

# THE WASHINGTON *Informer*

VOL. 51, NO. 16 JAN. 28 - FEB. 3, 2016



Don't Miss This Month's Issue of the WI BRIDGE - Center Section

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WASHINGTON INFORMER EXCLUSIVE

## Tavis Smiley Makes 'A Covenant' With Blacks



▲ Tavis Smiley / Courtesy photo

By Stacy M. Brown  
WI Senior Writer

A decade ago, Tavis Smiley made a covenant with Black America.

Now the popular talk show host, advocate and entrepreneur has released a follow-up to his 2006 book, "The Covenant."

Smiley has released "The Covenant With Black America: 10 years later," in which he presents his original action plan alongside new data from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

In an exclusive interview with The Washington Informer, Smiley said the new information underscores missed opportunities and the hard work that remains.

"All across America, the vicious assault on the civil and human rights

**TAVIS** [Page 8](#)



▲ It is never too cold to stop and help someone along the way as one woman demonstrates in downtown D.C. by generously taking off her gloves and giving a donation to a homeless gentleman at the start of winter blizzard Jonas on Friday, Jan. 22. / Photo by Travis Riddick.

## Washington, East Coast Region Walloped by Record Snowfall

*Clean Up Efforts Underway but Many Complain of Unplowed Roads*

By D. Kevin McNeir  
WI Editor

The blizzard that hit the East Coast last week, with swirling winds measuring up to 50 mph and record-breaking accumulations of 22, 26 and 42 inches in the Washington, D.C., New York City's Central Park and portions of West

Virginia, respectively, continues to impact millions of citizens.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser lifted the snow emergency on Wednesday, Jan. 27, allowing cars to once again park on snow emergency routes, schools in the District re-opened after being closed since last Friday, and the area's airports opened more runways in efforts to return to business as usual. Metro

also resumed train and bus services. And the federal and D.C. governments, closed since Monday, said their employees would be back in their offices on Wednesday, although on a slightly delayed schedule.

But the blizzard's impact on

**BLIZZARD** [Page 5](#)

## D.C. Native Appointed to UMMS Board

By Stacy M. Brown  
WI Senior Writer

He attended Theodore Roosevelt High School in Northwest and later graduated from Howard University.

Now, District native and retired Judge of the U.S. District Court for Maryland, Alexander Williams Jr. has been appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan along with six other veteran community leaders to serve on the University of Maryland Medical System Board Of Directors.

"I grew up in Northwest and I love how D.C. has grown and come on," Williams said. "And, although I get back to D.C. as often as I can, I'm a Marylander now and it is a high honor and a privilege that the governor has appointed me to this board."

Williams, who in 1994 was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Federal Court, will serve a five-year term on the board that's already comprised with some of Maryland's most prolific community members who are charged with helping the hospital grow, raise funds, and find a better way to help city residents with health problems.

"These six highly-qualified individuals bring a diverse spectrum of experience and expertise to the UMMS Board of Directors and will be valuable additions as the Board sets the direction for our non-profit health system in the years to come," Robert A. Chrencik, president and chief executive officer of the University of Maryland Medical System said in a news release.

"The Maryland healthcare environment continues to evolve and our system must continue to be flexible in

**WILLIAMS** [Page 11](#)



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# Social Sightings

The CoLumn

Is Everywhere!

By Dr. Charles Vincent & "Mickey" Thompson Vincent



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## Arlington Links Host "Party With A Purpose"

The Arlington Links hosted a holiday party with a purpose. The event supported several partners including Hopkins House Assoc., Northern Virginia Urban League, Hoffman Boston Elementary School. The tree dangles served to help babies in Haiti with AIDS. It was a splendid blend of holiday fun and helping the community. We tip our hat to Arlington Link President Evie Brown and her Arlington Links for a job well done, as always.



Evie Brown  
(Pres. Arlington Links) with her  
hubby George



A Link Ethel Walker Lee



Event Committee Membrs. A Links Julia  
Pollard, Felicia Welch, Erin Hatton & Ra-  
chel English



A Link Dr. Janette Harris &  
OD Link Dianne Hardison



A Link Julia Pollard with  
hubby Joe



A Link Hon. Shirley Watkins  
& Kirk Bowden with Dr. Joyce  
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Tree Dangles  
A Links Helen Bown & Erin  
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Guest with A Link Dr. Nikki  
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Social Sightings-The CoLumn is published in The Washington Informer Newspaper  
the Hill Rag, DC Mid-City, & East of the River Journals,

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## BRIDGE

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THE WASHINGTON INFORMER NEWSPAPER (ISSN#0741-9414) is published weekly on each Thursday. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. and additional mailing offices. News and advertising deadline is Monday prior to publication. Announcements must be received two weeks prior to event. Copyright 2016 by The Washington Informer. All rights reserved. POSTMASTER: Send change of addresses to The Washington Informer, 3117 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20032. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. The Informer Newspaper cannot guarantee the return of photographs. Subscription rates are \$45 per year, two years \$60. Papers will be received not more than a week after publication. Make checks payable to:

THE WASHINGTON INFORMER  
3117 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20032  
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# WI HOT TOPICS

COMPILED BY D. KEVIN MCNEIR / WI EDITOR

## Deadline for 2016 Healthcare Enrollment Approaches



If you haven't enrolled in for healthcare, you only have a few more days. After that, you'll face penalties from the Internal Revenue Service.

