a Recruitment & Outreach worker, and Jaqi Wright, who is employed by the Department of Justice as an Analyst, were among the thousands of furloughed workers waiting for the government to reopen so that they could be paid.

The two sisters didn't wait for long, however. Nine days into the shutdown, Howard and Wright launched a business called, The Furlough Cheesecake. The idea for the business came from the sisters' mother who said Howard's cheesecake was so good it could be sold. With the help of family members, the sisters set up a social media account and hosted a Facebook live stream on Jan. 8.

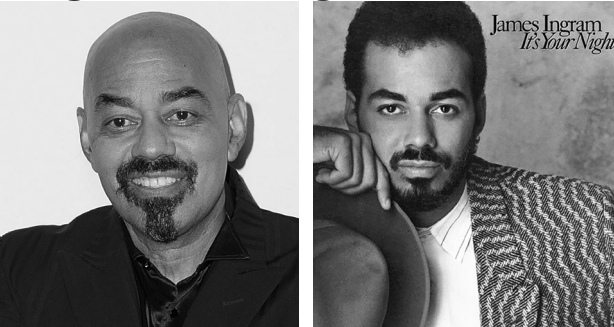
Within the first week, the sisters received hundreds of orders for the Furlough Cheesecake, and two weeks into their business, Wright and Howard were featured in major news outlets, including CNN and The Washington Post, and were surprised by tv host Ellen who surprised the sisters with \$20,000 for their new business.

30 days into their business, the sisters have over 700 orders waiting to be shipped to customers and are producing more than 75 cheesecakes a day, which sell for \$29.98 each.

Whether or not there will be another government shutdown is unclear, so the sisters say The Furlough Cheesecake intends to stay in business. According to the sisters, the business has opened doors for their family to help run the business while they return to work.

For more information visit <https://thefurloughcheesecake.com>.

Singer James Ingram Dies at 66



(Source: Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA Newswire Contributor; blackpressusa.com)

Popular R&B singer James Ingram, who collected two Grammy Awards and a pair of No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 hits over his decades-long career, died at age 66 at his home in Los Angeles. The news was shared via Twitter by Ingram’s friend and creative partner Debbie Allen on Tuesday, January 29.

With his strong vocals and stand out ballads, Ingram was known to collaborate with other big names of his generation such as Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones and Kenny Rogers. Ingram was one of the most successful singers of the 80s and 90s. He was also a successful songwriter. Ingram died of brain cancer.

“I have lost my dearest friend and creative partner James Ingram to the Celestial Choir. He will always be cherished, loved and remembered for his genius, his love of family and his humanity. I am blessed to have been so close. We will forever speak his name,” wrote Debbie Allen on twitter. A long-time friend of Ingram’s, Allen was the first to announce his passing. After her tribute, the accolades and the sadness poured in from nay quarters.

Ingram won two Grammy awards, one for the song “One Hundred Ways” for best male R&B performance in 1981 and a second for a duet with Michael McDonald for the single “Yah Mo B There” for best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals in 1984. He earned nine hits on the Billboard top 100, which included two number one hits: “Baby Come to Me,” with Patti Austin in 1983, and “I Don’t Have the Heart” in 1990. He also scored 19 songs on the Adult Contemporary charts and 18 on the Hot R&B charts.

Ingram was born in Akron, Ohio. He would later move to Los Angeles and become a member of band Revelation Funk. Ingram also was a member of Ray Charles’ band as a keyboard player.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY *by Bertoni Jones Bey* (jbaguart@yahoo.com)

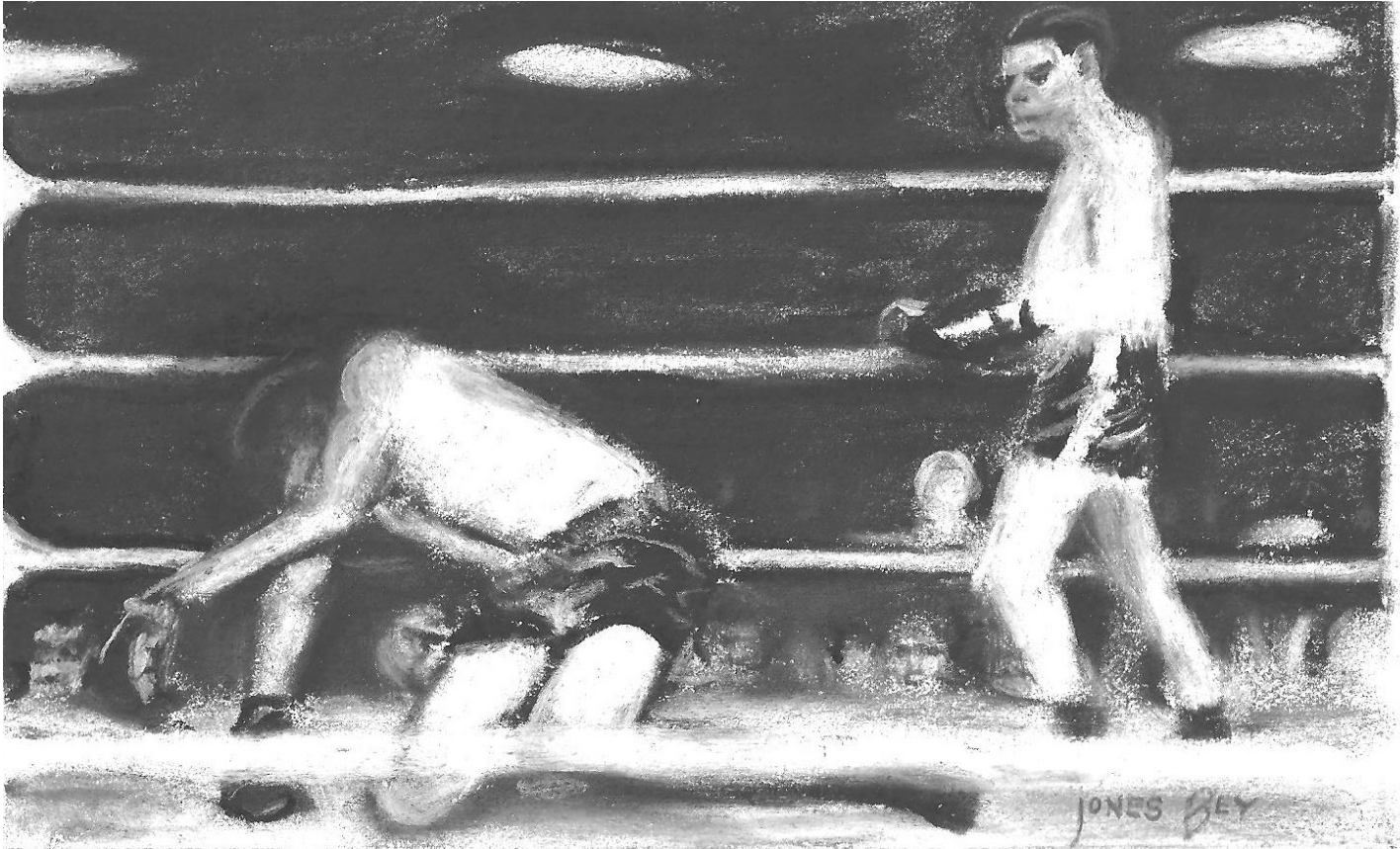
Joe Louis Barrow: Heavyweight Champion

Joe Louis Barrow was born one of eight children to poor sharecroppers in Lafayette, Alabama on May 13, 1914. The family moved to Detroit for better wages, where Joe started boxing to help the family make money. He made his pro debut in 1934 and climbed to the top of the heavyweight division claiming the title from “Cinderella Man” James J. Braddock on June 22, 1937.

But “The Brown Bomber” wouldn’t consider himself a champion until he avenged his first pro loss to the German Max Schmeling. One of the greatest matches in boxing history, the June 22, 1938 Louis/Schmeling rematch became the showdown between America and Germany. In reality, Schmeling had no desire to be the Aryan Superman for Hitler and Nazi Germany, and Joe Louis had no desire to be America’s wartime champion for bigots.

“Now here I was a Black man. I had the burden of representing all America. ... White Americans – even while some of them were lynching Black people in the South – were depending on me to K.O. Germany.”

As an amateur Louis won both the Detroit and Chicago Golden Gloves titles. In 1934 he won the U.S. amateur boxing championships with an amateur record of 50 wins, 4 losses, and 43 knockouts. In his professional career from 1934-51 Joe Louis held a record of 66 wins, 3 losses, and 52 knockouts. He was the second of his ethnicity to claim the heavyweight crown, only behind Jack Johnson. He retired undefeated as a champion defending his title twenty-five times while holding the title for nearly twelve years, a record in any sport.



While a boxing strategist and very rich man by the mid-thirties, no one taught Joe financial defense against the IRS. From 1931 to 1937 the tax bracket for the rich went from 24 to 79 percent, devastating Joe’s fight purses. Even still his patriotism inspired him to enlist in the Army as a private making \$21 per month. And although he donated two whole fight purses to both the Army Relief Fund (\$45,882) and Navy Relief Fund (\$65,200), the IRS contended that they were “taxable incomes” and taxed his charitable gesture.

By the forties the tax rate climbed to 90 percent and Joe Louis owed the IRS half a million dollars mostly from ballooning interest. The relentless demands of the IRS forced the champ into demean-

ing work. To whittle down the debt he went into pro-wrestling, danced and sang on TV shows, and greeted people at Caesar’s Palace, which barely touched the interest. Joe repaid the City of Detroit for the years his family was on welfare, that wasn’t deductible. When his mother died in 1953, the IRS seized the \$667 she willed to him. The trust funds set-up for his children’s college, the IRS seized them too for back taxes.

While Joe was dogged by the IRS for the rest of his life, by 1957 his old rival Max Schmeling was offered the titles of Coca-Cola Executive in Hamburg and Coca-Cola brand ambassador for Germany. Back home the American champion was offered nothing from Coca-Cola.

(Coca-Cola Inc. has been accused of being Nazi sympathizers. While America fought Germany in World War II, Coca-Cola was in Nazi Germany bottling Fanta orange soda specifically for German thirst. – See Max Keith).

Joe Louis passed away from heart failure at 67 years of age on April 12, 1981. But for all the powerful opponents he faced in the ring, for his unquestioning patriotism and service to his country, never did Joe Louis imagine that the most vicious opponent he would ever face was the U.S. Government.

Sources:
Joe Louis: Heavyweight Champion – Robert Jakoubek; <http://timeline.com/fanta-coca-cola-nazi-845ee7e513af>; mackinnac.org/V1997-22 (Joe Louis vs. The IRS – Dr. Burton Folsom)



Ronald E. McNair: Physicist & Astronaut

(Source: blackpast.org) **Ronald Erwin McNair** was a physicist and one of the first African American astronauts to go into space. McNair was born to Carl McNair, an auto body repairman, and Pearl McNair, a high school teacher, on October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina. He grew up in Lake City picking cotton and tobacco until he graduated from Carver High School in 1967.

McNair attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (A&T) State University, graduating in 1971. In 1976, he received his Ph.D. in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and married Cheryl Moore that same year. Following his graduation from MIT, Dr. McNair became a physicist at Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, California. The National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) selected him as an astronaut candidate in January 1978. As a candidate, he finished a one-year training and evaluation period in August 1979, making him a competitive applicant as a mission specialist astronaut on space shuttle flight crews.

Dr. McNair flew his first mission on February 3, 1984, as a mission specialist on STS 41-B, which marked the first flight of the Manned Maneuvering Unit. This was the first landing of the space shuttle Challenger on Kennedy Space Center’s runway on February 11, 1984. McNair spent 191 hours in space. In 1986, Dr. McNair was given a mission specialist position on STS 51-L, the tenth flight of the Space

Shuttle Challenger. On January 28, 1986, one minute and fifty-three seconds after liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canveral, Florida, the Challenger exploded, killing Dr. McNair and all of the crew on board, making McNair the first Black astronaut to die on a space mission.

In honor of Dr. McNair, Congress provided funding for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program that encourages minorities from low-income families and first-generation college students to pursue graduate studies.

