

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

America Loses Two Civil Rights Giants

Elijah Cummings 1951 - 2019

By Hazel Trice Edney

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - From the White House that he righteously excoriated – “We are better than this!” - to the grassroots citizens and representatives whom he served, U. S. Rep. Elijah Cummings is being hailed as the irreplaceable, widely beloved “conscience of the Congress”.

“At approximately 2:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2019, Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (MD-07) passed away at Gilchrist Hospice Care, a Johns Hopkins affiliate, due to complications concerning longstanding health challenges,” said the official statement posted on his Congressional website. The shocking announcement was followed by a plethora of statements of respect to the revered Congressman, the first being from his wife, Dr. Maya Rockeymore, a leader in her own rite.

“He was a father, a husband, a son of Baltimore, and a Statesman who served Maryland's 7th Congressional District for more than 20 years, and served 16 years prior to that as a Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly,” wrote Dr. Rockeymore, chair of the Maryland Democratic Party.

“Chairman Cummings will always be remembered for dedicating his life's work to improving the lives of others, standing up for his community, and protecting our Democracy. Congressman Cummings was an honorable man who proudly served his district and the nation with dignity, integrity, compassion and humility. He worked until his last breath because he believed our democracy was the highest and best expression of our collective humanity and that our nation's diversity was our promise, not our problem.”

President Donald Trump was in an all-out war with Congressman Cummings, who



was chairman of the House Oversight Committee that was exploring the possible impeachment of Trump. Trump, known internationally for his vitriol, had called Cummings unsavory names that will not be repeated in this column and had described his Baltimore district as “a disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess”.

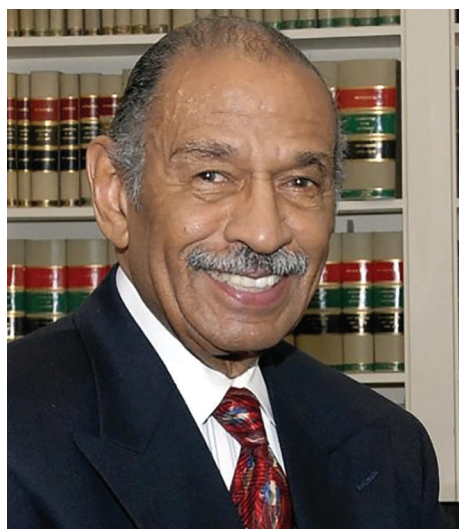
But upon the announcement of the Congressman's death, even Trump issued a remarkably civil statement.

“My warmest condolences to the family and many friends of Congressman Elijah Cummings,” he said in an emailed statement. “I got to see first-hand the strength, passion and wisdom of this highly respected political leader. His work and voice on so many fronts will be very hard, if not impossible, to replace!”

He later ordered all public U. S. Flags to fly at half-staff “as a mark of respect for the memory and longstanding public service of Representative Elijah E. Cummings, of Maryland.”

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John Conyers 1929 - 2019



Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

By Frederick H. Lowe

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - John Conyers, Jr. the longest serving African American member of Congress and co-founder in 1969 of the Congressional Black Caucus, died on Sunday, October 27, in Detroit. He was 90 years old. The cause of death has not been revealed.

Mr. Conyers served 53 years in Congress and was once fondly known as the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus which he helped found in 1971. He was the sixth longest serving member of Congress before he resigned in 2017 amid sexual harassment allegations. During his tenure, he represented the 1st, 14th and 13th Congressional Districts in Detroit and the suburbs.

A graduate of Wayne State University and Wayne State University School of Law, voters elected Conyers to Congress in 1964. He took the oath of office in 1965 during the Civil Rights struggle.

He befriended Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and he hired Rosa Parks to work in his Detroit congressional office when no one else would give her a job.

Parks sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, one of the great civil rights victories, when she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus to a White man. Her refusal sparked the more than one year long Montgomery Bus Boycott that ended segregated seating on the city's buses.

Conyers introduced the 1965 Voting Rights Act under President Lyndon Johnson, and he succeeded in establishing a national holiday honoring the birthday of Dr. King.

Conyers was chair of the House Judiciary Committee from 2007-11. And he led the powerful House Oversight Committee as its chair from 1989 to 2004. The late Elijah Cummings held the same position when he died.

As the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, he joined other committee members in 1974 submitting Articles of Impeachment against President Richard M. Nixon. However, Nixon resigned from office before he could be impeached.

In addition, Conyers introduced in every Congress starting in 1989, legislation that would set up a commission to examine the institution of slavery in the nation and its colonies. The legislation recommended appropriate remedies.

He also pushed for a single-payer or government-directed health care system.

Conyers was the son of John Conyers, Sr., a labor lawyer.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams



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THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

Contact Information:

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

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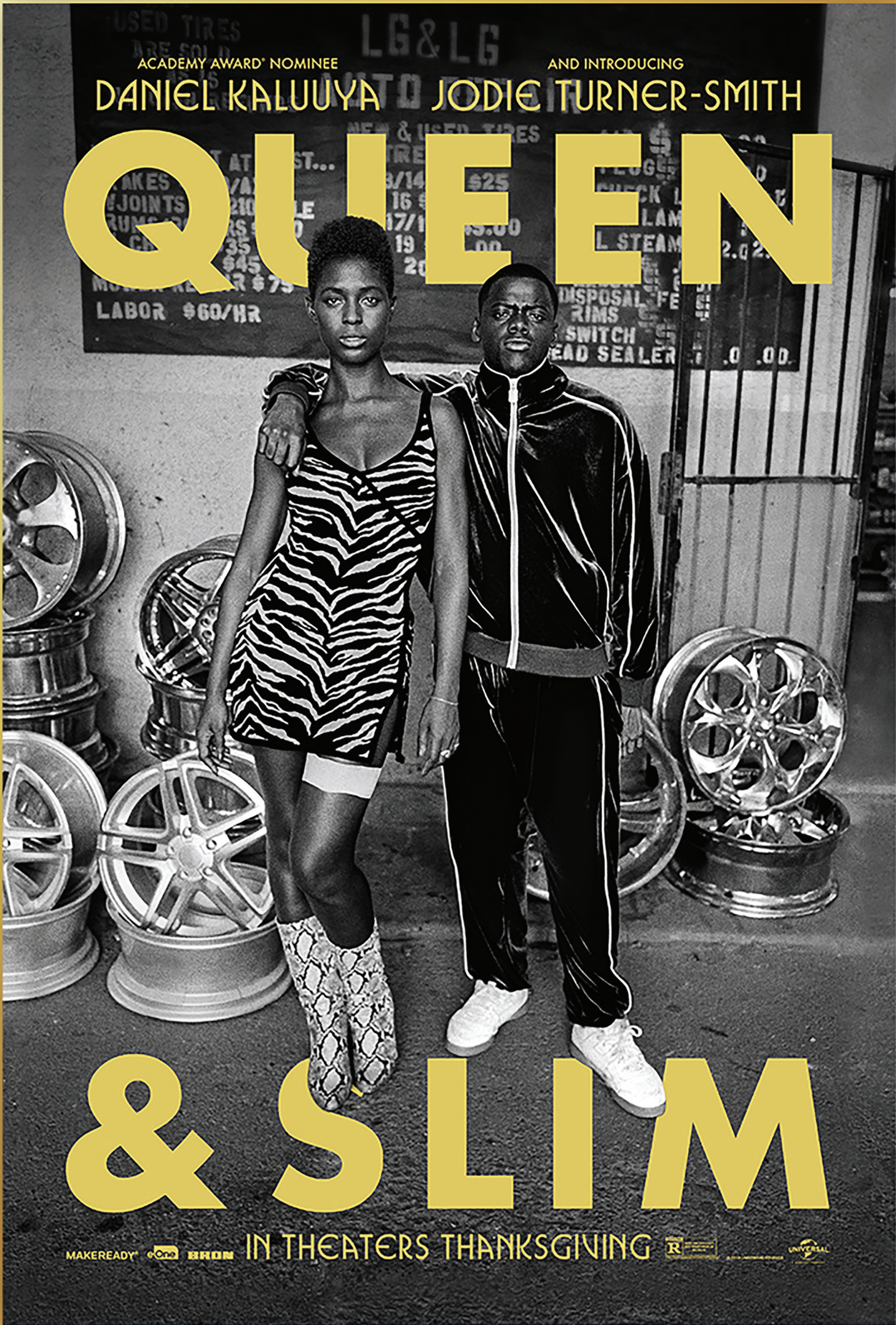
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(Or Things You Probably Didn't Learn In School)

Groundbreaking in Nation's Capital for Expanded African American Civil War Museum

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - In the 400th year since the first enslaved Africans reached the shores of America, a groundbreaking in the nation's Capital has begun a monumental \$45 million expansion of a facility to honor Black veterans of the Civil War - slaves and descendants of slaves - who literally fought their way to freedom.

"You all know that we started this African American Civil War Museum for two purposes - one was to correct a great wrong in history, which pretty much ignored the contributions of African-American soldiers ending slavery and keeping America united under one flag," Dr. Frank Smith, executive director and founder of the African American Civil War Museum, told a packed house in D.C.'s historic Shaw neighborhood Oct. 17.

Smith continued the brief history lesson before the rapt audience: "When the Civil War started, African-Americans had no pathway to citizenship in the United States. We were defined in the Constitution as being chattel slaves. And every court decision from that point up to the Civil War reinforced our position and our status in society. We don't get a chance to fight for our freedom until Lincoln gets himself caught up in a war that he can't win without doing something about slavery. And so he ended up enlisting two hundred thousand Blacks in the Union Army. The nation paid no attention to these soldiers until we built a monument to them."

Just across the street from the museum, which is housed in the historic Grimke School building on Vermont Avenue North West, is a bronze memorial, a statue of three soldiers standing guard. The statue is surrounded by a wall with the carvings of 209,145 names of those who served among the United States Colored Troops.

That museum and memorial - fixtures in the U Street community for the past 21

years - are about to undergo a \$45 million expansion project that will accomplish the second purpose for which the museum was built. In addition to providing greater space for artifacts and programs to honor the Black soldiers, it is expected to create an economic boom in the once depressed area as people come from across the nation to visit the historic spot.

"We wanted to find a way to get tourism into this community. We get 20 million tourists in the city every year," said Smith, a former Ward 1 councilman, who envisioned and founded the museum in 1992. "They spend \$6 - \$10 billion dollars every year Downtown. So it's pretty easy if we can find a way to get them here and spend some of that money up here in this neighborhood," he said.

D. C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and her staff, helping with the ground breaking, led the way to the new beginning for the project after several pauses due to stormy political waters and budget problems over the years. The grand opening is finally set to take place in the fall of 2020.

"Our former Ward 1 councilmember is making sure that we not only grow as a city, but that we grow together as a city and that we preserve the rich history that we've been blessed with. And this Memorial is certainly a testament and a commitment to how we do that for our city and for our nation. So, Frank, you deserve tremendous applause and appreciation from all of us," Mayor Bowser said.

Among the plans for the development:

The African American Civil War Museum will move out of its current building into a second much larger building next door.

The 133,000 square foot project will include 12,000 feet for the world headquarters of architectural giant Torti Gallas, which will set up office with more



Dr. Frank Smith presents D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser with replica of Abraham Lincoln signing Emancipation Proclamation. PHOTO: Roy Lewis/Trice Edney News Wire

than 100 employees and partners in the building that the museum is vacating. Torti Gallas also is the architectural firm behind the entire project.

There will be approximately 70 housing units with 20 percent of them at "below market" price, according to Bowser, who said affordable housing in the area had been among her chief concerns as she established a long-term vision projecting 50-100 years.

The new influx of Torti Gallas employees, construction workers, and other retail employees into the neighborhood; plus the tourist draw to the newly renovated museum and new neighborhood residents are expected to bring the economic boom. Among those applauding in the audience was Virginia Ali, co-founder of the historic Ben's Chili Bowl restaurant right down the street.

Adding to the historicity of the project, Dr. Smith said a statue of President Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation will be erected in front of the museum, looking across the street at the monument. "It'll be the only one in the nation's capital," he said, awarding the first heavy replica of the statue to Mayor Bowser.

John Torti, president of Torti Gallas, said he not only looks forward to redesigning and renovating the two buildings, but he has dreamed of being a resident of such a neighborhood.