The final day to enroll for this year is Sunday, Jan. 31. That will guarantee that you have health insurance as required by the Affordable Care Act [ACA], also referred to as Obamacare.

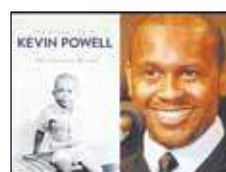
Every American must be enrolled in an ACA-compliant health insurance plan in 2016 or face a tax penalty of \$695/adult or 2.5 percent of your income, whichever is higher.

Both subsidized and affordable health insurance are available.

Over 11.6 million Americans have already enrolled for 2016. A record number of uninsured U.S. citizens now have health insurance because of the ACA.

If you still need to enroll, go to [www.healthcaremarketplace.com](http://www.healthcaremarketplace.com) or call 800-219-7214.

## Kevin Powell's "Education" – an Uplifting Tale of His Journey to Manhood



Author, journalist and activist Kevin Powell has penned a powerful and personal story that deals with the question of what becomes of a little Black boy, raised in poverty, reared with tough love and rejected by his father.

In "The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy's Journey Into Manhood," he offers his life story as an often painful but redemptive tale that can provide a plethora of teachable moments for those seeking to assist young Black boys safely maneuver

the path from boyhood to manhood.

Compared to the seminal text "Manchild In the Promised Land, published in 1965 by Claude Brown, Powell shares his memories of growing up in the South, then later attempting to overcome the physical, emotional and physical challenges of life in an urban ghetto.

Powell, 49, leaves nothing to the imagination, including the admission of several violent episodes lodged against women, emotional outbursts that he displayed in college that would escalate to the point of almost destroying his career and how he eventually found solace and salvation by reading the works of writers like Pearl Cleage and Audre Lorde.

By facing his own demons and peeling back the false image he long exuded that he skillfully cloaked in anger, Powell illustrates the power and freedom that comes when one seeks the help of others and takes the needed time for self-examination. In the end, he's able to exit the darkness associated with dysfunctional emotions into a new world wrought with possibilities. And he educates all of us in a way that gives the hopeless a new sense of hope.

## Obama Orders Reform for Imprisoned Juveniles and Mental Healthcare



On Monday, Jan. 25, President Barack Obama announced an immediate end of the practice of juvenile offenders being placed in solitary confinement in the federal prison system. He described the action as one excessively used with potentially life-altering and negative psychological results.

The president utilized his power of executive action to make the change, also instituting reform that will result in an expansion in treatment for mentally ill prisoners.

It is estimated that the new reforms will impact about 10,000 inmates.

Obama's decision of advancing criminal-justice reform came after his review of an analysis by the Justice Department on how the use of solitary confinement as a disciplinary action within the U.S. Bureau of Prisons impacts prisoners.

The latest move reflects Obama's willingness to address questions of race and criminal justice that have often been viewed as taboo subjects. He has already begun working on developing programs that will help ex-offenders rejoin society once they have served their time.

Studies show that those placed in solitary confinement had an almost 25 percent higher recidivism rate than those placed in less-restrictive housing. In addition, those who were isolated in solitary confinement were shown to be more likely to commit violent crimes upon their release.

Recent statistics show that close to 100,000 prisoners in state and federal facilities are placed in solitary confinement at any given time – a policy that the White House and a growing number of states have chosen to recently end.

The president in speaking about his decision, said "In America, we believe in redemption."

## Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Teens Facing Mandatory Life Sentences



The Supreme Court has ruled that individuals sentenced as teens to mandatory life imprisonment must have the opportunity to argue that they be released from prison.

The ruling, announced on Monday, Jan. 25, expands the Supreme Court's 2015 decision which struck down mandatory life terms without parole for juveniles, adding that it must be instituted retroactively to cases that some believe will impact up to 1,500 cases.

Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Michigan have the majority of juvenile prisoners who will benefit from the recent ruling at over 1,100 inmates. In those three states, officials had determined that the 2012 ruling was not retroactive.

The Court, in a series of recent cases, has determined that juveniles, even those convicted of the most heinous of crimes, must be treated differently than adults. However, the ruling did not come without heated debate among the members of the Court.



▲ A bobcat tractor is used to move and pack excess snow from the Jonas blizzard of 2016 blizzard at RFK Stadium in Lot 7. More than 50 commercial dump trucks are expected to unload snow in an effort to clear city streets and highways for safe travel. / Photo by Patricia Little

## BLIZZARD from Page 1

life in the Greater Washington Area remains evident – and it inevitably will for weeks to come.

Residents in many neighborhoods continue to lament over unplowed roads. Others have either found their cars towed or have been unable to dig their automobiles out of huge snow drifts created by snow removal services as they cleared away the mounds of snow.

As for area schools, citizens should continue to check updates in order to determine when classes will re-open. Schools in the District re-opened on Wednesday, Jan. 27 with other school systems in Montgomery and Prince George's counties expected to open their doors again by Thursday.

On Sunday, as the snow finally stopped falling, cleanup efforts were ramped up as workers tried to clear away vital roadways, highways and streets normally used by first responders.

Bowser urged patience and continued to give updates in efforts to keep citizens safe. And for the most part, the majority of residents heeded her advice. Still, some people found it impossible to stay indoors, taking to the streets for slow-moving walks, creating their own footpaths.

