

THE BLACK LENSTM SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

ROBERT MUGABE RESIGNS

Ninety Three Year Old Zimbabwe President Out After 37 Years in Power

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) - President Robert Mugabe, initially rejecting demands from former friendly generals and war veterans to step down, has finally decided to resign after 37 years in power. Otherwise, he would have faced impeachment from members of his party.

In a televised address the 93-year-old president initially crushed expectations he would resign after a military takeover, pitching the country into a second week of political crisis.

Lawmakers from his ruling ZANU-PF party said that they would take the first steps necessary to push Mugabe from office as the veteran leader had ignored their ultimatum to announce his departure by Monday morning.

"We have got a clear position, we are going to impeach — the man has to go," government MP MacKenzie Ncube told the French news wire AFP after a key meeting of ruling party lawmakers.

Mugabe's resignation avoided a vote for impeachment. People danced in the streets upon hearing of his resignation.

In a 20 minute speech, Mugabe, surrounded by military men, had downplayed what



was called a "soft coup." He said the operation by his generals did not represent a threat to the country's constitutional order nor was it a challenge to his authority as head of state.

Referencing the mounting discontent from inside his party and from the security forces, Mugabe admitted: "I as the President

of Zimbabwe and their commander in chief do acknowledge the issues they have drawn my attention to... These were raised in the spirit of honesty and out of deep and patriotic concern."

He suggested that a conversation within the party could return the country to normalcy "so all our people could go about

their business unhindered, in perfect peace and security, assured that law and order obtain and prevail as before."

But in the streets, the anticipation of long-awaited change exploded in joyous street rallies and marches — clearly the population had turned a corner on the Mugabe era. The country was not likely to "return to normalcy," as the President claimed.

Mrs. Mugabe, whose rise to power and possibly the presidency alarmed war veterans and generals, stayed out of the limelight.

Robert Mugabe served as Prime Minister of Zimbabwe from 1980 to 1987 and as President from 1987 to 2017. He was viewed both as a liberator and a dictator. Emmerson Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe's former Vice President, who was fired by Mugabe and fled to South Africa, was sworn in days later in front of a crowd of 60,000 at the National Sports Stadium in Harare Zimbabwe.

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.

SLAVERY IN LIBYA

CNN Video of 'African Slave Market' Sparks Outrage and Condemnation

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) — Footage obtained by CNN of an alleged auction of young Africans at an open market in Libya sent shockwaves through the diasporan community and the leaders of countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The shocking images, shared worldwide on social media, were "despicable", declared President Alpha Conde of Guinea, current chair of the African Union. "These modern slavery practices must end and the African Union will use all the tools at its disposal."

In April, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said it had gathered evidence of slavery in Libya.

The recent footage appears to show youths from Niger

and other sub-Saharan countries being sold to buyers for about \$400 at undisclosed locations in Libya. The IOM's chief of mission for Libya, Othman Belbeisi, told the BBC at the time that migrants were priced according to their abilities.

Libya, the biggest jumping-off point for migrants trying to reach Europe, is now home to a thriving trade in humans, wrote Sudarsan Raghavan in an investigative piece published in July.

The exploitation of desperate migrants highlights the discredited European Union effort to pay millions to Libya to enforce stricter border controls and maintain migrant assistance centers that respect "international humanitarian standards." **Continued on Page 8**



ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

What it Feels Like to Exhale

I've been so busy over the past several weeks that I haven't seen or interacted with many people, but those who have crossed my path recently have mentioned that my countenance has seemed to be a little bit lighter and my face has seemed a little bit brighter.

I have felt it on the inside, but didn't know that it was so obvious on the outside as well.

Earlier this week I facilitated a training for a group of educators. During the training I had them participate in an exercise that I have dubbed 'temperature check'. I ask folks a series of questions about how safe/comfortable they think this person or that person would be in a particular situation. For example, on a scale of one to five, how safe do you think a Black person feels in Spokane?

The purpose of the exercise is to hopefully get folks thinking from a perspective that is different from their own. Sometimes it works, something it doesn't, but typically the exercise generates some interesting conversations.

On this particular morning, since they were educators, one of the questions that I asked was how safe they thought an African American student would feel in their school on a scale of one to five, with one being not safe and five being very safe.

The answers ranged from two to five, with most folks in the four to five range.

Hmmm, I thought to myself, that's interesting. I would have thought at least one person would have selected the number one, so I chose to explore a little.

We discussed why they thought their responses tended towards the safe end of the scale. Their answers were sincere, thoughtful and reflective. So, I thought I would nudge them a little further.

How safe do you think I feel in this school, I asked them, and then I



polled them. How many think it's a five, four, three, two, one. Nobody, thought it was a one. I told them, it would be a one.

I spent two and a half days earlier in November at an African American technology conference in San Francisco (see pages 12-13), where I was surrounded by close to two thousand Black and Brown people. Wow!

What I noticed about that experience, was that for the first half of the first day, I was uncomfortable. Weary. Cautious. Reserved. I mean, the concentration of Black folk was staggering. We were everywhere. Not only that. We were bold and beautiful and brilliant and amazing. And I felt like a little child. It was like I had to get my sea legs up under me. It was like, I had to learn how to walk again. Learn how to be again.

What I realized is that I am so darn used to having my guard up here in Spokane. Being hyper-vigilant, hyper-aware, hyper-alert, that I had forgotten how to stop doing that.

What do I do when I don't stand out? When I'm not the only one. When I'm not the exception. When I can joyfully, blissfully, thankfully, blend in for a change. What do I do? I exhale!

It took a half a day for it to happen, but man oh man, when I finally exhaled and my guard finally came down, it came crashing down, and the freedom, it took my breath away.

So now I'm back, and I feel a bit like an addict who is craving a fix. I miss the feeling of freedom. Is it possible to recreate that feeling here in Spokane. I don't know. I guess time will tell.

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

More Remains of Sgt. La David Johnson Found in Niger After Widow Questioned Whether Coffin Was Empty

(Sources: Barbara Starr and Zachary, <http://www.cnn.com/2017>; <https://chicagocrusader.com>; John Bacon, <https://www.usatoday.com>; John Haltiwanger, <http://www.newsweek.com>)

Additional remains of Sgt. La David Johnson, one of four U.S. soldiers killed in what has been described as an ambush by Islamic militants in October, have been found in Niger, the Pentagon announced on November 21.

Johnson’s widow, Myeshia Johnson, told ABC News shortly after the October incident that officials had prevented her from seeing her husband’s body.

“I need to see him, so I will know that is my husband,” she was quoted as saying during an October interview. “They won’t show me a finger, a hand. I know my husband’s body from head to toe and they won’t let me see anything. I don’t know what’s in that box, it could be empty for all I know.” It was a closed casket funeral.

The Pentagon said in a statement, that a joint U.S.-Africa Command military investigation team discovered the remains on Nov. 12 at the site in Niger where Johnson’s body was recovered following the Oct. 4 ambush. The statement said the remains were later confirmed to be those



of Johnson. But Johnson’s widow has said that she is suspicious that it took the military 48 hours to find her husband after the attack, and doesn’t understand why she was prevented from seeing his body.

According to CNN, there has been no public disclosure about whether the additional remains will provide any clues about Johnson’s death or what happened to his body during the 48 hours he was missing. Johnson was reportedly found

nearly a mile away from the location of the ambush that killed the other three soldiers.

Adding to the mystery, The Washington Post quoted a local farmer and trader who said that some children tending cattle in a nearby village found Johnson’s remains with his hands tied behind his back and that a village chief confirmed the story. U.S. officials, however, have said that the reports have not been verified.

According to reports, Johnson was a part of a Green Beret-led team that was traveling with 30 Nigerien soldiers, who were part of an operation to train local forces to combat the Boko Haram, when they were attacked by approximately 50 ISIS-affiliated fighters armed with rocket propelled grenades, mortars and heavy machine guns.

CNN reports that they were told by U.S. officials and a Nigerian soldier that the team became separated during the firefight, and that the four U.S. soldiers were killed and two were wounded during a gun battle that lasted four hours. Five Nigeriens were also killed.

Johnson apparently was initially declared missing when French helicopters evacuated the bodies of the other three soldiers. Nigerian military personnel recovered Johnson’s body two days later.

According to US Africa Command, investigators interviewed local villagers, physically examined multiple areas of interest and retraced actions before, during and after the ambush. The Defense Department has said it expects the investigation into the Niger ambush to be completed by January.

Prince Harry Announces Engagement to U.S. Actress Meghan Markle



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

Prince Harry (33) who is fifth in line to the British throne, announced in November that he will marry U.S. actress Meghan Markle (36) in the spring 2018. The couple has been dating since the summer of 2016, according to the BBC, after one of Markle’s close friends introduced her to the prince in July 2016.

The BBC reports that Markle, whose mom is African American and dad is caucasian, has played the character Rachel Zane in the USA Network TV drama Suits since 2011. She was born on August 4, 1981 and grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles described as the “Black Beverly Hills”. She attended private schools in L.A. before graduating from Northwestern University School of Communication in 2003.

The couple’s relationship became public last year when Prince Harry attacked the British tabloids for their coverage of the budding romance. For example, the Daily Mail in its Nov. 2 headline read: “Harry’s girl is (almost) straight outta Compton: Gang-scarred home of her mother revealed — so will he be dropping by for tea?” Prince Harry issued a statement defending his “girlfriend” and condemning the British media for “the racial undertones of comment pieces; and the outright sexism and racism of social medial trolls and web article comments.”

The couple will marry in May of 2018 at Windsor Palace.

Napa Valley’s First and Only Black Owned Winery



(Source: Caroline Claire Burke, <https://thefabgab.co/blogs>)

Brown Estate is a second generation winery co-helmed by three siblings: Deneen, Coral and David Brown and located in the Napa Valley of California.

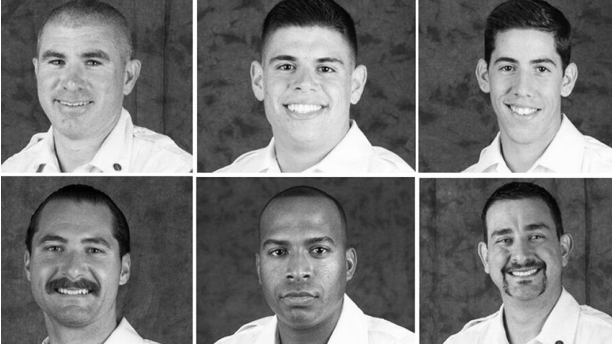
The winery was initially a financial investment made by the sister’s parents, Bassett and Marcela Brown, in 1980 when they purchased an abandoned ranch in the eastern hills of the Napa Valley and rehabilitated the crumbling homestead, planting viniferous grapes that they farmed and sold to local winemakers. Between 1985 and 1990 The Brown family planted a total of fifty acres of vineyards that include zinfandel, cabernet sauvignon, and chardonnay.

In 1995 the daughters got the idea to make their own wine, and established the Brown Estate label officially in 1996 when they harvested what would become their first bottling of Brown Zin, and in January 2000 they debuted their first three vintages at the annual ZAP (Zinfandel Advocates & Producers) Grand Tasting in San Francisco. In September 2016 they bottled their 20th vintage.

Brown Estate’s business has also grown over the years. The brand has gained broader exposure thanks primarily to word of mouth and in April 2017 Brown Estate debuted a location called Brown Downtown Wine & Hospitality space on the First Street corridor in the heart of downtown Napa.

For more information about the Brown Estate winery visit <https://www.brownestate.com>

Six Miami Firefighters Fired for Placing Noose Over Photo of Black Colleague



(Source: David Smiley and Charles Rabin; <http://www.miami-herald.com/news>)

According to a November 1 story in the Miami Herald, six Miami firefighters, including William W. Bryson, the son of former Fire Chief William “Shorty” Bryson, Kevin Meizoso, David Rivera, Justin Rumbaugh, Harold Santana and Alejandro Sese, were fired after a police investigation into a Sept. 9 incident at a city fire station in which someone created a noose out of twine and hung it over a family photo of an African American lieutenant. Additionally, lewd pictures were drawn on several other photos, including one of the lieutenant’s wife, children and their grandmother.

Initially thought to be vandalism, more than 20 people were interviewed under oath, according to the Miami Herald, and nearly a dozen firefighters were investigated.

The Herald reports that according to termination letters sent to the firefighters, Alajandro Sese came up with the idea of defacing the photos and retrieved them. Meizoso, Rumbaugh and Santana (who is African American) drew the lewd, phallic images on the photos, and Rivera returned them to their picture frames. Bryson is accused of failing to stop the vandalism and of ignoring requests from subordinates to come forward and report the incident. Investigators said they were not able to determine who made the noose.

The fired firefighters are able to dispute their terminations and more employees could be punished in the future.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

John Conyers Steps Down After Sexual Misconduct Allegations

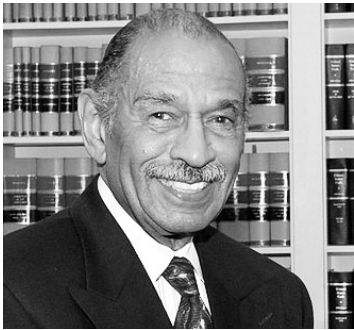
(Source: Colin Dwyer, npr.org)

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., who is the longest serving member of the House of Representatives, announced on Noveber 26 that he is stepping down as ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee. He conveyed the news in a statement released by the office of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

The announcement comes roughly a week after sexual misconduct allegations surface. The allegations were lodged by a former female employee, who had made a wrongful dismissal complaint against Conyers that was settled two years ago.

The House Ethics Committee has launched an investigation into the incident. Conyers continues to deny the allegations of wrongdoing and says he has no intention of resigning his seat in the House.

According to the news site Buzz Feed, “Rep. John Conyers settled a wrongful dismissal complaint two years ago with a former female employee who alleged Conyers made repeated sexual advances toward female staff.



Buzzfeed reports that it “obtained signed affidavits, three of which are notarized, and verified the documents with four people involved in the matter who confirmed their authenticity. The woman was paid over \$27,000 as part of a confidentiality agreement. The money came out of Conyers’ office budget, which is taxpayer-funded.”

Conyers represents Michigan’s 13th Congressional District which encompasses the Detroit metropolitan area. In 2014, Congressman Conyers was elected to his 26th consecutive term, making him the the first African-American to hold the distinction as Dean, which is the title given to the most senior member of Congress.

Conyers was born in Detroit, MI, and served in the National Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War. He is the Founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He introduced the original Martin Luther King Holiday Act of 1983, was a major proponent of more than 100 pieces of critical legislation including the original Voting Rights Act of 1965, and was the driving force behind the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

In a statement issued by Conyers, he said, “After careful consideration and In light of the attention drawn by recent allegations made against me, I have notified the Democratic Leader of my request to step aside as Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee during the investigation of these matters. I deny these allegations, many of which were raised by documents reportedly paid for by a partisan alt-right blogger. I very much look forward to vindicating myself and my family before the House Committee on Ethics.”

