

THE

BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

400 Years in Virginia. 500 Years in Slavery.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Correspondent, @
StacyBrownMedia

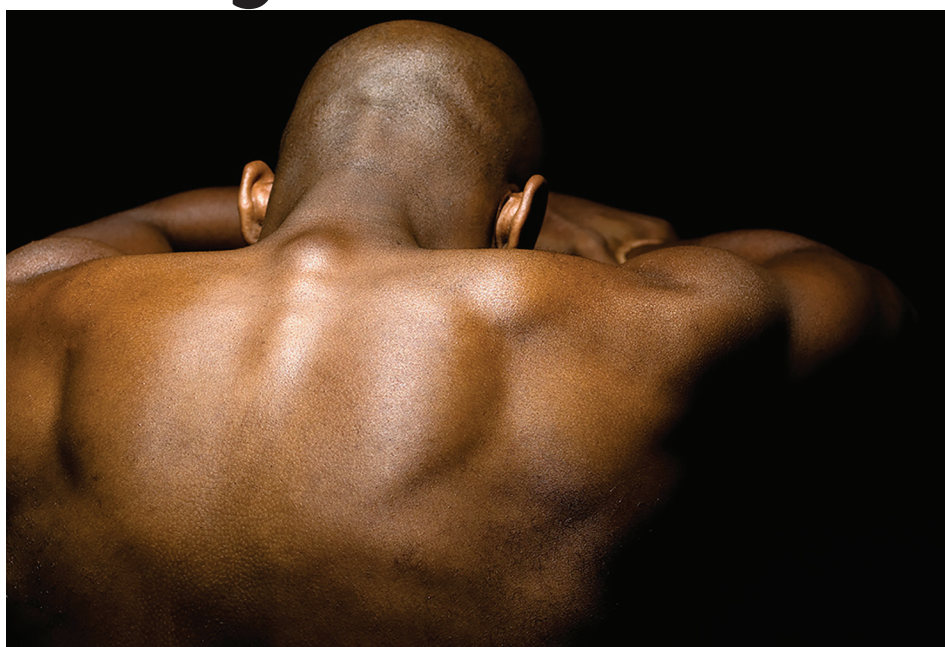
In August 2018, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) began a series on the transatlantic slave trade.

The series started in conjunction with the annual United Nations International Day of Remembrance. With the observance of the first African landing in America, some question whether it's the 400th or 500th anniversary.

Historians point out that the 400th anniversary is the 400th year of the Anglo-centric history of Africans in the Americas.

"Dating the history of Africans in North America to 400 years ago reinforces this narrative of English superiority," Greg Carr, the Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University, told Time.com.

"Remembering the Spanish and indigenous sides of the history is more important now than ever as the people are closing the



borders to those who are descendants from people who were here when you came," Carr said.

In his 2013 PBS documentary, "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross," Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., said slav-

ery was always an essential ingredient of the American experiment. Gates called slavery, "The supreme hypocrisy," and "capitalism gone berserk."

The first African to come to North America was a free man who accompanied Span-

ish explorers to Florida in 1513 – or 106 years before the 20 Africans who were kidnapped and brought to Point Comfort, Va., in 1619, Gates said.

"The father of our country was one of its largest slave owners," Gates said in the documentary. "Because of the profound disconnect between principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and the simultaneous practice of slavery, we've had historical amnesia about slavery," he said.

Indeed, the slave trade began in the 15th century, said Boniface Chidyausiku of Zimbabwe. It was driven by colonial expansion, emerging capitalist economies and the insatiable demand for commodities – with racism and discrimination serving to legitimize the trade, Chidyausiku said.

Chidyausiku, then the acting president of the United Nations General Assembly, made the remarks in 2007 during the UN's observance of the 200th anniversary of the end of the transatlantic slave trade.

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The Passing of Toni Morrison: A Loss for the Racial Justice Community As Well As the Literary World



By Marc H. Morial

(TriceEdneyWire.com) A few years after being awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, for a body of work known for centering the Black American experience, Toni Morrison was asked by a white reporter when she would "incorporate white lives" into her books "in a substantial way."

"You can't understand how powerfully racist that question is, can you?" she asked. "You could never ask a white author, 'When are you going to write about Black people?' Whether he did or not, or she did or not. Even the inquiry comes from a position of being in the center."

Morrison likened herself to a Russian author, writing in Russian, about Russia. "The fact that it gets translated and read by other people is a benefit, it's a plus. but he's

not obliged to ever consider writing about French people, or Americans, or anybody."

Morrison's death this week, at the age of 88, is a loss not only to the literary world, but to the cause of racial justice and civil rights. And it comes at a time when her unique voice is especially relevant.

Shortly after the election of Donald Trump in 2016, she published an essay entitled "Make America White Again," in which she argued that white America's loss of "the conviction of their natural superiority" had led to its debasement. The slaughter of unarmed men and women of color at the hands of police and racially-motivated mass murder, the bombing of Black churches - and white America's apparent tolerance for all of it -- she asserted, were part of the death knell of white superiority.

Continued on Page 5



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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

Standing Next to Each Other But Seeing the World Differently

Over the past several years, I have been asked on many occasions to provide workshops and trainings that deal with the topic of bias. It has become a fairly common subject to talk about these days, even though the topic makes some people uncomfortable and others down right agitated.

For those not familiar with the term bias, the definition that I like to use comes from the Department of Justice. Bias is a human trait resulting from our tendency and need to classify individuals into categories as we strive to quickly process information and make sense of the world.

What I spend a lot of time talking about when I'm doing my trainings is that our need to classify and categorize things, people, places, events, pretty much everything actually, is hard-wired into our DNA. It's a survival mechanism. And even the nicest and most well intentioned of us, including the "Spokane Nice" people that I encounter on a daily basis, can't avoid doing it.

The problem though is that we each see the world through a unique set of lenses. Lenses that are impacted by our race, ethnicity, gender, age, economic status, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, etc. (you get the point), and that unique set of lenses impacts the way that we classify and categorize the world around us.

What I explain, or try to anyway, is that two people can be standing side by side and see the exact same thing, but will experience it completely differently based on their individual combination of lenses.

I had the opportunity to watch this play itself out a couple of weeks ago and it was pretty interesting.

I was standing in line at the courthouse, there for the sentencing of a trial that I have been following for some time. There were a lot of people there so we had formed a line waiting to be let into the courtroom. I was standing next to a man that I did not know, but in chatting with him we had discovered that we were both there to support the same person. So were were friendly.

There were several other people in the line that I knew also and all of us were passing the time talking to each other about the trial and other things. One of the people that I was talking to was Kurtis Robinson, the Spokane NAACP President. It's important for me to note that Kurtis is one of the most



thoughtful and caring people that I have had the opportunity to meet. Always seeing the best in people and giving them the benefit of the doubt. In fact, I have told Kurtis that I think sometimes he gives people too much the benefit of the doubt.

When it came time for us to be let into the courtroom, a court employee notified us all that they would be confiscating all of our cell phones. A few of us chatted amongst ourselves that we thought that was odd and were wondering how they had the authority to do that. Kurtis mentioned to the employee that he was the NAACP President and asked her if there was an RCW (a law) that gave her the authority to take everybody's phone.

It was in that moment that I had the opportunity to see the activity that I do in my training play out right in front of me.

What I saw through my lenses (Black, woman, activist, etc) was Kurtis ask a question. But the guy standing next to me saw something completely different. Through his lenses (white, male, and maybe others that I was not aware of), he saw Kurtis become confrontational and disrespectful of the employee.

At the same time, a security guard, through his lenses (white, male, law enforcement, and others that I was not aware of) saw Kurtis causing a problem, so he stepped up to intervene, in a manner that through my lenses looked rather aggressive on his part.

The guy next to me became agitated when in response to asking me why Kurtis "had to do that", I mentioned to him that all I saw was Kurtis simply asking a question. He became increasingly agitated when he couldn't convince me to see things from his point of view.

Eventually, me and the guy next to me stopped speaking, the security guard backed down, we all went into the courtroom and I was left with a pretty vivid example for my next training.

It takes a lot of energy and awareness to be able to step outside of ourselves long enough to recognize that our view of the world is shaped by our own unique lenses, our biases, and the person standing next to us may be experiencing things completely differently. That doesn't necessarily make them bad or wrong, just different. If we could do a little more of it, just maybe, we could move beyond the polarization that our country seems to be so hopelessly trapped in right now.



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THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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2. Be trained in the Campaign's Principles, Demands, Organizing Methods, Direct Action Protocols, etc.
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WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2019, 10AM - 4PM
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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY by Bertoni Jones Bey

Susan McKinney Smith Steward

Susan Smith was born March 23, 1847 in Weeksville, Brooklyn, New York (now Crown Heights) to a tremendously wealthy family with her father making his fortune in the pork farming industry. As the seventh of ten children, Susan’s heritage was a mix of African, European and Shinnecock Native ancestry.

Growing up one of Brooklyn’s elite families exposed Susan to the finer things life had to offer, but Susan put herself to work for what was hers. She learned to play organ from the famed German organist John Zundel and put her talent to use playing for local Brooklyn churches, which she would continue for twenty-eight years. She taught organ and saved up money to finance college schooling on her own, despite her family’s wealth.

By 1867, only two short years after the abolishment of slavery with the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution (December 6, 1865), Susan began classes at the New York Medical College for Women. On March 23, 1870 as class valedictorian, Susan Smith became the first Moorish woman ever to receive a medical degree in the state of New York and only the third ever in the United States (Rebecca Lee 1864, and Rebecca Cole 1867). She completed her post-doctoral work at the Long Island Medical College Hospital in Brooklyn. During her schooling she became Dr. Susan McKinney marrying Reverend William G. McKinney and later bearing two children.

She immediately put her skills to work and by 1881 was a founder for the Brook-



lyn Women’s Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensary – later named the Memorial Hospital for Women and Children. She also worked and served concurrently as a board member for the Brooklyn Home for

Aged Colored People and New York Medical College and Hospital for Women in Manhattan from 1892-1896. Her training and experience led her to focus on prenatal care, childhood diseases, and malnutrition.

Her husband Reverend McKinney passed in 1892 and Susan remarried Reverend Theophilus Gould Steward an Army chaplain and minister. Life with Reverend Stewart took her away from Brooklyn to the West where first at Fort Missoula, Montana then Fort Niobrara, Nebraska she received medical licenses to aid people in those states for some years.

In 1898 Wilberforce University in Ohio recruited her as faculty and resident physician with an emphasis on teaching health and nutrition. Though she remained at Wilberforce for more than twenty-two years she gained outside prominence in missionary work and public speaking on issues of race, women’s rights, and women’s suffrage. In 1911 she was invited to speak at the first Universal Race Congress at the University of London in England – Her speech was called “Colored Women in America”.

After forty-eight years serving communities of all stripes in medicine, Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Steward passed away in Brooklyn on March 7, 1918. Her eulogy was given by W.E.B. DuBois and she was laid to rest at Brooklyn’s Greenwood Cemetery. Brooklyn Middle School #265 was named Susan Smith McKinney Junior High School in her honor.

Sources:
Black Heritage Day III – Jamiyo Mack;
nymc.edu/about-nymc/history/college-for-women/susan-smith-mckinney-steward; blackpast.org/african-american-history/steward-susan-mckinney-1847-1918.

Dr. Stanford Leigh Warren

Source: Blackpast.org; Contributed by: Khadija Brandon

Dr. Stanford Lee Warren, co-founder of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Mechanics and Farmers Bank in Durham, North Carolina, was born in Caswell County, North Carolina in 1863. His mother was Anne Warren, and his father was reputed to be tobacco tycoon Washington Duke.

Warren spent his young adult life working as a tobacco factory laborer in Durham to raise money for college. He enrolled in Kittrell College in Vance County, North Carolina and subsequently received the Doctor of Medicine degree from Shaw University’s Leonard Medical School in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In 1898, Dr. Warren worked alongside prominent Black physician, Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore, businessman John Merrick, and others to establish the North Carolina Mutual Life and Provident Association, a life insurance company. North Carolina Mutual eventually became the largest Black-owned business in the United States and remained so during much of the 20th Century.