It will be awhile before we'll see all of the snow gone and the East Coast can return to its normal pace. In all, at least 75 million people felt the brunt of the blizzard, from Arkansas to southern New England. In the Mid-Atlantic along the New England coast, coastal flooding and beach erosion have destroyed or damaged millions of homes and businesses.

And if you're in a hurry to get somewhere, remember that all roads are still not clear. It's going to take you a bit longer to reach your destination.

## FAMILIES FIND BENEFITS IN STORM

Like the millions of residents from New Jersey to Virginia, Jeanne Wood of Clarksburg, Maryland was not happy about being stuck in the house after Mother Nature's wintery precipitation paralyzed her neighborhood. She complained about the slow snow removal and fretted over the cars stranded in the snow – then something interesting happened. Wood found herself actually enjoying the extra time inside the house.

The storm, she said, caused her family to slow down and enjoy their time together. She and her husband, Michael, and daughters Micah, 18, and Morgan, 16, laughed, joked and teased each other while watching a slew of sentimental Lifetime movies.

"It forced us to be still and not to be going in so many different directions," Michael said.

Across the region, other families had similar experiences. Jasmine Rennie, who works for the Fleishman Hillard public relations firm, said she also enjoyed being inside, despite the inconvenience.

"I slept, caught up on tons of work and did little things around the house I have wanted to do," Rennie said. "It was a nice break that I didn't realize I needed."

Olivia Kumih, who lives in Germantown, was in Rockville caring for an elderly woman with Alzheimer's at her home.

"I enjoyed being in the house for the first two days," she said. "Now I am going crazy. I have to get home."

In Germantown, Haleigh Looper, who's expecting a baby in April, said she used the extra time to work on her baby's room with her husband, Aaron, and read a couple of science fiction novels.

In Gaithersburg, Maurice Webster said he has enjoyed hanging out

with his daughters, Lynique, 22, and Taylan, 18. Though a staunch Dallas Cowboys fan, Webster said he still enjoyed watching the NFL playoff games with his daughters and they also watched the movie "The Martian."

"The reality is we could not go anywhere," Wood said. "We

managed to have a nice time even though it was inconvenient."

## PRINCE GEORGE'S AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY UPDATES

Prince George's County Public Schools announced that schools would remain closed on Wednesday, Jan. 27, making three straight days children were out of school due to the blizzard. However, during the close, they still fed students who would have needed meals. Montgomery County public schools also remained closed.

Prince George's County officials thanked residents for staying home while crews plowed 500 square miles of roads.

Darrell Mobley, director of the county's Department of Public Works and Transportation, said at a news conference on Sunday, Jan. 24 that about 78 percent of the primary and secondary roads had been plowed. Work on residential streets began the same day. He said 850 workers worked 12-hour shifts during the storm with 40,000 tons of salt, 350 snow plows and 25

pieces of heavy-duty equipment available for use throughout the county.

"I'm calling on residents to be patient. We will work as fast as we can to get to your neighborhoods," said County Executive Rushern L. Baker III.

Tragically, a 60-year-old man from Fort Washington died Saturday, Jan. 23 from a heart attack while shoveling snow. It was confirmed by the Maryland Office of the Medical Examiner as a storm-related death. In the District, an 82-year-old man also died after shoveling snow. And 44-year-old U.S. Capitol Police Officer Vernon Alston, Jr. died Saturday, Jan. 23 at his home in Delaware after suffering a heart attack while shoveling snow. Alston, 44, had served with the Capitol Police in the District for 20 years.

Nationwide, at least 42 storm-related deaths occurred, the majority the result of fatal heart attacks. **WI**

*WI Staff Writer William J. Ford and Howard University News Service Reporter Kandace Brown contributed to this story.*

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## 90th ANNUAL ASALH Black History Luncheon & Featured Authors' Event

Saturday, February 20th, 2016

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Featured Authors Event\*: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Luncheon 12:15 p.m.



Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Karsonya Whitehead**

Associate Professor of African and A.A. Studies, Loyola University, MD



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WEEK OF JAN. 28 TO FEB. 3

# Black Facts

## JAN. 21

**1938** – **Crystal Byrd Fauset** becomes the first Black woman elected to a state legislature when she wins a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.  
**1944** – **Matthew Henson** receives a medal from the U.S. Congress for being co-discoverer of the North Pole along with Robert Peary. The medal, however, came 35 years after the historic feat.

**1989** – After 62 years and numerous protests, the Colgate-Palmolive Company ends the sale of "Darkie Toothpaste." The toothpaste which was only sold in Asia was renamed "Darlie" and the Sambo-style character on the tube was dropped.

## JAN. 29

**1926** – **Violette Neatley Anderson** became the first African-American woman admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

**1954** – Award-winning television host, actress, producer and philanthropist **Oprah Winfrey** was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi, on this day.

## JAN. 30

**1797** – **Sojourner Truth** is born Isabella Baumfree in Ulster County, New York. She becomes the most influential and powerfully spoken Black female abolitionists of the 1800s.

**1844** – **Richard Theodore Greener** is the first African-American to graduate from Harvard University.

**1944** – **Sharon Pratt Dixon** is born in Washington, D.C. She was the elected mayor of Washington, D.C. from Jan. 2, 1991 – Jan. 2, 1995 making her the first for a woman of any race to do so and the first African-American woman to serve as mayor of a major American city.

**1956** – The Montgomery, Alabama home of **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.** is bombed by racists apparently angered by his leadership of the Montgomery bus boycott.