Della Reese

Singer and Actress Passes Away at 86



Source: Monée Fields-White, <http://www.theroot.com>)

Della Reese, an iconic jazz, blues and gospel singer, who is best known for her role as the angel Tess on the CBS series Touched by an Angel, passed away on November 19 at the age of 86.

She was born Delloreese Patricia on July 6, 1931 in Detroit and began singing in her church at the age of 6. In 1969 Reese became the first Black woman to have her own television variety show, although the series was short-lived. The following year she became the first Black woman to guest-host The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.

Over the next two decades, she pursued acting and appeared in a number of TV series and movies.

Reese had a number of health challenges over the years. In 1979 she suffered a brain aneurysm, from which she made a full recovery.

She announced in 2002 that she had Type 2 diabetes and subsequently became a spokeswoman for the American Diabetes Association. Reese, who was married several times, adopted several children, including a daughter who died in 2002 from a pituitary disease.

Reese received seven NAACP Image Awards for outstanding lead actress, and nominations for Emmys and a Golden Globe Award. She received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1994 and was also one of 25 Black female honorees at Oprah Winfrey’s Legends Ball in 2005.

15 Black Men Arrested By a Corrupt Cop Cleared of All Convictions



(Source: Dob Babwin / AP, <http://time.com>)

On November 16, Time magazine reports, a judge in Cook County threw out the felony drug convictions of 15 Black men who all say they were locked up because they refused to pay Ronald Watts, a Chicago police officer.

The men all told the same story, that a Chicago police officer would demand money from them, and if they refused to pay, they would end up in handcuffs with drugs stuffed in their pockets, Time.com reports.

According to Time.com, the men described how it was common for Blacks in the city’s poorest communities to be shaken down. In fact, 36 year old Leonard Gipson, who had two convictions thrown out by the judge, stated “everyone knew if you’re not going to pay Watts, you were going to jail. That’s just the way it was going,”

The men said Watts and his crew extorted drug dealers and residents for years despite complaints that were made to the police and statements that they made during court appearances. But in 2013, Watts and another officer pleaded guilty to stealing money from an FBI informant. He was sented to 22 months, a sentence that was ironically shorter than the ones given to the men he framed.

Time.com reports that State’s attorney spokesman Robert Foley said prosecutors are investigating dozens of other cases and identified a pattern suggesting “corrupt activity” involving Watts and “members of his crew.”

Morgan State University Set to Award its First Ph.D. in Mathematics



(Source: <https://www.jbhe.com/2017>)

Candice Marshall is one of 11 students in the industrial and computational mathematics program at Morgan State University in Baltimore. Industrial mathematics is a field which uses big data applications to solve problems in government, industry and other large workplaces. Computational mathematics involves research in such things as traffic flow analysis, earthquake predicting, and analysis of climate change.

Next month, Marshall is set to become the first person to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics at Morgan State, a historically Black university.

A native of St. Lucia in the Caribbean, Marshall’s research involves advanced matrix algebra and Riordan matrices. These matrices have application in RNA prediction in molecular biology. She has had two research papers published in peer-reviewed journals during her doctoral studies.

Marshall earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Morgan State University in 2005. After teaching in a high school on St. Lucia for three years, she returned to Morgan State to complete a master’s degree in 2011 and then enrolled in doctoral studies.

Beyond NBA, Andre Iguodala Wants To Disrupt How All Athletes Do Business



(Source: Dana Sanchez, <https://moguldom.com>)

Andre Iguodala, together with his business partner, Rudy Cline-Thomas, has been working to connect tech and sports by organizing events and making deals to bring together the two worlds. He wants all pro athletes to think about their prospects after their sports careers are over, and to think about investing in technology companies.

Iguodala, who joined the Golden State Warriors in 2013, and Cline-Thomas own stakes in about 25 startups worth \$25,000 to \$150,000, including the health and beauty brand Walker & Co., mattress online retailer Casper, personal-finance app NerdWallet, Derek Jeter’s digital publishing company, the Players’ Tribune; and Mayvenn, a hair extensions supplier.

In August of this year, Iguodala’s teammates played host to the Players Technology Summit in San Francisco where they, and other athlete investors, got inspiration from Troy Carter, a hip-hop promoter, talent manager, and tech investor. “Be owners,” Carter told them. “Don’t just have a seat at the table.”

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY by Bertoni Jones Bey

(jbaguart@yahoo.com)

Moors Sundry Act of 1790

The Moors Sundry Act of 1790 is the name given in the 20th and 21st century to a 1790 advisory resolution passed by the South Carolina House of Representatives which offered the opinion that free citizens of Morocco were not subject to laws governing Blacks and slaves in the United States.

As America settled into moral comfort with the everyday practice of chattel slavery, it naturally found itself being confronted with legal dilemmas. Plantation masters often became entangled in national and international treaties and legal issues in regards to individuals they had purchased.

On January 27th 1790, The House of Representatives for the State of South Carolina found itself facing a petition for freedom from four bonded men claiming their basic rights were violated by Colonial slave practices. The petition represented four men of Moorish ancestry who were only represented by their first names – Francis, Daniel, Hammond, and Samuel. They claimed they were forced to this continent illegally as slaves, kidnapped along with their wives Fatima, Flora, Sarah, and Clarinda.

As soldiers defending their country in Africa, the men and their wives were made prisoners of war by an African King. A Captain Clark promised them safe return to their homeland through



the Moroccan Ambassador residing in England but deceptively they were shipped to the State of South Carolina, sold, and reduced to servitude.

The four men worked tirelessly on their plantations to purchase their and their wives' freedom. By January 20, 1790 they petitioned the South Carolina State Legislature to consider both their unique case and their status.

At question for committee members was the jurisdiction that these mens' petition should be heard under. Of greatest fear to the four men was that their petition would be heard under the May 10,

1740 Negro Act of South Carolina.

This fifty-seven act document was created to legally regulate the conduct of slaves and the obligations of masters for the State of South Carolina. Most dangerously it laid jurisdictional claim to those people who volunteered for certain racially adopted "names" or "titles" directly linking them to chattel commerce:

"WHEREAS, in his Majesty's plantations in America, slavery has been introduced and allowed, and the people commonly called Negroes, Indians, mulattoes and mustizoes, have been deemed absolute slaves..."

Under the Negro Act the four men would have been subjected to the laws established for slave property. But in their petition they argued that they should be tried under the laws of "free white men" put into bondage illegally. The backbone of their petition rested in both The Moroccan Treaty of Friendship and Peace, 1786-1787 (Black Lens, February 2017) and their status as citizen/subjects of the Empire of Morocco under then Sultan Mohammed Ibn Abdullah. (A similar legal strategy was used in an earlier slave case – Abd al Rahman).

Although not lawyers, the four men ultimately won their petition to be heard as free white men. The committee's conclusion on the case was expressed by committee member, and the youngest signor of the Declaration of Independence, Edward Rutledge: "They have Considered the same and are of the opinion that no Law of this State can in its Construction or Operation apply to them, and that persons who were Subjects of the Emperor of Morocco being Free in this State are not triable by the Law for the better Ordering and Governing of Negroes and other Slaves."

Sources: South Carolina House Journal 4 January 1790- 20 January 1790 (Sundry Free Moors); Teachingushistory.org/pdfs/Transcription-of1740SlaveCodes.pdf; Treaty of Peace and Friendship (1786-1787 – Black Lens February 2017); <https://www.revolvy.com>.

SAVE THE DATE: "Nights Over Egypt (KMT)" featuring the art of Bertoni Jones Bey at the Kress Gallery in River Park Square - January 2018



Jean-Baptiste-Point DuSable

Regarded as the first resident of what is now Chicago, Illinois

(<http://www.blackpast.org>)

Jean-Baptiste-Point DuSable, a frontier trader, trapper and farmer is generally regarded as the first resident of what is now Chicago, Illinois.

There is very little definite information on DuSable's past. It is believed by some historians that he was born free around 1745 in St. Marc, Saint-Dominique (Haiti). His mother was an African slave, his father a French mariner.

DuSable traveled with his father to France, where he received some education. It was through this education and the work that he performed for his father on his ships, that he learned languages including French, Spanish, English, and many Indian dialects.

DuSable arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1765 whereupon he learned the colony had become a Spanish possession. Having lost his identification papers and injured on the voyage to New Orleans, DuSable was almost enslaved. French Jesuit priests protected him until he was healthy enough to travel.

DuSable migrated north, up the Mississippi river, later settling in an area near pres-

ent-day Peoria, Illinois. He also lived in what is now Michigan and Indiana as well during the 1770s.

Sometime in the late 1770s DuSable married a Potawatomie Indian woman, Kitiawa who was also called Catherine in a traditional Potawatomie ceremony. The couple had a daughter, Susanne, and a son, Jean. They married again in a Catholic ceremony in Cahokia on the Mississippi River on October 27, 1788.

Sometime in the early 1780s the DuSables settled on the shore of Lake Michigan in a marshy area the Indians called Eschikagu, "the place of bad smells." He built a home on the north bank of the Chicago River, claimed about 800 acres of land and established a thriving trading post which included a mill, smokehouse, workshop, barn and other smaller buildings. The post became a major supply station for other traders in the Great Lakes region.

The DuSable cabin was filled with fine furniture and paintings indicating that the family had become prosperous for the time and region and DuSable was described as a large man who was also a wealthy trader. In 1796 their grand-daughter became the first

child born in what would become Chicago.

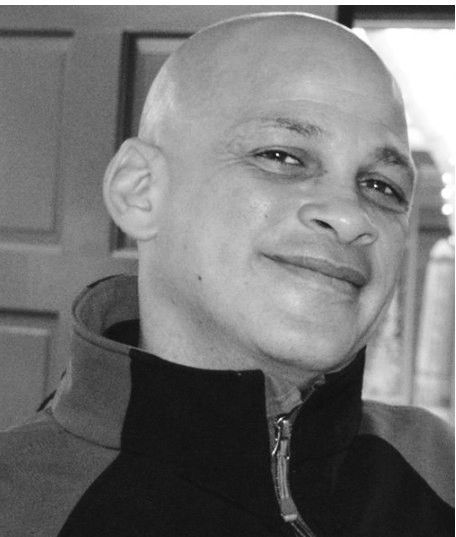
On May 7, 1800, DuSable sold his trading post for \$1,200 to Chicago resident John Kinzie and moved to St. Charles, Missouri which at the time was part of French Louisiana. He was commissioned by the French governor in Missouri to operate a ferry across the Missouri River. DuSable, however never prospered as he did in what would become Chicago.

In 1818 DuSable died almost penniless and was buried in a Catholic cemetery in St. Charles. Later Chicago would honor its first citizen. A high school, museum, harbor, park and bridge in Chicago have been named or renamed after him and the place where he settled at the mouth of the Chicago River is recognized as a National Historical Landmark.

Sources: Shirley Graham, Jean Baptiste Point De Saible, Founder of Chicago (Chicago: Julian Messner, 1953); Thomas A Meehan, "Jean Baptiste Point du Saible, the First Chicagoan," Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society 56:3 (1963); Christopher R. Reed, "In the Shadow of Fort Dearborn: Honoring De Saible at the Chicago World's Fair of 1933-1934," Journal of Black Studies 21:4 (June 1991); and Dominic A. Pacyga, Chicago: A Biography, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. Contributor: Wilson Edward Reed, Seattle University)

NAACP UPDATE: SPOKANE

NAACP
http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com



Spokane Bans the Box

By Kurtis Robinson

On Monday, November 27, members of the NAACP joined others in our community at Spokane’s City Council Meeting to testify and show support for a Fair Chance Hiring Ordinance that was being voted on by council members.

Commonly known by the term “Ban the Box”, the ordinance prohibits employers from asking job applicants about past arrests and convictions until after the in-person or skype interview, and in employment advertising it would prohibit including restrictions based on an applicants criminal conviction or arrest records.

The EEOC states in the last twenty years there has been a significant increase in the number of Americans who have had contact

with the criminal justice system and, concomitantly, a major increase in the number of people with criminal records in the working-age population. National data supports a finding that criminal record exclusions have a disparate impact based on race and national origin.

According to currently available figures, there are over 2.4 million people behind bars. On average 60-70% are persons of color. There are more African-Americans under “correctional supervision” right now than were in slavery in the United States in 1850.

The ACLU has also stated that racial bias, both implicit and explicit, keeps more people of color in prisons and on probation than ever before. One in three Black men can expect to be incarcerated in his lifetime, compared to one in six Latino males and one in 17 white males. At no other point in U.S. history have so many people, and disproportionately so many people of color, been deprived of their liberty.

At least 95% of those who have been incarcerated will return to the community and many face the inability to find employment once they are released. Employment is considered one of the most necessary factors to reduce recidivism and rebuild lives. The NAACP supports the ordinance because banning the box gives everyone a fair chance.

Note: City Council Members passed the Fair Chance Hiring Ordinance by a vote of 5-2. Ben Stuckart, Breean Beggs, Lori Kinnear, Karen Stratton and Amber Waldref voted in favor of the ordinance. Mike Fagan and Candace Mumm voted against the ordinance.



Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

Heads Up (Spokane) - The fun family game where a blonde joke is as common as a nappy hair Nigger joke - go figure.

As a recent transplant to Spokane, Washington from Milwaukee by way of Seattle, I’d like to consider myself pretty malleable when it comes to adapting to new communities and their intricacies. Generally, I am aware of how I show up on a daily basis, which tends to be some hodgepodge of an eccentric, self-aware, colorful, plus-sized, energy shifting Black woman. I am aware of how much space I take up in a room and furthermore very conscious of times when the space in a place is not welcoming of my type.

In my short but fascinating time living in Spokane, I’ve found Spokane to be a mixed bag. There are spaces that seem progressive and wide open with promise and possibility, then there are frequent reminders of the ever present racism coupled with closed spaces (minds) and extreme conservatism.

Of course, I was reminded by friends that when the good old boys were forced to disband in Idaho many of them moved just across the border to Spokane Valley, which explains why I’ve been called a nigger on three separate occasions by angry white folks driving pickup trucks. (I’m still trying to figure out if they were calling me a nigger because I didn’t have a pickup truck. Apparently, all permanent residents of Spokane are required to purchase one within 60 days lol...)

I completely expect those sorts of immature outbursts. I watched one of the individuals that felt brave enough to yell out of her window at me park her truck and get out. As she took her foot off the brake and jumped out of her truck, my eyes were drawn to her Sponge Bob Square Pants pajama pants and suddenly I understood who she was. So, I chuckled and pulled off. Clearly, she had issues.