"For me, personally, I've always wanted to have an office in the city. I've always wanted to walk to work," he said. "I've always wanted to have a space that represents the kind of redevelopment and rebuilding and transformation that our firm represents. I've always wanted to come to work in a building that people like Frank Smith work in. In 50 years of being an architect, my dream has come true with Grimke."

As with any new development, amidst all the pleasantries and congratulations,

there are yet controversy and questions.

Dr. Smith forthrightly addressed the issue of gentrification as well as how crime in the Shaw neighborhood had to be dealt with as the neighborhood has gradually changed over the years.

"When I first started working up here, I, as a councilmember, people were scared to walk around up here," he said. He said nearby Howard University "started bus-ing the kids back and forth to the dormitories. They were scared to let them walk around in the street. People need to have a place to live where they can walk through the community; where they can go to school. So, I'm not apologetic about that. We have to fight to make our communities better. We all want to live in better communities. We just have to fight to stay there. That's the only way we're going to progress in America."

Responding to Smith, current Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau, having worked on the project for 15 years, described, in part, how the gentrification issue will be dealt with.

"Dr. Smith talked about a phenomenon of gentrification here in this neighborhood. And one of the things that we have to keep doing in areas that are becoming gentrified is ensure that we solidify the history and the memories of things that were here and build things that acknowledge the African-American community," Nadeau said. "This is critical because there are people who've lived here in this corridor their whole lives who don't recognize it anymore and don't think the things that are being built are for them. But this is being built for them. This is being built for all of them. For those who've been here a long time, for those who will come and need to understand the history. And I want us to be together in that moment and to understand the gravity of that. And just really appreciate it and congratulate each other because everybody in this room played a part in getting this."



Principals and visionaries of the expanded African American Civil War Memorial symbolically dig in the shovels. PHOTO: Roy Lewis/Trice Edney News Wire

NAACP UPDATE:

SPOKANE

NAACP

1919-2019 CENTENNIAL

<http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com>



By Kurtis Robinson
President, Spokane NAACP Branch #1137

Greetings Spokane family,
As usual the Spokane NAACP has been on the move. In October we came right off of our spectacular centennial celebration, after a little bit of recuperation because yes it was that good! And moved right into several events like our general meeting which featured the wonderful Melissa R. Mace discussing behavioral health in our

communities of color to a forum on Improving Health Outcomes in Spokane's Black Community at the NE Community Center put on by our own NAACP health-care committee. As well as a collaborative Spokane Valley candidate forum co-hosted with SCAR (Spokane Community Against Racism) and I Did The Time, followed by a collaborative Get Out The Vote community party at East Central Community Center. Again we demonstrate our commitment to our community and the work.

Now speaking of community, I must address the incident of the hate flyers placed at Morning Star Baptist Church. There is no doubt that there has been a ridiculously significant increase of these kind of events sweeping across the nation as well as in our on Eastern Washington. Unfortunately it seems these kind of groups have received an almost blatant authorization from the highest government office to participate in these obviously racist and anti-humanizing behaviors. That this is a shame and that this will absolutely not be tolerated must be said and also goes without saying!

In my conversations with Pastor Kendrick, we're both of the same mind that these kinds of groups are after more attention than anything else. That as we deal with this, we must respond from the needs of our impacted community rather then in reaction to this dysfunctional and deplorable behavior. I can add that there continues to be much important action and dialogue from our many Caucasian community advocates and allies as well as community members.

I challenge us, in this time, to pray for those who curse us and bless those who spitefully use us. For as we implement these kinds of higher level responses we are actually able to minimize the impact of those who would harm us and come out of these kind of engagements better then we would have ever thought or they who have done this would ever wish.

Let us hold our heads up high and move into this next stage of Spokane family engagement from a level of clarity in vision and surety in our stance that there are be-

haviors that will absolutely not be tolerated, yet we will not condemn those who strive to condemn us.

We get to forgive what was done, they have to live with it.

Keep your eyes open family, some very important things are coming down the pipeline in law enforcement accountability, engagement, challenges and continuing opportunities for healing.

Until next time,.. heads up, eyes open, hearts healing and moving forward!

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

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

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

CHAS Health to Open Dental Clinic on East Central Community Center Campus

SPOKANE, WA - In 2013, the City of Spokane conducted a community needs assessment for the East Central neighborhood, which revealed significant challenges for local residents to access dental services. There were no dentists serving low-income residents in the neighborhood, and those residents had limited transportation options to travel outside the neighborhood for dental care. From 2014-2015, the City of Spokane worked with neighborhood groups and businesses to develop projects to reinvigorate the area.

Policymakers at the State and City level approached CHAS Health to address the oral health gap, and together they secured funding and developed construction plans for a new dental clinic in the East Central neighborhood. The City of Spokane received a state capital grant to help fund the construction of the 4,000 square foot free-standing dental clinic, and the City also committed funding for the construction. In September 2019, CHAS Health

was also awarded a federal grant to help purchase a significant portion of the dental equipment.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 29th at the site of the new CHAS Health East Central Dental. The new clinic will be located at 2211 E. Hartson Ave., on the East Central Community Center campus. The clinic is scheduled to open in Summer 2020 and will help connect local residents with access to oral health care close to home.

CHAS Health serves many individuals who experience barriers (such as cost, transportation, homelessness, insurance status, and/or cultural barriers) to accessing primary care. They provide transportation support and translation services, and work to identify and address social determinants of health. Partnering and collaborating with local providers, social service organizations, educational institutions, and public entities is essential to



serve the whole-person health needs of CHAS Health’s patient population. The location of the new dental clinic will enable collaboration with a variety of services currently offered at the community center, including before and after school programs for children, financial literacy programs, GED classes, and a food bank.

Members from the East Central community will benefit from CHAS Health’s existing telehealth infrastructure, enabling dental patients to quickly access medical, behavioral health, and pharmacy providers as needed from the dental clinic. While telehealth is a quick and convenient solution, it will not replace necessary in-person visits. Staff at East Central Dental will help coordinate transportation for patients who require assistance accessing the full-spectrum of primary care services. CHAS Health’s Perry Street Clinic is just 1.1 miles away from the East Central Community Center campus.

Clinic Information

Clinic name: East Central Dental

Address: 2211 E. Hartson Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202

Capital funding: This project received capital funding through the state legislature, City of Spokane, and a federal dental equipment grant

Facility: 4,000 square feet; 7 dental operatories; 1 telehealth room to provide access to primary medical, behavioral health, and pharmacy providers

Dental services to be provided: Preventative, restorative and emergency dental care for all ages. Services will include: exams, oral prophylaxis, sealants, fluoride, fillings, extractions, oral health hygiene instruction and education, diagnostic x-rays, root canal therapy, crowns, wisdom teeth consulting and denture extractions.

EWU Again Named Top College for Diversity by INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine

CHENEY, WA - For the second consecutive year, Eastern Washington University has been nationally recognized for its outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

EWU is the recipient of the 2019 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the HEED Award, EWU will be featured in the November 2019 issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

“As an office that has been in existence for just two years we are ecstatic to receive the HEED Award for the second year in a row,” said Shari Clarke, PhD, vice president for Diversity and Inclusion at EWU. “This national recognition honoring colleges and universities who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion affirms Eastern’s dedicated efforts to create a climate of inclusion that celebrates, respects and values diversity.”

Clarke notes that INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine selected Eastern because of its daily commitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives campus wide. The rigorous application process requires the university to show how it is coming up with new

programs each year to reflect continued leadership support for diversity.

One such program is the monthly campus wide workshop series Diversity Essentials, which allows students, faculty and staff to assist in identifying structural issues on campus that hinder equity. Through group exercises, participants are then asked to develop strategies to address these road blocks and create a more inclusive environment.

“The HEED Award consists of a comprehensive application process that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees — and best practices for both — continued leadership support for diversity, and other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. “We take a detailed approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being done every day across their campus.”

Current, archived, and digital issues of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine are available online at insightintodiversity.com.



BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Honorable G. Helen Whitener Receives APEX Award

Champion of Human Rights Carries Forward Legacy of Iconic Supreme Court Justice

SEATTLE, WA - The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Hon. G. Helen Whitener the 2019 Justice Charles Z. Smith Excellence in Diversity APEX Award. This award is made to a lawyer, law firm, or law-related group that has made a significant contribution to diversity in the legal profession. WSBA President William D. Pickett presented the award at the annual WSBA APEX (Acknowledging Professional Excellence) Awards Dinner on Sept. 26 at the Sheraton Seattle.

Whitener was the first immigrant-born judge appointed in Pierce County, the county's first LGBTQ judge, and the state's first openly LGBTQ Black judge. Both on and off the bench, she has been an ardent, fearless community leader and human-rights advocate.

Whitener was the chief architect behind the "Color of Justice" program, which provides girls in Pierce County an inspirational opportunity to meet and interact with female judges and those of color, a program that has since been adopted by other nearby jurisdictions due to its success.

"She was making it look like we have a future like that, too—like her," said Zaina Jarmon, who participated in the Color of



Justice program. "It was just really, really inspiring."

Whitener uses her position to champion human rights, mentor other legal professionals, and maintain focus on issues of diversity and inclusion in her dedicated support of people from marginalized communities.



She has come under vicious attacks during her time on the bench, yet never shied away from using the law to protect basic human rights and empower others to do the same. Whitener has also volunteered as an instructor with the Lincoln High School Street Law Program, co-chaired the Washington State Minority & Justice Commis-

sion, co-chaired the National Association of Women Judges Law School Outreach Committee, and is a frequent public speaker on issues of access to justice and civil rights.

In 2015, Whitener returned to her home country of Trinidad and Tobago—even at personal risk to herself for being openly LGBTQ—to help celebrate National Caribbean American heritage month as an invitee of the U.S. Embassy, a visit that won her the acknowledgment of then-President Barack Obama.

"Judge Whitener is deserving of this award because she is a person who's willing to stand up," said Pierce County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Sarah Richardson. "She's willing to speak out, she's willing to inspire others, and she's very generous with her time."

About the Washington State Bar Association: The WSBA operates under the delegated authority of the Washington Supreme Court to license the state's nearly 40,000 lawyers and other legal professionals. In furtherance of its obligation to protect and serve the public, the WSBA both regulates lawyers and other legal professionals and serves its members as a professional association — all without public funding. The WSBA's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, to ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

National Day Of Outrage on October 28 Demanded Justice For Atatiana Jefferson



(Source: Kirsten West Savali, *essence.com/news*; Emma Gaffney, *independent.org*)

Communities around the nation mobilized on October 28 to demand justice for Atatiana "Tay" Jefferson, the 28-year-old

Texas woman murdered inside of her home on Oct. 12 by Fort Worth police officer Aaron Dean and to call attention to the injustices faced by Black women and Black people in general at the hands of the police.

Atatiana Jefferson, 28, was at home in Fort Worth, Texas playing video games with her eight-year-old nephew when police officer Aaron Dean shot and killed her through her window after being called to the house by a neighbor for a wellness check.

Jefferson's death came a year after the death of Botham Jean, who was killed as he sat on his couch in his apartment eating ice cream by off-duty officer Amber Guyger who claimed she entered the wrong apartment.

"They were at home, the one place in the world that is supposed to be your sanctuary," community activist Tamika D. Mallory said as she stood with the siblings of Jefferson and Jean by her side at Foley Square in Manhattan. "Both these individuals — Botham Jean and Atatiana Jefferson — were doing the right thing. And they were shot and killed in cold blood in their homes. If we don't stand up for this, then what in the hell will we ever stand up for?"

Mallory, along with Linda Sarsour and others, are among the founders of Until Freedom, a new organization that organized the National Day of Outrage. In New York, they were joined by Justice League NYC, Arc of Justice, Gangsta's Making Astronomical Community Changes (G.M.A.C.C.), religious leaders and artists.

Michael Jordan Opens Medical Clinic in Charlotte



(Source: Cedric 'BIG CED' Thornton, *blackenterprise.com*; Photo: Twitter)

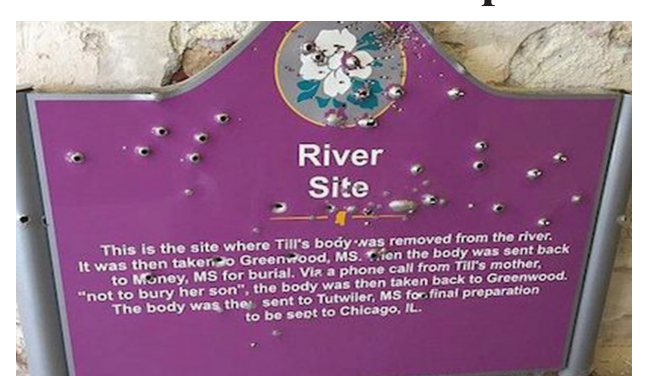
Last month, six-time NBA champion and Charlotte Hornets owner, Michael Jordan opened the first of two healthcare clinics to serve low-income communities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Jordan made a \$7 million gift in 2017 towards purchasing the land, building the clinic, and covering the cost of equipping the entire facility, including 12 patient exam rooms, an X-ray room, and space for physical therapy.