**2006** – **Coretta Scott King**, widow of civil rights icon, Martin Luther King Jr., died at the age of 78 on this day.

## JAN. 31

**1919** – Baseball great **Jackie Robinson** is born in Cairo, Georgia. He became the first Black to play in the White major league baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.



**1931** – **Ernie Banks** nicknamed "Mr. Cub" and "Mr. Sunshine," was born on this day. He was a Major League Baseball shortstop and first baseman for 19 seasons, 1953 through 1971. He died Jan. 23, 2015.

**1962** – **Lt. Comdr. Samuel L. Gravely** assumed command of destroyer escort, USS Falgout. He was the first African-American to command a U.S. warship.

**1988** – **Doug Williams** becomes the first African-American quarterback to play in a Super Bowl game. Williams leads the Washington Redskins to a win Super Bowl XXII. He is named MVP.

## FEB. 1

**1902** – **Langston Hughes**, one of Black America's greatest poets, is born in Joplin, Missouri.

**1926** – The first "Negro History Week" is celebrated. Founded by Black historian **Carter G. Woodson**, the "week" became Black History Month in 1976.

**1960** – The "sit-in" movement as a protest method for civil rights is born on this day in Greensboro, North Carolina when four North Carolina A&T students sit-in at a "Whites only" lunch counter and refuse to move until served or arrested. Within two weeks the tactic had spread to 15 cities in 5 Southern states. The original four students were **Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair, Franklin McCain and David Richmond**.

## FEB. 2

**1839** – Black inventor **Edmond Berger** develops one of the first spark plugs made in America.

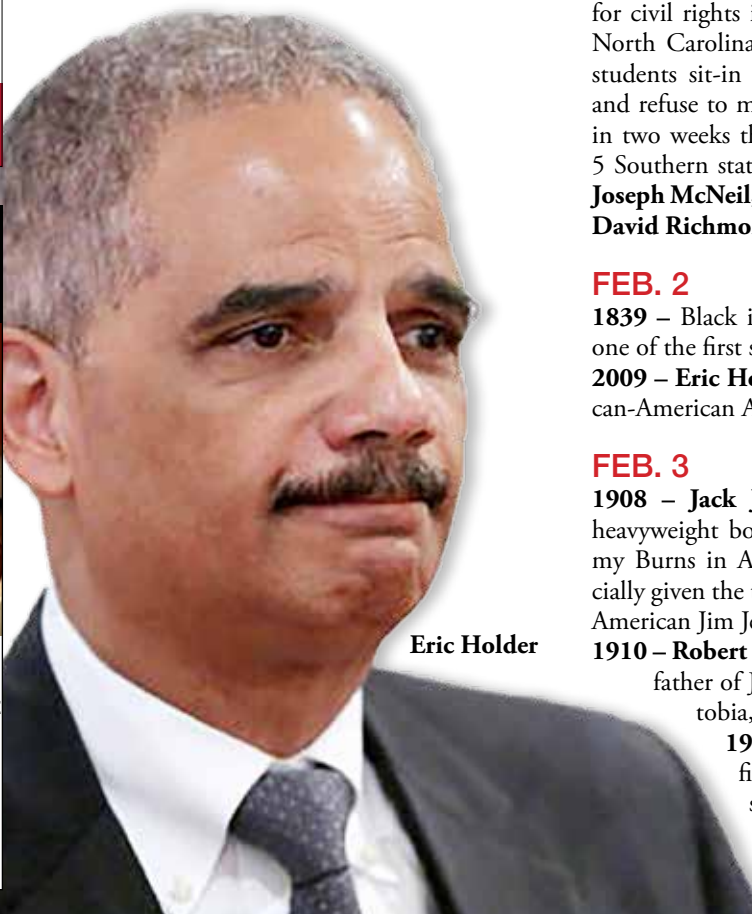
**2009** – **Eric Holder** was sworn in as the first African-American Attorney General.

## FEB. 3

**1908** – **Jack Johnson** becomes the first Black heavyweight boxing champion by defeating Tommy Burns in Australia, although he was not officially given the title until 1910 after he defeated the American Jim Jeffries in Las Vegas.

**1910** – **Robert Earl Jones**, stage and film actor and father of James Earl Jones, was born in Senatobia, Mississippi.

**1947** – **Percival Prattis** became the first African-American news correspondent admitted to the press galleries of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. **WI**



Eric Holder

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY ELTON HAYES

# VIEWPOINT

**THE WASHINGTON AREA WAS CRIPPLED WITH MORE THAN 20 INCHES OF SNOW THIS PAST WEEK. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOW DO YOU THINK CITY OFFICIALS HANDLED SNOW REMOVAL AND THE CLEANING OF THE ROADS?**



**BRADLEY WILLIAMS**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I think D.C. did a great job. One of my friends has a four-wheel drive and we were driving around the District yesterday and a lot of the streets downtown were clear. But I just came from 5th and Kennedy Street and a lot of those side streets were still bad. But overall, downtown D.C. did a great job of clearing the roads.



**LEAH DANVILLE**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I think Washington, D.C. did an excellent job. They actually handled it better than they usually do when there are just a couple of inches of snow. I think they were well-prepared. The roads, for the most part, seemed pretty clear on the major streets. It will be nice to see the city come back to life, though.



