

THE BLACK LENSTM SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BLACK VOTES MATTER

5th District Congressional Candidates

October Subject - Politics and Congress

African Americans have become increasingly disillusioned with the political process in this country, with political rhetoric that is viewed as divisive and polarizing, with congressional representatives that are viewed as ineffective and with political parties that are viewed as not representing the interests of the African American community. According to the most recent Gallup poll (Aug. 2018), only 17% of the American public approves of the way Congress is handling its job.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Prefers Republican Party

1) How effective do you think our current congress has been and what are your thoughts on the low approval rating?

I'm proud of the work we've done this year for Eastern Washington. Too often, the media focuses on controversy rather than the positive. In June, the House passed more than 60 bills tackling the opioid crisis. We've given historic tax breaks to low and middle income families, our economy is booming and state unemployment is at a decade-low. We've passed the first part of our infrastructure agenda - rebuilding our ports, dams, waterways and airports. We've advanced bills to combat human trafficking and school violence. 68 percent of bills signed into law in this Congress enjoyed bipartisan support, the highest level in 20 years. People care about these issues, regardless of political affiliation, and I'm proud to work across the aisle to serve Eastern Washington.

2) What actions, if any, do you think members of congress should be taking, that they are not currently taking, to address how polarized and divided this country has become?

We are united by common values of liberty, justice and equality of opportunity, even when we disagree on how to achieve them. We must do more to find common ground and have civil conversations. Be-



cause if we can't even talk to each other, we won't be able to solve the important issues facing our community. Last year, I established the Peaceful Communities Roundtable in Spokane to bring together a diverse group of community leaders to talk about how to build a stronger, safer, more unified community. We identified three priorities for our community: moving from racism to 'gracism'; from poverty to opportunity; and from divisiveness to security. When it comes to bridging the divide, it starts with all of us doing our part.

Continued on Page 18

Lisa Brown

Prefers Democratic Party

1) How effective do you think our current congress has been and what are your thoughts on the low approval rating?

The current Congress is failing, and has the lowest approval rating ever. They've made no progress on the cost of health-care and prescription drugs, there's no path forward for Dreamers, and they're lurching from one government shutdown to another, not taking on the issues that people really care about. They're actually moving backward on things like criminal justice reform and won't stand up to the Trump administration when it does things that are wrong or harms eastern Washington families and farmers. As part of the leadership of this Congress, and after 14 years in office, the incumbent is part of the problem.

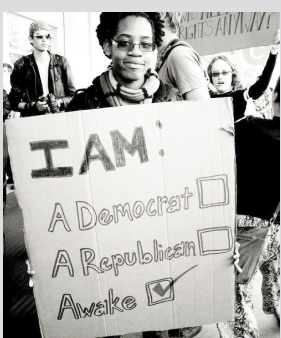
2) What actions, if any, do you think members of congress should be taking, that they are not currently taking, to address how polarized and divided this country has become?

Civility is important, and that means members of Congress need to hold others in their own party accountable, and work to change the tone being set at the top. Name-calling by President Trump is unacceptable and intolerable. I learned in the Legislature to treat



others with respect and work together to solve problems. The truth may not matter to some in elected office, but it matters to the people of eastern Washington. Voters deserve better than the negative ads with personal attacks and false claims about my record being run by my opponent. People are losing confidence in our system because of special interests setting the agenda and dark money flowing into our campaigns. I'm not taking corporate PAC money, and am relying on people power.

Continued on Page 18



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE? ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 6

Spokane Registration Deadline: Oct. 8 (In-Person Only Deadline: Oct. 29)

Spokane County Elections Office, 1033 W. Gardner Ave, Spokane, WA 99260
(509) 477-2320 www.spokanecounty.org/178/current-election #BlackLens100VoterChallenge

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

Black Lens 100% Voter Challenge

When I was a young kid I had a vivid imagination. I used to spend hours upon hours alone in my bedroom imagining other worlds and other people and other lives. I still have a vivid imagination, and I've been spending a good deal of time creating space for it over the past couple of weeks. Spending time imagining a different reality than the one that I am shaking my head at regularly these days.

It's October and it's election time. Every year, around this time of the year, I can count on two things. The first thing is that candidates that are running for political office, people I have never seen before in all of my comings and goings in the community (and you know I do a whole lot of coming and going) will start to show up in predominately Black spaces (ie churches, NAACP meetings, community events and the like). They are super, dooper friendly, and they are extremely interested in all things Black. At least until the day after the election.

The second thing that I can count on is getting ongoing questions about whether or not the Black Lens is going to print an endorsement list for candidates.

So, let me start by responding to the folks who I haven't talked to about this in previous years. No. The Black Lens does not endorse candidates. Now, if you know me personally, or you are my Facebook "friend", it really isn't very hard to tell who I support, but as far as the paper is concerned, I haven't in the past and will not in the future endorse.

Why?

Because I have high expectations for Black Lens readers. You see, I expect that Black Lens readers will actually-- read. And more than that, I expect that they will think-- critically.

I know, I know, in this age of sound bytes, spoon-fed information, 280 character attention spans and a newspaper industry that is dying the death of a thousand cuts, it seems almost laughable that I have an expectation that the readers of this paper (those that live in Spokane anyway) will actually read the answers to the questions that the candidates running for office have provided and that they will use that information, at least in part, to make a decision about whether or not to support them.

And that, in the words of a very smart friend of mine, I have an expectation that Black Lens readers will want the raw data, instead of having that data interpreted for them on their behalf.

But, that's what I expect. And even more than that, it's where my imagination comes into play. Here's what I have been imagining---

What if every single person who reads the Black Lens was registered to vote?

I know our political process sucks, trust me, I've seen it up close, first hand. A little too



close to be honest. I also know that there are valid reasons for Black people, and others as a matter of fact, to throw up their hands in the air in disgust and decide that they will not participate at all in a system that is corrupt to its core and has never truly represented them. So, if that's where you are coming from, trust me, you are preaching to the choir.

But as some preachers are fond of saying in the Black Baptist Church tradition, let me use my "sanctified" imagination for a minute.

What if every single person who reads the Black Lens was registered to vote, and their friends and their family members as well? And what if every one of those registered voters actually voted?

Not just robotically casting a vote for a person because of their political affiliation, but putting in a little effort and research to find out who they really are and then strategically casting a vote because that person, regardless of how they identify, has a **demonstrated** commitment to dismantling the vestiges of structural racism, inequity and white supremacy that this county was founded on. And, by the way, a demonstrated commitment doesn't mean showing up at an NAACP meeting once a year or having coffee with your newest Black "friend", although that's a good place to start.

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of trying to educate folks and train folks and help folks understand. I'm tired of elected and appointed officials who claim to be committed to diversity and equity, who say all of the right words and have the multicultural terminology down pat, yet when you check their Facebook page, or other forms of social media, not a single non-white person shows up anywhere in their life. How can you truly represent a people that you do not actually know???

How about we start voting those folks out of office and start voting in to office people who already get it! People who are already living in the 21st century and are excited about the 22nd century-- not afraid of it. People who recognize that moving past the racist shackles that are tearing our country in half will require a real commitment to truth and reconciliation. Starting first with a little cold, hard, TRUTH.

One candidate by one candidate by one candidate we could start changing Spokane with this election. That's what I am imagining. So I invite you to take the Black Lens 100% Voter Challenge. 100% of Black Lens readers registered... and 100% of Black Lens readers vote in the upcoming election. 100%

Can you feel that change a comin'... I can!

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

Contact Information:

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

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

Submission/Advertising Deadline: 15th of the month

Website: www.blacklensnews.com

Facebook: [blacklensnews](https://www.facebook.com/blacklensnews); Copyright (c) 2018 All Rights Reserved

BLACK VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED

WEAVES WIGS & SUPPLIES



Wright Way BEAUTY SUPPLY

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

SHOP ALL THESE BRANDS & MORE!

THE COLLECTION
PREMIUM QUALITY HAIR

Miss Jessie's
ORIGINAL

BLACK LABEL
HAND & BODY LOTION

CREME OF NATURE

Carole's Daughter

MILKYWAY
100% HUMAN HAIR

EBHA
Collectively, We Can Make It!

MIZANI

Dark and Lovely

Looking for a Home?



Ty Patterson

BROKER
LICENSED IN WASHINGTON

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



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



Windermere
REAL ESTATE

Windermere Manito LLC

Let's Get It!!!

COMMITTED TO PROGRESS.

Lisa Brown will take on the issues that really matter. She'll protect Social Security and Medicare. She won't let Congress privatize the Veteran's Administration.

In the Legislature, Lisa worked to help fund the renovation of Emmanuel Family Life Center, expand Head Start, and protect healthcare.

Lisa has worked for us before. In Congress, she'll be there for us, too.

**Lisa
BROWN**
C O N G R E S S ::
Lisabrownforcongress.com



Paid for by Lisa Brown for Congress (D)

PO Box 154, Spokane, WA 99210

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Bill Cosby Sentenced to 3 to 10 Years in Prison

By Stacy M. Brown, @StacyBrownMedia
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Bill Cosby arrived at the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania courthouse in a black SUV surrounded by his publicists and attorneys. He left in a prison van, escorted by sheriff's deputies. His lawyers immediately filed a notice of appeal. Judge Steven T. O'Neill sentenced the fallen comic to as many as 10 years in state prison. Cosby, 81, could be released after serving a minimum of three years.



“You have no right to it,” O’Neill told Cosby’s attorney Joe Green, when asked that his client remain free on bail pending appeal. “This is a serious crime,” said the judge, who earlier had designated Cosby a sexual violent predator which means he’ll have to undergo a lifetime of monthly counseling and report quarterly to authorities. Because of the sexual violent predator designation, Cosby’s name also will appear on a sex-offender registry sent to neighbors, schools and victims.

Additionally, after having already paid the victim in the case, Andrea Constand, \$3.4 million in a civil settlement, the sexually violent predator designation can also be used against him in several defamation lawsuits that are pending against him. Prosecutors had asked for a five- to 10-year sentence.

Cosby’s spokesman Andrew Wyatt told reporters that the sentence continues the “lynching of a legacy. This has been the most racist and sexist trial in the history of the United States,” Wyatt said.

Wyatt continued: “All three psychologists that testified against Dr. Cosby were white women who make money off of accusing Black men of being a sexual predator and it’s no accident that Prosecutor Steele worked so closely with anti-Black and anti-Male activist groups who tried to extort \$100 million from Dr. Cosby in 2014.

Wyatt and Cosby’s wife, Camille, also pointed to an NNPA Newswire exclusive story earlier this month that revealed that tapes used to help convict Cosby were doctored. After reading the NNPA Newswire story, Cosby hired a forensic firm in Northern Virginia to review recordings of phone calls with Cosby provided by Constand’s mother, Gianna. The recordings were used as evidence in both of Cosby’s trials. However, Wyatt and Camille Cosby said the firm found that the recordings were indeed doctored.

Cosby said her husband’s legal team would immediately file for relief on the basis that Steele used falsified evidence to win the conviction. “The right to a fair trial is of utmost importance,” Camille Cosby said.

Cosby was found guilty in April of three counts of aggravated indecent assault for the drugging and sexual assault of Constand, a former Temple University employee, in Montgomery County more than 14 years ago. He was the first celebrity to be criminally convicted of sexual abuse since the start of the #MeToo movement, the national movement that has resulted in numerous celebrities and powerful individuals, like former NBC “Today” host Matt Lauer, movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, and many others, losing their careers.

Cosby, who declined to address the court during sentencing and also didn’t testify during either of his trials, has vowed to continue to fight his conviction. His attorneys as well as many other legal experts have said there are numerous grounds for a higher court to consider over-throwing the verdicts against him.

Among O’Neill’s rulings that Cosby’s team believe are questionable is the contentious relationship the judge has had with former District Attorney Bruce Castor, who previously declined to file charges against Cosby because he said Constand wasn’t credible and there wasn’t evidence to support a prosecution. Castor also made an agreement with Cosby in which the actor would waive his Fifth Amendment right and sit for a civil deposition. The then-District Attorney agreed that whatever Cosby said in the deposition would be sealed and could never be used to prosecute him.

Camille Cosby recently filed a request for a full investigation into O’Neill with the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board at the state’s capitol in Harrisburg. “In light of Judge O’Neill’s continuing unethical conduct, I have retained a former prosecutor based in Harrisburg, Brian W. Perry, to facilitate my efforts to uncover the truth regarding the longstanding and ongoing feud between Castor and the judge,” Camille Cosby said in a statement last week.

After Bill Cosby was led away in handcuffs on Tuesday, Wyatt said his boss was holding up well. “Bill Cosby is fine. They prosecuted Jesus, and look what happened to him,” Wyatt said. “[Cosby] believes in God, and he will be OK.”

Julia Nepper: Started College At 12 Earns PhD at 23



(Source: Rachael Davis, <https://www.essence.com/news>)

Julia Nepper was just 12 years old when she began taking classes at Cape Fear Community College. She went on to obtain her associate’ degree two years later at age 14, her bachelors at age 16 and most recently received her Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison at the age of 23.

Julia’s mother Nadine Nepper says the difficult, yet crucial, decision to home school her daughter after realizing she wasn’t being challenged enough in school made all the difference. “We didn’t think she was being challenged enough,” Nadine told NBC News affiliate WLBT. “It was suggested if we wanted her to excel, we’d have to pull her out and home school her.”

While Nepper credits her family support system with keeping her on the accelerated path to higher education, she also believes the things she’s achieved are within reach for anyone who has a similar support system behind them. “Most of the people I’ve met, in my life, could have done what I did if they had the right support,” Julia says. “I don’t fault my parents, pushing me, with regards to my education. Clearly, I could handle it and it worked. So they must have done something right.”

In an interview with Madison 365, Nepper said she’s currently completing her postdoc at UW-Madison and looking to start a career in science outreach and communications.

Arthur Mitchell, Pioneering Black Ballet Dancer, Dies At 84

(Source: AP; Photo Credit: mobballet.org)

NEW YORK (AP) — Arthur Mitchell, who broke barriers for African-Americans in the 1950s as a ballet dancer with the New York City Ballet and who would go on to become a driving force in the creation of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, died Wednesday, September 19, at a New York City hospital according to his niece, Juli Mills-Ross. She said the death came after renal failure led to heart failure. He was 84.

Mitchell was born in 1934, and grew up with four siblings. He started formal dance training in high school, and upon graduating, took the offer of a ballet scholarship with the School of American Ballet, founded by Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein.

Mitchell started dancing with the New York City Ballet in 1955 under famed choreographer George Balanchine. Balanchine put him in several leading roles, including one pairing him with a white female dancer in “Agon” in 1957.

In 1968, impacted by the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Mitchell started a dance school that grew the next year to include the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Mitchell’s dancing years also included choreographing his own works, performing on Broadway, and working with dance companies in other countries. The Dance Theatre of Harlem performed internationally and has been artistically acclaimed even as it went through some periods of financial upheaval. He stepped down as director almost a decade ago.

In a post on Instagram, Misty Copeland, the first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in the American Ballet Theater’s 75-year history, wrote, “You gave me so much, through our conversations, your



dancing and by simply existing as a brown body in ballet. But you were so much more than a brown body. You’re an icon and hero.”

Mitchell had most recently spent time at the Dance Theater of Harlem, during a two-week residency in which he restaged one of his older ballets to be performed next April as the company marks its 50th anniversary.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Police Officer Fired Who Killed Botham Jean

(Source: NewsOne Staff, <https://newsone.com>)

The Dallas police officer who killed unarmed, 26 year old Botham Shem Jean in his own home in September has been fired. Amber Guyger, who was off duty when she entered Botham Jean's apartment and shot him dead the night of Sept. 6, had her job terminated on Monday, September 24, by Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall.

The move followed Hall's earlier declaration that she was "prohibited" from firing Guyger, adding further confusion to a case that has hinted at police trying to cover-up the now-former officer's puzzling excuse of confusing her apartment for Jean's.

"I can't do that because there are both local, state and federal laws that prohibit me from taking action," Hall said Tuesday. "There are civil service laws we have to adhere to." It was unclear what exactly changed to allow Hall to fire Guyger on Monday.

The entire episode started the night of Sept. 6 when Guyger entered Jean's apartment, supposedly confusing his apartment for hers, and shooting him because she thought he was a burglar. Despite how implausible her excuse was, Guyger remained free for three days until she turned herself in to be arrested,



booked for manslaughter charges and released on bond during a brief, three-hour process.

Five search warrants were issued for Guyger's home, but none was executed before she moved out. In contrast, a search warrant was issued for Jean's apartment, where authorities said they found marijuana, leading advocates to wonder what relevance that had on the case, and suggesting police were trying

to assassinate Jean's character after a member of the force killed him.

Although it took 18 days for Dallas police officer Amber Guyger to be fired for shooting Botham Jean in his own apartment, her lawyer is now complaining that it is 'unfair' she was terminated, and claiming that Chief Hall "bowed to pressure from anti-police groups and took action before all of the facts had been gathered and due process was afforded."

According to CNN.com via the family's attorney S. Lee Merritt, Allison Jean called Guyger's termination a "satisfactory solution" but "the family would still like to see Guyger indicted on a murder charge." Currently, Guyger is charged with manslaughter. CNN.com also reported, "The attorney is preparing a civil rights claim in Jean's death. He said Guyger's termination makes his case stronger because it shows the city and police department think Guyger 'obviously engaged in behavior that doesn't comport with a police officer,' he said."

Botham Jean was laid to rest in his home country of St. Lucia on September 24. The St. Lucia Times reported that mourners in Jean's home country paid tribute to the young man who had aspirations of one day becoming their prime minister. The Times reported that the service was filled with nearly three hours of tributes and songs for the loss of one of the country's sons. Many of those who spoke cited Jean's unwavering faith in God, his dedication to his friends and his love of singing. Several members of Jean's childhood choir created a video tribute of them signing "Lean on Me" from all over the world because they were not able to attend.

U.S. News Issues New Rankings of the Nation's Best HBCUs



(Source: Journal of Blacks In Higher Education, <https://www.jbhe.com>)

The magazine U.S. News and World Report recently issued its annual rankings of the best colleges and universities in the United States. In addition to its rankings of the best national universities and liberal arts colleges, the magazine ranks regional colleges and universities and also the nation's historically Black colleges and universities.

The top five HBCUs remained the same from last year's ranking.

