

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

MARCH FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Two Hundred March Through East Central Neighborhood In Response To Bushnell Verdict And Spokane's Racial Disparities

By Sandra Williams

In the wake of the May 11 jury verdict that ruled it was self defense for Edward Bushnell to shoot William Poindexter in the back, members of the Spokane community struggled with how to respond. There were feelings of anger, frustration, resentment, and for some, resignation.

But there was a consensus amongst the group that gathered at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church on May 13 for an emergency meeting called by the Spokane Minister's Fellowship, that they wanted to do something to express their displeasure.

That something turned out to be the March for Racial Justice that was held on June 15.

A call went out from SCAR, (Spokane Community Against Racism), the multi-racial group that formed in the aftermath of the Bushnell trial, and close to two hundred people of all ages and races answered the call, gathering at Liberty Park in the East Central Neighborhood.



Photo: Bob Lloyd

The marchers were greeted to a series of emotional speeches, drumming, spoken word and song, before walking the six blocks from Liberty Park to the spot near fifth and Altamont where William Poindexter was killed. Along the way, with the exception of one heckler, pass-

ersby from the neighborhood applauded and honked their horns in support. One woman cheered from her bedroom window as she waved and held her baby up for the marchers to see, while chants mirroring the civil rights marches of the 60s echoed up and down the street. "We ain't

gonna let no jury turn us around, turn us around, turn us around."

The marchers gathered in an alley on Altamont near the spot of the shooting to perform a libation ceremony which was conducted by James Wilburn.

Pouring libation, which is honored by African Americans as an African tradition, refers to the act of pouring out a liquid as a sign of reverence for friends or relatives that have passed away. Libation was poured in honor of William Poindexter and in honor of the many other African Americans whose lives have been taken. Marchers were then invited to join the ceremony and honor those that they have lost.

While the catalyst for the March for Racial Justice was the verdict in the Bushnell trial, march organizers, which included The Spokane Minister's Fellowship, SCAR and the Spokane NAACP, shared an understanding that the march is only the beginning, a first step on what is sure to be a much longer journey for racial justice.

COP ACQUITTED IN SHOOTING DEATH OF PHILANDO CASTILE

But Minnesota Officer is Dismissed Following the Verdict

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from North-StarNewsToday.com

By Frederick H. Lowe

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - A majority White jury on June 16 acquitted a Minnesota police officer in last year's shooting death of a Black motorist who told the cop minutes earlier that he was a registered gun owner and was carrying a weapon.

The jury acquitted Jeronimo Yanez, of the St. Anthony, Minn., police department of all charges, including first-degree manslaughter, in the shooting death of Philando Castile, 32, on July 16, 2016, in Falcon Heights, Minn., near Minneapolis.

Diamond Reynolds, Castile's girlfriend, who was sitting in the car's front passenger seat live streamed the aftermath of the shooting on Facebook. Reynolds testified that she live streamed the shootings aftermath because she feared Yanez would kill her. Reynolds' 4-year-old daughter was sitting in the car's backseat.

Yanez testified that he stopped Castile's car because he resembled one of two men who were involved in a recent robbery. When Yanez stopped the car, Castile told him he was a registered gun owner and that he was carrying the



gun at the time. Castile was ruled out as a suspect in the robbery. No one has been arrested.

According to a transcript, Yanez said, "Okay, don't reach for it." As Castile reached for his ID and proof of registration, as requested by Yanez, he fired seven shots killing him. Police found Castile's .40 caliber pistol in his right front pocket. The gun contained a loaded magazine but there wasn't a bullet in the chamber.

When the verdict was read, some spectators cursed the jury, shouting that Yanez got away with murder.

Following the verdict, the City of St. Anthony announced that it had dismissed Yanez as a police officer.

The city officials said in a statement, "The City of St. Anthony has concluded that the public will be best served if Officer Yanez is no longer a police officer in our city. The city intends to offer Officer Yanez a voluntary separation agreement to help him transition to another career other than being a St. Anthony officer. The terms of this agreement will be negotiated in the near future, so details are not available at this time. In the meantime, Officer Yanez will not return to active duty."

Last month, a majority white jury acquitted Tulsa, Okla., police officer Betty Shelby of first degree manslaughter in the shooting death of Terence Crutcher, an unarmed motorist, after his vehicle stalled in the middle of the road. That deadly shooting occurred in September 16, 2016.

Shelby collected more than \$35,000 in back pay and has returned to work but not to patrol.

Crutcher's estate has sued Shelby and the City of Tulsa. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, seeks financial damages and departmental reform. In the Crutcher shooting, and in the Castile shooting, both cops used the same defense. They said they fired their weapons because they feared for their lives.

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

We Don't See Color In Spokane

In Spokane, we don't see color.
We say, they might see color in San-
ford, Florida where Trayvon Martin was
killed--
Or they might see color in Ferguson
where Michael Brown was killed--
Or they might see color in Cleveland
where Tamir Rice was killed--
Or they might see color in New York
where Eric Garner was killed--
Or they might see color in Baltimore
where Freddie Gray was killed--
Or they might see color in Baton Rouge
where Alton Sterling was killed--
Or they might see color in Charlotte
where Keith Lamont Scott was killed--
Or they might see color in St. Paul where
Philando Castille was killed—
Or they might see color in Waller Coun-
ty, TX where Sandra Bland died myste-
riously in her jail cell after being pulled
over for a traffic stop
Maybe they see color--

But in Spokane—We don't see color.

Despite the fact that Blacks and Native
Americans are stopped more, searched
more and arrested more in every neigh-
borhood in this city
In Spokane-- We don't see color

Despite the fact that when police use
force, 1/3 of the time it is used on Af-
rican Americans, Native Americans, and
Hispanics
But in Spokane-- We don't see color

Despite the fact 18 White people were
detained for every 1,000 White adults
that lived in Spokane in 2014, but 130
Blacks were detained & 30 Latinos were
detained
And for every White adult that was de-
tained in Spokane county in 2014, 7
Blacks and 6 Native Americans were
detained
But In Spokane-- We don't see color

Despite the fact that over half of the stu-
dents arrested in Spokane Public Schools
in 2016 and up to February of this year
were kids of color



In Spokane-- We don't see color

Despite the fact that in Spokane County,
according to a 2012 report by the Spo-
kane Health Department, Blacks, His-
panics and Native Americans are at least
2.0 times more likely to live in poverty
And Blacks and Native Americans have
a mortality rate that is 1.3 times higher
than whites
In Spokane-- We don't see color

Despite having Boardrooms
that are all white
And Organizations
that are all white
With decision making bodies
that are all white
And Elected Officials that are all white
And Courtrooms that are all white
In Spokane—We don't see color

And when William Poindexter was shot
in the back from 30 feet away by a white
man who was skateboarding through
this neighborhood with a loaded gun,
three knives, a clip and extra bullets in
his pocket, and an all- white jury ruled
that it was self-defense for him to give
no warning as his racked the gun, aimed
at Poindexter, “between his shoulder
blades and upper back”, and shot.

In Spokane--- We didn't see color then
either---

Well, I'm thinking Spokane, maybe—
just maybe --

We need to start seeing some color.

-Sandra Williams
March for Racial Justice, Spokane, WA
June 17, 2017

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Who was the African American that said this:

“You can wipe me out;
you can take my life;
but you can't take my
character.”

Answer on Page 18

Theresa's Salon

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THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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

Submission/Advertising Deadline: 15th of the month
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FRIENDS OF THE BLACK LENS

Support the work of The Black Lens with an Annual Donation

MISSION

Friends of The Black Lens is a non-profit, membership organization whose mission is to improve the well being of the African American community.

GOALS

Friends of The Black Lens was created to support and expand the important work the Black Lens is doing in the Spokane community by:

- Developing and sponsoring educational workshops and community events designed to educate, inform, uplift and promote critical thinking
- Creating opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans
- Increasing financial support to sustain and grow the work of the Black Lens and Black Lens Productions

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE BLACK LENS

A Friends of the Black Lens annual membership is a great way to support the work of the Black Lens and increase its impact in the community. Membership donations are tax deductible and benefits include advance notice of events, special discounts, and exclusive members-only access.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Living Lightly Friend/Student \$12 (formerly Black Lens Partner)

Individual Friend \$35

Bronze Friend: \$50

Silver Friend: \$100

Gold Friend: \$250

Platinum Friend: \$500

Corporate Friend: \$1000

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Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund
820 N. Post St., #603, Spokane, WA 99201**

For more information call 509-795-1964 or e-mail sandy@blacklensnews.com.

Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund the fiscal sponsor for Friends of the Black Lens. The Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our Tax ID number is 91-1914985. Donations to the Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund are tax deductible as allowed by law.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Five Flint Health Officials Charged with Manslaughter



(Source: Leonard N. Fleming and Jonathan Oosting , The Detroit News, <http://www.detroitnews.com>)

Michigan’s health department director and four other officials involved with Flint’s lead-contaminated water were charged on June 14 with involuntary manslaughter.

The charged officials include: **Nick Lyon**, Health Department Director; **Darnell Earley**, former Flint Emergency Manager; **Liane Shekter-Smith**, former Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water Chief; **Stephen Busch**, state Water Supervisor; and **Howard Croft** former Flint Water Department Manager.

Lyon was accused of misconduct in office and involuntary manslaughter, making

him the highest-ranking member of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder’s administration to be targeted in the criminal probe.

The manslaughter charges carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison and a \$7,500 fine, while the misconduct charge carries a prison sentence of up to five years and a \$10,000 fine.

There were 12 deaths and 79 other people sickened by Legionnaires’ disease in 2014-15, which some experts have linked to the contaminated water after the city switched to the Flint River water in April 2014. The health officials are accused of failing to alert the public about an outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease in the Flint area.

(Source: Leonard N. Fleming and (Source:

Seattle Police Shoot, Kill 30-Year Old Mother of Four Armed with Knife

<http://www.kiro7.com/news>, <https://www.policeone.com>)

Charleena Chavon Lyles, a mother of four who was also pregnant, called police on June 18 to report the theft of an X-box, according to Kiro 7 News. Two officers responded. An audio recording indicates that officers spent about two minutes calmly speaking with Lyles, who, the officers said, suddenly pulled a knife and threatened them.

According to released transcripts, the two officers said they “had no choice but to use lethal force after Lyles tried to stab Officer Jason Anderson in the stomach and cornered Officer Steven McNew in the kitchen.”

Medics performed CPR on Lyles for 10 minutes, but she died in the apartment. There were three children inside of the apartment at the time of the shooting.

Lyles appeared in Seattle’s Mental Health Court on June 13, five days before the shooting. The case was in response to a previous incident with police in which she had armed herself with “metal shears and was threatening officers.” In that case, officers had their weapons drawn, but did not shoot. Lyles was booked into King County Jail and pleaded not guilty to two counts of



harassment and obstructing a police officer. Lyles was released from jail on the condition that she check-in twice a week with a case manager and possess no weapons.

Lyles’ family members have asked why non-lethal options weren’t used when police were aware that Lyles had been struggling with mental health issues. The transcript of the police recording shows that one of the officers said “get back” and then “tase her”. The other officer replied: “I don’t have a taser.”

The Seattle Times reports that Seattle Police Department policy says officers who have been trained to use a taser must carry it during their shift. Officer Anderson is under an internal investigation for violating that policy by leaving his uncharged taser in his locker for over a week. Anderson said the battery was dead.

In Victory for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: Court Finds That Approval of Dakota Access Pipeline Might Have Violated Law



(Source: <http://publicnews24-7.com>, Black Nicholson, Associated Press <https://www.nativetimes.com>)

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe won a victory last month in its fight to protect the Tribe’s drinking water and ancestral lands from the Dakota Access pipeline.

A federal judge ruled that the federal permits authorizing the pipeline to cross the Missouri River just upstream of the Standing Rock reservation violated the law in certain critical respects.

In a 91-page decision, Judge James Boasberg wrote, “the Court agrees that [the Corps] did not adequately consider the impacts of an oil spill on fishing rights, hunting rights, or environmental justice, or the degree to which the pipeline’s effects are likely to be highly controversial.” The Court did not determine whether pipeline operations should be shut off and has requested additional briefing on the subject and a status conference next week.

In its analysis of the Missouri River crossing, the Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) studied the mostly white demographics in a half-mile (0.8-kilometer) radius, which the agency maintains is standard. But if the agency had gone another 88 yards (80 meters) – about the length of a football field – the study would have included the Standing Rock Reservation. The tribe accuses the Corps of gerrymandering. Judge Boasberg ordered the Corps to reconsider those areas of its environmental analysis.

Detroit Chess Team Brings Home National Championship



(Source: Ann Zaniewski , Detroit Free Press, <http://www.freep.com>; Photo Credit: Photo: K. Shabu)

Detroit’s University Prep Science and Math Elementary and Middle School Chess Teams recently won national titles at the U.S. Chess Supernationals IV Tournament held in Nashville, TN in May of this year.