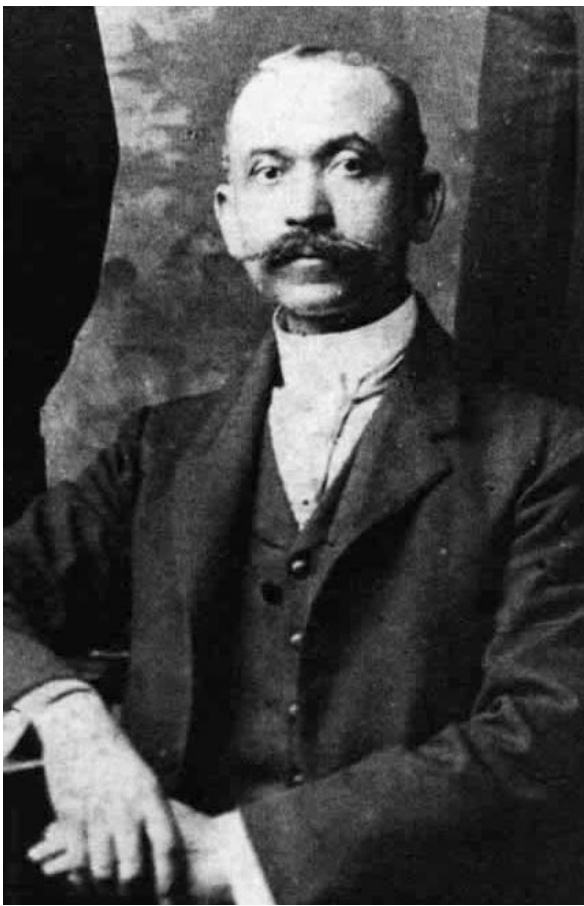
In 1901, Warren, Moore and Merrick, persuaded Washington Duke to fund the construction of Lincoln Hospital for African Americans in Durham. After Dr. Moore’s death in 1919, Warren served as the Chairman of the Lincoln Hospital Board of Trustees. Under Warren’s leadership, Lincoln Hospital moved to a modern building, established physician training programs, built a strong relationship with the Duke

University School of Medicine, and began receiving an annual donation from the Duke Endowment.

Recognizing that the Black citizens of Durham needed their own bank, in 1908 Warren again worked with Merrick, Moore, and other Black leaders to establish Mechanics and Farmers Bank. In addition to serving as a savings bank, Mechanics and Farmers Bank provided loans to members of the Black community for homes and businesses that they had difficulty getting at white-owned banks. Mechanics and Farmers Bank remains in operation today.

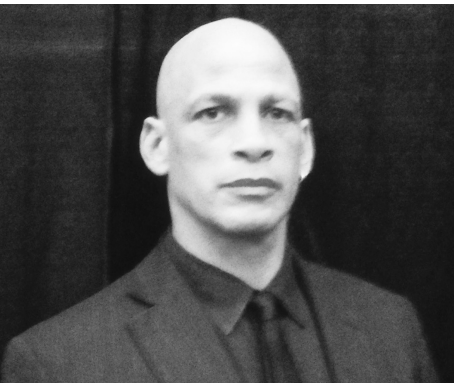
Warren was also instrumental in promoting literacy in the African American community through his work with the Durham Colored Library Incorporated. The library was the brainchild of Dr. Aaron M. Moore and had its beginning in the White Rock Baptist Church basement in 1913. The meager library grew and by the 1930s it was outgrowing the confines of its second location on Pettigrew Street. Warren donated the equivalent of \$70,000 in 2019 dollars to purchase the land for a modern library. The new library opened on January 17, 1940, only fourteen days before Warren’s death on January 31, 1940 in Durham. Renamed in his honor, the Stanford L. Warren Library serves as a continuous reminder of the efforts of Warren to uplift the Durham community.

Dr. Warren married Julia McCauley on December 28, 1904. They had one daughter, Selena Warren Wheeler, who would later become the director of Stanford L. Warren Library in 1932.



Source: P. Preston Reynolds. Durham’s Lincoln Hospital (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2001); Andre Vann and Beverly Washington Jones. Durham’s Hayti (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 1998).

NAACP UPDATE:



By Kurtis Robinson
President, Spokane NAACP Branch #1137

Hello again Spokane Family,

Your Spokane NAACP has been actively involved with important activities over the past month, including representing the community on the Criminal Justice Task Force, addressing the issues of Legal Financial Obligations and Health Care for communities of color, facilitating Implicit Bias trainings and Why Race Matters workshops, attending The Black Prisoners Caucus meetings at Airway Heights Correctional Center, and so much more.

And yet it has been obvious through media coverage that several issues have arisen over the past few months that have involved Representative McMorris Rodgers, The Spokane County Sheriff's Dept., the Spokane Police Department, Representative Matt Shea and the Spokane Valley City Council.

Your Spokane NAACP has been very intentional and determined to not only address these issues as they arise and engage in needed conversations, but we have been fierce in addressing policies and personal behaviors from a restorative yet accountable perspective. We are of a mind set that with authority comes more responsibility and accountability, not less! That our Representatives in all of these arenas need to represent the best of all of our principles instead of the worst of themselves!

We applaud the unified response from the Police Guild, The Mayor's office, Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich and SPD Chief Meidl, along with many Spokane City Council members and many of our local and state representatives, including Marcus Riccelli,

who have made it a point to not only hear our concerns (Marcus joined us at our August general meeting) but to also stand in solidarity on the principle of our call out concerning representative Matt Shea.

An important event coming up soon is the listening session for police accountability on independent investigations for the Criminal Justice Training Commission of Washington State. It will be held at West Central Community Center. This is our opportunity to make sure that they understand what we as community expect in service and accountability from our Washington State Law Enforcement community.

To stay informed on these events and much more, so that you can be involved in the important work that we are doing, I invite you to become a branch #1137 supporting member, update your membership, join our listserv, look us up on our Facebook page or connect with us online at SpokaneNAACP.com.

Moving forward together,
Kurtis Robinson,
Spokane NAACP Branch # 1137 President

REMINDER

Our NAACP Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference, Michael P. Anderson Awards Ceremony & 100 Year Celebration which will be featuring Danny Glover, Nina Turner, and Sandy Williams is only a few weeks away!

Make sure to register in advance. There will be no tickets at the door!

For more information or to register, visit naacpaowsac.org.

The Passing of Toni Morrison

Continued From Page 1

"If it weren't so ignorant and pitiful, one could mourn this collapse of dignity in service to an evil cause," she wrote. It is telling that what the interviewer noticed most about Morrison's work was the absence of white characters; white privilege can be like air or light, notable only when it is absent. And according to Morrison, white voters were beginning to feel it ebb away.

"Toni Morrison" may have been as much a creation as her novels; she said she regretted using the nickname, derived from her chosen confirmation name, Anthony, and always thought of as Chloe, her given name. She grew up in the integrated town of Lorain, Ohio, and was disillusioned by what she saw as rampant colorism when she arrived at Howard University in 1949. Unlike classmates who had grown up in the south, she experienced legal segregation for the first time in Washington, D.C., but could not believe it was real.

"I think it's a theatrical thing," she told the New York Times. "I always felt that ev-

erything else was the theater. They didn't really mean that. How could they? It was too stupid."

When Morrison won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993, it had been more than 30 years since an American-born author had won, but her status as the first Black woman honored overshadowed her Americanness.

And while she had complained that her work was more likely to be taught in women's studies or African-American studies classes than in English classes, she hoped her work "fit first into African-American traditions and, second of all, this whole thing called literature."

Today, even high-school students across the country are familiar with her work, reading her alongside Nathaniel Hawthorne and Mark Twain. She has staked out the African-American experience as part of the broader American experience.

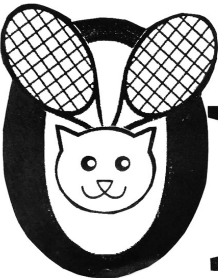
As politicians seek to divide us and racial violence swirls around us, it is this lesson – that Black America is America, that we must keep firmly in our hearts.

"Oppressive language does more than represent violence; it is violence; does more than represent the limits of knowledge; it limits knowledge."

Whether it is obscuring state language or the faux-language of mindless media; whether it is the proud but calcified language of the academy or the commodity driven language of science; whether it is the malign language of law-without-ethics, or language designed for the estrangement of minorities, hiding its racist plunder in its literary cheek – it must be rejected, altered and exposed."

It is the language that drinks blood, laps vulnerabilities, tucks its fascist boots under crinolines of respectability and patriotism as it moves relentlessly toward the bottom line and the bottomed-out mind."

- Toni Morrison, Nobel Lecture, 1993



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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Cyntoia Brown Released From Prison After 15 Years

(Source: Rachel Herron, BET.com/news; Photo Credit: NBC News)

Cyntoia Brown, the woman who served 15 years of a life sentence for killing a man who solicited her for sex while she was 16, was released from prison on August 7, 2019, the Tennessee Department of Corrections announced. Brown, 31, was released from the Tennessee Prison for Women.

In 2006, Brown was convicted of killing 43-year-old real estate agent Johnny Allen. Although investigators initially claimed Brown shot Allen during an attempted robbery, she always maintained her innocence and said she shot him out of fear.

Brown, who was given up for adoption by her biological mother, Georgina Mitchell, when she was two years old, said she was raped several times as a child and forced into sex trafficking after running away from home. She said a pimp called "Cut Throat" forced her into prostitution and verbally and physically abused her.



At trial, Brown's attorneys said she was the victim of sex trafficking and argued she lacked the mental capacity to be culpable in Allen's slaying due to mental impairments she suffered when her mother drank alcohol while pregnant.

Brown was tried as an adult and sentenced to life in prison. She served over a decade before celebrities including

Kim Kardashian and Rihanna, rapper T.I., and LeBron James demanded she be released.

What brought attention to Cyntoia's situation was a documentary called *Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story*, directed by Daniel Birman. The documentary begins the week of Cyntoia's arrest at age 16 and follows her through her conviction nearly six years later.

In November 2012, in response to seeing the documentary, which aired on PBS and on the BBC, Charles Bone, a Nashville attorney, decided to join Brown's attorneys on the case. They argued for a new trial.

In January 2019, then-Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted Cyntoia clemency, saying her sentence was too harsh for the crime.

"I thank Governor and First Lady Haslam for their vote of confidence in me and with the Lord's help I will make them, as well as the rest of my supporters, proud," Brown said in a statement.

Brown will remain on parole supervision on the condition she does not violate any state or federal laws, holds a job, and participates in regular counseling sessions, per her commutation.

She has also met with counselors to help strategize a post-prison life plan. She will likely spend time in a transition center and continue her coursework with the Lipscomb University program, Tennessee's Department of Corrections confirmed.

Netflix acquired the rights to Cyntoia Brown's life story and a feature film is in the works with Daniel Birman directing. A GoFundMe campaign was launched to help Brown get started with her new life. The account has currently raised over \$30,000.

Simone Manuel Becomes 1st Woman to Win Seven Medals in Single World Championships



(Source: Torrey Hart, <https://swimswam.com>; Photo Credit: Quinn Rooney/Getty Images)

In July, Simon Manuel, the first Black woman to win an Olympic gold medal in swimming, became the first American woman in history to sweep the 50 and 100 free at a World Championships. She also anchored the winning women's 4x100 medley relay, bringing her total to four gold and three silver medals throughout the week long competition, making Manuel the first woman to win seven medals in single world championships.

In addition to the free sprint wins and women's 4x100 medley relay, Manuel was also on the winning mixed 4x100 medley relay, and then took silver on the women's 4x200 free relay, 4x100 free relay, and mixed 4x100 free relay.

Manuel now ties Missy Franklin in medal count (16). American Natalie Coughlin and Sweden's Sarah Sjöström are ahead of her in overall count with 20 and 17, respectively.

Criminal Case Dismissed Against BLM Leader



(Source: City News Service, Los Angeles Sentinel, blackpressusa.com)

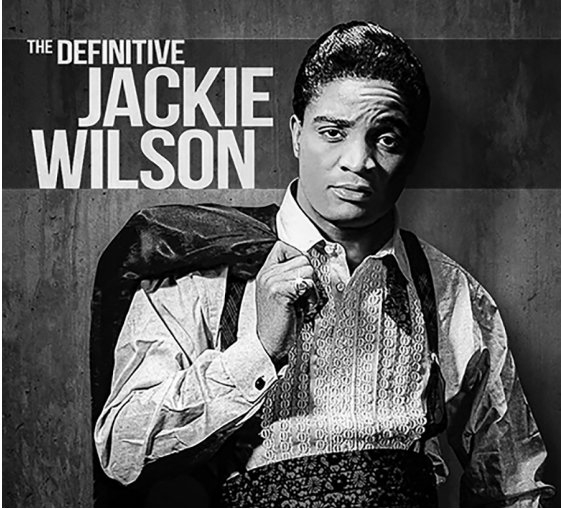
All criminal charges have been dismissed against a prominent Los Angeles Black Lives Matter leader arrested after a raucous Los Angeles Police Commission meeting last year, her attorney announced.

City prosecutors said in February that they had agreed to drop the case in six months if Melina Abdullah, a Cal State Los Angeles professor and Black Lives Matter organizer, adhered to guidelines aimed at preventing her from disrupting Los Angeles Police Commission meetings. The guidelines included exiting and not returning to the meeting if she was found to be disrupting the proceedings and ordered to leave.

Abdullah was arrested at a Police Commission meeting on May 8, 2018, along with another woman, Sheila Brim, whom authorities said threw a powdery substance at then-Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck. Brim's niece, Wakiesha Wilson, died in police custody in 2016, and Brim suggested at the meeting that the powder was Wilson's ashes. Brim reached a separate agreement with prosecutors.

Abdullah was charged with misdemeanor battery on a police officer stemming from the commission meeting, but also was charged with seven other counts including interfering or obstructing a public business establishment and interfering with the lawful business of the Police Commission — the majority involving alleged crimes in July and August 2017. Abdullah's attorney intends to file a federal civil rights lawsuit on her behalf.