1. Spelman College in Atlanta
2. Howard University in Washington D.C.
3. Hampton University in Virginia
4. Morehouse College in Atlanta
5. Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans
6. Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee
7. Claflin University in Orangeburg, North Carolina
8. North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC
9. Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida
10. North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC

This was the 12th year in a row that Spelman College has topped the U.S. News rankings for HBCUs and it also tied for the 51st best liberal arts college in the country, up 10 positions from last year's report.

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/hbcu>

Brooklyn will get 407-acre state park dedicated to Activist and Politician Shirley Chisholm



(Source: Amy Pitt, <https://ny.curbed.com>; Photo Courtesy of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Office)

As part of Governor Andrew Cuomo's \$1.4 billion "Vital Brooklyn" initiative, Jamaica Bay will become home to the largest state park in New York City, spanning 407 acres and offering a myriad of activities.

The park will be named for trailblazing New York politician Shirley Chisholm, who was the first black Congresswoman, elected in 1969 to represent the city's 12th district. She was also the first woman to run for president on the Democratic ticket, launching her ultimately unsuccessful campaign in 1972. (But as the NWHM notes, her campaign was hurt by discrimination: "She was blocked from participating in televised primary debates, and after taking legal action, was permitted to make just one speech.")

A massive swath of Jamaica Bay is being converted to a park area with miles of walkway and an amphitheater named after the first black congresswoman, Gov. Cuomo announced September 5. The first phase of the 407-acre park is set to open next summer and will honor Shirley Chisholm. It will include 10 miles of hiking and biking trails, kayaking access, picnic areas, and bathrooms. Part of the area was formerly used as a landfill.

"Shirley Chisholm led the fight to improve the health and wellness of underserved communities that we carry on today with the Vital Brooklyn initiative, and we are proudly naming this park after her in admiration for the example of leadership and devotion she set for all of us," Cuomo said in a statement.

HBCU Pre-Law Summit Provides Game-Changing Opportunities For HBCU Students & Alumni Interested in Becoming Lawyers



(Source: <http://www.blacknews.com/news>)

Atlanta, GA — The Fifth Annual National HBCU Pre-Law Summit & Law Expo 2018 Sponsored by AccessLex Institute took place on Friday, September 14, 2018 and Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia.

The summit is the only major national outreach event of its kind in the entire country focused on empowering and supporting students and alumni of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) interested in pursuing the rigorous, demanding and obstacle-laden path of going to law school and becoming lawyers.

According to recent Law School Admission Council statistics, nearly 50% of African American law school applicants don't get into any law school that they apply to. Over 100 lawyers, law students, and law school administrators participated in the summit in various capacities with the singular and collective purpose of helping to empower and support students and graduates in their quest to becoming lawyers.

The goal was that every attendee leave not just with critical information and resources, but, just as importantly, with a circle of support. www.hbcuprelawsummit.org

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

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

Willa Beatrice Brown

Willa Beatrice Brown was born in Glasgow, Kentucky in 1906. Growing up a “preacher’s kid” in a stable upbringing, Willa’s parents encouraged her to tackle multiple duties and to succeed in them, such as going to school while holding a job. Those skills remained with her throughout her life.

She graduated from The Indiana Teachers College in 1927, now Indiana State University, and in 1934 from Northwestern College with multiple degrees in Business and French. After school she taught at Roosevelt High School in Gary Indiana, but like many others lost her job as a result of the Great Depression and moved to Chicago.

She had always been an admirer of the great pilot Bessie Coleman and decided to take flying lessons in 1934 under the guidance of Moorish aviation pioneers Dorothy Darby, Cornelius Coffey and John Robinson, graduating from Curtiss-Wright Aeronautical University as a pilot and exhibition parachute jumper, then later earning an Aviation Mechanic’s Certificate.

After a brief marriage, Willa married aviation founder Cornelius Coffey in 1939 and together they founded the Cornelius Coffey School of Aeronautics, the first ever private flight training academy established by Moors. Thanks to her skills in multi-tasking and business administration, she recruited potential flight students, created flight academy curriculum, taught curriculum classes, and maintained the school’s standards in harmony with feder-

al aviation regulations. The success of the Coffey Academy led to a lucrative Federal contract for the couple teaching civilians to fly in case of national emergencies.

Also that year Willa became co-founder of the National Airmen’s Association of America and joined the Chicago Girls Flight Club. Through her knowledge and skill in aviation Willa trained hundreds of her people in the art of flight, dozens of those becoming admitted members of the Tuskegee Airmen through her training.

Not long afterwards she became coordinator and director of Civil Aeronautics Administration Programs at Harlem Airport and Wendell Phillips High School of Chicago taking young students on as her own (herself never having children). Also of note in 1942 she became the first of her people, male or female, to be commissioned as an officer in the Civil Air Patrol (lieutenant).

A year later Willa was the only woman of any complexion to possess a private license, commercial license, and Master Mechanic’s license – very few men achieved this. Reaching flying’s pinnacles of achievement in 1946, Willa ran for Congress on the Republican ticket, losing to Democratic incumbent William Levi Dawson (she later ran again unsuccessfully in 48’ and 50’). One of her main political platforms was racial and gender integration into the Army’s Air Corps Division and the Air Force.

In 1955 she married for the third time the Rev. J.H. Chappell of the West Side Com-



munity Church of Chicago. After a career as a highly-skilled pilot, instructor, aviation director with decades of aeronautics experience Willa was appointed to the Women’s Advisory Board of the Federal Aviation Administration in 1972. Through their aviation training school more than two-hundred of her people earned their pilot’s wings. She passed away in Chicago at the age of 86 on July 18, 1992.

Sources:
blackpast.org/aah/brown-willa-b-1906-1992
airandspace.si.edu/files/pdf/explore-and-learn/teaching-posters/aviation.pdf
Black Heritage Day III – Jamiyo Mack.
dommagazine.com/article/masterful-willa-brown-1906-1992
Willa Brown & The Challengers – Severo Perez (Fiction).



ALICE ALLISON DUNNIGAN

First Black Female Correspondent at the White House

Reprinted from Black Then: blackthen.com

Alice Allison Dunnigan was the first Black female correspondent at the White House and the first black female member of the Senate and House of Representatives press galleries.

She was born April 27, 1906, in Russellville, Kentucky. Her father, Willie Allison, worked as a tobacco sharecropper, and her mother, Lena Pitman Allison, took in laundry for a living. She learned to read before entering the first grade and started writing one-sentence news items for the local Owensboro Enterprise newspaper at age thirteen.

In the late 1920s Dunnigan began teaching in the Todd County School System while taking courses in journalism at Tennessee A&I University. She created what was called “Kentucky Fact Sheets” to supplement the required texts for her students and in 1939 the sheets were turned into a manuscript which was published in 1982 under the title *The Fascinating Story of Black Kentuckians: Their Heritage and Tradition*.

In 1936 at the onset of World War II, Dunnigan juggled a freelance writer position for the Chicago, Illinois branch of the Ameri-

can Negro Press (ANP) and night courses at Howard University in statistics and economics. In 1946 she took a job writing for the Chicago Defender. She started working full-time at the ANP and eventually secured a capitol press pass. With it, she was able to cover news events of the Congress, which was generally kept off limits to most reporters, the public, and especially women and African Americans. She became the first African American to gain a Congressional press pass.

In 1948 Dunnigan was one of three African Americans and one of two women in the press corps that covered the campaign of President Harry S. Truman. During her years of covering the White House, she frequently asked questions regarding the burgeoning civil rights movement and the plight of black America. In 1953 Dunnigan was barred from covering a speech given by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in a whites-only theater and was forced to sit with the servants to cover Ohio Senator Robert A. Taft’s funeral.

In 1960 Dunnigan officially left the American Negro Press galleries for a full-time position on Lyndon B. Johnson’s campaign for the Democratic nomination. She worked for Johnson when he served as

vice president and later in the Johnson Administration. Between 1966 and 1967, for example, she was an information specialist for the Department of Labor. Dunnigan also served as an associate editor with the President’s Commission on Youth Opportunity in 1967. She retired from government service in 1970.

After retirement, Dunnigan wrote her autobiography, *A Black Woman’s Experience: From Schoolhouse to White House*, which was published in 1974. Alice Allison Dunnigan died on May 6, 1983, in Washington, D.C. She was seventy-seven.

NOTE: In September, Alice Allison Dunnigan was honored in Washington, DC with a life-sized statue at the Newseum, which is an interactive museum that celebrates the history of news. In December, the statue will be moved to the West Kentucky African American Heritage Center in Russellville, Kentucky, which is Dunnigan’s hometown.

Sources: Alice Allison Dunnigan, *A Black Woman’s Experience: From Schoolhouse to White House*, (New York: Dorrance, 1974); Carol Crowe-Carraco, *Women Who Made A Difference* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1989); Nancy J. Dawson, “Alice Allison Dunnigan: Led the Fight for Black Journalists,” *The Crisis* (July-August 2007), 39-41; Contributor: Yonaia Robinson.

Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears



Difficulty Level: HIGH

Recently, a dear friend, a life-long political progressive, shared that she was a great admirer of Rev. William Barber III, author and prominent faith-based social justice activist, whom I've written about several times in this column. My friend has read all of Rev. Barber's books, and is greatly inspired by his thoughts, words, and the national, fusion-coalition movement for social and economic justice he is leading. However, she confessed, there is just one thing about Rev. Barber's message that does not resonate with her: The need to forgive one's enemies. "I just can't get there," she said. Perhaps as a minister, I should have had something wise and spiritual to offer her. But the only thing I could say was, "Yeah, that's a tough one. I struggle with the same thing."

I'm a devoted follower of Jesus, but I am not a Biblical literalist. I trust, believe and endeavor to live the message of the Christian Gospels. I certainly bring my heart and soul to interpretation of Biblical scripture, but I also bring my head. Having said that, the central tenant of Jesus' message, in any credible interpretation, is LOVE -- Love expressed as compassion, inclusiveness, and yes, forgiveness. People keep trying to find an easy way to love as Jesus taught us to love, but there's just no way around it. Love expressed as forgiveness is a tall order. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and love your neighbor. I take that commandment very literally. That doesn't mean I always do it well, but it means I must and do always try.

My friend, although she grew up Catholic, I think would no longer call herself a Christian. But Christianity has absolutely no lock on morality, justice, and love. Unfortunately, many so-called avowed Christians are shamefully hypocritical when it comes to love, inclusion and forgiveness. Our ability to forgive others and their actions is a continuum that runs from fairly

easy to profoundly difficult. To forgive a friend who slighted you is a very different thing than to forgive a person who murdered a member of your family. But people do forgive such egregious actions.

The example that never ceases to humble and amaze me is the forgiveness shown by family members whose loved ones were slain in the racially motivated massacre of nine people gathered in a prayer group at Emmanuel African American Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, by self-avowed white supremacist Dylann Roof on June 7, 2015.

Nadine Collier, whose mother Ethel Lance was one of the victims, spoke directly to Roof at a court hearing: "I forgive you. You took something very precious away from me. I will never get to talk to her ever again. I will never be able to hold her again, but I forgive you, and have mercy on your soul. ... You hurt me. You hurt a lot of people. If God forgives you, I forgive you." It must be said that all the family members of those slain who publicly forgave Dylann Roof, did so as an authentic act of Christian Love. It is the most authentic act of Love I have ever witnessed.

The context for my friend's difficulty, as I understand it, comes in forgiving people who either blindly or willfully support Donald Trump's attitudes and agenda. Her difficulty is shared by many people, including myself. Our difficulty lies in forgiving emboldened racist, sexist and xenophobic behavior, and those who abet and tolerate it. For many of us, forgiving people with these attitudes and behaviors seems off-the-charts impossible. But when I think of Nadine Collier's forgiveness of Dylann Roof, my intractability seems shameful.

In response to Jesus telling those gathered to hear his message, to love their neighbor as themselves, a man asks, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus' answer comes in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the essence of which is that we're to treat everyone as our neighbor, even people we feel unworthy of our compassion.

Maybe the question for us in these perilous and polarizing times is not who is my

neighbor, but who is my enemy? What makes someone an enemy? Do all the people I think of as enemies really rise to such contemptable status? I've been pondering, praying and mediating on that question since the conversation with my friend. I've come to some interesting and frankly unexpected personal insights.

I don't think supporters of Donald Trump are my enemies. I don't wish them ill. I don't want disaffected white people to wallow in poverty and become addicted to opioids. What I perceive as their ignorance frustrates and angers me, but I do not wish pain and suffering upon them. What I want is their enlightenment. Making them my enemy does absolutely nothing towards encouraging such enlightenment; in fact, it has quite the opposite effect.

Republican members of Congress are not my enemies. Unlike the Psalmist, I don't want God to smite them with terminal diseases and unfortunate accidents. I want to work as hard as I possibly can to get them voted out of office. It's the only remedy for their immoral governance. To be immoral is to know right from wrong and deliberately chose to do wrong for reasons of self-preservation, personal gain and power. Most of the actions of the Republican-controlled Congress are immoral.

Is Donald Trump really my enemy? Donald Trump isn't so much immoral as he is amoral. An amoral person has absolutely no sense of right and wrong. They have no self-awareness and no moral compass whatsoever. There is hope for transformation in someone who acts immorally, but no such possibility exists with someone who doesn't even know the difference between justice and injustice. Every ounce of emotional and psychological energy I spend hating Donald Trump diminishes my spirit and the energy I need to thwart his agenda.

Like many Black people, I perceive every police officer as a possible if not probable enemy. That is not based on personal experience so far, but on the experiences of my Black sons, other family members, friends, and the abuse of power I have witnessed

over and over again. It is based in the collective experience and collective memory of my long-oppressed people. Hating racist cops does not make them less racist. Exposing their every act of abuse and murder is absolutely essential, but transforming the institutions and systems, most especially the judiciary, that encourage and condone their behavior is the only lasting solution. That's where my energy must be directed.

Seething about racist microaggressions -- the everyday indirect and subtle racism, intentional or unintentional, that people of color experience -- does not change a thing. People of color and their allies must keep calling constant and immediate attention to these actions. It probably won't change a thing for intentional racists, but it may bring about a change in behavior and perhaps heart, when the aggression is unintentional.

Forgiveness is not capitulation, indifference, or ignoring egregious behavior. Forgiveness is not done for the sake of forgiving. When we forgive, we proactively release ourselves from the destructive energies and emotions of hate that bind us. Forgiveness is integral in a dedicated effort toward reconciliation and transformation. Specifically, regarding Rev. Barber's thoughts on forgiving our enemies, he speaks of forgiveness as going hand and hand with re-consecration. Such rededication of ourselves, harnesses our energies, and our Faith as we work unceasingly to transform our systems in service to the common good. We must return to morality before immorality becomes amorality; before we no longer know right from wrong.

This is what I now say to my dear friend: Forgiving our enemies is not an altruistic act, nor are we diminished when we forgive. Forgiveness is surrendering ourselves in service to the greater good. It is an emptying of ourselves to make room for greater Love.

© Copyright Beverly Spears 2018

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

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

The Grass May Look Greener

By Evelyn Anderton

Have you ever looked at the life of someone else and wish it was you? The grass always seems to look greener on the other side. Many of us have been guilty of that, Proverbs: 14:30 states a heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bone.

It's normal to look at the life of others from a distance and notice all that some people have accomplished and achieved. If we would take the time to look deeper, we may find uncomfortable and unbearable experiences. The grass may look greener; the car, the house or the job may look nicer, but it may be a totally different experience living the life.

I remember years ago my husband had the opportunity to rise to a new level of promotion in life. I was very excited for him and wanted him to accept the position. However, he was not interested. He ex-

plained, at times promotions appear to look great, but many times may come with unhappiness and unrest. The grass may look greener but is it worth the risk. Many people have a desire to sit where other people are sitting. They see all the glitter and glamour of their life thinking what a beautiful experience. What we see may not be the true picture. On many occasions they may actually be experiencing a lack of peace and happiness. Therefore, be careful what you desire. The grass may look greener on the other side, but I strongly suggest you take a second look.

We must strive to live a peaceful life, filled with joy, and a life full of honor and integrity. Always be careful as you desire to be in someone else's grass. Strive to find joy, peace and happiness in your own grass. Never envy what others have but find joy and contentment in what the Lord has given each of us.

Remember, the phrase "The grass is greener on the other side" is nothing more than an old wise tale.



SPOKANE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Position 10

Dennis Cronin

Shelley Szambelan

1) What do you see as the role of a Superior Court Judge and what qualities do you possess that best qualify you for the position?

A judge swears to impartially and independently support the Federal and State Constitutions. Each Superior Court judge adjudicates Criminal, Civil, Domestic, Adoption, Juvenile, Probate, Guardianship and other proceedings. The role is multi-faceted, requiring efficient administration of taxpayer funds and leadership to promote confidence in our court system. For over thirty years as an attorney, I represented individuals across the complex spectrum of Superior Court, developing historical and practical legal knowledge, skills, and abilities across all domains, combined with professional and civic service, eighteen years as a small business owner, and ten years as a Superior Court Commissioner Pro Tem.

2) What role, if any do you believe a judge has to play in enhancing equal access to justice? Please describe any activities that you have engaged in to improve access to the judicial system.

A judge has a pre-eminent constitutional duty to enhance equal access to justice. As a poverty lawyer in 1986 and through Carl Maxey’s mentorship, I learned access to justice must include leadership to effectively address systemic barriers to accessing equal justice. Since 2008 I’ve earned commendations from the WSBA for Pro Bono legal representation and have volunteered in professional capacities focused on access to justice issues. For over 33 years I’ve represented many who were otherwise unable to access the justice system. Please visit www.DennisCroninForJudge.com for a summary of my career activities promoting improved access to justice.

3) What are your thoughts on the need for criminal justice reform, both locally and on a state and national level?

The Judicial Canons prevent sharing thoughts that may violate independence and impartiality and/or cause an appearance of partiality. However, among other studies, the 2013 Blueprint for Reform, Smart Justice, MacArthur Grant, Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council, Administrative Office of the Courts, and Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission report on implicit and explicit bias, LFOs, jury selection, and national discussions including bail studies cited by Eric Holder’s Department of Justice in Varden v. Clanton each speak to the need for criminal justice reform locally and on the State and Federal levels.

4) What is your understanding of the impact of implicit bias in the criminal justice system and what experiences, training or knowledge do you have in addressing implicit bias on a personal and/or professional level?