**JENICE VIEW**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I think the city did an amazing job. There was a lot of pre-planning and they certainly kept the community well-informed as to what was happening. The city isn't responsible for Metro, but I think Metro made a wise decision to suspend service. I'm proud of my city for the way it handled everything – this is my hometown.



**BRANT BARR**  
FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA

I lived here for four years back in the 1980s so I know snow and I know snow removal. I think the city did a pretty good job with the resources that they have. I am pretty impressed. I was stuck downtown for one extra night, but I am pretty impressed with the way the city handled everything.



**RONALD MURRAY**  
TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

I've been out every day and I've had a set of limited experiences, given the circumstances, which were positive. I decided on Friday that I would get out and go to a nearby IHOP to say hello and get out of my apartment. Everyone was off the street. I came out again on Sunday and it was easy to walk around. All of the side streets were snowed in. I've changed my expectations of what to expect, but we should be tolerant and thankful we're not in Boston.

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## TAVIS from Page 1

of Black people has outraged citizens of conscience, and led to a renewed sense of social protest and political activism," said Smiley, one of Time magazine's "World's 100 Most Influential People, and the host of the late-night television talk show "Tavis Smiley on PBS" and "The Tavis Smiley Show from Public Radio International.

"It's not that difficult to understand why a generation that's been politically marginalized, economically exploited and culturally manipulated would feel so angry and aggrieved," Smiley said of modern African-Americans.

"Ten years ago, 'The Covenant' declared that there would be a reckoning if the lives of Black fellow citizens were not valued and protected. What a difference a decade makes; the damage, destruction, and even death are now undeniable," he said.

In the book, Smiley tackles such questions as, "is the damage irreparable? As we head into another presidential primary election season, will the plight of Black America be ignored yet again? What ground, if any, has black America gained during the Obama years? Where does Black America go from here?"

"That's addressed in 'The Covenant with Black America: Ten Years later,'" Smiley said. "As are other vital questions about the present state of affairs for African-Americans and what could be a bleak future for Black America if the warning signs indicated in the new data are ignored."

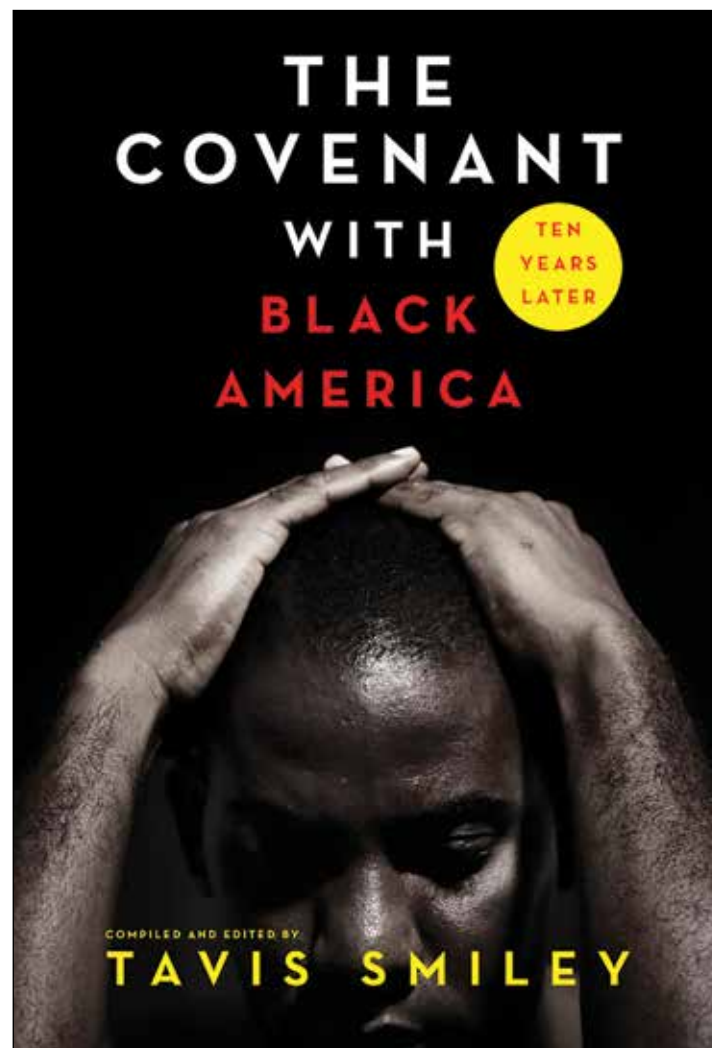
The original book ran the gamut from health care to criminal justice, affordable housing to education, and voting rights to racial divides.

"But, a decade later, black men still fall victim to police bullets and brutality; black women still disproportionately die from preventable diseases and black children still struggle to gain access to a high-quality education," Smiley said. "The digital divide and environmental inequality persist and cities from Ferguson to Baltimore burn with frustration."

The last decade has seen the evaporation of Black wealth, with Black citizens having lost ground in nearly every leading economic category, he said.

"Within various areas we talk about, there are pockets of progress but overall, in the major economic categories, Black wealth has been wiped out," Smiley said.

"The Great Recession was a big



▲ Tavis Smiley has released a new book, "The Covenant with Black America: Ten Years Later." / Courtesy photo

part of that, but there is long-term unemployment issue, sustained underemployment, sustained underdevelopment and the numbers have grown significantly."

On the education front, Smiley said research data does show pockets of progress and improvement in certain areas.

However, by and large, Black students still lack equal access to higher education.