Cheryl Moore McNair earned her Master's Degree in Education and served as an elementary school teacher for ten years. In 1995, she co-founded the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational Science Literacy Foundation, a non-profit origination named after her late husband, and along with the other families of the Challenger astronauts, she helped found the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging students in science, math, and technology programs through space themed programs.

In addition to being a physicist and astronaut, Dr. McNair held a fifth degree black belt in karate and was also an accomplished jazz saxophonist

Contributor: Joelle Jackson, University of Washington, Seattle

HEALTH & MEDICINE

LINKS, Inc. and Inland Imaging Host Annual 2019 Mammogram Party

Inland Imaging and the Spokane Chapter of the Links, Inc. invite you to their Annual Mammogram Party!!

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States. A 2015 report published by The American Cancer Society, titled "Breast Cancer Facts and Figure" noted that Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer in every age group.

Two of the reasons cited in the report for the higher death rates amongst Black women are that Black women are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to be diagnosed at later stages of the disease and therefore have the lowest survival at each stage of diagnosis. Black women are also more likely to be diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer, which is an aggressive subtype that is linked to poorer survival.

To combat breast cancer, and detect breast cancer earlier, when treatments are more likely to be successful, the American Cancer Society recommends that women should begin having yearly mammograms by the age of 45. Yet, despite the risk, many African American women do not follow that recommendation.

In an effort to encourage Spokane's African American women to get mammograms and breast cancer screenings, Inland Imaging has been partnering with the Links, Inc. to offer Mammogram, or "Mam" parties each year.

The annual parties, spearheaded each year by Faith Washington, a nurse manager at Inland Imaging, started as a part of My Sister's Temple, which is a non-profit organization that was established in 2008. The "Mam Parties" seek to break down many of the barriers that keep Black women from seeking medical treatment. The atmosphere is relaxing, and much more like a gathering of sisters than a visit to a medical clinic.

About the Mammogram Party:

Join us for a relaxing evening with neighbors and friends. Free refreshments, appetizers, chair massage and give aways. Sneak in your mammogram in a low stress setting.

For: Women over 40 who are due for their routine exam around this time or for those aged 35-40 who wish to be screened.

When: February 12, 2019
5:30 PM – 7:00pm

Where: Inland Imaging, which is located inside of Holy Family Hospital, use the North entrance, we are on the lower level, 5715 N Lidgerwood St, Spokane

IMPORTANT

You MUST Pre-Register to participate by contacting Faith Washington. Call 509-363-7833, Text 509-999-9728 or e-mail fwashington@inland-imaging.com

Hosted by the Spokane Chapter of the Links, Inc., Faith Washington and Inland Imaging, LLC.



"Without the mammogram my cancer would have gone undetected."

-Tamela Richards

Colon Cancer and Blacks

By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Colorectal cancer (CRC) remains the third most common cause of malignancy-related death in men and women in the United States. Each year, about 140,000 Americans are diagnosed with colon cancer, and more than 50,000 die from it. That's bad news, but for African-Americans, it's even worse.

African-Americans are more likely to get colon cancer, they're more likely to have an advanced stage of disease when they're diagnosed with colon cancer, they're more likely to die from colon cancer and they have shorter survival after diagnosis with colon cancer.

The colon travels up the right side of the body, across, and back down the left side, ending with the rectum. Sometimes small bumps form, called polyps. Not all of them become cancerous, but there are a number of ways to screen for polyps and remove them. Fecal tests can detect blood or cancerous DNA. There's a colonoscopy, in which a long, thin tube is inserted in the rectum. A tiny camera examines the right and left side of the colon. It sounds painful, but if you get one, you are asleep and don't feel a thing. There's also something called a flexible sigmoidoscopy.

The problem with a flexible sigmoidoscopy test is that African-Americans are more likely to develop polyps deeper in the colon, on the right side. According to the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 41 Black males will die from colorectal cancer, compared to 1 in 48 white males. The risk is similar for women. One in 44 Black females will die from colorectal cancer, compared to 1 in 53 White females. But

African-American men are especially likely to refuse a colonoscopy.

So, diets that are very high in fat, particularly animal fat, and very low in fiber, are associated with later in life developing colon cancer.

Other lifestyle factors among African-Americans – higher tobacco-related illness, more obesity, less physical activity, and lower intake of vitamins C and E – are also thought to be tied to colon cancer. Another factor, particularly for African-Americans, has to do with the idea that if you're going to die from cancer anyway, you're better off not knowing about it. Even though the purpose of the screening is to find polyps before they become cancerous.

With proper screening and lifestyle adjustments, the incidence of colon cancer can be decreased significantly. The American Institute for Cancer Research recommends at least 30 minutes a day of moderate activity for cancer prevention.

Colorectal cancer in African-American men is often discovered in its later stages not only because the lack of health care keeps many of them from going to the doctor, but also because cultural taboos cause many who have medical coverage not to respond to the early warning signs.

Talking to family and friends about their risk and the need for screening as well as community outreach and education programs, along with regular scheduled physician checkups and colon cancer screening can go a long way in preventing colon cancer. If found early enough, colon cancer can be treated effectively and cured.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) has released an updated guideline for colorectal

cancer screening. Among the major guideline changes, the new recommendations say screening should begin at age 45 for people at average risk. Previously, the guideline recommended screening begin at age 50 for people at average risk. Recommendations for screening test options are also part of the guideline changes.

New screening age recommendations for those at average risk:

People at average risk of colorectal cancer should start regular screening at age 45. People who are in good health and with a life expectancy of more than 10 years should continue regular colorectal cancer screening through the age of 75.

People ages 76 through 85 should make a decision with their medical provider about whether to be screened, based on their own personal preferences, life expectancy, overall health, and prior screening history. People over 85 should no longer get colorectal cancer screening.

REMEMBER THESE IMPORTANT FACTS:

The rate of being diagnosed with colorectal cancer is higher among African-Americans than among any other population group in the United States.

Death rates from colorectal cancer are higher among African-Americans than any other population group in the United States. Experts suggest that African-Americans get screened beginning at age 45. Diet, tobacco use and a lack of access to equal medical treatment options may increase African-Americans' risk of developing colorectal cancer.

African-American patients experience a larger number of polyps on the right side of the co-



lon, versus the left. A screening endoscopy must cover the entire colon, as is performed with a colonoscopy.

Talking to family and friends about their risk and the need for screening as well as community outreach and education programs, along with regular scheduled physician checkups and colon cancer screening can go a long way in preventing colon cancer.

If found early enough, colon cancer can be treated effectively and cured. Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan. Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. He is a health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics. For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Los Angeles; and Birmingham., or visit: www.glennellis.com

Reclaiming Black Excellence

By Dr. Jeanne Baynes

Eastern Washington University’s Africana Studies’ theme for Black History Month is “Reclaiming Black Excellence.” Black excellence was confirmed during the 17th century when millions of Africans were kidnapped, chained and sailed the cross-Atlantic trip to the shores of North and South America and the West Indies. Such noted authors and activists as Phyllis Wheatley, Harriett Tubman, Nat Turner, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Ossian Flipper, George Washington Carver, Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, Frederick Douglas, Langston Hughes, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and many more shared their intellect and talents with the world expressing the atrocities of slavery and racism. The “New Negro” by Alain Locke described the New Negro Renaissance as the most widely discussed period of literary history because of the scholarly artists and their importance to twentieth century thought and culture.

Let’s reclaim the courage of Shirley Chisolm, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Marian Anderson, Dr. Betty Shabazz, Mary McLeod Bethune, Medgar Evers, the Little Rock Nine, Dorothy I. Height, Jackie Robinson, Satchell Paige, and many more. Education, and political and economic independence were topics pursued contrary to the chains of oppression, segregation, and Jim Crow laws. Other scholars included Condoleeza Rice, Colin Powell, Carol Mosely Braun, Harold Washington, Douglas Wylder, James Chase, Angela Davis,

Maya Angelou, Spike Lee and many more whose shoulders we stand on in pursuit of equality.

Let’s reclaim and celebrate the accomplishments of our 44th and first African American President Barack H. Obama elected in 2008. The Obamas were the epitome of respectability and Black excellence. During the millennium, there were many inspirational stories. In 2013, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi organized the Black Lives Matter movement in the face of inequality and injustice focusing on police killings, police brutality and mass incarceration. In 2017, Jordan Peel received an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for “Get Out” and “Moonlight” won an Academy Award for best picture honoring film director Barry Jenkins and playwright Tarell McCraney, and validating young Black men’s stories. This was also the year of Serena Williams who has been ranked No. 1 tennis player from 2002 to 2017 and is considered the best tennis player ever.

The year 2018 proved to be a year in which Black excellence prevailed in entertainment, politics, business and sports. A few highlights of the most impactful moments in Black culture were “The Black Panther” movie, which became the 10th highest grossing movie and the highest grossing Superhero movie with a predominantly Black cast; Beyonce’s inspiring performance at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival as the first Black female headliner; LeBron James opening his “I

Promise School” and Colin Kaepernick’s voice of protest standing up for social injustice.

Black excellence is not only exclusive to college educated, corporate business types who have exceeded standards in the fields in which they work. While that is beautiful and inspirational, Black excellence also refers to the single mom who is putting her kids through school and working two full-time jobs to support them and the father who make sacrifices every day to be there for his family. Black excellence is the young man or woman who is finally finding the courage to get their G.E.D. after years of saying “I would never succeed?”

Black excellence includes everyone who has tried to make their dreams come true but failed. It includes people living paycheck to paycheck, trying to get by in a post-Trump America. People working a nine-to five job, while surviving anti-poor, “urban rejuvenation” that leaves you battling to pay the rent while advocating for your children and setting goals to survive. Black excellence is working hard, and working smarter, because when we know better, we do better.

As I told my children, don’t feel the desire to prove yourself to anyone but yourself. Find the space to define yourself and create the space to allow this process to happen. As parents, we must realize that Black excellence is present early on in our children and we have to continue to



nurture their excellence even when they enter the public or private school system.

Let’s reclaim and applaud the excellence provided by Black scholars who document the contributions African Americans have made to America. Some examples are the success and impact of our national organizations, entrepreneurship, gains in education, military, science, medicine, and many other achievements. For example, the Smithsonian National Museum for of African American History and Culture in Washington, D. C. and the National Museum for Peace and Justice, informally known as the Lynching Museum in Montgomery, Alabama both tell our painful stories of endurance, survival, accomplishments and Black Excellence.

In 2019, the excellence continues in spite of the injustice. “Happy Black Excellence.”

EWU AFRICANA STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS



RECLAIMING
BLACK EXCELLENCE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2019

APPROVED UNTIL
MAR 01 2019
EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Perpetual Punishment of Cedric Bradley Dr. Okera Nsombi & Cedric Bradley 12-12:50 pm MON 205

More Than Just an Entertainer, Athlete or Criminal: Invisible Stories of a Black Man in America George Duvall 12-12:50 pm MON 205

Office for Diversity and Inclusion presents Of Ebony Embers 12-2:00 pm SHO Auditorium

MON 4	TUES 5	WED 6	THURS 7
Blackfishing: Cultural Appropriation and Bias presented by BSU 12-12:50 pm MON 205	Understanding the speech Gap Angela Schwendiman 12-12:50 pm MON 205 MCC presents Black KKKlansman 5:00 pm movie start MARTIN 158	Black Love: Relationships and Race presented by BSU 12-12:50 pm MON 205	Authority Figures and the Black Community: Finding a New Way Forward Dr. Tade Ayeni 12-12:50 pm MON 205
MON 11	TUES 12	WED 13	THURS 14
President's Day	Enjoy The Stars When You Don't Trust Your Neighbors: Poems of Faith, Love, Courage, Healing, and Hope Dr. Gloria Baynes 12-12:50 pm MON 205	African Queens: Celebrating Black Women presented by BSU 12-12:50 pm MON 205	Trip to Africa: Experiences in the Mother Country Dr. Scott Finnie 12-12:50 pm MON 205
MON 18	TUES 19	WED 20	THURS 21
African Kings: Celebrating Black Men presented by BSU 12-12:50 pm MON 205	LIVE TELECAST with Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza 12-1:30 SHO Auditorium	The Rise of Food Insecurity in African American Households Kianna Baker TriO McNair Scholar 12-12:50 pm MON 205	Annual Silent Auction Benefits Africana Studies Student Scholarships 11:00 am-4:00 pm MON 205
MON 25	TUES 26	WED 27	THURS 28

To make arrangements for access accommodations, call 509.359.2205.