In addition to the team awards, sixth-grader Cameron Rector won an individual national championship title in the K8 Under 750 section, making him the top chess player nationally in that category. Rector was among 379 players in his category and he won all seven of his games.

Philadelphia Adds Black and Brown Stripes to Pride Flag and Sparks Controversy



(Source: Tanasia Kenney, <http://atlantablackstar.com>)

In an effort to be more racially inclusive, Philadelphia unveiled a new version of the symbolic rainbow Pride flag during the month of June which featured two more colors, black and brown.

Philadephia organization, “More Color More Pride” stated on its website, “We’ve expanded the colors of the flag to include black and brown. It may seem like a small step, but, together, we can make big strides toward a truly inclusive community.”

Out.com reports that the new eight-stripe flag was proposed and designed by a local advertising agency called Tierney, which approached the city’s Office of LGBT Affairs with the update. African American LGBT Affairs Director Amber Hikes said she teared up when she first saw the flag, saying “when I see the flag, I feel like I see myself.

The addition of the extra stripes is reported to be an effort on the part of the city of Philadelphia to help mend a racial divide within the LGBTQ community that occurred after a video of a gay nightclub owner repeatedly using the N-word surfaced late last year. Critics of the new stripes, however, argue that the Pride flag is already all-inclusive and that adding stripes to represent race is unnecessary.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Two Hero Cops Who Stopped Congressional Shooter

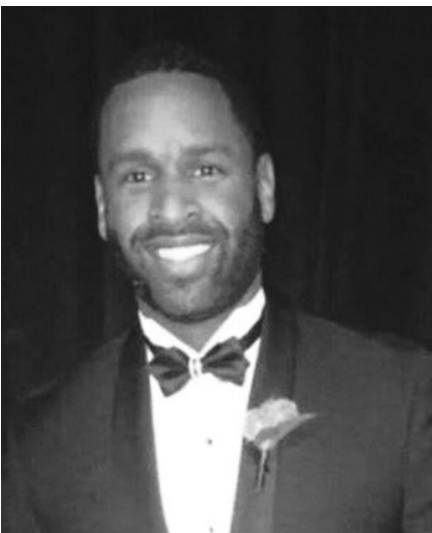
(Source: By Peter Hermann, Amber Phillips, Paul Kane and Rachel Weiner, Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com>; <https://www.reuters.com>; Kelly Weill, Asawin Suebsaeng, Katie Zavadski, Andrew Desiderio, <http://www.thedailybeast.com>; Rebecca Oh, <http://www.nbcnews.com>)

On June 14, an unemployed home inspector, who had been living in his van for months and was reportedly angry at Donald Trump, opened fire as 25-30 Republican lawmakers were practicing for an annual charity game against the Democrats that was to take place the next day.

The shooter, who was identified as James “Tom” Hodgkinson, 66, of Belleville, Illinois, acted alone, according to the FBI. Hodgkinson used a high-powered rifle, shooting three, and critically injuring House Majority Whip Steve Scalise during a five-minute shooting spree at the Eugene Simpson Stadium Park, in Alexandria, Virginia before Capitol Police and Alexandria police officers could bring him down. Hodgkinson died of his wounds.

Capitol Police officers Crystal Griner and David Bailey are special agents on Rep. Steve Scalise’s security detail. The Daily Beast reported that Scalise was standing near second base when the bullets began flying from behind the third base dugout, striking him in the hip.

While Scalise dragged himself to safety, Griner and Bailey engaged in an extended



firefight with Hodgkinson. Both agents sustained injuries and Griner was shot in the ankle, but the two agents ultimately stopped Hodgkinson despite their own injuries and were both taken to the hospital to recover.

“Many lives would have been lost if not for the heroic actions of the two Capitol Police officers who took down the gunman despite sustaining gunshot wounds during a very, very brutal assault,” President Donald Trump said of Griner and Bailey.

President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump visited MedStar Washington Hos-



pital Center, NBC News reported, where they met with Officer Griner and her wife, among others, presenting the couple with a bouquet of flowers.

Griner is a 2006 graduate of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. She was a basketball star through high school and college, and quickly became one of Hood College’s top scorers in her freshman year.

David Bailey is a nine-year veteran of the Capitol Police force, and previously worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, according to his LinkedIn page. He graduated from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC, in 2007, where

he is listed as a former president of the university’s chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Rory Cooper, a GOP strategist and former Cantor Communications Director, told The Daily Beast, “I was privileged and honored to work alongside the U.S. Capitol Police and to know Agents Bailey and Griner and their colleagues. “[Bailey and Griner] are some of the finest officers in law enforcement,” he added.

Capitol Police officers were only present at the practice because Scalise, a member of the House leadership team, was on the field. If Scalise hadn’t attended with his security detail, lawmakers said, many of their colleagues likely would have been slaughtered by Hodgkinson.

“I know that we want to give our thanks to the first responders and to the Alexandria Police Department which were on the scene in minutes,” House Speaker Paul Ryan said on the floor of the chamber, mentioning Bailey and Griner by name as members gave a standing ovation. “And I know this House wants to state unequivocally that we are, as ever, awed by the tremendous bravery of the Capitol Police.”

All victims of the shooting are recovering from their wounds. Rep. Scalise has been upgraded from critical to serious condition.

Owner of Washington’s Only Black Owned Book Store Dies



(Source: Lindsay Cohen, <http://komonews.com/news>)

Vickie Williams, who died in March, was the owner of LEM’s Life Enrichment Bookstore, the only black-owned bookstore in Washington state.

The book shop, located at 5023 Rainier Ave. S., had moved around the neighborhood several times in its more than two decades in business, according to Bridgette Hempstead, a close friend of Williams. The bookstore not only sold books, but also served as a learning center, community gathering spot, and more.

“Vickie was a giant in this land of Washington. She was one who promoted education, advocacy, training, black history, black power,” said Hempstead. “She was a queen.”

Paul Stewart, who led courses for children and adults, and taught economic development for adults and computer classes for kids, said, “That’s why Vickie was such a glue in the community -- for what she brought to the community. She brought a second home for people to come to learn about their culture and just to be around their culture.”

Hempstead said the future of the store is uncertain. “We as a people just have to keep this bookstore going in her legacy -- and I think that will happen.”

Black Lives Matter Activists Bailed Out 100 Mothers for National Mama’s Bail Out Day



(Source: Clarissa Hamlin, <https://newsone.com>; <https://nomoremoneybail.org/>)

In the week leading up to Mother’s Day, Black Lives Matter, Color of Change and a dozen other racial and criminal justice organizations led a charge to help bail out Black moms. Their collective effort was part of a campaign called National Mama’s Bail Out Day, which aims to provide all incarcerated Black women — including those who identify as queer, trans, young, elder and immigrant — who are unable to afford bail an opportunity to spend the special day with their families.

Organizations in over a dozen cities — including Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans, New York City and St. Petersburg, Florida — worked with public defenders, community members, churches and other spiritual institutions to raise money to help bail out Black mothers. They also provided helpful resources to those released and hosted teach-ins that highlighted the impact that destructive bail practices can have on Black families.

Over 11,000 people gifted a total of over \$700,000 and gave over 100 Mamas the opportunity to spend Mother’s Day with their families.

Throughout the month of June, the organization raised money to bail out more people and bring them home to celebrate Father’s Day, Juneteenth, and Pride with their families and communities.

For more information visit: <https://nomoremoneybail.org>.

Family Uses Lottery Money to Start Charitable Foundation



(Source: Zahara Hill, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com>)

For the Smith family of Trenton, New Jersey, philanthropy was at the top of their list after they won a \$429 million Powerball jackpot last year. The family, which consists of Pearlie Mae Smith and her seven children, announced at a press conference that they planned to spend their earnings on their community.

The family chose to collect their winnings in a lump sum as, opposed to yearly installments, with each of the eight family members receiving about \$25 million after taxes. After paying off bills, student loans and taking care of other financial obligations, they invested their money in Trenton through the Smith Family Foundation.

Just one year after their win, the family celebrated the opening of their grant-making organization. The Smith Family Foundation will provide financial support to education, neighborhood development, children and families and plans to work with other community organizations to help create both short- and long-term grants that will improve Trenton.

“We want to fund programs that directly affect systems of poverty so we can help change the systems or change the dynamics that are causing people to be in poverty,” family member and foundation program manager Harold Smith told NJ.com. “Rather than just helping them find food or give away food, we can make it so they now have the ability to obtain employment, get their proper education in order to be able to go out and get their own food,” he said.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

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

General Education Board

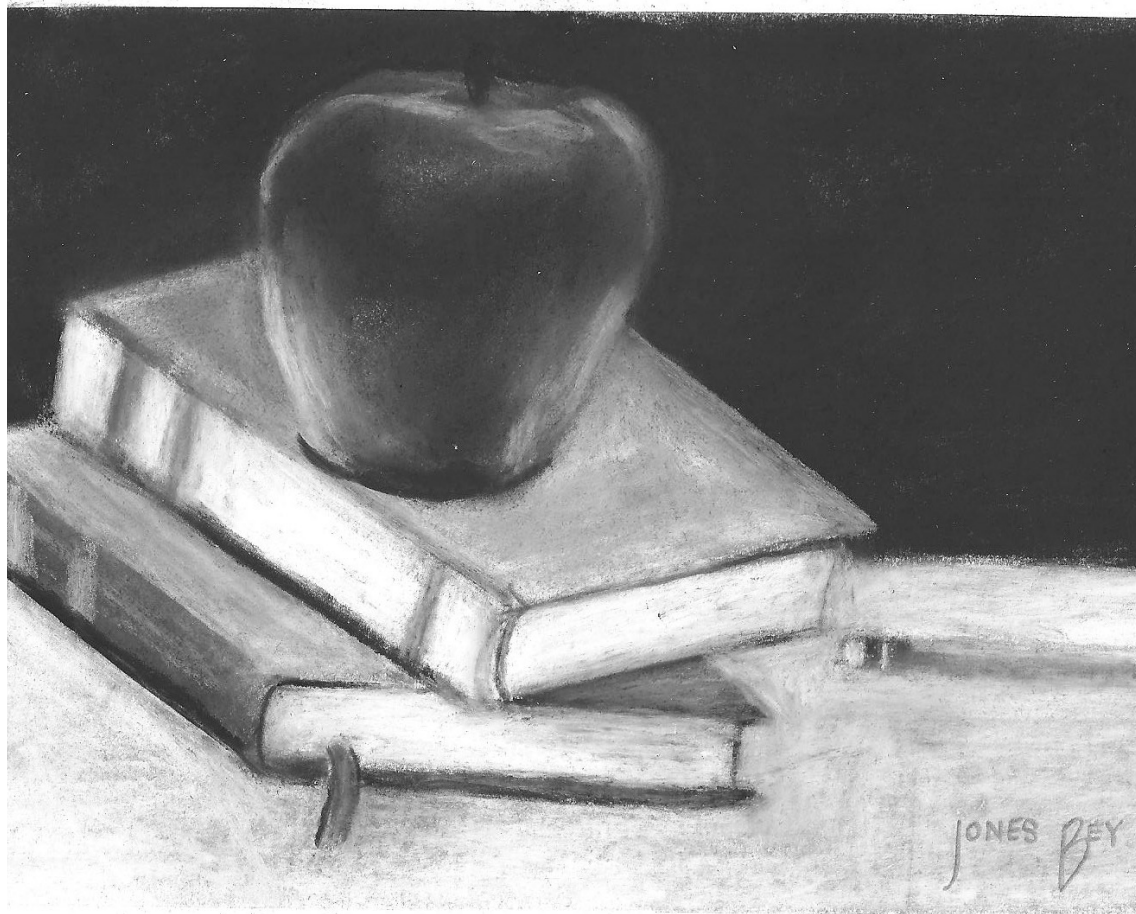
The General Education Board (G.E.B.) was created and founded by Europeans John D. Rockefeller and Fredrick T. Gates in 1902. Considered a philanthropic or "charitable" organization until its closing in 1964

Mr. Rockefeller donated a staggering hundred and eighty million dollars toward higher education, farming, and medical schooling for rural Southerners. Mr. Gates brought the vision of "The Country School of To-Morrow", for "young and old will be taught in practical ways how to make rural life beautiful, intelligent, fruitful, recreative, healthful, and joyous".

The G.E.B.'s aims were broken down into four main programs: First in collusion with the Department of Agriculture, they developed "demonstration farms" to promote their ideal for proper farming practices for southern rural folk.

Second the development of southern high schools teaching General Board of Education methods (By 1914 the Board developed 912 high schools in eleven southern states).

Third the promotion of higher learning institutions with G.E.B.



curriculums; and fourth the creation of "Negro Schools" developed mostly to create G.E.B. trained teachers.

