

THE

BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

An Epidemic of Missing Black Girls

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Source: National Newspaper Publisher's Association (NNPA) Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA

Victoria Shaw, a Black girl approximately 15 years old, went missing Monday, Feb. 11, in West Hartford, Connecticut. Teandah Slater, Black and also only 15 years old, was reported missing on Thursday, Feb. 7, from Noble Square in Chicago. Areall Murchinson, a 16-year old Black girl, was last seen near the 200 block of West 111th Place, according to a community alert from Chicago police.

The three are the most recent to make the dubious and heart-breaking list of missing Black girls – particularly teens. It's a list that's quite long and there remains no update on their status.

Recently, the nonprofit Black & Missing Foundation compiled statistics from the FBI which noted that in 2016 alone, 242,295 individuals of color were reported missing in the United States.

A stunning 36.7 percent of those missing were Black teens under the age of 18. In total, statistics show more than 75,000 young Black Americans are currently missing.



What's more, officials at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline said they've received more than 18.4 million reports, most of which led to apparent child sexual abuse images: online enticement (including "sextortion"), child sex trafficking and child sexual molestation.

Those statistics, and the seeming lack of media interest, have led to cries of racism

and neglect, particularly when it comes to Black girls.

It also led La'Tasha D. Mayes to pen the essay, "Why the Crisis of Missing Black Girls Needs More Attention Than It's Getting." Mayes' March 2017 essay was published at Ebony.com where she noted that an academic study analyzed news coverage of missing children and found that only 20 percent of reported stories focused on

missing Black children. This, despite the fact that Black children account for 33 percent of total missing children cases.

"In other words, missing Black youth are grossly underreported in the news. For missing girls, it's even worse. When Black girls go missing, far too many people don't know or don't care," Mayes wrote.

Many argue that the stories of young Black girls and women who are missing don't get the same degree of local, national and global attention as that of an Elizabeth Smart or Natalee Holloway.

Smart, a 14-year-old white girl, was kidnapped in 2002 from her home in Salt Lake City, Utah. After an intense search that included relentless media coverage, Smart was rescued by police nine months later and, among other activities, she's become an analyst for ABC News.

Holloway disappeared in 2005 while on a high school graduation trip in Aruba. The white Alabama teen's story drew global media coverage and, although her remains were never found, she was declared dead in 2010.

Continued on Page 17



At 88, Toni Morrison Personifies the Strength of Black Womanhood

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Source: National Newspaper Publisher's Association (NNPA) Photo: Granta

Black Girl Magic, Black Girls Rock, and other slogans have surfaced in recent years to describe the power, resilience and steadiness of the Black woman. But, 88 years ago, a legend was born who would eventually embody the spirit and definition of strength of Black womanhood: Toni Morrison.

"Being, a black woman writer is not a shallow place but a rich place to write from. It doesn't limit my imagination; it expands it," Morrison famously said.

With each masterful stroke of her pen, typewriter or (later) her computer keyboard, Morrison kept readers of her works and listeners of her words spellbound. "We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives," she once said.

This week, this month and likely throughout Women's History Month in March, Morrison will undoubtedly be talked about. Her words will flood social media and other platforms, and somewhere a young Black girl will be inspired.

Born Chloe Ardelia Wofford in Lorain, Ohio, on February 18, 1931, Morrison earned a B.A. in English from Howard University in 1953.

Continued on Page 7



BALANCE FOR BETTER
CREATIVE, CULTURAL, & COMMUNITY HEALING

SPOKANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | 1810 N GREENE ST | MARCH 9 | 1-5PM | @IWDSPOKANE

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

I saw this poem this month and it grabbed me, so I decided to share it in honor of womens history month and in honor of the mothers (and fathers) who love their children from a place where there are no words.

Mothering is Poetry

By Nayyirah Waheed

Written in commemoration of Afeni Shakur.



mothering. is a poetry.

an articulate.
terrifying.
arduous.
blinding. poetry.

when you pour him from
your body.
that is a poetry.
when you wash. his. new
body. in the kitchen sink.
that is a poetry.

when you calculate the
distance from your house.
and all the streets.
between.

how long it will take him
to arrive at his best friend's
home.

and return.
alive.

that is a strategic. poetry.
a navigation. the maverick's
poetry.
a poetry of architecture.
careful craft.
a war captain's. poetry.

you. have built a paradise.
he is a paradise.
sekyiwa is a paradise.
you are a paradise.

you. protect paradise.
protecting paradise. is a
poetry.

when you begin to smell.
his destiny. in his sweat.
growing faster than his
hands. his feet.
and the shape of him
becomes more and more
breathtaking each day. both
of your hearts begin racing.

it is here.
who he.
is.
has come for him.

he is larger than your house.
his wings are finished.
you stay up late for three
month. sewing their
undercoat.
reviewing the
aerodynamics.
making sure they are

slender enough.
soft. sensitive enough. light
enough. for flight.
warm enough. for the
world. its winter.
metal enough. to counter-
act any flying shrapnel.
anything. unmeant for his
being.

and when he forgets.
and forgetting is easy. in a
world with no memory.

he calls you up. (you are
already awake. awaiting
this call.)
you remind him of his
name.
you sing his name. to him.
you sing. to him his name.

warmed. slowly. repeatedly.
speak to him in.
the language.
the language only he and
you understand.
the language only you and
he can speak.

remind him.
'tupac. you are my first
poem.
a love poem.'

he remembers. he calms.

you tell him a joke. a joke.
your friend told you yester-
day. when the two of you
were gardening.

you laugh with him. and
the sound of your laughter.
together.
is.
new music.

and if he leaves. before you.
(something he said softly.
may happen. when the two
of you first met.)

if he dies. with one wing.

you do not allow death.
you pick up his body.
cleanse it.
with the gold salt. you are
saving. everyday night.
from weeping.

during mourning. create a
new wing.

place him.
two winged. in the ground
beneath the wild tree.
you do not allow death.

you know that the other life.
is still alive.
and
you and he. are still poetry.

still. a love poem.

still. writing.

you. afeni. the poetry. the
music. the genius. the force.
created the poetry. the mu-
sic. the genius. the force.
that. created the poetry. the
music. the genius. the force.
and.

we will listen. forever.
we will listen to you. both.
forever.

we know the other life. is
still alive.
and
you and he. are still poetry.

still. a love poem.
still. writing.

sekyiwa. the paradise.

your beloved.
your stunning. daughter
poem.
is
here.

you. he. are there.

to be a mother. in two
dimensions.

that.

that.
is a poetry.
and.
we know the other life. is
still alive.

mothering. is a poetry.

— afeni

Nayyirah Waheed, a U.S.
based "quiet" poet and au-
thor writes on identity, im-
migration, and self-love.
She has two books: "Salt"
and Nejma".

KYRS

Streaming at
kyrs.org

88.1/92.3
FM

Thin Air Community Radio

Independent Local Music and Perspectives

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

SAGA

SPOKANE ARTS GRANT AWARDS

WHAT

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

WHO

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

WHEN

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

SPKN ARTS

SAGA

APPLY NOW!

www.spokanearts.org/grants

Celebrating National

Ty Patterson

BROKER
LICENSED IN WASHINGTON

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

MOBILE
509-723-7152
ty@typatterson.realtor
www.typatterson.realtor

Windermere
REAL ESTATE

Windermere Manito LLC

Women's History Month

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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

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

Submission/Advertising Deadline: 15th of every month

For information visit the website at blacklensnews.com
Facebook: blacklensnews; Twitter: blacklensnews; Instagram: blacklensnews
Published by Square Peg Multimedia LLC Copyright (c) 2019 All Rights Reserved

SHADES

OF

ME

April 6 & 7 2019

Spokane County Fairgrounds

Saturday 9am - 6pm

Saturday 10am - 3pm

ART SHOW

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

91st Academy Awards: Spike Lee, Regina King, “Black Panther” and More

(Source: Lori Lakin Hutcherson, goodblacknews.org; newsnation.in/photos)

After several years of the social media campaign #OscarsSoWhite, 2019 set the record for the most individual Black winners of Academy Awards, with seven winners in six categories.

Regina King won the first award of the evening, Best Supporting Actress for her work in “If Beale Street Could Talk.” King also won a Golden Globe award for the same role. She delivered an emotional acceptance speech, thanking her mom.

“To be standing here, representing one of the greatest artists of our time, James Baldwin, is a little surreal,” King said. “James Baldwin birthed this baby, and Barry [Jenkins, the director], you nurtured her, you surrounded her with so much love and support. So it’s appropriate for me to be standing here because I am an example of what happens when support and love is poured into someone.”

Ruth E. Carter and **Hannah Beachler**, who collaborated on *Black Panther*, made history with their wins, becoming the first African Americans to take home Oscars for Best Costume Design and Best Production Design, respectively.

“Marvel may have created the first Black superhero, but through costume design, we made him an Afri-



can king,” Carter said. Among those she thanked was director Ryan Coogler, whom she called “a guiding force.”

Spike Lee took home his first Oscar, along with writers Charlie Wachtel, David Rabinowitz and Kevin

Willmott (who is black), Best Adapted Screenplay for “Black KKKlansman.”

Lee thanked his grandmother who put him through Morehouse College and New York University film school and also attracted the ire of the President due to his comment: “The 2020 presidential election is around the corner. Let’s all mobilize, let’s all be on the right side of history. Make the moral choice between love versus hate. “Let’s do the right thing!” He said. “You know I had to get that in there.”

Peter Ramsey, co-director of “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” made history as the first Black Oscar winner for Best Animated Feature. Of the film, Ramsey said, “ “There’s an inherent message of diversity, acceptance and finding strength and commonality in your difference that’s baked into the fabric of the movie.”

Mahershala Ali won the Best Supporting Actor award for his portrayal of pianist Don Shirley in “Green Book” which went on to win the Best Original Screenplay and Best Picture categories. With the win, Ali joined Denzel Washington as the only other Black actor to win multiple Oscars. In his acceptance speech, Ali thanked Don Shirley and his grandmother who he said “has been in my ear my entire life,” adding “I know that I would not be here without her.”

Discrimination Against Black Hair Styles is Now Illegal in NYC



(Source: blacknews.com)

New York, NY — Discrimination against someone based on their hair has been officially banned in NYC after city officials unveiled new guidelines on Monday that make it illegal. While it applies to anyone in the city, it especially protects Black people who are often the target of racial discrimination for their natural hair styles.

The guidelines, which is considered to be the first such measure in the US, made it clear that the existing New York City Human Rights Law gives the citizens the right to style their hair in accordance with their cultural, ethnic, or racial identity. It specifically noted Black people’s right to wear “locs, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, fades, Afros, and/or the right to keep hair in an uncut or untrimmed state.”

The new guidelines will ban employers, schools, and housing providers in the city to fire or exclude people based on their hairstyle. It also applies in the city’s public spaces including restaurants, clubs, libraries, and parks. It does not, however, cover the companies who specifically require all their employees, no matter what race, to wear hair nets or have their hair tied up for sanitation and safety purposes, such as chefs and surgeons.

Chirlane McCray, New York’s first lady, agreed with the guidelines and thought it is significant because “bias against the curly textured hair of people of African descent is as old as this country and a form of race-based discrimination,” she said in a statement.

Human Rights Commissioner and Chair Carmelyn Malalis mirrored McCray’s thoughts, telling BuzzFeed News, “In New York City, we want to make the bold statement that these prohibitions on hairstyles that are closely associated with Black people are a form of race discrimination. They really fail to consider the toll these bans take on black identity.”

Queen Latifah Invests In \$14 Million Housing Project In New Jersey



(Source: Karen Yi , www.nj.com/essex/2019)

Queen Latifah is returning to her hometown of Newark, New Jersey to invest in a development of multi-family town homes along Springfield Avenue and South 17th Street.

The project, estimated to cost \$14 million, is expected to break ground in the summer of 2019. Plans for the development include 20 three-family townhomes, a three-story mixed-used building, a fitness center and 1,900 square feet of commercial space that will be rented to nonprofits. While the 60 units in the townhouses will be market rate, the remaining 16 units in the building will be affordable housing.

Rents for the market rate units will start around \$1,800 a month and are expected to open by December 2020. The affordable housing building is expected to be finished in December 2021; units there will be priced according to a person’s income.

The Grammy award winning rapper, singer, songwriter, actress, and producer, who was born in East Orange, New Jersey, is using her company BlueSugar Corporation to partner with GonSosa Development for the project.

Cristina Pinzon, a spokeswoman for the developers, said both companies recognize the need for affordable housing in and around Newark. “They understand how difficult it is to make ends meet for many residents and want to be part of the solution. They remain dedicated to making life better in communities like Newark,” she said in a statement.

Judge Grants Bennett College Temporary Restraining Order After Losing Accreditation



Source: Ashleigh Atwell, <https://blavity.com>; Caroline Strange, wxii12.com)

Despite raising 9.5 million dollars in a nationally publicized fundraising effort to save the school, Bennett College lost its accreditation on February 18.

Bennett College is a four-year, historically Black, liberal arts college for women located in Greensboro, North Carolina that was founded in 1873. The college originally lost its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) on December 9 but appealed the decision, according to a report by WXII Television. The Appeals Committee upheld the decision stating that Bennett College had “failed to show that the institution possesses resources demonstrating a stable financial base to support the mission and scope of programs and services.”