The Novant Health Michael Jordan Family Medical Clinic will provide access to primary and preventive care to individuals, including the uninsured. Novant Health will operate the clinic, utilizing a unique integrated services model designed to identify, treat, and support social determinants of health, including embedding a full-time licensed clinical social worker to connect patients with resources that range from bus passes to social support services.

Jordan became visibly emotional during his speech. "This is a very emotional thing for me to be able to give back to a community that has supported me over the years," Jordan said. "This is just the start of a battle of being able to touch as many people as we can."

Rededicated Emmett Till Memorial Now Bulletproof



(Source: Keka Araujo, *blackpressusa.com*; Photo Courtesy of Emmett Till Interpretive Center in Sumner, Miss.)

By Keka Araujo

A new memorial marker was rededicated to Emmett Till just outside of Glendora, Miss in late October. The tragic and brutal murder of the 14-year-old Black teen from Chicago jump-started the civil rights movement more than six decades ago.

In 1955, Till was visiting family in the small Mississippi town when he was accused of whistling at Carolyn Bryant Donham, the white daughter of a plantation owner, while visiting a store. He was kidnapped from his uncle's home, beaten and then shot in the head. His mutilated body was found in the Tallahatchie River.

There had been three previous markers remembering Till. The first was erected in 2008. It was thrown into a river. The second was riddled with bullets and vandalized and was later taken down by the Emmett Till Memorial Commission in 2016. A third replacement met the same fate. Additionally, three racist members of Kappa Alpha from the University of Mississippi took pictures holding shotguns in front of the historical marker. Ben LeClere, John Lowe, and a third fraternity brother were suspended from Kappa Alpha after a ProPublica investigative report.

The new marker weighs 500 pounds, is made of steel and is encased in bulletproof glass. The rededication was attended by Till's family members, including his cousin who was with him on that fateful summer night.

This post originally appeared in The Washington Informer.

AFRICA NEWS

News Highlights From and About the Continent of Africa

African Languages Among the Top Ten Spoken in U. S. Homes

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) – If you think you’re hearing more Swahili, Yoruba, Amharic or Twi coming from your neighbor’s home, you’re right!

Newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau finds African languages are among the top ten fastest growing languages spoken at home in the U.S.

The Census list features three groups of African languages: Swahili and other Central/Eastern/Southern African languages; Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, and other Western African languages; and Amharic/Somali.

Although African immigrants make up a small share of the nation’s immigrant population, their overall numbers have doubled every decade since 1970, according to the Pew Research Center.

Africans now make up 39% of the total foreign-born black population, up from 24% in 2000.

Despite President Trump’s unkind comments about African countries, African migrants continue to seek refuge in the U.S. In June 2019, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials recorded an unprecedented rise in African mi-



grants at the U.S.-Mexico border, arriving at a rate of 30 to 40 people a day. A majority of these asylum seekers are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola. This is not a trend that is expected to change drastically anytime soon.

North America is a top destination for the continent’s mushrooming under-30 population, particularly those

between the ages of 18 and 25 who want to leave. This desire to migrate is highest in West and Central Africa.

Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Senegal and Kenya are among the principal countries of origin for sub-Saharan African migrants to Europe and the United States, which explains why Swahili, Yoruba and Igbo are leading the African cohort on the Census Bureau’s list of fastest-growing languages.

Swahili is the major African language spoken in the U.S. And for the first time, the country will, in the upcoming 2020 census, print guides in three additional African languages—Igbo, Yoruba, and Twi. The previous census in 2010 had guides printed in five African languages all of which were from East and South Africa.

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

Liberia Using "Social Cash" to Raise Up the Country's Poorest

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) – Thousands of Liberia’s poorest citizens will be getting an early Christmas gift of \$100 this year as part of a five year project which the government hopes will shrink chronic poverty and eliminate hunger.

Authorities at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection say they have started to disburse “social cash” to the extremely poor and food insecure citizens in two counties. The money comes from the nation’s Social Safety Nets Project funded by the U.N. Development Program.

“Over 3,000 households will be given cash to help them secure the needed support for their families,” said Minister Williametta E. Saydee-Tar, speaking at a news conference in Monrovia.

“This cash transfer is a major achievement under the Pro-poor Agenda, which says power to the people and sub-chapter investing in social protection.”

The Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) underscores the importance of “direct cash transfer” outside centralized national poverty reduction programs, she said, adding: “This milestone also captures the very essence of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under pillar one and two that says no poverty and zero hunger.”

The five-year (2019-2023) Agenda, according to Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs Samora Wolokollie, is about strengthening people’s capacity to thrive and seeks to draw all Liberians at home and abroad into the national development process.

The two counties so far in the program are Grand Kru and Maryland.

However, not all Liberians are on board with the plan. Robert Quiminee, an activist and an author, in an article on Liberia’s Poverty Recovery Strategies, fears the program lacks the input of poor people in the policy process.



He mentioned a widely-seen photo of President George Weah in which he and his wife are eating with bare fingers but with no plan to transform lives. “Pro-poor is not about identity, it’s about transformation,” Quiminee said.

A. Witherspoon, writing in the Liberian Observer, asked rhetorically: “Where does this cash transfer program fit into the overall development plan? These ad hoc initiatives will not help our people. These piecemeal ventures are what is deepening the (poverty) situation in the country.”

Meanwhile, the first All Liberian Diaspora Conference is set for December 6-7 at the St. Andrews Ukrainian Orthodox Center in Silver Spring, Maryland.

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Fires in West Africa Exceed Those in Brazil



(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) – While all eyes were on the fast-moving flames in the Brazilian Amazon, satellite data showed a record 6,902 blazes in Angola during the same 48 hours. Brazil was actually third in the world in wildfires over those 48 hours, according to satellite data analyzed by Weather Source. Angola’s fires compare to 3,395 in the Democratic Republic of Congo and 2,127 in Brazil. It’s not an uncommon phenomenon for Central Africa.

According to NASA, which operates the Aqua satellite, over 67,000 fires were reported in a one-week period in June last year, as farmers employed slash and burn agriculture to clear land for crops. Zambia placed fourth on the list, while Brazil’s neighbor in the Amazon, Bolivia, placed sixth.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced that the leaders of the G7 - Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US - would release \$22 million to help fight fires in the Amazon rainforest. "The forest is also burning in sub-Saharan Africa" he tweeted and added that he was "considering the possibility of launching a similar initiative" in sub-Saharan African.

The Congo Basin forest is commonly referred to as the “second green lung” of the planet after the Amazon. The forests cover an area of 3.3 million square kilometers in several countries, including about a third in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the rest in Gabon, Congo, Cameroon and Central Africa.

Just like the Amazon, the forests of the Congo Basin absorb tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) in trees and peat marshes - seen by experts as a key way to combat climate change. They are also sanctuaries for endangered species.

But these fires may not compare with those of Brazil, some experts say. “Fire is quite a regular thing in Africa. It’s part of a cycle, people in the dry season set fire to bush rather than to dense, moist rainforest,” said Philippe Verbelen, a Greenpeace forest campaigner working on the Congo Basin,

Guillaume Lescuyer, a central African expert at the French agricultural research and development centre CIRAD, also said the fires seen in NASA images were mostly burning outside the rainforest.

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Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

The Complexity of all the Ships

Before we get too far into this, let me clarify exactly what ships I am referring to. I am definitely not referring to the ships that float in water, although a technical explanation and demonstration of how to disassemble a steamboat with a toothpick may very well be easier.

The ships that I am referring to are the big boys. The very complex, multi-faceted, inter-connected and ever so complicated mega ships. Relationship, Friendship and Leadership. For me those are the ships that tread the most dangerous seas often anchored to the heart.

The biggest ship of them all, which I will refer to as the mothership, is the Relationship. For it is relationship that serves as the epoxy that holds all of the other ships together. One of the most difficult lessons I have learned has been the art of cultivating authentic relationships. Many people are afraid to demonstrate the level of vulnerability it takes to engage in authentic relationship. This ship requires that we connect our hearts with the hearts of others with no guarantee that they will be as careful as we may need them to be with our most tender space.

Relationship also requires that we be willing to be right and wrong, which often equates to unequal give and take. Relationships require that we make a conscious decision to continuously commit, submit and omit.

Committing to engage with the person we are in relationship with even when we don't want to or may have been hurt by the actions of the other party.

Relationship requires that we submit to the theory that we all have more growing to do and must have a willingness to omit interactions, words and behaviors that may be detrimental to the relationship. Much easier said than done.

From a distant view the next ship can often be mistaken for the mothership due to its similar profile and characteristics. In fact, it is a common practice that individuals often in search of relationships develop intimate feelings for someone better suited for friendship which all too often ends tragically. Using my own quantitative measurements, I suspect that this happens 9 out of 10 times when friends attempt to engage romantically.

The last and equally complex ship is Leadership. This ship often comes to shore with equal parts power and responsibility and although there are far fewer of this type of ship, when mishandled or abused it can wreak havoc in communities, churches, political and professional environments alike. Leadership has historically been mishandled more times than it has been handled properly. This ship is mighty but can also be seen as the most fragile of all the ships.



All three of these ships are complex fluid organisms that ebb and flow, expand and retract, grow and die, however, a society void of these ships could not thrive therefore we must continue to study and evaluate them for the betterment of all.

Let's get to the easy stuff, has anyone seen my toothpick?

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

Congratulations
Kiantha Duncan

TEDx Spokane
x = independently organized TED event

The Black Lens
Celebrates You!

SPOKANE FALL FOLK FESTIVAL

24 years of celebrating our cultural diversity

November 9 & 10, 2019
Saturday: 11 am to 10 pm ~ Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm
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Dance • Music • Workshops
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For information call (509) 828-3683
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Black Prisoners Caucus Family and Community Summit

Carl Maxey Center hosts first Eastside BPC Summit on September 28, 2019



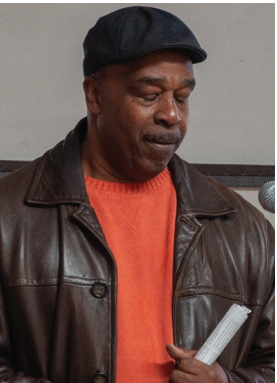
Even though the Carl Maxey Center looked a little rough around the edges, it was the perfect place to host this amazing event. The first ever Black Prisoner Caucus Family and Community Summit to be held on the East side of Washington State was hosted in the center on Saturday September 28.

The standing room only event was organized locally by Duaa-Rahe-maah Williams and Latisha Conto to bring the formerly incarcerated together with the communities they are still a part of. Speakers traveled from near and far to share stories of success and to offer resources for the friends, family and community members in attendance.

The Black Prisoners Caucus, which is located in correctional facilities across the state, including Airway Heights and Coyote Ridge on the East Side, is in the process of developing a Family & Community organization in the Spokane community to address the unmet needs of currently and formerly incarcerated individuals.

For more information about the Black Prisoners Caucus visit the Black Prisoners Caucus Facebook page or contact the Black Lens.