Please examine the mental philosophy of the Board of Education for our people under what was known as the "Occasional Papers No. 1", pages 6 and 10:

"In our dreams we have limited resources and the people yield themselves with perfect docility to our molding hands. The present education conventions fade from

their minds, and unhampered by tradition, we work our own good will upon a grateful and responsive rural folk. We shall not try to make any of these people or their children into philosophers or men of learning, or men of science. We have not to raise up from among them authors, editors, poets or men of letters. We shall not search for embryo great artists, painters, musicians or lawyers, doctors, preachers, politicians, statesmen, of whom we have an ample supply. We are to fol-

low the admonitions of the good apostle, who said, 'Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low degree [pg. 6]'."

"...The task we set before ourselves is very simple, as well as a very beautiful one, to train these people as we find them to a perfectly ideal life just where they are. So we will organize our children and teach them to do in a perfect way the things their fathers and mothers are doing in an imperfect way, in the homes, in the shops and on the farms [pg.

10]."

Understanding their philosophy for our educational evolution from 1902-1964, it should be no surprise why our children today are struggling disproportionately in their school systems. Or why from K-12 our children come out of their schools holding a diploma and still not knowing who they are in ethnicity or identity.

Or why our children are verbally, physically, and psychologically assaulted in schools resulting in feeble school investigations with even weaker punishments if any (See *Jeremiah's Story* – *Black Lens February 2015 pg. 1*, *Ephraim's Story* – *Black Lens September 2015 pg. 1*), why even with our small populations in Spokane, Moorish and Native American Children are put into detention at four times the rate of Caucasian kids (See "Creating System Resiliency", *Inlander June 8-14, 2017, page 8*) – Tara Dowd), and why in generations after the development of The General Board of Education's desire to train us for "... life just where they are", we are now ironically being promised "No child left behind."

Sources:

Wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Education_Board
Publications of the General Education Board (Occasional Papers No. 1, pages 6 and 10) – Charles Eliot.
The Man Who Stole A Continent – John M. Weatherwax
Creating System Resiliency (The Inlander, June 8-14, 2017, page 8) – Tara Dowd
Black Lens News, February 2015 pg. 1, September 2015, page 1

Dr. Rebecca Davis Lee Crumpler: America's First Black Woman Doctor



Rebecca Davis Lee Crumpler was born free on February 8, 1831 to Absolum and Matilda Davis in Christiana, Delaware. She was raised by an aunt in Pennsylvania who is noted to have provided health care to her neighbors. Rebecca was described as a "bright girl" and she attended a prestigious private school, the West-Newton English and Classical School in Massachusetts, as a "special student."

In 1852 Davis was living in Charlestown, Massachusetts where she worked as a nurse for eight years. She enrolled in the New England Female Medical College in 1860. Her acceptance at the college was highly unusual as most medical schools at that time it did not admit African Americans. Despite its reluctance, the faculty awarded Davis her medical doctorate in 1864, making her the school's only African-American graduate (the school closed its doors in 1873.)

That same year she also married Arthur Crumpler. He was her second marriage. Her first marriage to Wyatt Lee was from 1852 to 1863, and ended with his death in 1863.

Dr. Crumpler began a medical practice in Boston and specialized in the care of women, children, and the poor. In 1865, after the Civil War, Dr. Crumpler moved with her husband to Richmond, Virginia in 1865 and worked for the Freedmen's Bureau. The Freedmen's Bureau

was the federal agency charged with helping more than 4,000,000 slaves make the transition from bondage to freedom.

The Crumplers returned to Boston in 1869 where she practiced from her home in a predominantly African-American neighborhood on Beacon Hill and dispensed nutritional advice to poor women and children.

Dr. Crumpler and her husband moved one last time, in 1880 to Hyde Park, New York and in 1883 she published a medical guide book, *Book of Medical Discourses*, one of the very first medical publications by an African American. The book primarily gave advice for women in the health care of their families and was dedicated "to mothers, nurses, and all who may desire to mitigate the afflictions of the human race."

Dr. Rebecca Davis Lee Crumpler died on March 9, 1895 in Hyde Park and was buried in nearby Fairview Cemetery. Though her story was long forgotten, today she is honored for her groundbreaking achievements. In 1989 Sandra Maass-Robinson, M.D. and Patricia Whitley, M.D. founded the Rebecca Lee Society, an organization which supports and promotes black women physicians.

Sources: <http://www.blackpast.org>; Dr. Howard Markel, <http://www.pbs.org>; *African American Registry*, <http://www.aaregistry.org>.

NAACP UPDATE: SPOKANE

http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com

Political Action Committee

By Jan Baker, Chair; Fay Baptiste, Asst Chair

What do you think “*Political Action*” means? For many people, the term conjures up being involved with “partisan politics”. The Spokane NAACP Branch 1137 is a non-profit 501c4 organization.

Most non-profit organizations (NPO’s) are charities or service organizations. The NAACP operates exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for all of our members and citizens. We are not allowed by law to engage in politics as our primary function nor give money to political candidates under our organization name. Unfortunately, due to the 2010 “Citizens United and other rulings”, many 501c4’s now “blur the lines of the original 1910 ruling”. WE DO NOT.

Also allowed is lobbying and advocating for legislation relevant to our mission.

Webster’s dictionary defines “political” as “related to government or politics” and “action/activity” as the manner of performing/ the quality of being active/ forceful or energetic action.

The Spokane NAACP Political Action Committee works on numerous projects that may be related directly or indirectly to government. We are actively engaged in advocacy and education. We follow the National NAACP guidelines for their six Game Changers that address the major areas of inequality facing African Americans.

We advocate for voting rights, equal rights and political representation. Our work focuses on voter registration and open, equal and protected access to voting and fair representation at all levels of the political process. We educate, urging democratic participation

and civic engagement, to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. Our specific areas of focus in Spokane are:

1) Voter registration and parades.

We register voters where/whenver we can. In 2017, we were at the MLK event both marching and with an information and voter registration booth. We also marched in the Pride parade, participated in the “March for Racial Justice” and staffed an information and voter registration table at the 2017 Juneteenth barbecue in Liberty Park. We will be participating with our allied groups in the July National Disabled voter registration week and we have seventeen people signed up to register voters at various City libraries, Community centers and the Community court. We will register at the Spokane NAACP spaghetti feed, at Unity in the Community, and will again participate with other organizations at the September 27 National voter registration day. Registering to vote and then “VOTING” is the primary way to “change what you don’t like”. EVERY VOTE DOES COUNT!

2) Lobbying for legislation that supports the values, goals and objectives of the Spokane and National NAACP.

We actively lobby (by calling, emailing and signing petitions) our elected officials---City, County, State and Federal. We also have “Action Alerts from National NAACP” put on our website and Facebook pages. We have testified before the Spokane City council, called Spokane County commissioners, and, during each Washington State legislative session, we have specific committee people following WA State bills that involve voting rights, criminal justice, education, health and economic opportunity. These bills focus on all underrepresented groups—people of color, disabled

people, GLBTQA people, people of low income, children and the elderly. We make numerous calls and join forces with our allies in lobbying for bill passage. We persist from year to year if a bill is not passed initially. And yes, we have gotten results---getting bills to “pass out of a committee for a floor vote” where they have failed in past years. We also meet, along with allies, State elected officials to see where they stand on our issues before they leave for Olympia. And, we urge our membership to attend “Town Hall meetings” when they occur.

3) Holding “candidate forums” to allow our membership and the public to “find out where candidates stand” on issues pertinent to our values and goals.

NAACP candidate forums are an opportunity for everyone to “ask questions and then determine if the candidate would represent you as you wish”? Is this a person you want to vote for--why/why not? What do they offer that matches your needs and values? “Will they really represent you when they cast their vote”? The forums are the best way to see and hear the candidates “up close and personal” before you cast your vote. Some forums have been well attended and some very poorly attended. We don’t know why this seems not important to many people? Where a “race is partisan”, we have a high record of getting over 90% of all political party candidates to attend our forums. It’s a lot of effort and hard work to put these on. Sometimes we will combine with another allied community of color to present the forums.

4) “Civics Education” program for non-profit organizations, Black Churches and schools.

The program will be offered as a free educational service. We need your help especially with formatting and then putting together the script and powerpoint presentation.

tation. We also would like to have one or two more organizations be a part of “focus groups” for input into this program.

5) Monthly listings of vacant Boards, Commissions and various Civil Service job openings (police, fire, etc.)

We pull from the City and County websites monthly listings of vacant Boards, Commissions and various Civil Service job openings (police, fire, etc.) We also can refer anyone to a “partisan political party of “YOUR CHOICE” for a grassroots precinct committee officer position. We have all the contacts for the local parties and periodically we refer to The Black Lens postings for different job openings. postings.

6) Community Events and Meetings

Our Chair and Assistant Chair attend and work on numerous events and meetings each month. We speak about our “game changers” when asked. We solicit endorsements from the Spokane NAACP Executive board as needed for sponsorship on Propositions and Initiatives when they meet the guidelines for our values and goals. (ex STA “Yes for Buses” Prop 1). We also encourage men and women of Color (and other underrepresented groups) to consider taking seminars/workshops geared to “activist training or candidate training.” One such workshop is pending now for Spokane.

This is the work that the Spokane NAACP Political Action committee does every day, month and year. We need more committed help on our committee. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Political Action Committee contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 (ext 1141) or visit the NAACP website at <http://spokaneNAACP.com>.

The Spokane NAACP meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are held in the Community Building, 35 W. Main street, in downtown Spokane. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17.

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER



Farewell Spokane

By Evelyn Anderton

In March 1984 my family and I arrived in Spokane after finishing a four-year tour in Japan. I can remember the day when my husband Chuck called to inform me that we finally got our orders to Washington. I was so happy I began to do a happy dance and sing a happy song. “I’m going to D.C., I’m going to D.C.” He said with a very soft voice, “no we are not going to D.C. we are going to Washington State”.

I was still happy because we had talked briefly about getting stationed in Washington. I began to do another happy dance and song, “I’m going to Seattle, I’m going to Seattle.” After I finished my second song and dance, Chuck uttered these words, “no we are not going to Seattle either, we got orders to a city called Spokane.” My reply was “where in the heck is Spokane”?

After I hung up the phone I couldn’t wait to find a map to look for this

city called Spokane. My heart almost fell out my chest when I couldn’t find Spokane on the map. My first impression of Spokane was oh! my God, what have we done wrong and why are we being punished, the poor city is not even on the map.

However, it did not take me long to adjust to the lovely city of Spokane. (lol). I have been very blessed to meet so many wonderful people and I have made so many friends in the past 34 years. I’m a firm believer that God places some people in your life for a reason, and some people for a season.

I would like to say, farewell to my seasonal friends and acquaintances that God has put in my path, you have played a very important part in my life. Maybe we met at the local grocery store, at work, at the beauty shop, or church. We may have crossed paths hanging out at the Golden Coral on Sundays. Whatever the circumstances of our meeting, I would not be the strong person I am today without your friendships over the years.

Farewell to my friends who God put in my path for a reason. Words cannot explain how I feel about you

or I can’t thank you enough for the role you have played in my life. Your positive spirit has helped me in some of the most difficult times in my life. You never ceased to amaze me how you could look into my eyes, and know I’m not feeling well. When you could call on the phone and from the sound of my voice know something is not right. The many times I was a little down and the phone rang and it was you on the line checking on me.

Thank you for the few times when you had to let me know I was wrong and sharing with me when I needed a little attitude adjustment. (Although I don’t remember being wrong too often). I will never forget the love you have shown me and my family.

I also would like to give a shout out to the spiritual leaders who have been very inspirational in my growth as a Christian woman. Pastor Happy Watkins, Pastor Eugene Singleton, Pastor Robert Jackson, and Pastor Chester Andrews. Each of you played a very important part in my spiritual growth. Thank you for your prayers, and for your confidence that encouraged me to keep the faith and trust in God.

Continued on Page

HONORING OUR ELDERS

Minority and Justice Commission Honors Justice Charles Z. Smith Washington’s First African American Washington State Supreme Court Justice

Retired Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charles Z. Smith died peacefully in his home on Sunday, August 28, 2016. He was 89 years old. Justice Smith was the first person of color to serve as a judge in Washington state when he was appointed to the Seattle Municipal Criminal Court in 1965. He was appointed to the King County Superior Court in 1966, making him the first person of color in Washington to serve at that level.

Excerpt from Charles Z. Smith: Trailblazer
An Oral History and Biography
By John C. Hughes

Charles Z. Smith, the first ethnic minority to serve on the Washington State Supreme Court, is comfortable in his skin. He was born in the segregated South in 1927, the son of a Cuban auto mechanic and a restaurant cook whose grandparents were slaves. Smith seldom sees things as black and white, and he’s rarely judgmental. Being on the right side of justice and doing exemplary work have always mattered more to him than being first. When he was named to the Supreme Court in 1988, Smith said, “There is no feeling of a sense of history, but I may be a role model” for others to follow.