It’s the subtle things that I can’t wrap my mind around. It’s the awkward moment like when I was invited to have



Thanksgiving Dinner at an African American friend’s home. The house is filled with all African American people and two white women. We had all eaten turkey, dressing (no stuffing over there), mac and cheese, yams, ham, greens, and all the regular Sunday dinner fixins’. We were full and ready to have fun. We were all laughing and smiling. Playing with the babies and picking at the desserts.

Then someone announced, “it’s game time, let’s play Head’s Up”.

(Now would be a good time to say the names in this story have been changed to protect the identities of those involved.)

The teams were picked. Team one vs. Team two. “Becky” was on Team 1 and had to guess the word based on the clues her team gave her.

The answer: blonde.

Becky’s team says: “People make jokes about people with this kind of hair all the time”

Becky answers: “nappy/kinky”

Me: “Umm, excuse me, where do you hang out at that the people sit around and make jokes about people with nappy or kinky hair?”

Then I heard the flight attendant in my mind say, “Welcome to the Spokane International Airport. Happy Holidays.”

What I now know, that I didn’t know the day I officially made Spokane my home, was that this town east of the mountain is a place swelling with opportunity, however, accessing those opportunities may not be so easy.

Opportunities and resources at times may have to be dug out from under layers of passive racism, institutional racism and personal beliefs held by those who hold positions of power.

Side note: who would have ever thought that the number of Nappy Hair jokes are equal to the number of Blonde jokes told?

I’m sure “Becky” meant no harm. She was funny and lovely and in fact even apologized to me in the event I was offended.

I must be sure to send her a follow up card and tell her I’ve accepted her apology and notified all the “Negroes of America on our special umm ‘Negro Land Line’ and cleared up any misconceptions and explained that she’s one of the good guys”.

Happy Holidays - Duncan

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

Is Home Schooling Over-Rated?

By Evelyn Anderton

Did you know that home schooling has been on the incline for the past several years? Many parents are staying home and committing themselves to home schooling their children. When the average person hears the words home schooling, they usually ask one question, why? I found myself thinking the same and wanting an answer. I can remember the excitement in my household when the children were old enough to attend kindergarten. I took full advantage of those precious hours which allowed me to have a little me time.

In the early 70's, when I was raising my children, home schooling was not very popular. I personally knew very little about home schooling or anyone who participated in homeschooling. Over the past several years, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk to several parents who are home schooling. I just had to ask the 20- thousand- dollar question WHY?

Although, their answers varied, the four most interesting answers were 1. They didn't want their child influenced by other children; 2. They are concerned due



to medical reasons or special needs of their child; 3. They have separation anxiety and don't want to leave the child; and lastly; 4. they have issues with the curriculum, like evolution.

It has always been the responsibility of the parent to teach their children. There are two components of home

schooling, both equally as important. The first component is the responsibility of teaching morals, standards and values; and secondly the responsibility of teaching the educational requirements; not necessarily in that order.

Whether your child gets their education at home, or in a public or private school, parents, you are your children's first teacher and most important role model. It should be your total goal to make sure your children will never need to look outside the home to find a devoted teacher or role model. No matter which schooling method you choose, no slacking is allowed; you must take your duties and responsibilities very seriously.

Therefore, the next time you hear the question, why do you home school, you will be able to answer without hesitation saying, "I am a proud parent and teaching my children is the most important job I will ever have." The job is a lifetime commitment, the pay is not monetary, you don't get vacation, sick leave and you can't quit or get fired.

No! Home schooling can never be over-rated. Our children are too important.

I truly believe there is a special place in heaven for the parent who chooses to home school, because it is not an easy job. Always be mindful that you are your children's M.V.T. (Most Valuable Teacher).

Will Africa's Richest Man 'Make America Great Again'?

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN)

Alhaji Aliko Dangote, the 60-year-old Nigerian cement tycoon, has his eye on new investment prospects and is tempted by U.S. opportunities in renewable energy and petrochemicals.

"Let's say that by 2025, I'm looking at (investing) between \$20 billion and \$50 billion outside Africa. Mind you, we don't do small things," said Dangote, who is worth \$11.1 billion, according to Bloomberg's Billionaires Index.

Dangote Group will consider investments in Asia and Mexico, but will focus mainly on the U.S. and Europe, he said. "I think renewables is the way to go forward, and the future. We are looking at petrochemicals but can also invest in other companies."

Over the last five years, Dangote diversified both geographically and into new industries. Dangote Cement Plc, which accounts for almost 80 percent of his wealth, has expanded into nine African countries aside from Nigeria. In 2015, he began building a 650,000 barrel-a-day refinery near Lagos, Nigeria's main commercial hub, and he's constructing gas pipelines to the city from Nigeria's oil re-



gion with U.S. private equity firms Carlyle Group LP and Blackstone Group LP.

His refinery and pipelines are slated for completion in December 2019 - not soon enough for Oil Minister Ibe Kachikwu who has asked for an earlier date.

But pipelines and oil refineries, fought by U.S. green groups, have also dismayed Nigeria's environmentalists. Dr. Godwin Uyi Ojo, head of Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria, calls investments in oil and gas short-sighted and overlook the transition worldwide from fossil fuel dependence to renewable sources of energy.

In Nigeria's federal government budget of over US\$53 million to buy generators and fuel, he pointed out, "there is no budget line for renewable energy. Nigeria is not thinking of energy transition and when we signal 'leave the oil in the soil,' we are talking about Nigeria beyond oil."

"Although Nigerians may point to some of the infrastructure built from oil proceeds," Ojo said, "the monumental damage done to the environment, the conflicts that have emanated from the communities and the political arena, as well as the killings in the country from the 1960s followed the do or die politics to ensure control of the oil."

Dangote says, "Meanwhile, expect investment dollars to flow from the U.S. to Nigeria. Profit margins there "are huge".

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.

Slavery in Libya

Continued from 8

But instead of getting better treatment, migrants found at sea are being returned to Libya to face more exploitation and violence.

Research by the U.S.-based Refugees International (RI) warned that efforts to halt the exodus from Libya would fuel "horrific abuses."

"The fate of people who are seeking international protection is effectively absent from the plans outlined by EU leaders to tackle the Central Mediterranean route," wrote the rights group.

Citing the ongoing violence and chaos in Libya, a country that lacks an asylum system and where the rule of law is absent, RI urged EU countries to accept people on their territory through orderly, legal processes that are viable alternatives to ruthless criminal networks.

"The EU and its member states should also ensure that their funding and actions in Libya do not result in or contribute to human rights abuses against refugees and migrants."

Meanwhile, Manchester United soccer star Paul Pogba in a triumphant performance dedicated a goal to the migrants sold as slaves, writing on Instagram: "My prayers go to those suffering slavery in Libya. May Allah be by your side and may this cruelty come to an end!"

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What Black Business Have You Supported This Month?

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

Preschool Teachers Keep Closer Eye on Black Boys

By Bill Hathaway

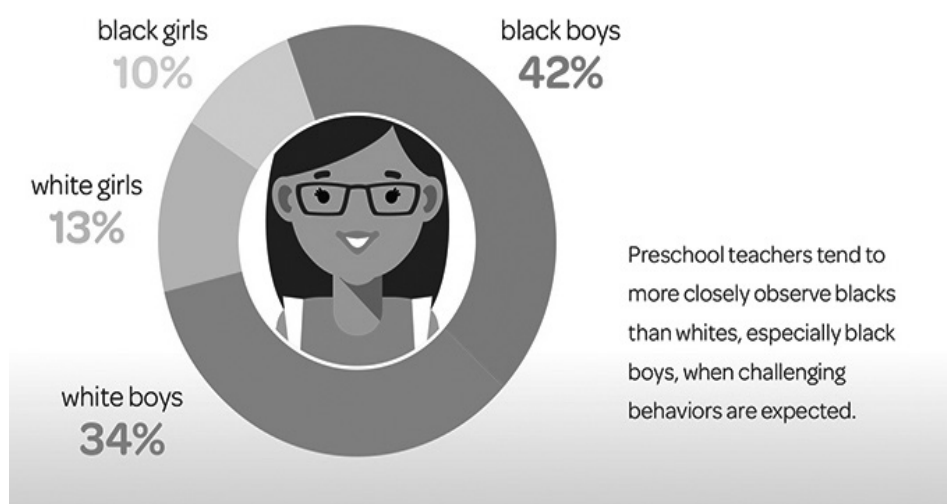
Source: Yale University; Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from North-StarNewsToday.com

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Preschool expulsions and the disproportionate expulsion of Black boys have gained attention in recent years, but little has been done to understand the underlying causes behind this issue. Research conducted in 2016 by the Yale Child Study Center examined the potential role of the implicit biases of preschool educators as a viable partial explanation behind disparities in preschool expulsions.

Sophisticated eye-tracking technology shows that preschool teachers “show a tendency to more closely observe Black students, and especially boys, when challenging behaviors are expected.” At the same time, Black teachers hold Black students to a higher standard of behavior than do their white counterparts, report researchers.

While the research doesn’t explore why this difference in attitude exists, the researchers in a speculate that Black educators may be demonstrating “a belief that Black children

Track the eyes: Which students are teachers watching?



require harsh assessment and discipline to prepare them for a harsh world.”

White educators, by contrast, may be acting on a stereotype that Black preschoolers are more likely to misbehave in the first place, so they judge them against a different, more lenient standard than what they’re applying to white children.

“The tendency to base classroom observation on the gender and race of the child may explain in part why those children are more frequently identified as misbehaving and hence why there is a racial disparity in discipline,” adds Walter S. Gilliam, director of the Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy and As-

sociate Professor of Child Psychiatry and Psychology at the Yale Child Study Center.

The findings suggest that when the preschool teacher and child were of the same race, knowing about family stressors led to increased teacher empathy for the preschooler and decreased how severe the behaviors appeared to the teacher. But, when the teacher and child were of a different race, the same family information seemed to overwhelm the teachers and the behaviors were perceived as being more severe.

“These findings suggest that teachers need support in understanding family struggles, as they may relate to child behaviors, especially when the teacher and child are of different races,” Gilliam says.

Primary funding for the research came from the WK Kellogg Foundation.

To read the original study visit: <http://ziglercenter.yale.edu/publications/briefs.aspx>

The article was first posted on the website of Yale University. Bill Hathaway is associate director for Science Engineering and Medicine Yale Office of Public Affairs and Communications at Yale.

Wabash College’s Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies

By A. Peter Bailey

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - When I first met three students from Wabash College who had driven to Washington, DC to attend the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, I admit to being surprised when told that they were members of the college’s Malcolm X Society. I had heard of Malcolm X Societies at several larger institutions but didn’t expect to hear about one at a private, predominately white college in Crawfordsville, Indiana, population 15,000. One percent of those residents are Black.

The students made arrangements for me to lecture on Brother Malcolm in Fall 2017. Shortly after my arrival on campus, society member, David Segovia, took me to a building in the center of the campus. That facility had a sign up front announcing that it was The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS). I had never seen a building with that name on any of the 40 colleges and universities at which I had lectured since the 1970s.

The following excerpt is from MXIBS’ mission statement right inside the entrance: “The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies functions as a center for the academic, cultural and social involvement of all students at Wabash College but most specifically for *men of African descent* (Italics mine). The Institute provides opportunities for students to explore knowledge and opinions in a critical fashion, develop essential leadership skills to elevate the presence of men of African descent in the life of the college.”

The Institute also “educates the entire Wabash and Crawfordsville communities about the African American experience.” It does this by maintaining “an African American Studies library and hosting lectures, films, forums and community service projects.”



Among those who have lectured at the Institution are Amiri Baraka, Maya Angelou, Hoyt Fuller, Gwendolyn Brooks, Dick Gregory, Rep. Ron Dellums, and Stokely Carmichael (later Kwame Ture).

The Institute’s theme is “Humility, Wisdom, Knowledge, Excellence.” In my lecture I explained why Brother Malcolm had all those qualities plus many more. I told them about a statement on the front of the Madison Building of the Library of Congress which declares “Knowledge will forever govern ignorance. And a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives.” I should have included an African proverb cited by Carter G. Woodson in his book, *The History of the Negro Retold*, that insisted “Whoever works without knowledge works uselessly...not to know is bad, not to wish to know is worse.”

Brother Malcolm understood and acted on those sentiments better than anyone else I

have ever met, I told the students, faculty and Wabash College President Gregory D. Hess, who were in attendance. He was all about the gaining and distribution of knowledge as a weapon in the campaign against the physical and psychological attacks of proponents of white supremacy and racism. Even if one disagreed with his position, his wisdom, knowledge and communicating skills forced one to increase the knowledge of their own beliefs. He was both a persistent and passionate warrior against white supremacy and a master teacher, I told them and there is no more important member of any community than a master teacher.

One important lesson we learned from Brother Malcolm was to be very careful of words as we wrote and spoke. For instance, the correct word is not slave “master” but slave owner or enslaver; it’s not “mainstream” press but majority press; it’s not white “nationalist” but white supremacist.

I showed members of The Malcolm X Society DVDs about his burial service, testimonials about his impact on the lives of charter members of the Organization of Afro-American Unity recorded at a 2006 reunion and of choreographer Louis Johnson’s compelling “Forces of Rhythm,” performed by The Dance Theatre of Harlem as Donny Hathaway sang “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother.”

I thank the 36 members of The Malcolm X Society, especially David Segovia and its director, Dean Steven Jones, for providing me with a memorable experience and for having enough wisdom to recognize Brother Malcolm’s enormous legacy.

For more information about MXIBS, check out <https://www.wabash.edu/mxibs>

*A. Peter Bailey, whose latest book is *Witnessing Brother Malcolm X, the Master Teacher*, can be reached at apeterb@verizon.net.*

HONORING OUR ELDERS

Rev. Paul Bigsby: In His Own Words

May 14, 1936 - August 13, 2017

Obituary

On Sunday evening, August 13 at 10:21pm, Rev. Paul Leroy Bigsby, Sr. took his final bow and passed on to spend eternity with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It was a beautiful and peaceful transition in the presence of his loved ones and closest family. For the past year and a half, Rev. Paul Bigsby was a highly honored and loved resident of the Spokane Veteran's Home where everyone that knew him and cared for him had nothing but the most wonderful and unique things to say about him.

Paul Leroy Bigsby, Sr. was born on May 14, 1936 in Wheeling West Virginia to the late Mattie M. Madison of Smithfield, OH and the late Hayes B. Madison of Smithfield, OH. Paul was raised in Smithfield, OH and graduated from Smithfield HS in 1954, where his favorite subjects were History and Literature.