Photos courtesy: Bob Lloyd (4comculture.com), Dennis Mitchell and The Black Lens



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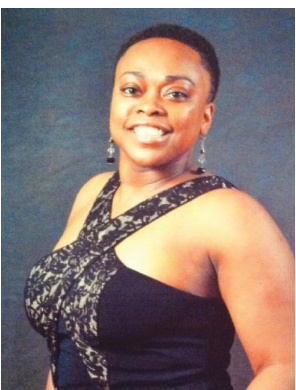
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Elmer Anderson
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Keyonia Anderson
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 12



Chester Andrews
US Air Force
Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Darrel Andrews
US Air Force
Airman First Class
Years of Service: 4



Amos Atkinson
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 22



Joseph Baptiste
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Bob Bartlett
US Army
Specialist (E-4)
Years of Service: 1970 - 1974



Teneasa Tyler Brehmeyer
US Air Force
Senior Airman
Years of Service: 1994 - 1998



William Caldwell
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Sly Chatman
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 1975 - 1998



Rickey Davis
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Sylvester Davis
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1963-66, 1967-73



Craig Dorsey
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Mark Duncan
US Air Force
Airman First Class
Years of Service: 3-1/2



Lee Lee Everette
US Army Reserve
Staff Sergeant (E-6)
Years of Service: 1976-1985



Yolanda Everette
US Navy
Petty Officer 3rd Class (E-4)
Years of Service: 1984-1993



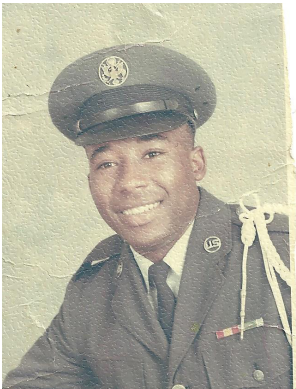
James Fisher
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Curtis Hampton
US Air Force
Senior Airman (E-4)
Years of Service: 1974-1978



Terry W. Frazier
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 21



Carl Gunn
US Army
Staff Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1969-1973



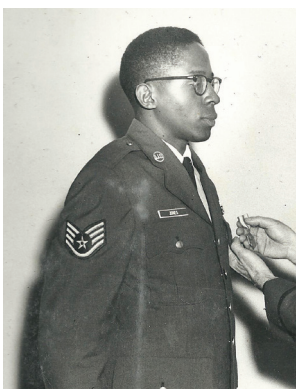
Carl Jenkins
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Ronald Joyner
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Bernard Jones
USAF, Civil Air Patrol
Tech Sgt, Lt. Colonel
Years of Service: 23 + 20



Douglas F. Jones
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1951 - 1971



Thomas Johnson
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



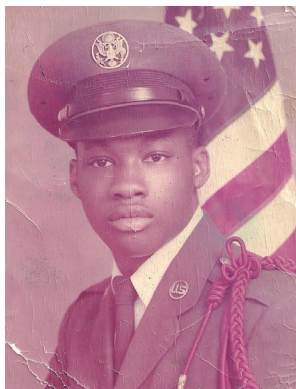
Michael Kay
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Vance Kelley
US Air Force
Master Sergeant (E-7)
Years of Service: 1960 - 1980



Alex Lee
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 7



Jonathan Mack
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1970 - 1990



Robert Milton
US Navy
Seaman (E-3)
Years of Service: 1963 - 1968

HONORING OUR LOCAL VETERANS



Mark Neufville
US Marine Corps
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1980-1994



David Parker
US Air Force
Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)
Years of Service: 1962 - 1989



Jasmine Phillips
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant
Years of Service: 11



Floyd N. Rhodes III
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



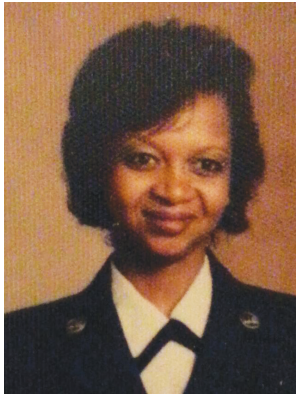
Larry Roseman
US Air Force
Senior Airman (E-4)
Years of Service: 4



Kitara Shaules
US Army
Sergeant
Years of Service: 1997-2003



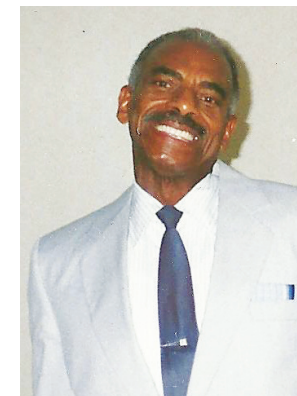
Eugene Singleton
USAF, Civil Air Patrol
Tech Sergeant, Chaplain
Years of Service: 20 + 20



Cheyunnteen Stanley-Bryant
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 30



Donnie P. Stone
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1968-1971



Aurthur C. Trent
US Army Air Corps
Sergeant
Battle of Normandy& D Day



James Troutt
US Air Force
Senior Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 27



Myra Trent
US Coast Guard
Private 1st Class (E-3)
Years of Service: 1979 - 1980



Marvin Tucker
US Army
Sergeant First Class
Years of Service: 20



Faith A. Washington
US Air Force
Sergeant (E-4)
Years of Service: 1975-1979



Percy Happy Watkins
US Air Force
Airman 2nd Class
Years of Service: 1961 - 1965



Benjamin Wheeler
US Air Force
Sergeant (E-4)
Years of Service: 1982-1992



Marvin White
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant (E-6)
Years of Service: 1971 - 1991



Charles Williams
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 1978 - 2000



Robert C. Williamson Jr.
US Air Force
MSgt - Sec Police Spec
Years of Service: 1972-1992

If you know a local Veteran that I missed, please let me know so that I can include them in next year's issue.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO PAVED THE WAY



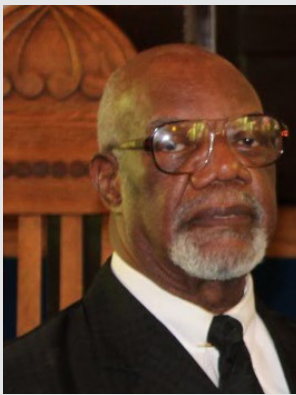
Gardner Anderson
US Army
Corporal
Years of Service: 1950 - 1952



Roth Ashby
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Paul Bigsby
US Air Force
1st Lieutenant (O-2)
Years of Service: 1952-1963



Manuel Brown
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 24



Charles Fleming
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant



Cornelius Nolan
US Army
Private
Years of Service: 1955-57



Thomas Williams
US Army
Command Sgt Major (E-9)
Years of Service: 1948-78 + 20yrs

Racism, Stress, and Your Health

By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - It's amazing how many people become uncomfortable as soon as the word racism comes up.

As writer, Nadra Kareem Nittle, concisely sums it up, "Say the word "racism" and many people might imagine someone in a white hood. However, discrimination is much more complex and comes in different types. In reality, ordinary people perpetuate racism daily."

When thinking about racism, remember it includes:

Individual or internalized racism - It is when one holds negative ideas about his/her own culture, even if unknowingly.

Interpersonal racism - It is the holding of negative attitudes towards a different race or culture.

Institutional racism - Benefits are structured to the advantage of powerful groups at the expense of other groups. Jim Crow laws and redlining practices are two examples of institutional racism.

Structural racism - Examples of structural racism include power inequalities, unequal access to opportunities, and differing policy outcomes by race. Because these effects are reinforced across multiple institutions, the root causes of structural racism are difficult to isolate. Structural racism is cumulative, pervasive, and durable.

Some racism is so subtle that neither victim nor perpetrator may entirely understand what is going on. There is a term which describes this particular form of racism: *racial microaggression*.

What does this have to do with health? It all begins with an understanding of the link between stress and inflammation.

The immune system is an intricate network consisting of processes, systems, cells, tissues, and organs that work together to defend the body against attacks by "foreign" invaders.

When stress becomes ongoing and uncontrollable it then becomes dangerous to our health and well-being.



Our ongoing survival depends on our ability to respond to any kind of infection, stress, and/or injury. Any of these threats triggers an immune system response to fight off these "invaders" and repair damaged tissues. A "deployment" of specific group of genes in the immune system are key to this defense process. Inflammation is a sign that those genes are working to counter the threat or repair the damage.

Inflammation serves to protect an organism from a health threat. First, let me say that stress has both its benefits and its downfalls. The physical stress on our muscles or the cardiovascular system from exercise to maintain fitness, or the level of mental needed to take an exam in school, or the stress of paying attention while driving during bad weather. But if someone feels under threat for long periods of time, their health may suffer significantly with chronic inflammation.

A team of USC and UCLA scientists has found that racist experiences increase inflammation in African American individuals, raising their risk of chronic illness, according to the study published in the Psychoneuroendocrinology Journal. The

study confirms what many of us had pretty much concluded that was a connection between discrimination and health outcomes, we just never knew how it affected health.

Turns out that racial discrimination appears to trigger an inflammatory response among African Americans at the cellular level. The basis for this concept was already established in earlier research that found this process took place in the inflammatory responses for people in socially-marginalized those experiencing chronic loneliness, poverty, PTSD, and other types of adverse life situations.

All of this leads us back to the concept of racial microaggression. It is the culminating, institutionalized, ever-present, everyday insults, indignities, and demeaning messages sent to black people by well-intentioned white people who are unaware (maybe) of the hidden messages being sent by them.

The crazy thing is that a black person is in somewhat of a Catch-22 when it comes to racial microaggression.

If you confront the perpetrator, they will outright deny any racist meaning behind

their words or actions. Afterall, they are (presumably) not even aware of what they did! So, the black person is forced to either create a confrontation, or just move on.

Either way, the damage is done.

Once the full-blown stress response is activated, there is little you can do to override it because the hormones being secreted, such as cortisol and adrenalin, trigger a chain of unstoppable events inside of cells. The effect of the inflammatory response by the immune system to the stressor is underway: heart disease; high blood pressure; diabetes; depression; cancer; and so on, and so on. Ironically, all things that impact the health of black disproportionately; or is it irony?

Of course, any, or all, of these conditions are absolutely possible without being a victim of racial microaggression. You can be sure that, racism or not, inflammation is in play with any of these diseases. The research from the USC and UCLA scientists shows that racism may account for as much as 50 percent of the heightened inflammation among African Americans.

It's kinda like the old adage, "when white folks get a cold, black folks get pneumonia"!

With all the talk about addressing disparities, health inequities, and social determinants of health, it's time to acknowledge the science and the research that makes it clear that it racial microaggression is real, and it is deadly, particularly to blacks.

It's important to keep shining a light on the harm these behaviors inflict, no matter how black people decide to handle a given encounter.

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible! The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice.

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of *Which Doctor?*, and *Information is the Best Medicine*. Ellis is an active media contributor on *Health Equity and Medical Ethics*. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

A TIP FROM A
FORMER
SMOKER

Jokes about having gas are funny.
Until they find a tumor in your colon.

Julia, age 58, Mississippi

Julia smoked and got colon cancer.

Having a colonoscopy saved her life.

Doctors found her tumor and removed it the next day. Julia's near-death experience and pain are nothing to laugh about. Julia didn't know smoking can cause colorectal cancer. Now you do.

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Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears



The Prophet Elijah Cummings

My sadness in the passing of Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings is deeper than I usually feel for a politician upon their death. The last time I felt so strongly was at the news of the passing of Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan in 1996. Perhaps that's because I don't think of Barbara Jordan and Elijah Cummings as politicians. Barbara Jordan was a Stateswoman, and Elijah Cummings was a Statesman, apparently the last of a dying breed.

A Statesman such as Elijah Cummings cares about his country more than his career. A Statesman will not hesitate to speak truth to power when others wait and weigh the political cost of doing so. A Statesman fights for justice for the people he represents in his district, his state and his country, as well as for people seeking safety and asylum from the violence and corruption of a foreign country. A Statesman is by definition a humanitarian. A Statesman will rise immediately and unequivocally to call out crimes against humanity such as his government's separation of children from their parents and their internment in camps for an indefinite period of time. A Statesman upholds the Constitution of the United States and protects his country from all enemies, foreign and domestic; especially domestic.

Elijah Cummings died at the age of sixty-eight. That's far too young; it's a sober reminder that none of us is promised one more day. As I've read, researched and listened to statements and speeches delivered by Congressman Cummings, I've discovered several references he made to the limited time he had in this world.

Addressing a commencement at Morgan State University, an Historically Black University located in his beloved city of Baltimore, he told the new graduates, "At sixty-eight, I have now lived longer than I will live. Your lives are in front of you – and so I beg you to go out and stand up for this democracy." At the age of 68, everyone has more time behind them than ahead of them. Congressman Cummings' health had not been good. Perhaps there was reason for him to believe his time might be short.

The circumstances are obviously very different, but I can't help but think of the foreshadowing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech, given the day before he was assassinated. In it, Dr. King told an overflowing crowd in Memphis,

Tennessee, "We've got some difficult days ahead ... but it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop ... I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

Elijah Cummings was doing everything in his power to see that America got back on track toward that Promised Land; he was doing everything in his power to save this democracy. From his hospital room, Congressman Cummings continued his responsibilities as Chair of the House Oversight Committee leading the impeachment inquiry on President Donald Trump. From what would be his death bed, he led a Democratic Caucus conference call, and signed subpoenas summoning witnesses in the impeachment process.