Late Jackie Wilson Receives Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame & Album to be Released



(Source: <https://www.blacknews.com>)

More than 35 years after his death, Jackie Wilson, considered one of the greatest soul singers of all-time and a second-year inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is getting some overdue recognition. On September 4, 2019, Robing, known in the music business as "Mr. Excitement", will be recognized with a star on Hollywood's fabled Walk of Fame.

Harlean Harris Wilson, 81, Jackie Wilson's widow, was scheduled to make the acceptance speech at the presentation of a Star for her late husband, but she passed away unexpectedly last month. In her place their son John Wilson will accept the award for his father. Speakers and guests set for the ceremony include Berry Gordy, Smokey Robinson, Marshall Thompson of the Chi-Lites, and Jackie's Goddaughter Jody Watley will be among those attending.

"The Definitive Jackie Wilson," 50 remastered songs that will be available on Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora, and all other major digital platforms. For more information visit: www.JackieWilsonMusic.com.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

African American Heritage Association Enters First African American Float In Seattle's Seafair Torchlight Parade Since 1981

(Reprinted from the Seattle Medium, seattlemedium.com)

On July 27, the Martin Luther King Commemoration Committee's (MLKCC) and the African American Heritage Association (AAHA) made history as they entered a float in the Seafair Torchlight Parade representing the local African American community for the first time since 1981.

The float — organized by Martin Luther King Commemoration Committee's (MLKCC), the African American Heritage Association (AAHA), the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS), the Buffalo Soldiers of Seattle, and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Brotherhood — highlighted the culture and professional service of Seattle's African American community as part of the city of Seattle's diverse landscape.

Standing 13 ft high, 12ft wide, and 33ft long, the float featured many prominent members of the local African American Community.

"Our goal was to display the Black community as fully vested Americans that have made great contributions to the success of America and its cultural narrative," said Hayward Evans, one of the float organizers.



Participants Riding on the Float:
The Buffalo Soldiers and local Black Veterans

King – **Lacy Steele** was President Emeritus, and past Chapter President of the ML King County NAACP. Steele served as President for 26 years until 1999. He worked at Boeing for 38 years and was the 1st African American manager in the aerospace division.

Queen – **Carolyn Riley-Payne** is a life-long Civil Rights Activists. She is 1stVP of the Seattle King County NAACP where she served over 30+ years as the chair of the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO).

Princess – **Sophia Mile** is the 2018/2019 Miss Black Washington, USA Queen. Her focus during her reign is breast cancer awareness. Miles, who is fluent in English and Spanish, attends the University of Washington Foster School of Business where she is studying international business.

Prince – **Darnell French** is an IT Network Professional at Starbuck's HQ. French has an Associate of Arts and Applied Sciences degree in Networking Services and Computing Systems and has studied abroad in Japan.

Male Youth Participant– **Patton Barnes** is entering the 4th grade at Leschi Elementary School and is on the Student Equity Team. He is also a professional actor appearing in Porky and Bess at the Seattle Opera.

Female Youth Participant– **Tahlia Price** is entering the 6th grade at Meany Middle School. She was a member of the Student Equity Team, Choir and on the Student Honor Role at Leschi Elementary School. Price is a gymnast who is studying dance at Alvin Haley Dance Camp.

Honorary Queen (not on the float but recognized) – **Mrs. Josephine Stokes** graduated from Clark College, in Atlanta, Ga. in 1947 with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics and received her teaching credentials from the University of Washington. Recognized for 35 years of distinguished service as elementary teacher, librarian, reading specialist and acting principal for Seattle Public Schools. She is a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the National Council of Negro Women.

Music– **Michael Powers** is an Award winning, internationally renowned and NW Favorite Guitarist, who plays Funk, Gospel, Soul, Blues, Latin and Soul tinged Jazz.

Wells Fargo Announces \$1 Billion Affordable Housing Commitment



(Source: Source: Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia)

Candy Moore, the senior vice president and manager of Wells Fargo's Community Relations and Southeast Community Development, told NNPA Newswire that the company will invest \$1 billion over the next five years from its business and foundation to help make housing more affordable.

"We will address three key issues in underserved communities that have been plagued by the lack of affordable housing – housing affordability, financial health and small business growth," said Moore.

The \$1 billion pledge is part of a larger effort for the bank to overhaul its philanthropic strategy, Moore said. As part of their commitment, Wells Fargo aims to donate two percent of its after-tax profits to corporate philanthropy concentrating on housing affordability, small business growth and financial health, she said.

During a June presentation to the NNPA's member publishers, Moore shared a video that underscored the importance of Wells Fargo's new initiative and why it's vital to people of color and others in underserved communities. The video presentation highlighted the Parkway Overlook Apartments in Washington, D.C. whose residents were unexpectedly forced to relocate when the development

closed in 2008. As a result of the efforts of two former residents who fought hard for the community, working together with Wells Fargo and the District of Columbia, the apartments are being redeveloped a decade later.

After a 10-year process to secure approval and funding to rebuild the community, the renovations to Parkway Overlook are currently underway, and construction is expected to be completed this year, providing 220 apartments of affordable housing for families in Ward 8, which is considered one of DC's poorest areas.

While Jenkins and former resident and fellow Parkway Overlook Tenants Association member Cynthia Eaglin are happy about the redevelopment, it's been a long journey, they said in the video. The two have worked with Washington Interfaith Network – or WIN, a grassroots organization that brings citizens and residents together to develop solutions for communities — in this case, coming up with a strategy, bringing former residents together, and meeting with local leaders, according to the video.

The biggest hurdle, though, was getting funding to redevelop Parkway Overlook, said Jennifer Knox, lead organizer for WIN. In 2014, Mayor Muriel Bowser, then chairwoman of the city council's Committee on Economic Development, brokered a deal with the D.C. Housing Finance Agency and District of Columbia Housing Authority to take control of the property and finish the renovations, said Merrick Malone, director of the Office of Capital Programs for the District of Columbia Housing Authority.

Ultimately, Wells Fargo provided the construction loan and equity for the project development, D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development provided \$20.1 million in financing toward the project, and the D.C. Housing Finance Agency provided bond financing in the amount of about \$38 million and low-income housing tax credits.

To learn more about the Wells Fargo initiative and the Parkway Overlook project visit: <https://stories.wf.com/two-women-fought-save-former-home>.

Taylor Dumpson Awarded over \$700K in Suit Against Neo-Nazi Website Founder



(Source: <https://goodblacknews.org/2019>)

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that white supremacists who used social media to threaten and harass Taylor Dumpson, the first African American female student body president of American University in Washington D.C., were liable for over \$700,000 in damages and attorneys' fees.

In 2017, Taylor Dumpson was elected as American University's student body president. The day after she was inaugurated, a hate crime targeted her on the basis of her race and gender. A masked person hung nooses around campus with bananas tied to them. Some bananas had "AKA" written on them – referencing Plaintiff's historically black sorority.

In addition to granting damages and a restraining order, the Court's opinion is one of the first decisions to hold that online trolling can constitute interference with the equal enjoyment of public accommodations.

This case is part of the Lawyers' Committee's ongoing efforts to combat the increasing prevalence of hate crimes across the country. If you or someone you know has been targeted by hate, reach out to the Stop Hate Project for legal resources and other forms of support at 1-844-9-NO-HATE (1-844-966-4283) or visit the website for more information at www.8449nohate.org.

AFRICA NEWS

News Highlights From and About the Continent of Africa

Nigeria Restores the Study of History in Public School After a Decade

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) - The government of Muhammadu Buhari is bringing back the teaching of history in all basic and secondary schools – ending a decade in which departments of history were dismantled or merged into other programs as having little earnings potential for the high school graduate.

In a release signed by Sonny Echono, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, all basic and secondary schools in Nigeria immediately were to implement this policy from the next academic calendar. The reversal elicited a gale of questions. Why would Nigeria make such a questionable move, erasing a subject that is the superstructure of a country's social existence, from her school curriculum? What was the cost to taxpayers over the years?

The Federal Government officially expunged history from its basic school curriculum in 2007 and relegated it as an elective, instead of a core subject at senior secondary level, thus widening a generational gap on students' mental development.



"We must not rest on our oars until we find out what, borrowing from the Yoruba proverbial world, the government saw inside this pot of soup that made it recoil its fingers so atrociously?" asked Festus Adedayo, a journalist based in Ibadan, Nigeria.

At the same time, the Osun State government of then Governor Bisi Akande "magisterially announced the removal of

subjects like History, Social Studies, Government and the like from the curriculum of schools, basing this decision on what he called their barrenness as tools for societal growth and the fact that graduates of these courses had hiked the army of unemployed in society," recalled Adedayo.

He continued: "So many issues have been made of the fact that a people without the knowledge of their history, as propounded

by Jamaican-born Back to Africa movement advocate, Marcus Garvey, are like a tree without roots.

"Whoever was at the driver's seat of that decision should be charged for treason," insisted Adedayo." He is responsible for the surge in criminal activities, soaring absence of nationalistic spirit among young Nigerians, worsening social vices and complete flight of values that has gripped Nigeria in the last decade or so."

"Once a young man is speeding on the lane of wealth acquisition, those who have a sense of history will cite an ancient or recent example, of someone who trod same ruinous route and met their Waterloo. The one who scampers after the ephemeral lust for wine, women, weed and power is dissuaded, through the narrative of the life of a similar character in time of yore who was escorted to his early grave by his penchant to satisfy and deify the gluttony of flesh."

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.

New Ebola Drugs Show Exciting Promise with 90 Percent Cure Rate



(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) -Two experimental treatments are raising hopes among medical personnel that a cure for the deadly virus Ebola has been found. The antibody-based treatments will now be offered to all patients in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, announced the finding together with Dr. Jean-Jacques Muyembe, director of Congo's National Institute for Biomedical Research and Dr. Michael J. Ryan, director of emergency response for the World Health Organization.

Psychologically, Dr. Muyembe said, news of a cure could change the course of this outbreak, which is the worst of the 10 that Congo has endured. After years of war and genocide, residents of eastern Congo are deeply distrustful of the government in the capital, Kinshasa. Rumors have spread that Ebola does not exist, or that treatment teams steal blood and body parts for witchcraft. Treatment centers have been shot up or burned down.

The new experimental treatments, known as REGN-EB3 and mAb-114, are both cocktails of monoclonal antibodies that are infused intravenously into the blood. The drugs are most effective when used as treatments for patients with low levels of Ebola in the bloodstream, according to the peer-reviewed journal Nature. Both drugs are U.S. made. REGN-EB3 is made by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals of Tarrytown, N.Y. Dr. Fauci's institute, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, developed mAb114 and licensed production last year to Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, a Miami company.

"Now we can say that 90 percent can come out of treatment cured, they will start believing it and developing trust," Dr. Muyembe said. "The first ones to transmit this information will be the patients themselves."

Ethiopians plant more than 350 million tree seedlings in one day to fight climate change



(Source: Justin Wise, <https://thehill.com>; Photo Credit: Office of Prime Minister of Ethiopia)

Individuals in Ethiopia planted more than 350 million trees in July as part of an effort to combat the consequences of deforestation and climate change. Getahun Mekuria, the minister for innovation and technology, said on Twitter that the nation had planted 353 million trees in the span of 12 hours.

The campaign, which is aiming to plant about 4 billion trees in total, is being led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The initiative is encouraging citizens to plant at least 40 seedlings this summer, The Guardian reported. The effort is part of a greater campaign to combat the effects of climate change on a nation prone to droughts.

About 4 percent of the country was covered by forests in the early part of the 21st century, but the United Nations has said that Ethiopia's forest coverage declined by about 30 percent from the early 20th century to the early 2000s, The Guardian reported.

The 353 million trees being planted in a single day represents a world record, The Guardian reported. The previous record occurred in 2016, when volunteers in India planted 50 million trees in one day. Staff from the United Nations, African Union and foreign embassies in Ethiopia took part in the tree-planting effort.

"This truly impressive feat is not just the simple planting of trees, but part of a huge and complicated challenge to take account of the short- and long-term needs of both the trees and the people," Dr. Dan Ridley-Ellis, the head of the center for wood science and technology at Edinburgh Napier University, told The Guardian.

New Report Says Economic Inequality in Africa Extreme



(Source: TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN)

"Inequality has reached extreme levels in West Africa, and today the wealthiest 1 per cent of West Africans own more than everyone else in the region combined."

That was the finding in a new report published by Oxfam and Development Finance International. According to the "West Africa Inequality Crisis" report, six of the ten fastest-growing economies in Africa were in West Africa, with Ivory Coast, Ghana and Senegal among the world's 10 fastest-growing economies.

"In most countries the benefits of this unprecedented economic growth have gone to a tiny few," the report said. The report said the vast majority of West Africans were "denied the most essential elements of a dignified life, such as quality education, healthcare and decent jobs".

While West Africa suffers the most inequalities on the continent, many governments prefer to ignore problems despite economic growth, the report said. In Nigeria, for example, the wealth of the five richest Nigerian men combined stands at US\$29.9 billion - more than the country's entire budget in 2017, the report said.

Rather than tackle inequality, some of the region's governments were underfunding public services, such as health and education, and failing to tackle corruption, Oxfam's regional director Adama Coulibaly said.