In a public service career that’s approaching the 55-year mark, Charles Zellender Smith has in fact been a role model to thousands - as a corruption-fighting prosecutor, thoughtful judge, law school professor and dean; television and radio commentator; human rights activist; champion of minorities and women in the legal system; big brother to youth at risk; national church leader; internationally known voice for tolerance; patron of the arts; self-described “flag-waving patriot”; military officer; devoted husband, proud father and doting grandfather to children whose Jewish and Japanese genes broaden the roots of the Smith family tree.

Smith’s life has been punctuated with satisfying work, good fortune and firsts. In 1955, he became the first person of color to clerk for a Washington Supreme Court justice; in 1965, he became the first African-American to serve as a Seattle municipal court judge; and in 1966, when Gov. Dan Evans named him to the King County Superior Court bench, he broke yet another color barrier. In 1973 he joined the faculty of the University of Washington Law School as a full professor and associate dean - once again a trailblazer.

Then in 1988, Gov. Booth Gardner, a Democrat, chose Smith from six candidates to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. Commentators noted that Smith had been a



Republican when he was with the King County Prosecutor’s Office in the 1950s. In fact, you had to join the party if you wanted to work for Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll, Mr. Republican in King County. In any case, none of that mattered to Gardner. He wanted to name a minority justice, and in Smith he also saw “a bright and collegial judge with a strong social conscience.” He was also impressed that Smith had been a star in the Justice Department under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Smith came to Bobby Kennedy’s attention in 1957 when Kennedy was chief counsel for the celebrated Senate racketeering committee. Smith was the young King County deputy prosecutor who designed the case that toppled Teamsters president Dave Beck for grand larceny. “Every time the defense tried a new line of attack, Charlie reached into his briefcase for the answer,” a Kennedy aide recalled. “He always had one. He anticipated every move.”

With Beck’s successor, Jimmy Hoffa, in his sights in 1961, Kennedy plucked Smith from Seattle to lead a team of five Justice Department lawyers - the “Get Hoffa Squad.” They painstakingly built a case against Hoffa for playing fast and loose with Teamster pension funds.

“Charlie Smith was one of the key figures in this case. He simply does a fantastically good job,” Kennedy told The Seattle Times in 1964. The story declared that “In the past seven years, Charles Z. Smith, a 37-year-old Negro attorney who once had trouble finding work in Seattle, has knocked off Mr. Big not once, but twice.” The headline said, “Law-conqueror of Hoffa, Beck to return to Seattle practice.”

Instead of private practice, Smith became a “tough but enlightened” judge who spoke out eloquently on the folly of prejudice and pushed innovative ideas to monitor and rehabilitate criminals. One of his last acts on the Superior Court bench before joining the University of Washington Law School faculty was to appoint a committee to oversee a trust fund to help former prostitutes attend college or obtain other training. As a condition of probation, Smith once ordered a pimp to pay \$1,500 he had received from a prostitute to help establish the scholarship fund.

In a widely reprinted 1967 keynote speech to a Seattle Human Rights Commission conference for high school students, Judge Smith, who also claims some Cherokee in his gene pool, talked about the American melting pot:

“It is most tragic and unfortunate that American scholars - particularly our historians and general textbook writers - have over the years participated in a colossal hoax upon history and society by pretending ... that the growth of our great United States of America is due solely to the industry, intelligence, perseverance and strength of the American of Anglo-Saxon or other European stock. This has influenced generations of Americans to believe that the strongest,

most beautiful, most intelligent and perfect people in the world are Caucasian Americans who speak the English language and who most generally practice the Protestant religion. The unreality of this belief is established by the fact that the fabric of our great nation is woven of people of many races, religions and nationalities, and that individuals from each group have contributed in like measure to the development of our democratic society. ... We pay a high price for our prejudices in perpetuating our American myths.”

Imbued from early childhood with self-confidence and a keen intellect, Smith became the teenage protégé of a brilliant young psychologist and clergyman, William H. Gray Jr., who was president of Florida A&M University. Smith moved in with the Gray family and began college at 15. The atmosphere in the Gray household set extraordinary self-expectations for Smith and his foster siblings, one of whom, William H. Gray III, became a leading member of Congress and in 1991 president of the United Negro College Fund. They are close to this day and consider themselves brothers.

Dr. Gray’s influence on young Smith was profound, but the future judge also had a powerful role model in his mother, Eva Love Smith. She insisted that her children not use slang, drawl or drop their g’s. Justice Smith’s elegant diction and exceptionally clear manner of speaking are among his most striking personal traits. That and his smile, which can light up a room and put one immediately at ease. Such was his personality that his schoolmates were proud of his specialness, not resentful.



Smith joined the Army against the wishes of his mentor, Dr. William H. Gray Jr. in a rare act of rebellion. Young Smith felt his life was too scripted and he joined the Army at 18 during World War II and rose to staff sergeant within a year. Smith was also a classical pianist, a fireball at shorthand and a champion typist, capable of 220 words per minute. Improbably, given his nature, Smith had hoped to see hand-to-hand combat against the Japanese, whom he envisioned as “the buck-toothed yellow rats” of wartime propaganda. Today, he smiles in wonder and shakes his head at the thought of himself as a gung-ho GI Joe in the trenches, harboring racist thoughts. He ended up as a military court reporter in Virginia. And later came to realize that he was at heart always a pacifist.

Discharged from the service at war’s end, he made amends with Dr. Gray, returned to college in Philadelphia and resolved to become a psychiatrist.

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Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears



Of Angels and Devils

Sometimes I feel like an animated character in one of those old cartoons, trying to decide how to respond to a dilemma. Our cartoon friend has a little haloed cartoon angel, dressed in white sitting on one shoulder, and a tiny red devil complete with horns and forked tail sitting on the other shoulder. The character's head is whiplashing from one side to the other, because in helium balloon voices, angel and devil respectively are whispering in his ear telling him what to do.

Now, as a properly church-ed child, I knew full well that whatever the devil was telling the character to do was wrong, and whatever the angel was telling him to do was right. As I recall, our cartoon buddy usually listened to the devil first, with predictable negative consequences. The tiny angel usually said something like, "see—I told you so", and of course our friend then listened to the angel with predictable positive consequences.

Interestingly, I was recently watching one of my granddaughter's animated movies where this same classic scenario was being played. However, instead choosing either one side or the other, the frustrated character impatiently whisked both tiny angel and tiny devil off his shoulder (they disappeared in a little puff of smoke), and proceeded to do something entirely different than what either of them had urged.

The perennial cartoon situation is an apt example of the overarching dual nature of our world view and our responding actions. Duality, as defined in the dictionary,

is an instance of opposition, or contrast between two concepts, or two aspects of something; right/wrong, good/bad, body/soul, religion/science, spirituality/physicality, sacred/profane.

Mystics have long held that the dualistic world is a false reality. Even in the Christian tradition, Catholic Orders like the Franciscans believe that there is no distinction between the sacred and the profane. God is found in all situations, everywhere, throughout time. If we have the heart to perceive it, even bad situations are doorways to good—to God.

Last month on June 14th, we experienced a shocking act of violence that shook the country, and in particular the nation's legislature. A lone gunman opened fire on Republican congressmen as they practiced for a charity baseball game against congressional Democrats. There is no doubt that the shooting was in large part politically motivated. The gunman was a far-left democrat, and an avowed Donald Trump hater. That hatred extended to Republican lawmakers in congress. The shooting wounded several people, most critically Louisiana Representative Steve Scalise. The shooter died from gunshot wounds sustained during a shootout with Capitol police.

It was not the first time in recent history that a lone gunman attacked a congressional lawmaker. On January 8, 2011, Arizona Democratic Congresswoman, Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head at point blank range as she met with constituents in front of a local supermarket. Eighteen other people were wounded—six died, including a nine-year-old girl. Giffords survived, but suffered brain damage. The shooter was tried and convicted of several counts of murder and attempted murder. He was de-

termined to be mentally ill, and heavily influenced by far-right conspiracy theorists. Though toxic, even at the time of the Gabby Giffords shooting in 2011, the political culture and overall environment of our country have reached unprecedented levels of ill-will and partisan vitriol in 2017. It would have been par for the course if republican lawmakers and pundits had opened fire on democrats blaming them for the baseball field attack. After all, the shooter clearly had a far-left ideology.

However, with a few fringe exceptions, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, had a remarkable reaction, both personal and public. They recognized and confessed their own culpability in creating a pervasive toxic environment with their extremely hostile rhetoric, each toward the other side. Democrat and Republican alike, vowed before God and human kind to do better—to treat each other with respect despite their policy differences.

"For all the noise and all the fury, we are one family", said Republican Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan. Minority leader, Democrat Nancy Pelosi, appearing on TV, sitting right next to Ryan said, "You are going to hear me say something I've never said before—I identify myself with the remarks of The Speaker". Heartfelt statements like, "we really actually like each other; we have far more in common than we have differences; we pass a great deal of bipartisan legislation, but nobody knows it; there is no red, there is no blue, there is only red, white and blue" echoed throughout the Capitol and the airwaves. Of course, everyone was united in praying for the recovery of Steve Scalise.

Is this a momentary kumbaya in the wake of tragedy, or can this new consciousness

be sustained? The little devil on my shoulder says, don't be naive. It'll be ugliness as usual very, very soon. The little angel says, oh yes, this is a real transformative moment.

I'm brushing both angel and devil off my shoulder. I'm grateful for this change of heart by our lawmakers, however long it lasts. Right here and right now, I recognize that at least for one brief shining moment, God broke through our divisions—our dualistic selves.

I am not diminishing the horror of this violent act. I am not dismissing the larger issues of gun control and mental health support that must be honestly addressed. I am not naive about the long, difficult path to healing human relationships.

But something in me truly believes, however real duality seems, that when everything is stripped away, our separateness is an illusion. Everything that is, the entirety of the cosmos, is part of a divine whole—a unified consciousness. God is in everything and everyone, and we are in God. Our dualistic world view is driven by our ego. Our ego serves a critical function, but when it rules our lives, we are unconscious. To be conscious is to be aware—to be awake to our true nature—our oneness with each other and our planet.

It took a tragedy to shock Legislators into awareness, but in the aftermath of the baseball field shooting, they consciously set aside their egos in service to the greater good—in service to the whole. They woke up! Our mission is to stay awake, and to help those we elect to govern us to do the same thing.

Rev. Beverly Spears is an ordained American Baptist minister, teacher and preacher of Evolutionary Christianity.

Farewell from Evelyn Anderton

Continued From Page 7

Farewell to my Godchildren Nakia, Savion, Zakaya, and my self-appointed Godchild Little Annie. Your parents have shown trust in me to be your God-mother and I have enjoyed seeing you grow into beautiful princesses. I may be leaving Spokane but you will always have a special place in my heart. I will keep you in my prayers and look forward to you visiting very soon.

Farewell, to all the seniors at the East Central Community Center. There are many senior centers in Spokane, but the seniors at East Central are the best. They may fuss, have the occasioned argument, slip in a little gossip every now and then, but we enjoy hugging and making up. The East Central Senior Center is more than a place where a bunch of seniors hang out, we have mutual love and respect for one another. I will miss each one of you especially my shopping partner Mary Sumler.

Farewell to my best girlfriends. Thank you for showing me what true friendship is all about. Our friendship has lasted for decades, through the good and bad times, the happy and sad times. We raised our children together, and grands together, and a few great-grands. You taught me that to have a good friend, I must know how to be a good friend. Therefore, I have always taken my friendships very seriously and hope I have not disappointed any-

one. To my friends who have lasted through the years you are like precious jewels to me, and I will treasure you forever.

Farewell Spokane Washington! I thank God for placing me in Spokane for the past 34 years, but my season and my reason to be in Spokane has come to an end. I am looking forward to what God has in store for me and my family in Suffolk VA.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Editor's Note:

I would like to extend a very special and heartfelt thank you to Evelyn Anderton. Not only did you make time in your busy life to be a regular contributor to this newspaper with your monthly "Thoughts From A Grandmother" column, which by the way is one of the most popular features in the paper, but you have also been one of the most dedicated supporters of The Black Lens from the very beginning. I can't thank you enough for all of the time and effort and energy that you put into finding and creating ways to generate income for The Black Lens. I can honestly say that your efforts to raise money and encourage others to do the same has made a huge difference in my ability to keep the paper going month after month. I am grateful that you have supported me, but even more than that, I am grateful that you were a dedicated and loving friend to both my mother and my father. I will miss you more than you will know. Bon Voyage!