While in school, he was an active participant in many different clubs. Paul always had a keen interest and gifting in the fine arts and he found his greatest pleasure while being a member of the choir, drama club and annual staff association. Rev Paul was also a man who loved to talk and a man who took so much pride in being able to communicate with others. He never met a person in his lifetime that he couldn't spend time with and share life experiences with.



Having an education was key to him and, oh, so very important to him. And as an African American man in this country, existing without an education was never an option.

After graduating from high school, Paul went on to serve in the United States Air Force for a number of years, received his honorable discharge, and from there went on to pursue a B.S. in History from The Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, OH, in 1961, followed by a

Theology Degree from Payne Theological Seminary shortly thereafter.

Some of his major accomplishments after earning his degrees were stepping into the realm of becoming an independent businessman, becoming chairman of the City Planning Commission of Steubenville, Ohio, and running for State Representative of Ohio.

In 1964, Paul met and fell madly in love with Greta D. Russell, at a party in Weirton, WV and from there on it was history. But prior to that history taking course, he did have the awesome privilege of fathering two amazing sons from a previous relationship, Rev. Rudy McAllister and Randy McAllister, who both reside in West Virginia to this day. Paul and Greta were married on March 14, 1964 and out of that union came Lori A. Bigsby-King, Paul L. Bigsby, Jr., Paula G. Bigsby-Jenkins, and Michelle Bigsby.

In addition to his wife and immediate children listed above, he leaves behind a legacy of loved ones to carry on his family name. The following names included are: Melissa Bigsby (wife of Paul L. Bigsby, Jr.), Robert A. Jenkins (husband of Paula Bigsby-Jenkins), Jason D. Bigsby (grandson), Amish N. (Popi) Guisse (granddaughter), Kerrington P.A.F. Bigsby (grandson), Cory A. Jenkins (grandson), Allicia M. Jenkins (granddaughter) and a host of additional grandchildren, great grandchildren and cousins.

Rev. Paul Bigsby was a devoted husband, father, friend and member of Bethel A.M.E. Church. We know that his memory will live on in the hearts of all who have come to know him, and we have no doubt that he would be extremely overwhelmed with the outpouring of love bestowed upon him. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

The Bigsby-Jenkins-King-McAllister Family



In Rev. Paul's Own Words

In November of last year I received a phone call from Rev. Paul Bigsby. I hadn't seen him or heard from him in a while, so I was a little taken aback to hear from him. He told me that he was dealing with some serious health issues and he wanted to get together. He was calling to invite me to come visit him at the Spokane Veteran's Home, where he was staying. "I have some things that I want to talk to you about," I remember him saying. I loved talking to him, so I obliged and we set up a time.

Looking back, there was a sense of urgency in his voice that regretfully I didn't quite pick up on. He arranged for us to have lunch while we talked and I brought my tape recorder with me, just in case. I'm glad that I did, even though he was tired and we didn't talk much. I did not know that conversation would be our last.

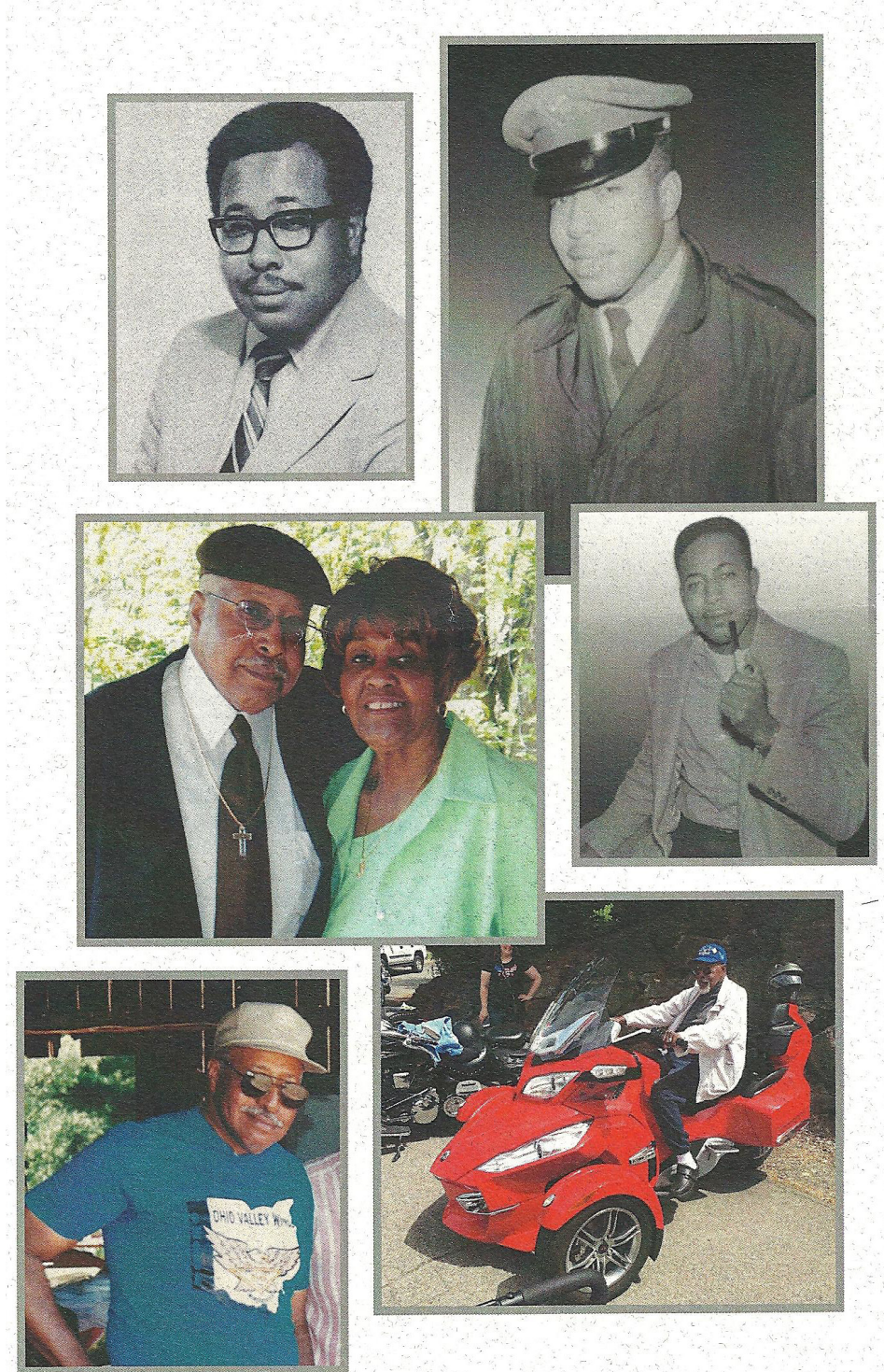
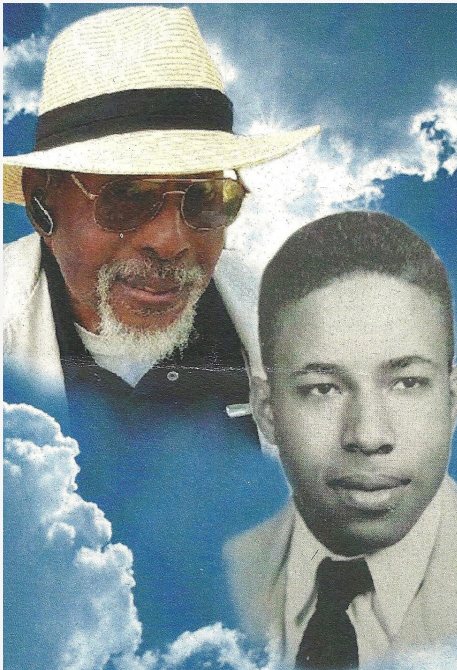
Here are a few excerpts. I think Rev. Paul would be very happy that I am sharing them with you.

I was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1936. I grew up in a normal family at that time, you know, in a Black family. We lived there and went to a local school. It was integrated but it was still part of the system, you know, that said, 'there's was a difference between people'. But I didn't learn that until sometime later. You know, about differences.

Understanding Racism

I went to the movies with my mother in Steubenville, OH, and they had meatballs in the restaurant next door. I said I want to get some meatballs. She (my mom) said, "You can't go in there," and I said why? I was six years old. A lot of things happened to alert me that there were some differences in the world.

Continued on Page 18



President Obama: From Leadership to Legacy

By Rick Williams

I was recently invited to participate in the SAP Global CEO Summit, a gathering of global CEOs, world leaders and luminaries that was held in early November in New York city. The theme for this year's summit, which is hosted each year by SAP, a Germany based business software company, was "From Leadership to Legacy", and it consisted of presentations, panel discussions, and networking time spent with some of the top CEOs in the world, focusing on the innovations that are on the cusp of disrupting businesses, the global economy and society today. The goal of the summit was to explore the higher purpose of today's leaders and how determination, disruption and dreaming leads to greatness.

In the past, the event has focused solely on bringing business leaders together, but this year the attendees



included CEOs from SAP's major business partners, as well as leaders from other sectors, like philanthropy, journalism, sports, politics, and entertainment.

Eric Schmidt, Chairman of Alphabet, Inc. (Google), was the speaker for the opening night's dinner, and Chemi Peres, founder of the Mofet Israel Technology Fund, an Israeli venture capital fund, and son of Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, was the speaker the following morning. Both discussed the subject of leadership from their unique perspectives.

President Barack Obama was the keynote speaker for the summit. His focus was on the subject of leadership from the perspective of President and global leader. He shared his thoughts on what it took to advance policy in our government and to orchestrate thousands of people, as well as sharing what kind of things have led him to think the way he does.

From the moment President Obama entered the room, it was mesmerizing. From his voice, to his stance, to the way he carried himself, he was Presidential. Bright, articulate, and able to field questions off the top of his head. I was impressed by his intelligence, empathy and charisma.

Some of the leadership principles President Obama offered were:

- Hire smart people and trust them
- Have women in leadership positions
- Don't let egos get in the way of the work
- Strive for a diversity of viewpoints
- Facilitate constructive arguments
- Make sure no angle or potential solution has been left unexplored
- Figure out the right answer before you worry about how a decision will be perceived by others



I was also able to talk to President Obama about his newly formed foundation and the Sobrato Family Foundation, which I manage. That is a moment that I will cherish forever.

The goal of the summit was to pose a question to this room filled with Fortune 500 CEO's. What is our role as leaders to make the world a better place and do we have more of a goal than just making money? I was both surprised and impressed by the question and by the conversations that it inspired.

My biggest takeaway was that if the government is not going to be in a position to help us in the short term, then we all need to figure out how we can make this a just society ourselves and what is the responsibility of entities such as those represented in the room.

The summit ended with a message to all attendees: No one has a bigger stake in promoting stability and opportunity in the country than those that have done well.



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AFROTECH 2017 - SAN FRANCISCO

What is Afrotech?

Imagine finding yourself in a room full of brilliant Black students, business owners, engineers and entrepreneurs, all sharing their stories, their challenges, their roadblocks, their successes. All focusing on helping each other to be successful. You're imagining Afrotech.

During the weekend of November 10 and 11, roughly two thousand Black and Brown techies (or wanna be techies like me) traveled to Pier 27 in San Francisco for the second annual Afrotech, an African American technology conference, that offers a fast paced opportunity for participants from across the United States to rub elbows with and learn from the founders and employees of some of the fastest-growing tech companies and startups in the country, and learn about the tactics & strategies that they use to grow their products and businesses

Afrotech is sponsored by Blavity (blavity.com), a Black owned technology and media company founded in 2014 with a focus on Black millennials. Blavity organized this year's sold out conference in partnership with companies like Facebook, Oculus, Pinterest, Lyft, Google and Amazon to name a few.

Lessons from Afrotech?

There are very few people who get to the top by doing it other people's way.
-Bozoma Saint John
Chief Brand Officer, Uber

Look for your unfair advantage. Find the one thing that you do and do it well. Sell the problem, not the product. No one cares about your product, they want to solve a problem.
-Frederick Hutson
CEO & Co-Founder, Pigeonly

Closed mouths don't get fed. Do not have any regrets.
-Mandela Dixon
Venture Capital (VC) Veteran

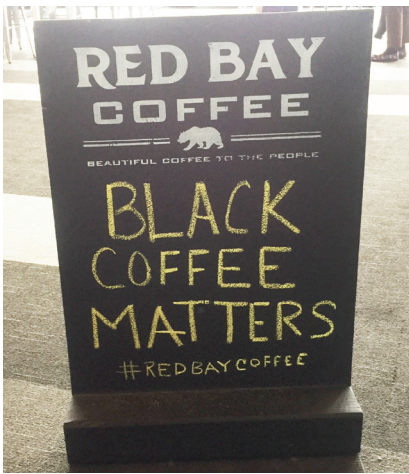
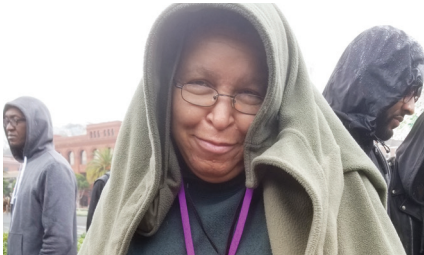
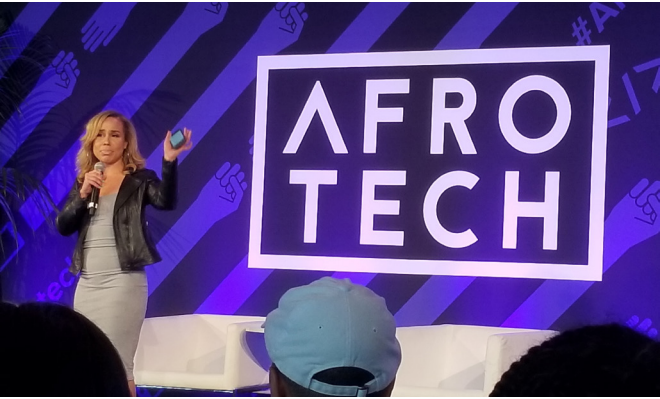
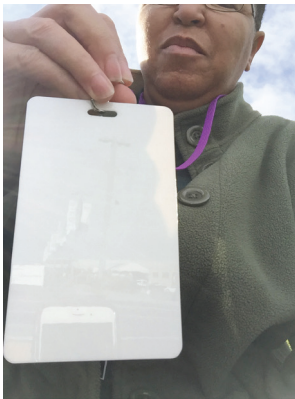
Most people will say no to a new idea. Counterintuitive things create value. People are investing in you and what they think you can deliver.
-Ben Silbermann
CEO & Co-Founder, Pinterest