The SACSCOC announcement said that the Appeals Committee did not consider the “additional financial information made available after December 9, 2018,” meaning that they disregarded the millions of dollars raised by Bennett’s supporters. In addition, the SACSCOC said Bennett had already exhausted its two-year probationary period and was not eligible for another probation.

Following the ruling, WXII Television reports that Bennett College officials filed a lawsuit in Atlanta to keep their accreditation, and a federal judge granted the college a temporary restraining order that restores Bennett’s accreditation.

Bennett College leaders have said they plan to go to another board to get accreditation. The legal proceedings are expected to take several months.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Nigerian Nun Shames Catholic Church for Silence on Sex Abuse

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) – A Nigerian nun faced a Vatican summit on sexual abuse in the Church and delivered a stinging indictment to stone-faced church leaders who failed to take action against abusers.

It was the third day of the Vatican summit. Sister Veronica Openibo did not mince words.

A member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Sister Openibo said she had watched the American-made movie “Spotlight” about a U.S. newspaper, the Boston Globe, whose reporters discovered a decades-long cover-up of child abuse within the local Catholic Archdiocese.

At the end of the film was a long list of cases and dioceses where the abuses had occurred, and reading about the number of children affected and seeing the vast amount of money spent on settlements, she said that tears of sorrow flowed.

“How could the clerical Church have kept silent, covering these atrocities?” she asked.

Sister Openibo, who serves on the executive board of the International Union of Superiors General, acknowledged that the church has at times failed to live up to its own moral code.

“Yes, we proclaim the Ten Commandments and parade ourselves as being the custodians of moral standards and values and good behavior into society. But why did we keep silent for so long?”

Openibo, one of only three women to address the event and the only speaker from Africa, went on to say the



scandal had “seriously clouded the grace of the Christ mission”.

“Is it possible for us to move from fear of scandal to truth? How do we remove the masks that hide our sinful neglect?” she asked.

Openibo, who has worked in Africa, Europe and the US, said: “Too often we want to keep silent until the storm has passed. This storm will not pass by. Our credibility is at stake.”

During the summit, bishops from the United States, Europe and Australia have urged caution when it comes to

universal changes in church rules, saying that local cultures could require nuanced policies. But Sister Openibo said that church leaders should not make excuses when it comes to confronting abuse.

“The fact that there are huge issues of poverty, illness, war and violence in some countries in the Global South does not mean that the area of sexual abuse should be downplayed or ignored,” she said. “The church has to be proactive in facing it.”

The pontiff and the 190 bishops and cardinals in attendance watched videotaped testimony from survivors of abuse telling of their trauma and the cruel indifference shown by church leaders.

One woman from Africa told the summit that a priest who had begun raping her at age 15 forced her to have three abortions, and beat her when she refused him sex.

A survivor from Chile told the bishops and religious superiors they had inflicted even more pain on survivors by discrediting them and protecting priests who abused.

A list of 21 “reflection points” written by the pope is expected to provide the basis for the development of new anti-abuse procedures for bishops.

Global Information Network creates and distributes news and feature articles on current affairs in Africa to media outlets, scholars, students and activists in the U.S. and Canada. Our goal is to introduce important new voices on topics relevant to Americans, to increase the perspectives available to readers in North America and to bring into their view information about global issues that are overlooked or under-reported by mainstream media.

NY's Emmanuel Baptist Church Hosts First Women Grow Cannabis Conference



(Source: Ny MaGee; thegrio.com/2019; Photo Dr. Chanda Macias, by Gregory Smith, Jr.)

Brooklyn New York's Emmanuel Baptist Church becomes the first church in the country to host a cannabis conference on Saturday, February 23rd. The event was hosted with Women Grow, an advocacy group created to support women working in this industry.

The five-hour free event featured some of the nation's top Black and brown advocates, lobbyists and cannabis business owners and made them accessible to the public. The conference not only discussed the opportunities of the industry, but also stressed the urgency for Black folks to get in on the ground level of this rapidly growing industry.

“There have been a lot of injustices that have happened to communities of color, and so for us, we want to work with our advocates and our governments to make sure we are correcting the injustices that have happened in the past,” Gia Morón of Women Grow told Pix 11.

According to Rev. Anthony Trufant, who spearheaded the conference, many in his church were against hosting the conference in the sanctuary, but Trufant wanted to open up the lucrative cannabis industry to the community and also “explore the social equity in rewarding one community with the prosperity of selling marijuana while locking up others.”

High-profile politicians were among the attendees, including Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (D), New York State Attorney General Letitia James (D) and others who are advocates for getting people of color out of prison and into the cannabis dispensaries.

NJ Assembly Woman and Financial Blogger Introduce Bill to Teach Middle School Students Money Management



(Source: Lori Lakin Hutcherson, goodblacknews.org)

Middle school students in New Jersey are about to get some much-needed education about finances thanks in part to two women determined to make sure they learn how to understand and handle money, according to an article on hellobeautiful.com. Financial educator Tiffany Aliche and New Jersey Assemblywoman Angela McKnight worked together to draft and advocate for Financial Literacy Bill A1414 which instructs the New Jersey State Board of Education to require school districts to incorporate financial literacy instruction into the curriculum for enrolled students in grades 6 through 8.

After being introduced by McKnight in 2016, the bill gained co-sponsorship from Assembly Democrats Nicholas Chiaravalloti, Eliana Pintor Marin, Jamel Holley, Benjie Wimberly and Annette Quijano. The final bill, A1414, was signed into law at Jersey City's PS 34 President Barack Obama School in January of this year by the state's Acting Governor Sheila Oliver, New Jersey's first Black Lieutenant Governor.

Regarding the bill, McKnight said, “One of the most important lessons a person can learn is how to manage their money. Many young people go into adulthood knowing little about finances, and end up making decisions that cost them in the long run.” Aliche said in a press release, “Early financial literacy should be an essential part of every school curriculum, because it's a critical skill needed for success in adulthood. Today New Jersey took a historic leap forward in helping our children secure a brighter future.”

Taraji P. Henson Launches Foundation to Fight Black Mental Health Issues



(Source: blackdoctor.org)

Academy Award and Emmy Award-nominated actress and star of Fox Television's Empire, Taraji P. Henson launched The Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation (BLHF) in honor of her late father in order to help eradicate the stigma around mental health issues in the African-American community and provide support for and bring awareness to mental health issues that plague this community.

According to the National Association on Mental Illness, African Americans generally experience more severe forms of mental health conditions due to unmet needs and other barriers. According to the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, African Americans are 20% more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population. Common mental health disorders among African Americans include: major depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), suicide, among young African American men, and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Henson told the L.A. Sentinel. “I named the organization after my father because of his complete and unconditional love for me; his unabashed, unashamed ability to tell the truth, even if it hurt; and his strength to push through his own battles with mental health issues.” She continued, “My dad fought in the Vietnam War for our country, returned broken, and received little to no physical and emotional support. I stand now in his absence, committed to offering support to African Americans who face trauma daily, simply because they are Black.” For more information visit: <https://borishensonfoundation.org>.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

The Leesburg Stockade Girls

30 Black Girls Trying to Buy Movie Tickets In 1963 Were Imprisoned In A Georgia Stockade For 45 Days

Reprinted from nmaahc.si.edu, written by Tullani Salah-Din, Museum Specialist, National Museum of African American History and Culture; and blackmainstreet.net

In 1963, more than a dozen Black girls, between the ages of 12-15, were arrested and locked in a dilapidated stockade for two months without charges. Their crime: demonstrating for integration in Americus, Georgia.

In the summer of 1963, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), in cooperation with the NAACP, organized a protest march in Americus, Georgia to protest segregation. The march started at the Friendship Baptist Church and ended at a segregated movie theater.

When they got to the theater, a group of preteen and young African-American teenage girls who would later be called the "Stolen Girls" attempted to purchase tickets at the movie theater. Instead of forming a line to enter from the back alley, as was customary for Blacks at the time, the marchers attempted to purchase tickets at the front entrance. Law enforcement soon arrived and attacked and arrested the girls.

Between 15-30 girls were taken by the police, brought to Dawson, Georgia and



then transported in dark buses to the Leesburg Stockade, a dilapidated, barred, Lee County Public Works building.

Conditions in the stockade were horrendous. The girls were held in one room with a single non-functional toilet, the only water was from a broken dripping

shower-head in the room, and the food was sparse and poor.

They were locked in an overcrowded hot room in the Georgia summer with only warm water to drink and were forced to sleep on cold dirty concrete floors at night.

The girls' parents had no idea where they were. The prison authorities did not inform the prisoners parents on the arrest or location of their children, some who were as young as 12. Their parents only found out after a janitor who worked there personally went to their homes and notified them.

The young girls, some who were in the 7th grade, were threatened with murder and at one point a rattlesnake was thrown into their cell.

A month into their confinement, Danny Lyon, a twenty-one year old photographer for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), learned of the girls' whereabouts and sneaked onto the stockade grounds to take pictures of the girls through barred windows.

After SNCC published the photos in its newspaper 'The Student Voice', African American newspapers across the country printed the story, and the girls' ordeal soon gained national attention.

Only after SNCC and a senator from New Jersey named Harrison A. Williams used the photos to publicize the situation, were the young women set free.

On September 15, 1963, almost a month after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" Speech, law enforcement finally released the Leesburg Stockade Girls and returned them to their families. They had been held for 45 days total and while they didn't face any criminal charges after being set free, they were charged a fee for their use of the facilities.

After they were released, the girls didn't speak of their ordeal for over 50 years. Georgia Public Broadcasting recently followed a group of the prisoners who are still alive back to the Stockade and shot the following video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10154251344581328>



Before Rosa Parks there was Claudette Colvin

(Source: blackpast.org) **Claudette Colvin**, a nurse's aide and Civil Rights Movement activist, was born on September 5, 1939 in Birmingham, Alabama. Her parents were Mary Jane Gadson and C.P. Austin, but she was raised by her great-aunt and great-uncle, Mary Ann Colvin and Q.P. Colvin. Claudette Colvin relocated to Montgomery with her guardians when she was eight. She later attended Booker T. Washington High School in Montgomery.

On March 2, 1955, 15-year-old Colvin, while riding on a segregated city bus, made the fateful decision that would make her a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement. She had been sitting far behind the seats already reserved for whites, and although a city ordinance empowered bus drivers to enforce segregation, Blacks could not be asked to give up a seat in the "Negro" section of the bus for a white person when it was crowded. However, this provision of the local law was usually ignored. Colvin was asked by the driver to give up her seat on the crowded bus for a white passenger who had just boarded. She refused.

Colvin was promptly arrested, taken to the city jail, and was charged with disturbing the peace, breaking the city's segregation ordinance, and assaulting policemen. She



went to Montgomery juvenile court on March 18, 1955 and was represented by Fred Gray, an African American lawyer from the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). Although she defended her innocence on the three charges, she was found guilty. The court sentenced her to indefinite probation and declared her to be a ward of the state.



The Montgomery chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) looked into her case and initially raised money to appeal her conviction. On May 6, 1955 her case was moved to the Montgomery Circuit Court, where two of the three charges against Colvin were dropped. Colvin's charge of allegedly assaulting the arresting police officers was maintained.

As the Montgomery bus boycott took off in December of 1955, the NAACP and MIA filed a lawsuit on behalf of Colvin, and four other women, including Mary Louise Smith, who had been involved in earlier acts of civil disobedience on the Montgomery buses. Colvin served as a witness for the case, *Gayle v Browder*, which eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

Although Colvin's actions predated the more famous actions of Rosa Parks by nine months, she is much less well known. Colvin decided to speak about her case only after she retired in 2004 as a nurse's aide in New York City, New York.

Contributor: Hannah Foster. Sources: Ruth E. Martin, "Colvin, Claudette," *African American National Biography*, Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008); Darlene Clark Hine, et al., *The African American Odyssey* (Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson, 2010).

BUSINESS/ENTERPRISE

Prospective Entrepreneurs Undergo Boot Camp Training at Howard University

By Hamil Harris

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A line of prospective business leaders had only 30 seconds to make their best “elevator pitch.”

“How can you tell someone in 30 seconds or even 60 seconds or less who you are and what you do?” quizzed D. Yvonne Rivers of the American Dream Business Institute, the drill sergeant for the exercise. ‘How will they remember you?’

The CERRC Entrepreneurship Boot Camp, themed “This is How We Do It! The Nuts and Bolts of Business Ownership,” was sponsored by the Cathy Hughes School of Communications (SOC) at Howard University.

“The recent Boot Camp was a phenomenal experience for students, panelists, and everyone involved in hearing directly the successes and lessons learned from a number of successful entrepreneurs,” said Dr. Gracie Lawson-Borders, dean of the SOC.

CERRC (Communications Entrepreneurship Research and Resource Center), nearly 10 years old, offers resources to support prospective entrepreneurs from all genres, but especially encourages those in communications careers to own businesses.

“The School is committed to keeping the work of the CERRC program viable, visible, and focused on supporting students,” Lawson-Borders continues. “The fruits of our efforts are shown in the ongoing support the School receives.”