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YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

For Former Refugees Hard Work Pays Off

Reprinted from World Relief Spokane

Yesterday afternoon, “Pomp and Circumstance” played as students from Lewis and Clark High School walked out of Spokane Veterans Arena. The new alumni posed for photos with family and friends, smiled, and celebrated. Among those many students are a cadre of recent additions to the Spokane community: former refugees.

Moses and Rebecca are two students in that group, both graduating from Lewis and Clark and choosing to further their education elsewhere. Their stories are nothing short of inspiring.

Rebecca came to the United States four years ago from Rwanda by way of Malawi. She started at Lewis and Clark as a freshman four years ago where the school system was much different than her experience in East Africa.

Rebecca had to handle six longer classes instead of 12 short ones, make new friends, learn more English, and pick up on a brand new culture. In the face of all of those challenges, it would have been easy to quit. She wouldn’t.



She asked questions when she struggled in English and Math, and got more comfortable in the subjects as she grew. By the time her junior year rolled around, Rebecca said she knew, “I’ve got this.”

That determination paid off yesterday when she received her degree, and it will continue to serve her well when she continues her education at Spokane Community College next fall. Rebecca’s brother currently goes to Spokane CC, and both plan to head to four-year universities after earning their Associates degrees right here at home.

“I didn’t quit,” Rebecca said. “I’m proud to be willing to ask questions and get help.”

Moses’ story is equally heartwarming. He and his family fled from war in Congo, and came to the United States two years ago. Moses’ transition to Spokane was equally tough, but he said he’s found a home here alongside his mom, four brothers, and sister.

Just like it is for any student, the first day at a new school was probably the most difficult, but the nervousness is amplified even more when everything is changing. In contrast

to a student moving from within the United States to Spokane, coming from the Congo meant Moses had to use his second-best language and acclimate to a new system of schooling.

“I was scared,” Moses said. “Everything was new back then.”

After and finding new friends and growing into the Spokane school system, Moses says he’s glad to be here. When asked if he considers Spokane to be home, there’s not even an ounce of hesitation before an enthusiastic “Yes!” rings into your eardrums. He says every teacher is his favorite one, and loves to talk about his friends.

Now, the transition comes to a fitting end, with Moses and his twin brother Elijah having been handed their diplomas just a couple hours ago. He’s excited, and extremely thankful.

“I want to thank World Relief, he said. “We wouldn’t be here without them.”



For more information about World Relief Spokane visit: <https://worldreliefspokane.org>

Young African Entrepreneurs Star in Latest Forbes Africa

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) - The much anticipated “30 Under 30” African edition of Forbes Magazine featuring the latest cohort of young African entrepreneurs building an African business is slated to hit the stands this month in South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya.

Ancillar Mangena, the Forbes Africa journalist who leads the “30 Under 30” project discussed the issue with Antoinette Isama of OkayAfrica.com who asked her why it’s important to celebrate young ambitious Africans.

“June is South Africa’s Youth Month when we remember the youth of 1976 and their role in democracy,” she began. “One could argue that while the youth of ’76 fought for political freedom, these under 30s are fighting for financial freedom. As we like to call them, they are the billionaires of tomorrow.”

To the question: “Why do you think this list is important to the continent and the diaspora?” Ms. Mangena replied: “Many a time we hear of Africa’s struggle, poverty, unemployment, crime and disease, but this list shows how much Africa continues to evolve.”

“They are not waiting or asking for handouts. These 30 superstars are not waiting for anyone to offer them a job, they are creating the jobs and building global brands. The people featured are in diverse industries from manufacturing, import and export, fashion, beauty, agriculture, tech and many

more.”

Unlike last year’s list, she observed, “this year we have more women breaking barriers.”

“I call the under 30s my babies,” Ms. Mangena confessed. “That’s how personal the process is. I have spent months studying them, looking into their lives and business. We have been communicating back and forth and I have a lot of faith in their potential.

“Like a mother, I will always offer support where I can so that they can one day be on the cover of Forbes Africa magazine—meaning they will be worth more than \$200 million. These are the bright shining stars in Africa. You may not know their names now but you will be forced to in a few years.

In the new class of Forbes Africa’s 30 Under 30, 10 are from South Africa, 4 are from Nigeria, and two are from Kenya, with a single representative from Tanzania, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, to name a few.

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.



BUSINESS/ENTERPRISE

Introducing Tyrese Patterson Windermere Real Estate Agent

Tyrese Patterson (Ty for short) is new to the Spokane area and is also a new real estate agent working for Windermere. If you haven't had a chance to meet him yet, here is a little background information.

Ty was born in 1956 in Tuskegee, Alabama. Actually, he was born at the Tuskegee Institute, home of Booker T. Washington and the Tuskegee Airmen, an only child whose single mother was just shy of her sixteenth birthday.

"I had a lot of things that said I wasn't supposed to get this far in life," Ty shared, noting that he never really had a relationship with his biological father, and he and his mother were constantly moving. In fact, he said, "I don't think I know of anyone that moved more than she and I did."

When he was a year and a half, they moved to Clinton, Iowa. His mother had joined the Job Corps and while there, "she met a guy." The couple was planned to raise Ty as the man's son, but things didn't work out, "he was not good to her."

So, at age 6, they moved back to Montgomery, Alabama and Ty went to elementary and Jr. High there. In school, Ty made every effort to be "a good boy" for his mother. He knew his mother was doing her best, "just trying to make it", so he played sports and did his best to stay out of trouble.

Ty was also good at math and at language skills, like alphabetizing. At a young age, he recognized that he could put those skills to use and he remembers watching tv one day, thinking to himself, "I want to be one of those guys that works in an office, wears a shirt and tie to work, and has a desk. I knew I wanted to be one of those guys."

In 1980, Ty's uncle was living in California and convinced his mother to move there to live with him. Despite all of the moving, Ty admired his mother for always being willing to take a chance on making a better life for the two of them, and this move in particular paid off. "I would say, that was the best thing that my mother did for me personally was to move me to California."

In California, Ty attended Long Beach Poly High School. The school and the neighborhood turned out to be a turning point for him.

"The last place we lived in Alabama, we were in the projects and it was just pretty much a dead end. People didn't care about their grades in school. Even though I had a great group of friends, it wasn't a big deal to pass your classes. There were no expectations."

But things were different in California. Ty's uncle lived in a community of two parent homes, where doing well in school was expected.

"We would get our report cards every six weeks, and that walk home was a big deal, because everybody was looking at each other's report cards. If you got a D, you can't even talk about an F, but if you got a D or a C, everybody would look at you like what's wrong with you. You got a D in that class? You got a C in that class? That's an easy class. It was so different from where I moved from."

As a high school student, Ty was decent. He wasn't at the top of his class, but, he says, "I had no problems." Sometimes, though, he wonders if things might have been different if his father had been around and if his mother hadn't needed to work two jobs to make ends meet. "I think that if I had a father figure in the home, I probably would have gotten better grades."

Ty still has fond memories of his time in high school, calling it "one of my best experiences". He graduated in 1985 and went right to work.

"I always had two jobs, probably because of my mom. I would deliver pizza at night, during the day I worked at an oil refinery, and then I worked for Toyota, bringing the cars off of the ships."

At age 20, prompted by a visit from one of his best friends who was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Ty enlisted in the Marine Corps and served for four years, receiving a meritorious promotion. He the service at the rank of Corporal, and worked for the Bureau of Prisons for the next twenty-two years.

Real Estate was not something that Ty had ever thought about doing. But when he moved to Spokane last year after meeting his fiancée online, the two of them were at a birthday party with friends and Ty was



sitting alone. An "older gentleman" walked up to him and the two men began talking. What Ty thought was a casual conversation between the two was actually an interview.

"We just started talking about my whole life," Ty said, "then Kristen, my fiancée, came over. I introduced the two of them and he said, I was just interviewing Ty but he didn't know it." Ty was invited to the Windermere office to talk to the manager. "So I put on a suit and tie the following Tuesday," he said with a smile.

The conversation went well and the rest is history. Ty is now a residential real estate agent with Windermere.

In describing himself and what sets him apart, Ty says, "I'm very honest and I work really hard. I know I have to be as good as, or better than, the next guy. I tell people everything. I don't hide stuff to gain an advantage. I'm not one of those kind of people and I will go the extra mile for

people. They can call me as many times as they need to be comfortable with the process. I'll educate them on the process and if there something that I actually don't know, then I'll talk to one of the top people here to get the answer."

Ty's goal is to be a top realtor. He wants to be known in the industry and in the community, and he is confident that he will be successful because, he says, his life has taught him how to succeed.

"What I learned is I can make it. I went through a divorce. It was really tough, really bad. But I made it. Moving from Alabama to CA and thinking I needed to do the 8th grade over. I spent an extra year in school, but I made it. Joining the marine corps when I was twenty was hard, but I made it. No matter what I'm going through, I know I can make it to the other side."

To reach Ty Patterson call 509-747-1051 or e-mail ty.patterson@windermere.com.

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By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

MARCH FOR RACIAL JUSTICE



Photos on this page are courtesy of Erv Schleufer

MARCH FOR RACIAL JUSTICE



Photos on this page are courtesy of Bob LLOYD, visit <http://4comculture.com>.

LINKS WHITE ROSE BRUNCH



The Spokane Chapter of the Links, Inc. hosted their 39th Annual White Rose Brunch on Saturday, June 3 at the Red Lion River Inn.

The brunch, which is a staple in the Spokane community, is a fundraiser for the Link’s scholarship fund, as well as an opportunity for the organization to recognize community members who they feel are deserving of community service awards.

This year’s brunch, which was emceed by for former Whitworth University student Elizabeth Porter and kicked off with a welcome from current Links President, Teresa Hemphill, honored four community members for their service to the Spokane in the past year.

The 2017 Honorees were: Rev. Walter Kendricks, Pastor of

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church and President of the Spokane Minister’s Fellowship; Lillian, “Sug” Villella, Director of the Southeast Community Day Care Center; Sandy Williams, Editor and Publisher of The Black Lens; and Regina Malveaux, Director of the Spokane Washington YWCA. This year’s V. Anne Smith Scholarship recipient was Desiree Desselle.

Entertainment was provided by the very talented duo Shar- ea Dumas & D’Angelo Harvey, who shared two selections, and a praise dance was offered by Alyn Richards and Giordan Gillon to the song “I Look to You”. Barry Thornton provided music for the event and the invocation was offered by Rev. James Watkins, Assistant Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

Photos courtesy: Rev. Robert Robinson



ALL EYEZ ON ME



Photo courtesy Bob Lloyd, 4comculture.com

An enthusiastic group of movie goers stayed for the conversation that followed after the Black Lens Private screening of the new Tupac Shakur Movie, “All Eyez on Me” which was held on Thursday, June 15 at the Regal Theater in the Spokane Valley Mall. The conversation, which lasted nearly an hour, focused on a variety of topics including Tupac’s life and tragic death, his choices, the contradictions that seemed to be playing out in the people who surrounded him, and his impact, both positive and negative, on the people who listened to his music.

2017 Juneteenth Pillar Awards

As a part of this year’s Juneteenth Celebration, the Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition hosted the 2017 Community Pillar Awards Banquet which was held on June 16 at WSU Spokane. The Pillar Awards were created to honor individuals, organizations and businesses who have acted as “pillars” to support Spokane’s African American community.

The 2017 Pillar Award Recipients were:

Individual- Sherry Merrit

Non-Profit Organization - The Links, Spokane Chapter

Church/Religious Organization - Ready 2 Serve Ministries, Pastor Oscar Harris

Business - Gonzaga University (not pictured)

Additionally, the **Heartwood Award** is presented each year. This is the dense, inner part of a tree trunk, that yields the hardest timber. The award is given to the individual that the Juneteenth committee feels embodies those characteristics. This year’s recipient of the Heartwood Award was Rev. Percy Happy Watkins of New Hope Baptist Church.

The Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition hosts annual Juneteenth activities to commemorate Juneteenth. This year’s events included the Pillar Awards Banquet, a Father’s Day Breakfast and Juneteenth BBQ, which was held at Liberty Park on June 17.

For more information about Juneteenth or the Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition visit: <http://www.inwjc.org>. Photos Courtesy Rev. Robert Robinson.



HEALTH & MEDICINE

What’s Menthol Got To Do With It? EVERYTHING.

Each year 45,000 Black people die from tobacco related diseases according to the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council (AATCLC), and those deaths, they say, are due in large part to the fifty-plus years that the tobacco industry has been targeting the African American community with menthol cigarettes.

Dr. Phillip Gardiner, co-chair of the AATCLC, is on the forefront of what can best be described as a national battle to ban menthol cigarettes and raise awareness about their impact on communities of color and on the African American community in particular.