Spend less time thinking about the product/company you are trying to build and more time thinking about the person you are trying to be.
-Jessica O. Matthews
CEO, Uncharted Energy
Board Chair, Harlem Tech Fund

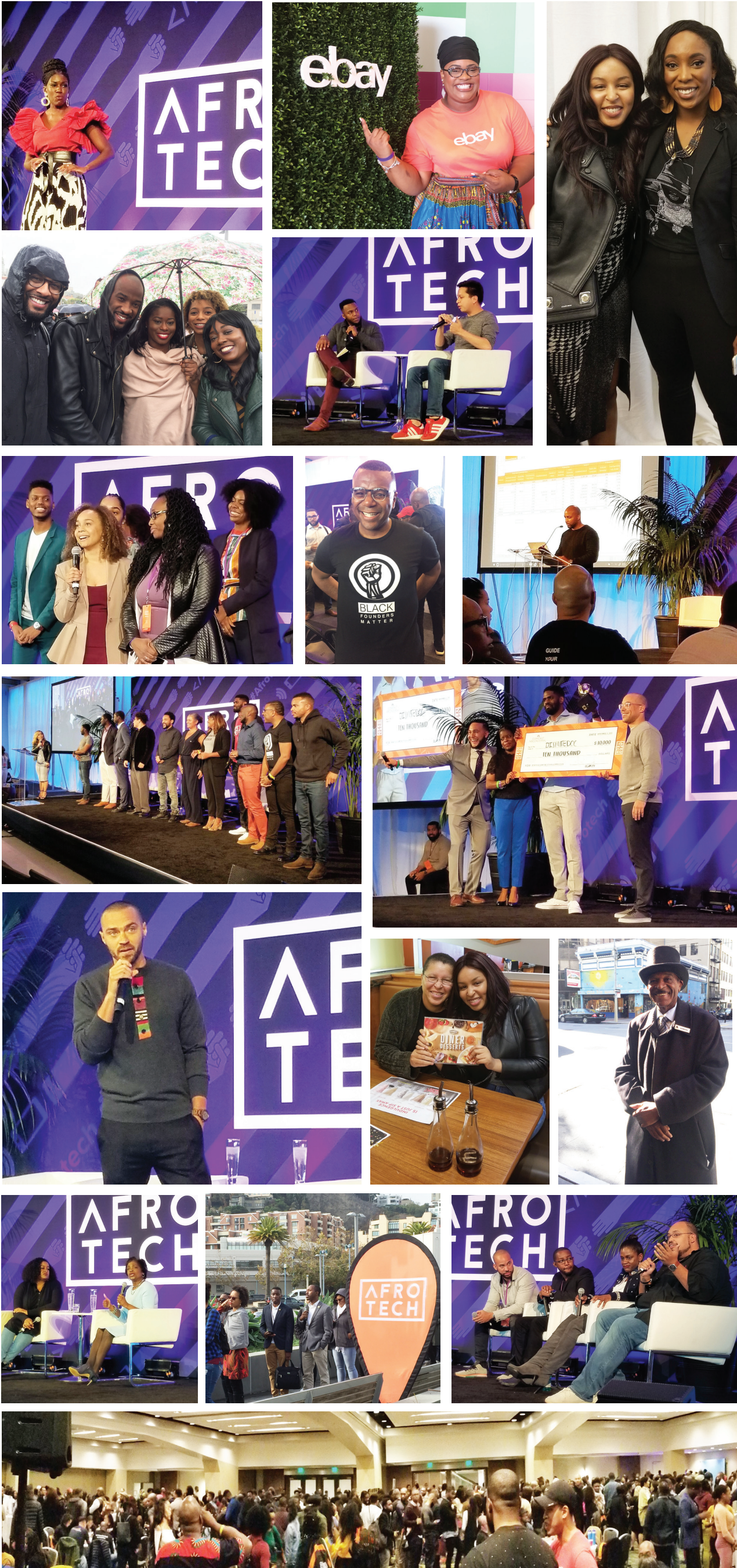
I believe that things in our career have an expiration date. You have to know when the milk is bad.
-Beverly Jackson
VP, Social Portfolio Strategy, MGM Entertainment

Ain't no line in the history of lines that was made for a Black man to be in front of the MF, so you have to create your own line.
-Brandon Nicholson
The Hidden Genius Project

We are good at creating brands, but we rarely own the distribution of those brands. The people who hold the keys to distribution, hold the power. They make the kings and queens.
-Diishan Imira
CEO & Co-Founder, Mayvonn



BLACKS IN TECHNOLOGY



The Most Important Technology

By Renika Williams



Let me start by saying, I don't know anything about technology. Don't get we wrong, I'm a professional googler. I can make my own websites and I am pretty sure my cell phone is beginning to fuse into my hand, but start talking about computer coding or computer development language and I get lost immediately.

We hear about technology companies having diversity issues and how the pool of qualified minority applicants seems to be non-existent. "There are no Black people in tech." "Black people don't know tech." I don't know tech. And then, I went to Afrotech.

Little did my mom or I know, after standing in the pouring rain for about an hour, that past the twisting lines of natural (and not-so-natural) hair and varying shades of black and brown skin, we were walking into a two-day conference that would change our perceptions of ourselves and the ability of our people to succeed in a not-so-Black-friendly world.

There we were, surrounded by almost-two thousand students, entrepreneurs, corporate reps, innovators and inventors—and they all looked like me. It was actually kind of weird. (For a second—then it turned to magic.)

Over the next two days, we heard speeches from people like a former felon, who upon his release, developed the most affordable telecom service for inmates to communicate with their families. A 29-year old Black woman that invented a soccer ball that stores electricity, who then transferred those skills into building an energy grid in Africa. We met powerful Black women and men on boards of powerful companies, and we met venture capitalists that have backed billion-dollar ideas. I met college students with business cards from the companies they had started on their own—from small stores to augmented reality software on par with some of the biggest players in town.

I had never seen so much success, let alone in one room. So many people willing to dream and willing to fight for that dream, but not at the expense of other Black people. The goal was to work together, and to end the crabs-in-a-barrel mentality that leaves us fighting each other for what we are convinced is the only open spot.

I found a lot of pride in my Blackness that weekend, and an extended family of like-minded creatives and techies who want us to band together to strengthen our voice, to demand to be seen, and to take what's ours. The support was palpable. The drive was unstoppable.

I might not know anything about tech, and maybe neither do you, but this conference was not just about tech. Afrotech was about being Black and making a way through all the adversity and hardships that Black people experience. It was about growing our community and encouraging young minds. It was about learning to work together and putting all of our best feet forward. It was about basking in and appreciating our success. Black success!

It was about seeing our community's success in a forum that was pure and unblemished. It was about our stories. It was about changing our history and our futures with the most important technology of all, US.

HOW I SEE IT

Bob Lloyd
4comculture.com

Hoping everyone had a “Blessed” Thanksgiving and looking forward to a Merry Christmas.

For those of you who didn’t find something to be thankful for I found a young man who is overcoming tremendous obstacles. If you would like to read how he is overcoming adversity go to **4comculture.com** and read the story by Sara Saybo. Type REAL CINDERELLA in the search bar at the top of the page.



Graphic Portraits by Robert J. Lloyd

THE TOP 14 POETS OF 95 POETS

The African American who received 2nd prize in the Individual World Poetry Slam competition held in Spokane on October 14 was Anthony McPherson. If you want to hear what he has to say about Black Lives Matter go to:

<http://www.thecollegeagency.com/anthony-mcpherson.html>

To hear each of these poet’s expression of outrage, pain, and euphoria with their take on African America visit **4comculture.com** and type iWPS in the search bar at the top of the page. Click the link on each finalist’s name.

SPOKANE BLACK PARTICIPATION ABSENT

I was hoping to find someone from Spokane who may have competed in the iWPS competition in October, but all of the winners appeared to have come from elsewhere. I looked in the audience and did not see local Black attendees either.

So I connected with local Black poet Steve Pitters whom I met in the 1980’s at the fore-runner of Terrain, 123 Arts, where he organized poetry readings. For the last 14 years he has presented the program Spokane Open Poetry on local station KYRS 88.1/92.3. (NOTE: Steve Pitters is looking for VISUAL, PERFORMING AND LITERARY artists to interview on his program “Spokane Open Poetry”. He doesn’t judge, just allows you to share what you are about.)



African American Open Mic at Auntie’s Bookstore Oct 15.

We discussed how to promote and support African American involvement in the arts, social justice and fighting hate in Spokane. How can we bring Black artists and the social justice community together? I asked Steve to come to our Thursday coffee discussion group. We discussed the need for GRASSROOTS community organizers INSIDE OR OUTSIDE of the two party system. Charles Thomas and Rev. George Taylor are working inside the Democratic Party as Precinct Committee Officers. You may want to volunteer outside he two party system.

We at the First Thursday Discussion Group have discussed how to build the community we would like to live in working in and outside the institutions and now it’s time to take the next step. I would suggest:

1. Have a house party meeting. Open your house. Invite your neighbors to have a discussion about participating in a democratic process built from the grassroots of your community.
2. Meet regularly and report back to a First Thursday coffee discussion group. If you are not currently participating in a First Thursday group, form one with other citizen activists with whom you would like to meet and discuss political, social justice and cultural concerns.
3. Define a job description for what a community organizer might do.
4. If you’ve been marching, protesting, rallying and complaining about your government, you need to go to **MY VOTE WA** online. After logging in with your name and birth date, click on Voter Registration Details to find your precinct number. When was the last time you heard from your Precinct Committee Officer?
5. Next time someone is discussing the political issues of the day you may want to ask them to pull out their cell phone and search **MY VOTE WA**.

Stop HATE and Support JUSTICE

Visit <http://4comculture.com/archives/12022> for the full story

An example of how discussing arts and social justice can lead to action is something that developed during our coffee discussion on the Thursday Steve Pitters visited with us. The issue was the assault of a local African American, Mr. Norris Cooley by two white supremacist neighbors and their subsequent arrest. Some had sent a card of support to Mr. Cooley after the October 11 hate crime but felt that while it was at least something surely there was more that could be done regarding the ever increasing hate crimes in Spokane.

Barb Brock teamed up with Randi Madison of Ammonite Ink who is one of her former EWU students. They came up with thi design and the idea to make December a **Month of Love, Not Hate**. If you would like a yard sign or a T-shirt with the logo to express your dissatisfaction with hate crimes in our community and to support Spokane’s Center for Justice, go to <https://www.ammoniteink.com/shop-1>



WILLIAMS BROTHERS STILL SINGING PRAISES

Duncan Brown Group Brings Gospel Legends to Spokane for Concert at Fox Theater

When members of Spokane’s African American community expressed an interest in having the Stellar Award winning Gospel group, The Williams Brothers, travel to Spokane for a concert, Spokane’s newest African American business, The Duncan Brown group, saw it as an opportunity to do what they do best, build community, and as a result of their hard work and dedication, The Williams Brothers, featuring Melvin Williams, appeared at the Fox Theater on Saturday, November 18.

Melvin Williams kicked the evening off with a solo set, telling the enthusiastic audience to “clap your hands like you’ve got something to be happy about.” His uplifting and heartfelt songs culminated with “Claim It Now”, a song off of his new CD, Where I Started From. He encouraged the audience to join in on the lyrics, “everything God has for me, I claim it now,” and the sounds of voices, upstairs and downstairs, filled the theater.

The Williams Brothers kicked off their set with “Another Blessing”, a Motown-influenced, thank you to God for everything that they have been blessed with. The mood stayed high as they sang “Let It Go”, “Sweep Around Your Own Front Door”, “I’m just a Nobody”, “God is Still Doing What God Does”, a new song off of their upcoming album, and “Withholding Nothing” a moving song that brought the audience to their feet.



Melvin Williams, along with his brother Doug, and Stan Jones have produced gospel classics for Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Gerald Levert, Kirk Franklin, Fred Hammond, and Shirley Caesar, to just a name a few.

Their mission, as they put it, has taken them all over the world, proclaiming the Gospel at such storied venues as Radio City Music Hall, Madison Square Garden, the Apollo Theatre, and the Grand Ole Opry.

Their voices of glory and praise have garnered them 7-Grammy Award nominations, 17- Stellar awards, and 18 top-ten albums.

Melvin also tours internationally, performing, and hosting workshops on The History of Gospel Music and its influence in today’s music, honoring those great Gospel singers that have come before him, like Mahalia Jackson, The Dixie Hummingbirds, and James Cleveland

While the concert was a success in every sense of the word, the event, however, was much more than just a Williams Brothers concert. It was, in fact, a community celebration that also placed local artists in the spotlight. Prior to the Williams Brothers coming out, Pastor Jerry Jones set the mood for the evening by entertaining guests as they arrived. Paula Edmonds shared a powerful version of “Jesus is the Best Thing that Ever Happened to Me”, and Yolanda Kinlow Jones followed with an equally powerful rendition of “My Help Cometh from the Lord.”

One of the highlights of the evening, in addition to the uplifting sounds of the Williams Brothers, was when Michael Bethely, emcee for the evening, orchestrated a church roll call to recognize the churches that were in attendance. As church members began to shout out the names of their churches, Holy Temple, Full Gospel, New Hope, JITA, Calvary, Bethel, Morning Star, New Bride, Refreshing Springs, Mt. Olive, Word of Faith, Spokane Worship Center, Life Center, Victory Faith and Union Gospel Mission, it was apparent that the Duncan Brown Group has accomplished their goal of building community.

The Duncan Brown Group are Community Building and Development Strategists. They are a multi-faceted, female-owned, corporate group, that uses customized coaching and consulting techniques to assist clients with business, professional or personal development and branding, incorporating soul/spiritual based strategies, emotional intelligence and corporate best practices .



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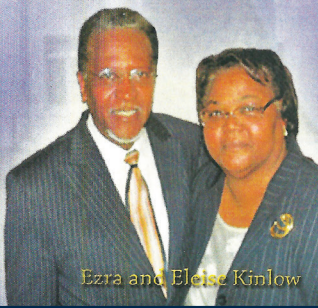
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By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,
if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears



Mysterious Ways

This December is the anniversary of my first column for the Black Lens. Writing Tongues of Fire each month is always a rewarding, if sometimes challenging experience. When I began a year ago, I had no preconceived notion of what the column was going to be. There have been many times in my life when I’ve found myself with a task, but no clear direction. No matter how many times I’ve tried to think myself to a solution, there has never been more than one way to the answer: Let go and let Spirit lead – engage my heart as well as my brain.

Letting Spirit guide means engaging life in Love. If you’re a frequent reader of this column you know that when I speak of Love, I’m not usually talking meek, mild and gentle. I speak of Love that is often intense, fierce and penetrating – Love that is compassionate and empathetic, but sometimes tough. I speak of Love that does not shun a wicked world, but engages the full spectrum of life.