In that same address to the graduating class at Morgan State University, Congressman Cummings said: "This fight for the very soul of our democracy has been raised ... by the actions of the President of the United States of America, both while in office and, it may still be determined, by his prior conduct. Congress must reassert our constitutional power and obligation of oversight."

In the politics of the Nation's capital where handwringing, self-preservation, capitulation, and outright cowardice have become the answer to tyranny, Elijah Cummings stood large and proud in stark contrast to the chief architect in the downfall of democracy: the President of the United States, Donald Trump.

The most formal way to introduce a member of Congress is with an honorific. America, may I present the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings. How can we help but juxtapose the Honorable Elijah Cummings to the most Dishonorable Donald J. Trump?

On hearing of Cummings' death, one of his principal Republican opponents in the House, former South Carolina Congressman Trey Gowdy tweeted, "Elijah Cummings was one of the most powerful, beautiful & compelling voices in American politics. The power and the beauty came from his authenticity, his conviction, the sincerity with which he held his beliefs."

Of the many qualities that family, friends, and colleagues have recounted; of the many accolades bestowed on him; of the many powerful messages in the speeches he made

in the House Chamber; in churches and in the streets of Baltimore -- to me, none is more poignant than Elijah Cummings' first speech from the floor of the U. S. House of Representatives as a freshman congressman.

It was brief, eloquent, and poetic. The then-new Congressman Cummings told his more seasoned colleagues in the House of Representatives that his mission was to empower people by helping them to realize that the power was within them. Then he shared a poem authored by Dr. Benjamin Mays that he said defined who he was. He'd recite it to himself 20 times a day sometimes: I've only just a minute, sixty seconds in it. Forced upon me, can't refuse it. Didn't seek it, didn't choose it. But it's up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it. Give account if I abuse it. Just a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it. The Chamber erupted in cheers and enthusiastic applause, as members rushed to greet him.

That was twenty years ago, and Elijah Cummings never wavered from his mission. There was no foreshadowing of an early demise; just the deep truth of how short and precious is the time we have to make this world a more just and loving place for all who inhabit it. It has nothing to do with the measure of our days. It has everything to do with the quality of our hearts, the sanctity of our integrity, the strength of our resolve, and the persistence of our actions in every minute of however many minutes we have left.

A final observation on Statesmanship: A Statesman shows compassion, even in situations that seem to beg for condemnation. Congressman Cummings addressed Michael Cohen, former legal counsel to Donald Trump, at the end of Cohen's scathing testimony against Trump at the House Oversight Committee Hearings. During those hearings, Cohen had been derided and called everything but a child of God by Cummings' House colleagues, even as Cohen confessed his own actions and admitted the wrongness of his actions on behalf of Donald Trump. Cohen exposed Trump's dishonesty, depravity, and disregard of the law, and said he now refused to protect Trump anymore.

Elijah Cummings did not pile on. Instead, he affirmed Michael Cohen's path to redemption in a rousing oratory. Cummings said Mr. Cohen wants to "make sure our democracy stays intact If we as a nation did not give people an opportunity after they made mistakes

to change their lives, a whole lot of people would not do very well." Cummings continued, specifically addressing House Republicans, "When we're dancing with the angels, the question will be asked: In 2019, what did we do to make sure we kept our democracy intact?"

Upon Barbara Jordan's untimely death in 1996, then-President Bill Clinton said, "Barbara always stirred our national conscience." Coincidentally, in a Washington Post opinion piece on Congressman Cummings immediately after his death, the title read: Elijah Cummings was the keeper of the nation's conscience.

The name Elijah means "Yahweh is my God." In all the Abrahamic scriptures, which includes the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Old Testament, and the Islamic Quran, the Prophet Elijah is much revered in large part because he saved the religion of Yahweh from being corrupted. A Prophet is an ambassador of God. The foundation for all the Prophets is their understanding of the law and the covenant between God and the People of God. Prophets give both hope and warning to the nations.

Elijah was one of the greatest of Prophets. Prophets speak truth to power, often unwelcome truths. Prophets are the keepers of a nation's conscience. What happens when a nation loses its conscience? The scriptures are quite clear on that question – bad things happen! Prophets bring warnings; and America, we are being warned. Bad things are upon us, and it's going to get much, much worse if we don't find the courage and tenacity to act. As Elijah Cummings repeated many, many times in his last years, "We are better than this!"

Prophets also bring hope. Congressman Cummings said in his inaugural speech to his colleagues in the House of Representatives that his mission was to empower people by showing us that the power is within us. I believe Congressman Cummings would demur at being called the conscience of America. I think he'd rather be remembered for reflecting the conscience of America.

We give thanks for your empowering life, Elijah Cummings. Be with us.

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

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TIANNA BARTOLETTA

Track Olympian Inspires Spokane Athletes

Spokane Speed Academy (SSA) hosted two-time Track & Field Olympian and three-time Gold medal winner, Tianna Bartoletta on October 17 at North Central High School.

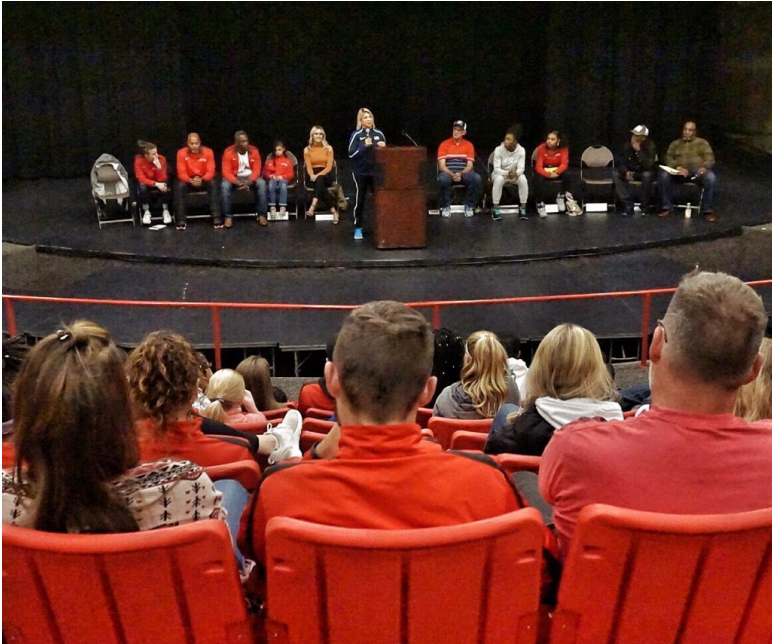
Born and raised in Ohio, Bartoletta is tied with Jesse Owens for the most state Track & Field titles. She attended the University of Tennessee on both an academic and athletic scholarship and won her first championship in 2005 at the age of nineteen.

Bartoletta went on to win two more world titles, and three Olympic Gold medals, including the world record breaking 4x100 meter relay at the London Games.

Bartoletta is the defending Olympic champion in the long jump and is currently training to defend her title by making next year's Olympic Team that will be headed to Tokyo in 2020.

Bartoletta was invited to Spokane by Coach Cecil Jackson, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, and a 25 year military veteran, who founded the Spokane Speed Academy to cultivate and support the youth of Spokane who have a desire to compete in Track & Field.

For information about Spokane Speed Academy visit SpokaneSpeedAcademy.com or call 509-720-3234. Photos courtesy Michael Wright.



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An Evening with Abigail Rockwell

Norman Rockwell's granddaughter offers new insights on his work

Norman Rockwell's depictions of everyday life made him the best known and most beloved American artist of the 20th century. Abigail Rockwell, Rockwell's granddaughter, will be in Spokane on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 5:30 pm for a discussion based on the 2019 edition of the Norman Rockwell autobiography, *My Adventures as an Illustrator: The Definitive Edition* along with a book signing at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in conjunction with the Rockwell's America exhibition.

Originally published in 1960 and written with his son, Tom Rockwell, this book is widely regarded as the best account of the artist's life and career. The Definitive Edition—edited by Abigail Rockwell, the artist's granddaughter—restores the original 1960 text, as well as the playful vignettes that Rockwell drew to head each chapter. The May 2019 edition also features drawings, new illustrations, and an 11-page introduction by Ms. Rockwell featuring new information on her grandfather's life and work.

As granddaughter of American illustrator Norman Rockwell, Abigail Rockwell found that misinformation and outright omissions of details had failed to capture the true personal and professional life of the man she called "Pop."

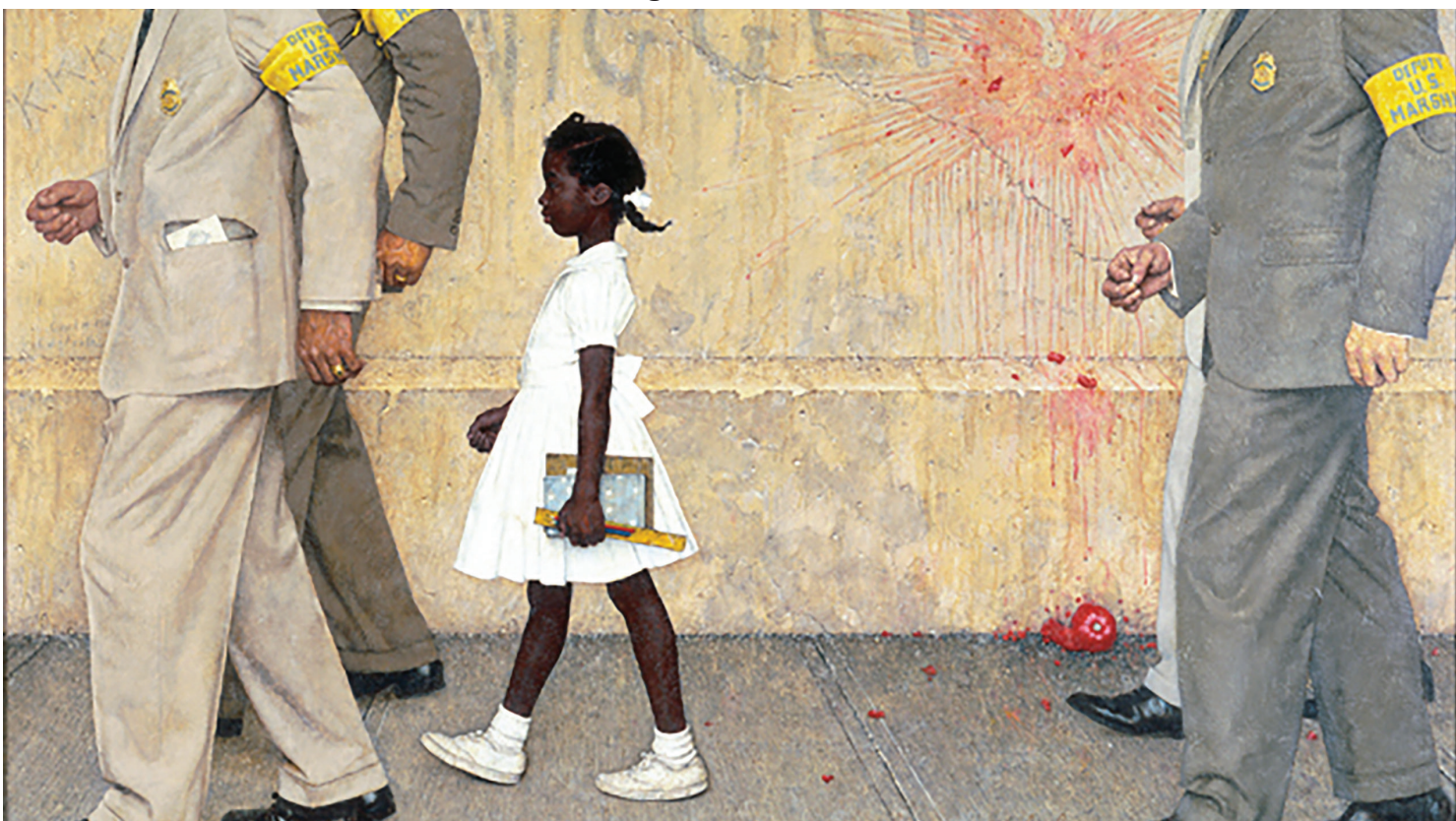
"I wanted to find out about the man behind the hype. It was all about the truth for me," stated Abigail Rockwell.

Ms. Rockwell, along with her father, is recognized as a Rockwell scholar by the National Museum of American Illustration in Rhode Island, which has organized the current exhibition, *Norman Rockwell America*, on view until January 12 at The MAC.