To make donations to our Annual Silent Auction, please contact our secretary at bnicholson37@ewu.edu or call 509.359.2205.

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23rd Annual

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Honoring African American graduates from K-12 schools, colleges and universities from Spokane and surrounding areas.

YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK



Sankofa Bird
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A Cultural Salute for Outstanding Academic Achievement

Saturday, April 27, 2019 ♦ 2:00pm

Gonzaga University – Hemmingson Ballroom

Spokane, Washington

The African American Graduation Celebration Committee

The deadline for graduates to register is Thursday, March 28, 2019. For more information or to register e-mail aagradspokane@gmail.com.

Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

There is Always Hope

I’ve had my share of heartache like most people have. I look back at different times in my life, times when everything felt dark and possibilities seemed few and far in between. There are times in our lives when darkness and despair seem to be posted around every corner waiting for our arrival. Life is filled with situations that bring us pain. The death of a loved one. A failed relationship. The loss of a job. A foolishly imposed government shut down affecting the way we feed and care for our families. Sickness in our bodies is another example of the painful hardships that we all experience. These hurts bind us to the human experience. The resulting pain connects us one to another. No one is exempt.

Pain has a way of leveling the playing field. Pain doesn’t care about who you are, where you come from or how you got there. Pain doesn’t respect your socio-economic status. It has no regard for your race, sexual orientation or gender. It comes to us in the morning and lingers through the night. No matter how you rationalize it, it hurts. No amount of words can console a hurting or broken heart. Although we’ve all shared in the experience of pain, our reactions to pain are similar but unique.

The pain we feel when a loved one passes away is the same pain we feel when we endure injustices in our communities of color. The pain felt by our native sisters and brothers who must live with the aftermath of colonization, is the same pain that Africans Americans feel when we examine the truth of our enslaved existences.

Our collective pain is only exacerbated by watching in 2019 as people boldly boast slogans on tee shirts and red hats that read “Make America Great Again” when we (black and brown people alike) can’t seem to recall a time when America was ever great for people like us.

It’s all the same pain, clearly in different forms, but hurt none the less. Yet and still, in the midst of dark times there is hope. Hope in humanity. Hope in change. Although it may seem as though there is no light in times of darkness, there is always light. There will always be light.

The universe promises that for every sunset there will be a sunrise. This truth is what we must hold on to. For every dark time there will again be light. As we stumble through this complicated life, we must somehow hold on to the promise of change. In the hard times, the tough seasons are just that, seasons. During our seasons of pain and despair, somehow, someday, someday, at some moment, it too will change.

In the midst of darkness, it can become increasingly difficult to believe that there will be joy again. Let me tell you, in my darkest times there is nothing that anyone could have said to me to make me believe or trust that things would get better. But what I am sure of today is this, as sure as I am a living being, the god of my understanding has not forgotten me, nor has he/she forgotten you.



As sure as the sun remembers to shine, the universe will always remember to conspire for our greatest good in moments of tragedy, sadness and pain. What I believe is that somehow, there will be restoration for all of us. I hold on to the belief that all that has been lost will be found. That which has been taken will be returned to its rightful owners and those who weep will again find joy. That is the premise of hope and there is always hope.

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

2019 EQUITY CHALLENGE

End disparities in school readiness by investing in early childhood

2019 EQUITY CHALLENGE:
End disparities in school readiness by investing in early childhood



About this report

With the *2019 Equity Challenge*, a statewide population-level statistic—the percentage of kids deemed ready for kindergarten—helps us understand the barriers to opportunity that Washington state’s children face. We challenge policymakers to move policies and investments that work to reduce and eliminate the racial and ethnic disparities evident in the data.



KIDS COUNT in Washington (www.kidscountwa.org) is a joint effort of the Children’s Alliance and the Washington State Budget & Policy Center. This report is funded in part by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We thank the Foundation for its support and acknowledges that the findings and conclusions presented herein are those of the authors alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the foundation. All rights reserved.

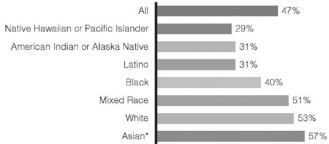
Find hundreds of indicators of child well-being at the state, county and national levels at the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Center: datacenter.kidscount.org.

We all benefit when more Washington children start kindergarten ready to learn. But children of color face significant barriers to success in school and in life. To help kids overcome these barriers, state lawmakers should invest significantly more in early childhood.

Early childhood—from birth to approximately age 5—is a crucial developmental period, laying the foundation for future learning. While all children need greater support, kids of color face obstacles to lifelong prosperity. Decades of policies and practices have embedded structural racism in the institutions they should be able to rely upon to help their families achieve economic security and educational success. As a result, state measures of kindergarten readiness among five-year-olds show alarming disparities by race and ethnicity.

Many kids of color face the greatest barriers to a strong start in school

Percent of students ready for kindergarten by race and ethnicity, Washington state, 2017–18



Source: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction WA/KIDS data, 2017–18. WA/KIDS measures student readiness for school across six developmental domains: social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics.
*Note on the data: The data source does not disaggregate Asian by ethnic groups. The Asian population is extremely diverse and there is a significant variation in outcomes and experiences for different Asian subgroups. The broader Asian category often masks the different educational outcomes and multiple barriers facing Southeast Asian students, for example.

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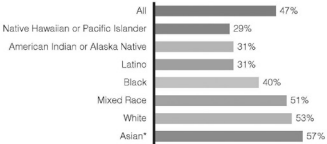
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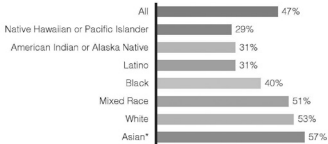
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Encourage your lawmakers to read about the six factors that promote healthy development in early childhood and take the Equity Challenge to help remove the barriers of structural racism and build a strong, shared future for every Washington child.

KIDS COUNT in Washington is a joint effort of the Children’s Alliance and the Washington State Budget & Policy Center. Find hundreds of indicators of child wellbeing at datacenter.kidscount.org.



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Reflections from Alabama: Social Justice Then and Now

By Rick Williams
Chief Executive Officer, Sobrato Foundation

I began 2019 with members of the Northern California Grantmakers Board and staff in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama. The purpose of our trip was to visit the newly opened National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, dedicated to preserving the memory of the more than 4,400 documented lynchings that occurred between 1877 and 1950.

I was prepared for the visit to be emotional and deeply moving, but was unprepared for it to be as personal as it became.

We entered the memorial in front of a sculpture of African American adults and children in chains — one of the most moving and powerful things I have experienced. From there, we walked through an outdoor auditorium of metal slabs — slabs that remind you of large headstones and represent all of the known individuals whose lives were taken through this form of sanctioned terror. The markers are arranged by state and county, making the volume of people killed in each small community clear and cutting.

My roots are in the South. I was born in South Carolina, and have fond memories



of my time at my grandparents' houses, playing with my cousins and doing the things you were able to do as a child in a small town. But, I also have memories of the things I could not do, like go to certain parts of town or to certain parts of the local lake.

As I walked passed the slabs, I found the ones for the counties where my family

lived and took in the names of the dozens of people that were listed. The towns where my relatives are from are very small, so it is almost certain that the people who lost their lives in those counties were part of my grandparents' and relatives' communities. These were friends and neighbors, brothers and sisters, parents. And this practice — lynching —persisted for more than a century.

We closed out our trip by traveling the 54 miles from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama to cross the famed Edmund Pettus Bridge, where 600 African Americans were attacked and prevented from crossing as they marched for the right to vote. The marchers and their supporters persisted, and thank goodness they did. Two weeks later, a successful march from Selma to Montgomery was made, marking an important turning point in the Civil Rights Movement.

As I continue to reflect on these two experiences, I am acutely aware of the essential role and deep power of civic engagement.

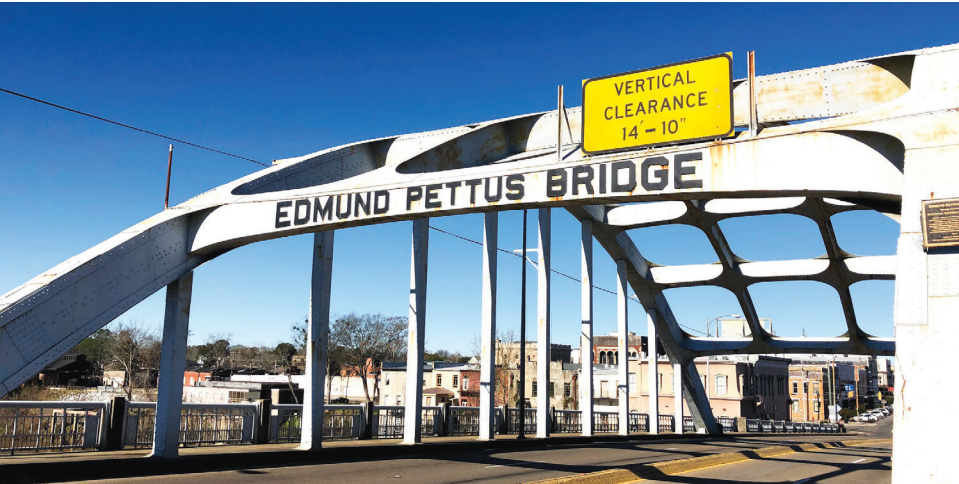
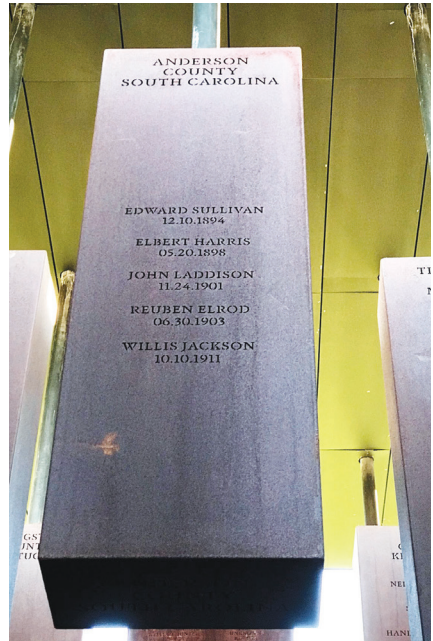
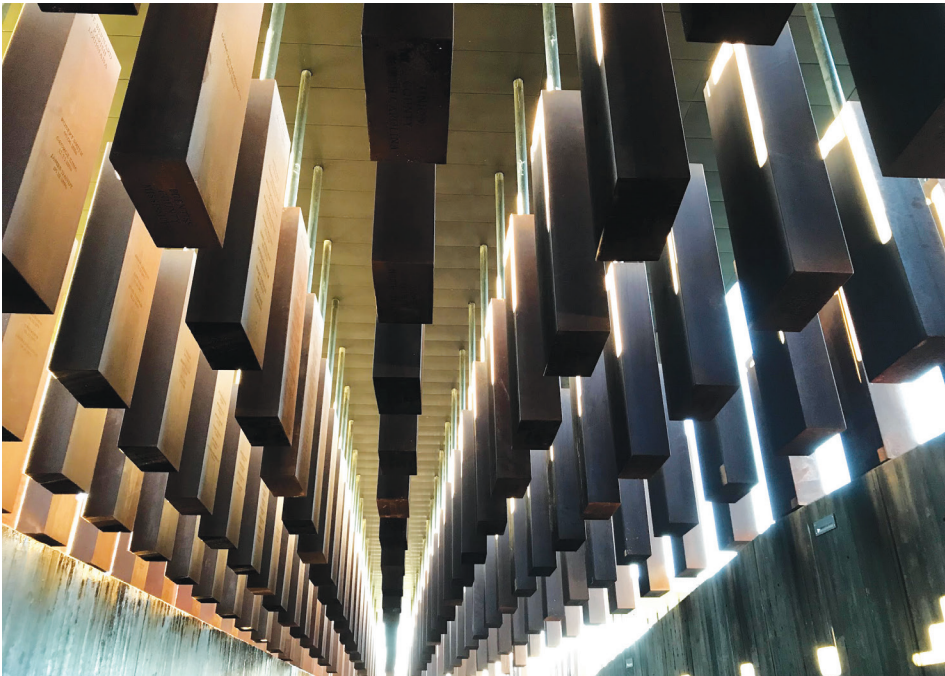
I am mindful that as a foundation leader it is unlikely I would have been able to provide financial support for a ragtag group of young people, with no formal organi-

zation, no fiscal sponsor, no logic model, and no clear timeline for when they would achieve their objectives. And if we (foundations) would have overlooked them then, who are we overlooking now? How can we expand our vision as philanthropic organizations to be receptive and support the modern-day version of this essential civic unrest, marching in protest, and rejecting unjust laws?