Implicit bias affects every criminal justice system encounter and proceeding, resulting in disparate arrests, bail, pre-trial services, pleas, jury selection, trial outcomes and sentencing. My experiences with implicit bias span my lifetime. As former counsel for Spokane NAACP and Spokane Martin Luther King, Jr. Center I confronted such bias. Most recently, I co-facilitated Spokane sites for statewide Implicit Bias Mandatory Training for Administrative Law Judges and the Minority and Justice Commission Symposium, “Jury Diversity in Washington: Hollow Promise or Hopeful Future?” For more information about my experiences and training addressing the impact of implicit bias, please visit www.DennisCroninForJudge.com.

5) What are your thoughts on the racial disparities that currently exist in Spokane’s criminal justice system and from a judicial perspective, what concrete steps need to be taken to address the disparities?

Current disparities reflect what I’ve learned representing individuals affected by racial and ethnic inequality over the past thirty plus years in Spokane. Judges must apply the laws and the rules consistently. Local judicial leadership is necessary in community conversations to affect factors resulting in on-going disparities in Spokane. Judicial officers, within the constraints imposed by the Judicial Canons, can and should be visibly involved, encouraging cooperation for transparency, access to comprehensive data, and participate in on-going Implicit Bias Training and community engagement to impact critical systemic issues and move the conversation from conflict to action.



6) What can a judge do to improve diversity and equity in the legal profession?

Each judge should understand diversity is the intersectionality of many differences. All judges should listen to law students, recent graduates, attorneys and others for awareness of the implicit and explicit bias factors affecting impacted and underrepresented people in Spokane. Judges should also be visibly present in the community and collegial discussions; be actively conscious of the disparate and inequitable systemic forces in the legal system and our community; be visibly engaged to promote professional networking opportunities; strive for intersectional staffing cultivating an equity court culture; and engender public confidence through leadership to effectuate positive changes.

7) What do you consider to be the most significant barriers that African Americans face today with regards to access to our justice system? In what ways have you seen these barriers in the courtroom? Give an example of how you have addressed one of the barriers?

As neutral studies illustrate, barriers are visible to all who wish to see, including systemic implicit bias and lack of financial and other resources. Once, a psychologist administered a highly relied upon psychological evaluation to the only person of color in the courtroom. I asked, “Is this evaluation based on a statistical white population data pool, simply providing a white man’s test to a black man?” The answer, of course, was “Yes”. The judge disregarded the test. The blindfold Lady Justice wears represents how judges have a duty to ensure justice for all.

8) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area to address issues related to the justice system?

Relationships are key to mutual trust and respect. I’ve shown up and been present since moving to Spokane in 1983. Working for and with Spokane’s first African American attorney, Carl Maxey, provided early opportunities to work with community leaders including Eileen Thomas and Rev. ‘Happy’ Watkins in my former role as counsel to the N.A.A.C.P. and Martin Luther King Jr. Center. I appreciate continued relationships and support, including among others, endorsement by the Spokane Ministers’ Fellowship. I’m honored to have earned the Exceptionally Well Qualified Judicial Rating by the Loren Miller Bar Association, of which Carl Maxey was a founding member.

9) Why should people of color, in particular, be interested in the judicial races?

Despite years of countless committees addressing Spokane criminal justice reform, our community remains embroiled in conflict as disparities increase. During the Summer of Freedom, people of color and allies fought side by side to ensure the right to vote. 54 years later, you have the opportunity to elect a Spokane County Superior Court judge prepared to build bridges and move talk to action. It’s time for all people who value our Constitution and Justice for All to VOTE. It’s time for change. It’s time to vote. www.DennisCroninForJudge.com

Contact:
(509) 990-8683
info@DennisCroninForJudge.com
<http://www.DennisCroninForJudge.com>

1) What do you see as the role of a Superior Court Judge and what qualities do you possess that best qualify you for the position?

A Superior Court Judge’s role is to give validation to the justice system. What judges say, think and do -- how they treat people -- can either give legitimacy, or continue to perpetuate people’s beliefs that the system is not just or fair. How judges treat people - all people - matters. I’ve treated all people who appear before me, regardless of their role, with dignity and respect. For nearly a decade as a full-time judge, I have been committed to applying the law but in a fair manner; that’s why I have broad support from opposite sides.

2) What role, if any, do you believe a judge has to play in enhancing equal access to justice? Please describe any activities that you have engaged in to improve access to the judicial system.

A judge’s job is to enhance equal access to justice. As civil legal aid efforts, which I’ve consistently supported, note: “It’s not justice, if it’s not equal.” My career, both as a judge and a lawyer, has focused on the importance of promoting equal access to justice. Justice cannot be a commodity that only the wealthy or privileged can afford. I started with the beginnings of the ABA Modest Means project, pro bono work, and working within the system to achieve greater access by promoting access to justice through innovations like Community Court, implementing procedural justice concepts, and electronic case management.

3) What are your thoughts on the need for criminal justice reform, both locally and on a state and national level?

There is an absolute need for reform at all levels. I have and continue to work towards systemic improvements. What we’re currently doing at all levels is not working. I continue to work on local reform. We need a fair system that is free from disparate treatment, particularly on the basis of ethnicity and privilege.

4) What is your understanding of the impact of implicit bias in the criminal justice system and what experiences, training, or knowledge do you have in addressing implicit bias on a personal and/or professional level?

As Dean of Judicial College and through continuing judicial education, I have taken IATs, courses and reviewed a lot of materials on implicit bias; I was assigned to work with the Washington State Minority & Justice Commission’s curriculum for Judicial College. One of the best articles I’ve read was a lengthy 2012 law review article that we were to read prior to Ada Sheen-Jaffe’s presentation in Spokane. It gave good advice about doubting yourself as a judicial officer because being tasked with being fair provided a luxury of assuming that you were, and gave practical advice.

5) What are your thoughts on the racial disparities that currently exist in Spokane’s criminal justice system and from a judicial perspective, what concrete steps need to be taken to address the disparities?

The data clearly shows what I see in court and there is a disparate impact on persons of color in Spokane. Aside from my past efforts on criminal justice reform, I continue to work towards this end. I serve on a committee that is reviewing criminal case management, which includes analyzing data on what cases and defendants are offered deferrals or sentencing alternatives. We need to continue to work within the system to reduce the impact. I look to continuing work with the Burns Institute in this regard, as well as taking innovations from the Juvenile Court.

6) What can a judge do to improve diversity and equity in the legal profession?

Judges can and should support and encourage diversity in the legal profession. It can start



early with volunteering in “Judges in the Classroom”, so that all children know that they can and have an opportunity to pursue their dreams. Although we’re busy, I believe that it’s important enough to drive to rural communities, reservations and our local schools to educate our youth that we need all of them, and that they can contribute to our justice system as lawyers and judges. I support the mentoring program at Gonzaga School of Law and our bar to achieve those same goals.

7) What do you consider to be the most significant barriers that African Americans face today with regards to access to our justice system? In what ways have you seen these barriers in the courtroom? Give an example of how you have addressed one of the barriers.

Being a person of privilege, I hesitate to put my words on what are the most significant barriers African American face with regard to access to our justice system. I suspect that, with good reason, many fear that they’ll be treated unfairly and are less inclined to participate as a result. Many years ago, I remember an unrelated African American clap in support from the gallery when I was having a colloquy with an African American inmate after I just relayed that I cared about what he wanted to tell me before sentencing; I never forgot that.

8) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area to address issues related to the justice system?

Through efforts on the Blueprint for Reform, I have endeavored to work with all impacted communities. I very much enjoyed my work with the Burns Institute as the Spokane Regional Law & Justice Council tried to navigate difficult issues and decades (if not more) of distrust. Candidly, there was a breakdown after my time on the Council ended. It is an important conversation that our community needs to have and keep working at; I remain committed to finding collaborative solutions.

9) Why should people of color, in particular, be interested in the judicial races?

I think all persons should be interested in judicial races, but particularly the disenfranchised or less represented. The justice system should be where all people get a fair shake regardless of who they are, who they know, how much money they have, or what their race, gender or sexual orientation is. It’s important that our judges represent the composition of our communities. While Spokane has made strides in having a more diverse bench, we need to do better; three quarters of our community does not consist of white men.

Contact:
(509) 954-7144
friendsofjudgeszambelan@gmail.com
<http://friendsofjudgeszambelan.com>

SPOKANE DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Position 1

Randy Brandt

Patrick Johnson

1) What do you see as the role of a District Court Judge and what qualities do you possess that best qualify you for the position?

The role of a District Court Judge is basically the same as any judicial officer. To carefully consider the facts brought to the court, apply the law and utilize their experience to render a decision. I became a licensed attorney in 1988 and have 21 years of judicial service to our community. I was elected Presiding Judge by my peer Judges. This experience gives me unique qualifications on how to work with anyone in my courtroom, including staff and the litigants to bring their case to a speedy and proper resolution under the law. I grew up in this community and know its people and cultural differences.

2) What role, if any, do you believe a judge has to play in enhancing equal access to justice? Please describe any activities that you have engaged in to improve access to the judicial system.

Every time I began hearing criminal and on occasion civil cases, I advise all participants of their rights and opportunities for legal representation, translation services and ADA accommodations. Translation includes but is not limited to the spoken word, American Sign Language, services for the blind and access for those physically impaired. If the parties cannot afford legal representation the court provides an attorney at no cost. I led the remodel of several courtrooms in order to comply with ADA requirements and increase efficiency and safety.

3) What are your thoughts on the need for criminal justice reform, both locally and on a state and national level?

As a charter member of the Spokane Regional Law & Justice Council I am very aware of the need for criminal justice reform. Areas of concern include access to justice and fairness, time from start to disposition of cases and age of all active pending cases to insure all cases are timely resolved. Certainty of a trial date should be established unless the parties mutually agree to a continuance (delay). A check to insure reliability and integrity of case files and a review of how monetary collections are handled. This applies to state and national levels alike.

4) What is your understanding of the impact of implicit bias in the criminal justice system and what experiences, training, or knowledge do you have in addressing implicit bias on a personal and/or professional level?

My father was a pilot who gave me the opportunity to travel to many countries where, as an American, I not only experienced implicit bias, but outright prejudice against my race and national origin. I learned firsthand, in many situations what being the minority meant. I was openly distrusted, disliked and treated like an inferior person. I learned valuable lessons about how I did not want to be treated and have always worked to treat everyone, under any circumstance, with dignity in an open, fair and unbiased way. I received extensive training about Diversity, cultural issues and bias in the courtroom while attending Judicial College and periodic judges training.

5) What are your thoughts on the racial disparities that currently exist in Spokane’s criminal justice system and from a judicial perspective, what concrete steps need to be taken to address the disparities?

I have always instinctively sought to eliminate disparity, making sure everyone was included in the process. This was enhanced by my experiences in other cultures in which I was the minority. I was raised in an environment in which it was simply understood that everyone I grew up with and interacted with was the same as my family. I bring that understanding to the court. Treating each and every person in my life and in the courts the same, with dignity and fairness ensures inclusion and respect. During my legal career, I served as a Victim’s Advocate, providing services to those who need to be heard but for many reasons may avoid the courtroom.



6) What can a judge do to improve diversity and equity in the legal profession?

The jury system represents the best of inclusion and diversity in our society. We must foster an environment in which lawyers regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and physical disability are motivated to succeed professionally and contribute to the goals of their profession. Because our society is ever changing, we must include an understanding of those changes and make the legal profession available to all. Encouraging people to register to vote, which is one way the jury pools are chosen, is a way of improving diversity and inclusion.

7) What do you consider to be the most significant barriers that African Americans face today with regards to access to our justice system? In what ways have you seen these barriers in the courtroom? Give an example of how you have addressed one of the barriers.

There are real and perceived implicit bias in our society. As it relates to the justice system, it is incumbent on those of us who have worked in that system to find ways to “demystify” the court and make sure everyone understands they have access to their court. As judges, we are often the first person our citizens meet in a courtroom environment and how they leave that courtroom knowing they had access and the right to be heard is imperative. Letting people know of their rights and making accommodations immediately available leads to a less stressful situation for everyone. To that end I have made presentations to many groups, including new citizens, school students and civic groups to let them know how the justice system works.

8) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area to address issues related to the justice system?

I have represented many members of the African American community. It began when I received referral cases from Mr. Carl Maxey regarding nearly every type case that is brought before the court. I made sure my clients understood the legal complexities of their case and how it would proceed through the system. I was often invited to my client’s homes for dinner and family events. Several members of my family are people of color, including African American, Native American and Asian.

9) Why should people of color, in particular, be interested in the judicial races?

Regardless of race, ethnicity and background everyone, not just those of color, should be interested in judicial races. How our citizens cases are handled, how the litigants are treated during and after the case is resolved should be of interest to everyone. I feel it is our civic duty to vote, to be heard. A judge and sometimes a jury decide how a case will be resolved and the citizens should vote for those that make sound decisions. I bring a lifetime of community involvement, many years in the practice of law and twenty-one years of judicial experience to serve our community with life, legal and judicial experience.

Contact:
(509) 844-1784
randyabrandt@aol.com
<https://www.votebrandt.com>

1) What do you see as the role of a District Court Judge and what qualities do you possess that best qualify you for the position?

The position of District Court Judge requires balance and efficiency to handle a huge volume of cases. My balance comes from my combination of 20 years at the Spokane County Prosecutor’s Office, and 25 years of military experience. For the last 17 years I have defended soldiers in the US Army Reserves through my work as a Major in Trial Defense Services. I have handled thousands of cases and tried more than 150 trials. My experience gives me the background to make decisions which are efficient and fair.

2) What role, if any, do you believe a judge has to play in enhancing equal access to justice? Please describe any activities that you have engaged in to improve access to the judicial system.

Judges have a professional duty to ensure access to justice, as well as a social duty to use a position of authority to achieve fairness of process and outcome. I have been active in our community supporting non-profit groups. Judges must work hard to articulate the reasons for their decisions so that justice is transparent and reviewable. I have personally worked to ensure that non-represented (pro-se) defendants receive accommodation and flexibility to obtain counsel. I have also worked with our elder community discussing issues related to elder abuse (both physical abuse and financial exploitation) to educate the elderly regarding their rights.

3) What are your thoughts on the need for criminal justice reform, both locally and on a state and national level?

Criminal justice reform is essential if we are to improve our society. Every incarcerated person is an individual who is not participating in the work force, not providing for the needs of their family, and represents a shift in the burden of providing food and housing from the individual to the taxpayer.

4) What is your understanding of the impact of implicit bias in the criminal justice system and what experiences, training, or knowledge do you have in addressing implicit bias on a personal and/or professional level?

Through my employment as an employee of Spokane County, I have received training in identifying and reacting to implicit bias. In my 25 years of military service I have received regular training in promoting equal opportunities for all members of our military. It is my understanding that implied bias is hard to identify because it is not an overt act that defines such bias, but rather a product of culture, upbringing, race, and socio-economic factors. In my work as a Senior Prosecuting Attorney, I strive to employ a fair and even-handed application of the law, and as a District Court Judge I am confident that I will use my skills in that capacity as well.

5) What are your thoughts on the racial disparities that currently exist in Spokane’s criminal justice system and from a judicial perspective, what concrete steps need to be taken to address the disparities?

My understanding is that a statistical disparity exists in the number of minorities who enter the criminal justice system. Once in the system and charged with a crime, the statistical disparity remains roughly consistent (it neither increases nor decreases once in the system). I interpret this to mean that prosecutors, judges, and defense attorneys apply a roughly even handed application of justice. The harder problem to identify is what accounts for the greater number of minorities entering the system in the first place. It is unlikely that the position of District Court Judge will be able to implement concrete steps to reverse problems rooted in cultural and socio-economic disparities, but a judge should in all cases work to consider the background of each individual when making sentencing decisions.



6) What can a judge do to improve diversity and equity in the legal profession?

During my 20 years in the legal profession, I have seen significant changes in diversity. This change began with the gender balance adjusting to more closely reflect the numbers in the general population. Currently in District Court, of the seven filled positions, four are held by women. In Superior Court, of the 12 positions, five are held by women. More work is needed to close the gap with respect to minority representation. Judges can impact this trend by encouraging minority entry into law schools, and by ensuring that positions related to the court system such as law clerks are open to all well qualified applicants.

7) What do you consider to be the most significant barriers that African Americans face today with regards to access to our justice system? In what ways have you seen these barriers in the courtroom? Give an example of how you have addressed one of the barriers.

I have observed fair and equal access to lawyers in the justice system where the vast majority of defendants qualify for public defender representation. It has always been my practice to ensure that sentencing alternatives are available to those who qualify without regard to race, gender or other factors unrelated to criminal history and I will continue that practice as a judge.

8) How have you effectively worked with members of the African American community in the Spokane area to address issues related to the justice system?

I have 20 years of experience working with individuals of all backgrounds to achieve fair resolutions in criminal cases, and to work with opposing counsel of all backgrounds. In both my capacity as a prosecutor and as a defense attorney in the Army I have received training to better understand and apply practices to empower a balanced application of the law.

9) Why should people of color, in particular, be interested in the judicial races?

District Court Judge is a position of heavy volume which impacts a large number of people in our community. District Court is sometimes referred to as the “Peoples’ Court” due to the broad reach of the matters involved. Not every state has elected judges. Voters here in Spokane County have the privilege of having a direct voice in selecting judges who can provide justice for all our citizens. People of color have an interest in knowing that the judge who is elected is coming to that position with an interest and ability to make fair choices and to articulate the reasons for those decisions. Given my history of working 25 years of military service in an environment committed to equal opportunity, people of color can have confidence in my ability to be unbiased in the discharge of my duties.

Contact:
(509) 991-9047
patrickjohnsonforjudge@yahoo.com
<http://www.patrickjohnsonforjudge.com>

SPOKANE COUNTY COMMMISSIONER

Rob ChaseDistrict 2Mary Kuney

Prefers Republican Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate for County Commisioner specifically as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

I have been County Treasurer for eight years and I have proven I serve all residents. I spearheaded legislation to allow property tax payers to make payments of any amount at any time on current and delinquent taxes. We are the first and only County in state history to do this. I am also fighting the acquisition of Avista by Hydro One because electrical rates could skyrocket and their is no public benefit except to the shareholders and directors of Avista who would make millions off the deal. On July 23rd I filed for coordination from the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act to stop the purchase. I am the first solitary elected official in history to do so. I have been a good Treasurer and I know I can be a good Commissioner.