A year ago, this month, Donald Trump had just been elected President of the United States. For millions and millions of Americans, including myself, this was shocking and unimaginable. However, for several million others it was an answered prayer. For those of us opposed to everything Donald Trump is, and everything he stands for, his election was disorienting and threatening. A person elected in spite of, and in some cases because of his racist, sexist, homophobic, and xenophobic agenda, riddled us with anxiety and distrust.

They say God works in mysterious ways. The election of Donald Trump was the event that rekindled the spiritual fire within me. Writing Tongues of Fire quickly became my way of processing and navigating through a cultural milieu of intensified racism, sexism, xenophobia, false Christianity, and an ever-widening cultural and political chasm. I endeavor to do this through a Spiritual lens, and more specifically, a Christian lens. Any honest search for understanding, and integration runs through the terrain of anxiety, frustration, and anger. It is rough country, but it is a necessary part of the journey. At least it has been a necessary part of my journey, especially in this past year.

This is not my pilgrimage alone. If it were, I would be writing in my personal journal, not in a public newspaper. We are interconnected beings, whether we know it or not. A secularist might

say that all of us exist in an infinite field of cosmic energy, inextricably interconnected to one another, and to all that exists. That sounds very scientific, and very impersonal. As a person of Faith, I experience this infinite field as God, and I experience it very personally.

We all exist in the heart of God, even as God exists in our hearts. We carry within us the collective fears, hopes and desires of millions and millions of people. Our separateness feels real to us, and on our usual level of understanding—our usual level of consciousness, it is very real. But under the right circumstances, the illusion of our separateness falls away, and we experience our oneness. We are compassionate and caring. We are empathetic and understanding.

These circumstances are not as rare as we may think, but they are extremely fleeting. The divine spark within us shines after devastating natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, and after senseless human-caused tragedies, like mass shootings. Our moments of human glory are short-lived. Hurricane victims are soon enough abandoned – left to fend for themselves on a sweltering tropical island with no electricity – little food and not enough clean water to drink. We mourn the victims of massive gun violence, but lack the will to prevent it from happening again.

It is customary at year’s end to take a look back at the events that have defined it. Other writers will no doubt provide you the list. We have all lived through the good, the bad, the tragic, and yes, the evil of these last twelve months. It has been a dizzying and often traumatic experience, but I leave 2017 on a note of hope and thanksgiving.

I am grateful to those whose commitment to make the world safer, kinder and more just does not ride on the next disaster. These are the people who marched by the hundreds of thousands in towns and cities across America, championing human rights, civil rights, gender rights and gender freedom. I am grateful for people who came by the hundreds in their wheelchairs to occupy the hallways and offices of Congressional leaders, demanding quality healthcare for all. They chanted even as they are being snatched from those chairs and arrested.

I am grateful for lawyers propelled by compassion and a thirst for justice to move quickly to protect immigrant rights, and block discriminating executive orders. I am thankful for judges who

uphold the Constitution to protect our democracy from forces that would destroy it. Men and women, straight, gay and transgendered, who run for political office at all levels of government to be the change they want to see, give me hope.

I respect and admire the women and men who sacrifice their anonymity and privacy – who risk shame and embarrassment to expose a generations-old system of sexual harassment and misogyny, by publicly calling to account the powerful men who serially abused power and position to sexually intimidate and violate others.

And most personally, I am deeply gratified for people of the Christian Faith who have recently taken to the streets to take back that Faith; who raise their voices to expose religious fanatics who, in the name of Jesus, revile the stranger and publicly condone racism, sexism, homophobia, and sexual predation.

We knew long before Donald Trump was elected that we were blessed to have lived in the time of Barack Obama. Things had not been perfect, but this extraordinary leader had also been an extraordinary human being. Under Obama we were a confident nation. However, perhaps as individuals we had also grown complacent. Donald Trump woke us up. As I said, God works in mysterious ways.

As this intense and often agonizing twelve months comes to a close, I have never been more conscious of the fact that I truly have no idea what tomorrow brings. I do know that I entered 2017 with fear and loathing. I enter 2018 feeling strong and empowered. I entered 2017 fearing the hate of Donald Trump supporters, and hating them right back. Entering 2018 I have a little more understanding of what may have motivated some people to vote for him. I neither fear nor hate them. In January of 2017, love and compassion were buried beneath my fear and uncertainty – my heart was hardened. But this December my heart is far more open. I am resilient. I am hopeful. I am inspired, and I am humbled by the love and courage of Americans of goodwill.

I am also deeply grateful to you, my readers, for the journey we have taken together in 2017. I look forward to our travels in the new year..

Namaste

Rev. Beverly Spears is an ordained American Baptist minister, teacher and preacher of Evolutionary Christianity who currently lives in Northern California.

Seeker of Cosmic Wisdom

By Afaria McKinney



To rise to touch the sky, for better or for poor, I do realize that they will label me insane, I’m mean truly, the last of you here today will not understand when I ask of you if you’re socially awake, the average response will most likely be, “what does that mean exactly.”

Here is where it gets slightly wordy. My definition of awakened would pertain to the belief that one has gone under extensive personal experiences that would have said individual begin to question their own rationality, nationality, and morality. So when they ask, ‘what’s on your mind’, I laugh, because for me to unload the truth, I would first have to teach a class on the process of actually being aware of things that may or may not be within your reach.

Cosmic dreams fill my head with potential realities where things are not quite as fucked up, like whenever you have a racist thought, you immediately shit yourself, then we would know who to avoid when talking about ethnic issues. The bigger the diaper, the less shit they can put up with, and of course I’m not excluding babies from this

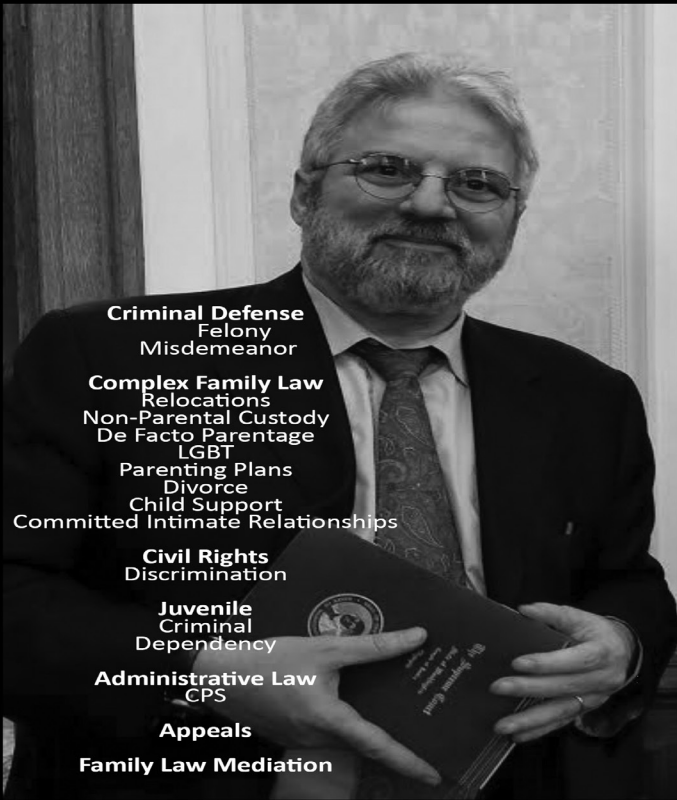
equation. If you ask me, they are the biggest assholes of them all.

I pursue knowledge from every walk of life that I can learn from, so imagine, if you will, the expressions I make as a 25 year old having a full conversation with a 4 year old boy about his aggression issues and his jealousy tendencies, which he addressed for me. Mind you the conversation started with hello, good morning. Not, please sir, step into my office and express to me your emotional baggage.

What does that tell me, if we already have children that are mentally stressed out, either we have not been aware of children’s actual problems and allowed for past generations to get messed up, leading to the infatuated, fractured, infrastructure that we currently allow to run our country.

Or today’s generation is so messed up that no one is going to be stress free by the year 2020, and it will start becoming common place for toddlers to have gray hair and be going to therapy. Now you have to ask yourself ,if what I said makes sense, then which of us is truly crazy?

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HEALTH & MEDICINE

Understanding Cholesterol



By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - If you're not on medicine to lower your cholesterol yet, you might be soon. Recent new guidelines from the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology for prescribing cholesterol-lowering drugs have raised many eyebrows. Based on these guidelines, the number of people in this country who are on statins would double from the almost 1 out of every 4 Americans over the age of 55 currently taking a statin drug!

This is due to the new criteria for prescribing for your doctor. In the past, we all followed our "cholesterol levels" to not be prescribed medication. Now, it all about a 4 questions your doctor will ask.

Among the four questions to ask to determine risks: Do you have heart disease? Do you have diabetes (Type 1 or 2)? Do you have a bad cholesterol level more than 190? And is your 10-year risk of a heart attack greater than 7.5%? Answering yes to any one of these questions means you should be taking a statin drug.

Shortly after this announcement, a growing number of doctors and medical experts say the guidelines have gone too far. So, the debate will undoubtedly continue. No matter what comes out of the discussion, cholesterol is a health topic that we all should understand. Let's look at what cholesterol does and it benefits, as well as can be a risk to our health.

Every cell membrane in our body contains cholesterol because cholesterol is what makes our cells waterproof. When cholesterol levels are not adequate, the cell membrane becomes leaky or porous; a situation the body interprets as an emergency, releasing a flood of corticoid hormones that work by seizing cholesterol from one part of the body and transporting it to areas where it is lacking. Cholesterol is the body's repair substance: scar tissue contains high levels of cholesterol, including scar tissue in the arteries.

Cholesterol is a waxy fat that is present in all human beings. Two sources contribute to the amount of cholesterol in the human body. First, the liver manufactures about 80 percent of it. Second, people consume it by eating animal products such as meat, eggs and dairy products. Cholesterol is carried through the bloodstream by certain proteins.

When these proteins wrap around cholesterol and other types of fats (lipids) to transport them through the bloodstream, the resulting "packages" are called lipoproteins. There are four different types of lipoproteins that carry cholesterol through the bloodstream: High-density lipoproteins (HDL), which are associated with "good" cholesterol; Low-density lipoproteins (LDL), which are associated with "bad" cholesterol; Very-low-density lipoproteins (VLDL), which are associated with "very bad" cholesterol; Chylomicrons, which only carry a small percentage of cholesterol. Chylomicrons are

mostly rich in another type of fat (lipid) called triglycerides.

Cholesterol is the precursor to vitamin D, necessary for numerous biochemical processes in the body, including mineral metabolism. The bile salts, required for the digestion of fat, are made of cholesterol. Those who suffer from low cholesterol often have trouble digesting fats. Cholesterol also functions as a powerful antioxidant, thus protecting us against cancer and aging.

Cholesterol is vital to proper neurological function. It plays a key role in the formation of memory and the uptake of hormones in the brain, including serotonin, the body's "feel-good" chemical. When cholesterol levels drop too low, these serotonin receptors cannot work. Cholesterol is the main organic molecule in the brain, constituting over half the dry weight of the cerebral cortex.

Cholesterol is the forerunner to all the hormones produced in the adrenal cortex of the brain, which regulate blood sugar levels, and mineral corticoids, which regulate mineral balance. Corticoids are the cholesterol-based adrenal hormones that the body uses in response to stress of various types; it promotes healing and balances the tendency towards inflammation. The adrenal cortex also produces sex hormones, including testosterone, estrogen and progesterone, out of cholesterol.

The drugs that doctors use to treat the new disease are called statins--sold under a variety of names including: Lipitor; Zocor; Mevacor; and Pravachol. Cholesterol-fighting drugs, which are taken by millions, are ranked as the most widely prescribed and most profitable drugs in the world.

This overall risk is determined by a combination of factors, including age, gender, family history of heart disease, and whether someone smokes, is overweight, has high blood pressure or diabetes. The higher the risk of heart disease (for example, a male smoker with high blood pressure and diabetes), the greater the need to get cholesterol levels down. But, as stated earlier in this column, what constitutes a healthy cholesterol level is controversial, even among doctors.

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

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan. Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. A health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics, Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. Listen to Glenn, every Saturday at 9:00am (EST) on www.wurdradio.com, and Sundays at 8:30am (EST) on www.wdasfm.com. For more good health information, visit: www.glennellis.com

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Rev. Paul Bigsby: In His Own Words

Continued From page 10

So, did they tell you why you couldn't go to the restaurant to get meatballs?

Yeah, they didn't serve colored people. They told me that. Many of us knew right away. Coming from the Northern states, shall we say, that weren't as tenaciously segregated as it was in the South. They told us, "Look, you're going into a different world down there."

In the North, where we were, you had to sit on the right side of the theater. I remember I was in the Grand Theater in Steubenville, and the fellow came and tapped my mother on the shoulder and says, "Hey, you're too far down." My mother says, "What?" He says, "You've got to get back there." Now, in the largest theaters, you could sit any place as long as it was on the right side.

Black Musicians

At the Capital Theater, when the Black bands would come into town-- Duke Ellington, Count Basie, the street was lined up with Black folks and some white folks. It was a big night. I mean, it was like going to Heaven, you know.

You got to see Peg Leg Bates and his white artificial leg and he was dancing. You had the Ink Spots and they looked like us. It was big entertainment because you got to see your people playing big time. You would buy the 78s and listen to them, but then, you had them right there in Steubenville.

Integrated Neighborhoods

I look back and I think of a lot of things now. World War II was on, and by World War II being on, segregation was still in the North and the South. Some families were friendly but you didn't do a lot of house-visiting. There were some exceptions.

Our classes were integrated and our sports teams were integrated. But you didn't really hang out with each other outside of that. Sometimes we'd sit on the street corner and talk to each other.

See, you have to understand that at this time you didn't talk about the problem in-depth. All the essays were written usually by the white kids, and about how great America was, because we had been told that. But I remember when we would go on school trips we would have to find out ahead of time, can we eat in a restaurant?

Courage

We had Negroes who talked about how tough they were. I remember, we took a lunch break down in one town, even though Blacks usually weren't served there. I said, let's try it. So these guys, you know, would push me around and they were so tough, but I found out one

thing, on social issues they were cowards. I said, come on, let's go to the restaurant and I walked into the place. Here I am, going in there, and I turned around and nobody's there. I see these big Negroes who were telling me how tough they are, and they all took off. Bunch of cowards. [laughs] See, I remember that. I was fourteen.

Our Heritage

So, you started to see how your society really was. Later on, I was saying in my classes, can I tell you the truth, because they were telling me about their heritage. I said, this is not your heritage. We are not English.