We need to engage and support the voices of our younger adults. The energy and persistence of the civil rights movement came from high school and college-age youth determined to stop racial terror and injustice in our country. Democracy requires participation and active engagement to uphold its duty to its voiceless and powerless citizens.

I am deeply proud of the work of our foundation and our partners. We are touching the lives of thousands of people as we strive to make educational and employment opportunities available and equitable. But, I can't help but wonder, what am I missing? What are we missing?

If the next march from Selma to Montgomery were being organized right now, would we recognize it for what it is? As a society, are we committed and ready to respond?



SPokane CELEBRATES

2019 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr March and Rally



January 21, 2019 Photos Courtesy of Robert Lloyd, <http://4comculture.com> and the Black Lens.

MARTIN LUTHER KING

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Community Church Service

Presented by the Spokane Ministers' Fellowship and The Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center

January 20, 2019

Holy Temple Church of God in Christ



Black Art Jazz Collective Brings Smooth Sound to Spokane



In their effort to bring more of the flavors of the big city to the Spokane community, Imagine Jazz hosted their first event of 2019, bring the The Black Art Jazz Collective to Spokane for a workshop session and jazz concert on January 23 at Spokane Falls Community College.

The Black Art Jazz Collective (BAJC) is a collaborative ensemble comprised of some of Jazz's finest rising stars, including New York musicians Jeremy Pelt (Trumpet), Wayne Escoffery (Saxophone), James Burton III (Trombone), Xavier Davis (Piano), Corcoran Holt (Bass) and Johnathan Blake (Drums).

In addition to being exceptional musicians, each member of the Collective is also a composer, with many of their compositions dedicated to important African American icons.

BAJC has produced two recordings as a group, a self-titled CD recorded live at the Side Door Jazz Club and their 2018 release "Armor of Pride." They can be found on Facebook @blackart-jazzcollective

Imagine Jazz (IJ) was founded by Rachel Bade-McMurphy in 2018. Imagine Jazz celebrates and highlights the African American contribution to jazz as well as the global expression of this American-born artform. IJ presents concerts and educational experiences allowing students to become connected with the lineage of jazz by working directly with the masters of improvised music. For more information visit imaginejazz.org.



Hannah's Prom & Dress Closet

Non-Profit Gives Away Hundreds of Dresses Each Year to Those in Need

By Karen Herford

Hannah's Prom and Dress Closet is a tax-deductible non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to provide FREE formal wear to young women and young men in need in the Inland Northwest!

A hidden gem in Spokane, we give away approximately 500-600 dresses a year and are blessed to have many community partners, such as Marcella's Bridal, Teen and Kids Closet, DownTime Designs, The Jonas Project, the Spokane community and a couple of others that would like to remain anonymous. As much as we give away, God returns ten fold and we are blessed to never run low because of that. We have added Wedding Dresses and young men's formal wear to our inventory!

To qualify for a free dress:

We ask that you be an EBT card holder, be on TANF/State assistance, or be in a temporary financial need. We rarely turn anyone away!

To set up an appointment:

You can set up an appointment by calling 509-866-3813 Monday - Friday from 9am -4pm.

To drop off donations:

The building is open Monday - Friday, 9:30-4:30. There is a rack just inside the lobby to the right to hang items on.

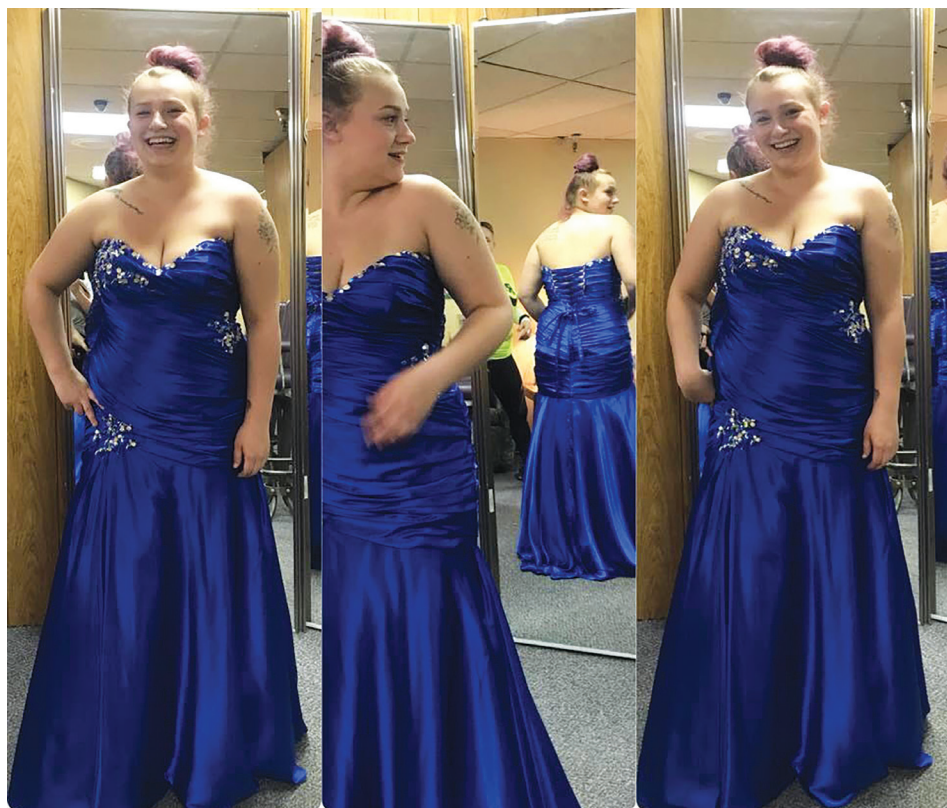
Our needs list:

- VOLUNTEERS - Faithful volunteers to help the clients find their perfect outfit & Hair, Nail and Makeup volunteers to help on the day of Prom/Homecoming to ensure the package comes together seamlessly.
- A local cleaner to partner with us to clean donated dresses.
- Modern formal shoe donations
- Dresses, dresses, dresses - 16+ is a HUGE need!
- A few handymen to help us upgrade, as it relates to painting, carpentry, etc

Thanks so much to the Spokane community and beyond for walking alongside us to dress these young women and young men so they feel included even if they do not have the funds to afford formalwear.

Please like us on Facebook @ Hannah's Prom and Dress Closet and thank you for loving these children in need back to life!

Karen Herford, Executive Director



FOODS FOR THE SOUL

Recipes for a Balanced Life By Faye McMillan



An Act of Love

Have you ever read something that left it up to you to determine the outcome? Well recently I was reading Luke where Jesus spoke one of His most interesting parables about a barren fig tree. Here's what He said: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; Why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down'" (Luke 13:6-9).

As I was laying on my sofa thinking about it, something caught my eyes. It was little green spots on a large plant given to me about a year or so ago. Charlie B, is a rubber plant that once lived inside the Work-source office. Like the fig tree this plant was considered useless, and therefore was over looked, pushed aside and was considered worthy of the dumpster. This plant was moved from the front office to the back and finally ended up in the hallway where everyone poured their beverages on it. As time went by, this plant lost its beauty, purpose, and almost its life.

My friend Kat decided to bring Charlie B to me. He had only five leaves on it and was withered. I didn't have the heart to turn the plant away since Kat carried it up three flights of stairs. Even in my home Charlie B was made fun of by everyone that came to visit. I told

everyone to look at the plant with their heart and not their eyes and you would see its potential and beauty. While others laughed, I spoke "you will live and not die, you will produce new leaves and regain your purpose."

Several months later, in March 2018, I repotted Charlie B giving it new soil and feeding it twice a month until recently. You see, time and chance happens to everyone. We don't always control the events that can happen to us with the rush of everyday life. The answer to my question was given with the green spots on the tree. They were new branches and leaves growing. Like the keeper who dedicated his time and love pouring into this tree, we should at least take one person and pour into them.

New Orleans Shrimp Toss

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning
- 1 pound fresh large shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 1 medium onion, chopped (about 1/2 cup)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cream of Chicken with Herbs soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- Cornbread or biscuits
- 2 tablespoon chopped fresh chives

Instructions

1. Mix 1 tablespoon of the oil, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce and Cajun seasoning in a medium bowl. Add the shrimp and toss lightly to coat.
2. Heat the remaining oil in a 10 inch skillet over medium high heat. Add the onion and garlic. Cook and stir until onions are tender.
3. Stir the soup, milk and paprika in skillet. Heat to a boil. Add the shrimp mixture to the skillet turn the heat to low. Cover let cook for 5 minutes or until shrimps turn pink. Serve with the cornbread and sprinkle with chives.

Give it a try and let me know if you like it. If you don't, please share why not. If you have an idea for a healthy dish, let me know that too. I can be reached through the Black Lens by sending an e-mail to sandy@blacklensnews.com. Put Foods for the Soul in the subject line.



Holy Temple
Church of God in Christ
806 W. INDIANA AVE | SPOKANE, WA 99205

A CHURCH IN THE **HEART** OF THE CITY, WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY AT **HEART**.

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WORSHIP SERVICE | 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY
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YOUTH GROUP | 7:00 PM

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HE RESTORES
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SUNDAYS 11AM

Sunday School
Sundays at 9:30am

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NewHopeSpokane.com

Pastor James & First Lady Shawn Watkins

Let’s Talk Candidly About Bail

Content sponsored by:
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What is Bail?

The purpose of monetary bail, it has been said, is to guarantee the appearance of the accused before the court at such times as the court directs. Monetary bail, essentially a ‘security deposit’, is but one of several potential release conditions available to a judge. At times, monetary bail is also used to assure community safety and obedience to court orders.

Presumed Innocent.

Our Federal and State Constitutions guarantee the presumption of innocence, until and unless convicted in a court of law through due process. But did you know some legal opinions state the United States Constitution does not guarantee, per se, an accused person has an absolute right to bail? However, if bail is allowed, the 8th Amendment to the United States Constitution states bail shall not be “excessive”.

The Washington State Constitution, however, does guarantee bail for all charges except some capital crimes. Article 1 Section 20 states in part, "all persons charged with crime shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident, or the presumption great." Further protection to liberty is also guaranteed under Article 1 Section 14 of the Washington State Constitution, which, like the 8th Amendment, makes clear "excessive bail shall not be required."

Who Sets Bail?

In *Westerman v. Cary* we are reminded, "the setting of bail and the release from custody remains a function of *the judicial branch of government*." (Emphasis added). Whatever bail is *set by a judge* must also be *reasonable*.

What factors is a judge supposed to consider when determining a reasonable bail?

Superior Court Criminal Rule of Procedure 3.2 (amended February 2017) addresses various factors a Superior Court judge is to consider at an accused's preliminary appearance. A similar rule applies for a judge to consider in Spokane Municipal Court and Spokane District Court referenced as SPM CrRLJ 3.2 for Spokane Municipal Court and CrRLJ 3.2 for Spokane County District Court.

Pretrial release on personal recognizance is presumed. You know the saying, “My word is my bond”? The presumption of release may only be overcome if the judge determines such personal recognizance will not reasonably assure the accused's appearance when required, or, when the judge determines there’s a likely danger the accused will commit a crime if released.