2) What is your understanding of racial disparities in the Spokane Jail and what is the role of the County Commissioners in addressing those disparities?

I have toured the Jail and Geiger Detention and did notice the racial disparity when compared to the average resident of Spokane County. If I am elected I would look forward to discussing this issue with anyone.

3) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane County and what are your thoughts on how you as a County Commissioner can address the challenge(s)?

I think everyone needs a livable wage job to raise a family and to have some freedom to live a meaningful life that discretionary income can bring. I have been thinking of future challenges right around the corner with Geo-political ramifications like "One Belt One Road" and the rise of AI-Robotics affecting the work force.

4) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism and how they impact people of color?



What steps have you taken, if any, to address them?

They are conscious and unconscious practices of racism. I was taught as a child to treat everyone the same as I would like to be treated.

5) Give an example of a way that you have effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I have only known a few African Americans since I moved to Spokane. I have treated them as I would treat anyone else. I knew several when I worked at Hewlett Packard. I was also on the Chase Youth Commission from 1999 - 2004. Rev. Happy Watkins endorsed me in 2014 but I haven't run into him since.

6) How do you balance the need for balancing the budget with representing the needs of traditionally underserved members of Spokane County?

I believe we should live within our means and make sure all expenditures add value. I think a well balanced budget promotes a good climate that attracts business.

Contact:
(509) 954-3829
stripe340@comcast.net
<http://electrobchase.com>

Prefers Republican Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate for County Commissioner specifically as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

I'm inspired to work in local government because of the opportunity to engage with citizens of all ethnic, racial, gender and socioeconomic backgrounds. I'm a CPA and former State Auditor, where I focused on protecting and improving conditions in our community through responsible management of citizens dollars. I feel this work is vital to citizens of all backgrounds. My personal philosophy and practice is to be open and inclusive in formulating my thoughts and decisions.

2) What is your understanding of racial disparities in the Spokane Jail and what is the role of the County Commissioners in addressing those disparities?

In my short time as County Commissioner I have reviewed data that reports racial disparities in our jail. I believe it is the role of County Commissioners to understand and address racial disparity at all levels of County government. I support the County's continued work with the Macarthur Foundation to identify, understand and address any and all disparities in our jail.

3) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane County and what are your thoughts on how you as a County Commissioner can address the challenge(s)?

One of the greatest challenges facing our community, including the African American community, is family stability. Lack of stability in families can lead to challenges in our schools, in housing stability, in food insecurity and a host of other challenges. The role of County government in improving family stability includes building our economy so that everyone has the opportunity for a job and the ability to provide for their families.

4) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism and how they impact people of color? What steps have you taken, if any, to address them?

We all have implicit biases. I'd like to better understand the impact of implicit bias, both racial biases and those biases that impact me as a working woman in government. As Commissioner I'd like to see implicit bias training for County



employees to better understand ways to overcome biases. Personally, our family construction business actively recruits people of color. On our current Spokane area projects, over 25% of our work force are people of color.

5) Give an example of a way that you have effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I believe the best way for me to work effectively with the African American community is to be open and inclusive to better understand interests, barriers and successes. I would welcome opportunities to engage with African American leaders and organizations to look for ways County government can help their work in our community.

6) How do you balance the need for balancing the budget with representing the needs of traditionally underserved members of Spokane County?

Poverty rates in Spokane County concern me a great deal. Because of that, much of my focus will remain on delivering financially responsible government that does not put undue burden on low income families in our community. I will continue my personal efforts to advocate for and support the disadvantaged youth in our community by volunteering and supporting organizations such as Hutton Settlement, Boys & Girls Club, and HUB Sports Center's 360 program.

Contact:
(509) 342-1573
mary@electmarykuney.com
<http://www.ElectMaryKuney.com>

KYRS

88.1/92.3 FM

Streaming at kyrs.org

Thin Air Community Radio

Independent Local Music and Perspectives

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

WHAT WHO WHEN

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

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

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

SPKN ARTS SAGA

APPLY NOW!

www.spokanearts.org/grants

SPOKANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Robbi Anthony *District 3* Al French

Prefers Democratic Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate for County Commissioner specifically as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

I have been an advocate for inclusion and dignity for as long as I have been in town. My belief that everyone deserves a fair and equitable shot at life extends to all communities. I believe we should work to reform our criminal justice process, which disproportionately affects Spokane's African American community.

2) What is your understanding of racial disparities in the Spokane Jail and what is the role of the County Commissioners in addressing those disparities?

The racial disparities in the Spokane Jail is significant and the County Commissioners can either help guide resources to reduce said disparity or they can exasperate the issue. Currently, there is discussion of creating another jail and increasing capacity for the jail population will reduce the impetus to examine if these systems are treating people equitably. Tools like the SAFER tool provides some opportunities to reduce the disparities and the County Commissioners can work to guide additional resources and support to fully implement that process.

3) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane County and what are your thoughts on how you as a County Commissioner can address the challenge(s)?

From my understanding, the criminal justice system seems to hurt the African Americans in our community the most. Furthermore, our criminal justice system creates significant economic inhibitors for those who exit the system. As a County Commissioner we can examine diversionary programs to reduce the jail population, ensure that people aren't being unfairly placed into it, and invest in programs that help people get a fair economic opportunity once they exit the system.

4) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism and how they impact people of color? What steps have you taken, if any, to address them?

Implicit bias and structural racism are the most persistent factors that reduce



economic and society opportunities for people of color. Since I have yet to held office, I am unable to address what steps I have taken to address these issues from a policy stance.

5) Give an example of a way that you have effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

I've done my best to be present and listen at forums and other opportunities with members of the African American community. It is through listening that I can take the pressing needs of a community and do my best to translate them into effective policy. I believe future collaboration will consist of continued listening and establishing policy that addresses concerns that arise. I aim to be a conduit for positive change for this community as best I can.

6) How do you balance the need for balancing the budget with representing the needs of traditionally underserved members of Spokane County?

Typically, when you invest more into underserved members of Spokane County you see a positive return on investment. Granted, we cannot over-extend ourselves in terms of fiscal responsibility, but we can follow data that allows us to invest further than we are today and ultimately collectively reap not only the economics benefits but the moral benefits as well.

Contact:
(509) 220-0817
robbi@ElectRobbiAnthony.com
<http://robbianthony.com>

Prefers GOP Party

1) Highlight 2-3 of your qualifications that make you the best candidate for County Commissioner specifically as it relates to Spokane's African American community?

I have been honored to serve the Spokane community both as a Spokane City Councilman for 8 years representing the Northeast part of the city and now as a County Commissioner representing the core of the city and the southwest part of the county. My focus as a commissioner has been around public safety, economic development and fiscally conservative approach to managing taxpayers dollars. I currently chair the Spokane Regional law and Justice Council and actively work to address the issues of equal justice quicker and the racial disparities that exist not only in our jail but the system as a whole. I am also working with a diverse group of members of the community to start a community conversation to address issues around racial discrimination.

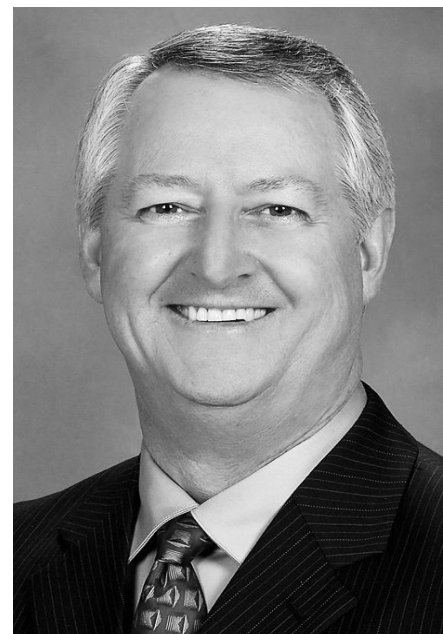
2) What is your understanding of racial disparities in the Spokane Jail and what is the role of the County Commissioners in addressing those disparities?

Racial disparities exist both in the jail and in our community and it burdens my heart. I struggle with whether this is a cultural legacy that we have not overcome and if it is, how do we move forward? That is why I have been moving to have this community conversation so we can identify the causes and eradicate this condition. Within the County I have been championing revisions to our employee policies to create a safe and fair employment environment for all of our employees. My philosophy when I meet an individual is that they are a gift. Like any gift you don't decide whether you are going to like it based upon the wrapping. You look inside to find the real gift.

3) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in Spokane County and what are your thoughts on how you as a County Commissioner can address the challenge(s)?

I am amazed how many folks I run into that are either fearful of individuals of color because they don't understand the cultural differences and refuse to engage because they don't want to offend out of their own ignorance or worse yet feel that they are superior. I am blessed because I have many very close friends of color that make me a better person. As a Commissioner I can lead by example in the community, call out discrimination as being unacceptable and creating employee policies that require mutual respect and tolerance. In the area of public safety we need to insure that everyone is protected, treated fairly and with respect. We need to acknowledge that disparities do exist and we must be deliberate in removing them.

4) What is your understanding of the terms implicit bias & structural racism and how they impact people of color?



What steps have you taken, if any, to address them?

As I mentioned earlier, I do believe that there is an implicit bias against folks of color in this community and we need to be much more deliberate in acknowledging that it exists so we can be more purposeful in dealing with it. I am constantly seeking understanding and help from my friends of color so that I can become a better example of acceptable behavior. I seek council from folks like Rev Lonnie Mitchell, Roberta Greene, Latisha Hill, and others in the African American community and then folks like Toni Lodge with the Native American community and my friends with some of the tribes. Finally working to create a climate at the county that both educates about the existence of the bias and then creating policies that will demonstrate that these bias's are not tolerated.

5) Give an example of a way that you have effectively worked with members of the African American community in Spokane? Do you have current/future ideas or plans for collaborative efforts?

As a Commissioner I advocated for and appointed community folks of color to the Spokane Regional Law and justice Council. As the Chair of the City's Community Development Board I led several initiatives to assist the East Central Community Center and the Martin Luther King Center with Rev Mitchell. I like to think that I have a good relationship with Carmen Pacheco and Layne Pavey in working to address some of these issues.

6) How do you balance the need for balancing the budget with representing the needs of traditionally underserved members of Spokane County?

This is part of the challenge of the job, stretching limited resources to meet the needs of the community. Having a good working knowledge of potential funding sources and then leveraging those resources to address your needs is what I have been able to do since my days as a neighborhood leader. Having walked in these shoes for several years gives me great insights on what paths lead to success and what paths just have you spinning in place.

Contact:
(509) 994-4351
votealfrench@aol.com
<https://www.alfrench.com>

BLACK LENS 100% VOTER CHALLENGE

100% of Black Lens Readers

Register to Vote... And Vote!!!

Read. Rise. Turn the Page.

★ELECT★

Dennis Cronin

for Spokane County Superior Judge, Pos. 10

Persistence for Justice since 1985 ★ Experience that matters for you

SPOKANE SUPERIOR COURT

2017 CASE REPORT*

CATEGORY OF CASES FILED IN SPOKANE SUPERIOR COURT	NUMBER OF CASES FILED IN SPOKANE SUPERIOR COURT IN 2017	DENNIS CRONIN'S EXPERIENCE
CRIMINAL	5,280	✓
CIVIL	8,604	✓
DOMESTIC	2,855	✓
PROBATE/ GUARDIANSHIP	1,876	✓
ADOPTION/ PARENTAGE	697	✓
MENTAL ILLNESS/ ALCOHOL	1,456	✓
JUVENILE/ DEPENDENCY	3,343	✓
JUVENILE OFFENDER	855	✓
TOTAL	24,966	

*Washington State Courts: www.courts.wa.gov.

10 YEARS OF JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

Superior Court Commissioner Pro Tem

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT ★ SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

CIVIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

33 YEARS REPRESENTING SPOKANE FAMILIES

Carl Maxey Center Holds Open House



Friends of the Black Lens (FOBL), a newly formed non-profit organization in Spokane, hosted an open house on Saturday, September 15, to thank the Spokane community for their overwhelming support and to show off their new building.

The FOBL Board made the decision in March of this year to purchase and reclaim an old, 1920s brick building on 5th Avenue in Spokane's East Central neighborhood and turn it into a cultural center that would honor the life and legacy of Carl Maxey, Spokane's first Black attorney.

After a whirlwind, eight week capital campaign that raised nearly \$100,000 in contributions from the Spokane community and the rest from private donors, the FOBL Board closed on the building the morning of August 3, 2018 in a historic sale that filled the room with both laughter and tears.



One hundred friends, neighbors, donors and community members visited the Center during the 3 hour open house, meeting FOBL Board members, taking tours of the building, sharing cake and punch, and offering their thoughts about what programs and activities they thought should be included in the renovated building.

As Friends of The Black Lens moves forward with the remodeling phase of the building, they are starting the process by hosting a Community Focus Group. The Community is invited to discuss the priorities for the center.

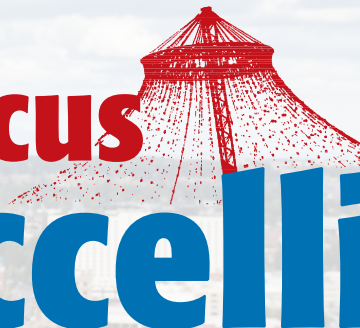
Community Focus Group
Saturday, October 13
9 - 11am
Carl Maxey Center
3116 E. 5th Avenue, Spokane, 99202
carlmaxeycenter.org or 509-795-1964



Re-Elect

Marcus Riccelli

State Representative | D | 3rd LD



WORKING FOR ALL OUR FAMILIES!

I remain committed to the belief that the zip code you are born in should not determine your life's path.

In Olympia, I work every day to ensure that every Spokane family has the same chance at opportunity and quality of life. This session, I have been working to:

- Promote living wage jobs in our community
- Improve quality care for mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Sponsor and pass the nation's strongest ban on source of income rental housing discrimination
- Significantly expand access to dental care in our community

Together we've accomplished a lot in the past six years—a down payment on a great future for Spokane. But there is so much work left to be done. I remain focused on investing in our neighborhood schools, protecting our most vulnerable and creating family-wage jobs to grow our economy. **I have been honored to serve as your State Representative and I ask for your vote.**

ABOUT MARCUS

Husband and Father of two young children

Youth Baseball & Soccer Coach

Alumnus, Gonzaga University

Project Manager, CHAS Health

Adjunct Professor, EWU

North Spokane YMCA
Advisory Board member

2016 Washington State Democrats
Elected Official of the Year

2013 Chase Youth Foundation Champion
of Youth Award for Government

Washington State Presidential Elector
casting an electoral vote for the
Honorable Barack Obama in 2008

Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

No Substitute For The Real Thing

Agave is a delicious substitute for sugar. Well not in everything, but in most things it works just fine. I’ve learned through experience that in most recipes that call for sugar, you can substitute the sugar for agave and most people will never know the difference.

I’ve been making a ton of fresh fruit smoothies lately. Whenever I make my famous smoothies using fruits that haven’t fully ripened, I turn to my secret ingredient, the naturally delicious sweetener Agave. Let me also share with you that the best deal for Agave can be found at Costco. Costco sells two 40oz. jars for under \$7.00. Winning!

Here is my recipe for a cantaloupe simple fruit smoothie in case you want to try this yourself.

½ cup of cantaloupe or melon
1 cup of ice
¼ cup of orange juice (not from concentrate)
1 large squeeze of Agave Juice
Blend the ingredients in your Nutri-Bullet or any blender for 1 minute then enjoy!

As I mentioned, substitute sweetener works for most recipes that require sugar however there are a few recipes that nothing, but the real things will do. Enter

in my famous Butter Pound Cake. Now if you know anything about a good pound cake, there are a few ingredients that you can play with like butter. Some folks use a ½ pound of butter, while others use a full pound of butter in their recipe. Some folks use 7up soda, while others use sour cream. Those minor adjustments to the recipe will not disrupt the integrity of the cake. But what you won’t do (and neither will I) is omit the sugar or substitute the sugar for Agave, Equal or any other artificial or natural sweetener product. You see, sometimes nothing, but the real thing will do.

Saturday was one of those times for me. I woke up feeling overwhelmed with the challenges of life and immediately thought about all the things I needed to do that day. The prior week had been a tough one. You know the kind of week where you receive a curve ball that sends you for a loop? Yeah, it had been that kind of week.

Fortunately, I had agreed to meet with a small group of women for brunch. Nothing fancy, just chewing and chatting at a local breakfast joint. But these weren’t just any women. These were Black women. Black women who had lived rich lives filled with travel, love and opinions. We talked, and we laughed. We left our two cents on the table regarding every subject from reli-

gion, to politics, to men, the bible, Anita Hill and even no knead homemade bread recipes.

Although it seemed like a loosely strung together melody of ramblings, it was so much more. It was being with women who looked like me and understood my struggles as a young professional Black woman. These women gave me something to look forward to. I felt cared for and I felt heard, but most of all, I was able to take in so much from the rich micro conversations we had.

I left the lunch feeling energized and capable of keepin’ on. You see, although I can chat with people from any demographic there is something special, something magical about sitting and sharing with other Black women. In my eyes, Black women are the real thing. We have a way of speaking from our souls. One soul to another. No pretense. No facade. Just a genuine desire to connect to each other. You see, there is no substitute for that.

In a time when artificial intelligence, social media, online “this and that” seem to be the direction we are going and people continue to search for ways to connect. Ways to be both seen and heard. Let me tell you this, if you are like me, there are some things for which we simply cannot substitute.



The value of having a community (big or small) of Black women who come together to break bread and share with one another is just what the doctor ordered.

Phone calls are rare but good, and text messages suffice, but nothing is better than holding space with a few strong Black Women. We are the real thing and sometimes nothing, but the real thing will do.

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

EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES.

Schedule Your Annual Screening Mammogram Today.

A study recently published in the **Journal of the American College of Radiology*** suggests that annual screening mammograms, beginning at age 40, provide women the best chance at finding, treating and surviving breast cancer.

For more information, or to schedule your annual screening 3D mammogram, call 509.455.4455.



* The study was conducted by Samir B. Patel, MD, of Elkhart General Hospital in Elkhart, Indiana.