The boot camp, an annual event of the CERRC program, took place in a building that was once a Wonder Bread factory filled with laborers. The newly renovated IN3 Inclusive Innovation Incubator at 2301 Georgia Ave. in NW DC, has for the past two years served as the site for the CERRC boot camp. Among other services, the Incubator – a partnership between DC Government and Howard – dedicates office, meeting and event space to growing companies and budding entrepreneurs.

The event featured successful business leaders in order to show the students and general public that they can in fact

achieve their dreams of ownership. In addition to pitching their businesses, speakers presented on various aspects of business success.

North Carolina business owners Charles Hands and Marcus Howard of Engage Millennials discussed the essentials of selecting the best business partners.

“If people simply talk the talk and don’t walk the walk they are wasting your time or draining you emotionally,” said Hands. He described the productive people he looks for as “Level 3’s,” because Level 1 people are those who only talk and Level 2 associates want to do well but lack the adequate skills to do the job.

Hands, who is a lawyer, and Howard, a doctoral candidate at N.C. State University, pushed participants to be their best. Their sentiments were mirrored by other business leaders who offered their own anecdotes and models for success.

SOC alum, Shelia Eldridge, president/CEO of Miles Ahead Entertainment, the keynote speaker for the boot camp, offered three keys for a person to be successful in business: “Do not chase the money, chase your passion; Research and find a niche,” and lastly remember that “You have a partner in the government.”

Carl Brown, director of the DC Small Business Development Center (SBDC), was also among the speakers, inviting the audience to take advantage of the SBDC programs, located in the Howard University School of Business.

April Richardson, a lawyer and owner of DC Sweet Potato Cake, told people during the forum that they can engage in multiple careers. “I am always looking to maximize everything that I do,” she said, noting that the reason she became a lawyer was because “the law touches everything.”

Most outstanding during the event was that the participants obviously believed in each other and were willing to support each other. As she offered a prayer over the lunch and networking reception that followed, Hazel Trice Edney, who teaches the CERRC class, gave thanks for having an event where people poured into each other for the purpose of building businesses.



Tiffany Balmer, owner of DCEventPlanner.com, said “The biggest takeaway from the conference is that being an entrepreneur is not cute, it’s not glamorous, it’s a lot of hard work and you have to love it because it costs a lot - not just financially - but personally, you will not be able to go to all of the social activities that your friends go to but it’s worth it, if indeed this is your passion.”

Other speakers at the annual boot camp were Ron Busby, president/CEO of the U. S. Black Chamber Inc.; SOC alum Ashley Nicole Johnson of A&J PR/Consulting; Howard Jean of the Black Male Entrepreneurship Institute; and Tremain Davis of Davis Solutions Group, who focused on the “value proposition” of a business, which, in a nutshell, means what a business offers that people want enough to pay for.

Dean Lawson-Borders said the CERRC program is not only successful because of volunteers who contribute their time and talents to the students, but it has received generous financial contributions from business and community leaders.

The students of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications, which is named for the national radio and television mogul, also an SOC alum, will now have an opportunity to compete with their business plans.

“We will receive a \$5,000 Dorothy Brunson award to support the first place award in our business plan competition...at the PRT (President’s Roundtable) award dinner in Baltimore,” Lawson-Borders said. She said \$2,500 has been contributed from Eldridge for the second place award, and Edney of Trice Edney Communications and News Wire will sponsor the \$1,000 third place award.

“Overall, the ‘This is How We Do it! The Nuts and Bolts of Business Ownership’ entrepreneur expo provided me with self-confidence in opening my eventual business and provided me with tips and notions to follow in order to have a successful business,” wrote DeAndrea Powell, a graduating senior, in an essay reflecting on the boot camp. “You should always take a risk with something you consider your dream even though you feel you might fail. In the end, it is all about having a sharp elevator pitch, knowing what your intended audience wants to receive with your business and having a solution to their problems.”



Toni Morrison

Continued From Page 1

Morrison earned a Master of Arts from Cornell University in 1955 and later taught at Howard for seven years.

In 1958, while she was teaching at Howard, she married Harold Morrison, a Jamaican architect and the couple had two sons before they divorced in 1964.

In 1988, Morrison won the American Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for

her novel, *Beloved*, which was later adapted for a film starring Oprah Winfrey and Danny Glover.

Her first novel was *The Bluest Eye* in 1970. Other celebrated novels include *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Tar Baby*, *Jazz*, *Paradise*, and *God Help the Child*.

The first Black woman to ever be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and a Grammy Award, Morrison’s list of accolades are nearly endless.

Some of those awards include:

1988: Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *Beloved*
 1989: Honorary Doctor of Letters at Harvard University
 1993: Nobel Prize for Literature
 1993: Commander of the Arts and Letters, Paris
 1994: Condorcet Medal, Paris
 2005: Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Oxford University
 2008: New Jersey Hall of Fame inductee
 2012: Presidential Medal of Freedom
 2014 Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Book Critics Circle

2016 PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction

“At the wisdom-age of 88, the creative courage and genius of Sister Leader Toni Morrison continues to awaken the consciousness of millions of people in America and throughout the world,” said National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. “Morrison personifies what it means to be a long-distance freedom-fighting author. The NNPA salutes and wishes Toni Morrison a happy birthday.”

The Truth About Being a Black Woman in a Liberal City

Dispatches from a disingenuously “progressive” city that still appears to have a race problem



Reprinted with permission from medium.com.

By Lakeya Omogun

I had to kneel to tighten my shoelace before beginning my long-distance run from 120th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue toward Central Park North. From the sidewalk, I looked up at yet another new, partial-

ly completed high-rise apartment building sitting on top of the local bodega. The store’s yellow awning sheltered a group of men and women who routinely congregated to discuss the latest neighborhood news. Their home had always been Harlem, but new luxury apartments and increased rents were threatening their residency.

While running, I was encouraged by occasional chants from Black men and women who had just woken up on the metal benches they’d used as beds the night before.

“Get it, sista!”

“Go on, Black girl.”

I smiled and nodded, taking care to acknowledge their existence while building up a steady pace.

Gentrification loomed in Harlem’s air. The neighborhood was at war with the city’s new innovation plans, but its history and conglomeration of ethnicities was grounded in a strong and unmovable Black spirit. Harlem’s native residents’ roots were firmly planted. Public housing towered over the city while the Apollo Theater’s bright red lights pierced the crowds.

In a single day, I turned down hair-braiding requests from persistent West African women who stood on street corners, heard reggaetón blaring from apartment windows, saw local Blacks and Latinos walking to and from school in the latest sneakers, witnessed Senegalese men break from selling oils and incense to lay out mats that faced east in preparation for daily prayer, and watched white women hurry down the streets, eyes darting side to side, with rolled yoga mats strung across their backs. Young professional Black and Brown millennials like me were sprinkled among the bustling crowd, too.

The scene was beautiful, lively. Harlem was where I felt a sense of belonging.

Pondering a westward move

Three years into living and working in New York City, I learned I had been accepted into The University of Texas at Austin’s College of Education Doctoral Program, which aligned with my professional goals. It was early February, and I had months to ponder the move.

“I’m thinking about moving to Austin,” I told my coworker Adam, who had lived there before relocating to New York as an adult.

Adam shared that he had grown up in East Austin as one of the few white people in a predominantly Black neighborhood and school. “Austin’s a cool place,” he said. “Weird, but cool.”

I was nervous; I had never lived in the south. Adam seemed to pick up on it.

“I’ve seen it change over the years,” he continued. “It’s not like most of Texas. It’s a—” He paused to search for words. “It’s a blue dot in a red state.”

He went on to tell me that Austin was like no other city in Texas. He described it as “liberal.” My nervousness subsided.

I spent the next few weeks researching the city online. It was 2016, and the thought of living and studying in Texas didn’t sit well with me given the racial and political tension arising around Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. I grew up in predominantly Black cities, with people whose experiences and beliefs mirrored mine. I had visited Houston, a reassuringly multicultural city, but I had never been to Austin. I wondered just how liberal a southern city could be.

My aunt sent me several articles to ease my worries. Their headlines included phrases like “Fastest-Growing City,” “Great Music,” and “Best Food.” My own search results, however, turned up different stories. I showed her pieces that contained the words “Black Exodus,” “African-American Declining Population,” and “Where are the Blacks in Austin?”

Blacks leaving a city? I was baffled.

“Does it matter?” my aunt asked. “You’ve lived around Black people your entire life. You Black and can’t nobody take that away from you! Your Black family will come and visit you.” She was convinced the racial makeup of a city should not be a determining factor in my decision.

So I moved.

‘Move out of the way, nigger!’

Seven months later, at the peak of the 2016 presidential campaign, I began to wonder if I had made a mistake. My daily commute down congested Interstate 35 was jammed with pickup trucks plastered with Trump bumper stickers. It was the first time I had seen signs supporting Trump in person, and I was troubled by their ubiquity in this supposedly liberal place. I got chills as they zoomed by.

At 6:47 a.m. on Wednesday, November 9, I learned that Trump won the election. With eyes glued to my bedroom ceiling, my body lay motionless. I kept waiting to feel a sense of comfort in the softness of my bed. What would a Trump presidency mean for me, a Black woman in the south? What would it mean for my graduate studies? My teaching? Several of my students were Trump supporters. I was lucky enough to be enrolled in a program that took a critical stance on education and politics. I tried to find a sense of security in that.

Too mentally exhausted to work, I drove to the nearest fast-food restaurant. After parking in the adjacent lot, I walked along the sidewalk and prepared to cross the street. I stopped at an intersection before a long line of cars waiting to exit the strip mall parking lot. People were chanting and honking in celebration of Trump’s victory.

I felt light-headed. I looked away and once I noticed the traffic had cleared, I crossed the street. As I was walking, a vehicle stopped at the intersection.

“Move out of the way, nigger!”

I looked to my right and saw a white man leaning out of the driver’s side of his black pickup truck. He was smiling. I pretended not to hear what he’d said. I thought blocking out his voice would help me make sure I wasn’t emotionally moved by his words. Also, was I hearing him correctly? Nigger? I am not naïve and I know racism exists everywhere, but I was dumbfounded that I had become the victim of flagrantly racist verbal hostility so soon after moving to my new, so-called liberal, home.

He waved in a forward motion, hurrying me across the street. Once I reached the other side—feeling somewhat safe in my proximity to the restaurant—he waved in a more triumphant fashion and shouted, “Woo-hoo! Trump! Trump! Woo!”

My heart dropped into my stomach.

This was the first of many racist experiences I would endure while living in Austin.

A brief racial history of Austin

Unlike gentrification in Harlem, the structure of Austin has historically kept racial groups segregated. In 1928, the Koch and Fowler city plan created the Negro District, the only area where Blacks could live, attend school, and receive public services. In the 1930s, with the launch of the New Deal, policymakers created more racial boundaries. Although generally designed to restore and increase household wealth during the Great Depression, programs like the National Housing Act of 1934 excluded minorities through a process known as redlining. In Austin, mortgages were not offered to redlined areas, such as the Negro District.

In 1940, the construction of Interstate 35—the same highway I use to commute to and from work—pushed Black and Latino populations to the east side of Austin. Deep-seated cultural and educational segregation followed. Today, gentrification threatens to move the small remaining Black population outside the city altogether.

Liberalism from the vantage point of Blackness

All of Austin’s luxuries—concerts, festivals, food trucks, art-work, and the tech scene—are tailored to (and mostly enjoyed by) its vast white population. Residents take pride in wearing a “liberal” badge. The label blinds them to the ways in which they enact racism, whether outright or covertly.

I spend most of my time studying and reading in Austin’s various coffee shops. The walls are covered in hipster art and the speakers issue hip-hop and ’90s R&B music, details that match the city’s progressive reputation. As I watch white people bop their beanie-wearing heads to the music while fervently typing on their MacBooks, I sense that something’s not right. The liberal vibe is disingenuous.

It didn’t take long for me to discover the disconnect between other people’s descriptions of Austin and my own experience, particularly as a Black woman. The constant stares I’ve encountered when I’m the only Black person to walk into a coffee shop. The white women who quickly zip their bags when I walk past. The elderly white woman who rubbed what she termed my “beautiful black skin” while I stood in line to purchase groceries. Another white woman who, uninvited, ran her fingers through my braids. The gasps I heard when people discovered I was pursuing my doctorate. The white man who backed his SUV into my Black body while pulling out of a parking space and laughed instead of apologizing. (He later followed me around for 10 minutes before I finally went into the nearest store and called the police.)

I often wonder why my Black body shocks some Austinites. Shouldn’t they expect someone like me in this liberal space? Shouldn’t my presence be the norm? Yet my experiences are not unique. Several of my Black friends and colleagues agree that Austin does not feel like the blue dot in a red state that Adam described. Instead, we are Black dots in a white sea.

Our shared experience contrasts with that of the white millennials who navigate the city with ease and nonchalance while insisting they never want to leave. They grab drinks at the local bar, listen to live music, and enjoy Austin to the fullest. When Blacks enter the same spaces, we often endure stares that silently question our existence.

Who benefits from Austin’s liberal reputation?

During my first two years in Austin, I received frequent phone calls from family and friends who stayed abreast of the local news: affirmative action bake sales, campus protests, package bombings, and a white man shooting 19-year-old Devonte Ortiz after an argument about fireworks.