I told them, what you don't realize, when we study history, and this is Biblical, when the Israelis were taken into captivity, they were taken in to captivity to be converted. If we were looking at Christian diaries, or Asian diaries, when you took people, you converted them. When you conquered people, you change them. Or you kill them. See, we weren't taught true English history. As your country expands, you change the people. They made us English, see.

See now it's a more exciting time because of genealogy. You'll even see white folks that are African. A few years ago, they wouldn't do that. But there's scientific proof.

Blacks in the Military

So what made you decide to join the military?

I wanted to fly airplanes. In movies you didn't see any Blacks flying. Even though I found that there were a lot of Blacks flying even before World War I.

Who are the Blacks that flew before World War I because I haven't heard that?.

His name was Bullard. (Eugene Bullard). He was flying in France. The war started, so the French let him fly. The Americans wouldn't allow him to fly. He had a good record, but the US wouldn't take him, wouldn't let him fly with them, but the French made him a sergeant. In the French army a sergeant had a lot of authority, and Americans said, "No, we can't". And the Americans would send reports that our troops were not good, but the French sent reports that they were excellent soldiers.

See, even after the Tuskegee Airmen, you still had to fight this white concept that they were the winners.

At this point, we were interrupted and our conversation was abruptly cut short. Thank you for your wisdom Pastor Paul, I will miss our conversations. Rest In Peace and I am sure you are talking up a storm in heaven.

These Financial Vices Keep You Broke and Make You Sick

By Carolyn M. Brown

(Reprinted from: <http://www.blackenterprise.com/money>)

We all have vices. Whether big or small, overt or secret, these nasty little habits can cause major problems when it comes to your finances. The definition of a financial vice is any unnecessary regular expense that you are willing to include in your budget. Often, these financial vices aren't just draining your wallet they are also deteriorating your health.

Here are the top five vices:

1. Coffee.

Basic math tells us that if you buy a latte or specialty coffee every morning—or at least five days a week—for around five bucks then you are spending \$1,000-\$2,000 per year. Buying premium coffee and brewing it at work will save you money. Ground coffee may cost \$7.28 per pound, or just over 16 cents per cup, and \$8-per-pound for whole beans or about 18 cents per cup. So, a 6-ounce cup of coffee at about 17 cents a cup per day that you brew yourself adds up to \$1.19 a week or \$62.05 a year.

2. Fast Food.

Those value menus might be cheap and quick, but add up over time. The costs of \$5 to \$7 at a fast-food restaurant versus cooking at home, which averages out to \$1.50 to \$3 per person, works out to a 40% to 79% savings in favor of homemade food, making it much cheaper to bag your lunch for the job. Think about it. If each month you spend \$350 on groceries and \$650 eating out (between lunches at work and dinner with friends), you are spending \$12,000 a year on food alone. Plus, when cooking at home, you're able to control what ingredients are going into your body.

3. Alcohol.

Don't drink your money away. That buzz could cost you, especially if you hang out at bars or clubs, where prices are usually in the double digits. If a sip of wine now and then does the body good, consider drinking at home. A bottle from your local store is less expensive than a glass at your local hot spot. If you drink three days a week, and have an average of two drinks at each sitting, at \$9 a



drink, you're spending \$234 a month on alcohol. If you drink four or five drinks per sitting that number rises to \$468 or \$585.

4. Cigarettes.

Lighting up may not only kill you, it is expensive. Quitting smoking is like giving yourself a pay raise. Albeit, the cost of smoking cigarettes varies greatly by state and the number of packs smoked. Notwithstanding, someone smoking a pack a day at \$5.25 will spend \$1,916 each year, while at the cost of \$12.85 a pack that yearly amount adds up to \$4,690. Double these amounts if you are a two pack a day smoker. In 10 years, you're wasting about \$50,000 on a bad habit. That's enough to buy a brand new BMW.

5. Lotto.

Yes, Powerball and Mega Millions tickets have rendered grand prizes as high as \$243 million and \$415 million. But playing the numbers isn't a last-minute retirement plan. Stop dreaming and start saving more. There's nothing wrong with putting a couple of bucks toward a lottery ticket every once in a while. Let's say you've gone from shelling out \$2 every month on the lottery to spending \$20 a week. That adds up to \$1,040 over the course of a year. Don't stress out, confusing fantasy with reality. The odds of hitting the Powerball jackpot are 1 in 292,201,338; Mega Millions, 1 in 258,890,850.



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BOOKS/LITERATURE

Spokane Writes: Jackie Rose



The Spokane County Library District is celebrating its 75th anniversary and to commemorate the milestone they issued a call for submissions from local writers of all ages to have their poetry, short stories or essays featured in an upcoming anthology that has been published in both print and digital form. Jackie Rose, answered the call.

Her piece, approximately 200 words, is “a true account of an Idaho close, hands-on encounter with a live red tail hawk.” Jackie’s piece was selected and has been included in the anthology.

In Spokane, you don’t see many (if any) African Americans participating in activities where writing is involved, and this call for submissions was no exception, so when I



heard about Jackie’s submission, I was curious about her background, so I asked her a few questions:

How did you get started writing?

My mother brought home an old typewriter, discarded by the office where she worked, this would have been in the middle 50s, when I was about 6 or 7 years old. I started banging away on it, first copying favorite parts of books I liked, then just making up stories. An only child lives a lot in her imagination, and creates worlds and friends only she can see. Later in life, I wrote a lot of advertising copy, which taught me to get to the point! I also wrote a few children’s books just for friends, and illustrated them.

What role has/does writing play in your life?

All the stories I have - from experience, from imagination - provide a comforting stream of thought that I believe helps keep my 72 year-old brain sharp. Plus, I get real pleasure from creating a striking word image that touches someone else in their heart or spirit. As long as there’ve been humans, we’ve told one another stories to help explain our world, our lives, to share our histories, to draw us closer together.

What prompted you to submit your writing for the anthology?

Beats me! I saw the poster and just thought why the heck not? Being retired can make you a little reckless that way!

What value do you think writing has for the African American community?

Writing is an incredibly effective way to add our voices to local, national, and international conversations. The African-American community has such an inspiring story of resilience, strength, and - yes - laughter to share. We can laugh like nobody else, you know it! I want so much for our young folks to come out writing, whether digitally,



with an old pencil, on a grocery bag, or some kind of way, and our elders to come out writing to tell us all they know before we lose their stories.

The library is considering starting a Diverse Voices writing group. If the library’s diverse voices writing group gets going, I want to see all of y’all bringing it!!

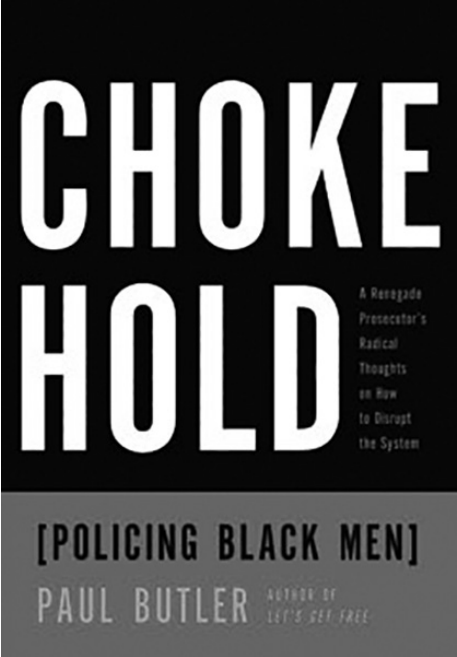
To purchase a copy of the Spokane Writes Anthology that includes Jackie’s story, visit: <https://www.scldfriends.org/anthology>. For more information about the Diverse Voices Writing Group, contact Sharma Shields, Spokane County Library District, at 509-893-8400 or sshields@sclcd.org

Chokehold: Policing Black Men | Beyond the Messy Truth



Cops, politicians, and ordinary people are afraid of black men. The result is the Chokehold: laws and practices that treat every African American man like a thug. In this explosive new book, an African American former federal prosecutor shows that the system is working exactly the way it’s supposed to. Black men are always under watch, and police violence is widespread—all with the support of judges and politicians.

In his no-holds-barred style, Butler, whose scholarship has been featured on 60 Minutes, uses new data to demonstrate that white men commit the majority of violent crime in the United States. For example, a white woman is ten times more likely to be raped by a white male acquaintance than be the victim of a violent crime perpetrated by a black man. Butler also frankly discusses the problem of black on black violence and how to keep communities safer—without relying as much on police.



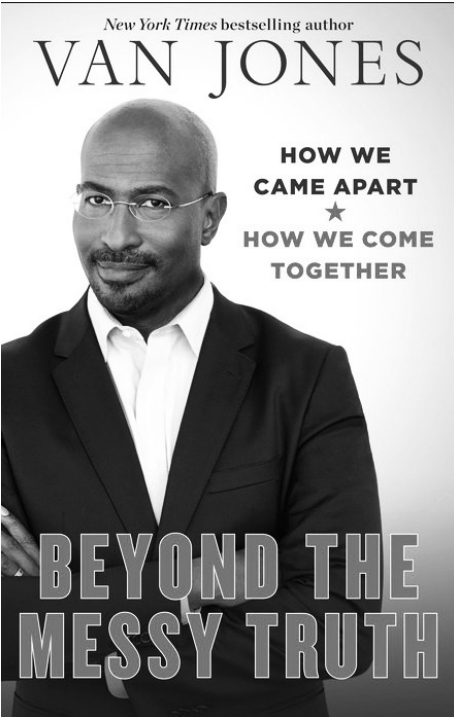
Chokehold powerfully demonstrates why current efforts to reform law enforcement will not create lasting change. Butler’s controversial recommendations about how to crash the system, and when it’s better for a black man to plead guilty—even if he’s innocent—are sure to be game-changers in the national debate about policing, criminal justice, and race relations.

In Beyond the Messy Truth, Van Jones offers a blueprint for transforming our collective anxiety into meaningful change.

Tough on Donald Trump but showing respect and empathy for his supporters, Jones takes aim at the failures of both parties before and after Trump’s victory. He urges both sides to abandon the politics of accusation and focus on real solutions. Calling us to a deeper patriotism, he shows us how to get down to the vital business of solving, together, some of our toughest problems.

“The entire national conversation today can be reduced to a simple statement—‘I’m right, and you’re wrong,’” Jones has said. But the truth is messier; both sides have flaws. Both parties have strayed from their highest principles and let down their core constituencies.

In explaining how he arrived at his views, Jones shares behind-the-scenes memories from his decades spent marching and protesting on behalf of working people, inspiring stories of ordinary citizens who became champions of their communities, and little-known examples



of cooperation that have risen from the fog of partisan conflict.

In his quest for positive solutions, Van Jones encourages us to set fire to our old ways of thinking about politics and come together where the pain is greatest.



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OUR VOICES

My Commitment Will Not Falter

By Jesse Jackson

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - As you may have heard, I have hard news to share. After a battery of tests, my physicians have informed me that I am suffering from Parkinson's disease, the very disease that bested my father. For the last three years, I have felt some of the effects.

I have found it increasingly difficult to perform routine tasks. Getting around became more of a challenge. Now I know why. Parkinson's is an incurable, progressive disorder of the nervous system. It affects movement and often mood. More than 1 million Americans live it, with 60,000 diagnosed each year. It is the second most common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer's. Men are more likely to contract it than women; the elderly more at risk than the young.

There is no cure for Parkinson's but there are plenty of ways to slow its progress. For me, the diagnosis is not a stop sign, but a warning light that I must make lifestyle changes and dedicate myself to physical therapy to slow the disease's progression. This diagnosis is personal but it is more than that. I will use my voice to help in finding a cure for a disease that afflicts 7 million to 10 million worldwide.

I plan to visit pharmaceutical companies and research centers to learn what is being done and what is needed to move forward. I have fought for universal, affordable health care for years. With Donald Trump's budget calling for unconscionable cuts in medical research and disease prevention, and with the House Republicans voting to eliminate the tax deduction for families with



high medical expenses and continuing to try to roll back health care coverage, millions of families will be injured. Health care in this rich nation should be a right, not a privilege. People suffering from cancer, dementia, Parkinson's and other afflictions should be able to focus on their medical challenges without having to worry about going bankrupt. My habits must change, but my commitment will not falter.

On July 17, 1960, I was arrested, along with seven other college students, for advocating for the right to use a public library in my hometown of Greenville, S.C. That day changed my life forever. From that experience, I lost my fear of being jailed for a righteous cause. I went on to meet Dr. King and to dedicate myself to the fight for peace and justice. Now at 76, I've come too far to turn back now. I'd still rather wear out than rust out. I will continue to work on behalf of the "least of these."

I'll continue to try to instill hope where there is despair, to expand our democracy, to comfort the stranger, to free innocent prisoners across the world. As a civil rights advocate, I faced clubs and hoses, jail and hate. As a presidential candidate, I faced a deluge of assassination threats. I've been blessed with a long life, while others were taken from us. Each challenge, each threat, each loss only made me redouble my efforts. This diagnosis jarred me, but it won't knock me down.

I want to thank my family and friends who have rallied to my side. I will need your prayers and graceful understanding as I undertake this new challenge. As we continue in the struggle for human rights, remember that God will see us through, even in our midnight moments. These times are troubled. We are tested once more, but together, we will Keep Hope Alive.

The Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, is one of America's foremost civil rights, religious and political figures. Over the past forty years, he has played a pivotal role in virtually every movement for empowerment, peace, civil rights, gender equality, and economic and social justice. <https://rainbowpush.org>.

The Blind Eye By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — The 2016 film, Birth of a Nation, was released in a storm of controversy unrelated to the film itself. Whatever your opinion of the film or its maker, one cannot deny the relevance of the film as a medium of historical instruction and a study of human behavior.

Although I was aware of the systemic treatment of slaves, I found it interesting to revisit that system which forced slaves to become the instruments of their own oppression. The Nat Turner character was a compelling, charismatic and persuasive speaker. He was perfect as the slave-yard preacher who, through his words, personality and 'approved' biblical message, evoked from other slaves passive compliance to their masters' will and acceptance of their own inferior humanity.

When I was young, I thought that only Black slaves and some of their ancestors were conditioned by that system of biblical brainwashing. With the enlightenment of maturity and experience, I realized that while not necessarily victims, many whites, whether slaveholder or not, have willingly become captive to that same biblically-based myth of white-male superiority. As with slavery, they vigorously and viciously defend this myth and use biblical interpretations as justification for the situational ethics and intolerance that has become their basis for claiming "rightness" in all matters.

Currently, central to this issue is the Alabama US Senate race and allegations of sexual abuse of juvenile females by GOP candidate Roy Moore. While most believe or won't declare these allegations false, roughly 50% of Alabama voters still support Moore. Some base their support on his Christian values. Others claim partisan loyalty to Republicans/against Democrats. Under conventional norms, no reasoning could justify elevat-



ing an alleged pedophile to one of the most prestigious elected positions in the nation, but these are not conventional times.