If the judge determines the accused isn’t likely to appear in court as ordered if released on personal recognizance, or if the judge determines there’s a likelihood the accused will commit a violent crime if released, the judge is required by law to order the least restrictive conditions that will reasonably assure the accused will be present for later hearings and/or protect the public.

Determining Least Restrictive Conditions

In September 2018, a panel of judges in the Court of Appeals also stated in *State v. Huckins*. "the condition of monetary bail may only be imposed if no less restrictive condition or combination of conditions would reasonably assure the safety of the community."

To determine pretrial release conditions, reasonably assuring the accused’s appearance back in court, Washington State caselaw requires that the judge shall consider relevant facts, including: 1) the accused's history of response to legal process; 2) the length of the accused's residence in the community; 3) the accused's criminal record; and 4) the nature of the charge as the charge relates to a risk of non-appearance. *Butler v. Kato*. Other factors affecting bail are set forth by the Washington State Supreme Court in Superior Court Criminal Rule 3.2 and the similar criminal rules for District Court and Municipal Court.

Who’s Making the Decisions?

Our appointed and elected judges make the decision about pretrial release conditions, including whether bail is necessary.

Our appointed and elected judges make the decision about what amount of bail, if any, should be assessed in each case.

If bail is assessed, bail is set by a judge.

If bail is set too low, the bail was set by a judge.

If bail is set too high, the excessive bail was set by a judge.

Thus, the base common denominator in any analysis is that:

Though presumed innocent, persons who remain incarcerated prior to trial due to unreasonable or excessive bail, are incarcerated because of a bail decision by a judge.

Systemic Impact

When analyzing pretrial incarceration data, should we not ask about the systemic impact of the judges who are determining pretrial release conditions which consistently reflect disproportionate incarceration of people of color, the poor, and other marginalized community members? If we are truly working to reform criminal justice in Spokane, is it not time to ask candid questions, and analyze judicial data to evaluate each judge and their pretrial release decisions?

What do we know about the judges setting pretrial release conditions?

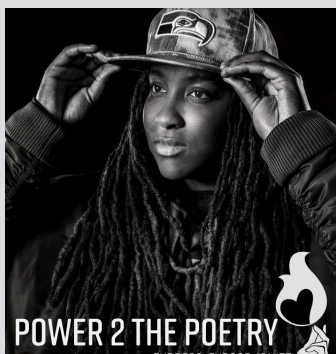
Here are a few questions to begin candid conversations:

- Where is the analysis of data of those upon whose shoulders bail decisions actually rest; Municipal, District, and Superior Court judges?
- What is the background and experience of each judge?
- How does the background and experience of each judge correlate with judicial discretion and decisions when determining pretrial release conditions?
- Does the background and experience of each judge correlate with disproportionate pretrial incarceration data?
- What can we learn to further criminal justice reform in Spokane County through a analysis of the historical release decisions by each judge?

Looking forward to some great discussions in this new year,
Dennis

The Bail Project

By Bethany Montgomery



Ulterior motives
Trying to reach quotas
Encourage us to fly
But all they do is hold us
Say they really care
Want me to get my diploma
But don’t give me the time
Or the resources to
advance my persona

How can I progress as a person
If they limit my learning
They have no proof
But still accuse
The system isn’t fair
It’s already set up for us to lose

They say they have
my best interest
But only fill me with ignorance
Treat me like a criminal
When I’m innocent
Just because of the color
of my skin
I am automatically at
a disadvantage

Spokane
Spokane is ready
Spokane is ready for equity
Spokane is ready to fight
fundamental inequities

In Spokane
We believe the cash bail system’s
fees need to decrease
Because in America are you not
innocent until proven guilty
So does that not mean you should
be out on release
if not a threat to society

But if you cannot afford
to post bail
You are forced to rot in jail
When you have only been
charged
And not convicted
Meaning you remain innocent
A pre-trial defendant

So because you don’t have
the money to get out
You are forced to be locked up
Now doesn’t that seem pretty
unjust

And don’t forget
Taxes
Taxes are what pay for this stay
And in Spokane that is at the cost
of some \$130 a day
Most people don’t even make
\$130 a day
Especially the ones who
are my age

It costs tax payers over
\$900 a week
To just keep 1 person in Jail

So it is also uneconomical to have
people just sit in there
Because they can’t make bail

This is why the Bail Project
must prevail
Why the bail Project should be
supported by this community
The accused should not
have to experience
Radically different constitutional
protections in this system
Due to the lack money

The amount of justice received
Should not be based on income
And let’s be honest
We all know what it’s more
directly based on
We all know that race is a big
factor when addressing income
80 to 85% of pre-trial defendants
in jail who can’t afford bail
Are people of color

People can lose their jobs
Their housing
Even separated from
their families
Lose custody of their children
All because they can’t afford
being bailed out

So let us support those
Who help break the linked cycle
of poverty and mass incarceration
That disproportionately affect
people of color
My sisters and my brothers
Let us assist in the elimination
of a fundamentally unfair system
of pre-trial detention

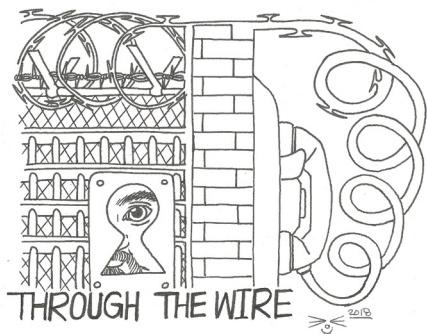
Let us help reduce the population
of the cramped jails in Spokane
Let us reduce the pressures
Of the innocent pleading guilty
in order to go free

Spokane
Let us be the change
we wish to see
Let us be thankful f
or the Bail Project
and their disruptors
Who have been hired to begin
bailing people out of jail

Right now
Right here
Spokane let us cheer
For the Bail project
Who plan to bail out
1,000 people this year

Let us be intentional and sincere
Everyone deserves to be
treated equally
So let us even the field

Power 2 the Poetry.



THE BLACK PRISONERS CAUCUS

Airway Heights

The Time Is Now By Harry "Brocq" Whitman and Steven K. Nelson

While the old saying notes that crime doesn't pay, that doesn't hold true for America's system of incarceration, which has been spending triple since 1980. That means each U.S. citizen is paying approximately \$260 per year for corrections, up from \$77 per person in 1980. If any other business or institution in America were as unsuccessful in achieving their ostensible purpose as our prisons are, we would shut them down tomorrow. Two-thirds of prisoners reoffend within 3 years of leaving prison, often with a more serious offense. More than 90% of prisoners return to the community within a few years (otherwise our prisons would be even more overcrowded than they already are). That is why it is vitally important how society treats individuals while they are incarcerated.

How does society change the prison system to make it both more effective and less expensive? The only rational purpose for a prison is to restrain those who are violent, while helping them to change their behavior and return to the community. In 2016, Governor Jay Inslee issued Executive Order 16-05, which took direct aim at our state's criminal justice system. This bold measure establishes a firm legislative framework that codifies a set of comprehensive, measurable, evidence based policy prescriptions to be put in place. The main thrust of Executive Order 16-05 is singularly focused on the state's desire to build safe and strong communities with a keen eye toward successful reentry.

As an ambitious investment plan, the DOC assumes a very prominent role as the third largest agency in Washington state with a \$1.7 Billion biennial operating budget. In light of this massive level of spending and resource allocation, the DOC must redouble its efforts and performance outcomes in order to account for these enormous budget expenditures. More broadly, the state is charged with producing "deliverables" which will require a reinvestment in strategies and programs that are smart and proven to reduce recidivism.

As custodial stakeholders, we strongly support the Governor's Executive Order 16-05. This measure accurately captures and embodies the progressive spirit of common sense criminal justice reform. In the order, the Governor correctly points out that "the collateral consequences of incarceration disproportionately affect communities of color."

With this target in view, establishing the Black Prisoners Caucus (BPC) at Airway Heights Correction Center (AHCC) would significantly expand program metrics that encourage and strengthen right living, providing custodial stakeholders who are disproportionately affected by incarceration with structure, programs and opportunities that make a difference and are aligned with the governor's reform efforts. To this end, the BPC has maintained a dynamic yet fluid organizational framework designed to create a culture of mutual uplifting, dignity, pride, hope and self-worth. Although aspirational, the BPC has crafted concrete solutions to the ongoing challenges of recidivism and restoring positive values.

As active members of the BPC we have been involved in and exposed to a wide array of justice work. These experiences sparked a cultural renaissance that deepened our convictions and commitment to the values, principles and practices of servant leadership. During our 10 year, we've become very intimate and familiar with the rich legacy and proud history of this long-standing organization. In our role as gatekeepers, we have kept watch as the BPC continues to grow and expand across this massive bureaucracy that comprises the Washington state DOC. It is essential to note our organization's nascent and unprecedented growth did not evolve out of thin air, nor was it conceived in a vacuum.

The BPC was founded in 1972 by African American men incarcerated at the Washington State Reformatory. It has continuously worked to improve the conditions of its stakeholders, their families and their communities. Because of the unique challenges

that many men face, the BPC has created a circle of life that encourages emotional healing through cultural competence. In large measure, the efficacy of the BPC program is due to the amazing community support it enjoys. This is evidenced by its extensive cross sector community stakeholder partnerships. When provided the tools, we get to work.

The BPC plans, coordinates and hosts numerous workshops. We also conduct annual summits where we share a meal and address issues involving education, criminal justice reform, domestic violence, employment, youth related issues, family support, culture, spirituality, gang prevention, etc. The BPC embraces and promotes self-help, and restorative justice model programming. As a result, many state leaders, legal representatives, educators, students, social service practitioners, clergy, community activists and DOC officials have attended various BPC sponsored events across the state.

In 2017, we saw Coyote Ridge Corrections Center become the seventh DOC facility and the first in Eastern Washington to welcome and officially establish a BPC chapter. This is ground breaking and we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the DOC officials, volunteer sponsors and the men whose leadership was invaluable.

While there was a set back at CRCC in 2018, with the cancellation of the BPC Summit III Conference, setbacks are not excuses for surrender, because we don't have the luxury to relax or quit. The survival and success of our communities and families are at stake. In light of this, THE TIME IS NOW to get animated and enthusiastic about establishing a BPC at AHCC. There is a rich and vibrant African American community in place here with a hunger for positive change and a deep reservoir of goodwill.

The Governor has led the way with Executive Order 16-05, emphasizing that the environment of a prison should model in every way how society wants incarcerated individuals to behave upon release. So, what does society want us to do when we

get out of prison? I assume society would like for us to have respect and compassion for others, and respect for the rule of law. This means that while we are in prison we should receive respect and the prison should be law abiding. Today's prisons are neither.

What our prisons have historically taught is that it is normal behavior to hate your enemies and to harm them. Incarcerated individuals tend to answer with violence for the violence that has been perpetrated against them in prison. I don't feel that, I know that. When you talk about reform, you talk about transforming prisoners' lives in a positive way. But today's prisons, for the most part, offer anything but an environment for that type of transformation.

The violence that is coming out of these prisons is a much greater threat than terrorism. The costs are astronomical. Yet, the most imprisoned population in America today is the general public, which is uninformed about the nature and consequences of imprisonment as it is practiced today. The general public is imprisoned in a mass delusion, which in the long run punishes society far more than society could ever punish a convicted criminal.

On June 21st 2019, we will have our first summit here at Airway Heights Correction Center. We invite and encourage you all to come and share a "soul food meal", support our efforts to engage in dialogue about these vital issues and to participate in the creation of an action plan for a way forward. We simply endeavor to contribute in whatever way we can to fulfill the objectives set forth in the Governor's executive order. In the long run, BPC programs work. They save money, improve lives, rebuild communities and reduce recidivism. If you are interested in participating in the BPC summit, you are invited send an email to BPCEast@gmail.com and request more information.

There is a West African proverb which says: "I am...because we are...and we are...because I am." THE TIME IS NOW!!!

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

The Bail Project Comes to Spokane

Continued from Page 17

In Spokane, it is estimated that the majority of the men and women who are detained in jail have not been convicted of a crime, but remain locked up because they cannot afford to post bail. This pre-trial detention can have a devastating impact families. Even a few days in jail, the Bail Project says, could mean losing your home, job, immigration status, and even custody of children. In addition, according

to Bail Project statistics, one third of sexual victimization happens within the first three days in jail and half of all jail deaths, including suicides, happen in the first week.