"The one problem with Obama's race to the top is that it ought to instead be a right and not a race to receive a good education," Smiley said. "Every child ought to have that right."

While Smiley lays the blame mostly on the White establishment, he said Blacks do bear some responsibility.

"It's difficult for Black America to hold others accountable if we are not going to be responsible because responsibility and accountability go hand in hand," Smiley said.

"For instance, we can improve on Obamacare, but the bottom line is no matter how good the system might be, if Black people don't choose to be responsible to take care of themselves than we will still have a problem. Also, are we eating right? Are we exercising? Do we know our vital numbers and are we seeing our doctor reg-

ularly?"

That Black America is often portrayed as a community with certain leaders in the clergy, sports and entertainment world, Smiley said it's important to understand that while African-Americans do need a true leader, they must have the right individual or individuals leading.

It's also important that when a Black individual like Michael Jackson, O.J. Simpson or Bill Cosby is held in high-esteem, African-Americans must understand that they're not infallible.

"We need leaders; its part of our DNA as humans," he said. "I want us to appreciate that leadership matters; servant leadership matters."

"There are those who have been described as a Black leader, but there's a difference in being a leading Black as opposed to being a Black leader. We have to learn to turn the page when Bill Cosby injures himself and is no longer a Black leader; we can't let that hold the rest of us back."

To purchase "The Covenant with Black America: 10 Years Later," visit [www.covenantwithblackamerica.com](http://www.covenantwithblackamerica.com) or the various online booksellers including Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

WI

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# #OurLivesMatter: One Year Later

By Sam P.K. Collins  
Special to The Informer  
@SamPKCollins

If there's any doubt that District youth want to quell violence in their community and boost civic engagement among their peers, young people at a recreation center are slowly but surely laying those concerns to rest, all the while sharpening their leadership skills.

Since launching the #OurLivesMatter campaign at the FBR Branch of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington more than a year ago, this special group of students has engaged 600 middle and high schoolers in discussions about systemic inequality, cultural heritage and conflict resolution. With the guidance of adult leaders, they act as ambassadors to the movement by spreading the word about their efforts and participating in intergenerational gatherings.

"I had the skills but didn't know what to do with them until I came to the Boys & Girls Club," Jazmine Jones, a student at Kipp DC College Preparatory in Northeast and #OurLivesMatter representative, told AllEyesOnDC. As director of community service for Keystone, the FBR Boys & Girls Club's premier leadership program, Jones organizes citywide service trips. She said that since assuming this role, her confidence has risen and she's thinking more about what the fu-

ture holds.

"I'm learning how to raise funds and plan events," Jones, a Southeast resident, said. "(In the future) I see myself getting my mentoring program off of the ground. I want to get this message out to (students in) my school. Right now, I don't have that much of an influence, but I still want to be a leader. The Boys & Girls Club can help me get there."

Jones and her colleagues introduced the #OurLivesMatter campaign to visitors at THEARC during the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Events on that Monday morning took place amid an ongoing national discussion about police brutality in communities of color in the wake of Mike Brown's police-related death in Ferguson, Missouri. The youth town hall at THEARC featured a collective of young activists and leaders who weighed in on issues of public safety, employment opportunities and political awareness.

These topics reappeared later in the year when District homicides reached record numbers and residents, community members and public officials called for swift action from the Wilson Building. In August, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser proposed a set of polarizing crime prevention measures including police foot patrols and increased supervision and post-release searches for returning citi-



▲ Teen leaders from #OurLivesMatter partnering organizations such as BePolished and the iCan Theater Intern Program (THEARC) joined teen leaders from the FBR Boys & Girls Club for a videotaped summit this past summer. / Courtesy Photo

zens. Black Lives Matter DMV and other grassroots advocacy groups rallied against the plan, calling it discriminatory against poor black residents and ineffective in addressing economic and social causes of violence.

For LeVar Jones (no relation to Jazmine), teen program director at the FBR Boys & Girls Club and adult lead on the #OurLivesMatter campaign, changing the status quo means allowing young people to speak freely about their problems. He said that that environment will help them overcome social pressures to fulfill negative stereotypes and perpetuate cycles of violence. Earlier this month, participants looked back on the

first year of those efforts to raise the youth's consciousness during a host of King holiday events.

"How do we create spaces where young people could exist as they are? Since last year, we've started this conversation and took it to other places like Baltimore and New Jersey where the young people are involved in activism," Jones told AllEyesOnDC. "It's about getting our young people passionate about movements they care about and showing them their lives matter because they engage in positive things. The good inside us unites us while we allow all that other stuff to corrupt us. There's a healing that has to take place. The youth have to honor who they

are."

The installation of a state-of-the-art recording studio also provides such an opportunity for the lyrically gifted men and women who frequent the halls of the FBR Boys & Girls Club. This recent development followed the introduction of photography and other graphic art mediums into the program.

Erikah Moore, a member of the #OurLivesMatter campaign since last September, said she grew in her role as head of the media crew and member of the Alloy Achievers, FBR Boys & Girls Club's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) program, by using these resources. **WI**

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## Jury Awards D.C. Woman Additional \$500K

### Redline Bar Discriminated Against Former HU Student

By Stacy M. Brown  
WI Senior Writer

After awarding a former Howard University student \$175,000 in a race discrimination lawsuit against the Redline sports bar, a District jury has slammed the owners with an additional \$500,000 in punitive damages.