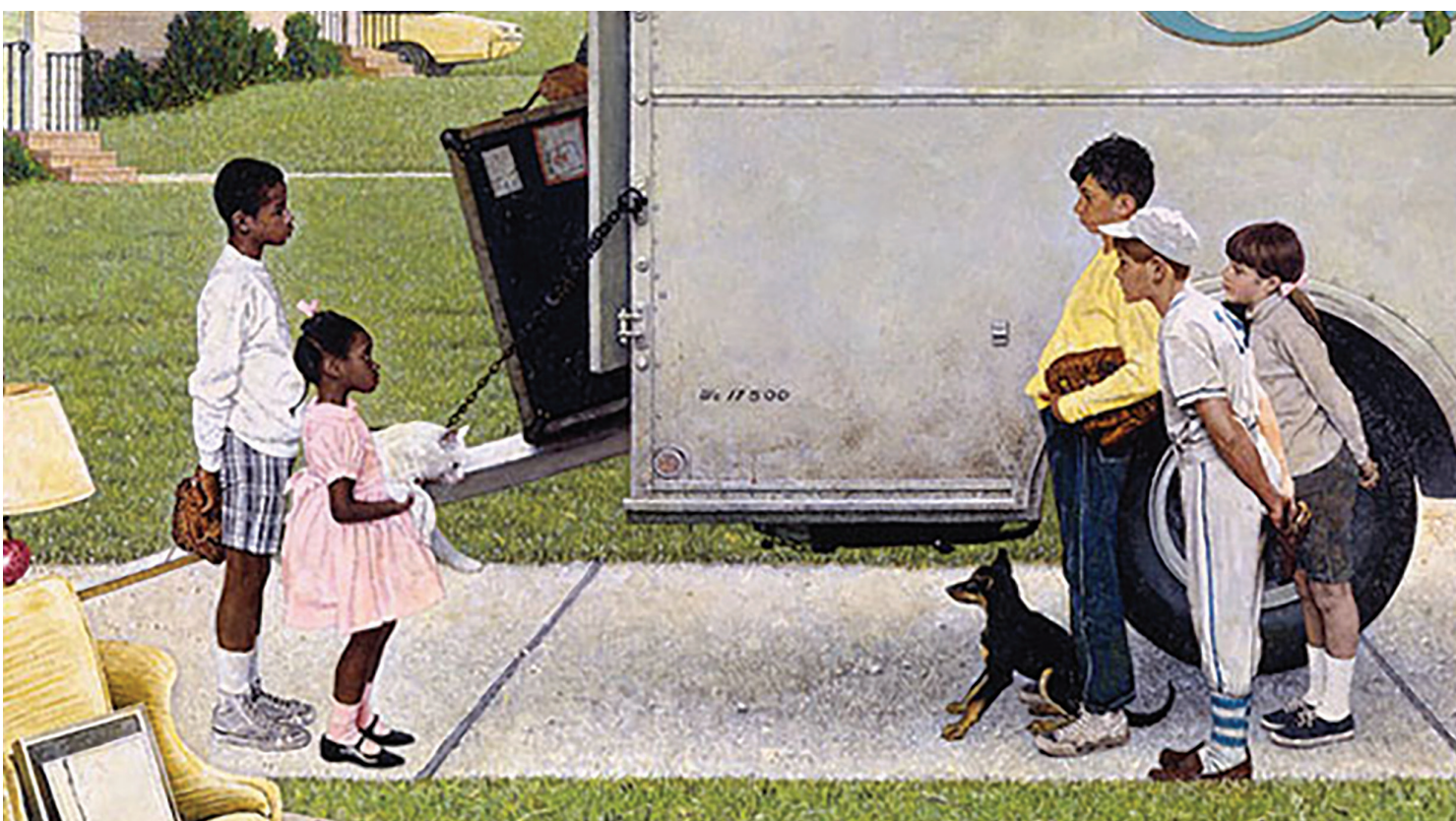
Abigail Rockwell's appearance includes a private viewing of the exhibition, a collection of 22 oil paintings, seven charcoal or graphite studies, original posters and all 323 vintage *Saturday Evening Post* magazine covers. The event is followed by a book-signing and opportunity to meet the author. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased in advance at sales.northwestmuseum.org.

"It's a myth that Norman Rockwell only painted white America. In the 60's when he was freed from the restrictions The Saturday Evening Post placed on his work, my grandfather immediately began to embrace more global issues such as the civil rights movement — we all now know his iconic painting of Ruby Bridges' brave walk to school. Even in his earlier paintings he took great care to paint people of all colors with equal importance and presence, often adding his own image into the mix. Norman Rockwell was always searching throughout his life to find a way to illustrate the universal longing and highest vision coming from within all of us."

Abigail Rockwell 2019



"The Problem We All Live With" (1963), by Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) Norman Rockwell Museum



"New Kids in the Neighborhood (Negro in the Suburb)" by Norman Rockwell

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(509) 319-3020, email ratesdiscount@snapwa.org, or visit www.snapwa.org.

Elijah Cummings

(Continued from Page1)

Former President Barack Obama also issued a statement.

“Michelle and I are heartbroken over the passing of our friend, Elijah Cummings. As Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, he showed us all not only the importance of checks and balances within our democracy, but also the necessity of good people stewarding it. Steely yet compassionate, principled yet open to new perspectives, Chairman Cummings remained steadfast in his pursuit of truth, justice, and reconciliation,” Obama wrote.

He was joined by heartbroken members of the Congressional Black Caucus as well as his dear friend, House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, the highest serving African-American in the Congress.

“Elijah Cummings was the true definition of a leader and his commitment to civility and humanity were invaluable in times such as these. To many, Elijah was a friend and mentor, but to the members of the CBC, Elijah was family,” said a statement from the Congressional Black Caucus, chaired by U. S. Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.) “As the Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Elijah used his gavel to speak truth to power on behalf of the American people. Moreover, his fairness and integrity were undeniable by Members on both sides of the aisle.”

The term, "Conscience of the Congress" is usually reserved for the Congressional Black Caucus. But, upon his death, economist and columnist Dr. Julianne Malveaux, described Cummings as such because of his work for the poor and oppressed far beyond the call of duty.

Among the quotes attributed to Cummings that will no doubt resonate as a part of his legacy was his roaring proclamation, “We are better than this!” Cummings shouted these words during a Congressional hearing with former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen. He was sympathetically responding to the fact that Trump had called the prison-bound Cohen “a rat”.

Representing the city of Baltimore, Clyburn was quick to stand for anyone in pain. During the 2015 Freddie Gray riots, he struggled to quell tensions, called for calm, and literally locked arms with the community.

"When I arrived on the scene on North and Pennsylvania Tuesday, I saw this tall guy who was telling people to, 'Lock arms, lock arms,'" he told the Baltimore Sun. "At first I thought he was locking arms to tell people, 'We're not going anywhere. We're going to go against the police.' Then he said to me, 'Congressman, you need to lock arms, too. I'm not here to go against the police. I'm trying to get [curfew violators] out of here.'"

“Today we have lost a giant,” said U.S. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn. He noted that though Baltimoreans loved Cummings and adopted him as their own, “Elijah’s roots were in Clarendon County, South Carolina, in my district. This connection bonded us, and we were dear friends as well as colleagues. We were of like minds that our work in the Congress was not to benefit us, but to bring hope and opportunity to future generations.”

The following is an excerpt from the bio posted on Congressman Cummings' Congressional website:

Congressman Elijah R. Cummings was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, where he still resides today. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Howard University, serving as Student Government President and graduating Phi Beta Kappa, and then graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law. Congressman Cummings has also received 13 honorary doctoral degrees from Universities throughout the nation.

Congressman Cummings has dedicated his life of service to uplifting and empowering the people he is sworn to represent. He began his career of public service in the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served for 14 years and became the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro Tem. Since 1996, Congressman Cummings has proudly represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Cummings often said that our children are the living messages that we send to a future we will never see. In that vein, he has been committed to ensuring that our next generation has access to quality healthcare and education, clean air and water, and a strong economy defined by fiscal responsibility.

Congressman Cummings served as the Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. As the main investigative committee in the House of Representatives, Oversight and Reform has jurisdiction to investigate any federal program and any matter with federal policy implications. As the Committee's Chairman, Congressman Cummings fought to hold the Presidential Administration to a high standard of excellence and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the actions of the government of the United States."

He was also revered in the civil rights community.

“As a statesman devoted to Baltimore and the civil rights movement, Congressman Cummings was among the most passionate and spirited members of Congress,” said NAACP President/CEO Derrick Johnson. “He demanded justice on every front and never shied away from standing up for the most vulnerable.”

John Conyers

(Continued from Page 1)

He was born in Highland Park, Michigan, on May 16, 1929. He served in the Korean War. He is survived by his widow and two sons.

Tributes from civil rights and Democratic leaders had begun to pour out this week.

“From co-founding the Congressional Black Caucus, to advocating for the creation of Martin Luther King Day, some of the most important civil rights victories of the last half-century would not have been possible without the enduring leadership of Rep. Conyers in Washington,” said Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of the NAACP. “As a Detroit native, I can attest to what John Conyers meant to his beloved Detroit community, and we are eternally grateful that he fought for justice on behalf of the entire nation with the same commitment and perseverance he showed his beloved hometown. Today we have lost a trailblazer for justice, a titan of the movement, and a true friend and ally to the NAACP.”

NAACP Board Chairman Leon W. Russell said, "I am moved by the dedication of John Conyers' to the fight for social good and his fearless pursuit to tear down barriers of injustice and racism. He will forever be remembered as a giant that gave his life to advance democracy."

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said, "Congressman John Conyers was a civil rights warrior, a lifelong public servant, and a stalwart Democrat. Over the course of his public service career, which spanned more than half a century, Rep. Conyers led groundbreaking fights that advanced the course of history, including introducing the first bill to establish the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. As a co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, he changed the face of leadership in the halls of Congress and blazed a trail for future leaders of color."

The Trice Edney News Wire contributed to this article.

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OUR VOICES

Why Can't Black People Be Treated Like Amber Guyger?

Written By David Dennis, Jr.

(Reprinted from newsone.com) Let's get this out of the way first: if a white woman kills me in an act of racial violence, I don't want you to hug her on national television so that the rest of the world can use the visual imagery as yet another narrative about the power and grace of Black forgiveness.

With that said, I am not in the practice of disparaging people directly impacted by violence and injustice for how they react. Botham Jean's brother choosing forgiveness for Amber Guyger and hugging her in the courtroom would not be my course of action. Nor would it be something I'd necessarily want my family to do on my behalf. But judging him for his method of healing isn't accomplishing anything.

What we can do is make sure that his act of forgiveness isn't used as yet another method of putting the burden on Black people to always accept racial violence and anti-Blackness with a grace that gives white folks permission to continue killing us without reckoning with their choices.

Instead of focusing on Jean's family, we should look at how the people with actual power reacted to Guyger and the crime she committed. The two big sources of outrage after Wednesday came from the fact that Guyger was only sentenced to 10 years in prison for murdering the 26-year-old St. Lucia native. The outrage over that perceived light sentencing was only compounded by the circus that took place afterward: Judge Tammy Kemp, a Black woman, also hugged Guyger and handed her a Bible to guide her on her journey to incarceration.

I know this is all outrageous and infuriating. I share that same fury.

In a vacuum, the Amber Guyger murder trial is almost exactly how the criminal justice system should work. First of all, from top to bottom, the case was handled by people who look like Botham Jean. The district attorney is Black. The judge is Black. The mayor is Black. The jury was most-



ly-Black. A police officer was finally convicted of crimes against a Black person. Guyger was also given a sentence that allows her to find rehabilitation and reenter society at an age in which she can still contribute. And even after the sentence came down, she was treated with the humanity and dignity of someone given a chance to reform.

That's the ideal outcome any time someone commits a crime. Sadly, though, the Amber Guyger case did not happen in a vacuum. The problem with the way Guyger's sentence was laid out isn't necessarily about her as much as it is about the ways everyone else – namely Black and brown folks – are treated within that same criminal justice system.

The problem isn't the dignity and humanity Guyger was allowed to preserve. The problem lies in the humanity and dignity that is stripped away from damn near every person of color who goes through the court system.