Pastor Don Shorter

Tacoma Pastor and Author of “Take Control of Your Thoughts” Brings Empowerment Event to Spokane

Pastor Don Shorter of Pacific Christian Center in Tacoma, WA has been hosting empowerment events on the west side of the state and in Portland for years. In October, he will bring Empowered ‘18 to Spokane for the first time. The two-day event, hosted by Pastor Otis Manning of Word of Faith Christian Center, will take place Friday and Saturday, October 12 & 13th, 7pm, at Word of Faith in the Spokane Valley, 9212 E. Montgomery Avenue.

Pastor Shorter and Pastor Manning have a friendship that spans two decades. They met as a part of an outreach of Frederick K. C. Price, founder of Crenshaw Christian Center in Los Angeles called Fellowship of Inner City Word of Faith Ministries (FICWFM). “There were about 300-500 churches involved in that fellowship, said Pastor Manning, “and we would have an annual meeting every July in Los Angeles and regional meetings throughout the country.” The two men met through that fellowship over 20 years ago and it was their long standing friendship that became the catalyst for bringing Pastor Shorter to Spokane.

“We talk all the time,” said Pastor Manning, “and a few months ago, I called him and I didn’t get a return call. It surprised me because he always returns my calls promptly.” Pastor Manning discovered that the reason he didn’t receive a return call from Pastor Shorter was because he was in the hospital and had nearly lost his life. “He had some liver problems and almost passed away,” Pastor Manning shared. “He had three surgeries and in between the surgeries, he said God allowed him to see heaven.”

Pastor Shorter will share that testimony as a part of the Spokane event and, he says, he will also share “what God has been able to do in his life and in the lives of so many others that he has been able to minister to over the years.”

Pastor Shorter’s life story is filled with many testimonies. He was born in New Orleans, Louisiana to a military father, traveling from one place to another, including Okinawa, Japan and Arkansas, before ending up at Ft. Lewis in 1960. He has been in Washington state since then.

You could say that the ministry was in Pastor Shorter’s blood. He came from a family of ministers, with a grandfather who

was a pastor of two churches, and at the age of eighteen felt he had an understanding from God that ministry was what he was supposed to do. “It was just in my heart,” he said.

But despite the understanding, Pastor Shorter says he pursued a career in radio and television instead, working for quite a few stations, “trying to deny the need to go into the ministry.” Near the age of twenty-eight, however, he started giving up his media career and gravitating back to the ministry. “A lot of ministers, especially African American ministers, talk about the call of God being on their life,” Pastor Shorter recounted, “I just knew it was something that I was supposed to do. I finally gave in to that.”

Pastor Shorter began his church thirty years ago in his living room. His congregation consisted of himself, his wife and their two daughters. “It was important for me to not drag people to the church, but if this was what I was supposed to do, to allow God to draw the people in. To let people come that wanted to come, to prove that this was really what I was supposed to do.”

From its humble beginnings, the church continued to grow. They eventually moved to a restaurant, a school, an office building, and then in 2001 built the building that would become the Pacific Christian Center

“We were next to the welfare office, so we began ministering to help those folks with clothes and food.” But, he says, the real ministry “was to make sure they got a hold of the message, the word, that would make a difference in their lives. To be able to help them to help themselves.” To encourage people, he says, to grab a hold of the word of God, and apply it to their personal circumstances so they are able to change things and make them better.

The Spokane Empowered ‘18 event has a similar goal. To empower people to change their life circumstances. “It will be an exciting and uplifting time,” said Pastor Shorter. “We are very excited to be in Spokane with Pastor Manning and I think that everyone who comes will be uplifted by what they hear. I’m excited about folks being able to come and hear something that will encourage them past where they are.”

For information visit <http://www.pacchurch.org>.



“One Amazing Night of Blessings and Deliverance!”

Two nights of Powerful Teaching!

Come and get empowered with the Word!

SPOKANE EMPOWERED 18'

Friday & Saturday October 12 & 13th

Hosted by: Word of Faith Christian Center
9212 East Montgomery Ave. Spokane Valley, WA



Dr. Donald & Kathy Shorter

Mark your calendar for the Spokane Empowered 18' held on Fri. & Sat. October 12th and 13th 2018 at 7:00pm each night. Hear the word of faith that will empower you to win against all odds from Dr. Donald Shorter, author of “Take Control of Your Thoughts”, “The Power In YOU!” and “Winning Against All Odds”.

Dr. Shorter will also be ministering healing and deliverance in this two night event, and will share his experience of a vision he received of heaven... It will change your life!

Host: Pastor Otis Manning of

Word of Faith Christian Center Spokane, Washington



Don & Kathy Live! Is now broadcasting on the Impact Network Monday nights at 10 p.m. Check your local listings.

For more information call: 1-509-924-6504 or email: wordoffaith13@aol.com

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

folly temple
Church of God in Christ
806 W. INDIANA AVE | SPOKANE, WA 99205

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

COME WORSHIP WITH US & ENJOY A SPIRIT FILLED WORSHIP!

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

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

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

FIND US ON:

HOLY TEMPLE COGIC SPOKANE
FACEBOOK.COM/HOLYTEMPLESPOKANE

WWW.HOLYTEMPLECOGICSPOKANE.ORG

PASTOR & FIRST LADY
EZRA & ELEISE KINLOW

Come join us in our journey following Jesus.

New Hope Is On Fire!

Worship Service
SUNDAYS 11AM

Sunday School
Sundays at 9:30am

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

Pastor James & First Lady Shawn Watkins

Three African-Americans Running for Governor in Three States

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from the Richmond Free Press

By Reginald Stuart

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - President Trump has angered and mobilized voters across the nation to the point that many have been challenged to turn out en masse this fall to register and vote for candidates who reject his oft time bitter rhetoric.

For sure, Black Americans have clinched historic roles in the battle to halt and reverse President Trump’s agenda, with a record three African-American candidates running for governor this November in three states — Florida, Georgia and Maryland. Each is trying to return their state’s governorship to Democratic control.

In the process, political analysts said, the three contenders represent a new chapter for the Democratic Party. They reflect the emerging leadership that is younger, more female, broadly diverse and socially progressive, according to analysts. With the exception of Maryland, their Republican opponents are hard-line Trump supporters, dissenting from his agenda quietly when they do.

“All of these candidates are pragmatic progressives,” said Emory University political science professor Andra Gillespie, a Richmond area native who earned her degree at the University of Virginia. “They are hoping to present plans to address the economic anxieties of the average working family.”

All three gubernatorial contests present distinct challenges to the contenders, regardless of party, based on the views of political analysts. In Florida, where Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum scored a surprise win in last week’s Democratic Party primary, the challenge is stitching together party leaders who all endorsed him after the primary contest, then raising interest



among others. Gillum won only 34 percent of the vote to clinch the party nomination. He has to build from there.

In Georgia, where Spelman College graduate and tax lawyer Stacey Abrams swept the Democratic primary decisively, winning 70 percent of the votes, the challenge is to continue her impressive campaign to register more historically unregistered voters and to get out the vote by knocking on doors house by house.

As for champions backing her cause, Abrams, a former Georgia state legislator, has the support of former President Obama and civil rights icon and Georgia Congressman John Lewis. The Maryland contest, pitting former national NAACP chief Ben Jealous against current GOP Gov. Larry Hogan, presents a different set of tough challenges, analysts said.

Not only did Jealous divide the Democratic vote to win the primary, he defeated Rushern Baker, chief executive of heavily Democratic Prince George’s County and one of Maryland’s most respected Democrats with a history in state government.

Gov. Hogan had marginal competition in the Republican primary despite his repeated criticism of President Trump and solid opposition to

most of Trump’s agenda. Gov. Hogan, a former Howard County executive, has enjoyed high bipartisan ratings during his four years of working with a Democratic-controlled state legislature.

Jealous lacks strong broad-based Democratic support and trails Gov. Hogan by a long distance in fundraising.

“They have a governor who is really popular in the state,” said Bowie State University government professor William Lewis. Gov. Hogan has been “very cautious” not to disrupt the civil, bipartisan relationship between leaders of the two political parties.

All three gubernatorial candidates have plugged into the national network of African-American sororities, fraternities and other civic and social organizations to raise money for campaigns that could land them in the history books of their states. Former Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, who in November 1989 became the first elected African-American governor in the nation, could not be reached to discuss the three new candidates.

But political scientists who have followed Wilder’s career and public service offered some comparisons. Wilder, a longtime state senator who was elected Virginia’s lieutenant governor in 1985, was a seasoned politician who learned

and earned political footing with years of public service, political scientists said.

The record of service and his high profile in the state’s capital city made him easier to accept as the state’s leader, they said. Before his bid for governor, he had proven leadership skills and was a fiscal conservative, much like his Republican predecessors, analysts said. Also, the political climate in Virginia was more tolerant then than it is today, they said, attributing the souring climate to President Trump.

“The younger generation of Blacks are beginning to percolate,” said historian Alvin Thornell, a veteran political scientist who spent decades at Howard University. “The older Whites have become inactive as illustrated in the recent political contests in New York and Massachusetts. They just were aging and dropping out.”

The Democratic effort this election season will hinge on “New Deal” Democrats returning to the ranks as they did in the 1960, and the candidates’ and party’s success in recruiting and getting new voters to the polls, Dr. Thornell and other analysts said.

They estimated nearly one-third of traditional Democrats have become conservative Republicans or dropped from political participation. This loss must be made up with new registration and participation efforts, like that launched in Georgia by Ms. Abrams. “All of these candidates see whites as part of their coalition,” said Dr. Gillespie, noting that Democrats need to build from the ancestors of traditional Democrats, continue courting Latino voters and register and get to the polls people who have not voted in the past.

For Republicans, the formula is to keep the Trump wire sparked, they said. For sure, analysts said, Republicans are loading up for a political rhetoric battle.

David GREEN

CPA

FOR COUNTY TREASURER

It takes accounting and financial experience to effectively serve as County Treasurer. Only one candidate, David Green, has that experience.

When it comes to managing Spokane County’s money, we can’t take chances. That’s why the best choice for Spokane County Treasurer is David Green.

VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE

Paid for by Friends of David Green CPA, PO Box 4002, Spokane WA 99220. David Green prefers the Democratic Party.

voteDavidGreenCPA.com | facebook.com/voteDavidGreenCPA

retain

Vicky M Dalton, CPA

Spokane County Auditor • D

PAID FOR BY PEOPLE FOR VICKY DALTON PO BOX 4531 SPOKANE WA 99220



Warren G. Magnuson Club of Spokane

The Oldest Continuous Democratic Club in the State of Washington

Urges You to ***Put People First***

Vote for Democrats

November 6, 2018

And Join Us

for lively conversation and informative presentations

the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m.

Perkins Restaurant

12 E. Olive Ave., Spokane

<https://www.facebook.com/magnusonclub>

5th District Congressional Candidates - Eastern Washington

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Continued from Page 1

3) Do you see racial equity and racial disparities as a priority for your party? If so, how has that been demonstrated?

Being a Republican means fighting for freedom and opportunity for all. Republican policies, and the policies I fight for, have led to an economic boom that is benefiting people here in Eastern Washington. It's clear to me that more must be done to address racial division in America, and I believe that although we come from different backgrounds, cultures, and races, we are all united in our goal to make our community stronger, safer, and more prosperous. One way we do that is by reforming our criminal justice system. That's why I've voted for criminal justice reform proposals, and led in our community by hosting forums and events to learn more about how we can uphold the rule of law while being compassionate and fair.

4) What do you see as the fundamental difference between the Republican and Democratic parties when it comes to the direct impact of their policies on the lives of African Americans in this country?

America is the land of opportunity. As a Republican, my goal is to provide opportunities and trust people to make the best decisions for themselves. Republicans believe in constitutional-based government, human equality, the rule of law, individual choice, freedom of religion and freedom of speech. Creating jobs and growing our economy is so important. A job is so much more than a paycheck, it's what gives us dignity and purpose. A job is the best anti-poverty program and the best healthcare program we can provide. The record low unemployment we're seeing now has a real, positive impact on people's lives. I am proud that we are seeing the lowest unemployment rate for African Americans in history. I want to keep this momentum going.

5) On the issue of race, how do you see things now in comparison to the 1950s and 1960s?

It's heartbreaking and unacceptable that racism, anti-semitism, and other forms of hate still persist in America. In March I was honored to join a congressional 'pilgrimage' to sites important to the civil rights era. It was a once in a lifetime experience to walk Dr King's steps on the 50th anniversary of his assassination, and link arms with my colleague and civil rights leader Rep. John Lewis as we walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge

in Selma. This journey for me began in 2016, when racist graffiti was sprayed on the MLK Jr Family Outreach Center here in Spokane. More still needs to be done. We need to listen and come together, find common ground, and work together to solve these issues as a community.

6) Younger African American voters (and younger voters in general) have been viewed as increasingly moving away from both political parties and aligning themselves more with independent or non-traditional candidates. What factors do you think are impacting this trend? And how might the trend impact the political process in the future?

Our American democracy is not perfect, and our values must continually be fought for, but part of what makes me so proud to be an American is our freedom of self-expression, our right to self-determination, and our freedom to vote for our chosen candidate. Politicians and candidates of all affiliations need to have courageous conversations to foster more dialogue, to build trust and to defeat cynicism and negativity with optimism and unity. That starts with each of us doing our part. When you sit down with someone it's clear that much more unites us than divides us. We need to be innovative in the ways we reach out to people, including young people, but nothing will replace face-to-face conversations with our neighbors, friends, and community.

7) Why should an African American person in Spokane care about this 5th Congressional District race?

All of us, regardless of background or ideology, should care about every political race. Take time to read about every candidate's policies and voting record, to reach an informed decision. We are all part of this great experiment in self-governance, and we owe it to those who have defended our freedoms to exercise our right to self-determination. Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." That's why we must vote and be engaged, to protect the freedoms we enjoy as Americans and ensure they are here for our children and grandchildren.

Contact:
(509) 624-1199
cathy@cathyforcongress.com
http://www.cathyforcongress.com

Lisa Brown

Continued from Page 1

3) Do you see racial equity and racial disparities as a priority for your party? If so, how has that been demonstrated?

I'm proud to be in the same party as President Obama, the first African-American president of the United States. But we have a lot more to do to ensure that Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of racial equality becomes a reality in our country. My approach in the state Legislature was to listen to the members of the community and help them achieve their goals. One example was working with Rev. Lonnie Mitchell to renovate the Emmanuel Family Life Center. My priorities in Congress will be working to solve our housing crisis and erasing racial disparities in our healthcare and criminal justice systems. I will work with the Congressional Black Caucus to achieve progress on these priorities and others set by the African-American community.

4) What do you see as the fundamental difference between the Republican and Democratic parties when it comes to the direct impact of their policies on the lives of African Americans in this country?

The party of Lincoln isn't what it used to be, and some of its members use fear and misinformation to perpetuate racial and social injustice. The Democratic Party needs to live up to its ideals. If we don't directly confront the realities of institutional racism in our society, we can't transcend them. In Congress, I'll begin by working to restore the Voting Rights Act, lower healthcare costs, eliminate racial disparities in healthcare, and advance comprehensive criminal justice reform. Too often, Republicans enact policies that benefit the wealthy, and worsen the distribution of income, rather than investing in education and affordable healthcare -- the building blocks of a strong middle class.

5) On the issue of race, how do you see things now in comparison to the 1950s and 1960s?

In the 50s and 60s, I was a young girl living in an all-white town, but inspired by the Civil Rights Movement. I learned that the Civil Rights Act passed because of those who courageously stood up,

marched, and spoke out for their rights, especially their right to vote. In order to continue making progress, it's important that people become informed and exercise that right to vote. Thank you to The Black Lens, for giving us this forum to present our points of view, so that people can make decisions that best represent their values and interests. We've made a lot of progress, but we have a long way to go. In Congress, I'll move beyond empty promises and talking points to meaningful action.

6) Younger African American voters (and younger voters in general) have been viewed as increasingly moving away from both political parties and aligning themselves more with independent or non-traditional candidates. What factors do you think are impacting this trend? And how might the trend impact the political process in the future?

The current Congress' failure to take action on issues that affect their lives is causing younger voters to turn away from political parties. I understand their frustration. It's why we need a change in leadership on both sides. Also, we need to curb the influence of special interests and dark money in politics. I am not accepting corporate PAC funds and am running a people- powered campaign.

7) Why should an African American person in Spokane care about this 5th Congressional District race?

Not only is Congress not getting things done that really matter to people, it's not standing up to the Trump administration when it's wrong and harms eastern Washington. This election represents an opportunity to send new leadership to Congress and move away from dysfunction, congressional logjams, and rewarding special interests over voters. To change Congress, you have to change who you send to Congress. The current congresswoman sticks to the party line, to the detriment of eastern Washington. Voting for me means voting for change, and an independent voice that will put the interests of eastern Washington residents first.

Contact:
(509) 954-9132
lisa@lisabrownforcongress.com
http://lisabrownforcongress.com

Master Barbers
LARRY
Q.C.



LARRY'S BARBER & STYLING

Specializing In Tapers & Fades
Appointments Available

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

Tues.-Fri. 9:30am-6:00pm
Sat. 8:30am-5:00pm

Theresa's Salon

Smoothing Treatments - Color & Style Cut - Weaves

Theresa Fisher
Stylist

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

509-534-2470
fisherta@gmail.com

SPOKANE COUNTY TREASURER

Michael Baumgartner

Prefers Republican Party

1) What do you see as the role of the County Treasurer?

The role of the Treasurer is to safeguard the hard-earned tax dollars of the people of Spokane. I will effectively manage the county’s public investments, improve transparency over how the government is spending your money, and advocate to reduce wasteful spending. As State Senator I worked with our county treasurer’s office to sponsor a bill to allow partial payment of property taxes, helping those struggling with late payments and high penalties.

2) Why is the County Treasurer a position that the community should care about?

Everyone in our community should care about how tax dollars are being managed and spent. It’s your money! A great Treasurer will not only provide capable and trusted financial management, but will also promote transparency and serve as a financial watchdog fighting government waste. The County Treasurer is directly elected by the people to ensure accountability.

3) Highlight your qualifications that make you the best candidate for the position?

As State Senator I’ve proven to be a trusted public servant who works with both parties to deliver results for Spokane like our new medical school and reduced K12 class sizes. As Vice Chair of the Senate Budget Committee I helped write a \$34 billion balanced budget. Previously I served as an Economics Officer at the US Embassy, Iraq. I studied Economics and Math at WSU, and was a Teaching Fellow in Economics at Harvard.