As a result of these dire potential consequences, 90 percent of defendants who stay in jail because they don't have the money to pay their bail will plead guilty, according to the Bail Project, and they will be tagged with a criminal record, even if they are not guilty. In contrast, when the Bail Project is involved with a defendant, 96% return to court, 55% have their cases dismissed and less than 2% receive a jail sentence.

"Today, in America, two people charged with exactly the same thing will experience radically different legal systems based on the size of their bank account and the color of their skin." These outcomes are why the Bail Project says it is on a mission. "We believe that paying bail for someone in need is an act of resistance against a system that criminalizes race and poverty."

In Spokane, the Bail Project has a goal of bailing out 1,000 in 2019. For more information visit: bailproject.org

The Black Lens will be following the progress of the Spokane Bail Project and will provide updates as they become available.



Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears



The Whole Truth Will Set Us Free

Truth—a concept much on our minds these days, because there’s so little of it in our political discourse. When considering hard facts, the truth should be easy to discern. Fact checking has become its own industry. Something happened, or it didn’t happen. We just have to provide evidence of the truth, right?

A scripture account from the Gospel of John comes to mind. Jesus, after his arrest was being tried and interrogated by Pontius Pilate. Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king. Jesus answers saying, “I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth.” Pilate in response asks Jesus, “What is Truth?”

The popular interpretation of Pilate’s question is that he asked it sarcastically. That’s not my take. I think Pilate asked Jesus in earnest, because no less now than throughout the ages of human history, this has been the penultimate question: What is truth? Is truth a relative thing—a matter of interpretation? Is my truth the same as yours? Is truth merely a human concept, or is there a greater truth?

Euro-America’s interpretation of America’s history, and Black, Native, and Brown America’s interpretation of the American experience are vastly different. Which interpretation is true? As a person of color, here’s my interpretation. Since the first Euro-American man stepped foot on this continent, White America’s truth has been that White is might and White is right. The historical truth for people of color in American is that White may be might, but it definitely hasn’t been right. No one knows better than people of color that history is written by the conquerors. In the macrocosm (the greater complex structure of a culture), Euro-America continues as it has throughout the history of this country to produce convenient truths, misrepresentations, cover ups, and yes outright lies about the past and the present to support its fundamental reason for being – retaining and sustaining dominance.

Euro-Americans are not the only culture who live with a distorted truth. The airwaves, internet and print media are full of familiar refrains from political progressives of every ethnicity and culture raging against the acts of the current political administration exclaiming, “This is not who we are as Americans” and “We are a nation of laws.” Yes, America is indeed a nation of laws, laws which have never been fairly applied. There has never been freedom and justice for All. Laws meant to protect and support “All” people have been manipulated and dismantled to ensure Euro-American dominance. What is happening in America today is not the result of the election of Donald Trump; it is the fruit of hundreds of years of American self-deception.

Catholics and several Protestant denominations have within the practice of their Christian Faith, a ritual I

have always found liberating: The Sacrament of Reconciliation, or the Sacrament of Confession. An individual or whole community regularly examines their lives to see where they have fallen short of the mark of living out the principles of the Christian Faith: Love, inclusion, compassion and forgiveness. The things we have done intentionally to harm others, the things we have done that have unintentionally harmed others, and the things we have done to harm ourselves are spoken aloud, witnessed by a priest, or where there is communal reconciliation, we witness for one another.

We repent—we express our desire to return to right relationship with God, and to be forgiven and restored back into the community. Our repentance doesn’t expunge our record. It doesn’t erase the sin. But because we take responsibility for our wrong-doing and seek forgiveness, we are no longer plagued by hidden shame and guilt, and we can begin to earnestly heal relationships with those our actions have injured. True repentance has the power to transform moral attitudes, and to replenish both the individual and communal soul. That is because God is revealed in the Truth.

For there to be healing and reconciliation, the truth must be faced, and the truth must be told – the whole truth.

The truth is that at the start of the Civil War there were almost four million enslaved people of African descent in America. Rarely has there been official acknowledgment of the crime against humanity that was slavery in these United States. Generations later, Black Americans still carry the trauma of slavery and subsequent domestic terror deep within our psyches.

America romanticizes the era of slavery. It reminisces and celebrates the glory of the Old South. Mississippi still has the confederate battle flag as part of its state flag. Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina still celebrate Confederate Memorial Day. Civil War re-enactments are annually staged across the country. Much of America fondly remembers and pledges its heart to the old South in songs like Dixie. “I wish I was in the land of cotton, old times there are not forgotten...” It wasn’t until 2016 that the University of Mississippi (the Ole Miss Rebels) stopped playing Dixie at its home football games. I’ve heard it said, that the North won the war, but the South won the narrative.

Slavery was only one of America’s original sins. Euro-Americans perpetrated mass genocide on the Native peoples of the Americas with the deliberate introduction of deadly diseases into the population, the mass slaughter of women and children, thousand-mile forced migrations by foot, internment and systemic denigration of a proud people. In 1838, 16,000 Native Americans were marched over 1,200 miles of rugged land. Over 4,000 died of disease and famine. The Cherokee

call this the Trail of Tears. The legacy of this crime is that Native Americans have higher rates of alcoholism, substance abuse and suicides than other racial groups.

America could look to South Africa and its Truth and Reconciliation Commission as one model for beginning to heal a nation’s deep, deep racial wounds. Formed after the fall of apartheid, the Commission was an experiment in reconciliation and restorative justice in a colonized country devastated by a White supremacist state.

For over two years, beginning in 1996, some 2,000 people, perpetrators, and victims told their often heart-wrenching stories of the human rights abuses they suffered, and the abuses they perpetrated on others. Over 7,000 perpetrators asked for amnesty; fewer than 1,000 got it. Those who did receive amnesty had to show contrition, sometimes directly to family members of the people they’d killed. All this testimony was broadcast live across the country. As a South African journalist wrote, “Some wept. Some scoffed. Some knew these stories all too well. And some were hearing them for the first time.”

The work of the Commission did not result in a united South Africa. Systemic racism and injustice is not easily or quickly transcended. But it was the beginning of healing for all South Africans. I emphasize, the beginning of healing. One of the critical takeaways from South Africa’s experiment is that a one-off attempt at reconciliation is not enough. We can look to Germany as a model for another way, a way I think far more effective.

All across Germany, and particularly in Berlin, outside homes and apartment complexes, there are small brass cobblestones called Stolpersteine– literally translated as “stumbling blocks.” Written on the blocks are brief details of every Jewish man, woman or child who was forced from their nearby homes and deported to concentration camps where six million of them were exterminated. In Germany it is a criminal offense to display any symbol whatsoever of the Nazi regime. It is illegal to incite people with hate speech. It is against the law to be a Holocaust denier. There is no attempt to cover up, deny or romanticize Germany’s former glory. Germany acknowledged its sins. It repented. The country was restored to the world community. Germany’s soul was transformed. God was revealed.

The only thing that can save the soul of America is to face the whole truth of its past and present. Until America’s dominant powers publicly confess and repent of the brutal enslavement of African people, and the genocide of the land’s native people, true healing cannot begin. Testify to the whole truth, America and God will be revealed. Only then will we the people be set free.

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Kiwaniis
CLUB OF EAST SPOKANE

*Presents our 21st Annual
Civic Theatre Fundraiser!*



Wednesday, February 13, 2019 – 7:30 PM

Spokane Civic Theatre – 1020 N. Howard St.

Hosted Wine and Dessert Reception – 6:30-7:30 PM

**General Admission Tickets \$35 - Contact Mallory Thomas
at (509) 954-0823 or mlsthoas1@comcast.net**

This celebrated comedy revolves around the family of Martin Vanderhof who live “just around the corner from Columbia University – but don’t go looking for it.” Grandpa, as Martin is more commonly known, is the paterfamilias of a large and extended family: his daughter, Penny, who fancies herself a romance novelist; her husband, Paul, an amateur fireworks expert; their daughter, Alice, an attractive and loving girl who is still embarrassed by her family’s eccentricities—which include a xylophone player/leftist leaflet printer, an untalented ballerina, and ballet master exiled from Soviet Russia. When Alice falls for her boss, Tony, a handsome scion of Wall Street, she fears that their two families – so unlike in manner, politics, and finances – will never come together.

Financing Your Business -- With a Little Help

What is the 504 Loan Program?

The SBA 504 Loan program is a powerful economic development loan program that offers small businesses another avenue for business financing, while promoting business growth, and job creation. As of February 15, 2012, the \$50 Billion in 504 loans has created over 2 million jobs. This program is a proven success and win-win-win for the small business, the community and participating lenders.

The 504 Loan Program provides approved small businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing used to acquire fixed assets for expansion or modernization. 504 loans are made available through Certified Development Companies (CDCs), SBA's community based partners for providing 504 Loans.

About CDCs

A Certified Development Company (CDC) is a nonprofit corporation that promotes economic development within its community through 504 Loans. CDCs are certified and regulated by the SBA, and work with SBA and participating lenders (typically banks) to provide financing to small businesses, which in turn, accomplishes the goal of community economic development.

There are over 260 CDCs nationwide each having a defined Area of Operations covering a specific geographic area. The area of operation for most CDCs is the state in which they are incorporated. To contact a CDC in your area, first use this link to locate your local SBA District Office

504 Loan Structure

504 Loans are typically structured with SBA providing 40% of the total project costs, a participating lender covering up to 50% of the total project costs, and the borrower contributing 10% of the project costs. Under certain circumstances, a borrower may be required to contribute up to 20% of the total project costs.

504 Loan Example

Total 504 projects costs for a \$1,000,000 project may include the following (eligibility requirements apply to the 504 portion of the project as well as the participating lending portion):

- Building Purchase
- Land
- Renovation
- Furniture and Equipment
- Soft Costs

TOTAL \$1,000,000
Loan Structure
\$500,000, 1st lien with bank (loan obtained from a private sector lender covering up to 50% of the total project cost)

\$400,000, 2nd lien with 504 loan, 20 year, fixed rate (loan obtained through a CDC, funded through an SBA-guaranteed debenture, covering up to 40% of the total project cost)

\$100,000, borrower contribution (contribution from the borrower of at least 10% of the total project cost/)

How 504 Loan Funds May Be Used

The use of proceeds from 504 Loans must be used for fixed assets (and certain soft costs), including:



- The purchase of existing buildings;
- The purchase of land and land improvements, including grading, street improvements, utilities, parking lots and landscaping;
- The construction of new facilities or modernizing, renovating or converting existing facilities;
- The purchase of long-term machinery* ; or
- The refinancing of debt in connection with an expansion of the business through new or renovated facilities or equipment*.

*Note: The 504 Program cannot be used for working capital or inventory, consolidating or repaying debt, or refinancing (except for projects with an expansion component or that meet the temporary refinancing provisions of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010). See also “Program Updates” at the bottom of the web page. Learn more here

504 Loan Benefits for the Small Business

- The 504 Loan program offers small businesses both immediate and long-term benefits, so business owners can focus on growing their business.
- Some of the top-level benefits include:
- 90% financing;
- Longer loan amortizations, no balloon payments;
- Fixed-rate interest rates; and
- Savings that result in improved cash flow for small businesses.

504 Loan Eligibility

To be eligible for a 504 Loan, your business must be operated for profit and fall within the size standards set by the SBA. Under the 504 Program, a business qualifies if it has a tangible net worth not more than \$15 million, and an average net income of \$5 million or less after federal income taxes for the preceding two years prior to application.

Loans cannot be made to businesses engaged in nonprofit, passive or speculative activities. For additional information on eligibility criteria and loan application requirements, small business and lenders are encouraged to contact a Certified Development Company in their area.

Maximum Loan Amount (Debenture)

While there is no maximum project size, the maximum SBA loan amount (debenture) is \$5 million. Small manufacturers or specific types of energy projects (as described in the energy project section) may qualify for a \$5.5 million debenture.** Generally, a business must create or retain one job for every \$65,000 guaranteed by the SBA. Small manufacturers must create or retain a ratio of one job for every \$100,000. As an alternative to job creation or retention, your business may qualify if it meets a community development or public policy goal as long as the CDC maintains its portfolio job average requirements.