Dr. Gardiner, who received his Doctorate in Behavioral Sciences from the University of California at Berkeley, and has spent the past 25 years working on studies ranging from Hypertension, Multiculturalism and AIDS, to Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Diabetes and Smoking, while also focusing on youth violence as a public health issue and addressing racial disparities in health, visited Spokane in May to hold a public conversation titled, “What’s Menthol Got to Do With It?”.

Dr. Gardiner’s presentation was held as a part of the Spokane Regional Health District’s “*Done My Way*” campaign, which launched in April of this year to connect

I was sitting at my desk in 1998 reading the Surgeon General’s report [on smoking and tobacco use], which was the only one that was on racial and ethnic minorities, and it was an eye opener. Black folks were dying disproportionately of everything. Esophageal Cancer. Coronary Heart Disease. Cerebral Vascular Disease. Lung Cancer. Whatever it was, Negroes were dying from it.

-Dr. Phillip Gardiner



people in Spokane with a variety of proven methods to quit smoking. The health district is also looking at disparities related to people of color and tobacco use.

Dr Gardiner sat down with the Black Lens for a few minutes after his presentation:

Can you tell me a little about your background?

I was born in Berkeley. Raised in Oakland. Had a basketball scholarship to the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) in the 60s. Got involved with the Black Power Movement and the Black Panther Party. Was kicked out of school in 1970. Went to Cuba three or four times in the 70s. Went back to college at Cal State L.A. Got

an undergraduate degree in European history and a minor in Anthropology. Went to UCLA in 1975. Dropped out in ‘78 after getting a Masters in American history. Moved to NY in 1980 to do anti Ku Klux Klan work after five people were killed in Greensboro on Nov 3 1979. I stayed in NY until 82, then moved back to Oakland. Got a job at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) as a research assistant and started working with some of the key people in the field. I went back to graduate school at Berkeley in 1989 and got my Masters in Public Health in 1991, and my Doctorate in Behavioral Sciences in 1994. I was hired by the Office of the President in 1997 and I’ve worked there for the last 20 years.

What got you specifically focused on health disparities?

I’d been a political activist all my life. Then the idea came of how could you have a political expression and actually have a job, because most of the time in the 60s, 70s and early 80s, you were running on empty, fighting the good fight and traveling around. It was important work, but I ended up getting married in ‘83 and I needed to kind of stabilize. I needed a job. So how could I translate my political commitment into a job? Then I realized you could do it through public health and thats how that took off. And then within public health it was a no-brainer. Health disparities in African Americans, I’ve been fighting for that all my life. What you saw here today is a reflection of the last 45 years of doing work around the Black community.

What prompted you to specifically focus on the cigarette piece?

I was working at a northern California cancer center, doing breast cancer research, looking at health disparities in African American women who died disproportionately from breast cancer even though they get it less. I had done some initial work around tobacco when I was working on my doctorate, but it was just a literature search for somebody. I was sitting at my desk in

1998 reading the Surgeon General’s report, which was the only one that was on racial and ethnic minorities, and it was an eye opener. Black folks were dying disproportionately of everything. Esophageal Cancer. Coronary Heart Disease. Cerebral Vascular Disease. Lung Cancer. Whatever it was, Negroes were dying from it.

I’ve been in the political world all of my life, and so I asked, why is that? I dug a little deeper. What is this thing about we smoke menthol cigarettes at 85%? Where did that come from? So I did the research, and then I presented the research.

How do I communicate the things that you shared in your presentation in a way that is going to impact the African American community?

You can write down all of the stuff you want, but Black folks need to be moved. It’s like church. What’s Menthol Got to Do with It? Everything. **The main killer of Black folks is tobacco. The main vector of that tobacco is menthol.**

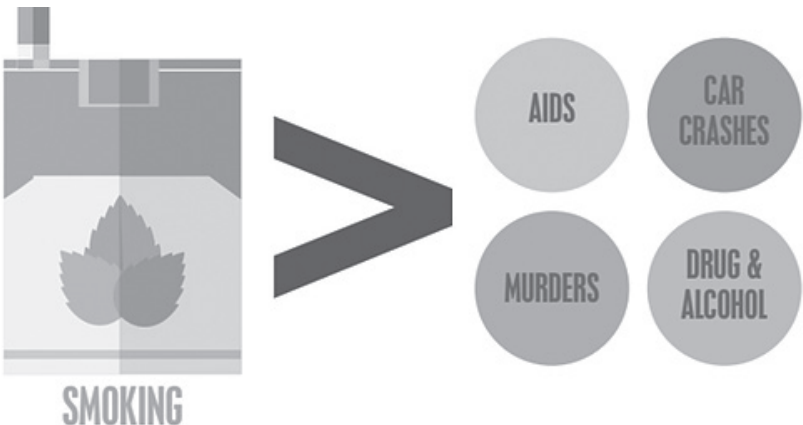
According to Dr. Gardiner, over 80 percent of African American smokers use menthol cigarettes, compared to 24 percent of white smokers. In addition, 88 percent of African American middle-school smokers and 87 percent of African American high-school smokers smoke menthols. Through his presentation, Dr Gardiner’s goal is to convey the urgency and the severity of the impact that tobacco is having on the African American community.

Note: The Spokane Regional Health District will be brining Dr. Gardiner back to Spokane in the fall (2017) to present “What’s Menthol Got to Do With It?” a second time. Stay tuned for information.

For more information about the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council (AATCLC) visit: <https://www.savingblacklives.org>. For more information about the Spokane Regional Health District’s “*Done My Way*” campaign and tobacco cessation resources, visit: <http://www.srhd.org/donemyway.asp>.

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donemyway.org



Justice Charles Z. Smith: Trailblazer

Continued From Page 8

But his first incision into that career cured him of that notion. As a job shadowing exercise, he attended a surgery and “couldn’t stand the sight of all that blood.” Social work was what resonated in his heart and Dr. Gray, his mentor, told him that “law is a helping profession.” The rest is history.

Smith graduated from Temple University in 1952 and came west to visit his mother, who had moved to Seattle. He loved it here and was accepted on the spot at the University of Washington Law School after the associate dean took one look at his college transcript. No LSAT’s or letters of recommendation [were required], just an on-the-spot pronouncement: “You’re in.”

Smith was in law school when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its landmark 1954 ruling on segregated public schools - Brown v. Board of Education. The Warren Court unanimously held that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal” and a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution. America was on the threshold of a decade of momentous events in the struggle for civil rights.

Smith knew Martin Luther King Jr. when they were energetic young Baptists in Philadelphia, where Dr. Gray had become pastor of his father’s church. Over the years, after Rosa Parks refused to go to the back of the bus and Martin marched, Smith promoted civil rights in his own way. A stealthy subversive, Justice Smith will tell you that he was able to open doors - and eventually minds - because his pleasant personality and undeniable ability added up to a “safe” Negro in the 1950s.

Smith had “earned a reputation as an innovator who took a personal interest in defendants and offered them a chance to reclaim their lives. He was an early advocate for treating alcoholism and drug use as medical, not criminal problems.” Moreover, as the son of an immigrant, Justice Smith has long championed immigrant rights. In 1985, when he was in private practice in Seattle, Smith urged the City Council to declare Seattle a “sanctuary city” for refugees from Guatemala and El Salvador.

Smith said all citizens “have an obligation to criticize the government when we believe the government is wrong.” Silence can be complicity, Smith said, pointing to post-war Germans “who chose to remain silent and who now as an aftermath are pretending that the Holocaust did not happen.”

Besides his work on multiple fronts to eradicate racial bias from the courts, Smith served as president of the American Baptist Churches, USA, championed the cause of redress for Japanese Americans sent to internment camps during World War II and was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. As the century turned, he was called to Stockholm for the roundtable discussions on “Reverence and Reconciliation: A Healing Response to Ethnic Cleansing.”

Smith was elected to the State Supreme Court unopposed three times. After 14 years, he stepped down with mixed emotions in 2002, the year he reached the mandatory retirement age of 75.

Chief Justice Alexander called him “the heart and soul of our court.” Other associates and former students have called Smith a “silent giant,” “my hero,” “one of the world’s great human beings” and a “trailblazing legal pioneer.”

Although naturally mild mannered, Smith cannot remain silent when confronted by racism. In 1990, the judge told a Tacoma City Club forum on race relations in Washington State that “Even though I am at the top of the judicial system, there are still people ... who believe they can call me ‘nigger’ and get away with it.”

On the court, Smith was a conciliator, tending to be “the swing vote in many split decisions, and he clearly (was) reluctant to dissent from a well-reasoned opinion,” the late Charles H. Sheldon, a professor of political science at Washington State University, concluded in “The Washington High Bench, A Biographical History of the State Supreme Court, 1889-1991.”

Ideologically, Smith is simultaneously liberal and conservative - a bridge-builder for whom integrity and humanism have always mattered most. If he sends you a letter,

right below the return address on the envelope are three words: “Truth-Justice-Freedom.”

“I give my personal commitment to things that I happen to believe in. ... If that makes me a liberal, then I’m liberal. On the other hand, because I’m so cautious, if cautious makes me conservative, then I’m a conservative,” Smith told Sheldon in 1990.

If a label must be applied, Smith will proudly accept “humanitarian,” emphasizing that for people of faith, hope and charity, it’s a never-ending privilege and duty to help one’s fellow man.

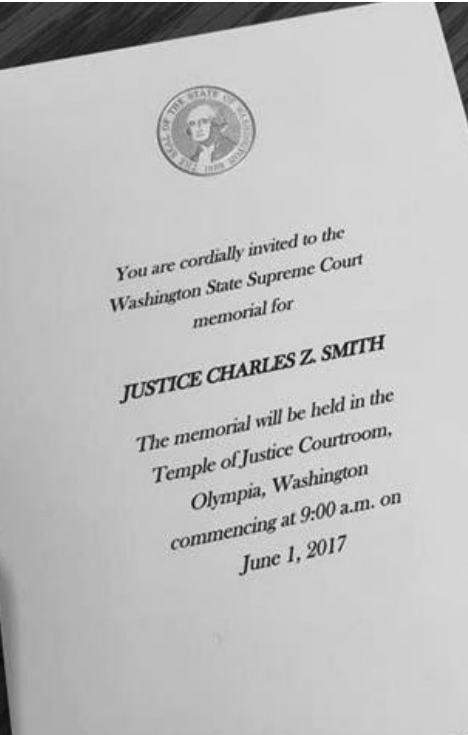
The judge pauses several times to fight back tears and clear the lump in his throat as he recalls defining moments in his eventful life: The terrible anxiety - palpable 70 years later - that his father might be deported to Cuba in the depths of the Depression, leaving a wife and five children in dire straits; the day Eleanor “Elie” Martinez, a bright and beautiful young woman from Hawaii, agreed to marry him after he had deluged her with letters; the day that the sagacious Supreme Court Justice Matthew Hill picked him to be his clerk, a first for a person of color. At the time, no Seattle law firm would entertain the notion of hiring a “Negro attorney,” even one with an extraordinary record of academic achievement and diverse life experiences.

Charles Z. Smith’s America has come a long way since 1955. However, when it comes to minority representation on our courts, Smith notes that we have not yet reached the point where the men and women in robes truly reflect the demographics of an increasingly diverse, culturally vibrant state. If justice is supposed to be blind, surely it should be colorblind, he maintains.

In 2008, Washington’s minority population was nearly 24 percent, while only 7.5 percent of Washington’s judges were ethnic minorities. The national figure was 10.1 percent.

“If you end up with no person of color on the Supreme Court, is that right?” Justice Smith asked.

Biography excerpt and photos courtesy Secretary of State: Legacy Washington- <https://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/stories/charles-z-smith>



A recording of Justice Smith’s Memorial Service can be found at the following link: www.tvw.org/watch/?-clientID=9375922947&eventID=2017061002&eventID=2017061002&autoStartStream=true

For photos of the Memorial Service visit the Washington Courts Flickr site: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm1T2as4>

Justice Smith served as the first Chairperson of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission. For more information about the Commission visit: <https://www.courts.wa.gov/index.cfm?fa=home.sub&org=mjc>

To read Justice Smith’s Complete Oral History visit: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/stories/charles-z-smith/pdf/complete.pdf>

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**Disclaimer: The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx> is the statutory law in Washington State. The above excerpts do not represent the full text or protections provided under the Revised Code of Washington and solely a starting reference as a community service by The Law Office of D.C. Cronin. This information is not to be considered legal advice. Please consult the RCW’s for complete texts and omissions and seek legal advice regarding specific situations. Read the full text of RCW 49.60.030 visit: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=49.60.030>.*

MONEY/FINANCE

I Have Bad Credit and Limited Funds, How Should I Prioritize My Bills?

If you’re looking to rebuild your credit, the two most important things to keep in mind are prioritizing and paying on time.

Paying a bill that is 60 days past due can turn a credit score from good to bad...even bad to worse. For instance, a very late payment could shave off as much as 100 points from your credit score. You’re better off paying the minimum amount due on time than paying more than the minimum due late.