4) Is there a role that the County treasurer can play in making Spokane a



more equitable city?

We need to promote dialogue and unity in our Spokane community. Every local leader and politician has a role in encouraging civility, condemning discrimination and racism, and promoting equality. During my time in the Senate, I’ve taken pride in having one of the most diverse staffs in Olympia and giving important opportunities to people from disadvantaged backgrounds. As Treasurer, I will be committed to doing the same.

5) Why should a person of color vote for you?

Everyone in Spokane should want a capable and trusted public servant to watch over their tax dollars. My record as a Senator speaks for itself, including sponsoring important legislation such as “Ban the Box”, increasing funding for education including all-day kindergarten, and cutting college tuition costs - all measures that enhance opportunities for everyone in our community, including people of color.

Contact:
(509) 847-9568
michael@votebaumgartner.com
http://www.votebaumgartner.com

David Green

Prefers Democratic Party

1) What do you see as the role of the County Treasurer?

The County Treasurer is a task-focused office, collecting real estate (and other taxes), keeping track of the county’s money, and investing temporary surplus funds for the county and about 80 other governmental entities. The office doesn’t make policy decisions (and shouldn’t, as those responsibilities belong to the Spokane County Commissioners). I won’t increase the size of county government by taking on new responsibilities that don’t pertain to the statutory mission of the County Treasurer’s office.

2) Why is the County Treasurer a position that the community should care about?

Everyone should care that our public funds are managed, handled, and prudently invested in accordance with the requirements of state law. Having a County Treasurer with a strong financial background is also important --- because the office is so task focused. A County Treasurer without a strong financial background has to rely on the judgment of others in making financial decisions for us. When it comes to managing Spokane County’s money, we can’t take chances.

3) Highlight your qualifications that make you the best candidate for the position?

Having been a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) since 1984, I’m the only candidate on the ballot with the accounting and financial skill sets needed to effectively fulfill the duties of County Treasurer. I’m endorsed by Spokane County Auditor Vicky Dalton, who calls me “exceptionally qualified to fulfill the Treasurer’s duties of safeguarding taxpayer money and investing public funds wisely.” If elected, I pledge to serve the entire four-year term, and won’t run for a different office.

4) Is there a role that the County Treasurer can play in making Spokane a



more equitable county?

State law doesn’t envision that county treasurers set policy. Instead, county treasurers in our state perform tasks as assigned by the state legislature. That said, I intend to compare and contrast the current payment options for real estate and other taxes to those offered by the other 38 counties. Are there more affordable alternatives or ways to make it easier to pay taxes? And if there are, I’ll work from within to help create change.

5) Why should a person of color vote for you?

Both candidates for Treasurer are Caucasian. My background includes working in a variety of cities, including Cleveland, Washington DC, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles. I’m aware of white privilege and I’ve started the process of working towards personal change. As part of a commitment to change and an effort to be more aware, I have renewed my membership in the Spokane Chapter of NAACP and I have started to regularly attend the general membership meetings.

Contact:
(509) 931-1361
david@voteDavidGreenCPA.com
http://www.voteDavidGreenCPA.com



NBCDI

National Black Child Development Institute

The State of the Black Child in Washington Report Card

For more than 40 years, the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) has been at the forefront of engaging leaders, policymakers, professionals, and parents around critical and timely issues that directly impact Black children and their families.

The NBCDI was launched by the Black Women’s Community Development Foundation, whose leadership, in the wake of the Civil Rights Movement, was deeply concerned about the unsatisfactory conditions faced by families determined to raise healthy Black children. The national advocacy group created a unified movement to develop strategies to



The report card was designed with the support of local advocates, community leaders, parents, caregivers, educators, and elected officials, to serve as a powerful advocacy tool in highlighting and addressing the racial disparities in outcomes for Black children and families.

The report card provides advocates with high-priority policy recommendations to improve education, health and family support systems for Black children and families statewide.

To view the report card visit: http://blacklensnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/NBCDI-State-of-the-Black-Child-Report-Card-Washington-State_0.pdf

improve the life circumstances of the Black child through policy change.

One of the NBCDI’s newest publications is a report card titled: the “State of the Black Child” in Washington.



COUPON

ONE DINNER 1/2 OFF

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

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

“Best Southern Food in Washington”

WA STATE SENATOR

DISTRICT 6

Jessa Lewis

Prefers Democratic Party

1) What do you see as the role of a State Senator as it relates to the local Spokane Community?

I see the role of a legislator to listen to everyone and carry the needs of the community, especially the most vulnerable, to Olympia. We have a shortage of schools, lack of access to affordable care, a growing affordable housing crisis, growing income inequality, and a need to plan for the future when it comes to resilient communities in a time of changing climate. It is my job to fight for the legislation and funding that will make life better for those in our community and our state.

2) What prompted you to run for State Senator? Why do you feel that you are qualified?

I became frustrated with how close we were to passing universal health care in Washington last session, and how impossible it was to get some legislators to even give us five minutes to try to earn their support for our bill. I'm running to finish the job. The more people I spoke with in the community, the more I heard similar stories. Lobbyists who can write checks get easy access, and citizens in our communities struggle to get their voices heard. When you don't have a seat at the table, you are on the menu. I ran to make sure working families would have someone who would listen and amplify the voices of those usually ignored. Good policy is a passion of mine, I have the lived and earned experience required, and have the relationships to hit the ground running on day one. I'm also qualified because I know who to ask when I don't know the answers, and can bring in the experts and amplify the voices and work of others to get good legislation passed. Lawmaking is a collaborative process, especially when one is there not for the titles and power but to bring positive change at scale.

3) What experience do you have addressing issues related to racial equity?

There is so much I didn't understand until seeing the world through the eyes of my daughter. It's been an ongoing growing process for me, one I'm committed to continually doing the work to do. If it's refusing an interview and pushing someone from the media to instead interview someone who is a person of color, to showing up to deliver supplies and support to the frontlines of an organizing effort like at Standing Rock, I'm ready to step aside and also show up when the situation calls for it.

4) Are there ways that you as a State Senator can help Spokane be a more inclusive community?

I am supporting good policy, such as repealing I-200. The repeal of this 20 year old ban on affirmative action would restore the fair treatment of underserved groups in public employment, education and contracting. While SB 6406 failed last session, the movement behind supporting the overturn efforts are growing and if we have a strong enough majority it is possible to finally do it.

5) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how, as a State Senator, you can address the challenge(s)?

All of the challenges listed in the next question come from this region's persistent undercurrent



of intolerance. The Neo-Nazis of my youth are the Identity Evropa of my daughter's. While we can talk about policies and centering voices from African American communities, the most powerful thing I can do as an elected official is to support and mentor promising talent from those communities and support them in efforts at getting a seat at the table and in finding their own voices and power.

6) Spokane faces racial disparities in criminal justice, education, housing and employment. What are your thoughts on why the disparities exist and what role, if any, a State Senator can play in addressing those disparities?

Budgets are moral documents. What we do with our taxes at a state level determines the outcomes in all of these. We also must make sure that we center the voices and wisdom of those most impacted by these disparities which disproportionately includes communities of color in these decisions. These disparities exist because it's systemic and the people who usually have the resources to run and win tend to come from a place of privilege and from the dominant culture. I am white, but my daughter is mixed. I have education, but once lived in my car. I have privilege but also have a personal lived understanding of inequity.

7) Why should a person of color care who their State Senator is?

All politics are local. While so much of the focus is on what is happening nationally, much of the decisions that actually impact our day to day lives, from the condition of our education system, to the water we drink, is determined at the state level. Organizing to bring about change on issues is sometimes only as successful as the willingness of those elected to listen and to champion what your needs are. That all being said, we need more representative representation, and if you are from an underrepresented community and are reading this, I hope you get involved in politics. I hope you consider running, or encourage someone you know to think about it. Your voices are needed, and if interested, please drop me a line.

Contact:
(509) 481-9151
info@electjessalewis.com
http://electjessalewis.com

WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 3 - POS. 1

Marcus Riccelli

Prefers Democratic Party

1) What do you see as the role of a State Representative as it relates to the local Spokane Community?

The role of a state representative is twofold: to be an active, engaged listener, and then bring what you learn to Olympia to create policy that serves our Spokane community. Spokane has individual needs, and my job is to go to bat for our community so that every person, regardless of their zip code, has a fair shot at success and stability. You, my employer, deserve a representative who will be transparent, accountable and deliver for the community.

2) What prompted you to run for State Representative? Why do you feel that you are qualified?

My wife and I are raising our family in Spokane because we love it here and believe in its potential as a community. I want my two children, your children and grandchildren, and every child in Washington to have not only the same opportunities that I did, but even greater opportunities. Together we have accomplished a lot, a down payment on a great future for Spokane families. I know we can make even greater investments in our neighborhood schools, economy and quality of life.

3) What experience do you have addressing issues related to racial equity?

I support and strongly advocate for policies like paycheck fairness, paid sick and safe leave, and evidence-based restorative justice practices. I also recently sponsored and passed the strongest law in the nation banning discrimination in our rental housing markets based on source of income. I also worked closely with our Marshallese community to help provide them and other residents from COFA nations access to healthcare.

4) Are there ways that you as a State Representative can help Spokane be a more inclusive community?

Serving on the legislature is a privilege, and I consider it my responsibility to use that privilege in service of people who have been systematically oppressed. I support policies that work to promote dignity and justice for everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, ability, religion, gender identity/expression, or sexual orientation. I'm a grassroots guy at heart, and I believe in being accessible and accountable, so I also consider being an active, engaged member of my community part of the job.

5) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how, as a State Representative, you can address the challenge(s)?

Spokane is one of the lowest-income districts in the state, and communities of color are dis-



proportionately affected by generational poverty. Public resources should work to reverse the inequities, such as providing additional resources for early learning and smaller class sizes to help close the opportunity gap. Students of color are also blocked from long-term financial success due to the college opportunity gap. To that end, I fully support eliminating the backlog in the state need grant.

6) Spokane faces racial disparities in criminal justice, education, housing and employment. What are your thoughts on why the disparities exist and what role, if any, State Representatives can play in addressing those disparities?

The effects of institutional racism run deep. We have a system that actively works to oppress people of color. I acknowledge the many ways I have benefited from that system, and I commit to working and learning on my own. I do feel it would be disrespectful for me to give this question anything less than an in-depth discussion. To that end I offer my personal cell: 509-879-7805, and I will gladly listen and be educated by folks willing to share their experience.

7) Why should a person of color care who their State Representative is?

I won't pretend to know what it feels like to see the current presidential administration constantly belittle, dehumanize, and threaten your humanity and safety as people of color. However, I can tell you with confidence that change and resistance happens at the state level. I am committed to making Washington State a safe harbor for all people, and sending a message that we respect, value, and celebrate diversity. We have work to do, and democracy is a participatory sport. Your voices are so important, and with respect, I ask you to use them.

Contact:
(509) 465-4305
info@marcusriccelli.com
http://www.marcusriccelli.com

Jeff Holy

Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to the questions.

All candidates were contacted three times by the Black Lens.

Contact:
(509) 747-5840
votejeffholy@gmail.com
http://VoteJeffHoly.com



Tom Taylor

Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to the questions.

All candidates were contacted three times by the Black Lens.

Contact:
(509) 828-2843
tomgtaylor@yahoo.com



WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 3

Dave Lucas Timm Ormsby

Position 2

Prefers Republican Party

1) What do you see as the role of a State Representative as it relates to the local Spokane Community?

The role of a State Representative is to represent everyone. I would represent constituents of different races, religious beliefs, and perspectives. I might not get things right for everyone all the time, but my goal would be to make sure to foster the most inclusive collaborative process out of all my colleagues in the State Legislature and to ensure everyone has a voice at the table.

2) What prompted you to run for State Representative? Why do you feel that you are qualified?

I felt that our community wasn't being properly served. I'm running against an incumbent that's been in the legislature for 15 years. It seems to me that homelessness, property crime, and income inequality has only gotten worse in that time. So what has Timm Ormsby done to represent us?

3) What experience do you have addressing issues related to racial equity?

When I was in the Marine Corps, I was able to meet folks from all across the country of different races and cultural backgrounds. One of the things I took away from that was: we have more in common than not. That's not to say we don't have societal issues from the Civil Rights era we're still dealing with, but that we're all worried about providing for ourselves, our families, and taking care of our communities.

4) Are there ways that you as a State Representative can help Spokane be a more inclusive community?

My door will always be open. Throughout my life I've met a staggering number of folks, and I'm grateful for that. Over the course of my campaign I've visited every neighborhood in the 3rd Legislative District, including East and West Central, Hillyard, Kendall Yards, the Garland neighborhood and Shadle Park Neighborhood. Taking the time to take in each other's perspectives and beliefs is integral to understanding and fostering an inclusive community.

5) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how, as a State Representative, you can address the challenge(s)?

Racial profiling, injustice, and bias are challenges in our community that divide us. People are People. We are more alike than we are different. What we need is outreach and people listening to each other and working together to achieve the same



goals. As I said before, everyone wants to be able to provide for themselves, their families, and their community. Everyone-our community- can and should work together to accomplish those goals, and that's the perspective I would take with me to Olympia.

6) Spokane faces racial disparities in criminal justice, education, housing and employment. What are your thoughts on why the disparities exist and what role, if any, State Representatives can play in addressing those disparities?

Everyone should be provided with the opportunity to succeed. We need to make sure that we have opportunities for children of all different backgrounds to go to college and gain a higher education. I support applying more of the state budget to bring down the cost of higher education, and opening up more skill training resources. Solving the housing issue means reforming the Washington State Growth Management Act to allow for more zoning options and building opportunities, which ties into encouraging economic development to increase employment. Finally, I believe fairness in our judicial system is crucial to its integrity, and any discrimination with regards to 'just' sentencing shouldn't be tolerated.

7) Why should a person of color care who their State Representative is?

State Representative's do a lot for our local community. They advocate for us on the State level and should give a voice to those that don't have one. Increased interest in who represents our communities, and involvement and contact with them, inevitably leads to better representation. I'm out and involved in our community, and I care about what people have to tell me. I'll represent you.

Contact:
(509) 540-3283
vote.dave.lucas@gmail.com
<http://www.votedavelucas.com>

Prefers Democratic Party

1) What do you see as the role of a State Representative as it relates to the local Spokane Community?

I see the role of a State Representative as it relates to our community as first, a conduit of information to and from constituents to state government programs, services, policies and budgets. Second, to appreciate our unique local opportunities and challenges in the interest of having our community understand how to use our opportunities to address our challenges to make our community stronger. Third, to advance our Spokane value-based agenda in Olympia to fund the programs and services, and enact the policies and budgets that make Spokane a better place.

2) What prompted you to run for State Representative? Why do you feel that you are qualified?

I was reluctantly drafted by others who believed I had the ability to understand what it would take to successfully advocate for Spokane's distinctive needs. My 15 years' experience in the Legislature on behalf of our community is an especially humbling undertaking that I take very seriously. I truly believe Spokane is the greatest place to live, work and raise a family because that is my experience. It should be others' experience too. Additionally, my work in the labor community is deeply rooted in the philosophy of what benefits one, benefits all and a harm to one is a harm to all, which was a principle I learned at the dinner table as a boy. It has continued to inform all my decisions as a policy maker during my 15 years of service.

3) What experience do you have addressing issues related to racial equity?

My experience actually addressing racial equity issues has largely been through my work in the Legislature. We must begin to understand the difficulties different racial groups face attempting to access the wide variety of state programs and services to meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life. We must also be intentional in our efforts to remove barriers in access to education (early learning, K-12 and higher ed), health care (physical, mental and dental), employment opportunities and social mobility. I have a long legislative record of supporting policies and budgets to advance equal opportunity and equal access in the distribution of public resources and equal treatment for all under the law.

4) Are there ways that you as a State Representative can help Spokane be a more inclusive community?

A State Representative can help build a more inclusive community by helping build a more inclusive economy in that community. The single most important thing we can do for inclusivity is to adequately fund and provide access to state programs and services that are truly socio-economic equalizers. Ultimately, the state budget and the revenue to pay for it are a declaration of our collective values committing to provide equal opportunity for all, especially the marginalized members of our community. Elected leaders should also honor, promote and celebrate local efforts and individuals committed to a more just and inclusive community.

5) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how, as a State Representative, you can address the challenge(s)?



The biggest challenge I see is helping people feel accepted and valued. I can repeat the frustrations shared with me about having to work harder and longer to attain the same standing and credibility that those of us not facing racial bias experience. The single most important action we can take in the Legislature is to adequately fund the state programs that provide services so everyone has equal access to education, quality child care, nutrition, and employment skills that create a more level field of play. The Legislature can also help by identifying and removing the hurdles to equal treatment under the law. I am particularly fond of investing in safe community spaces like community centers, early learning facilities, clinics, after school program spaces etc. for social interaction and cultural enrichment.

6) Spokane faces racial disparities in criminal justice, education, housing and employment. What are your thoughts on why the disparities exist and what role, if any, State Representatives can play in addressing those disparities?

I attribute these racial disparities to the implicit, and unfortunately explicit, bias of people being favorable or unfavorable to a person or group. On the policy and budget front, State Representatives must have or develop a deep affection for the facts and supporting data. The numbers tell the story of racial disparity without question. We do not want to be seen as that type of community, yet here we are. The State Legislature has the responsibility to create the legal framework to address these disparities, but must also depend on local jurisdictions to do their part to address the unique challenges facing that particular community. In criminal justice, for example, the Spokane County Regional Law & Justice Council is looking into why these disparities exist and what help the state could provide to implement their suggestions.

7) Why should a person of color care who their State Representative is?

State government has a real impact on every aspect of people's lives. The Legislature writes laws that govern us all. State government collects and spends taxpayer dollars to support the infrastructure our citizens depend on in order to go about their business. The issues impacting people of color in Spokane are rooted in public policy for the good and also for the bad. Informed judgments by those entrusted with the privilege of this position is critical to our mutual success as a community, and we can only impact this process when we care enough to weigh in with our vote.

Contact:
(509) 389-8288
vote.ormsby@gmail.com
<http://voteormsby.com>

REMEMBER TO VOTE

Ballots Mailed: October 19th
Election Date: November 6th

WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 4

Position 1

Ted Cummings

Position 2

Mary May

Prefers Democratic Party

1) What do you see as the role of a State Representative as it relates to the local Spokane Community?