These include:

Community Development Goals:

- Improving, diversifying or stabilizing the local economy;
- Stimulating other business development;
- Bringing new income into the community;
- Assisting manufacturing firms (North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), Sectors 31 to 33) and all of its production facilities located in the United States; or
- Assisting businesses in Labor Surplus Areas;

Public Policy Goals:

- Revitalizing a business district of a community with a written revitalization or redevelopment plan;
- Expanding exports;
- Expanding small businesses owned and controlled by women;
- Expanding small businesses owned and controlled by veterans (especially service-disabled veterans);
- Expanding minority business development;
- Aiding rural development;
- Increasing productivity and competitiveness (retooling, robotics, modernization, competition with imports);
- Modernizing or upgrading facilities to meet health, safety, and environmental requirements;

Collateral

Generally, the project assets being financed are used as collateral. Personal guaranties from owners of 20% or more are also required.

Interest Rates and Fees

Interest rates on 504 Loans are correlated with the current market rate for 5-year and 10-year U.S. Treasury issues. Loan maturities of 10 and 20 years are available. Fees may be financed with the loan.

For More Information About the 504 Loan Program visit: <https://www.sba.gov/offices/headquarters/ofa/resources/4049>
For additional information on eligibility criteria and loan application requirements, please contact your local Certified Development Company (CDC).

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PROBLEM BANK ASSESSMENT

LRS

James Wilburn: OPO Commissioner Refused Information About Use of Force Against African Americans

Continued from Page 1

Are you asking for information about individual cases?

I wanted to know about the individual cases and then I wanted to know about the overall approach. Where are the police finding this disproportionate number of African Americans? Are they targeting the communities where we might live? Where are they happening?

What happened when you asked for the information?

I went to Bart and said, I'm concerned about this and I'd like additional information. And then Bart went to Chief of Police and asked for the information. He was told,

we can't share that information while the city is negotiating with the guild.

So where are things now?

I'm still trying to find out why we can't get this information. Why we can't find out what is causing these disparities to happen. You know, if it's a trend, how do we stop the trend, because it's going to keep escalating until it gets out of hand. I also asked for the reports on 2017 and 2018, and I couldn't get that either.

My question on the Commission is who is our supervisor? Who is our boss? It's the people. Even though the Mayor appointed me, I represent the people. I don't represent the city. And that's the concern that I have, who is telling us what we can and can't

do? Where do they get that authority? That question needs to be answered. I didn't get an answer for that.

What do you see as the primary issues impacting people of color in Spokane as it relates to criminal justice?

We need equity and fairness. We need to feel free to move about Spokane like anybody else. There shouldn't be any differences made based upon the color of your skin, but all indications are that there are differences. And it shouldn't be. How do we remedy that? By addressing specific issues and concerns in this city. I know that you [the Black Lens] are dealing with the disproportionate number of incarcerated people of color. All of this is connected. So

how do we remedy this? We have to start somewhere.

Anything else you want to add?

This is not a fight against the Mayor of the city or the Chief of Police. This is a concern for fairness and equity for people of color, and to look into this disproportionate number of cases of use of force against African-Americans that specifically is continuing to go up.

I'm saying, at some point in time, if we don't address this issue, it is going to get way out of hand, where it's going to be really hard for us to address. So we need to deal with this now.

For information about the Ombudsman Commission visit: <https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombudsman-commission>

OUR VOICES

Shame and Shade in Birmingham: In Praise of Angela Davis

By Julianne Malveaux

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - If anyone deserves a civil rights award, Angela Davis certainly does. The activist and scholar has been on the front lines of the civil rights movement all of her life. She has been especially active in prison reform matters, but she has also been involved in other civil and human rights issues. When I learned back in October that she would get the Fred Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, I was absolutely delighted. I imagined the wide smile the daughter of Birmingham must have flashed when she learned that she would be honored.

Everyone in Birmingham wasn't thrilled, though. Some people in the conservative Southern town seemed disturbed that she had been a member of both the Black Panther Party and the Communist Party. Others were concerned about her support of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement) against the Israeli occupation. She has said that she stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and advocates for their fair treatment in Israel.

Some ill informed people consider the BDS movement "anti-Semitic". They suggest that any questions that one raises about Israel shows a bias against Jewish people. But Davis, a lifelong human rights activist, is concerned about the humanity of Palestinian people, as well as other people.

And she is rightfully concerned, as many of us are, about the spate of laws recently passed that downright outlaw the BDS movement. According to the Middle East Monitor, a teacher in Texas, Bahia Amawi, refused to sign an oath that required her to pledge that she "does not currently boycott Israel", that she will not boycott Israel and that she will "refrain from any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with Israel".

Texas is among some 25 states that have passed laws forbidding the state from doing business with companies that boycott Israel! It will also not invest pension funds in companies that support BDS. Thirteen more states including Washington DC, have similar laws to the Texas law pending, pitting people's first amendment rights of



free speech against support for Israel. And Florida Senator Marco Rubio, in the middle of a government shutdown, had the nerve to introduce national legislation that mirrors the Texas law (actually, Illinois was the first state to pass this discriminatory law).

Lots of people in Birmingham aren't having it. Though the "Civil Rights Institute" rescinded its award to Dr. Angela Davis, there has been significant protest about the decision. Birmingham's Mayor, Randall Woodfin, who is a non-voting member of the Museum Board and did not participate in the decision to rescind the award (the city provides the museum with about a million dollars a year in operating funds) has expressed his dismay about the decision. Three board members have resigned from the board. And Alabama columnist Roy S. Johnson has written a fiery column accusing the Civil Rights Institute of insulting Rev. Shuttlesworth and staining its own legacy. Johnson says the Birmingham Jewish community may have been the loudest, but not the only folks pushing for Davis' award to be rescinded.

Who rescinds an award after it has been granted for statements that were not recently made, but are a matter of re-

cord? Angela Davis has long been an outspoken activist, just like Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth was. Nothing had been changed from the time Davis was notified of the award and January 4, when it was rescinded. The BCRI did not have to honor Davis, but their canceling the award is a special kind of insult. Fortunately, Angela Davis has a thick skin, and she knows exactly who she is. She didn't cringe when then-California governor Ronald Reagan had her fired from UCLA for her membership in the Communist Party. She didn't flinch when she was incarcerated for a crime she did not commit. And she will not tremble because the BCRI rescinded the award.

Indeed, demonstrating the indomitable spirit that she is known for, Angela Davis will travel to Birmingham in February for an alternative event. And the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum has egg on its face. That city showed a young Angela Davis who they were when the Four Little Girls, some of whom she knew, were killed at the 16 Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. And they are showing her who they are once again. Shame and shade!

Unfortunately, I'm not surprised. One of the founders of the Women's March has demanded the resignations of Tamika Mallory and Linda Sarsour because they attended one of Minister Louis Farrakhan's Savior's Days. Marc Lamont Hill lost his CNN commentary gig because he spoke up for Palestinian rights. Alice Walker has been criticized because she supports BDS. Now Angela Davis is being denied an award. When is enough going to be enough?

For the record, I support Palestinian rights. And I support Israel's right to exist. Are the two incompatible? I think not. The one-state solution, with a right to return, and full citizenship rights for Palestinians makes sense. But Israel is not about to budge, and BDS as an attempt to influence it. States passing laws to outlaw free speech erodes the first principle of our Constitution and undercuts the actions at the very foundation of our nation. Remember the folks who dumped tea into the Boston Harbor because of an unfair tax? Today that action might be against the law!

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.juliannemalveaux.com

Economics, Not Electoral Politics, is the Key to Success

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.

Dr. Chancellor 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 it 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 apeterb@verizon.net.

OUR VOICES

It's Your Money!

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — I know it's your business where you spend your money, but I can't help but wonder where many of us would be today if our ancestors like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, Amelia Boynton Robinson, Medgar Evers, John Lewis, Rosa Parks, and a whole lot of our warriors for justice would have taken the position that they were not going to risk their lives for the good of our community so long as they were personally benefiting.

What if they had taken money from guilty parties and kept quiet about racist and disrespectful acts against the rest of us? What if somebody gave them a few dollars to back off and not participate with any groups or make any objections to what was hurting our community? What if somebody told you they would continue spending their money with corporations they know are spending the company's proceeds (your money) to knowingly do damage to your community? I'm speaking of companies knowingly using their advertising dollars to make it possible for hateful rhetoric that encourages violence, kidnapping, gang rape and random shootings in our community. Much of this hateful language is especially against Black women, and it denigrates our entire community. This must stop. We need your help to stop it.

I think any sensible and caring person would say, "I won't allow my dollars to destroy my community." I trust that that's where most of us are. The National Congress of Black Women, under the leadership of my predeces-

sor, Dr. C. Delores Tucker, has been working to rid our community of this filth called gangsta rap for many years. We've continued to make the lives of our young people better. Recently, we've been blessed to be joined by Bob Law—Chairman, National Black Leadership Alliance, and Kwabena Rasuli and Bernard Creamer of Clear the Airwaves.

Some will tell you these performers are just talking about their reality. To that I say, "Your breath smells bad when you wake up, but you brush your teeth to change that reality. Those who want to change/better their reality don't do gangsta rap."

In our continuing effort to put an end to the filth and the damage it creates, we recently invited some of the biggest offenders to meet with us in New York so that we could help them understand what the ads they pay for are doing to destroy our community. While we had representatives from many groups attend, not one of the biggest offending advertisers invited (McDonalds, Subway Restaurants, JCPenney, Kohl's or Adidas) attended.

After at least 5 contacts with each company, not one had enough respect for the Black community to send a representative, forcing us to take action. Our call to action is against "hateful rhetoric that encourages violence against Black women." Our movement is called "Respect Us" and to be clear, this is not about free speech. It's about getting rid of hostile environments. All of us appreciate righteous, conscious music, and we would urge offenders to spend their advertising dollars to promote that kind of music.



Since the named corporations have chosen to disregard our willingness to hold a reasonable discussion about the matter at hand, we have been forced to ask every conscious member of our community to refrain from spending your dollars at the offending companies named in this article until they respect our community enough to withdraw their advertising dollars making the offensive gangsta rap possible. Our starting targeted areas are New York, Chicago and Washington, DC. Others may be added as necessary.

For more information or to express your support for Respect Us, call 202-678-6788 or 347-675-0710. You may also find more information at www.respectus.store.

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is President of the National Congress of Black Women and host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WP-FW-FM 89.3.)

Just Something to Think About



By Kendu D. Humphreys

How did we fall away from the path so far, fail the dreams of those before us, and lose the hope to go back home...

So many people put everything on the line, "back in the dayz", and decades before then, just so future generations "could have it better than them". I wonder was it worth it, just to for what has evolved of "nowadays"...

Between the proud uprising mid-70's, and deep in every heart of the vulnerable un-

stable 80's, a viciously brutal attack played waste of the "urban" family core. This brought forth a murderous, self-destructive, back into "chainz" of slavery 90's. Which lead way to this confused, disrespectful, no home-training 2000 era.

I sincerely fret, with tears of shame, to image what the future has in store. We must regain the values that held us together. We must restore our family as a whole. We must be steadfast to why the sacrifices where made in the 60's, 50's, and way before.

The lives that were brutally stripped away, and so freely given back in the dayz, were about holding on to the family unit at all cost. I truly doubt this is what Dr. King, and many other's "dream" looked like for us.

There has never been a time in history that our families have been so separated and pitted against each other. And there has never been a greater need for us to hold true, and shout together "Kumbaya my Lord"...

At Last! TN Gov. Haslam Frees Cyntoia

(Source: The Tennessee Tribune, tntribune.com)

Statement of Beatriz Beckford, campaign director, and Monifa Bandle, senior vice president of MomsRising on Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's decision to grant clemency to Cyntoia Brown. MomsRising is an online and on-the-ground organization of more than one million mothers and their families.

"Fair-minded people across the country are celebrating today's (Jan. 7) long overdue move by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam to grant clemency to Cyntoia Brown, a victim of sex trafficking who has already served 15 years in prison. We applaud Gov. Haslam for taking this step.