The report called on governments to do more to promote progressive taxation, boost social spending, strengthen labor market protection, invest in agriculture and strengthen land rights for smallholders.

The report said that not all governments were tackling inequality the same way. Cape Verde, Mauritania and Senegal were among the most committed to reducing inequalities, while Nigeria, Niger and Sierra Leone were among the least.



Avista’s Energy Assistance Day is coming soon.

Phone lines open September 9th at 9 a.m.

Be sure to reserve your space for Avista’s Energy Assistance Day on October 1st and 2nd. This event is conducted in partnership with SNAP. But hurry, appointments are limited to 700 per day. Please reference the chart below to see if you qualify. Phone lines will be open September 9th through 20th, or until all spots are filled.

Call 509-495-1470.

Income Eligibility

Persons in Household	Monthly Income Qualification	Monthly Income Qualification
	Avista LIRAP Heat	Avista Senior/ Disabled Outreach*
1	\$1,561	\$2,082
2	\$2,114	\$2,818
3	\$2,666	\$3,555
4	\$3,219	\$4,292
5	\$3,771	\$5,028
6	\$4,324	\$5,765
7	\$4,876	\$6,502
8	\$5,429	\$7,238

*Senior are those 60 years and older and disability is verified by disability income.



Black Prisoners Caucus Family & Community Summit

LIBERATION THROUGH COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

PURPOSE: A gathering of those impacted by incarceration to address the ways we can support, lift, and heal one another.

Attendees will receive Information about prisoner's rights, legislation, LFOs, housing, drivers relicensing and support networks available to them on the east side of Washington state.

DATE AND LOCATION

Saturday, September 28th 2019

10am to 2pm

Carl Maxey Center (3116 E 5th Ave, Spokane WA)

RSVP by September 25th to Duaawilliams@hotmail.com

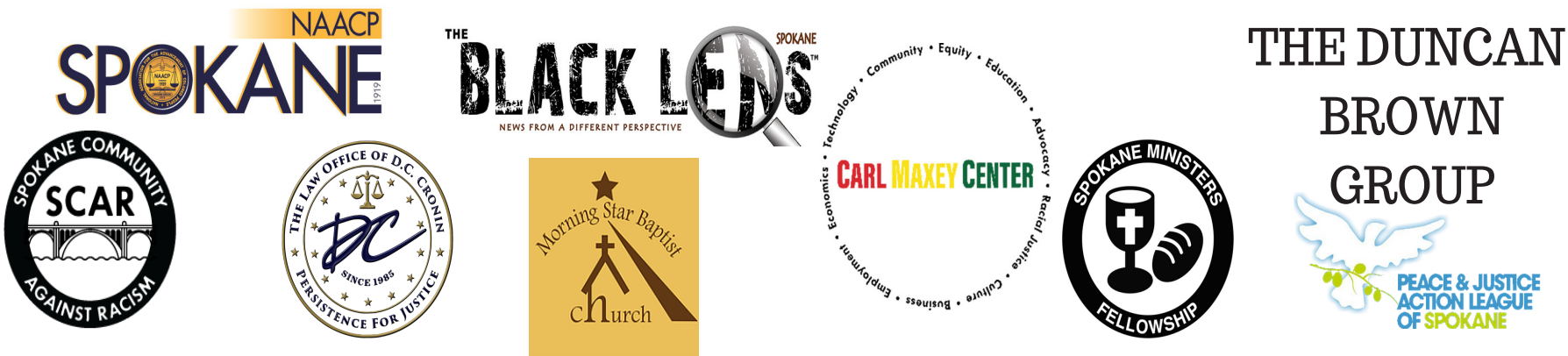
ABOUT BPC

Our purpose is to provide a medium for Black prisoners to work collectively to improve our family relationships, our facility, and the communities that we are absent from but still belong to. For more information please visit

<http://www.blackprisonerscaucus.org>



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Spokane's Chkn-N-Mo Nominated by Spokane Culinary Arts Guild for Best Southern Style Food

The Spokane Culinary Arts Guild is hosting its second-annual Awards Gala on March 8, 2020 at the Davenport Hotel's Grand Pennington Ballroom to honor and celebrate excellence in the local hospitality industry.

To make their selections, the Guild reviews hundreds of local restaurants (spending money at local establishments!) to discover the very best that the Inland Northwest has to offer.

This year, our very own Chkn-N-Mo was nominated in the Southern Style Food category. The winners in each category will be recognized at the awards gala.

According to their website, the Spokane Culinary Arts Guild is a "dynamic group of food bloggers, influencers, chefs and industry professionals that believes that eating local changes the economy for the better." They work together "to shine a light on exceptional work in our region and beyond so that local dollars can stay local." Their mission is to connect our local food community through supporting and celebrating the culinary arts.

Chkn-N-Mo, owned and operated by Bob Hemphill and located on west Sprague Avenue in downtown Spokane, is listed in the Best Of The Northwest. It is recognized as a down home place that serves up southern style fried chicken, moist and meaty pork spare ribs and farm-raised catfish from Alabama. Visit Chkn-N-Mo at <http://chicken-n-more.com>.

For more information about the Spokane Culinary Arts Guild or the Awards Gala, visit <https://www.spokaneculinaryartsguild.com>.



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Charlie Pride signing a Martin guitar – photo by Craig Mellish

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2019 Eastside Community Celebration

August 10, 2019 - Underhill Park, Spokane, WA

The 2019 Eastside Community Celebration, sponsored by the Spokane Eastside Reunion Association (SERA) and the East Central Neighborhood Council (ECNC), was held on August 10 from 10am - 4pm at Underhill Park. The park was crowded from start to finish with families enjoying the fun and with local service providers sharing information about their services. Festivities included a free throw contest, cake walk, egg & spoon race, gunny sack race, 3 point shooting contest, watermelon eating contest and a dance off. Several bicycles were raffled off to lucky winner and awards were presented to youth who participated in SERA's summer basketball camp.



For more information about the Eastside Community Celebration visit: spokaneeastsidereunionassociation.com

Math Skills and Black Culture Come Together at CBAC

By Imani Sumbi

(*BlackPressUSA.com*) - Like many parents, Pastor James Thomas of the Living Word Community Church, and his wife, Mona, aimed to place their children in a private school with the expectation that they would receive an exceptional education, and have the best chance possible of thriving in college. But once their children were enrolled in a private school, the Thomases were deeply disappointed to see how the Black students were treated.

“We had no idea that in the minds of the folks in the Valley, and in this particular private school that we were involved in, that it was like the ‘60s almost,” Pastor Thomas says. “[There was] a lot of racism [and] a lot of stereotyping.”

Even their own children, who were all excellent students, were not immune to the underlying prejudice. Pastor Thomas got on the board of the school in an attempt to exact change, but found his voice was not being heard.

Eventually, the Thomases concluded that the culture of the private school system was not conducive to the success of Black children, and many Black children were simply tolerating the prejudice for fear that they would get in trouble if they spoke up.

If they wanted to give these children the attention and care they deserved, they would have to take it into their own hands. So, with the help of their church, the Thomases launched their own educational program, which would later become the Culturally Based Algebra Camp (CBAC).

“We started this because we felt like, even though Black folks are moving to the Valley hoping to get a better education, these people are treating us as if we don’t even deserve respect or dignity,” says Mr. Thomas.

When the Thomases first got the idea to start an after-school educational program, it was not actually a math camp at all. It started as a weekly Saturday morning tutoring session for students attending public and charter schools in the San Fernando Valley. The prevailing sentiment among those who attended was that they did not enjoy school, and they especially dreaded math classes.

Realizing that these children needed much more support and encouragement than could be provided in a weekly study group, the Thomases transformed these sessions into an Algebra-focused camp. Now, it runs five days a week, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., for six weeks each summer at CHAMPS Charter High School of the Arts in Van Nuys. The camp serves the first through the 12th grades, which are divided into five classrooms. Third graders are the only children who get their own classroom apart from any other grades, and for good reason.

“Usually, Black students, especially Black boys, are excelling in school until they get to grade three,” says Mr. Thomas. “At grade three, they begin to decline. And so, we decided to separate them out and work specifically with them so that wouldn’t happen.”

While the camp's main objective is to prepare students to do well in Algebra 1 and



more advanced math levels, it is anything but a typical summer program. As its name implies, the Culturally Based Algebra Camp prides itself on contextualizing lessons within the historical origins of mathematics and specifically its connection to Africa.

“Our motto is, you’ve got to be able to do math because you invented it,” says Pastor Thomas. “And so, what these students find out is not only did we invent math, but just about everything else. And so, most of what the world celebrates started with us. We show them that.”

In addition to being a pastor, Mr. Thomas is also a professor of Pan-African studies at Cal State LA. He says he repeats many of the same lectures he would give to his college students to the children at CBAC. Each morning, when the first students begin to arrive, he talks to them about a variety of topics including cultural appropriation, HBCUs, Black Greek letter organizations, post-traumatic slave syndrome, reparations, medical apartheid and slave religious customs.

"I don't dumb it down for them," he says. "Some of it is over their heads, and that's fine."

What is important, he says, is that these children are exposed to their culture and

history from a young age so that they can feel proud of their heritage and assured of their abilities to excel academically — something many of the campers truly seem to take to heart.

“I’m learning about how Black people have invented many things and knowing that my culture is a pretty smart culture and they have done a lot of things for this world,” says Donovan, a 14-year-old student. “So, it’s nice to know that, and nice to see that I come from a culture with rich history.”

However, the cultural discussions at CBAC are not solely focused on the past. The camp is also a safe space for students to air their thoughts about the current political and racial climate.

“The year that Trayvon Martin was killed, we wanted to know how the kids were feeling about that,” says Mrs. Thomas. “So, there was a whole discussion about that, just so that the kids could have clear perspective and have an opportunity to voice whatever it was that they felt about that.”

The Thomases say the enthusiasm that CBAC students show in dedicating themselves to showing up each day and practicing their math skills is truly stunning.

Continued on Page 17

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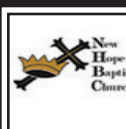
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UNSUNG HEROES

Spokane Home of Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Jack D. Holsclaw Dedicated

During an afternoon ceremony on July 29, the Jonas Babcock chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) honored a local Spokane hero, Lt. Col. Jack D. Holsclaw, by dedicating a special marker in front of his childhood home at 2301 W College Avenue in the West Central neighborhood of Spokane, WA. Rae Anna Victor, the Regent for the Jonas Babcock Chapter conducted the ceremony. David & Charlotte Bray, the current owners of the home, graciously agreed to have the marker placed on their property and participated in the ceremony. Also honored during the ceremony were Tonie Reiboldt of Stripe Rite, who created the beautiful metal marker and Mike Meyer who placed the sign in the yard.

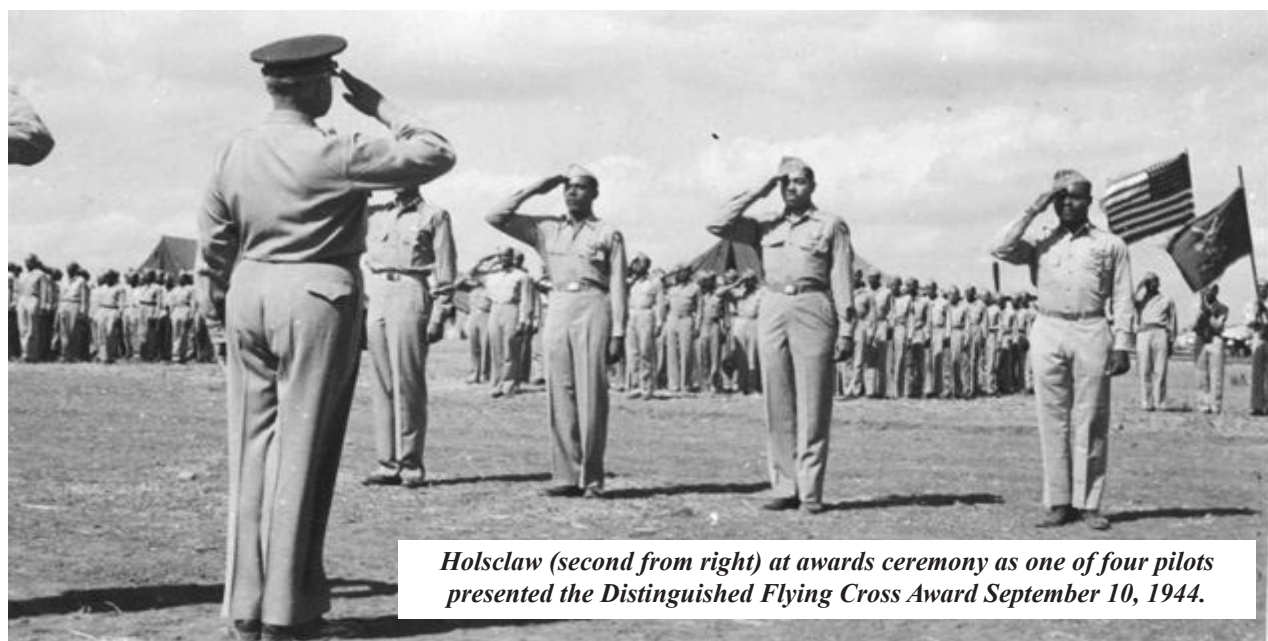
Jack D. Holsclaw was born in Spokane, Washington, on March 21, 1918. His father, Charles was a clerk in a downtown store, and his mother Nell was a teacher. Jack was an achiever even as a young boy. When he was 15 years old, he became the first Black person in Spokane to earn the Eagle Scout badge. He attended North Central High School, where he excelled both academically and in sports.