Just look at all the people who are (again, rightfully) upset. They are all comparing Guyger's sentence to Black folks who have had to spend decades in jail for marijuana possession or shoplifting. The examples are plentiful and all over social media. But this is how a corrupt, broken system works to break us all. Our heartbreak over inequality suddenly creates a populace that champions harsh sentences, advocating for the same oppressive system that harms Black people most of all.

The same thing happened with Felicity Huffman who was sentenced to 14 days in jail for bribing colleges to accept her children. We become bloodthirsty, wanting her to spend years in jail for nonviolent offenses because our brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers had to do the same.

I don't want Huffman or Guyger to serve longer terms. I want the countless Black people in jail serving unjustly long sentences to be free. And I'm angry that the examples of the courts getting sentencing right or using compassion for criminals often come when its a white person on the wrong side of the judge's stand.

I don't want Amber Guyger to be treated like a Black person. I want Black people to be treated like Amber Guyger. Furthermore, true justice isn't about Amber Guyger's sentencing. It's about creating a world in which Botham Jean is alive. One in which police like Guyger no longer feel like killing Black folks is something they can get away with. That is the true measure of justice. And the true test of how free we can be.

David Dennis, Jr. is a writer and adjunct professor of Journalism and Social Justice at Morehouse College. David's writing has appeared in The Guardian, The Smoking Section, Uproxx, Playboy, The Atlantic, Complex.com and wherever people argue about things on the internet.

Just Something to Think About

By Kendu D. Humphreys

October 16, 1995 was my generations (60's -70's) shouting to the world; "we as a community of strong 'Black men' can unite, without violence against each other". The media had fun with it, and many plotted to cause disruption to break the bond of unity.

The primary call to arms for this march was for "Black Men to stand up, and guide their families." This unity march was needed because there were too many young "Black men" being raised by foster homes, group instructions, grandma, aunts, and uncles. It was getting out of hand with the poor quality of men the urban neighborhoods produced.

This (my) generation made it cool to be called a "Nigga & Bitch". We were selfish with knowledge to our children, and pushed them to do less than their grandparents. We ended up creating a disrespectful generation, that has no loyalty to nothing that truly matters. So that is why the "Million Man March" was so needed at that time. The generation before that, sacrificed everything just to be recognized as men, and marched on Washington DC on Aug 28, 1963. It was a great day, that made the world take notice of real issues in communities across America.

This current generation needs this movement of unity way more than that of those before them...

The "Million Man March" in October of 1995 was a vital push to save urban families, and what was left of common decency in "Black Men" around America. It also sternly instructed those who participated to be steadfast. Protect the community. Show respect, and hold on to the most valuable reason they are marching (family).

Many of those who harbored doubt at the time, didn't realize what a significant difference in the homes, blocks, corners, and hoods the march made in urban communities across America over night. There was a great presence of unity throughout many urban communities.

At that time many urban neighborhoods were at war with each other, over blocks, and corners their parents payed taxes for. But, at that small moment in time, we stopped shouting each other. Mr. & Mrs. Johnson didn't fear the young, and those that sacrificed before us saw the dream again, and replaced regret with hope in our future...

The Million Man March of the mid 90's, was a supreme success, in part because

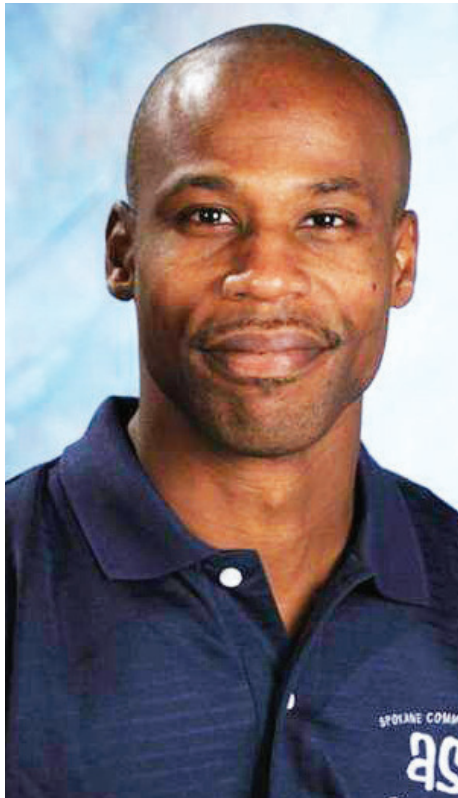
much of the younger generations (not just 60 & 70's babies) participated, and those still active from the march for jobs and equality with Dr. King on August 28, 1963.

Many may not realize this, but there were no Black, poor, nor oppressed generations before that of the 50's & 60's that had a successful march so big, with such a global recognition. If the people back in the 60's had cell phones, text messages, and social media at the touch of a finger, Baltimore would be one of many Garden of Edens throughout urban America and the world.

That may sound funny, or quite a dream to most, but what is our current generation doing, with the tools that were so vitally needed by generation's before them...

This current generation is in serious need of a "Million Family March" on Washington DC. The 80's & 90's generation must guide those of their children's generation. This obviously isn't just a "Black thing", most of America's younger generations "nowadays" have no concept of family unity. Many, many, many generations before our current "nowadays" generation, fought, died, cried, sacrificed, humbled, and belittled themselves just for family.

Have we come so far, gained so much, and have done so much more than our parents



did that we have forgotten the chains are still around our necks. Many "nowadays" people take for granted the sacrifice of those who marched in 1963, and mock those who marched in 1995.

If ever there was a generation that needed the blessings of a unity march, it's that of this "nowadays" generation. Their children's children, and any hopes of common decency for their future generations relies on it...

OUR VOICES

How Philanthropy Can Help us be Better as a Nation

By Rick Williams

As I announce my retirement and reflect on 20 years in philanthropy and 30 in the social impact community, I am in awe of the generosity and transformational acts I’ve seen from individuals from all walks of life.

Their collective efforts have alleviated suffering and created opportunities for so many. Whether building schools and libraries, battling polio, preserving open space, reclaiming communities, protecting our environment and natural resources, supporting social impact entrepreneurs or promoting racial, civil and gender rights, philanthropy has been instrumental in advancing and in-vesting in the hopes and dreams of people working to create a better future.

I believe that philanthropy must use its leadership, creativity, positional power and resources to support the development of a vision for our country that focuses on promoting everyone’s collective wellbeing. It’s a vision that tackles the structural root causes of our social problems that we resist addressing as a nation.

EARLY LESSONS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PHILANTHROPY

It was probably my destiny to have a career in philanthropy. Growing up as an African American in South Carolina, I was able to see all facets of this country’s citizens’ interpretation of the constitutional phrase, “All men are created equal.” I grew up in a place and time still mired in the aftermath of slavery, segregation and racial oppression. It was a place and time where the hopes and dreams of my many neighborhood friends were either overtly limited or crushed by racist policies and practices, or insidiously through indifference and neglect.

Fortunately, I was born into a loving home with an ever-present extended family. My father served 30 years in the U.S. Army and another 20 building future military leaders as a member of Gonzaga University’s ROTC staff. My mother was a licensed pediatric nurse. They both used their opportunities to ensure that doors that were closed to them as children would open for my sister and me.

Social justice lessons of my childhood not only sharpened my awareness of how tenuous a shared belief in a common good is, but also how challenging it is to advance the founding elements of our democracy on a daily basis. They taught me that there are caring, enlightened and committed individuals willing to invest their own resources into philanthropic causes; whether through vast fortunes or the change in their pockets, they worked toward improving the lives of strangers and pushing our country to live up to its principles.

So, philanthropy, large and small, through donated money, volunteered time and ex-

pressions of love, shaped me and continues to give me hope – though tested lately by our current national politics – for the future of our country and democracy.

STRIVING FOR PHILANTHROPY’S FULL POTENTIAL

Philanthropy is defined as charitable giving and altruistic acts motivated by the desire to promote the welfare of others, to better humanity and to make the world a better place. There is a growing preference for philanthropy to evolve into a science, focused on a clearly defined set of inputs that will lead us to a clearly defined result that can be replicated.

I hold a somewhat different view: To achieve philanthropy’s true meaning, I believe we need to see philanthropy as a combination of both science and art.

Our humanity and relationships with fellow humans and the planet are far too complicated to fit neatly within the scientific method. Some of our biggest philanthropic accomplishments would not have met the rigid test of a logic model because their specific outcomes resulted from the “unscientific” investments in the belief of a greater good for society and individuals.

Now, more than ever, we need the application of creative skills and imagination, reasoning, data and passion to change the social condition for a growing number of our suffering neighbors.

While philanthropy is praised for achieving some of the most amazing and life-changing advances in modern times, it is not immune to losing the public’s trust. Recently, philanthropic efforts have been criticized and challenged for focusing on the symptoms of persistent and systematic injustice, discrimination and oppression rather than impacting the underlying political, economic and social structures at their roots – roots that perpetuate social injustice and massive wealth accumulation by a select few.

TODAY’S URGENT NEEDS

We are in a period in which inequality in all its forms is altering the fabric of our neighborhoods and communities.

The potential to realize the dream of climbing the economic and social ladder – a hallmark of our country’s core narrative – no longer feels accessible to a growing number of children and young adults. Too many of our neighbors are scared and frustrated that their hard work does not result in the certainty that they can afford a home and take care of their family. Too many are plagued with worry that one missed paycheck or one unexpected family expense may cause financial ruin.

We are unable to address the root causes that create this sense of helplessness and frustration in a growing number of people across

the country due to polarizing government and policy debates. I believe that philanthropy, as a field rather than as individual institutions, should and must play a role in framing, leading and providing resources to drive a new conversation and test promising new ideas that focus on bettering the nation.

The social challenges we seek to solve will require persistence, intuition, innovation, risk-taking and no small measure of faith and hope. And philanthropy is best positioned to bring those traits to bear.

However, this can only occur if philanthropy, which represents the voice of hundreds of leaders and influencers, is prepared to speak out against the systems that not only enable it to thrive, but also enable the unconscionable detention and separation of children from their families at our nation’s border, the absence of justice for the killing of Black men and women, and the lack of punishment for the financial schemes and products that caused the Great Recession (which has been projected to cause a 40% decrease in the wealth of Black households by 2030). These are just a few of many examples.

10 MOST CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR BOLD AND ENTREPRENEURIAL PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP

Now more than ever, members of the philanthropic community must collectively come together to ensure that our democracy and way of life regains its moral footing and operates in a manner that ensures benefits are accessible to all. The people behind philanthropy, the resources under their control and the tax benefits that foundations receive demand nothing less.

In a sincere attempt to provoke the discussion and action that I believe are urgently needed to help change the troubling direction where the country is headed, I humbly submit the following 10 priorities for the philanthropic community:

1. Acknowledge the inherent power, privilege and subsidies, which enable vast resources of philanthropic wealth to accumulate.
2. Commit to stewarding this wealth to-ward alleviating suffering, removing structural impediments to upward mobility and affording marginalized communities a voice in local, state and national policy debates.
3. Allocate resources to help the country engage in the long overdue discussion about race, segregation and discrimination and their persistent and current impacts. Seek to reverse class and racial segregation in our neighborhoods, schools and churches.
4. Allocate resources to prevent the degradation and erosion of our democracy to ensure that all residents are represented, and that our governing institutions and the press commit to advancing human rights.



5. Focus on building healthy, diverse communities so that a child’s life outcomes can no longer be predicted by their zip code or the price of the houses in their neighborhood.

6. Be a leading voice in talking about systemic barriers and oppression that have left too many communities behind. Ensure that community advocates know they are not standing alone because capitalism, while positive in many respects, is not a guardian of social justice and equitable opportunities.

7. Support efforts that enable all citizens to experience the benefits of art and the world’s diverse cultural works that low-income and rural communities typically find inaccessible.

8. Advance our intellectual and scientific understanding of the facts related to who we are as a species and the world we live in.

9. Embrace your role as a venture capitalist for social good and social justice. Find and bet on social impact leaders and entrepreneurs, take risks, be willing to fail and learn, and be responsive and connected to the community you serve.

10. Maintain long-term commitment to your areas of focus and partner organizations through multi-year general operating support and flexible resources. It is only with long-term partnerships that we can drive lasting change. The field of philanthropy must take a proactive role in helping America realize its potential.

Dream big. Because if you don’t, who will?

Rick Williams is CEO of the Sobrato Family Foundation, which seeks to make Silicon Valley a place of opportunity for all its residents.

Reprinted from Responsive Philanthropy, October 2019.



How Can You Support the Black Lens?