The jury agreed with Briggitta Hardin that the Chinatown-located bar was guilty of firing her because she is Black.

Hardin worked at the Redline sports bar to help put her through school but approximately one month after her hiring by others at the establishment as a bartender, she met the owner, Mick Dadlani, who almost immediately fired her.

She said Dadlani "Created a culture of racism" and she was the only Black employee.

Attorneys for both parties did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Court records show that Hardin was hired at the restaurant and bar in 2010.

On December 2, 2010, Hardin said she arrived at Redline to assist in preparing for a grand opening where she worked her regular shift. Upon entering the establishment, [Hardin] encountered Dadlani for the first time since she began working there, court records alleged.

She said her hiring and training had been done by other Redline

staff members.

Hardin, the only Black employee at the restaurant, said Dadlani refused to shake her hand and looked at her "with visible disgust and walked away, appearing angered by her presence."

Within the hour and without reason, Hardin said she was fired.

The termination was "part of a broader scheme of discriminatory exclusion perpetrated by Redline and Dadlani," Hardin said in court filings.

Hardin's attorneys argued that, "in pursuit of [Dadlani's] vision of Redline as maintaining a white, homogeneous customer base, Redline and Dadlani implemented discriminatory policies that excluded African Americans from working in visible positions and denied African-American customers equal access to the establishment."

In court filings, Dadlani vehemently denied the accusations noting that he did not aid, abet, ratify, condone, encourage or acquiesce in any alleged discriminatory conduct.

After several years of legal jockeying including scheduling conflicts, the case went to trial on Jan. 4 before District Court Judge Reggie B. Walton.

Just 10 days later, on Jan. 14, both sides rested their case and Dadlani's attorneys asked for a Judgment of Law, a motion that claimed Hardin had insufficient evidence to reasonably support her case.



▲ Briggitta Hardin



▲ Jury rules against Redline Bar in a discrimination lawsuit. / Photo by Roy Lewis

Walton denied the motion and instructed the jury to deliberate.

During the trial, Hardin presented numerous emails, employee schedules, guest lists, payroll records and other documents to support her claims of race discrimination.

Dadlani also presented a host of documents, including social media posts made by Hardin and others to bolster his defense.

In the end, the eight-person jury sided with Hardin, awarding her \$175,000 in compensatory damages and followed that award with just over \$500,000 more in punitive damage. **WI**

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## Who's Reading the Informer?

► U.S. Black Chamber  
President Ron Busby (left)  
and Industrial Bank President  
B. Doyle Mitchell read the  
Washington Informer.  
/ Photo by Roy Lewis



**WILLIAMS** from Page 1

order to meet these challenges and make sure we have the right patient in the right place at the right time," Chrencik said.

Williams — who last year joined the Baltimore law firm of Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White as the only practicing retired federal judge in Maryland to advise clients in complex civil litigation and federal criminal matters throughout the region — has a legal career that spans more than four decades.

He earned an undergraduate degree from Howard University in 1970 and later obtained his jurist doctorate from the Howard University School of Law.

Born in 1948, Williams earned master's degrees from Howard University's School of Divinity and Temple University, which were followed by an honorary doctorate from Southeastern University.

Williams has served as law clerk to the Judge James H. Taylor of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland and he engaged in private practice at various times from 1974 to 1986.

He's also served as municipal attorney for Fairmount Heights; part-time substitute juvenile master for Prince George's County Circuit Court; assistant public defender for Prince George's County Public Defender's Office; part-time special counsel and hearing examiner for Prince George's County Board of Education; and municipal attorney of Glenarden.

From 1978-1989, Williams held the position of professor of law at Howard University School of Law, and from 1987 to 1994, he served as the elected State's Attorney for Prince George's County.

On Aug. 3, 1993, Williams was nominated by President Bill Clinton for a vacancy in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, and his nomination was confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 17, 1994.

"I've been very fortunate to have supportive parents who pushed me and teachers across the years and other persons who have preceded me to encourage me to do my very best," Williams said. "I've always tried to maintain a strong reputation and to give the best that I have. It's something that my parents and teachers have been very helpful in me achieving a lot of success; I've been blessed with wonderful career."

When he joined Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White last year, those at the firm said they were excited and honored that Williams decided to join them.

"We are honored to have such an esteemed jurist join us," said Silver-

man, Thompson, Slutkin & White managing partner Steven Silverman, when Williams joined that firm last year. "Judge Williams' extensive experience and deep legal knowledge will strengthen our litigation practice and will be a tremendous asset to our clients."

The firm said it's an honor that Williams is among the six chosen by Hogan to serve on the UMMS

board.

Others receiving the nod are August "Augie" Chiasera, the president of the Greater Baltimore/Chesapeake region for M&T Bank; Kenneth Moreland, the treasurer and chief financial officer of T. Rowe Price; Dr. Roger Schneider, a vascular surgeon and founder and managing partner of Vascular Surgery Associates; R. Kent Schwab, the chairman of the

board at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center in Anne Arundel County; and Leonard Stoler, a successful Baltimore businessman for more than four decades in the automotive industry as well as a longtime philanthropist.

For Williams, the appointment is also an opportunity to again give back.

"I'd like my legacy to be that I've given the best that I've had. That I've used my success to open doors for others, and that's why I teach law school and that's why I've counseled with a number of young attorneys trying to push them and give them the benefit of the experience that I have had," Williams said. "In short, opening doors is what I want my legacy to be." **WI**

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# MGM Touts Resort, Jobs as Opening Approaches

By William J. Ford  
WI Staff Writer  
@jabariwill

Officials at MGM National Harbor couldn't contain their enthusiasm last week.