The State Representative should be an advocate for everyone, not just those who look and think like the representative. I believe my goal as a representative is to see that everyone has an equal opportunity for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I believe government should ensure that employment opportunities, healthcare, retail services and infrastructure are functioning properly and available equally for all.

2) What prompted you to run for State Representative? Why do you feel that you are qualified?

The incumbent supports right to work legislation, which I am opposed to because I believe right to work is rooted in racism and is designed to hurt working men and women. The incumbent has proposed making a fifty first state, more importantly, I find his words and actions to incite hate and intolerance and believe his views on militias are dangerous and should disqualify him from holding office. I have experience in contract negotiations, collaborating with others and problem solving. I have worked for the same employer for thirty years, I have been married to the same wonderful women for thirty-seven years, I have lived responsibly and successfully by being hardworking and practical. I understand the needs of the 4th LD and will work to build a better Washington.

3) What experience do you have addressing issues related to racial equity?

I have been the Chairman of the Clerical and Technical Unit for Steelworkers Local 338 for the last seven years and a large part of my job is representing people to ensure they are treated equitably. I understand that everyone regardless of sex, color or belief is entitled to fair and just treatment and I work to uphold that ideal.

4) Are there ways that you as a State Representative can help Spokane be a more inclusive community?

Yes, by being an example in reaching out to everyone including standing with and attending functions of as many groups as I can. I think that being a State Representative is the chance to be a role model for all citizens and is a requirement of the position.

5) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how, as a State Representative, you can address the challenge(s)?

I believe that racism is the biggest challenge to African Americans living in eastern



Washington. I am running for office with a platform of representing everyone and hope to be a champion for African Americans and anyone who faces bigotry. Overcoming prejudice takes leadership and a good example, I hope to do what I can to bring people together and demonstrate that our community is healthier and happier when everyone is and feels respected and valued.

6) Spokane faces racial disparities in criminal justice, education, housing and employment. What are your thoughts on why the disparities exist and what role, if any, State Representatives can play in addressing those disparities?

I think employment opportunities and education are the biggest reasons for racial disparities in Spokane. As a State Representative I hope to increase funding and support for preschool care, nutritional programs and after school programs so that working parents have assistance in balancing work with meeting the needs of their children.

7) Why should a person of color care who their State Representative is?

Every person should care who their State Representative is, but it is especially important for a person of color to know that their Representative is going to support solutions for the challenges a person of color faces. When a State Representative only serves those who look and think like him, those who are different do not get the representation they deserve. It is vitally important to elect a representative who cares for, respects and values everyone equally, so that no one is left out. A lack of representation leads to all the problems we face today.

Contact:
(509) 319-6960
tedcummings@tedforwashington.com
http://www.tedforwashington.com

Prefers Democratic Party

1) What do you see as the role of a State Representative as it relates to the local Spokane Community?

A State Representative represents their district at a state level to ensure that the needs of their community are met. They determine legislation and establish policies that are then implemented by the cities and local agencies in Spokane County. A good representative listens to all the people within their district, and advocates for their needs and priorities.

2) What prompted you to run for State Representative? Why do you feel that you are qualified?

I am running for this position because we need better representation at the state level that will focus and fight for issues relevant to Eastern WA. My opponent in the 4th Legislative District holds extremely far right social and political views. He has voted against equal pay for women, against paid family and medical leave, against workers' rights, and against automatic voter registration. We deserve a balanced and inclusive representation of our community. I have worked in community improvement, city planning and government policy for over 25 years. I will work on the hard issues, listen to all impacted communities, and find sensible, responsible solutions.

3) What experience do you have addressing issues related to racial equity?

I try to lead by example and be mindful of these issues in daily life. I've taught my pre-teen Sunday school students about racism and the importance of social and racial equity. I've been supporting efforts by groups like the YWCA and Families Against Bigotry. This is my first time running for office and I am working hard to familiarize myself with these issues and increasing my awareness of intersectionality issues so that I can do my best to represent ALL of my constituents.

4) Are there ways that you as a State Representative can help Spokane be a more inclusive community?

As a State Representative, I will work with communities who experience bigotry and discrimination first hand, and make it clear that I believe they deserve to be equally represented and have voices at the table. I will support organizations that are already working hard for equality and against bigotry. I will be mindful of intersectionality. I will fight against legislation that maintains social division and economic disparity. I think something that sets me apart from our current representative is that I show up and listen to our community. Part of being an inclusive community is having leadership that is willing to engage with their community as a whole, not just select groups.

5) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how, as a State Representative, you can address the challenge(s)?

As your next question states, people of color face racial disparities in criminal justice, education,



housing and employment. As a State Representative, I will support legislation like De-Escalate Washington, that acknowledges "We believe that race and bias are factors in police responses, and that there is a disproportionate impact on people of color especially the Black community, Native Americans, as well as persons with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and others." I will fight against legislation that allows discriminatory practices in the workplace and in housing. I will advocate for legislation that promotes equality.

6) Spokane faces racial disparities in criminal justice, education, housing and employment. What are your thoughts on why the disparities exist and what role, if any, State Representatives can play in addressing those disparities?

Racial disparities exist because institutional racism still exists. In our 4th Legislative District, there are still racist ideologies and attitudes perpetuated by some of our local leadership. Fighting systemic racism begins with acknowledging that it exists, and then combating it everywhere it lives and thrives. We must confront it in ourselves and in our communities. As a legislator, I will work to assess proposals through a racial equity lens, and will stand against legislation that maintains or increases barriers to people of color. As I said above, I will oppose any legislation that seeks to roll back non-discrimination protections. I will fight for equity and equality, and against bigotry.

7) Why should a person of color care who their State Representative is?

Legislators are responsible for creating and amending the state laws that have a huge impact on the daily lives of people of color, including living wages, taxes, housing, education opportunities, criminal justice reform, and access to healthcare. State representatives make decisions about what programs are funded, and how resources are distributed. My hope is that all people will actively participate in electing the leaders they feel will listen, then work hard to represent their values and interests.

Contact:
(619) 302-8757
marymay4thLD@gmail.com
http://VoteMaryMay.com

Matt Shea

Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to the questions.

All candidates were contacted three times by the Black Lens.

Contact:
(509) 252-0963
matt@voteshea.com
http://www.voteshea.com



Bob McCaslin

Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to the questions.

All candidates were contacted three times by the Black Lens.

Contact:
(509) 994-9836
asbestossuitbaby@gmail.com
http://votebobmccaslin.com



WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 6

Position 1

Kay Murano

Position 2

Dave Wilson

Prefers Democratic Party

1) What do you see as the role of a State Representative as it relates to the local Spokane Community?

Representatives need to represent the Spokane community and its needs as they consider legislation. They must pass budgets that are fiscally responsible and meet the needs of our community as well as state-wide. In order to be successful in this role, representatives must communicate with the people of the community to know their needs.

2) What prompted you to run for State Representative? Why do you feel that you are qualified?

I have spent my career putting people first – helping people build better lives through my work at non-profits such as Catholic Charities and Volunteers of America. Through that work I learned that too many of our neighbors are struggling. Families, seniors, and veterans are forced to choose which basic needs we can afford. I want to ensure that people can have jobs that pay a living wage, healthcare and housing that doesn't break the bank, and education that provides them a path to a successful future.

3) What experience do you have addressing issues related to racial equity?

My work advocating for source of income equality directly impacted racial minorities. Black, single moms were the largest population being discriminated against by landlords who refused to take vouchers. Advocacy work in Spokane and statewide led to legislation to ban source of income discrimination across the state of WA.

4) Are there ways that you as a State Representative can help Spokane be a more inclusive community?

Yes, working to be inclusive requires communication among different groups. The more we know about one another and count one another as friends, the more likely to defend other people of that group. I want to celebrate the uniqueness of different groups in Spokane to help build understanding and friendship. I will also work to ensure that any legislation passed does not have an adverse affect on any select group. I will also stand against hatred whenever it rears up in Spokane. As a leader, we must show that hatred against any group of people will not be tolerated.

5) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how, as a State Representative, you can address the challenge(s)?

Discrimination is real in Spokane. We must end the preschool to prison pipeline for people of color. This includes ending racial profiling in schools and implementing criminal justice



reform that eliminates discrimination and racial profiling. We must also end discrimination in pay for women – and especially African American women. As a legislator, I want to understand the racial impact of every vote I take. I will work to ensure that the we make progress on eliminating each of the discrimination areas I mentioned.

6) Spokane faces racial disparities in criminal justice, education, housing and employment. What are your thoughts on why the disparities exist and what role, if any, State Representatives can play in addressing those disparities?

These disparities exist because the systems were established by whites for the benefit of white communities. Historically, we have tried to solve this by integrating African Americans (and other minorities) into the system. But that solution puts those minorities at a distinct disadvantage. Instead, the systems must be re-created under the guidance of leaders from all ethnicities and community groups so that each solution will benefit everyone. As a representative, I want to facilitate this restructuring and ensure inclusion for all solutions.

7) Why should a person of color care who their State Representative is?

Your representative passes laws that affect everyone in the state. If that person is racist, they can ensure that the laws only benefit select groups. Even if they're not racist, if they fail to consider how legislation or budget items will affect a specific group, they can cause discrimination. Every voter must choose what candidate they want to represent them and that choice matters. I want to know you and the concerns you have for the community. Every voter I talk to, I ask what issues are most important to them.

Contact:
(509) 701-8308
kay@votekaymurano.com
<https://votekaymurano.com>

Prefers Democratic Party

1) What do you see as the role of a State Representative as it relates to the local Spokane Community?

A state representative's job is to advocate for the interests of their constituents - all of their constituents - in Olympia. Rather than focusing on their own interests or the interests of a few wealthy donors, a state representative should uplift the voices of the people they represent, with particular attention to those whose voices often go unheard in important policy discussions.

2) What prompted you to run for State Representative? Why do you feel that you are qualified?

I believe in effective governance and responsible stewardship of public resources, and I believe I am uniquely qualified to make sure our government lives up to those standards. Through my decades of engagement with my community I have gotten to know the people I want to represent and the challenges they face. With my ability to build relationships and solve complex policy problems, I believe I will be an excellent representative.

3) What experience do you have addressing issues related to racial equity?

I have been an employer for more than 30 years. During that time, I always tried to hire people of color, in order to have a diversified workforce. Over the years, I had several people of color work with me. I was also the President of Interface Computer School, for many years, and we always tried to recruit and admit as many people of color as possible to maintain a diverse student body. I am proud of the work we did at Interface in this area.

4) Are there ways that you as a State Representative can help Spokane be a more inclusive community?

I intend to include all of the diverse communities in the 6th LD in the process of crafting legislation. Uplifting the voices of those who struggle to be heard will result in a policy making process that results in more equitable policies. Furthermore, recognizing diverse communities in decision making will contribute to a more inclusive culture in general.

5) What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) facing African Americans in the Spokane area and what are your thoughts on how, as a State Representative, you can address the challenge(s)?

While I would defer to African American leaders and community members in identifying their biggest challenges, I would say racial disparities in the public education and criminal justice systems are chief among them. It would be among my top priorities to address



those and other racial disparities as a legislator. I would be remiss, however, if I didn't recognize the growing prominence of white nationalist groups in our region. It is up to all of us, especially elected officials, to show that hatred has no place in our community.

6) Spokane faces racial disparities in criminal justice, education, housing and employment. What are your thoughts on why the disparities exist and what role, if any, State Representatives can play in addressing those disparities?

These disparities are the result of decades of policies enacted - in good faith and in bad - without meaningful input from communities of color. This, combined with the biases inherent in our society, results in a system that puts people of color at a disadvantage. The best way to eliminate these disparities is to include those who have been discriminated against in the process of reforming those policies. As your state representative I will do just that.

7) Why should a person of color care who their State Representative is?

A person of color should care who their state representative is for much the same reason anyone else should: more than federal legislators, state representatives make decisions that immediately impact the day-to-day lives of their constituents. Most government services and regulations that one encounters - education, criminal justice, housing, transportation, healthcare, urban development - are controlled by state and local laws. Especially if we want to address the racial disparities inherent in these policy areas, it is important for people of color to be invested in who represents them in order for our government to truly reflect the will of the people.

Contact:
(509) 263-1634
Dave@ElectDaveWilson.com
<http://ElectDaveWilson.com>

Mike Volz

Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to the questions.

All candidates were contacted three times by the Black Lens.

Contact:
(509) 951-8190
VoteMikeVolz@gmail.com
<http://www.MikeVolz.com>



Jenny Graham

Prefers Republican Party

This candidate did not respond to the questions.

All candidates were contacted three times by the Black Lens.

Contact:
(509) 999-1498
jennycg48@gmail.com
<http://www.votegraham.gop>



OUR VOICES

The Threeness of Serena: The Challenge of Race and Gender in Sports



By Dr. Al-Tony Gilmore, PhD
(<http://www.blackcommentator.com>)

Arguably the most dominating and enduring champion athlete in any sport of the 21st century, Serena Williams has become an icon of class, dignity, activism, generosity, competitiveness, graciousness, style, excellence and social justice. She is also both unapologetically black and an advocate for gender equality. In her recent tennis championship match with Naomi Osaka in the finals of the U.S. Open, Serena was being outplayed by her friend, fellow sister, and younger opponent. But just as she was mounting a credible comeback in the match - something she had done successfully multiple times - an official penalized her for behavior that violated the code of conduct as expressed in the rules book. The problem with the official's action is that those rules have never been applied to a male world class tennis player in a championship match at the Open. As black tennis player, James Blake, observed, male players including himself are given soft warnings by game officials whenever personal conduct becomes an issue. In a match of that significance, Serena was not provided that routine courtesy, and her reaction to those critical point and game deductions was understandable, and moreover, justified, especially given the unpenalized court antics and verbal abuse of officials by prominent male players, who play by the same rule book. Not one single line in the rule book suggests that women are required to follow one set of rules and men another. But when a black women raises her voice and expresses utter frustration in disagreement to a white official, it is not the same as when a white male player does it or, for that matter, a white woman player. Thus, what has surfaced is a not only a gender issue, it also borders on being a race issue as well.

It is doubtful that a white women of Serena's caliber would have been treated the same under similar circumstances. Nonetheless, the establishment of professional women's tennis players and the #MeToo movement have circled their wagons around Serena in protest of gender bias in tennis officiating , and for what she represents as an icon for gender equality, but have been silent on the race issues. No one has complained or made an issue of the fact that one of her competitors, Maria Sharapova, has won far fewer tournaments and less prize money than Serena, but made \$23 million in endorsements in 2016 compared to \$13 million for Serena. Those discrepancies, however, are of concern to black people who identified with her mercurial rise from Compton, California, along with her sister, Venus, to being the best of all -time in her sport. All along the way, black people marveled in the black pride of her parents, especially her father, Richard, and their disdain for the culture of elite white tennis players, preferring to chart an unprecedented course for tennis success that would not diminish their "blackness." Serena and Venus not only excelled at every stage of their "unorthodox and unique" development , they did to tennis what Florence Joyner "Flo Jo" did to track, bringing "black style" in hair and outfits along with them, becoming profound role models throughout the black diaspora.

What exploded at the U.S. Open has been processed by some groups through the lens of gender, and by others through the lens of race. Both are half correct in that they both missed the crucial intersection of race and gender. Serena has become the poster child of two groups who do not always see things quite alike. It is about the duality she lives and represents on a world stage. She has not been able to escape what W.E.B. Du Bois wrote about a century ago in The Souls of Black Folk : " One ever feels his twoness, an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder." This is a dilemma that Serena embraces with dignity and determination, her race, gender and national identity advances Du Bois' sage observation to the "threeness" of the 21st Century. Serena falls squarely within that complex framework.

Set aside the fact that Serena was playing another black woman, racism cannot be dismissed from the equation of sports justice and competitive fairness, because her anger was not directed against her competitor, it was specifically targeted to a white official on



Photo Credit: Robert Deutsch/USA TODAY Sports

a world stage. Few white people from the elite world of tennis are used to having a black person - especially a woman - question their integrity and judgment in the tone, temperament and fierce eloquence of Serena. It was a dressing-down that comes from deep in the soul of black people when they know they have been bamboozled. None of the #Metoo supporters of Serena are willing to place the race card on the table, but they will support her with a full deck of deserving, though self-serving, gender biased cards. Feminists and women's rights activists have come out in full force.

The United States Tennis Federation uniformly stands behind the ruling of the umpire, and even several days after the event there has been no statement that the Federation is willing to explore or revisit the application of the rules, or the past history of the official involving penalties or lack of penalties for behavior of other players no different than that of Serena. One thing is for certain, Serena has no history of unsportsmanlike conduct, making one pause to consider if the umpire was purposely over-policing her eye contact with her coach in the stands. For all great athletes, especially those of high character such as Serena, there has always been a bending of the rules and benefit of the doubt given for minor infractions. Serena is too good to have been penalized for coaching , a call that has never been made in the history of championship matches of the U.S. Open. As for the penalties incurred by her tirade against Ramos, they must be weighed against male players hurling far worst words at umpires without penalty. Clearly a double standard --based at least on gender - was used against Serena, possibly because of a subconscious belief the her "emotional female gene" was not restrained enough for Ramos' sensibilities around female court demeanor and conduct. "When a woman is emotional, she's 'hysterical' " said tennis great Billie Jean King in a criticism of gender inequalities in the sport. She might have added - but did not - that when a black women is emotional around white people, she's judged to be an imminent danger. Moreover, there is a difference between being an hysterical white woman and an angry black woman - one is seen as being more of a threat to white authority and society than the other and, thus, the penalties are not the same. For example: there are more angry black girls who are suspended from school than hysterical white girls; and there are more angry black women who are incarcerated for the exact same crimes committed by hysterical white women. None of those realities diminish the legitimacy of the claims that the penalties Ramos imposed on Serena were sexist, but to exclude race from the discussion may be convenient, but it is not accurate or accountable based on the circumstances.

The United States Tennis Association takes pride in the U.S. Open being played in a stadium named after Arthur Ashe, and in having Katrina Adams, a black woman, serve as its President and CEO. It will likely examine all of the gender biased issues raised by the episode of Serena Williams and umpire, Carlos Ramos , but not make even the faintest hint the race may be involved. There will be no special recognition or public relations initiative announcing that this was the fourth time and second consecutive year in which black women played each other for the title, and that Naomi Osaka has joined Althea Gibson, Serena and Venus Williams, and Sloane Stephens as winners of a tournament that once barred black players, particularly those who dominated black tennis and the black American Tennis Association during the Jim Crow era.