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EMPLOYMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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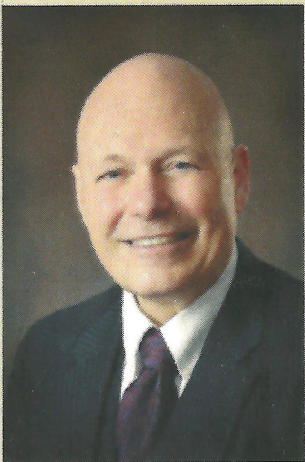
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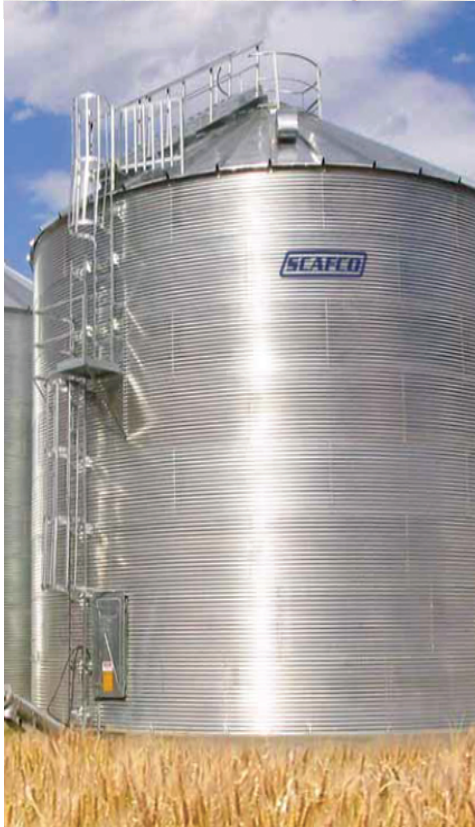
Career Opportunities SPOKANE

Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for management, sales, office, machine operators and laborer positions. To view all of our current openings, please visit our website www.SCAFCO.com and/or CWaIA, our authorized distributor of SCAFCO products www.CWaIA.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.







Be a part of a Spokane nonprofit moving lives forward for women and children experiencing poverty and homelessness.

Transitions is hiring!

Current Openings:

- Operations Coordinator**
New Leaf Bakery
- Lead Toddler Teacher**
Educare
- Family Stability Facilitator**
Home and Family Assistance Program

Please apply on our website:
www.help4women.org/job-postings45

For more info: (509) 328-6702

Transitions values diversity in its workplace and is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Be The Change You Wish To See In The World! - Gandhi

At Volunteers of America, we believe in the potential of every human to overcome the cycle of poverty and homelessness! We work alongside individuals from any and every background and identity and we celebrate diversity.

Everyday brings its share of new challenges and adventures, but whatever happens, you will have a great team, amazing clients, and meaningful work!

Currently hiring for multiple positions:
voaspokane.org/jobs

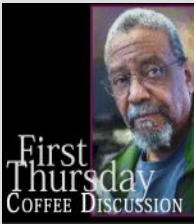


Volunteers of America®
EASTERN WASHINGTON
SPOKANE, WA



NOVEMBER EVENTS

FIRST THURSDAY EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP



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

First Thursday, November 7
6 – 8 pm
Carl Maxey Center
3116 E 5th Avenue, Spokane 99202

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

NOVEMBER 5

POETRY WITH STEPHEN PITTERS

Join us for Stephen Pitters' captivating poetry reading and learn about his writing process. This is part of NaNoWriMo events at Spokane Public Libraries this November!

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Eastside Library

524 S. Stone St, Spokane, 99202

(Corner of 5th Ave. and Stone)

Cost: Free.

NOVEMBER 6

BE WATER: HOW ORDINARY HONG KONG PEOPLE BECAME CREATIVE ORGANIZERS

Presented by Pui-Yan Lam. In this talk, Pui-Yan will discuss how the "leaderless," decentralized nature of the movement has drawn out the talents and skills of individuals from a wide spectrum of Hong Kong society.

6-7:30 pm

The Monroe Room

2003 N. Monroe, Spokane, 99205

Hosted by the Peace and Justice Action League.

For information visit: pjals.org

NOVEMBER 14

JUSTICE NIGHT

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

5:30 pm

Center for Justice

35 W Main, Spokane 99201

Cost: Free. Sponsored by Center for Justice.

For more information call 509.835.5211 or

visit their website at www.cforjustice.org.

NOVEMBER 12

WHY THE BLACK PRESS IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER

A look at the role Black newspapers, like the Black Lens, play in addressing media bias & racism.

6-7:30pm

Eastside Library

524 S. Stone St, Spokane, 99202

(Corner of 5th Ave. and Stone)

Free and open to the public.

NOVEMBER 13

BREAKING BARRIERS SPOKANE

Join Disability Rights Washington for a fun happy hour to learn more about DRW and its goals.

5-7:30pm

Nectar

120 N Stevens St, Spokane

Tickets: \$25 includes beer, wine, & appetizers.

For more information visit <https://disability-rights-wa.ejoinme.org/spokanebreakingbarriers>

or email: info@dr-wa.org

NOVEMBER 16

STILL STANDING: SONGS OF PROTEST AND HOPE

Spectrum Singers Fall Concert

Join us for a concert to empower and unite the community, amplify diverse voices and promote social justice through the power of song

7pm

SFCC Music Auditorium

3410 W Fort George Wright Dr. Spokane

Tickets: \$15 general admission | \$10 youth/student/senior/military; available online at <http://spokane-spectrumingers.com/performances>

or at the door.

NOVEMBER 17

KFCA FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY SERVICE

Pastor Brian Johnson of Mountain Top Ministries will be the speaker for this evening's service. Kingdom Fellowship Church Alliance (KFCA) is an alliance of Pastors, Churches and Christian leaders.

6pm

Genesis Church

9315 N. Nevada, Spokane 99218

For more information call (509) 868-0070 or

visit kfcaministries.com.

NOVEMBER 18

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting.

7pm

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

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

NOVEMBER 22

PEOPLE OF COLOR AFFINITY GROUP- GAME NIGHT

Hosted by Michaela Brown and Kurtis Robinson. An opportunity for people of color in Spokane to come together, share experiences and celebrate together. Food and refreshments provided.

6-8pm

Carl Maxey Center

3116 E. 5th Avenue, Spokane, 99202

NOVEMBER 23

THE ADULT PROM - DATE NIGHT 2019

Live music by Nu Jack City. Performances by Latrice Williams. Food and Drink specials by the elegant House of Soul.

8pm (Doors open at 7:30)

House of Soul

25 E. Lincoln, Spokane, WA

Tickets \$15 (Singles), \$25 (Couples), \$40 VIP

(Only 30 VIP tickets). For info or VIP reservations call 509-431-0773.

NOVEMBER 25

BLACK LENS PRIVATE SCREENING

Queen & Slim (Opening Night)

See Advertisement on page 3 for info or visit blacklensnews.com.

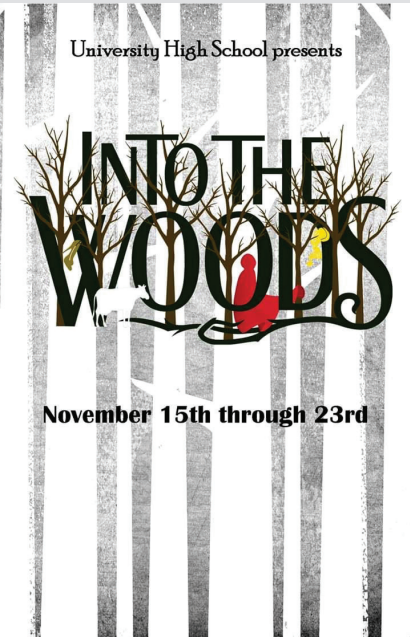
Here's an opportunity to support a young person in our community.



Malachi Davis will be playing Rapunzel's Prince in the U-High Production of Into the Woods.

Tickets are on sale now at greateventseats.com/universityHS

See you there.



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

James Lowe CONDUCTOR

HOLIDAY POPS WITH VANESSA WILLIAMS

SAT DEC 21 • 8PM
SUN DEC 22 • 2PM

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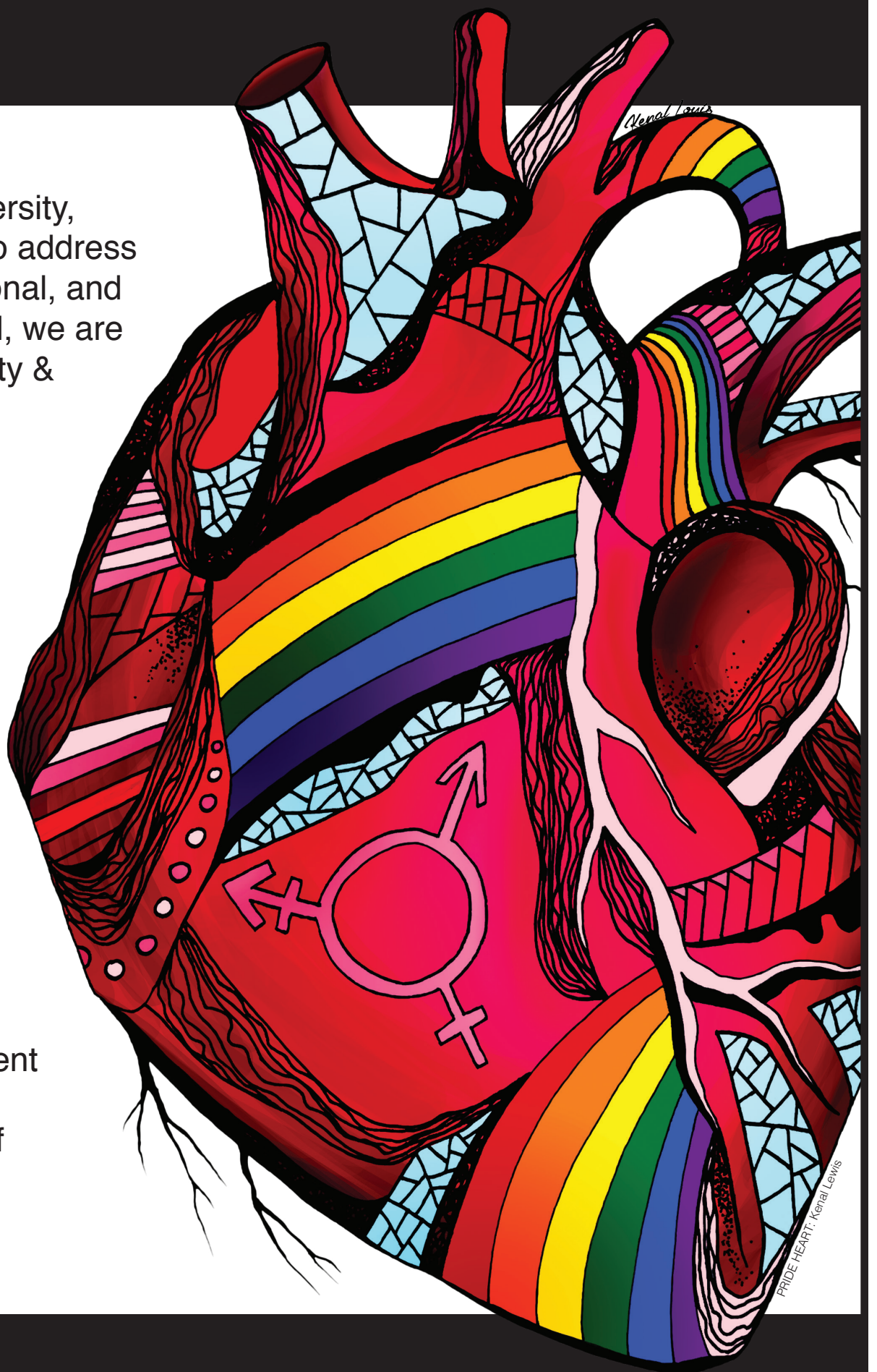
Sexuality & Queer Studies

MINOR

At Eastern Washington University, we are continually evolving to address ever-changing regional, national, and global environments. This fall, we are proud to announce a Sexuality & Queer Studies minor in the Women's and Gender Studies program.

This minor provides the opportunity to learn about the histories, experiences, contributions, community-based knowledges, and theories of LGBTQ+ people.

The Sexuality & Queer Studies minor is an excellent complement to most majors. It signals to employers and graduate schools that a student has expertise in an important field, as well as knowledge of the lived experiences of marginalized communities.



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