“How much longer, Lakeya? Could you have studied somewhere else?” My mother’s voice matched her concerned look during our FaceTime calls. Her persistent questions added to the weight I was already bearing. How could I explain that I had little time to grapple with the racial tension? Every day I was torn between addressing microaggressions and shoving them aside for the sake of keeping up with my rigorous academic schedule. I mostly chose the latter.

I wonder how a city can be defined as “liberal” when its history and policies strategically keep Black and Brown people on the outskirts—and its gentrification patterns exacerbate that reality. Austin’s design and structure do not allow people from various racial backgrounds to rub shoulders.

Liberalism goes beyond making verbal pronouncements and planting yard signs to showcase political stances. It manifests itself through political action. The blinding nature of white privilege allows some to believe Austin is progressive without considering how Blacks actually experience the city.

Our country is being led by an administration that uses fear-mongering and vicious propaganda to create and sustain racist ideologies. Although U.S. history shows that none of this is new, it is crucial to examine the dangers associated with calling a place “liberal.” These labels play a role in sustaining racial and economic oppression while extending bragging rights to the people who already benefit from white privilege.

Instead, we should ask ourselves: Is this city really liberal? If so, for whom?

Lakeya Omogun is a Ph.D. Student and Assistant Instructor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a contributor for Medium.com and describes herself as "constantly observing the world around me and my position in it."

Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

The Wait is Over.

In this life, we are always waiting. We wait on something to happen to propel us into another space mentally and emotionally. We wait on others. We say things like “when I find the right person, I will live happily ever after but for now, I will just wait”. We’ve all fallen in the trap of waiting in one area or another in our lives.

Here’s an example. So many of us lament about being unhappy in our careers. Our happiness seems to be hinged on finding a better job, making more money, working for a better company or simply having a better boss and until those things happen, we wait. Our happiness and success become tied up in the wait.

For some of us, we have allowed ourselves to become complacent in our wait. Christianity teaches what I have coined “the art of the wait”. Believers are taught to sit in the midst of any given situation and simply wait on God to swoop in and rescue us or recuse us from our suffering. Even then the key objective is to “wait” for the thing.

I remember when my son was about four or five years old and he wanted so badly to learn how to ride a bike. I, like most mothers, wanted to do everything I could on the front end to prepare him for falling off the bike as I was sure he would do. I may have even discouraged him from trying because I planted the seed that even if he tried, he would still hurt himself and needed to “wait” until a later time when he could be successful.

I remember buying him the elbow and knee pads with a matching helmet. He was well coordinated with his tiny bike and injury proof armor. When he got on the bike, I was prepared for him to fall. I knew he didn’t know how to ride the bike, he was learning.

In hindsight, I also recall telling him to be patient and wait, as one day he would be a big boy and be able to ride his bike with no problems. Back then, my frame of thinking all made sense to me, but today I know a little more. My thinking and parenting have evolved. I wish that I could go back and delete every single time that I told him to “just wait”.

Like in the example of the Christian “waiting” for God to resolve a situation, the part that we don’t realize is waiting still requires action on our parts. In every situation waiting should never be defined as “being still and doing nothing”.

We must learn to adapt to a proactive style of waiting. While we are waiting for the outcome we want, we must be shifting our thinking, actions or beliefs in preparation for the “thing” we are waiting on to happen.

I wish I would have told my son to try his best. Practice daily, fall and get back up and do it as many times as you need to because that is the only road to get you to what you want or see for yourself.

Many people are left disheartened when they find themselves in situations that require them to “wait” on something or someone, only to find out that what they thought would happen post the “wait”, or that the outcome that they wanted, was not what they ended up getting.

I believe this happens because while we are “waiting” we often don’t do the work needed to influence the outcome. If you are one of the ones waiting for “God to deliver you” from an unhappy work environment, what are you doing while you are waiting? Are you preparing yourself for your next opportunity? Are you researching your options? Are you looking for strategies in dealing with the people at your current place of employment that leave you feeling unhappy and wanting to be “delivered”?

Movement and shifting takes action. The days of just waiting on something to change are over. Change is a participatory function. In order for change to happen, we must first shift something, we must do something, then and only then will the situation change.

What would have happened if I had helped my son understand that there was no need to “wait until he was a big boy” to learn to ride his bike but if instead I focused on helping him understand that he was already



capable and there would need to be “action” on his part to get him to where he wanted to be. I believe that is a more empowering approach. It says to him that he is not “waiting” to be anything, nor is he waiting for some entity outside of himself to do something for him. He has the power and the wait is over.

Each of us needs to allow this frame of thinking in every corner of our lives. No more waiting, no more complaining and no more shifting the responsibility to external forces. We work with God to co-create what we want out of this life. We cannot sit idly waiting for something to happen to us or for us. The wait is over.

The moment we accept this truth, we become the stars of our own lives and destiny. We work with God, with situations and with circumstances to create what we want and need.

No more waiting for a change in your life, you are the change in your life.

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

POETRY AT THE PODIUM

Open Call for Submissions



In 2019, Spokane poets
will raise their voices at
Spokane City Council Meetings.

Interested in reading?

Submit one poem via the
Submittable portal below:

<https://spokanearts.submittable.com>






COUPON

ONE DINNER 1/2 OFF

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

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

“Best Southern Food in Washington”



We're with you every
step of the way.

Our community's only
nonprofit hospice,
serving patients and their
families since 1977.



Dignity. Trust. Compassion.
509.456.0438 | Toll free 888.459.0438 | hospiceofspokane.org



SCORE

Spokane

Starting a Business?
Get Free
Advice Today.



www.scorespokane.org
509.353.2821
scorespokane@gmail.com

Content sponsored by:
The Law Office of D.C. Cronin
Dennis C. Cronin, Attorney at Law, P.S.
Persistence for Justice since 1985
www.dccronin.com

Let's Talk Candidly About the Feminization of Incarceration

You may have heard the term “feminization of poverty” as it relates to economic gaps between men and women reflecting a cycle affected by income, capabilities, gender bias, opportunities, assets, health care, social and cultural factors.

But are you aware of the alarming trend of the growing disproportional incarceration rates of women?

The 2016 Vera Institute of Justice Report found the growth of the rates of incarceration of women now exceed that of men, that nearly 80 percent of incarcerated women in America are mothers, and that the majority of incarcerated mothers are single moms.

According to the 2018 Prison Policy Initiative Report, The Gender Divide: Tracking Women's State Prison Growth, “Women have become the fastest-growing segment of the incarcerated population, but despite recent interest in the alarming national trend, few people know what’s happening in their own states.” Included in that report were alarming statistics about our state, indicating that between 2009 and 2015, Washington, with a 4% growth in the incarceration of women compared to 0% for men, was one of only 8 states in which the incarceration of women outpaced that of men.

The Prison Policy Initiative 2018 report on Women’s Mass Incarceration also states, “Unlike state prisons, most women in local jails (60%) have not been convicted and are being held while they await trial, often because they cannot afford bail. Women are less likely to be able to afford money bail than men: those who could not afford bail had a median annual income below the poverty threshold, and about 30% lower than men who could not afford bail. Pretrial detention of even a few days can have life-altering effects for women and their families, putting jobs and housing at risk. The 38,000 women in jails who have been convicted are typically serving sentences of under one year, often for misdemeanors.”

The 2018 Prison Policy Initiative Report further states, “... Black and American Indian women are markedly overrepresented in prisons and jails: Incarcerated women are 53% White, 29% Black, 14% Hispanic, 2.5% American Indian and Alaskan Native, 0.9% Asian, and 0.4% Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander. While we are a long way away from having data on intersectional impacts of sexuality and race or ethnicity on women’s likelihood of incarceration, it is clear that Black and lesbian or bisexual women are disproportionately subject to incarceration.”

In light of the Spokane County incarceration racial disparities, and in light of Washington being listed as one of the 8 states with the disproportionate growth rates in the incarceration of women, are we not required to address the tough questions? Are we not responsible for evaluating how our system of justice impacts families everyday in terms of, as Kimberlé Crenshaw wrote, the “intersections of race, class and gender discrimination?”

According to the Vera Institute of Justice 2016 report, “**Small counties are driving the growth of the number of women in jail**—with numbers increasing 31-fold between 1970 and 2014.” (Emphasis added) Disparities don’t just “appear out of nowhere”, there are causes and there are factors not just in criminal justice, but in all areas impacted by our system of justice. Reframing the conversations is urgently needed to build bridges.

In the late ‘80’s and early ‘90’s, Spokane Superior Court was at the forefront of innovative programs in our courts, understanding what happens in the courthouse exponentially affects our community in terms of the costs to families, businesses and taxpayers alike. From the Washington State Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Plan published in 2003 to the Washington State Supreme Court’s Gender and Justice Commission, to the MacArthur Foundation, 2019 Children of the Incarcerated Conference, resources are available to the public and to the legal system stakeholders, including the judiciary, to reframe conversations and coordinate programs to immediately impact the alarming trend of growing feminization of incarceration.

As Human Rights Watch reported. "When moms are jailed, the consequences for children can be devastating, from being shunted into the foster care system, to remaining home alone to fend for themselves." If we truly value our children and our families, and if we are serious about criminal justice reform, there should be no greater priority in the Spokane justice system than to candidly address the systemic factors and institutionalized barriers responsible for disproportionalities.

In Spokane, I hope we will include tough questions about the feminization of disproportionate incarceration and candid conversations about the systemic, generational, and societal factors creating the need for programs addressing the collateral consequences of incarceration, like the Incarcerated Parents Project.

But first, let’s begin by acknowledging the work of the women in our community working tirelessly, most often not compensated, to dismantle the barriers to equity in our justice system. To each of you, we owe our gratitude and our respect, not just during Women’s History Month, but 365 days a year.

Oh, and thanks, Mom!
-Dennis



Power 2 The Poetry partnered with students from Gonzaga University School of Law who are members of The William O. Douglass Committee (1st Amendment Society) to give voice to inmates at the Spokane County Jail. Speakers read letters received from the inmates. Some were short, some long, some serious, some funny. All were poignant and offered the audience a glimpse behind the concrete veil.



For Our Loved Ones We Perservere



As salumu alaikum and good evening,

I was born Dora, however I prefer Duaa-Rahemaah: my name means supplication of prayer and mercy that connects me to everything in this universe. I represent multiple minority groups. I stand before you proudly, unapologetically, humbly, Female, African American and Muslim, to name a few. In no way am I an authority on doing time.

Full Disclosure - I did a couple days in a juvenile detention center and 30 days in King County Jail while I was eight months pregnant with my second child. While in jail, I went into false labor twice. I remember the stares and how I felt being shackled and escorted into the hospital. I remember being chained to the bar of the bed as guards sat outside the door of the room. I remember thinking, "what would happen to my baby if I had him now"? I don't wish that situation on anyone.

I was also arrested multiple times while actively feeding my addiction for 12 years. Surprisingly, I never considered myself a formerly incarcerated individual, because I was fortunate to avoid being warehoused inside of state or federal facilities. As I overview my life, I could have easily been one of the millions of individuals in state or federal prison. Or one of the incarcerated persons writing this from jail, state or federal prison. Instead, I stand here before you thanking The Most High for my freedom. Freedom that created the platform for me to speak my truth. The Truth of how mass incarceration effects my family daily. My family and the families of many of us.

But I am a formerly incarcerated individual. I am by my arrests, and I am as I walk alongside currently incarcerated people. Both, my first-born son and husband were sentenced to over 25 years apiece and they are sooo gonna wow you when you meet them...

My son earned his GED, Associates Degree in Arts, is married and President of the Black Prisoner's Caucus at Coyote Ridge. My husband is currently housed at Airway Heights Correction Center. He is an Accomplished Toastmaster - Former President, Vice President of Membership, Competent Communicator, Advanced Communicator Bronze, Advanced Communicator Silver, Competent Leader, and by June he will have completed the Level 1 Pathways, making him a Triple Crown Recipient. What they go through I go through. And as much as they try to protect me, when they suffer in there, I suffer out here.

As I stated earlier, I am Not an authority on doing time. I have not gone to trial, signed a deal, stood through sentencing, been processed through The Reception Center at Shelton, tried to sleep through the first night at my 'parent institution' or held my stool on those depressing 'chain bus' rides while shackled to another prisoner. But I am certainly an authority on loving and supporting an attentive husband who has walked off twenty four consecutive years and a caring son who has walked off thirteen consecutive years.

Studies show 1 out of 3 African American Males will suffer incarceration at some point in their life. This also means 1 out of 3 African American families will be impacted at some point, which means the community will also be impacted. I AM ONE OF THOSE FAMILIES BEING IMPACTED by Mass Incarceration.

The cost of staying connected to your loved ones via letters, emails, phone calls, visiting or video visits is not a light matter. It can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$9,000 and that doesn't include the cost of vending machines at visit, travel, lodging or monthly and quarterly packages. Traveling across several counties and not knowing what you may encounter with staff, the facility or other visitors can take a toll on you mentally, emotionally, and physically. Some staff's biases bleed through and regretfully, at times, I and my family have been treated inappropriately. But for our loved ones we persevere.

EVERY DAY!!! I THANK THE MOST HIGH for my freedoms. Freedom that created the platform I stand upon tonight. Expressing My Truth. The Truth of how mass incarceration impacts families of loved ones who care.