While the discussion continues to be quarantined within the boundaries of gender inequalities, the imagery of the episode in Flushing Meadows of Queens, New York as evidenced by Mark Knight, a well known Australian political cartoonist, is racist to the core. Knight's cartoon is an exaggerated caricature of Serena reminiscent of black images in American popular culture in the age of Jim Crow and the nadir of black life in post Emancipation Proclamation America. The editorial cartoon depicts a grossly overweight, large lips, evil eyed minstrel and savage looking woman throwing a temper tantrum over a broken racket and baby's pacifier. Interesting for contrast with civility, Osaka is depicted as a petite cultured "white" woman who is asking the umpire to " just let her win." Not since black boxer Jack Johnson was the world's champion, 1908-1915, has an athlete of Serena's stature been so grotesquely and maliciously lampooned.

Serena is no stranger to being slighted. She has had to endure verbal harassment, unequal compensation, sexism and outright racism, even being called the N-word while on the court. She has had to rise beyond rumors of her "unnatural physicality," claims never associated with her white counterparts. Always conscious of playing for her race, she accepted the stress that came with every televised championship match when the emotional well being of black fans hinged on the outcome of those matches. Serena reminds us of the sexism this nation practices but ignores with impunity. "People call me one of the world's greatest female athletes" she questions, but "do they say LeBron is one of the world's best male athletes? Is Tiger? Is Federer? Why not? They are certainly not female."

Many will remember her piercing refrain to Carlos Ramos, "You owe me an apology." It's one she'll never get, but in the wake of this transformative " racialized sexism or misogynoir " the impact is indelible. From this point forward, no court official in the U.S. Open - and hopefully elsewhere - will make calls against women that are not made against men. There can be no better apology for Serena, or more fitting eulogy for the death of gender biased and race tinged officiating. The sport of tennis is the beneficiary.

Around this controversy that will be discussed and and analyzed for some time to come, there may be a teaching and learning moment. Christine Brennan, noted sportswriter, wrote that there are only two questions that matter: Was Serena treated differently because she is a woman, and was she treated differently because she is an outspoken black woman? The answers to both questions are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are compatible and applaudable. Serena will always be filtered through the lenses of race and gender, because she identifies so strongly with both.

So much to be learned from the courage of Serena Williams and all that she represents at the intersection of sports and society. She ever feels her threeness, - an American, an African American, a woman; three souls, three warring ideas in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.

Dr. Al-Tony Gilmore, PhD. was the first scholar to explore the intersection of sports and society with his book, "Bad Nigger : The National Impact of Jack Johnson" He is a noted historian of American social history, Historian Emeritus of the National Education Association, and most recently served as a Visiting Scholar in the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Research Center of The George Washington University.



How Can You Support the Black Lens?

SUBSCRIBE · ADVERTISE · DONATE · SHARE

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

OUR VOICES

The Larger Cost Of Bill Cosby's Downfall

By Callie Crossley

I wasn't expecting to feel anything other than satisfied, but I'll admit I'm a bit conflicted about Bill Cosby's conviction for sexual assault.

To be clear, I'm relieved that Andrea Constand — the former Temple University employee — won her case. I'm glad that she and the prosecutors took up that fight again after the first case ended in a hung jury. And I'm especially glad this second time around that the women who weren't allowed to speak during the first case also had their day in court. So, on the legal front, case closed.

But, it is not so easy to close down the emotional piece of this — the piece that has left me struggling with how to regard Cosby's overall legacy. Not just his groundbreaking TV show, which fictionalized the lives of black people I knew. But also his comedy routines, some now firmly a part of pop culture.

My dentist told me Cosby's 1983 hilarious routine about his visit to the dentist was a part of his training curriculum. And I was always most proud of his work off-stage creating opportunities for black directors and producers, and single-handedly helping found the organization of black stunt professionals.

Maybe I wouldn't care so much if Bill Cosby were just another guy who did wrong, but he isn't. He was America's dad, a black man, who did wrong. It might be 2018, but rarely are black people able to enjoy their success or suffer their crimes individually. The rest of us feel it, too.



I believe Cosby's accusers, yet as a Black American, it's heartbreaking to see his achievements erased. It's hard to watch his image devolve into a guy who drugs women to force them into sex.

In the months leading up to the trial, a national TV correspondent gathered professional African American women and men from greater Boston for a group interview reflecting our reaction. The interview sparked heated exchanges divided along gender lines, though interestingly, not along age lines. All the women agreed with me that Cosby's cultural contributions didn't absolve him. All the men recounted the painful history of falsely accusing Black men of sex crimes. I remember

one man saying, "There is no evidence, but because of these accusations everything he worked for will be destroyed." The interview never aired, and I've often wondered if that guy ever changed his mind once the case went to trial.

But, I told the interviewer that night that I didn't think Cosby's signature work — The Cosby Show — should go off the air. I know it'll be even harder now to watch that series and not think of what happened to the women.

But, then again I never confused Bill Cosby with his warm and loving alter ego Cliff Huxtable. That went away years ago when I interviewed him. He was alternately arrogant and dismissive in the time before we took the stage. I held my own during the verbal jousting match, but I remember being disappointed that he wasn't even polite.

It won't be so hard to reconcile that Cosby with the 80-year-old guy who may get 30 years* in prison. Justice has been served, thank God, but at a price much more costly than a ruined legacy.

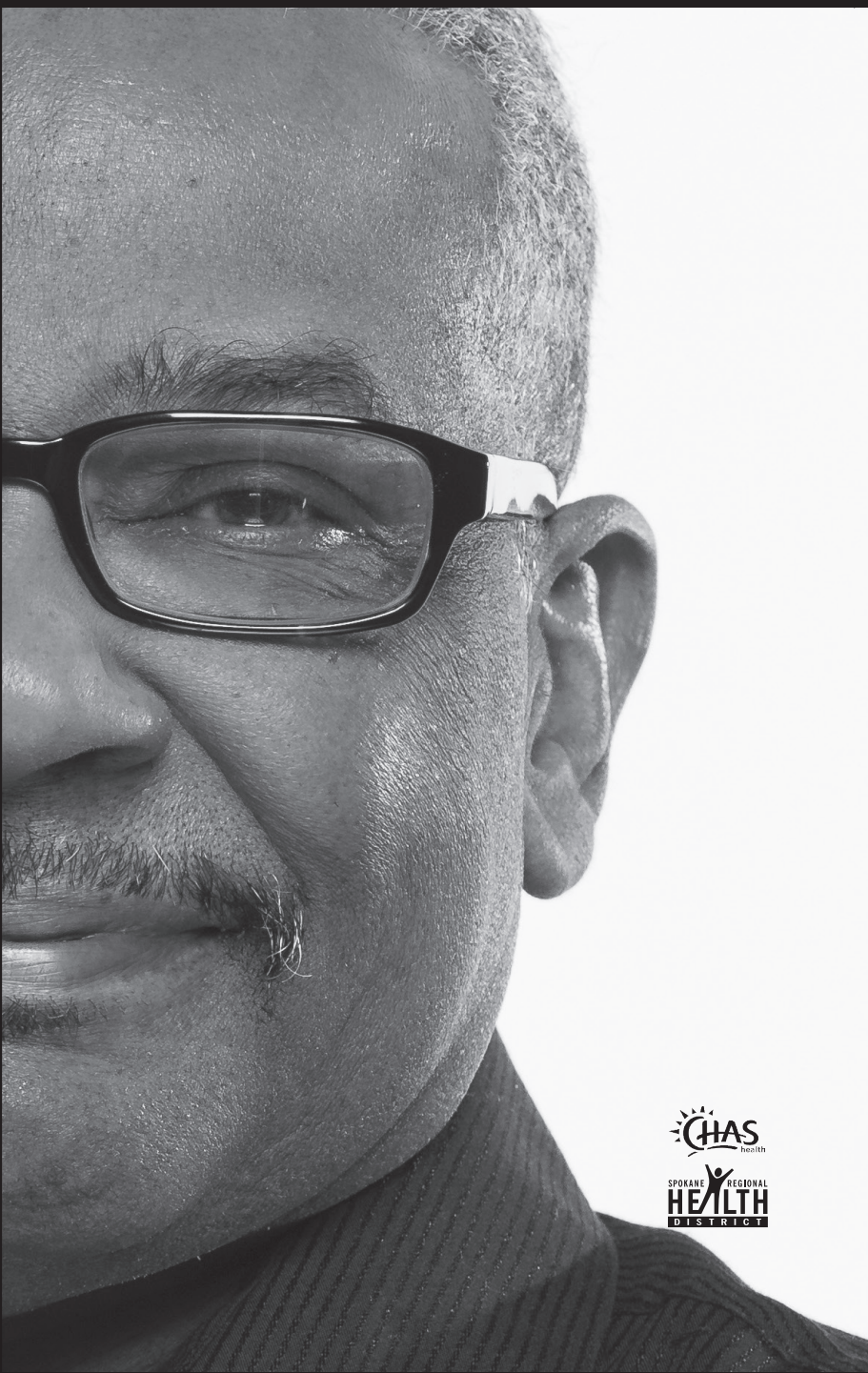
***Editor's Note: On September 25, Bill Cosby was sentenced to 3-10 years in prison. His lawyers have filed an appeal.**

Callie Crossley is a broadcast journalist and the host of *Under the Radar with Callie Crossley*, which airs on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7 p.m. on WGBH, 89.7 FM, in Boston. Crossley is also a public speaker and television and radio commentator for national and local programs, including CNN's *Reliable Sources*, the PBS *NewsHour* and PRI's *The Takeaway*. She also appears weekly on WGBHTV's *Beat the Press*, examining local and national media coverage; *Basic Black*, focusing on current events concerning communities of color; and Fox 25 Boston's *Morning Show*.

“TOBACCO
COMPANIES
HAVE ALWAYS
TARGETED
AFRICAN
AMERICANS
”



Hear how Gene quit and how you can get
FREE GUM or PATCH to quit smoking:
donemyway.org



EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

GILLESREALTY.COM

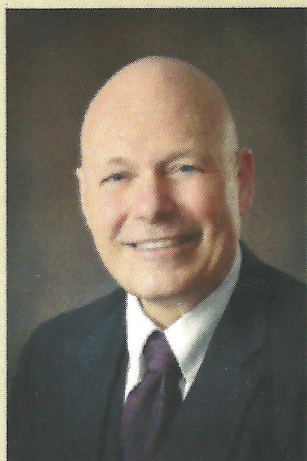
GK Hansen Real Estate

Robert A. Gilles

WA & ID



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



Put our experienced team to the test!

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

Career Opportunities S P O K A N E

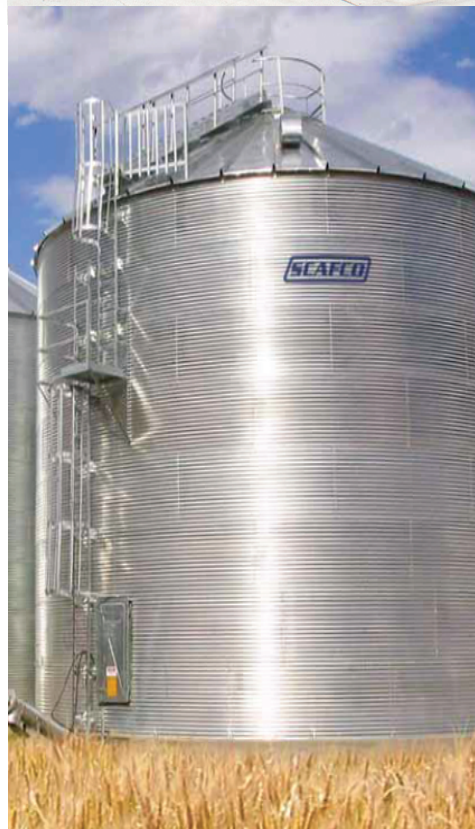
Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for management, sales, office, machine operators and laborer positions. To view all of our current openings, please visit our website

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

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

Benefits Package Includes:

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



2019

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Program Year

Request for Proposals (RFP)

September 23, 2018

The Spokane County Community Services, Housing, and Community Development Department (CSHCD) is seeking proposals for the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program year. CSHCD will review applications and make recommendations to the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee (HCDAC). The HCDAC holds a public hearing for the purpose of making a recommendation to the Spokane County Board of Commissioners (BoCC). The BoCC makes the final decision during a public meeting. Emphasis will be placed on county beneficiaries who would be served with these funds.

Proposals must address a priority need for public services, public facilities, infrastructure, economic development, and planning actions (as contained in the 2019 CDBG Funding Policies, project selection criteria, and RFP.) The 2019 CDBG RFP contains instructions, a timeline for the allocation process, the amount of anticipated funds available, and other pertinent information from the Amended 2015-2019 Spokane County Consolidated Plan, such as priority needs and goals.

Eligible applicants include local governments, non-profit agencies with 501(c) (3) designation, public housing authorities, and for-profit entities. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to carry out their proposal and manage federal funds.

The 2019 CDBG Funding Policies, applications, project selection criteria, and the RFP will be available for downloading at <http://www.spokanecounty.org/2989/Current-RFPs>. To obtain electronic or printed copies of the documents, you may also contact CSHCD at 509-477-2588 or visit our office at 312 West 8th Avenue, Fourth Floor, Spokane, WA 99204 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

CDBG funds are limited and the application process is competitive. We strongly encourage all potential applicants to attend the **Applicant Workshop on October 10, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** The workshop will be held at our offices at **312 West 8th Avenue, Fifth Floor, Spokane, WA 99204.** For additional information on the workshop please call 509-477-2588 or email at tlandsiedel@spokanecounty.org.

Accommodations and translation services will be provided to the maximum extent feasible to meet the needs of people with disabilities. If you need an accommodation, please contact CSHCD at least 72 hours in advance at 509-477-2588.

OCTOBER EVENTS

OCTOBER 3

MLK CENTER LUNCHEON

Join the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center's for the Annual Benefit Luncheon. Seating is limited.

Noon - 1pm

Double Tree Hotel

322 N Spokane Falls Ct, Spokane

For more information contact dmorales@mlkspokane.org or call (509) 868-0856.

OCTOBER 4

YWCA ANNUAL WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT LUNCHEON

Celebrating the 2018 local honorees. Keynote speaker, Gloria Norris.

11:30am - 1:30pm

Davenport Grand Hotel

333 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane

For more information or for tickets visit ywcaspokane.org.

OCTOBER 9

COALITION OF COLOR CANDIDATE FORUM

Congressional, District and Superior Court Judge Candidates.

6 -9pm

Spokane Community College - Lair

1810 N Greene St, Spokane, WA 99217

OCTOBER 12

BLACK KLANSMAN - BLACK LENS FUNDRAISER

Spike Lee's newest movie Black Klansman followed by a facilitated discussion..

6:30-9:00pm

Magic Lantern Theatre

25 W Main Ave #125, Spokane, 99201

Tickets \$15. SEATING IS LIMITED! Tickets are available in advance (recommended) at blacklensnews.com or call 509-795-1964.

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

OCTOBER 13

CARL MAXEY CENTER COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

As we move into the remodel phase for the building that will become the Carl Maxey Center we would like to hear what your priorities are for the center.

9 - 11am

Carl Maxey Center Building

3116 E. 5th Avenue, Spokane 99202

Visit carlmaxeycenter.org

OCTOBER 15

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting

7:00pm

Community Building - Lobby

35 W. Main Street, Spokane

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

OCTOBER 17

50TH ANNIVERSARY - EWU AFRICANA STUDIES

Eastern Washington University's Africana Studies is celebrating 50 year.

4:30 - 6:30pm

Wren Pierson Building

615 4th Street, Cheney, WA

Please RSVP to bnicholson37@ewu.edu or call 509.359.2205.

OCTOBER 20

99th ANNUAL NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

Special guest speaker Elmer Dixon.

6pm - No Host Social, 7pm Banquet

Northern Quest Resort and Casino

100 N Hayford Rd, Airway Heights

See flyer below.



Mt. Zion Holiness Church Salutes and Thanks

Pastor Robert L. Jackson and 1st Lady Diane Jackson

For 20 years of devotion, love, leadership and most of all for his teaching of Gods' Holy Word. We will continue to follow him as he follows Christ.

"Appreciation Dinner"

Sunday, October 21, 2018

after the 12:00 Church services

Come help us celebrate our Pastor and his 1st Lady.

With much love,
Mt. Zion Holiness Church Members

Mt. Zion Holiness Church, 2627 E 5th Ave, Spokane, WA 99202, (509) 536-1819

Join us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Africana Studies Program to reflect on our journey, thank our supporters and share our vision for the future.

Scheduled speakers include faculty and alumni from Africana Studies.

Seating is limited. RSVP to bnicholson37@ewu.edu or call 509-359-2205.



Wednesday, October 17
4:30-6:30 pm
Wren Pierson Building
615 4th St, Cheney, WA

Africana Studies Program
Eastern Washington University
start something big

Individuals needing accommodations should contact 509-359-2205 by October 10th.



We invite you to join us at our 99th Freedom Fund Banquet

Theme: Defeat Hate – Vote!

Saturday, October 20, 2018



Keynote Speaker: Elmer Dixon

Civil Rights Activist for Multiculturalism and Inclusion

Kalispel Tribe of Indians Northern Quest Casino and Resort
100 N Hayford Rd., Airway Heights, WA
Semi Formal Attire

6:00 PM	No Host Social Hour
7:00 PM	Banquet
Menu	Chicken Florentine or Vegetarian

Tickets \$55 a person - \$440 for a reserved table of 8

For tickets email spokanenaacp@gmail.com
Or (509) 838-2605



BLACK VIOLIN CLASSICAL BOOM TOUR

"...an unexpected blend of classically trained musicianship and hip-hop beats and inventiveness."

—The Miami Herald



NOVEMBER 17
2018 • 8PM



FOX PRESENTS

MARTIN WOLDSON THEATER AT THE FOX
Tickets: 509 624 1200 or FoxTheaterSpokane.org

BLACK LENS FUNDRAISER



Friday, October 12, 2018 - 6:30pm

Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201

Seating Limited! Buy tickets in advance at blacklensnews.com or call 509-795-1954