"Cyntoia deserves to be free. Our justice system failed her again and again – first, by failing to protect her when she became a victim of sex trafficking at age 16, then by trying her as an adult when she was still underage, and finally by sentencing her to life in prison for defending herself against a 43-year-old armed child predator who had kidnapped and sexually assaulted her. This cruel and unusual punishment flew in the face of

our country's standards for sentencing children and it was past time for it to end.

"We believe Brown should be freed now and not have to wait until August 7, but are grateful that her horrific ordeal will soon end and she will finally be free.

"MomsRising followed the outstanding leadership of Black Lives Matter Nashville, which organized tirelessly to bring this injustice to Gov. Haslam's attention and convince him to do the right thing by bringing Cyntoia Brown home. More than 16,000 MomsRising members signed petitions to Governor Haslam to press for clemency. We thank all of the allies, including Color of Change, Movement for Black Lives, and #MeToo for fighting for Cyntoia with us.

"MomsRising will continue fighting against the injustices that pervade our legal system that so often criminalize and penalize Black youth, and for survivors of sex trafficking."

For information about MomsRising, visit: <https://www.momsrising.org>. For information about Cyntoia Brown visit: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyntoia_Brown



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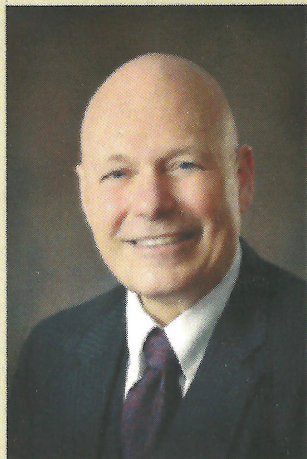
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Preferred: Adult education experience, Bachelor's degree in education, computer science or related field

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- Able to provide technical assistance with computers
- Ability to maintain accurate records—written and data keeping
- Ability to work with the staff using a collaborative team approach
- Ability to structure own time; Mediation skills; Sense of humor
- Flexibility in dealing with a variety of individuals and tasks
- Ability to be non-judgmental, open, and welcoming to all
- Self starter and ability to follow through on tasks begun

Experience

Experience with Sharepoint and Salesforce

Working with a diverse population which deal with many crises

Experience/understanding of homelessness and mental illness

A completed Transitions application, cover letter, and resume are required in order to be considered for any position. Email these items to: jobs@help4women.org with the job title in the subject line. Please DO NOT hand deliver, mail, or fax.

Transitions employment applications and complete job description are available online at <http://help4women.org>.

Positions are open until filled.

Transitions values diversity in its work force and is committed to Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.

Career Opportunities S P O K A N E

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

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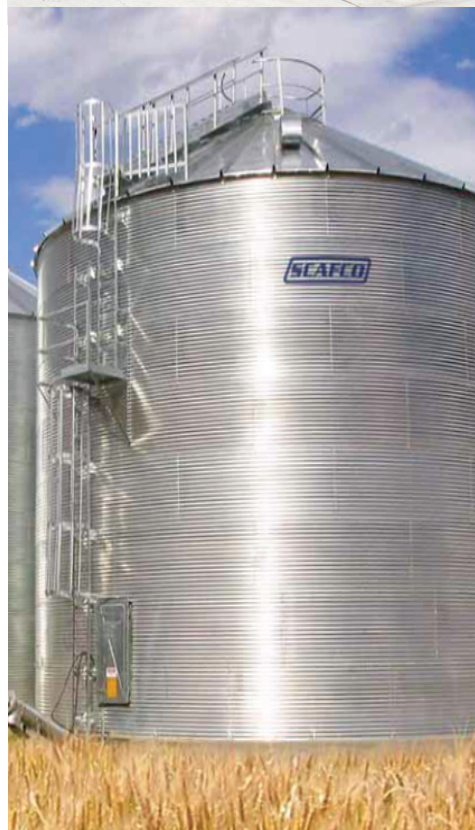
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Pickup an application at 12415 E. Trent Ave Spokane Valley, WA 99216, or download an application at www.irsenviro.com.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 8

SPOKANE BAR ASSOCIATION - DIVERSITY SECTION LUNCHEON & CARL MAXEY SCHOLARSHIP
A Case for Diversity - A National Priority, featuring Dr. Shari Clarke, VP Diversity and Inclusion at EWU.
11:45am - 1:15pm
Gonzaga University - Hemmingson Ctr
702 E Desmet Ave, Spokane, WA 99202
Tickets: \$45. Register at spokanebar.org

FEBRUARY 8

KENYAN NIGHT
Join students and staff from The Community School for an evening of culture, cuisine, and conversation. Guest cook Maureen Ambani.
6pm - 9pm
The Community School
1025 W Spofford Ave, Spokane, 99205
To reserve seats, please email inlandcurry@gmail.com. Tickets are \$25 per person, kids (ages 5-12) are \$5. ****No walk-ins for this event.** Reserve seats and pay at the door with either cash or credit card.

FEBRUARY 9

SPOKANE CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL
Celebrate Chinese New Year with games, information arts and crafts, snack tasting, lion and folk dance, magic show, Chinese music performance.
2pm - 5pm
Spokane Southside Community Center 3151 E. 27th Avenue, Spokane
Cost: Free & Open to hte Public
Organized by Spokane Chinese Association.

FEBRUARY 12

LINKS ANNUAL MAMMOGRAM PARTY
Enjoy a relaxing evening with friends. For women over 40 who are due for their routine exam around this time or for those aged 35-40 who wish to be screened. (See page 7)
5:30pm - 7pm
Inland Imaging in Holy Family Hospital
North entrance on the lower level,
5715 N Lidgerwood St, Spokane
****IMPORTANT** You MUST Pre-Register to participate by contacting Faith Washington. Call 509-363-7833, Text 509-999-9728 or e-mail fwashington@inland-imaging.com.**

FEBRUARY 12

FUSE SPOKANE - DIVERSE VOICES BOOK DISCUSSION
February Book - "Calling a Wolf a Wolf" by Kaveh Akbar. Poems confront craving, control, the constant battle of alcoholism and sobriety, and the questioning of the self.
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

FEBRUARY 14

JUSTICE NIGHT
Speak with an attorney. Free Consultations in these areas: LFOs (Legal Financial Obligations), Housing, Juvenile Law, Family Law, Seal/Expunge/Vacate Convictions, Police Accountability. NO CRIMINAL LAW.
5:30 pm
Center for Justice
35 W Main, Spokane 99201
Cost: Free
Sponsored by Center for Justice. For more information call 509.835.5211 or visit their website at www.cforjustice.org.

FEBRUARY 15

BLACK LENS MOVIE SCREENING - IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK
Join the Black Lens for a private screening of this Golden Globe winning film starring Stephan James, Regina King and KiKi Layne, and directed by Academy Award winner Barry Jenkins (Moonlight). Set in early-1970s Harlem, the film is a love story about a couple's unbreakable bond. The screening will be followed by an audience discussion. Proceeds from the screening will benefit the Carl Maxey Center.
6pm - 8:30pm
Magic Lantern Theater
25 W Main Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201
Cost: \$15
Advance Tickets are available online now at <http://blacklensnews.com>.
Advance tickets are strongly encouraged, these screenings typically sell out.
For more information contact the Black Lens at 509-795-1964.

FEBRUARY 15

HEALTHY HEART POW WOW
Featuring MC Dave Madera
5pm - 11pm
(Dinner at 6pm, Grant Entry at 7pm)
Rogers High School Gymnasium
1622 E. Wellesley Ave, Spokane 99207
Sponsored by The NATIVE Project, IHS SDPI Grant, SPS Indian Education Program and Rogers High School. nativeproject.org

FEBRUARY 16

GONZAGA BSU ANNUAL DINNER
Theme: Coming to Gonzaga
5pm - 8pm
Gonzaga University - Hemmingson Ballroom
702 E Desmet Ave, Spokane, 99202
Tickets \$15 [\$10 for Gonzaga students]. Buy tickets at commerce.cashnet.com/club33
For information: gonzagabsu@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 18

NAACP MEETING
Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting and a discussion about Implicit Bias.
5pm (**Note the Change in Time)
MLK at East Central Community Center
500 S Stone St, Spokane, WA 99202
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425.

FEBRUARY 18

MONDAY MOVIES - DOCUMENTARY Hale County, This Morning, This Evening
A poetic and evocative film about two Black teenagers in small-town Alabama.
7 - 9pm
Magic Lantern Theater
25 W Main Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201
Tickets \$8. Proceeds benefit the Spokane NAACP and the Carl Maxey Center.

FEBRUARY 19

PIERCING THE CONCRETE VEIL: Affirmations from Inside the Spokane County Jail
Power 2 The Poetry and Gonzaga University School of Law Students will be doing a reading of letters from inmates at the Spokane County Jail.
6 - 8pm
Spokane Downtown Library, 3rd Floor
906 W Main Ave, Spokane, 99201
For information: power2thepoetry@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 23

A NIGHT OF COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE
Topic-“Why Can’t African Americans Just Get Over It: The Impact of the Psychological Effects of Slavery”
6pm
Sponsored by Wilburn & Associates. For more information visit: www.wilburnassociates.org

FEBRUARY 23

10TH ANNUAL PEACE & JUSTICE ACTION CONFERENCE
Building Beyond the Moment: A Culture of Love & Belonging
All day conference with three workshop sessions, a fantastic keynote, breakfast, lunch, and lots of opportunities to connect with like-minded folks who are putting their values into action! Keynote Speaker: Sami Alloy, Western States Center.
9am - 5pm
Unitarian Universalist Church
4340 W. Ft. George Wright Drive
Spokane, 99224
For cost, registration and full list of workshops visit pjals.org/2019conference.

FEBRUARY 22

22ND ANNUAL GOSPEL EXPLOSION
Heaven Coming Down To Earth!
7pm
Seeley Mudd Chapel
Whitworth Universiyt
300 W. Hawthorne Rd, Spokane, 99251
Free to the public. A Free-will offering will be taken up for Shades of Africa's orphanage.

FEBRUARY 24

2019 BLACK-OWNED BUSINESS EXPO
Join the Black Lens, the Spokane Ministers’ Fellowship and the Carl Maxey Center as we learn about for our Second Annual Expo as we celebrate and support Black Owned Businesses in Spokane.
2pm - 5pm
Emmanuel Family Life Center
(next to Bethel A.M.E. Church)
631 S. Richard Allen Court, Spokane 99202
Free and open to the Public.
Businesses **MUST** register to participate at blacklensnews.com. For more information or to register offline contact sandy@blacklens-news or 509-795-1964.

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



EWU AFRICANA STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS

RECLAIMING BLACK EXCELLENCE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2019

CORE ENSEMBLE
of
EBONY EMBERS
Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance



Thursday, February 7
12 - 1:00 pm
Musical Performance
1 - 2:00 pm
Light Reception + Q&A
Showalter Auditorium

A chamber theatre music work conceived and performed by THE CORE ENSEMBLE (cello, piano, and percussion)

During the month of February join our events Mon-Thurs 12-1:00 p.m.

Faculty lectures, EWU Black Student Union panels, poetry, film, and a silent auction on 2/28/19 with great items donated by community businesses and members.

Visit us on Facebook or email bnicholson37@ewu.edu.

ALICIA GARZA
co-founder of



BLACK LIVES MATTER

Tuesday, Feb. 26
12-1:00 p.m.
Live telecast
1-1:30 p.m.
Question and answer
Showalter Auditorium

Moderator Dr. Scott Finnie
Director of Africana Studies

People needing accommodation should contact African Studies Program at 509-358-2205 by February 22nd.

EWU Office for Diversity and Inclusion
EWU Multicultural Center
EWU Africana Studies Program



EASTERN
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
start something big

EWU Africana Studies Program
204 Monroe Hall, Cheney, WA
509.359.2205

Calvary Baptist Church

203 E 3rd Ave

Spokane, WA 99202

(509)747-8793

129th Church Anniversary

February 10, 2019

3:00 PM

Theme: Your Labor is Not in Vain

1 Corinthians 15:58

Guest Speaker:

Reverend Walter Kendricks