Currently I am actively involved, probably over involved if you let my husband tell it, as a Family Council Member for both Airway Heights Correction Center and Coyote Ridge Correction Center. I partner with, advocate for, and fight alongside organizations that fight for justice reform, housing, and healthcare issues.

Thank You All! God Bless You All. And I could have never done this without You All. Have a good rest of the night.

Dora "Duaa-Rahemaah"

2019 BLACK BUSINESS EXPO

Spokane Celebrates 2nd Annual Gathering of Local Black-Owned Businesses



Sponsored by Friends of the Black Lens, the Spokane Ministers Fellowship and The Carl Maxey Center.

2019 BLACK BUSINESS EXPO

Sunday, February 24 - Emmanuel Family Life Center - 2-5pm



Photos Courtesy: Steve Watts & the Black Lens. For more information visit blacklensnews.com.

Butterfly Flight

By April Rivers Eberhardt



I am writing these words for my butterfly in the midst of a shift. Uncertainty is lurking at your door. Your baby face is changing and your body is, for sure. Womanly curves in places once flat and straight, my little girl is taking on a new shape. Happy one minute and fretting the next, everything around you seems to have you vexed. But rest assured, the caterpillar you were has traded its playful squirm and you, my dear, are no longer that odd little worm. Your wings are forming and though these changes inside you seem to be storming, you were created fearfully and wonderfully before the start of time---take that fret off your face and get ready to fly. You were created by God's beautiful design.

You shall flutter through ups and downs, across time and space, finding out life's lessons at your own personal pace. Remember that there is always something that you can learn, always have a watchful eye



and be ready to discern. Be aware of your surroundings, choose friends as if you are checking for spoiled fruit; never be afraid to stand out from the group. Cliques are often shady when it's all said and done, it's better to be known as a strong person of one. When it's

time to talk, listen first, then take your turn. Even though you may think that you know it all, banish arrogance and pride, else it can cause you to fall. When you stumble, take time to learn from your mistakes, know that errors are something that we all make.

Don't be easily flattered but take compliments with grace, and know that sometimes those smiling at you may have another face.

Remember that you are an original created by design, be wary of copying every trend just for a spot in line. You can always look cool on the outer shell, but it means nothing if, inside your heart, no kindness dwells---your kindness is what will represent you well.

And while this butterfly flight is your own story, always remember to give God the glory. Preserve yourself, you are a precious gift: a beautiful butterfly in the midst of a shift.

Black women in the U.S. are nearly 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than white women. Let's change that.

Take the time to learn about your risk factors and be sure to schedule your mammogram every year once you turn 40. Annual screening mammography can help catch breast cancer early, when it's easier to treat.



To learn more, go to: InlandImaging.com/breast-imaging and knowyourgirls.org. To schedule your annual screening mammogram, call 509.455.4455. Early detection saves lives.


Inland Imaging[®]
Answers you can trust and care you can count on.

Sistah's Taking Care of Ourselves

Inland Imaging and the Spokane Chapter of the Links, Inc. Host Annual Mammogram Party



Inland Imaging and the Spokane Chapter of the Links, Inc teamed up again this year to host their annual Mammogram Party in an effort to raise awareness about the higher than normal incidences of Breast cancer amongst African American women.

The American Cancer Society has reported that breast cancer is the second leading

cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States and African American women have the highest death rate from breast cancer of all racial and ethnic groups (ACS, 2016).

These rates likely reflect a combination of factors, including timely access to screening, diagnostic and treatment services.

The mammogram party, hosted each year inside of Holy Family Hospital, is an effort to address the barriers that prevent African American women from getting screened and potentially saving their lives.

For information on how you can participate in the next Mammogram Party contact Faith Washington at 509-363-7833 or e-mail fwashington@inland-imaging.com.



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**.

COME WORSHIP WITH US & ENJOY A SPIRIT FILLED WORSHIP!

SUNDAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL | 9:45 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE | 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY
BIBLE STUDY | 7:00 PM
YOUTH GROUP | 7:00 PM

COME AND RECEIVE **JESUS** HE DELIVERS
HE SAVES
HE RESTORES
HE HEALS

FIND US ON:




www.holytemplecogicspokane.org



PASTOR & FIRST LADY
EZRA & ELEISE KINLOW

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

New Hope Is On Fire!

Worship Service
SUNDAYS 11AM

Sunday School
Sundays at 9:30am

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



Pastor James & First Lady Shawn Watkins

The Ten Vitamins Black Women Need

Reprinted from BlackDoctor.org, T. Carter Williamson, Contributor; Photo: National Institutes of Health, Vitamin D Fact Sheet <https://ods.od.nih.gov/factsheets/vitamin-d-consumer/>)

You’re probably wondering why you need to know what vitamins are best for you because you already take a multivitamin.

Well, multi-vitamins, like the highly recommended One-A-Day Women’s, adhere to the updated DRIs (Dietary Reference Intakes) very closely, but even the best multi-vitamin can’t stuff everything in. Use this list, which includes the top 10 vitamins African American women need and the recommended intake, to cross-reference the multi-vitamin you take or are considering taking.

1.) Vitamin A
The recommended daily value is 5,000 IU (International Unit). 5,000 IU is too much for women with relatively healthy diets, which is why most multi-vitamins cut that amount in half.

2.) B Vitamins (B6, B12, riboflavin, thiamin and niacin)
B6: 2 mg (milligrams)
B12: 6 mg
Riboflavin: 1.7 mg
Thiamin: 1.5 mg
Niacin: 20 mg
Bs are in plenty of foods, especially vitamin-spiked cereals, so there is usually not a high need for more.



3.) Vitamin C
The recommended amount is 60 mg, but new research suggests that 60 mg is not enough. You can get more than enough from one glass of OJ, which packs 120 mg of Vitamin C.

4.) Vitamin D
800 IU. Without Vitamin D, your body

can’t absorb calcium. Because it’s not in a lot of foods, it’s hard to get through your diet.

5.) Vitamin E
30 IU, but research is being performed to find out if extra vitamin E protects against cardiovascular disease and/or cancer.

6.) Vitamin K
100 mcg (micrograms). Vitamin K works with Vitamin D and calcium to build bones, yet some multi vitamins leave out Vitamin K altogether because it can interfere with blood thinning drugs that are used to treat heart disease. If you are at risk, you should check with your doctor before taking extra K.

7.) Folic Acid
400 mcg. Folic Acid is recommended for all women of a child bearing age, as it is said to prevent birth defects.

8.) Calcium
1,000 mg. Calcium is key in building and maintaining healthy bones.

9.) Iron
18 mg. African American women tend to be low in Iron. Be careful with taking in additional Iron because the body stores Iron and you don’t want to reach the toxic level of 45mg, which can cause diarrhea in the short term and problems like heart disease over time.

10.) Magnesium
400 mg. Most African American women don’t get enough of magnesium, which protects against heart disease, diabetes and colon cancer.

If you have additional questions about the types of vitamins you should be taking, don’t forget to ask your doctor.



FosteringWA
FOSTER | SERVE | SUPPORT

Could you be
the difference?

African American children are represented in foster
care 1.8 times their rate in general population.
Learn how to become a foster parent today!

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION

Learn How to
Become a Foster Parent.

The initial step to becoming a
foster parent is to attend ONE of the
foster parent orientations.

March 5, 2019
10am - 1pm

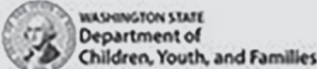
Department of Children, Youth, and Families
1313 N Atlantic, Suite 2000,
Spokane

Registration is NOT required.

Parking can be limited so try to arrive 10 minutes
prior to the start of the session to allow time to
find a space to park.

For more information visit Fostering Washington:
<https://sites.ewu.edu/fosteringwa>

Phone: 1.888.kids.414
Email: fosteringwa@ewu.edu
Facebook: facebook.com/fosteringwa
Web: Fosteringwa.org



Missing Black Girls Continued From Page 1

Many maintain that African Americans aren't afforded the intense police investigations or the media coverage given to whites that go missing.



"Black girls are magical and should be noticed, uplifted and acknowledged, both within and outside of the Black community," said Ginger Lavender Wilkerson, a licensed marriage and family therapist in Los Angeles. "To recognize Black girls as magical means defining them as precious, unique and valued. When society recognizes their worth and value, I believe that more attention will be paid to this matter. In addition, it will call for all people to recognize this as an epidemic and cause for action," Wilkerson said.

Child Rights activist Katerina Canyon said she's been researching cases of missing Black girls for years and there are several unknowns, including that many go missing without any witnesses. "This leads me to believe that the kidnappers are either very good at what they're doing, or the girls left on their own," Canyon said.

"We need to make sure black girls have readily accessible help from adults in a safe environment such that they do not fall victim to homelessness or trafficking. A lot of times, with the proper interventions, we can prevent black girls from leaving home or falling prey to traffickers," she said.

The mystery of the disappearances also has heightened since 2016 when Donald Trump won the presidency and the subsequent rise in nationalism and white supremacy. Some of the disappearances have proven more suspicious than others.



A recent report highlighted the case of Amber Evans, who disappeared in 2015. Evans had been a key player and driving force behind state and local juvenile justice reform in Ohio – work for which she'd been rewarded when the organization she worked for, the Juvenile Justice

Coalition, put her in charge. In a Facebook post on her first day as executive director, Evans, 28, displayed her track and field medals.

"Ohio is for champions and I used to be something of a track star," Evans wrote. "Wearing my old medals before starting day 1 as executive director of the Juvenile Justice Coalition was a nice reminder of that."

Three weeks later, Evans disappeared. Her car was found, purse in the trunk, her last known whereabouts, a stop at the pharmacy. Her last known words, a text to her mother saying, "I love you and I'm sorry."

"There never seemed to be a sense of urgency for our missing African American girls," said Nashima Harvey, an educator and founder of Girls of Decision, a youth empowerment group that seeks to assist girls in making better choices in all stages of their lives.



"The sad thing that I have encountered has been that many of the young girls I have interacted with on my journey are young women who were former human trafficked young ladies," Harvey said.

"These women went missing at the ages of 12 to 14 and are now adults living in toxic situations looking for a better life and all seemed to feel no longer welcomed by their family. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with this population, but I do believe that we need to be



diligent and outspoken when it comes to saving our girls," she said.

The estimated 75,000 missing Black women and girls continue to stump law enforcement while frustrating and devastating families. It forces the question: Does anyone care?

Since NNPA Newswire reported on the alarming lack of interest in the cases of missing Black females, readers – including law enforcement – have responded by using social media to bring to light the host of African Americans and others of color who've gone missing.

The social media account for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children retweeted the NNPA Newswire story and then accumulated a long thread of missing



girls – some as young as a few months old. They began each tweet with: "Have you seen this child?"

Among the missing are:

- **Skylar Mannie**, missing from Lancaster, Calif., since Feb. 14.
- **Whitney Elliseau**, missing from Lakewood, Calif., since Feb. 5
- **Tim' Monique Davis**, missing from Moorhead, Minnesota since Jan. 20.
- **Anya Washington**, missing from Houston, Texas since Jan. 29.
- **R'Mahnee Williams-Turner**, missing from Palmdale, Calif., since Jan. 26.
- **Jada Cyrus**, missing from Boston, Mass., since Jan. 29.
- **Myla Abanda**, missing from Fairfax, Va., since November 16, 2018.
- **Zakiah Abdul-Khaliq**, missing from Austin, Texas, since Aug. 27, 2018.
- **Yasmin Acree**, missing from Chicago, Ill., since Jan. 15, 2018.
- **Lashaya Stine**, missing from 16, Aurora, Colorado since July 15, 2018.
- **Harmony Adams**, missing from Columbus, Oh., since July 18, 2018.
- **Kelli Allen**, missing from Atlanta, Ga., since Dec. 20, 2018.
- **Kelly Allen**, Missing from Berkley, Miss., since March 13, 2007.
- **Kaaliyah Alston**, missing from Hillsborough, NC., since Aug. 21, 2018.
- **Hazana Anderson**, missing from College Station, Texas, since Oct. 28, 2018.
- **Karyn Anderson**, missing from Walkersville, Md., since March 24, 2018.
- **Rae'vanna Anderson**, missing from Duluth, Ga., since Nov. 3, 2018.

A comprehensive list can be found on the website for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) at <http://www.missingkids.com>.



For families with a missing or sexually exploited child, NCMEC provides crisis intervention and local counseling referrals to appropriate professionals.

The organization's "Team HOPE" program connects families with peers who have had similar experiences and can of-

fer coping skills and compassion. When a missing child is recovered, NCMEC helps the family with the reunification process, including mental health services and travel assistance.

Psychologist and Navy veteran Sheri Davis said it's vital that the missing are given attention by the media and especially law enforcement. Davis said she relates well with them on a couple of fronts: She once went missing and she's also the victim of domestic violence, a trigger



for some who've been made vulnerable to abductions, run away and become the eventual victim of sex trafficking.

"One thing I think for sure about the missing teens is that human trafficking is a hotbed in my city [and around the country]," said Davis, who lives in Madison, Alabama. "I think it's very easy for the courts and police to turn their heads the other way and not deal with the problem at hand."



Davis continued:

"I had to escape from my abuser in the middle of the night ... naked and running down the road and praying that a good bystander helps me while I'm covered in blood. The families of these young ladies need to be in the face of [law enforcement officials] and let them see the pain they are in every day that those girls aren't home or safe."