Holsclaw began his college career at Whitworth, but transferred to Washington State College to play baseball under Coach Arthur "Buck" Bailey. He began playing in his junior year. He played centerfield as he had a very a good throwing arm. Holsclaw contributed to the Cougars team with an outstanding season, finishing as co-champions of the Northern Division, Pacific Coast Conference. He was the second Black to earn a varsity letter in baseball.

He transferred to a chiropractic program at Western States College in Portland, Oregon, where he met Bernice Williams, who would become his wife. He completed the chiropractic program in 1942 and passed the Oregon state board examination. While there, Holsclaw enrolled in a government sponsored Civilian Pilot Training Program at Multnomah College and earned his pilot's license. On October 5, 1942, he enlisted in the army as a private and entered flight school. He trained at Tuskegee Army Airfield, Alabama, a Black flight-training program and received his wings and commission as a 2nd Lieutenant on July 28, 1943.

Upon graduation, Holsclaw returned to Portland, Oregon, to marry Bernice. The couple had one son. Following their wedding, August 24, 1943, the couple relocated to Michigan, where Lieutenant Holsclaw received advanced training at Selfridge Field near Detroit. In December 1943, his squadron was shipped overseas to Italy.

Lieutenant Holsclaw flew in the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332d Fighter Group, an all-Black pursuit squadron formed during the era of a segregated military, which became known as the Tuskegee Airmen. Initially the 332nd flew Bell P-39 Airacobras, protected ships and flew coastal patrols. Holsclaw named his favorite P-51 "Bernice Baby" in honor of his wife. The 332d aircraft had distinctive red tails lending to the nickname "Red Tails." Bomber crews honored the Tuskegee airmen by naming them "Red Tail Angels." The 332d Fighter Group took on the task of escorting bombers on their runs over enemy territory and shielding them from German fighters. On July 18, 1944, in an aerial battle over Italy, Holsclaw shot down two German fighters. For this action he received the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Holsclaw (second from right) at awards ceremony as one of four pilots presented the Distinguished Flying Cross Award September 10, 1944.

HOME OF LT. COLONEL JACK D. HOLSCLAW 1918-1998



Jack Daniels Holsclaw was a Tuskegee Airman during World War II. His all-black pursuit squadron, the 332d Fighter Group, escorted bombers over enemy territory.

Holsclaw received the Distinguished Flying Cross for shooting down two German fighters in an aerial battle over Italy. He completed 68 combat missions and flew 7 major missions. Lieutenant Colonel Holsclaw received the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Unit Citation, the American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 7 Bronze Service Stars, the WWII Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, & the Air Force Longevity Service Award with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters. He retired on December 31, 1964, receiving the Distinguished Service Medal for training accomplishments.

Dedicated on July 29, 2019
by the Jonas Babcock Chapter, NSDAR

The Marker placed in front of
Holsclaw's Spokane childhood home.

Holsclaw remained in the European Theatre for the rest of the war. He was most proud that his squadron did not lose a single bomber it escorted. He made the Air Force a career and retired a Lieutenant Colonel in 1965.

By December 1944, Holsclaw had completed 68 combat missions, nearing the limit of 70, when he was grounded. He had participated in seven major campaigns and became Assistant Operations Officer, an important administrative position that included aerial mission planning. In January 1945, Holsclaw was promoted to captain.

Captain Holsclaw returned to the United States in June 1945 to serve as assistant base operations officer, Godman Field, Fort Knox, Kentucky. The bomber group was inactivated in 1947. Holsclaw went on to teaching and training duties. He was an instructor at the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs at Tuskegee Institute and then Tennessee State College, Nashville. For his Japan assignment in 1954-1957, Bernice was able to accompany her husband. He achieved success in Cold War training and in educating young air force personnel. From May 1962 to the end of 1964, he served as Chief, Training Division, Sixth Air Force Reserve Region, Hamilton Air Force Base, California. He directed the preparation of two textbooks to guide incoming air force personnel.

During his distinguished career, Lieutenant Colonel Holsclaw received the Distinguished Flying Cross for shooting down two German fighters in an aerial battle over Italy. He completed 68 combat missions and flew seven major missions. Lieutenant Colonel Holsclaw received the air medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Unit citation Emblem, the American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 7 Bronze Service Stars, the WWII Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, & the Air Force Longevity Service Award with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters. He retired on December 31, 1964, receiving the Distinguished Service Medal for his training accomplishments.

On January 1, 1965, Jack Holsclaw retired, receiving the Distinguished Service Medal for his training accomplishments. He became a manager in the Marin County Housing Authority, California. In 1973, he and Bernice fulfilled their wish to return to Washington. Jack Holsclaw joined the staff at the People's National Bank in Bellevue. This career extended until 1983 and retirement, when he and Bernice took up residence in Arizona. Jack Holsclaw died on April 7, 1998, at the age of 80.

(Source: Duane Colt Denfeld, Ph.D. historylink.org.)



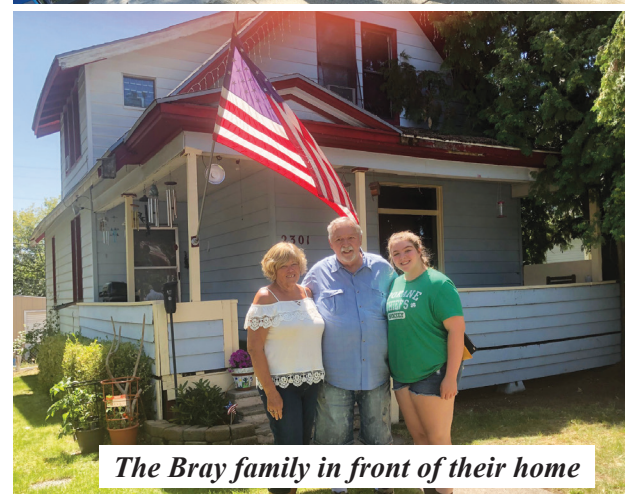
Rae Anna Victor honoring Holsclaw



David Bray unveiling the marker



The Jonas Babcock Chapter of DAR



The Bray family in front of their home

Atlanta Based Civil Rights Lawyer Mario Williams Rises From Peace Corps To Sue White Supremacists

By Curtis Bunn

Urban News Service (urbannewsservice.com)

Delma Jackson's New Year's morning started with a shocking photo on her cell phone—an image of a man's beaten, bloodied, swollen face. He was so badly disfigured; she initially could not tell it was her husband.

Her husband, Miguel Jackson, was an inmate at a south Georgia prison, when prison guards beat him with a claw hammer in December of 2011, an an attack capture on video. You can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19XKFMNntus>

Horried, Delma Jackson called the prison for answers. She got none. She wasn't even sure if her husband was alive or dead.

Delma Jackson paged through the Yellow Pages—the thick-book version and the online option—to find a lawyer who would get both justice and answers. Attorney after attorney turned down her case.

“No one would touch it,” Delma Jackson said. “I had the photos to show, but no one would help. . . except Mario.”

Mario is Mario Williams, an Atlanta-based civil rights attorney who took a winding road to become one of the nation's foremost legal advocates for those in need. The bulk of his cases focus on civil-rights violations, police misconduct, prisoners' rights, and wrongful incarcerations. A tall, jovial African-American who likes horror movies and rollercoasters, Mario Williams the legal advocate of last resort for those too poor or too unconnected to attract government agency or big law firm.

Now, Williams is preparing to lead an unprecedented \$20 million legal campaign to investigate and uncover the ties of political and business leaders to white supremacist groups. He wants to dig up their secret rivers of money and shame them into cutting off the extremists. Pretty heady stuff for a guy who initially wanted to be an environmental lawyer. Mario Williams

Libre by Nexus is where the \$20 million war chest is coming from, a Verona, Virginia-based firm that guarantees bail bonds for immigrants, to win their release and to reunite them with their families. The for-profit company, founded by Michael Donovan and Richard Moore in 2012, gives away millions of dollars each year to fund free legal aid. Each of these men were jailed in their college days and remember how hard it can be prisoners to get a fair shake. Libre by Nexus tagged Williams to be the point man in its probe of white supremacists.

“Mario is fearless in advocating for those without a voice,” said Micheal Donovan, co-founder of Libre by Nexus. “A lot of idealists learn of the (civil rights) abuses and it shocks them so much they can't do anything. With Mario, he is personally offended and it fuels him to act. He didn't lose his ideology. And that's hard to find in an attorney.”

Donovan added his company is targeting and funding the suits against “white supremacist organizations that masquerades as militias when they are really re-formed hate groups like the KKK.”

The goal is to find the funders of these extremist groups “that advocate violence” and sue them into submission. “When they advocate violence, like in the case of Charlottesville,” Donovan said, they must be held accountable.”



This fires up Williams. “This is big stuff. Huge,” he said. “I am excited and proud to be a part of an effort that is looking to make sweeping changes in racial injustices and attitudes.”

Williams's odyssey began in the unlikelyst of places: the poor towns of Central America, where he served in the Peace Corps, teaching environmentalist practices to villages in the 1990s. There he saw the real price paid by the poor and the powerless.

Williams, now 46, cites New Orleans and three cities in Texas as his hometowns. He graduated from historically black Morehouse College in Atlanta. Giving up his early career plans to become an environmental attorney, at Morehouse, Williams said he was inspired by his professors and fellow students to consider working in the human rights arena. “Much of the major civil rights events took place right in Atlanta,” he said. “Martin Luther King went to Morehouse. It was in the air.”

That led him to the Peace Corps—and the experiences that changed his life. In Honduras and other Latin American countries, Williams spent three years helping to bring clean water to some of the world's poorest people by putting his hands to work as much as his mind. He helped build many down-flow gravity water systems and effective filtration tanks in the hills of remote villages.

The systems produced clean, drinkable water, saving countless lives. “It was a human rights violation that they did not have potable water,” Williams said. “Kids were dying, people were getting sick because of the water. In the U.S., we just turn on the facet and we have water ready to drink. We take it for granted. It's not like that in many parts of the world.”

The plight of the Central Americans' struck a nerve in Williams. That, he said, is when his desire to be a servant got real.

He went to Lewis and Clark and earned his law degree, passed the Georgia state bar exam, and worked in Santiago, Chile for seven years, where helped reshape environmental codes.

In Atlanta, he has been named one of the top-rated civil rights attorneys and been selected as one of that city's “Super Lawyers.”

But the “Super Lawyer” will take calls and cases from nearly any one, without ego or formality. Cases like those of Delma Jackson's husband.

“Mario was right on it,” Delma Jackson recalled. “We met him on a Monday. Showed him the photos and gave him the background on my husband and he knew exactly what do, what motions to file. Tuesday, he was down there at the prison. Wednesday, we met with him again. “There have been so many elements to my husband's case, including being sentenced for 50 years for an armed robbery in 1996 when he was 20 years old. Fifty years. Mario has been there every step of the way. There are a lot of injustices out there. We need more people like Mario. He's been so committed, it's amazing. He's like family now.”

No charges were brought against the prison guards, despite Williams' best efforts. The case is now in summary judgment as Williams continues to seek justice. “One issue I began to have is ‘How do you sleep at night?’ he said from his desk at his downtown Atlanta law office. “I have seen so much denial of human rights in Central America and, sadly, denial of civil rights of non-white people here in America. It's simply not right. The abuse of power of (law enforcement, correction officers, etc.) is rampant. So I chose to do for others. Doing this work means something to me, everyday fighting for people's rights and for justice.”

If that sounds a bit Pollyanna-ish, Williams does not care. For him, it is real. He and his wife, Julie, are partners in the Atlanta law firm Williams Oinonen, LLC, which specializes in civil rights, business and government law, share the same vision. In other words, they fight the fight.

“Emotionally, it gives me a sense of completeness,” Williams said. “There is something very rewarding in battling for rights for people, or protecting people's rights. It means something to me emotionally on a daily basis. It is a real responsibility knowing people rely on me to make systemic changes. And I enjoy it because it means so much.”

The satisfaction that comes from winning cases doesn't last long. After, he won a jury award of \$350,000 for the family of Terrance Dean, an imprisoned Georgia black man who was brutally beaten by guards, Williams said he was elated and happy for the family. . . for about an hour. Then, he said, it is “on to the next (case).”

An Atlanta attorney connected Williams with Donovan when Donovan's company, Libre by Nexus, had some legal issues. Williams liked that Nexus liberally finances its own law firm, Nexus Derechos, to tackles human-rights abuses, civil rights violations, prisoners' rights, police misconduct, international-law petitions, among others. Williams now heads the firm, now wearing two hats at two law firms.

“I'm a put-your-money-where-your-mouth-is guy,” Williams said. “(Donovan) is willing to fund justice and human and constitutional rights. He and Richard (Moore, co-founder) really believe in this mission. And when you have the financial resources and support, you can do strong work.”