Here are some other important tips:

Know Your Priorities

First, prioritizing means satisfying needs instead of wants. That means paying your electric bill before purchasing that new television! Ranking which bills are the most and least important is the next step.

Your first priority should be to pay your rent or mortgage. Missing home payments may result in the loss of your home. Late payments on your mortgage can also significantly hurt your credit score and your chances to re-finance or buy a new home in the future.

Food expenses come second, especially if you have a family to support. Car payments should be marked just below food if you rely on your car to get to work.

Credit cards should be next on your list ... if only to pay the minimum amount due ... on time! Credit card companies report to the 3 major credit bureaus, so they can improve or hurt your credit score. So if you have limited funds, simply pay the minimum – but pay it on time – until you have more funds available to pay down your debt.

Utilities are important and should be paid, but they do not impact your credit score unless they become collection accounts. It is important to work out payment plans if you are unable to meet your due dates so that you maintain your utilities ... but paying them modestly late will not impact your credit score.

The Importance of Secured Cards

A secured credit card is one that requires you to deposit a certain amount of funds in order to have a line of credit extended to you. The credit line varies from bank to bank, but account holders are generally required to deposit anywhere from \$300 to \$500 to receive a similar credit line. Secured cards are a good way to rebuild credit because credit card companies report secured credit cards to the 3 major credit bureaus, unlike prepaid cards which do not report to any credit bureaus. Your goal is to have your good payment history reported to the 3 major credit bureaus to boost your credit score.

When using a secured card, you should make a few charges each month and pay off the balance quickly. Payment history is important when rebuilding your credit, and there should be no large balances that are carried over for months on end. You should always strive to make a timely payment, even if it is the minimum amount owed.

There are certain things to consider when choosing a secured card, such as interest rates, annual fees and strings attached in the form of monthly insurance. With that being said, secured credit cards carry enough responsibility for you to eventually transition to an unsecured card.

You’ll know when your credit activity is making a positive difference when you begin receiving unsecured card offers in the mail!

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Question of the Month *Continued From Page 2*

Robert Russa Moton

Reprinted from <http://www.blackpast.org>

Robert Russa Moton was born on the William Vaughan Plantation in 1867 in Prince Edward County, Virginia. Moton attended the local freedman’s school and eventually went on to college at the Hampton Institute (now Hampton University).

At Hampton Institute Moton distinguished himself academically and after graduation was appointed the school’s Commandant in charge of military discipline, a post he held for 25 years.

In 1915, Moton left the Hampton Institute to accept a post as Tuskegee Institute as its second president after the death of founder Booker T. Washington. Soon after his arrival Moton began to expand the Institute’s academic programs, adding a new department to educate future Black school teachers. He also initiated the construction of what would become the Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital which would treat African

American World War I veterans. Despite local white opposition, Moton insisted that the federal hospital be staffed by Black doctors, nurses, and administrators.

When Moton’s proposal was endorsed by President Warren G. Harding, local white supremacists, angry that the annual \$2,500,000 in salaries would go to Black rather than exclusively white employees, converged on Tuskegee where they threatened to kill Moton unless he gave white doctors exclusive employment at hospital.

To this Moton answered: *“You can wipe me out; you can take my life; but you can’t take my character.... So far as I am concerned, gentleman, but I would gladly give a dozen for this cause.”*

Tuskegee Institute and the Veterans Hospital escaped unharmed through the struggle. Robert R. Moton remained president of Tuskegee until he retired in 1935 due to failing health. Moton died at Tuskegee in 1940 and was buried at his alma mater, Hampton Institute.



Contributor: Elizabeth Winter; Sources: Robert Russa Moton, Finding a Way Out: An Autobiography (Garden City, N.Y: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1920); William Hardin Hughes and Frederick D. Patterson, Robert Russa Moton of Hampton and Tuskegee (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1956); Lerone Bennett, “Chronicles of Black Courage: Robert R. Moton Risked Life in Fight for Black Doctors at Tuskegee Veterans Hospital,” Ebony, July 2002; www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/flood/peopleevents/p_moton.html; www.hamptonu.edu; www.gloucesterva.info/moton1.htm

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

‘Get Out’ Director Inks Universal Picture Deal



Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

(TriceEdneyWire.com) Jordan Peele, who wrote, produced and directed the hit movie “Get Out,” about a Black man, who goes to meet his White girlfriend’s parents, continues to hear nothing but good news about the film.

“Get Out,” which was made for \$4.5 million, has grossed \$204.3 million at the box office.

And according to the Hollywood Reporter, a trade publication, Peele and his Monkeypaw Productions has signed a first-look overall production deal with Universal Pictures based on the movie’s success.

According to a two-year deal, Universal has staked its claim on Peele’s

untitled social thriller that he will write, direct and produce. A story about the deal was posted on Universal’s website.

“Through extraordinary imagination and fearless humor, Jordan has proven himself to be a game-changer who is driven to tell stories that are as commercially entertaining as they are disruptive and provocative,” said Donna Langley, chairman of Universal.

“Get Out” stars Daniel Kaluuya as the young Black man and Allison Williams is his girlfriend. At her parents’ home, he is exposed to a passive kind of racism before being plunged into a nightmare of secret societies, kidnappings, and strange personalities.

Bob Marley’s Son Buys High Times Magazine



Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Damian ” jr. Gong” Marley, the youngest son of reggae superstar Bob Marley, is among a group of investors who have purchased a controlling stake in High Times magazine, its Cannabis Cup events and other digital properties for \$42 million in a deal arranged by Oreva Capital, a boutique investment firm, based in Los Angeles.

Damian is one of 20 investors who will own 60 percent of the High Times, a Los Angeles-based magazine founded in 1974 by the late Thomas King Forcade. The company is valued at \$70 million.

Damian, a musician, has an estimated wealth of \$20 million. His father was a well-known toker.

High Times has been at the center of the push for marijuana legalization while publishing stories about the War on Drugs. It has a monthly print circulation of 236,000 and 20 million unique monthly digital visitors. The investors money will be spent to expand the brand and capitalize on events like the High Times Cannabis Cup, a marijuana trade show, said Adam Levin, founder of Oreva Capital.

The deal was signed as California is expected to legalize pot for recreational use by 2018.



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OUR VOICES

James Hodgkinson Proves White Men Are Bulletproof

By Michael Harriot

Today you will probably see one of the many thousands of articles positing the reasons a man took a rifle and opened fire at a congressional baseball practice in Arlington, Va. Every cable news pundit will explain how this newly toxic political environment fomented the hate and rage that led to James T. Hodgkinson’s brutal attack.

In every one of these instances, writers, reporters and talking heads will try their best to conjure up amateur and qualified psychological analyses of what triggered Hodgkinson. Maybe he was a victim of the amped-up war between Democrats and Republicans. Perhaps President Donald Trump’s numerous misdeeds so frustrated Hodgkinson that he just snapped.

This is indicative of the benefit of the doubt that the media and the public extend to all white men.

Unlike in the case of Pulse nightclub shooter Omar Mateen, reporters aren’t wondering when Hodgkinson was radicalized. I dare you to find an article looking into his religion. Even people in the street interviews have refrained from offhandedly calling Hodgkinson a thug.

Despite the fact that he was living a secret life in the same manner as the 9/11 terrorists—off the grid, scouting his targets from a van—no one has referred to Hodgkinson as a terrorist. You could scour the newspapers all day and you wouldn’t find a mention of the Islamic State group, or ISIS, in the first paragraphs of stories about the Arlington shooting. There isn’t anyone—Democrat or Republican—wondering why Hodgkinson hasn’t been referred to as a “radical extremist.”

Here are a few passages from today’s stories:

“I didn’t really talk to him too much,” said neighbor Aaron Meurer. “He was a Democrat, and I was a Republican, so we didn’t have too much to talk about.” In one sentence, Meurer offers up a snapshot of American partisanship: For many Americans, their political affiliation is a central component of their identity. Meurer’s statement suggests that he and Hodgkinson saw themselves as partisans first and neighbors second. This isn’t to pick on Meurer—this sort of worldview is widespread and becoming more common in the United States. —Christopher Ingraham, the Washington Post



James T. Hodgkinson, the man identified as shooting a Republican member of congress and four others on Wednesday morning, was a small business owner in Illinois who defined himself publicly by his firm support of Bernie Sanders’ progressive politics—and his hatred of conservatives and President Donald Trump. This is based on CNN’s review of Hodgkinson’s Facebook profiles, public records, and three years of impassioned letters to his local newspaper [...] “He didn’t seem scary,” George Manson said, “he just seemed out of it.” —Jose Pagliery, CNN

The 66-year-old Illinois man who opened fire on a group of Republican lawmakers and their aides at a Northern Virginia baseball diamond was a living portrait of simmering anger and sometimes strange behavior, neighbors and family members say. —Aamer Madhan, USA Today

Notice that none of these articles dismisses Hodgkinson as “hating our freedoms.” Even though he committed one of the most un-American acts a human being can commit, he isn’t being cast as a traitor or even part of the growing movement of radicals who commit acts of violence because of their ideology.

Let’s be clear: James T. Hodgkinson is a zealot who was radicalized online. James T. Hodgkinson tried to kill people because of his hateful ideology. James T. Hodgkinson is a violent radical extremist who carried out a well-planned terrorist plot against innocent Americans.

One of the greatest advantages of being white in America (besides walking, driving and living anywhere you want

without the threat of being stopped, harassed, cast out or noticed because you don’t belong) is that whiteness gets to exist in the singular tense. Whenever a white man commits an act of terror—and make no mistake, that is what this is—he gets to be “troubled” or a “victim of the political atmosphere.”

Being white means you don’t have to automatically bear the weight of a skin color, a religion, or an ethnicity. White people aren’t automatically assumed to be gang bangers, hood niggas or jihadists. They always get the benefit of the doubt; therefore, when white people do something heinous, the world begins a frantic, desperate search for a valid explanation of their actions.

Black people? Not so much.

That’s why it’s believable that 17-year old Trayvon Martin would jump on someone who weighed 50 pounds more than he did and was carrying a gun. It’s why no one finds it odd that Michael Brown just willy-nilly decided to reach inside a squad car and grab a police officer’s gun. It’s why they can watch unarmed Terence Crutcher walking away from Police Officer Betty Shelby as she opens fire on his back and still believe that she feared for her life.

When whiteness shoots up a school, it must have been the violent video games. When whiteness opens fire in a movie theater, it must mean the person was off his medication. When whiteness goes ballistic on a college campus, they will discover how many days since the shooter saw his therapist, because it must be something that causes whiteness to explode.

It must be the cable news. It must be “affluenza.” It must be trouble at home. It must be political rhetoric. It must be gun laws. It must be the National Rifle Association. It must be the mental-health system. It must be a lack of attention. It must be the divorce. It must be his childhood. It must be bullying. Because whiteness is logical. Whiteness is never evil. Whiteness is never just plain crazy. Whiteness is bulletproof.

It must be nice.

Michael Harriot is a staff writer at The Root, host of “The Black One” podcast and editor-in-chief of the daily digital magazine NegusWhoRead. To learn more about Michael Harriot, visit his webiste at <http://www.michaelharriot.com>.

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nwunity.org

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



OUR VOICES

Addressing a Crisis: Reading & Healing

By Randolph Paul

In regard to the negro/black state of affairs in America, I often hear certain words and terms used. These include racism, racist, hate, crime, single mothers, absentee fathers, police brutality, drugs, prison and sentencing reform, and jobs. Please allow me to add two words to this list; reading and healing.

Reading and healing have opened my eyes, given me a healthy self-esteem and confidence. I cherish my gradual understanding of myself and humanity. An enlightened and observant person will observe that above all else the negro needs to embark on a journey of healing and mastering the given language.

First, we must become humble to admit the core emotional, psychological, mental and intellectual issues to be addressed. On numerous occasions I cringed while listening to the speech patterns of a well dressed Black person (college educated sometimes) as he/she spoke into a microphone. Often times the intensity, rage, volume, tone of voice and facial expression tells me there is much unexpressed pain and frustration in the Black population by and large.

Anger, I learned, belies hurt, frustration and fear. Black communities world wide have endured high levels of all three for decades, centuries even. Many have developed coping mechanisms which sadly have been adopted as “normal”. Some see these twisted, unreal behaviors as symbols of “strength”. A competent behavioral scientist, I believe, is able to see through this.

I classify much of “Black behavior” as compensatory and defensive. I understand how and why these attitudes came about, but they need to be shed however gradually in order for Blacks to start effectively challenging the mountain of



subtle oppression that they are up against. Some examples of compensatory behavior include the constant need to be noticed through extremely loud music in public, vanity rims on vehicles, bragging about material wealth, constant use of profanity and sexual promiscuity.