Sheila Johnson: "The Biggest Fight of My Life"

By Ronda Racha Penrice

(Urban News Service) The “biggest fight of my life,” says Sheila C. Johnson, wasn’t co-founding Black Entertainment Television or ending her 33-year marriage to Robert “Bob” Johnson, with whom she raised two children and a television network together.

It was getting zoning, planning and other local government permits to open a hotel and spa in the village of Middleburg, Virginia. While the hotel, which she called “The Salamander,” would create dozens of jobs and pay millions in property and other taxes, the village government fought her every step of the way.

Her famous name and hard-earned wealth didn’t give her any advantages. “None of that matters,” she told CNN, “As an African-American, they didn’t want me to do this. It was the fight of my life. I’ve never been more frightened in my life.”

Certainly, Johnson had more credentials than any other developer or investor in that hamlet of fewer than 640 residents. Johnson always “had an entrepreneurial spirit.”

In high school, she earned money by playing her violin in small parties and, later, by giving private lessons. And she was tireless in building BET from a two-hour feature into a 24-hour cable channel.

She is a woman of firsts. She was one of first African-American woman billionaires. She is the first African American woman to own three professional sports teams in three different leagues—the NBA’s Washington Wizards (where she serves as both president and managing partner), the NHL’s Washington Capitals and the WNBA’s Washington Mystics.

And she is renowned leader in philanthropy. The Sheila C. Johnson Design School Center at the Parsons School of Design in New York City, where she serves on the Board of Governors, bears her name. At the Harvard Kennedy School, she endows the Sheila C. Johnson Leadership Fellowship to support emerging leaders primarily focused on erasing disparities in underserved African American communities.



As Johnson explained, “none of that mattered.”

Middleburg, founded in 1787, fashions itself the “Nation’s Horse and Hunt Capital.” It is renowned for steeple chases and fox hunts. It has 632 residents, according to the U.S. Census, and many of them are opposed to any change. While one out five Middleburg residents are African-American, they have little say over local government.

Johnson, who lived in town, wanted her hotel to have an equestrian theme—including riding trails and horse paddocks—in keeping with the town’s traditions. Johnson purchased nearly 350 acres in 2002, lands once owned by former U.S. ambassador Pamela Harriman, a one-time daughter-in-law of Winston Churchill. She thought it would take just a few years to build her dream. In the end, it would take more than ten years.

The local government had to issue permits and every step of the way it dragged its heels, finding one reason or another to delay or deny a permit. Often, Johnson had to take the town to court.

“I was naïve about realizing that I was south of the Mason-Dixon Line and a lot of people got very nervous about this African American woman coming in and building

this resort,” admits the 68-year-old Johnson, who is no stranger to racial discrimination.

Growing up, the Pennsylvania-born Johnson moved more than a dozen times before settling in Maywood, just outside Chicago, because her neurosurgeon father’s race frequently became an issue.

Those experiences, however, taught Johnson a resilience that serves her to this day. “I learned the life of hard knocks and racism but I was also able to assimilate into the different cultures and do what I had to do to make things work,” she said.

In the end, she won.

Today the Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg has won the coveted Forbes Five Star and AAA Five Diamond awards.

The hotel is the crown jewel in an impressive constellation of almost ten hotels. Earlier this year, she added Nopsi New Orleans to her portfolio and Hotel Bennett in Charleston, South Carolina is set to join in summer 2018.

Equestrian-themed, Salamander Resort & Spa’s 168 guestrooms and suites boast countryside views as well as an on-site stable, a 23,000-square-foot spa, a heated pool and a cooking studio. “I think what is different with our resorts is people feel so

comfortable and so at home,” says Johnson. “When they enter our doors, they do not feel like it’s just a regular hotel.”

“With my resorts,” she continues, “I want to make sure it’s my thumbprint. It’s not a Ritz-Carlton thumbprint or St. Regis. And those are great hotels.”

Johnson’s impact on the hospitality industry and Loudoun County specifically has been undeniable, says Beth Erickson, Visit Loudoun’s president/CEO since 2014, who works closely with Salamander. Loudoun County tourism accounts for nearly 17,000 hospitality jobs and generates roughly \$1.6 billion annually in spending. And Johnson is a big part of that success.

“When Sheila opened Salamander, it was the only new luxury destination resort in the United States that opened in 2013 and, by opening it alone, it created 400 jobs,” says Erickson. “Occupancy taxes from Salamander have exceeded \$1.3 million per year.”

And Middleburg has reaped the rewards. “Some of those taxes,” reports Erickson, “went directly to improving sidewalks and crosswalks in Middleburg. It created revenue that allowed the town’s failing pipes to be replaced.”

Johnson, who is also a film producer with ‘Lee Daniels’ The Butler” (2013) among her credits, “has literally brought Hollywood to Loudoun County” with the Middleburg Film Festival she started when Salamander opened, adds Erickson.

Held annually in October, Erickson says the festival has put “us on the map in the company of Cannes, Telluride, Sundance and that is wonderful company to keep.”

The 2017 festival, held October 19-22, spotlighted the Academy Award nominated film ‘Mudbound’ and featured a talk with its acclaimed black female director Dee Rees. In 2016, the festival also screened ‘Moonlight’ and ‘La La Land,’ which both won Oscars later.

“I was always a businesswoman,” she says. “I could not prove that earlier but I’m proving it now.”

Do You Love Art? Two Seats Open on the Spokane Arts Commission

The Spokane Arts Commission is a group of 16 community volunteers who work to support and promote arts and culture.

Commissioners attend monthly meetings (on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.) and have the opportunity to work on specific projects and initiatives in the Spokane area.

The arts commission serves as an advisory board to both the city of Spokane and Spokane Arts, which is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Art commissioners represent a variety of arts disciplines, neighborhoods, and skill sets.

Each individual serves on a committee and/or ad-hoc juries, assisting with artist selection for public art calls like signal box designs, murals, sculpture, etc.

Art commissioners also serve on selection panels (alongside community members) to select the next poet laureate, future exhibits for the Chase Gallery, to distribute grant awards, and much more.

Examples of recent activities include meeting with state legislators, staffing the Chase Gallery, serving on selection panels and juries for art programs of all disciplines, and helping present

arts and culture programs in the community.

Art commission members must live within the city’s boundaries, per the municipal code, and appointments are approved by the city council and the mayor’s office.

More information about what Spokane Arts does can be found at spokanearts.org. Questions? Contact Melissa Huggins at melissa@spokanearts.org or 321.9614.

Master Barbers
LARRY
Q.C.

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

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

Theresa's Salon

Smoothing Treatments - Color & Style Cut - Weaves

Theresa Fisher
Stylist

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

509-534-2470
fisherta@gmail.com

Out of the 'Inward Abyss'

A Reflection on 'Black Empowerment, Unitarian Universalism, and an Embodies Path to Healing', a Sermon Delivered at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

By Inga Laurent

As the church slowly started coming back to life, reviving after all the rituals had come to a close, I quickly made my way towards the exit. For a fleeting half-second, my eyes flickered across Ariel Aaronson-Eves'. I gave her a quick, barely perceptible nod on my way out the door. Per usual, I was one of the few Black faces amidst a sea of white, and while I normally stay to socialize, being loved on, I felt the need to rush out.

Ariel, a white, third-year student in the Masters of Divinity Program at Star King Seminary in Berkeley had just, as the saying goes, taken us home. She delivered a sermon entitled Black Empowerment, Unitarian Universalism, and an Embodies Path to Healing, leading us through a perilous journey straight into the heart of one particularly painful moment from our Church's history, dubbed "The Empowerment Controversy." Rather than speed up, roll over the collective damage done and try to craft some type of resolution, Ariel slowed us down, providing a steady pace, enabling us to do the difficult mental work required for climbing out of the depths, the despair we so often feel rising when issues of race plunge us into some darkness.

She told us our story, one that started in the fall of 1967, lasting into the early 70s, when a group of Black UU members broke away during a national conference to form The Black Caucus. "They had decided that if they weren't going to be treated with respect, if their concerns weren't prioritized, if Unitarian Universalism didn't offer a community where they could feel seen and whole, then their future wasn't with the UUA."

In her research, Ariel uncovered a quote from historian Mark Morrison-Reed who summarized events this way "people began to see themselves as Black people in relation to other Black people. Examining their relationship to one another, rather than fixating on white people was new to most of them...as they talked, with unusual openness, they tapped into raw emotion hidden behind middle-class reasonableness. Theirs was a search for an authentic identity in place of the futile attempt to be 'carbon copies of white people.'"

The breaking, causally linked to larger societal tectonic shifting, would ultimately prove highly tumultuous, reverberations rattling across an entire church body. Black members felt torn and uncertain about their belonging



among white members whose reactions spanned a vast ocean of responses – from fear, hate, shame and shut down to those who stepped up, like "The Moral Caucus," a group of allies who staged a walk-out in solidarity.

Instead of leaving this controversy in history, Ariel pulled us squarely into the present by placing us back in the past: "I imagine myself in that hot and crowded assembly hall in Boston in June 1969." Then she started firing questions. "What if I came from a congregation that was deeply engaged in doing personal and collective healing work around racism? What if our white delegates were trained in de-escalation around white fragility, in recognizing and settling their own nervous system responses when confronted about power and privileges and racism, and in helping other white folks settle too? What if the white members of my congregation felt safe enough in our community to do the vulnerable work of recognizing how our bodies respond when our authority is threatened, or when we are around a lot of unfamiliar Black people...what if white folks recognized the symptoms of white fragility and guilt not as evidence of something inherently wrong with us but as a trauma response – in particular to the moral injury of

how we have supported systems that have harmed our African American siblings – and we worked collectively to identify and heal the trauma."

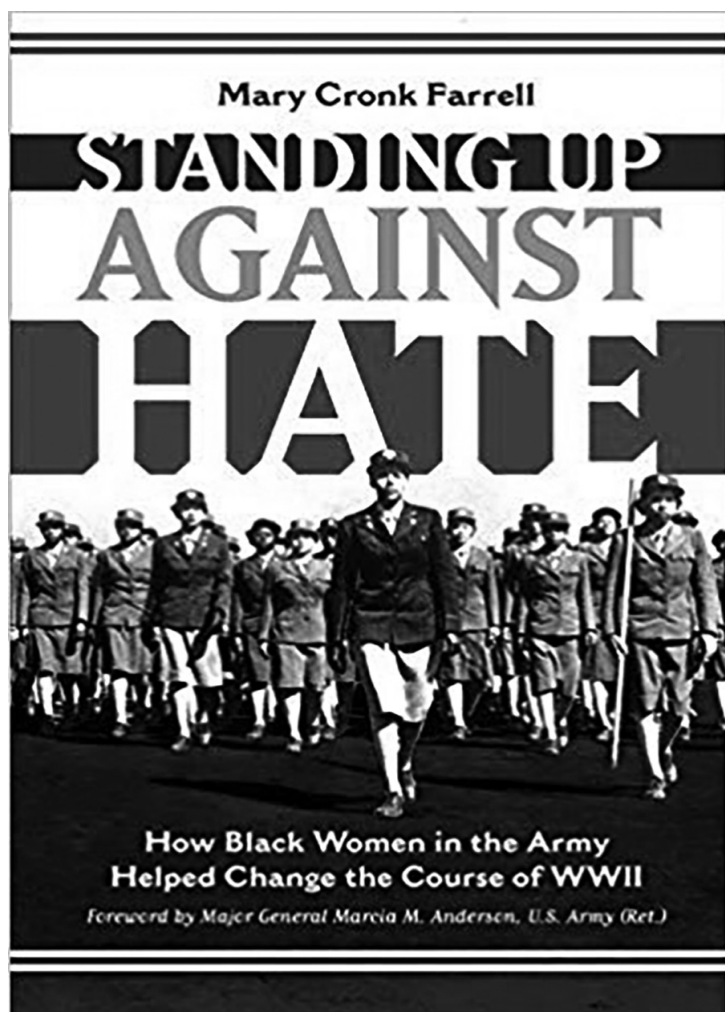
In her closing remarks, she included this quote from a white UU activist, "Black people have in many ways pointed up our spiritual emptiness, and we've begun to see this inward abyss. That white adults can't live vicariously from Black souls any more than from youth spirit, so we'd better find our own. That our chief job, then, is to get back in touch with what may prove real and moving in us."

As my mind poured over those words, my body had already felt their truth welling deep within. Yes, healing from this trauma we've all inherited and continue to co-create is largely an inside job. Our progress as a whole depends a whole lot on white folks doing their own work – and not "benevolently" or solely on behalf of others – but on behalf of themselves. Confront the contradiction, both the complicity and the countervailing value, each person has to offer in this collective reality we're sustaining. And finally, I wasn't the one who had to say it.

After clearing the church doors, I sharply exhaled and slowed down my breathing to take in the crisp, refreshing outside air. Back inside, I had made up my mind, a difficult decision, to not attempt to dispel any lingering disquiet with my smile, although my heart simultaneously longed for something different. So I slipped away in much the same way a wave recedes from the shore. To everyone's credit, they let me go. Releasing me, electing to deal with their own discomfort. Though imperfect, this act was brave and mighty.