Moore, a Libre by Nexus co-founder, appreciates Williams combative sense of justice: “To walk into a room and meet a client and commit to walk alongside him in his legal journey. . . Mario has a passion and commitment to fix the wrongs of people he doesn't know. His track record proves it.”



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400 Years in Virginia. 500 Years in Slavery.

Continued From Page 1

“Fortunes were made, and financial institutions flourished on the back of human bondage...[so] today’s commemoration must encourage everyone to live up to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says: ‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and to redouble efforts to stop human trafficking and all forms of modern slavery,’” said Chidyausiku, who is now 69.

Michael Guasco, a historian at Davidson College and author of “Slaves and Englishmen: Human Bondage in the Early Modern Atlantic World,” suggests it’s the 500th anniversary.

“There’s a Hispanic heritage that predates the U.S., and there’s a tendency for people to willingly forget or omit the early history of Florida, Texas, and California, particularly as the politics of today want to push back against Spanish language and immigration from Latin America,” Guasco told Time.

The fact that slavery was underway for a century in South America before introduction in North America is not widely taught nor commonly understood, Felicia Davis of the HBCU Green Fund told NNPA Newswire.

“It is a powerful historical fact missing from our understanding of slavery, its magnitude, and global impact. The knowledge that slavery was underway for a century provides deep insight into how enslaved Africans adapted,” Davis said.

Far beyond the horrific “seasoning” description, clearly generations had been born into slavery long before introduction in North America, Davis said.

“This fact deepens the understanding of how vast majorities could be oppressed in such an extreme manner for such a long period. It is also a testament to the strength and drives among people of African descent to live free,” she said.

Prior to 1619, “America had a system of discrimination and prejudice against all groups who were not identified as White Anglo-Saxon native,” said Walter D. Palmer, who started a Community Freedom School for children and adult learners in Philadelphia that would become the platform on which he built his social legacy.

“By the mid-1600s, America created the slave codes,” Palmer told NNPA Newswire. During the country’s founding, many settlers learned from and lived close to Native Americans on the east coast, said author Cassie Premo Steele.

For example, it wasn’t until resources like silver were found on what was Cherokee land that Andrew Jackson ordered the removal that became known as the “Trail of Tears,” Steele told NNPA Newswire.

“Further genocides and removals took place in the West when similar resources and land were desired by white Americans,” Steele said.

“Similarly, slavery was primarily an economic system that was based upon the dehumanization of Africans. Dehumanization is in some ways even worse than hate since it is a denial of the humanity of a people,” she said.

The observance of the 400th anniversary of the first African landing at Point Comfort, Va., did bring about changes, according to Time.

It was the type of race-based chattel slavery system that solidified in the centuries that followed was its unique American tragedy.

A letter on file at the Library of Congress from early English settler John Rolfe noted that a century before August 1619, the transatlantic slave trade had been active.

The letter noted that hundreds of thousands of Africans helped with the establishment and survival of American colonies in the New World.

According to History.com, Rolfe was correct.

History.com reported that Christopher Columbus likely transported the first Africans to the Americas in the late 1490s on his expeditions to Hispaniola.

“To ignore what had been happening with relative frequency in the broader Atlantic world over the preceding 100 years or so understates the real brutality of the ongoing slave trade, of which the 1619 group were undoubtedly a part, and minimizes the significant African presence in the Atlantic world to that point,” Guasco said in a History.com interview earlier this month.

“People of African descent have been ‘here’ longer than the English colonies,” he said.

Stacy M. Brown is the co-author of Blind Faith: The Miraculous Journey of Lula Hardaway and her son, Stevie Wonder (Simon & Schuster) and Michael Jackson: The Man Behind The Mask, An Insider's Account of the King of Pop (Select Books Publishing, Inc.) Additional work can often be found in the Washington Informer, Baltimore Times, Philadelphia Tribune, Pocono Record, the New York Post, and Black Press USA.

Math Skills and Black Culture (Continued From Page 13)

It goes entirely against the stereotype that Black children are uninterested or unskilled in academic performance.

Martha, 16, has been coming to CBAC since she was in fourth grade.

“Before I came to camp, math was not really my friend,” she says. “I didn’t really understand much of what was happening and sometimes my teachers were going too fast or they were not explaining it thoroughly. But then, when I started coming here, and I started learning more, I feel like math is now one of my strongest subjects.”

She is now preparing to take the SAT next year and says she wants to become a pediatric surgeon.

Kruse, a 7-year-old student, likewise had only positive things to say about how the camp has impacted his learning.

“I think it’s pretty good,” he says. “I haven’t learned multiplication or division yet, so I’m starting to get the hang of that and I’m thinking that I can take this stuff over to school and I’ll be probably smarter than other kids.”

Since the camp’s inception, countless parents have praised the program, attesting that their children have not only gained confidence in their math skills but have also developed a greater appreciation and pride for their identity as African Americans.

Shade Mokuolu has two children, a 9-year-old and a 10-year-old, who are returning to the camp for their third year. She appreciates that CBAC keeps their minds busy



and engaged during the summer so they will be right on track when they go back to school.

“The moment they came, and they saw other kids like them, they started making friends, [and] they loved it,” Mokuolu says. “It’s also a very unique program because it helps them to connect to their roots [and] their heritage as African Americans. They do a lot of projects here that help them to connect with who they are, they study different parts of the world, [and] they study history.”

While CBAC holds its students to high academic standards, the Thomases espouse the philosophy that “parents are the most important component,” and they are held to

equally high requirements in terms of their involvement in their children’s success at the camp and beyond. They must attend workshops and meetings throughout the summer to learn more about CBAC and stay updated on college admission requirements such as standardized testing and the FAFSA. They even take a pledge promising to help their children maintain a positive self-image, resolve issues in the household that may hinder academic achievement, limit unhealthy use of electronics and do everything in their power to help their children flourish.

If there is one thing the Thomases hope to accomplish through this program, it is that their students will never feel as though they have to accept racial intolerance in order to succeed academically – exactly what the Black students at the private school their own children once attended, seemed to feel.

“The one thing that I want them to take away is that when they fight, they win,” says Pastor Thomas. “I say that because I think we’re in a place now that we can’t just take for granted that people are going to do right by us. We have to make demands and we have to push for those demands. I hope that they will fight to go to college, that they will fight to get access to the classes that they need and that will help them to grow.”

To learn more about CBAC, contact Pastor James and Mona Thomas at info4cbac@gmail.com

This article originally appeared in The Los Angeles Sentinel. Photo Credit: Imani Sumbi / Los Angeles Sentinel.

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The “Other” Gun Issue in America

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Nineteen shootings, 28 victims, five dead as Philly weekend violence escalates; six shot, including four teens, at graduation party in Southwest Philly; Over two days, 28 people shot in 19 separate shootings in Philadelphia; 12 people shot, including three near a playground, in another violent weekend in Philly; Shooting of 6 at playground BBQ caps bloody Father’s Day weekend in Philly.

These are a few of the news stories on gun violence in Philadelphia, where I live, just since the summer began!

Most of us believe Chicago is the most dangerous city in America, but if we look solely at the murder rate per capita, Philadelphia could be considered one of the most dangerous big cities in America.

But not so fast, there’s enough of this murder and devastation from gun violence to go around.

The combined murder total from Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia has correctly predicted the national murder direction in every year but one between 1994 and 2017. The homicide rate for Black Americans in all 50 states is, on average, eight times higher than that of Whites, based on data from the CDC.

Make no mistake, America has become much more dangerous. In fact, some foreign governments are issuing travel warnings to their citizens who plan a visit to the “Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave”. In general, U.S. residents are 128 times more likely to be killed by everyday gun violence than by international terrorism; Black people specifically are 500 times more likely to die this way. Japan; Canada; Ireland; and Germany are among the latest US allies to issue such a warning. Sadly, in 2016, the Bahamas had this to say, “tensions in some American cities over shootings of young black males by police officers. In particular young males are asked to exercise extreme caution in affected cities in their interactions with the police.”

The government of France, which normally warns travelers about natural disasters now goes as far as to advise French travelers “should keep their wits about them, including Boston’s Dorchester and Roxbury; New York’s Central Park (at night); downtown Houston and Atlanta; roughly a dozen neighborhoods in Chicago; and parts of Los Angeles, among others.” But, it’s also Baltimore; Cleveland; Richmond; Detroit; St. Louis; New Orleans; and many, many others.

Bottom line, this place ain’t safe!



Which brings me to the real reason I chose to write on this topic: our children.

Since we, as a nation, are currently sensitized to the trauma that children can be subjected to, with the recent incidents involving the children of immigrants, what about ours? The ones who have witnessed, been affected by, and are living in neighborhoods and communities where day in and day out, they live in environments that are inundated by shootings and homicides. This has been a particular difficult summer for them.

Our children and teens experience staggeringly high rates of gun deaths and injuries, right in their own neighborhoods. They become traumatized each time a friend or family member is killed, when someone they know is shot, and when they witness and even just hear gunshots. Gun homicides, non-fatal shootings, and exposure to gun violence stunt lives and, because of their disproportionate impact, reflect and intensify this country’s long-standing racial inequities. Black and Hispanic children and teens are impacted by gun violence at higher rates than their white peers, in part because of deliberate policy decisions that created segregated neighborhoods and underinvestment in their communities. Firearms are the leading cause of death for Black children and teens in America, while,

according to Philadelphia Police Department, in 2014, in Philadelphia’s safest police district, which is approximately 85% White, no one was reported killed by gun violence; in the most violent district, with a roughly 90% Black population, there were 189 shooting victims and 40 deaths.

Exposure to gun violence has an impact on children’s and teens’ psychological and mental well-being and affects their school performance, among other factors. When neighborhoods and schools are not safe from gun violence, entire generations of American children are affected. It is estimated that three million children witness a shooting each year!

Children exposed to violence, crime, and abuse are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol; suffer from depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder; resort to aggressive and violent behavior; and engage in criminal activity. They spend less time playing and being physically active, with one study finding that children said they would engage in an additional hour of physical activity every week if safety increased in their neighborhood.

We are now at the beginning of another school year, and many of us have gotten the school clothes/uniforms/ backpacks; and the new sneakers for our kids to be prepared for school. But are we acknowledging what they carry to school with them each day in their minds?

There are many efforts, by some well-intentioned people to end the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Let’s acknowledge that gun violence in minority neighborhoods across this country is not a Black or Brown problem - it’s a national one. I believe the children are our future...don’t you?

Remember, I’m not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan.

Glenn Ellis is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Chicago; Los Angeles; and Birmingham., or visit: www.glennellis.com



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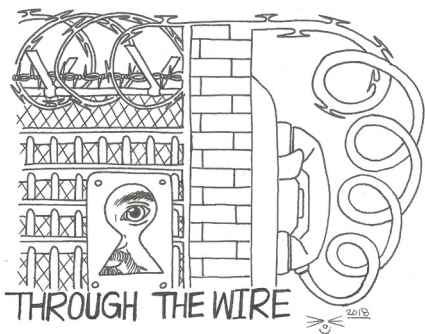


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By Harry “Brocq” Whitman, Chad McCoy & Michael Bowluck

Everyone follows the beat of their own drummer, but at what point are our very liberties as Americans embodied in the constitution compromised by the majority’s blind adherence to the dictates and whims of a tyrant? “The Leader”? I have always been baffled about how Adolf Hitler a relatively unremarkable thinker was able to use race and hate to manipulate and/or capture the imagination of millions of otherwise “normal” people to commit horrific acts. For 2- 1/2 years now I have been perplexed as I have witnessed firsthand our fellow Americans state their adherence to the constitution and “American values” while at the same time excusing the racist, sexist , xenophobic, lawless, vile and inhumane behavior of another unremarkable thinker who now occupies the White House.

I have watched in utter amazement how over the past 2 1/2 years as he has effectively broken every norm known to man an most Americans have either ignored it, enabled him, acquiesced to him , or by omission have been otherwise complicit. Are these Americans just afraid, self-serving, or just hypocrites, or... or... or...?

Actually, I believe the answer is more complicated than that, although not new, because Americans have a history of this, ie. the almost total annihilation of the Native Americans, the capture and slavery of Africans, the prohibitionists on voting and other rights for women, capital punishment of innocent poor people , the incarceration for life of people of color for

nonviolent crimes, etc. Yet, the answer came to me in an article I read in college some 40 years ago.

In the early 1960s, Yale psychology professor Stanley Milgram conducted a series of experiments that in many people's minds confirmed the worst fears about the relationship between fascism and modern democracy. As the name of the project suggested, the “Milgram Experiment on Obedience to Authority Figures”, Milgram was interested in “obedience and individual responsibility”. His goal was to determine just how pliable the average citizen might be in the face of a regime of power and authority.

Milgram set up a fairly simple experiment:

Two people came to his lab ostensibly to take part in a study on memory and learning. One of them was designated the “learner”, the other the “teacher”. The learner was put in a room and strapped into a chair, where an electrode was attached to his wrist. Meanwhile, the teacher was seated before a large machine called a Shock Generator, Type ZLB. On the front of the machine was a series of switches designated from left to right “slight shock”, “moderate shock”, and 2 final switches, simply but ominously labeled “XXX”. The learner was then told that he would be asked to memorize lists of word pairs and that every time he made a mistake the teacher would deliver a short, sharp shock of increasing intensity. The point, the subjects were told, was the test the effect of punishment on memory.