If true to their professed Christian beliefs, those supporting Moore would condemn him as a pedophile. If true to principled, ethical governance, those supporting Moore would choose his opponent or coalesce around a more suitable write-in candidate. So we must ask, "WHY? What quality does Moore possess that commands loyalty in the face of such disrepute?"

Some say he's being unjustly persecuted or that his contributions to Alabama supersede any of his "minor" perversions. Others claim him victim to a double-standard of treatment without considering the criminal nature of

the "alleged" offense for which he or any other criminal sex offender should/could be punished.

Like my fellow activist and cleric, Reverend Dr. William Barber, I believe that Moore supporters embrace a distorted religiosity which sacrifices, if you will, principled, Christian behavior to the altar of racial superiority. All this for the purpose of perpetuating racial dominance to whatever extent and/or for however long possible.

There is a sense of urgency for those using their "Republican Christianity" as justification for their situational ethics, as well as for those who are simply racist without the veil of Christianity. They demonstrate a fear of the impending demographic shift that will ultimately eliminate their numerical superiority. Consciously or subconsciously, they recognize that the "White Privilege" they currently enjoy will dwindle into nothingness and their greatest fear - meritorious competition - will become a reality. This has been proven to my satisfaction with the recent news report that, because they must now compete with minorities for jobs, whites think they have become victims of discrimination.

The current political climate is conducive to their interests. #45 recognized and appealed to the fears that shape their concerns. Even he has been given a "pass" to violate established norms and customs of courtesy and decorum for the purpose of slowing the progress of justice and equity.

Their mistake is to believe that we will accept an inferior status and continue to turn a blind eye to injustice!

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. www.nationalcongressbw.org. 202/678-6788)

OUR VOICES

African American Studies: Strong. Vibrant. Resilient

By Dr. Elwood Watson, PhD

(blackcommentator.com) To the acute observer of higher education, these are no doubt heady times for academia. From rising tuition, intense student protests, debates over trigger warnings and speech codes. Professors of various political persuasions being attacked and continual eroding of support from state legislatures. The liberal arts coming under searing skepticism and in some cases, hostile siege, from various segments of the public. Anxious parents who are growing increasingly skeptical as they aggressively inquire and raise sharply pointed questions about shelling out, thousands and in some cases, hundreds of thousands of dollars for their kids to earn a humanities degree whose value seems to have eroded both, in the minds of the public and of employers. It has been anything but dull.

To be sure, the humanities (and to a lesser degree, social sciences) have always com under periodic attack from various quarters. The reasons have varied from being seen as too overly theoretical. Supposedly being infested with radical, left wing ideologues at the expense of conservative thought. Having no practical, real world value outside of the classroom. Lacking any concrete answers and other nonsensical blather. The list goes on and on and that is another entire column.

While no academic discipline (including those in the hard sciences) has been totally immune from criticism, and is the occasional victims of slings and arrows, there are very few, if any disciplines (with the possible exception of Women's Studies), that has come under the level of vehement criticism as African American Studies. It is field of study that has bucked, scorned, vilified, demonized and some cases, ostracized form people from various walks of life. Including some Black folk! Indeed, the level of animosity and contempt toward the discipline by some people was so intense, that some scholars in the field would occasionally joke (sarcastically, yet with a grain of truth) that African American Studies was the Rodney Dangerfield of academia. The reasons for such disdain vary. Racism, elitism, xenophobia, nativete, misinformation and so on.

African American Studies programs and departments emerged in the late 1960s as groups of progressive Black students on college campuses protested and agitated that the colleges and universities they attended develop academic curricula that reflected their lives and experiences. After were what , in some cases, intense standoffs, many institutions relented and adhered to such demands. San Francisco State University (at the time college) was the first institution in the nation to establish a department of African American Studies in 1968. This was significant milestone in the history of higher education.

Now, almost half a century later, such departments and programs are commonplace at hundreds of institutions in every region of the nation. From small liberals arts colleges to high powered, research 1 institutions. From coast to coast the discipline has firmly etched itself in the fabric of the academy. In fact, many programs and departments offer graduate degrees and a few Ph.D.'s. The discipline is home to some of the world's most renowned and high profile scholars such as Henry Louis Gates Jr, William Julius Wilson, Cornel West, Molefi Asante, Hazel Carby, Elizabeth Alexander, Michael Dyson, Michael Dawson, Robin Kelly and many, many others. African American Studies has arrived.

Such good news does not mean that all is well. The cold, hard truth is that many programs and departments face, reluctant and tepid institutional commitment. Chronic lack of funding from its institutions. Apprehensive students and fluctuating enrollments. Negative perceptions



from its detractors are routinely commonplace as well. The aforementioned statement is a major obstacle.

Such perennial beliefs are:

The discipline is lightweight and devoid of any sufficient rigor.

Such denunciations tend to emanate from the political and cultural right. Naomi Schaefer Riley, currently a conservative columnist for the New York Post wrote a scathingly ignorant, ill informed and racist column several years ago when she was a contributing writer for the Chronicle of Higher Education denouncing African American Studies as a legitimate discipline due to the titles of a few dissertations she had glanced at! Yes! You read that correctly Ms Schaefer Riley decided to make herself judge, jury and executioner, discard an entire field of study and subsequently call for its extinction from the academy! Reaction was swift and Riley was dismissed from the Chronicle. for her foolhardy and simple minded comments Moreover, as someone who is a scholar in the discipline, I can personally attest to the fact that such a retrograde is nonsensical and misguided.. African American Studies a discipline that encompasses history, religion, philosophy, literature, fine arts, economics, medicine, technology, psychology, geography, politics, gender, health, ...the list goes one is the epitome of cross disciplinary scholarship. The discipline personified interdisciplinary before such integration of fields of study became trendy or popular.

Scholars who teach African-American studies are radical, angry and wish to impose and Anti -White agenda.

While such charges could apply to a few (very few) professors, the fact is that such a mindset does not represent the vast majority of Black Studies scholars. In fact, many Black studies scholars are often very inclusionary in the classroom and their scholarship. Much more so than scholars in similar fields of study. In fact, one could argue that some other disciplines are far less diverse in embracing a plethora of diverse viewpoints in the curriculum. The fact is that you can find myopic scholars and intellectually mental midgets in any discipline.

What are you going to do with a degree in African American Studies?

I am certain that many of us who are Black have heard someone (frequently another Black person) question the practicality of earning a degree in Black studies. I even

heard this argument among some of my relatives when I was an undergraduate student. Guess what? A number of years later, they have seen the results. Elementary or secondary education, urban planning, diversity training, consulting, politics, higher education, journalism, public relations, law, administration, international relations, entertainment, government work etc... are a few of the employment possibilities available to students who major in the discipline. In many cases, African American Studies majors are just as, if not, more qualified for a variety of jobs than many of their co-horts from other disciplines. Ask Bill Whitaker, (prominent broadcast journalist,) Mae Jemison, (astronaut) Angela Bassett (acclaimed Oscar nominated actress) Jill Nelson (prolific author, journalist and public commentator) Sanaa Latham (actress), Michelle Obama (former first lady and public spokesperson).

I am Black. There is no need for me to major in African American studies.

Many Black students assume that because they are Black, there is no need for them to waste their time in taking such courses or majoring in a field that they believe they are an expert in. Such rhetoric is occasionally espoused by some Black academics in other disciplines. They are wrong on a multitude of levels. Simply being a member of a certain ethnic group does not automatically embody a person with ample knowledge about the experiences, struggles and history of that particular group. While one could expect (or even tolerate) a certain degree of ignorance from young, undergraduate college students or even some non-Blacks for that matter, it is much more disappointing to hear such bloviated rhetoric espoused by fellow Black academics.

For example, a little over decade ago, I was at an academic conference in a Midwestern city. I was part of a conversation with several other 30ish/early 40ish Black academics discussing our respective institutions, families, scholarship, career goals, etc. The conversation eventually moved to African-American studies. Two of the individuals in question attempted to make the same antiquated argument that the field was, in essence, subpar. OKAY! Now as you can imagine, this set off a spirited, yet civil, debate among most of us in attendance. The vast majority of us were proponents. However, there were some fellow colleagues who were dismissive, or at the very least, ambivalent about the discipline. The fact that these were educated Black academics made such an experience even more disheartening. It was if the slave mentality or right wing rhetoric had seized a part of their brain and taken over common sense and better judgment.

Just as Irish studies, gender studies, Jewish studies, Latino Studies, Asian Studies and other areas of ethnic and cultural studies have played a vital role in transforming cultural attitudes and public policy toward their respective groups, African American Studies has been similarly effective in providing more information and clarity fellow African Americans and the larger society as a whole. It is a vital area of academic study that has proved its legitimacy.

Ever-shrinking economic budgets, ongoing dissent and derision in certain quarters, pernicious myths and stereotypes aside, African American Studies still survives as an important area of academic inquiry. Like the people of African descent, it is strong, resilient, impervious. A survivor in the truest sense of the word.

BlackCommentator.com Guest Commentator, Dr. Elwood Watson, PhD is Professor of History, African American Studies and Gender Studies at East Tennessee State University. He is the co-author of Violence Against Black Bodies: An Intersectional Analysis of How Black Lives Continue to Matter (New Critical Viewpoints on Society Series). Contact Dr. Watson.

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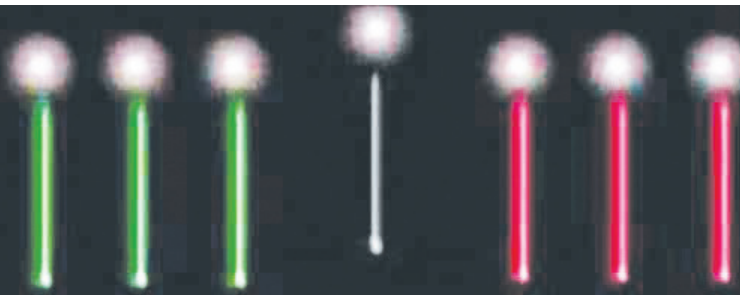
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DECEMBER EVENTS

DECEMBER 7

RISE UP FILM FESTIVAL

Join First Night Spokane and Hit the Trail Productions Thursday December 7th, as we view the 5 short film submissions for our Rise Up (R.U.F.F) Film Festival.

7pm

Garland Theater

924 W. Garland Ave, Spokane

Tickets available at firstnightspokane.org

DECEMBER 8

WHOSE STREETS?

Black Lens documentary screening and community conversation. Whose Streets is an unflinching look at the Ferguson uprising told through the eyes and voices of the activists and leaders who lived and breathed a movement for justice.

7pm-9pm

Magic Lantern Theatre

25 W Main, Spokane

One night only! Seating is limited. \$12 Tickets available at blacklensnews.com

Sponsored by Friends of the Black Lens.

DECEMBER 9

COFFEE TASTING EVENT

A Fundraiser to Benefit the Southeast Daycare Center

Come experience unique coffees from around the world to benefit the Southeast Daycare Center located in East Central

8:30am - 11am

Indaba Coffee

1425 W Broadway Ave, Spokane

\$15 donation. Complimentary SEDC

Signature Coffee. Sponsored by League of Women for Community Action.

DECEMBER 13

FUSE BOOK CLUB - HOLIDAY READ-A-THON

In December, everyone participating will choose a diverse book to read, read it, and then share it at the meeting. Part of the gathering will include exchanging our books with each other.

Fuse Book Club meets the second Wednesday of every month to expand our knowledge and deepen the connections we have to each other & our community.

6:00pm -8:00pm

Spokane Public Library (Downtown) Board Room, top level

906 W. Main Street, Spokane

Free, inclusive, welcoming, open to the public. The book is available at the Spokane library, at Auntie's, and typical online retailers. Questions email Erin at EJToungate@gmail.com

DECEMBER 14

JUSTICE NIGHT

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

5:30-7:00pm

Native Project

1803 W. Maxwell, Spokane

Questions? Center for Justice: 509-835-5211

Send information about upcoming community events to sandy@black-lensnews.com or call 509-795-1964.

DECEMBER 14

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON EDUCATION

You are invited to join this Education Dialogue to explore the question "How can we form an educational system that creates good people where everyone belongs?" through stories of from own experiences. We will be using an approach called StoryBridge that we used successfully in mid-November to explore our Innovation Stories.

4:30pm - 7:30pm

Community Minded TV

104 W 3rd Ave, Suite B, Spokane

Doors open at 4:30 with refreshments. Program begins at 5:00

Register at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/education-dialogues-2-student-voices-tickets-40037791111> (If the link does not work – copy and paste)

For more information contact Sandra Jarrard, LEV (sandra@educationvoters.org) or Mike Poutiatine, AIER (makalu1@earthlink.net)

DECEMBER 14

PEACE AND JUSTICE ACTION LEAGUE HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Join PJALS for social justice carols and the warmth of our community of action. Kids welcome. New folks welcome

5:30pm - 8:00pm

Community Building Lobby

35 W. Main, Spokane

For more information contact PJALS at 509-838-7870. www.pjals.org

DECEMBER 16

A GOSPEL CHRISTMAS

Bethely Entertainment Group presents Yolanda Jones and friends with the soulful sounds of Christmas.

6:00pm

The Gathering House Cafe

733 W. Garland, Spokane

Tickets \$10 and available online at <http://www.bethelyentertainment.com>

DECEMBER 18

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting

7:00pm

Community Building - Lobby

35 W. Main Street, Spokane WA

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

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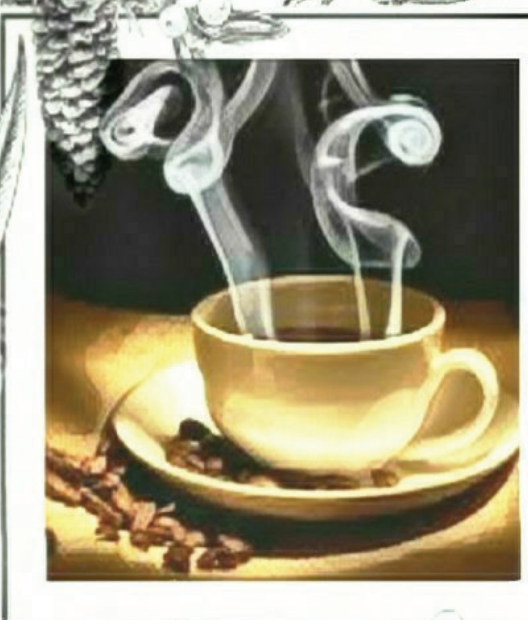
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WHOSE STREETS?

WE WILL NOT GO QUIETLY



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 - 7PM

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