A congregation created the space to confront a history that could have been easily distanced or denied. What a rare treasure – a shared attempt to productively unearth something buried together. Maybe this is how true empowerment actually arises, only slightly surfacing – in a barely perceptible nod offered for the joint recognition of our inextricably bound liberation.

Inga N. Laurent is an Associate Professor and Director of the Externship Program at Gonzaga University, School of Law. She returned to the faculty in Fall of 2017 after spending nine months researching restorative justice in Kingston, Jamaica as a Fulbright scholar. Inga received her J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and her B.A. from Westminster College. She has been a member of the Gonzaga community since 2010.



Standing Up Against Hate

"Standing Up Against Hate" is a new book by Spokane author Mary Cronk Farrell. It is an historical depiction on how black women essentially helped change the course of World War II. The book talks about their struggles and accomplishments during this trying time in American History.

Farrell was at Chase Middle School last month speaking to a 7th grade English class about her works during Black History Month. After her presentation, I spoke to Patty Driscoll the teacher of that class. She mentioned to me that one of her students asked, "Why don't we have White history month? Or Men's History Month"? The reply. "Every month is White history and men's history month."

I asked myself why we chose the shortest month of the year



to celebrate Black History month, and why we have a snippet of information about African Americans included in the morning announcement at my school.

Black History is American History and should be taught that way.

Farrell commented to me that it is hard being an author writing about Black issues, while not being Black. If white authors had written about Black history at the caliber Farrell has written this book in the past, Black history would now be a substantial part of American history.

For a good accurate depiction of Black history or American History read "Standing Up Against Hate". History is our best teacher. We need to know our history, so we don't repeat the same historical mistakes. Farrell will be at Aunties book store on March 6th.

Ava Becks is a California Native who has been in Spokane for almost 40 years. She ran for City Council in 2004, was a T.V. Journalist for 30-years and was at KXLY-TV for 18 years. She presently works in Special Education at Spokane Schools.

OUR VOICES

Our Planet is Melting! Who Cares?

By Julianne Malveaux

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The Right Reverend William Barber has revived Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign. He has reminded us that the triple evils of an age were racism, militarism, and poverty. But he has advanced the struggle for social and economic justice by including ecological devastation and the intersection between religion and morality.

Dr. King indicated that one of the evils could not exist without another. Racism, militarism, and poverty were intertwined. Moving it forward, capitalism, militarism, and racism have been responsible for much of the ecological devastation we have experienced.

Rev. William Barber has made it plain. His namesake son (William Barber III) has been involved in the environmental movement and took his dad to Alaska, where the melting of the glaciers was obvious. "We could see where they were five years ago, and where they are today. We are losing our glaciers". The young Dr. Barber told his dad that we might see seismic changes in as few as twenty years. Melting glaciers in Alaska. Melting glaciers in Antarctica. Government reports that were delayed because of the government shutdown, but a final report from the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (noaa.gov) says that 2018 was one of the four hottest years on record for the globe. The heat makes a difference. It accelerates storms and hurricanes. It places low-lying areas at risk. And trivially (but some of us live this) the fluctuations between cold and heat affect the quality of roads.

Many Republicans are oblivious to the challenges of climate change. That man who occupies the People's House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue spent 82 minutes bloviating without mentioning climate change or global warming (or the 400th year since enslaved people crossed these wretched borders), but even as he ignored a pressing issue, there were official acknowledgments of the ways that global



warming has shifted our climate realities. In the name of party loyalty, some Republicans are willing to imperil our planet.

Democrats aren't much better. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has been focused on climate change and has assembled a congressional panel to deal with the matter. The New Green Deal says that the Speaker's focus is insufficient, and first-year legislator Alexandria Ocasia-Cortez (D-NY) has promoted a "Green New Deal" that addresses comprehensive ways to deal with social, economic, and environmental justice.

Leader Pelosi and Congresswoman AOC both care about the ways our planet is melting, although they approach legislative fixes in different ways. Pelosi would take a deep dive in environmental issues. AOC would connect environmental devastation to wages, education, and quality of life. The two dynamos are on the same page, but their approach is different. Pelosi is the more skilled leader and

negotiator and will find her position enhanced if she can use the AOC agenda to advance her own.

The bottom line, though, is that our planet is melting. We hear a "State of Disunion" address that bloviated on for 82 minutes and mentioned climate change not once. In the days after the pathetic campaign speech masquerading as a State of the Union address, we saw Democrats lift the challenges of climate change, and Republicans to ignore those challenges. And our world melts on.

Our world is melting. Glaciers are disappearing. Oceans are rising. Lowlands (mostly populated by low income and Black people) are disappearing. And, before Democrats took power in this term, few other than Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the New Green Deal have been able to address matters of climate change and, in the words of the New Poor People's Campaign, "ecological devastation."

How does ecological devastation shape issues of social and economic justice? When folks choose to disrespect the environment, they mainly want to disrespect those who are most vulnerable – people who are at the periphery of the economy, those who have garbage dumps and toxic waste placed near their homes. There was a focus on environmental justice with the Environmental Protection Agency before this administration decided that there was no need to protect the environment. And there has been a stunning silence among civil rights organizations who don't think that the melting of our plant is essential.

Our planet is melting. A few legislators care. What about the rest of us? Do we understand that, in the words of Rev. William Barber, that without a healthy planet, we have no platform to fight for social and economic justice, for our civil rights?

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

Politicians and Benjamins

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – Politicians and Benjamins is not exactly one of the best kept secrets. Everybody knows no lobbyist, no interest group, no individual gives campaign donations to a candidate or incumbent they believe will not work in their best interest. Why should they? I certainly would not.

Why is it that Congresswoman Ilhan Omar simply saying what is so well known somehow winds up being classified as anti-Semitic? There's got to be more to it. Racism never gets this kind of reaction. I have run for office, and been called on the carpet by pro-Israel groups simply for having my best friend from law school as my campaign manager who just happened to be Palestinian with no particular views on the Middle East. He was apolitical. It didn't matter to those complaining that my Policy Director was Jewish and did have views about the treatment of Palestinians.

That was a totally humane position.

I have been to Israel and to the areas where Palestinians live. I've seen the devastation of homes. I've seen the olive trees bulldozed. I've seen Palestinians punched with the barrel of guns and more. I've also been to Holocaust museums in different parts of the world. I've read stories and heard the testimonies of families impacted by such cruelty. I've heard the unbelievable tragedy of many families, and my heart bleeds for the pain of all involved. I can't allow my heart to ache for my Jewish friends while ignoring my Palestinian friends.



So, in my campaign, I couldn't swear my loyalty to anyone while seeing a wrong against another. During my campaign for Congress, a man by the name of Shelly Beychok who at the time was an activist in AIPAC, and as I was told a Board Member, tried to force me to sign a "loyalty to Israel" document before supporting me. Just days before the election, polls had me leading my opponent (a well-known racist Republican who'd called for burning down schools before allowing Black and white children to attend school together).

When I refused to sign such a document, a headline suddenly appeared in a major newspaper that I was a PLO

sympathizer. That meant that no Benjamins should be given to me as a campaign donation, and it meant many of my supporters should back off from supporting me. Mr. Beychok preferred to have my opponent win because I would not pledge my loyalty to anyone. I was a politician who refused to take Benjamins to vote against my conscience. There are others who do the same, but there are also many who will pretend the issue doesn't matter so long as the group gives them campaign donations. I am absolutely sure of that. Some have even told me so and of their fear of the PAC in question. It's no different from some of our community leaders who take money from groups that are not working in the best interest of our community. I see that frequently, and it's painful.

With my background in politics, I cannot understand the furor surrounding Congresswoman Ilhan Omar saying it's about the Benjamins. Maybe some would vote the way they do without a campaign donation, but donors certainly don't give their money to those perceived to be against their position on issues. Truth is always a defense. I had to stop watching CNN because of what they did to Marc Lamont Hill who called for justice for Palestinians, and in no way called for harm to Israel. Why should his remarks be called controversial or anti-semitic?

I am convinced that many politicians support issues because of the Benjamins—not because of what they believe is just.

(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.)

OUR VOICES

Could False Accusations Threaten the #MeToo Movement?

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

Reprinted from blackpressusa.com/commentary



A dozen years ago, Tarana Burke created the slogan, “Me Too.” Burke, a Bronx, N.Y.-born African American civil rights activist, created the saying as a means to help women who had survived sexual violence. Years later, the hashtag “#MeToo” took off, initially without properly crediting Burke.

The movement also seemed initially to exclude women of color or, in the view of many, disproportionately focus on victimized white women – prompting Burke to passionately tell African American women earlier this year, “don’t opt yourself out of what was started for you because the media isn’t acknowledging your hurt.”

Mostly white actresses in Hollywood have become the public face of the movement and men like Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose, and Les Moonves have lost their high-profile jobs. The success for proponents has been increasingly measured in terms of the career, stature, title or reputation loss experienced by the growing group of the (mostly men) accused in the media and a much smaller segment of accused that have been charged and/or convicted of crimes.

As some in the movement include Bill Cosby’s conviction on aggravated indecent assault charges as another consequence of #MeToo, the pending charges and trial outcomes against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein remain unsettled.

Cosby’s trials were so adversely impacted by media rhetoric and public perception that the inaccurate reporting of the actual substance was an unsworn-in additional witness against him — including a prosecutor who cited Cosby’s conviction as a centerpiece of his election campaign. In fact, even though videos have emerged of several professional football players and other celebrities assaulting physically assaulting women in hotel lobbies, elevators and hallways, Cosby may ultimately find himself as the sole accused celebrity who serves actual prison time.

Most recently, the movement was also credited for canceled office holiday parties and a growing number of radio stations refusing to play the classic song, “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” after many claimed that the singer is trying to persuade a woman to stay with him by offering her a drink.

“While it’s critically important that women who’ve been assaulted are heard, we cannot forget about the fundamental right to due process that our great country was founded upon,” said Andrew Miltenberg, one of the nation’s leading due process attorneys.

“This is a dangerous time in our nation’s history, reminiscent of the days of McCarthyism, where a single accusation is enough to end a career. Even baseless charges can ruin a lifetime of work in some situations,” Miltenberg said.

With more than 200 men losing positions and Cosby jailed, some are beginning to look at the movement with a suspect eye.

Actor Sean Penn famously said the campaign has been too black and white and it has divided men and women. Penn also said the movement “is being led by mania.” He told NBC’s Today Show that he’d like to think that none of it was influenced by what they call the movement of #MeToo. “I think it’s influenced by the things that are developing in terms of empowerment of women who’ve been acknowledging each other and being acknowledged by men,” Penn told Today. “This is a movement that was largely shouldered by a kind of receptacle of the salacious.”

When the show’s host, Natalie Morales, asked Penn to clarify his use of the word “salacious,” the actor doubled-down. “Well, we don’t know what’s a fact in many of the cases,” Penn said. “Salacious is as soon as you call something a movement that is really a series of many individual accusers, victims [and] accusations, some of which are unfounded,” he said. “I don’t know the percentages, but I know that there are some lies that have been told publicly about people; I know

of some serious omissions. I’m talking about women towards men.”

Actress and former Playboy model Pamela Anderson has also criticized the #MeToo movement. She has argued that many of the cases stem from actresses taking meetings in hotel suites alone with male executives. Anderson has argued that she’d never go to a man’s private hotel suite for a business meeting alone, particularly if the man answering the door is “only wearing a robe.”

“I think this feminism can go too far,” she said in an interview earlier this year with Australia’s ‘60 Minutes.’ “I’m a feminist, but I think that this third wave of feminism is a bore. I think it paralyzes men,” she said. “My mother taught me don’t go to a hotel with a stranger. If someone opens the door in a bathrobe and it’s supposed to be a business meeting, maybe I should go with somebody else. I think some things are just common sense. Or, if you go in, get the job.”

At its best, the #MeToo movement has been a much-needed corrective to the abuses of power, said Attorney Justin Dillon of the Washington, D.C.-based firm of Kaiser Dillon PLLC. “At its worst, though, it’s been an excuse to unfairly ruin people’s lives and reputations without any form of due process or testing of the allegations.”

“There is no #MeToo court [where] you can go to get your reputation back and filing a real lawsuit is prohibitively expensive for most people. Plus, the media often confuses allegations with proof, which is both lazy and harmful,” Dillon said.

Celebrities and business moguls aren’t alone in feeling the brunt of the #MeToo movement. Even children have been accused.

Nine-year-old New Yorker, Jeremiah Harvey, who is black, was falsely accused of groping and sexually assaulting Teresa Klein, a white woman, at a Brooklyn store. Klein, later dubbed “Cornerstone Caroline” by social media, called police after she falsely accused young Jeremiah of assault – cameras showed the child never touched Klein.

“I felt humiliated because of the way she was acting,” Jeremiah said in a later broadcast interview.

Historically, false allegations of sexual assault have been a frequent and persistent phenomenon – particularly for Black men. Earlier this year, the 1992 convictions of Van Dyke Perry and Gregory Counts, two African American men, were vacated when the alleged victim revised her story after new DNA evidence was discovered that exonerated the two men.

“Like so many other cases that have come to light in recent years, these young black men were aggressively prosecuted and given lengthy prison sentences with very little care for finding the truth,” Seema Saiffee, a senior staff attorney with the Innocence Project, said in a statement.