The experimental design was in fact an elaborate setup. The true subject was the “teacher”, and the point of the experiment was not to test the effect of

punishment on memory, but rather to see how far the average person would go in a situation in which he or she was asked to inflict pain on an innocent and protesting victim. The “learner” was a plant and the shocks were faked.

The results were rather extraordinary. Despite the fact that the learner often gave clear evidence that he was in pain (screams of agony, complaints about his heart), the teacher continued to ask questions an administer shocks, often in the face of complete unresponsiveness on the part of the learner (who was actually an actor) . Even Milgram himself was astonished by the results: “more than half of the residents of New Haven, CT, appeared willing to electroshock a fellow citizen into unconsciousness, even to death, simply because a man in a white lab coat instructed them to do so.”

Milgram’s experiment delivered a severe shock to our standard assumptions about human nature and about the character of evil. Both are instructive today. Milgram drew the following conclusion from this test, “ordinary people”, simply doing their jobs, and without any particular hostility on their part, can become agents in a terrible destructive process. Moreover, even when the destructive effects of their work become patently clear, and they are asked to carry out actions incompatible with fundamental standards of morality, relatively few people have the capacity needed to resist.

The Trump Effect!!!

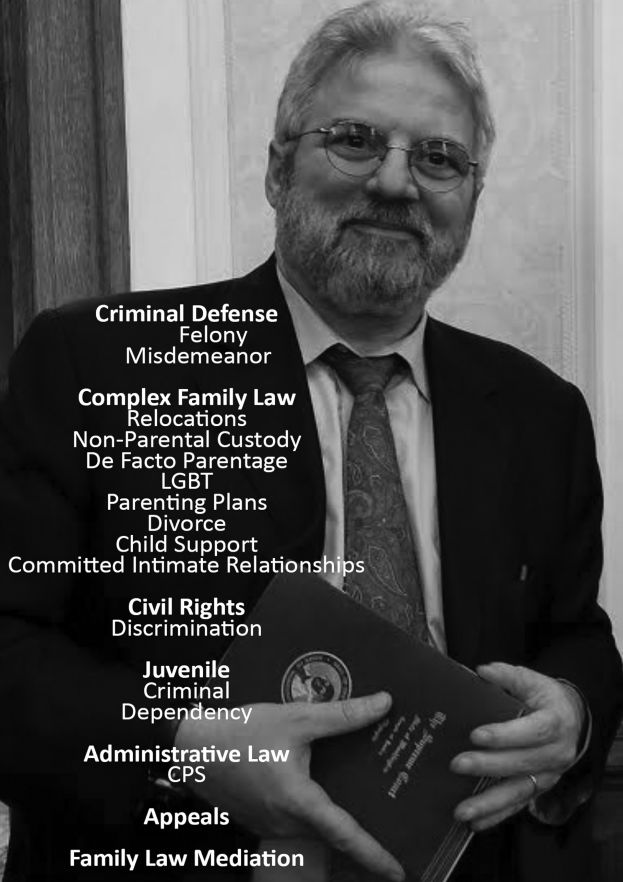
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OUR VOICES

Dehumanizing Children at the Border: What Does This Say about Ordinary Americans?

By Dr. Lenore J. Daniels, PhD

(blackcommentator.com) In the US today, that is, not somewhere else, in some “enemy” or in some “rogue” State, but in the US, in Clint, Texas, there were children, toddlers to teenagers, held in filthy conditions at a detention station, not fit for our fellow animal species.

“Children as young as 7 and 8,” are being held at this site, according to the reporters at the New York Times (June 21, 2019) who spoke with lawyers on the scene. “Many of them wearing clothes caked with snot and tears, are caring for infants they’ve just met... Toddlers without diapers are relieving themselves in their pants. Teenage mothers are wearing clothes stained with breast milk.”

The detention station personnel couldn’t see it in their agenda or hearts to provide soap or toothbrushes for these children. The conditions at the station, in general, were described as being “unsanitary.” Several of the children were visibly sick to the group of six lawyers who entered the detention site and spoke with 60 of the 300 or so children, held in a room that, according to attorney Warren Binford, speaking to a New Yorker staff member, appeared to be a “warehouse” with “no windows” (June 22, 2019).

On June 24, 2019, many of the children were transferred to another facility in El Paso—another facility consisting of tents! Tents! For babies and children. But wait! The next day, the children are returned to the Clint detention station. And you have to ask—who are these adults, those who should be caregivers, guardians to children, regardless of race or class, regardless of whether or not these children are your “flesh and blood.” These are children! Infants! And, let’s please stop with the “migrant children.” These are children! Period!

And, as if this narrative isn’t absurd enough, the children have been returned to the Clint detention station—because no one on the scene at US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) is thinking about the children!

What will be next in store for these children who’ve suffered enough?



Luckily, Attorney Binford isn’t remaining silent. Along with other lawyers who’ve witnessed what seems to be a complete absence of compassion at Clint, she speaking out on behalf of the children who are suffering from the cruelty inflicted upon them by adults! Binford, after talking with the children, is recounting to the press what is actually happening at the US border to the least of us! To babies and children under 18-years old. And, again, on US soil.

So too, Attorney Elora Mukherjee, Director of the Immigrant’ Rights Clinic at Columbia Law School, is telling a very different narrative from that in which the US is the land of the free and brave. No one is free in the scenario, Mukherjee describes, and the only brave ones are the children themselves, doing the best they can to remain human in a human-made scenario intended to dehumanize them.

Caring for one another, the children are the brave ones made to exist, as Mukherjee describes, in the “stench” because “the over-

whelming majority of children have not bathed since they crossed the border.” In her description, we see a teen mother soiled with breast milk, as is her 5 month old infant. We see children hungry because they’ve barely been fed and the food itself should never have been given to any human being, let alone children.

And the influenza and lice!

What in the lives of these adults brings them to this moment when, in the presence of these attorneys, they insist on their “innocence”? It’s the children not us, huh? The five month old, too? The cover up always begins in a cloak of innocence.

At the Texas border, children separated from their parents are reclassified as being “unaccompanied” children, according to the New York Times. “We don’t know where the parents are being kept, Binford told the New Yorker. And do you think the Americans working for the CBP at Clint care where the parents are located?

What have these children done to be treated so cruelly by a Christian nation?

How can anyone expect good to come from the attempt to dehumanize children? This unholy alliance of hate and cruelty rests on the adults—the ordinary citizen, worker, family members themselves, aligning themselves with the States murderous spirit!

The US is a collection of people, a segment of humanity. Is this nation to continue holding on to aspects of itself that have engaged in indifference when it comes to the torturing and the murdering of fellow human beings?

Too many Americans, ordinary citizens, adults have given in to perpetuating violence against the little ones! The visibly deplorable conditions at Clint best represents not the children’s state of mind but rather how the process of dehumanizing ordinary Americans is what’s really going on at the detention center in Clint, Texas.

It’s not new. In US history, the subjugated narrative of violence overflows with separated children—Black children of enslaved mothers, shipped off to other plantations, and Indigenous children, separated from parents to be “educated” in “Americanism.”

And now children from South America... But I think this is a repeat too! When will this practice of cruelty and indifference ever end?

And is anyone talking about the US’s role in destroying the chances of democracy and freedom in places like Guatemala or Columbia, or for that matter Haiti or Mexico?

No, because such a transforming behavior would require that ordinary Americans look inward. Self-reflection it’s called. But no—too depressing, on the one hand, while, on the other, it’s so much easier to point the finger at little brown children and think of them as “the enemy.”

Little gangsters in the making, says Trump!

Nothing good can come from this!

Lenore Jean Daniels, PhD is a BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board member and Columnist. She has a Doctorate in Modern American Literature/Cultural Theory.

Just Something to Think About

"From Kings, to Niggas"
(Part II)

By Kendu D. Humphreys

The Nubian culture had great empires, way before hoods full of projects.

Mighty Moors roamed the Earth, way before the miserable conditions of Mo-town.

King's of Kush educated the world, way before killa' Cali made it popular to erase their own future generations.

Ethiopia was the mighty "Horn of Africa", way before hopelessness invaded the hearts of our children.

Black Wall Street showed the world we could be independent as a culture, way before welfare dismantled our family structure.

Martin Luther King inspired hope of equality, way before rappers glorified self hatred.

Incredible Nubian Queens such as Sheba, Yaa Asantewaa, Amina, Nefertiti, and Queen Nandi of the Zulu kingdom em-

braced their natural beauty, and raised mighty civilians, way before the self loathing, embarrassing disrespect many of our sista's are faced with nowadays.

Way before we were titled "lazy Niggas", we were known as mighty warriors, fantastic leaders, and dependable male role models to our families.

Way before we as a community can fix our current condition in American, and the world, we must first get back to that what once made us great and Make Blacks Kings and Queens Again...



OUR VOICES

"Nothin from Nothin Leaves Nothin"

An Ode to Billy Preston

By Chauncey Jones

In 1974 A songwriter by the name of Billy Preston wrote the song "Nothin from nothin leaves nothin." If only he knew how prophetic those lyrics would be. According to an article posted by Forbes in 2017 (1), and reposted by Black Enterprise (2) in July of 2019, the median wealth of Black Americans will fall to ZERO by 2053.

For those of you who have that "who farted" look on your face right now, don't trip I'm gonna break it down. The value of what you own minus what you owe equals your net worth or your wealth. Preston went on to say, "You gotta have something if you wanna be with me."

Our number one wealth building tool is our income. Now I know Black folks "face a number of systemic and interdependent barriers to building wealth" as Ruth Umoh so eloquently put it in another Forbes article (3). Less job opportunities, lack of inheritance, predatory home & auto lending, the tax code, and student loan debt are just a few of our seemingly insurmountable barriers. However, there are some courses of action some of us can afford to take that we neglect to.

Fact: We pay too much for cars. If you financed a car for \$20,000 at 10% interest for 6 years (avg for Black folks) you'll end up paying \$32,000 for that car. Oh and not to mention most vehicles lose 60% of their value after the first 6 years. So you'll end up paying \$32,000 for a \$8,000 car. That's -\$24,000 over the life of the loan.

Another great Philosopher, Andre Benjamin aka Andre 3,000, tried to warn y'all in 2000 on the Song Red Velvet (unquoted due to explicit yet very important lyrical content). If you do your homework, save your money, and purchase with cash a reliable used car (I've done it 3 times) you can find A Better Way to utilize that extra \$24k.



If you absolutely must have a car payment, get something that you can afford to pay off in 2 years or less. But be aware of the predatory lenders.

Fact: We pay too much for home ownership. It's bad enough that only 43% of Black families own homes (lowest since the fair housing act in 1968), compared to 73% of white families. But just because we qualify for a certain amount of home loan, doesn't mean we need to spend that much. How many times have you heard of someone spending his or her life savings on an FHA down payment for a home only to have the furnace go out. Then they get a credit card at 19% to pay for that furnace.

I know homeownership is our way of leveling the playing field but we want our home to be a blessing. There has to be A Better Way. Do your homework, buy a home for 20% less than what it's worth. Don't have a mortgage more than 25% of your take home pay. And have an emergency fund... Which leads me to my final point.

Fact: We don't save or invest enough. Since 1983 the Black median wealth has decreased by 75%. \$1700 is the median wealth of Black households. To help put that in perspective, white household wealth has risen 14% to \$116,800. I am not usually a fan of Instagram quotes but I saw one several years ago that has stuck with me. "If you woke up broke you had no business going to sleep."

We can find ways to save. Cut off the cable. Stay out of restaurants. Get on a written budget. If you're still broke, time to get that 2nd part time job. The goal is to get to the point where you can save and invest at least 10% of your income. You need an emergency fund. Start with \$500. If you work for a company that matches your 401K contributions do it. Start small. Give them 1% this month. Increase that each month until you reach full match. Usually between 6-8%.

My peoples are the most resilient, resourceful, and generous people on the planet. We built a whole country for free and continue the economic growth via our \$1.2 trillion in buying power.

I do believe that we will wake up and find A Better Way to keep that dollar within the community. Because the alternative is well... as Billy Preston put it, "I'm not tryna be your hero 'Cause that zero is too cold for me, brrr."

To contact Chauncey Jones e-mail Abetterway509@gmail.com.

"Jay-Z" Did Not Sell Out, He Bought In



By Dr.
Wilmer J.
Leon, III

(TriceEdney-Wire.com) - "Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and

anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the wake of former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's protest against police brutality and extrajudicial murder, Jay-Z's Roc Nation has struck a deal to lead the NFL's endeavors into music and entertainment. This deal has caused a lot of consternation within the African American community. The issue now being raised centers around Jay-Z being a "sell-out".

What must be clearly understood is that Jay-Z is a capitalist. He did what capitalists do, he bought in.