Defensive postures take on the hard exterior seen on many Black males and females, a certain walk/swagger, short explosive tempers and quick to fist fight as a means of dispute resolution, sagging pants and the strong Black woman mantra.

Beneath all these adopted attitudes is a people who feel alienated from mainstream society, a hurting people, a people who find it easier to be at war with each other at home and in the streets. Yes, I call it a civil war; the savage beatings at home, the constant insults, fist fights, ridiculing and making fun of each other for hair texture, looks, skin tone and attire are all signs of a desperate people who have turned on each other in large numbers. Denial will only prolong this psychosis. As I see it, the sagging pants phenomenon is a subconscious cry for help while jeering at a society that rejects the black male’s masculinity. I trust my senses.

The healing process is long overdue. Start being a big brother and sister to each other. Oprah Winfrey said in an interview “The therapy I never got and do not need is because of my countless hours I spent in conversation with my friend Gale”. Oprah is also an avid reader who clearly has a mastery of the language. How we present what we have to say can help our cause tremendously. Profanity signifies a poor/limited vocabulary. The person using it feels a false, momentary sense of empowerment.

The contents of an online video is a fitting way to end this piece. I watched a video posted by a black boy who looked to be about 12 or 13 years old. He lamented the ongoing degradation he saw around him on a daily basis; the many Blacks who walk around not knowing their history but can tell you about rap artists, or sports, cars and women. I sensed the frustration and passion in his voice. A lone voice in the wilderness that was laced with poor grammar and profanity. He also concluded “you will listen!”.

I almost cried in the library while watching. I saw in that video a young man who senses that things are not what they should be but he was not nurtured enough to articulate those thoughts in a coherent manner.

The Negative Side of Brown vs Board

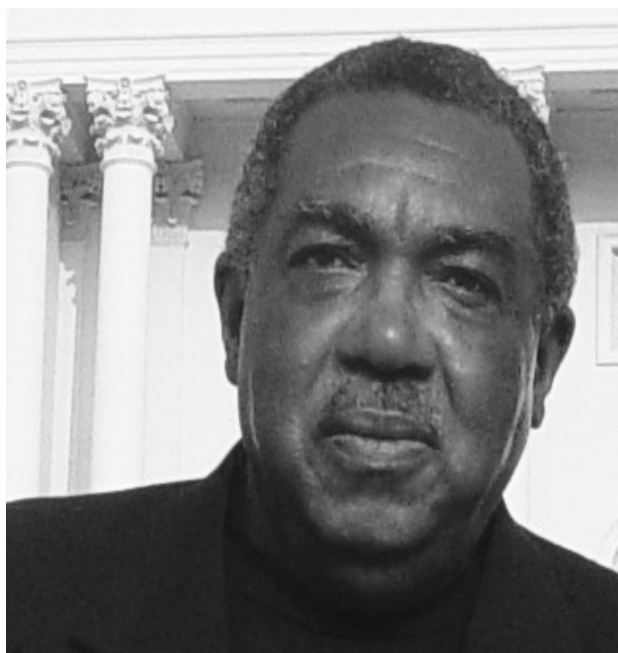
By A. Peter Bailey

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - May 17, 2017 was the 63rd anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Brown vs Board of Education decision declaring that legally-sanctioned and enforced school segregation was a violation of the Constitution of the United States. At the time, and often since then, that decision has been heralded as a major victory over the white supremacists/racists in the former Confederate States of America.

No doubt it was, but the aftermath of that historic decision has not proven to be totally positive for Black folks because it has been interpreted as meaning all-Black schools were inherently inferior, not because of deliberate decisions made by state government officials and the white supremacist/racist attitudes and practices of the majority white population, but because they were all-Black.

Through the years that interpretation came to include all-Black businesses, all-Black professionals, all-Black colleges and universities, all-Black anything. As a result, way too many, if not most Black folks, basically abandoned Black businesses, professionals, colleges and universities, restaurants, etc. With enthusiasm, we began delivering most all of our economic resources, mainly to whites, but also to businesses owned by members of other ethnic and nationality communities.

This practice has cost us dearly, psychologically, culturally and economically. Psychologically, to believe that anything is inherently inferior just because it’s Black is self-defeating and demoralizing. Culturally, it means too many of us with dyed blonde hair and blonde wigs; it means accepting the use of the n-word as some kind of



liberating act; it means way too many of us still talking about a woman being “dark-skinned but pretty” or having “good hair”; it also means giving people from other ethnic groups millions of dollars annually for fake hair. I guess Black hair is inherently inferior.

Economically, it means practically donating several billion dollars annually for services that we could get from other Black folks to white doctors, lawyers, dentists, press agents, public relations operatives, newspapers, magazines, car dealers, restaurants, bars, and on and on.

For the sake of our children, if not ourselves, we must reject any declaration that all-Black schools were inherently

inferior in 1954. They were physically inferior because of deliberate policies to make them so by white supremacists/racists. And remember that those schools were the initial learning spaces for the overwhelming majority of the Civil Rights and human rights warriors in the 1960s.

Our focus should have been in 1954 and today doing everything possible to provide a quality education for our children. That does not require integration or diversity. It requires a determined group of Black folks inspired by the following observations of Brother Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

“Education is an important element in the struggle for human rights. It is the measure to help our children and people rediscover their identity and thereby increase self-respect. It is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today... Afro-American parents must be willing and able to go into the schools and see that the job of educating our children is done properly.”— Bro. Malcolm X

“Education without social action is a one-sided value because it has no true power potential. Social action without education is a weak expression of pure energy. Deeds uninformed by educated thought can take false directions. When we go into action and confront our adversaries, we must be armed with knowledge as they are. Our policies should have the strength of deep analysis beneath them to be able to challenge the clever sophistries of our opponents.”—Martin Luther King Jr.

A. Peter Bailey is a journalist, author and lecturer, whose latest book is “Witnessing Brother Malcolm X, the Master Teacher”. He can be reached at apeterb@verizon.net or by visiting his website at <http://apeterbailey.webs.com>.

BUSHNELL TRIAL UPDATE

In response to the questions that I have received over the past month about what is happening in the aftermath of the Bushnell trial and verdict, here is an update:

~The Black Lens has submitted a request for a complete the transcript of the Trial. A down payment was submitted and we have received word that the transcript might be available as early as the end of July.

~In response to the emergency meeting that was called by The Spokane Minister’s Fellowship in the aftermath of the verdict, a community group has formed called Spokane Community against Racism (SCAR). The group, which organized the March for Racial Justice, is focused on addressing racial disparities within Spokane’s Criminal Justice system, amongst other things. *If you are interested in being added to the e-mail list for SCAR to be kept up to date on meetings and events, please send an e-mail to sandy@blacklensnews.com.*

~SCAR members have determined that in order to adress racial disparities in Spokane’s Criminal Justice System attention needs to be focused on the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council (SRLJC). SCAR members are planning to attend three upcoming meetings of the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council:

Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2017, 12:00 PM- 1:30 PM @ Spokane Regional Health District Bldg. Room 140, 1101 W College Ave, Spokane, WA 99201

SRLJC Racial Equity Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, July 13, 2017, 7-8:30 PM @ City Hall Spokane
Room 5A 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201

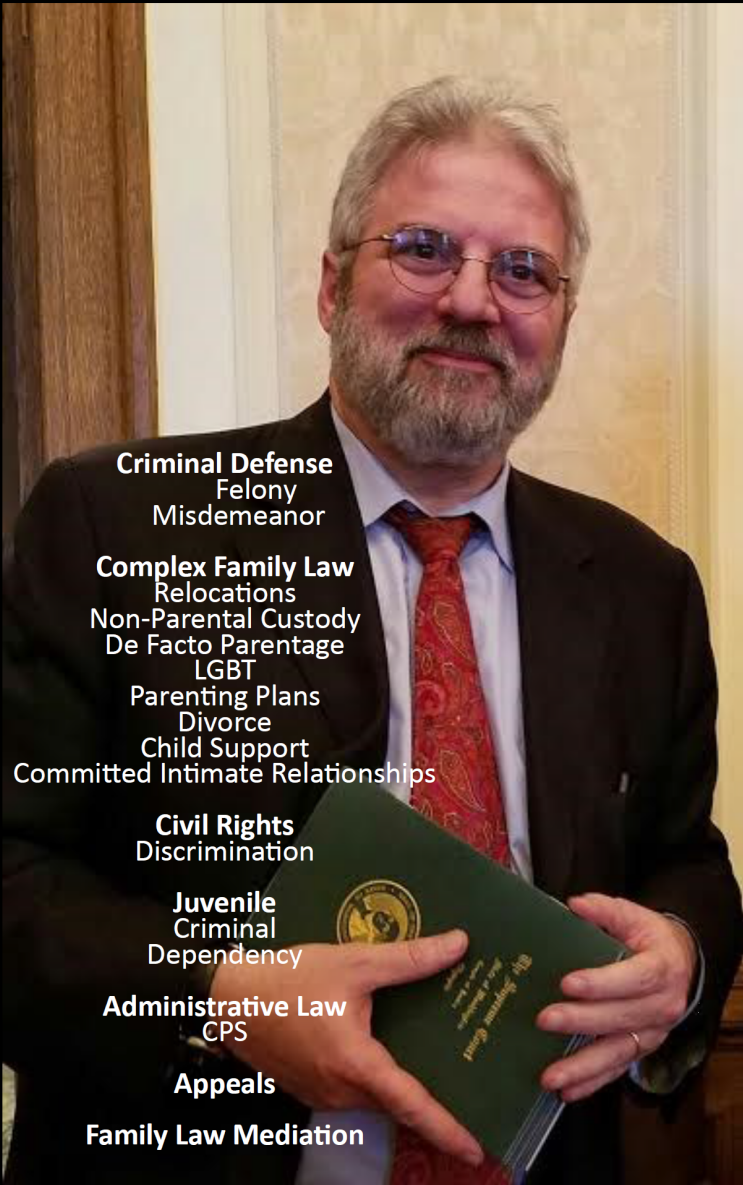
SRLJC Admin Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 12:15 PM- 1:15 PM @ Spokane County Commissioner’s Conference room 1116 W Broadway Avenue, Spokane, WA 99260

**Editor’s Note: Disparity Issue

Instead of a three part series on Racial Disparities in the July and August Issues of The Black Lens as I mentioned in last month’s issue, I have decided to dedicate the entire August 2017 issue to addressing Spokane’s Racial Disparities.

-Sandy Williams

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Hours: 30 hours per week.

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agement and barista skills to individuals enrolled in the program and develop retail potential through marketing and fiscal management. Emphasis is placed on creating and maintaining a warm, welcoming, customer friendly environment that reflects the values of Transitions.

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

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and Transitions application to Jamie Borgan, New Leaf Program Director, 3128 N. Hemlock, Spokane, WA 99205. Please no drop offs or emails.

Complete job description and Transition employment applications are available on our website at www.help4women.org.

JULY EVENTS

JULY 8

JUSTICE NIGHT

Justice Night is a walk-in legal clinic, no appointment necessary. We provide free legal information in the following areas: Family law, Consumer Protection, Housing, LFO/expungement, Police and Government Accountability.

5:00-7:00pm

Morning Star Baptist Church

3909 W Rowan Ave, Spokane, WA 99205

Questions? Call the Center for Justice at 509-835-5211

JULY 15

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY YARD SALE

New Hope Baptist Church is inviting you to coming to our Church Family yard sale on Saturday, June 15. All proceeds benefit New Hope's new church building fund to help us buy our new building.

8am-5pm (no earlies)

2620 E. 39th Avenue, Spokane

For more information call New Hope at 509-535-1336.

JULY 17

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting

7:00pm

Community Building - Lobby

35 W. Main Street, Spokane WA

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 (ext 1141) or visit the website at <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

JUNE 24

SPOKANE COMMUNITY AGAINST RACISM (SCAR) MEETING

Join us as we focus on racial disparities in Spokane's Criminal Justice System

6-7:30pm

Morning Star Baptist Church

3909 W Rowan Ave, Spokane, WA 99205

t

Please send information about upcoming community events to sandy@blacklensnews.com or call 509-795-1964.



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2 Tickets For
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July 14-16



Tim Meadows

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New Hope's
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Take a **creative** picture of yourself reading the Black Lens
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at 509-795-1964 or sandy@blacklensnews.com.

Pictures will be posted on Facebook the week of July 17.
The two photos that get the most likes will each win two tickets.

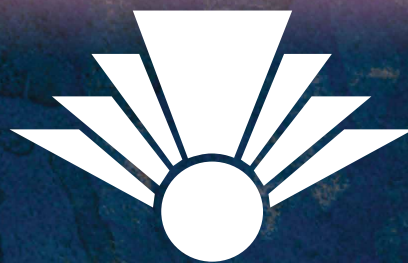
Include your name, phone number and
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