Of course, the most prominent example of someone paying a high price for a sexual assault they didn’t commit was Emmett Till. Till, who was black and only 14-years old, would never reach his 15th birthday after becoming the victim of a lynching and murder in Mississippi, igniting the Civil Rights movement in 1955.

In 2017, Carolyn Bryant Donham, Till’s accuser, admitted that she lied. According to a story filed by Jerry Mitchell for the Clarion Ledger, “... Carolyn Bryant Donham has admitted she lied when she testified that Till touched her — a lie she repeated to the FBI a decade ago.”

“‘Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him,’ Donham was quoted as saying. Bryant admitted her lie to Tim Tyson, author of the new book, The Blood of Emmett Till, but she never gave a reason why.”

Before Emmett Till, there was the Scottsboro Boys, nine black teenagers falsely accused in Alabama of raping two white women on a train in 1931. That case was tried in front of an all-white jury and fraught with problems, including lynch mobs, threats of violence and injustice.

Modern day allegations have also torn apart college campuses. In a recent Glamour magazine article,

“Inside the Organizations that Support College Rapists,” Lily Dancyger writes, “On the other end of the spectrum, [Alice] True [Founder of] Save Our Sons cites a statistic that one in three students found guilty of sexual misconduct through Title IX hearings are in fact innocent—a statistic that comes from a UCLA study that focused on mathematical probability of false accusations without analyzing actual cases.”

The nonprofit Families Advocating for Campus Equality (FACE) notes that many college students have been tried and convicted and have had their reputations and lives torn apart over allegations that haven’t proven true. According to FACE, at least 200 students claiming to have been falsely accused or found guilty of sexual assault on their campuses, have filed lawsuits against their colleges, administrators and/or their accusers over the past several years.

Officials said there are more lawsuits pending across the country while nearly 100 court decisions have been issued in favor of accused students since 2013. These lawsuits claim violations of due process, breach of contract and infliction of emotional distress, as well as decisions tainted by gender bias under Title IX, according to FACE’s website.

One parent recounted the story of her son, a student who was exonerated of sexual assault charges:

“My son John Doe was charged by an ex-girlfriend with misconduct and exonerated — completely and unanimously — by the hearing panel. The accuser was a deeply troubled young woman (drug overdoses, psychiatric hospitalizations, fantasy rape claims, etc.) who — 5 months after the fact and 3 months after their relationship ended — accused John Doe of attempting to go slightly farther than they’d gone before (though stopping when she asked him to), an act that she apparently did not find too horrifying as she remained in his bed for the remainder of the night and continued to sleep with him for the ensuing month; her claim was filed only after mutual friends reported that he’d found a new girlfriend. At the hearing she conceded that he’d asked for consent and she’d granted it, and that he’d stopped immediately when she thereafter asked him to — a fact that would have been nice to know but apparently was never asked by the university’s investigator.”

FACE officials said there are many, many more unjustly accused students who have resolved their disputes without legal action or are constrained by college-imposed confidentiality policies, and those whose claims have been settled are almost always bound by confidentiality clauses in their settlement agreements, officials said.

And of course, there are those whose futures have been devastated because they did not have the knowledge or resources to challenge the findings, and their college or university refused to acknowledge their innocence, FACE argues.

“I can tell you that the wrongfully accused suffer greatly, as is obvious from their loss of not just their educations and careers, but they often become isolated from friends and sometimes family as well,” said FACE co-president Cynthia P. Garrett.

“In the campus context we have seen over a thousand accused students mostly devastated, despondent and some suicidal. The majority admit to having considered suicide and a few have been successful,” Garrett said. “What’s happening in the United States today is the abandonment of men and men’s issues in general, and black men and minorities in particular,” Garrett added. “Other countries like the United Kingdom and Australia have developed men’s initiatives because they see how men and boys are falling behind at all levels of education. Meanwhile the United States has done absolutely nothing to resolve what is becoming a National crisis,” she said.

Sejal Singh, a policy and advocacy coordinator for Know Your IX, tells Glamour magazine, “We often see schools deny these rights [to adequate time to prepare for hearings and opportunities to present evidence] to survivors, tilting investigations in favor of abusers. By guaranteeing them to both sides, we can make sure school disciplinary procedures are more fair, which serves not just survivors and accused students, but the whole student body, who should have confidence in the investigation process.”

“Schools investigate and discipline students for code of conduct issues that are also crimes—like, say, stealing or getting in a fistfight with another student—all the time,” Singh points out. “There’s no push to stop schools from investigating those cases; instead, there’s an exceptional skepticism reserved for rape victims. I think some of the push to create uniquely high barriers to justice for sexual violence victims reflects the insidious, misogynistic belief that women and survivors are liars ‘crying rape’—the same myth that gets Bill Cosby acquitted or that voters use to excuse Donald Trump’s sexual assaults.”

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of BlackPressUSA.com or the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

GILLESREALTY.COM

GK Hansen Real Estate

Robert A. Gilles

WA & ID



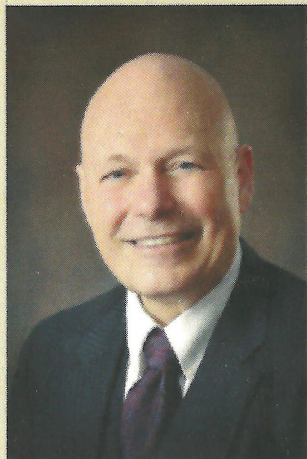
Direct 509-939-6420

Fax: 1-800-520-5794

rgilles@gillesrealty.com

1608 N. Monroe

Spokane, WA 99205



Put our experienced team to the test!

Are You Interested In A Career in Real Estate? Call Me.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



Native American Outreach Health Sciences Coordinator

Washington State University Spokane

This position is responsible for the outreach, pathways, and visitation programs of Native Americans for the Health Sciences programs.

Duties:

Plans and implements new and existing programs to bring attention to the various Health Sciences programs.

Works with tribal communities to present WSU Health Sciences to future students.

Will identify and develop relationships with potential students and encourage family involvement.

Plans age/group appropriate visitation programs.

Attends/presents information to tribal communities at various venues located in the region.

Creates/develops marketing and communications plans.

Provides admissions advising/counseling to Native American students and parents and supports incoming and current students.

Required Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree and two (2) years of professional work experience in student services or related education/experience.

A Master's degree in a related field may substitute for one (1) year of professional work experience.

Any combination of relevant education and professional experience may be substituted for the educational requirement on a year for year basis.

To apply: <http://apptrkr.com/1384055>.

Screening of applications will begin on February 4, 2019. Open until filled. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

WSU is an EO/AA/ADA Employer and Educator.

Career Opportunities SPOKANE

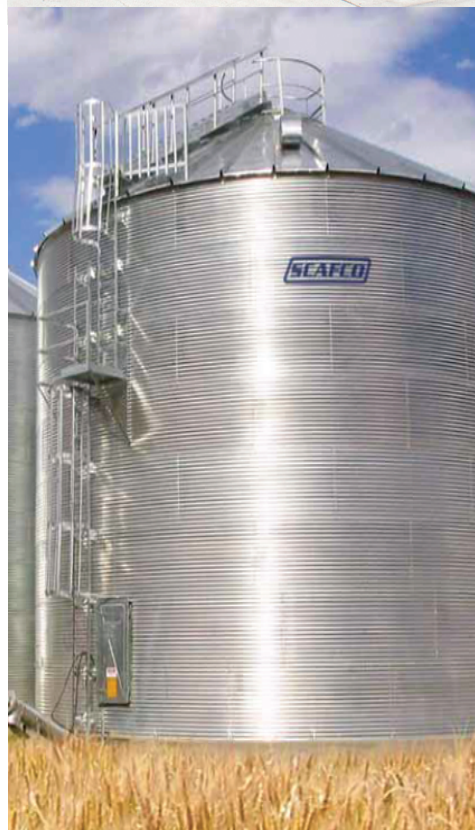
Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for management, sales, office, machine operators and laborer positions. To view all of our current openings, please visit our website

www.SCAFCO.com and/or CWallA, our authorized distributor of SCAFCO products www.CWallA.com to fill out an application.

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

Benefits Package Includes:

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



Job Openings

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

Positions are open until filled.

MARCH EVENTS

MARCH 5

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION
Learn How to Become a Foster Parent. The initial step to becoming a foster parent is to attend ONE of the foster parent orientations.
10am - 1pm
Department of Children, Youth, and Families
1313 N Atlantic, Suite 2000, Spokane
Registration is not required. Parking can be limited so try to arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of the session to allow time to find a space to park.

MARCH 8

FIG TREE BENEFIT LUNCHEON
The Fig Tree celebrates its 35th year of publishing with the theme: “35 Years: Informing, Inspiring, Involving.” Lunch speakers will be Jason Clark, executive director of Second Harvest; Sima Thorpe, executive director of The Arc of Spokane; Sandy Williams, editor of The Black Lens, and Theresa Hart, founder/ executive director of the Newby-ginnings program for veterans.
11:30am to 1pm
Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University
429 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA
For information call 509-535-1813.

MARCH 9

GIRL CON
The Girl Scouts create an opportunity for girls grades 6-12 to connect with other girls and meet with leaders in STEM, business, activism, education and the arts.
4 - 8:30pm
Riverside Place
1110 W Riverside, Spokane
Free for girls grades 6-12. For more information visit girlconNW.com.

MARCH 12

FUSE SPOKANE - DIVERSE VOICES BOOK DISCUSSION
March Book - "There There" by Tommy Orange. What does it really mean to be an Indian/Native American/American Indian/ Native?
6:30pm -8:00pm
Shadle Library
2111 W Wellesley Ave, Spokane 99205
Questions email Erin at EJToungate@gmail.com

MARCH 13

FIG TREE BENEFIT BREAKFAST
The Fig Tree celebrates its 35th year of publishing with the theme: “35 Years: Informing, Inspiring, Involving.” Breakfast speakers will include Gary Stokes, KSPS-TV Spokane; Rev. James Watkins, New Hope Baptist Church, Scott Cooper, Catholic Charities and Kim Harmson, Kizuri.
7 - 8:30am
Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University
429 E. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA
For information call 509-535-1813.

MARCH 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.

MARCH 16

CENTER FOR MUSIC THERAPY OPEN HOUSE
Visit the Center to learn what Music Therapy and Play Therapy are about. The Center serves special needs children and adults.
10am - 1pm
Center for Music Therapy
1315 N. Napa, Spokane
For more information call 509-979-4357 or visit www.spokanehealthyfamilies.com.

MARCH 18

NAACP MEETING
Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting and a discussion about Implicit Bias.
7pm
Community Building Lobby
35 W Main Ave, Spokane, WA 99201
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425.

MARCH 18

MONDAY MOVIES - BLOWIN' UP
Heroines in NY changing the way women who are arrested for prostitution are prosecuted.
7 - 9pm
Magic Lantern Theater
25 W Main Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201
Tickets \$8. Sponsored by the Alliance for Media Arts + Culture, thealliance.media

MARCH 21

FILM - "PARIS TO PITTSBURG"
Sponsored by climate action group 350 Spokane.
6:30 - 9pm
Garland Theater
924 W garland Ave, Spokane, WA
Admission: Free (\$5 Suggested donation)

MARCH 21

WORKSHOP: POWER 2 THE POETRY
Join us on World Poetry Day for a workshop in writing and performing powerful poetry led by Bethany Montgomery of Power 2 The Poetry.
7 - 8:30pm
Spark Central
1214 W Summit Pkwy, Spokane, 99201
The program is free, but registration is required. For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/251174929131382>

MARCH 26

HERSTORY
In honor of Women's History Month, Power 2 The Poetry and Spokane NOW showcase Feminist poetry, performance and art. Featuring perances by the Raging Grannies and Poetry N' Motion. FREE - ALL AGES!
6 - 8pm
Spokane Downtown Library, 3rd Floor
906 W Main Ave, Spokane, 99201
For information: power2thepoetry@gmail.com

MARCH 30

BE - OPEN MIC
Celebrating Women's History Month
Presented by Wilburn & Associates.
6 - 8:30pm
The Gathering House
733 W. Garland Avenue, Spokane
Get your FREE tickets at wilburnassociates.org

SAVE THE DATE

2019 Inland Northwest Fair Housing Conference
April 11, 2019
Spokane Convention Center

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



girlCon
girlCon
girlCon
girlCon

What: Network and connect with other girls, meet with leaders in STEM, business, activism, media, the arts, mental health, education, and more. Learn skills that will help you achieve your goals and blaze your best path to the future. And meet local poet, Bethany Montgomery of Power 2 the Poetry.

Where: Riverside Place, 1110 W. Riverside, Spokane, WA

When: March 9, 2019, 4-8:30pm

Who: Free for girls, grades 6-12

girlconNW.com

presented by:





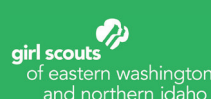
April 1-5

SPRING BREAK PROGRAM FOR GIRLS

Take a field trip to Cat Tales Park & spend the week exploring the world of zoology!

Girl Scout Program Center, Spokane
You don't need to be a Girl Scout to attend!
\$30/day, 3-day minimum.
Financial Assistance is available.

Register: gsewni.org
509-747-8091



23rd Annual

AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATION CELEBRATION

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

YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK



Sankofa Bird

*It is not taboo to return to fetch
something which has been forgotten.*

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