Before he was Jay-Z, he was Shawn Carter. He grew up in the Marcy Projects in Brooklyn, NY and was a drug dealer in his youth. By his own admission, his drug-dealing days prepared him for his current life as a sports entrepreneur and music mogul. "I know about budgets. I was a drug dealer. To be in a drug

deal you need to know what you can spend." To Shawn Carter, drugs were just a widget or commodity whose sale presented no moral dilemma or conflict. Selling drugs was a means to an end. It's the urban Horatio Alger story, from as he said, "grams to Grammys". Shawn Carter sold out his community for his personal gain by selling drugs to his own people. Jay-Z, the capitalists, has once again increased his personal fortune by buying into an institution that has also shown little regard for the fate of Black people.

When asked where we are in the protest process and the significance of kneeling, Jay-Z gave a very Trumpian response: "I think we've moved past kneeling and I think it's time to go into actionable items...No, I don't want people to stop protesting at all. Kneeling - I know we're stuck on it because it's a real thing - but kneeling is a form of protest. I support protest across the board...But now that we all know what's going on, what are we going to do? How are we going to stop it? Because the kneeling was not about a job, it was about injustice."

Translation? Jay-Z supported Kaepernick in the moment because it was the thing to do. Now there is an opportunity to get paid and as a capitalist, I'm about that paper.

In addition to helping the NFL with entertainment, Jay-Z will also consult with the NFL on matters of social injustice. Speaking of injustice...this opportunity for Jay-Z to work with the NFL only became possible after Kaepernick sacrificed his NFL career to protest against the real injustice of state sanctioned murder by the

police. If Jay-Z were really down for the cause, wouldn't he have stepped to the mic and told NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell that he will work with the NFL on the condition that "Kap" gets a fair shot at making an NFL roster? He could have used that moment and power to put real pressure on the league.

But it's not really about Shawn Carter aka Jay-Z. He is a metaphor. In the current context, Jay-Z is a distraction from the real issue... the dangers of Black capitalism. In Manning Marable's "How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America, Marable writes, "A decisive component of this underdevelopment process within the periphery is the nonwhite elite." These elite play a very important role. They serve "...as a necessary yet dependent buffer between those who wield power and those who have none. Within popular culture, it is the nonwhite mouthpiece of the new order, articulating in the media and in the various aesthetic forums the ideals of the masters."

As referenced in the opening, Dr. King was clear, "Power without love is reckless and abusive...Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice..." Jay-Z is wealthy and in some circles, wields a certain degree of power. However, given the example set by Kap's protest and sacrifice, what part of Jay-Z's deal with the NFL shows the love for the community and the demand for justice? This deal seems to be power without love, reckless and abusive.

When White capitalists team with Black capitalists, the Black community finds itself in a

more precarious circumstance. The White capitalists will leverage the indifference and duplicity of the Black capitalists against the very community that the Black capitalist claims to support. "We don't need to kneel anymore. It's time to get paid." Frederick Douglass told us very clearly, "Find out just what any people will quietly submit to (or get paid to do) — and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

By focusing on Jay-Z we are losing site of the fact that Colin Kaepernick used his platform to call attention of historic and systemic problem in America, state sanctioned brutality and murder by the police. The NFL, the government and the media used their power to corrupt the message and demonize Kaepernick, costing him his livelihood.

As was the case with Curt Flood, Muhammad Ali, Dr. John Carlos and others before him, Colin Kaepernick will eventually be remembered for taking a stand, or in this case, a knee for justice. Jay-Z will be remembered for buying in...and by buying in, he sold out.

Dr. Wilmer Leon is the Producer/ Host of the nationally broadcast call-in talk radio program "Inside the Issues with Leon," on SiriusXM Satellite radio channel 126. Go to www.wilmerleon.com or email: wjl3us@yahoo.com. [www.twitter.com/drwlleon](https://twitter.com/drwlleon) and Dr. Leon's Prescription at Facebook.com

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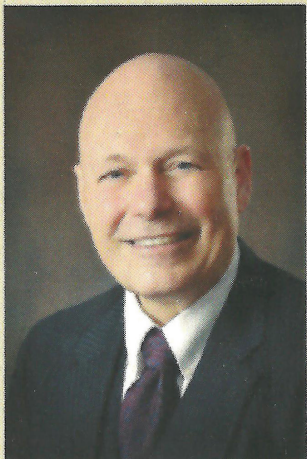
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These positions are open to all qualified Transitions employees as well as outside applicants.

A completed Transitions application, cover letter, and resume are required in order to be considered for any position.

Email these items to: jobs@help4women.org,
with the **job title in the subject line.**

***Housing Outreach App to Susan Tyler-Babkirk, Program Director Women's Hearth*
Please DO NOT hand deliver, mail, or fax.

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

Positions are open until filled.

Career Opportunities SPOKANE

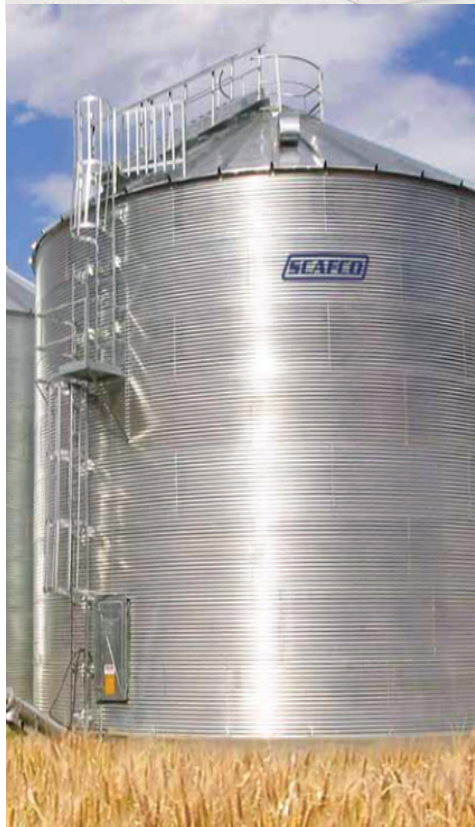
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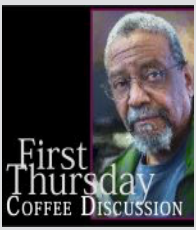
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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

FIRST THURSDAY EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP



Looking for 5-10 people interested in racial and social justice, willing to meet regularly for deep discussions, to plan strategies and take action.

First Thursday, September 5
6 – 8 pm

Carl Maxey Center
3116 E 5th Avenue, Spokane 99202

For information contact Bob Lloyd at
(509) 999-1263 or rdlloyd@comcast.net or
visit 4comculture.com.

SEPTEMBER 5

CANDIDATE FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS

2019 Candidates Forum On Homelessness, sponsored by the Spokane Homeless Coalition, the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium, and the Spokane Public Library, featuring Ben Stuckart - Candidate for Mayor, Nadine Woodward - Candidate for Mayor, Breean Beggs - Candidate for City Council President, Cindy Wendle - Candidate for City Council President.

8:30 - 10:30am

Downtown Spokane Public Library
906 W Main Ave, Spokane, WA 99201

For information contact Joe Ader, Chair Spokane Homeless Coalition at (949) 294-4510 or jader@familypromiseofspokane.org, or Kay Murano, Executive Director, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium at (509) 263-0883 or kay@slhlc.org.

SEPTEMBER 7

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN SPOKANE TRAINING: 15 STEPS TO MORAL FUSION ORGANIZING

The Washington State Coordinating Committee and the Spokane Task Force of the Poor People's Campaign invite you to attend this powerful training! Registration is free and lunch will be served. See ad on page 3.

10am - 4pm

MLK at East Central Community Cntr
500 S Stone Street, Spokane 99202

To RSVP visit: spokane.wapoorpeoplescampaign.org

SEPTEMBER 7

FIESTA SPOKANE - HISPANIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Fiesta Spokane is an annual Hispanic/ LatinX Heritage Festival event presented by the Latino Hope Foundation in Spokane. This event is free, family-friendly and open to the public.

Noon

Post Street next to City Hall
(Downtown Spokane)

Please visit the Latino Hope Foundation for updates on Fiesta Spokane and other upcoming events. <http://www.latinohopefoundation.org>

SEPTEMBER 12

JUSTICE NIGHT

Speak with an attorney. Free Consultations in these areas: LFOs (Legal Financial Obligations), Housing, Juvenile Law, Family Law, Seal/Expunge/Vacate Convictions, Police Accountability. NO CRIMINAL LAW.

5:30 pm

Center for Justice

35 W Main, Spokane 99201

Cost: Free. Sponsored by Center for Justice. For more information call 509.835.5211 or visit their website at www.cforjustice.org.

SEPTEMBER 13 - 15

NAACP STATE AREA CONFERENCE

The NAACP State Area Conference of Alaska, Oregon and Washington will be hosting its two-day Annual Convention in Spokane. We will elect new officers and celebrate Spokane NAACP's Centennial! The pinnacle of the weekend's event will be the Centennial Celebration Dinner held on Saturday, September 15th, the Keynote is Danny Glover. See advertisement on page 24.

For information visit: <http://www.naacpaow-sac.org>.

SEPTEMBER 15

KFCA FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY SERVICE

Pastor Patricia Ledlow of Church of Berachah will be the speaker for this evening's service. Kingdom Fellowship Church Alliance (KFCA) is an alliance of Pastors, Churches and Christian leaders.

6pm

Genesis Church

9315 N. Nevada, Spokane 99218

For more information call (509) 868-0070 or visit kfcaministries.com.

SEPTEMBER 15

DINNER WITH SHADES

Featured Artist - Brittany Trambitas

Hosted by Shades of Me: An opportunity for the community to meet, talk with, and get to know an array of talented racially, ethnically, spiritually, and artistically diverse artists in the Spokane area.

6:30 pm

Wiley's Downtown Bistro

115 N Washington, Spokane, 99201

Cost: \$25 (individual), or \$45 (couple)

Dinner is not included in ticket price

NOTE: Cocktail-ware is required and dress code will be enforced. Those who identify as male are required to wear a jacket. For information or to purchase tickets visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/921108074905279>.

SEPTEMBER 16

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting.

7pm

Check the NAACP website or Facebook to confirm meeting location and date.

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit: naacpspokane.org.

SEPTEMBER 29

DINNER WITH SHADES

Featured Artist - Shantell Jackson

A Bridge to Intimacy, hosted by Shades of Me: An opportunity for the community to meet, talk with, and get to know an array of talented racially, ethnically, spiritually, and artistically diverse artists in the Spokane area.

6:30 pm

Wiley's Downtown Bistro

115 N Washington, Spokane, 99201

Cost: \$25 (individual), or \$45 (couple)

Dinner is not included in ticket price

NOTE: Cocktail-ware is required and dress code will be enforced. Those who identify as male are required to wear a jacket. For information or to purchase tickets visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/921108074905279>.

SAVE THE DATE (See ad below)

OCTOBER 4, 5 & 6

MIRACLE HEALING PRAYER REVIVAL

Hosted by Pastor Otis and Jarretta Manning. Special Guest: Dr. Beryle Porte.

6pm (Doors open at 5:30pm)

Word of Faith Christian Center

9212 E Montgomery Ave, Spokane Valley

Seating is limited. Register online for free at miraclehealingbreakthrough.com, or for reservations or information call 509-919-4150.

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

MIRACLE HEALING
Prayer Revival!
OCTOBER 2019
4TH, 5TH and 6TH @ 6PM
(FRI-SAT-SUN)

Guest Speaker:
Dr. BERYLE PORTE

Word of Faith Christian Center
9212 East Montgomery Ave
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

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MIRACLE HEALING
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STARTS @ 6PM EACH DAY

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POETRY AT THE PODIUM

Open Call for Submissions



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

Interested in reading?

Submit one poem via the
Submittable portal below:

<https://spokanearts.submittable.com>



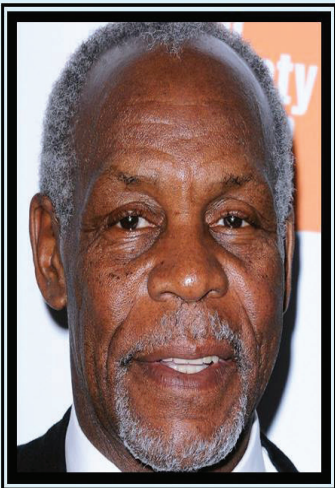


NAACP Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference
Fall Convention ~ Saturday, September 14th, Northern Quest Resort

**Spokane NAACP Centennial
Celebration Dinner Keynote Speaker**

Danny Glover

Actor, Activist, Humanitarian



**Convention
Special Guest
Nina Turner**

Bernie Sanders 2020 Co-Chair



**Luncheon Keynote
Speaker**

Sandra Williams,

*Publisher and Editor of The Black Lens;
President Square Peg Multimedia LLC*



Saturday Workshops:

The Reality of Racism in Public Schools:
What Is Happening and What Needs to Be Done

TAKING A PIECE OF THE PIE: Economic Justice for All

Ending Mass Incarceration in Washington State through a
Community Review Board

STAY WOKE

2

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**The Michael P. Anderson Award
to be awarded during the Centennial Celebration Banquet Dinner**

Tickets start at \$100



**Ads and Event
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For tickets and sponsorship information visit www.naacpaowsac.org