The company celebrated its final stages of construction Wednesday, Jan. 20 by popping a bottle

of champagne and hoisting a tree along its 24-story hotel at the Prince George's County property near the Potomac River. The next day, thousands registered to speak with high-ranking executives about upcoming jobs when the \$1.3 billion resort casino opens the fourth quarter of this year.

"We could not be more excit-

ed. This is a great region to work in," Logan Gaskill, MGM's vice president of human resources, said Thursday, Jan. 21. "It's a really phenomenal experience to be a part of. People can't wait for us to be open."

Jim Murren, chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts International, said the resort will be the most unique venue in the county and the state

of the Maryland. He even joked when asked by a reporter about the Trump International Hotel scheduled to open this year in Northwest, being built by Republican president candidate Donald Trump.

"We'll blow that away," Murren said.

Some of the features at the National Harbor property will include:

- About 125,000 square feet of casino space of gaming tables and slot machines;
- More than 27,000 square feet of convention and meeting space;
- A 3,000-seat theater that can be used for concerts, shows and boxing matches;
- A luxury hotel with 308 rooms; 74 of them suites.

The resort will have a dozen restaurants that include a 220-seat steakhouse with an in-house kiln from brothers Bryan and Michael Voltaggio, both featured in the Bravo TV series "Top Chef." Bryan Voltaggio, 39, of Frederick, Maryland, has five other restaurants in the Washington-Baltimore region that include Range and Lunchbox, both in Northwest D.C.

"I went to Bowie High School for two years, so this is home for me," Bryan Voltaggio said. "This is our first joint venture for my brother and I. This will be good, steakhouse fare."

One major aspect at the resort feature the 3,600 jobs with about half designated for county residents.

Michael Oates of Lanham was among the thousands of job seekers to speak with MGM corporate executives Jan. 21 at the Radio One "Career showcase" presented by MGM at Martin's Crosswinds.

Oates, who's been unemployed since 2014, has an interest in security and surveillance.

"I just came to hope and pray to be the one chosen for a position," he said. "If you get to people to work, the world would be a better place to give people something to do."

However, not everyone who attended the career fair lived in Prince George's.

Randy Burgess, 29, of Philadelphia, was the first person in line to enter Martin's Crosswinds' ballroom and speak with executives about hotel operations and sales and marketing.

"I currently do medical billing right now. I heard MGM was opening up a casino down here and I'm looking for a shake-up in my life," he said. "I'm ready for this opportunity."

Although no hiring was done, people could learn about the com-



▲ Logan Gaskill, Vice President Human Resources, MGM National Harbour / Photo by Shevry Lassiter

pany and positions that include table games dealer, valet assistant manager and a steward. Job seekers can incorporate information into a database that would match their skills to positions with the company.

A full description of the positions will be made available in the next several months at [www.mgmnationalharbor.com](http://www.mgmnationalharbor.com) under the "jobs" tab.

Those previously convicted of a crime or incarcerated, now known as "returning citizens," are encouraged to apply.

Certain positions require a gaming license, which must be approved by the state Lottery and Gaming Control Commission. In addition, background checks are done by the state and MGM.

"Whether you're a returning citizen or not, there might be positions to easily get in you in the door and once you are part of our team, we provide careers," Gaskill said. "While you're working to get some cooking skills, for example, doesn't mean you can't work at the front desk of our hotel. We do a lot work in [career] development to help people get to where they want to be."

Dawn Fox, a retired social worker from Temple Hills, hopes MGM chooses her.

"I would love to be the concierge to the top five floors in the hotel," she said after speaking about positions in hotel operations with Camye Mackey, MGM's vice president of talent and workforce development. "I understand customer service is fundamental in anything you offer. There's something here for me with MGM." **WI**

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# Students Display Prowess in Contest Honoring King



◀ A certificate of appreciation is presented to Jahrell Kearney by Prince George's County Educators Association President Theresa Dudley at the elementary school in Mitchellville, Md., on Friday, Jan. 15. / Photo by Robert Roberts

By William J. Ford  
WI Staff Writer  
@jabariwill

Jahrell Kearney walked on stage with her colorful poster that depicts the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. behind a podium and a quote above him: "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

Kearney, 13, says the quote keeps her inspired through the good and bad times. She also emblazoned the words "together," "hope," "dream" and "peace" on the poster.

"I put inspirational words around [King] so everybody could see it. He kept fighting for what's right," said the seventh-grader who attends Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School in Laurel.

She and six other students in Prince George's County won \$50 for participating in an annual poster and essay contests to honor King. Each student received their prize and a certificate during a program Thursday, Jan. 14, at Kingsford Elementary in Mitchellville.

The Prince George County Educators' Association's minority affairs committee hosted the program that has featured the essay contest for about 15 years and the poster portion for about four years.

Students who choose to complete a poster needed to illustrate it and highlight a King quote. Essay contestants had to write up to 250 words based on this question: "If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. [was]

alive today and gave a speech on the #Black Lives Matter movement, what would you imagine he would say?"

Yvonne Baicich, a board member with the Educators' Association, read one of the winning essays from Kwesi Easton, a student at Laurel High School in Laurel. Easton wasn't in attendance.

Here's an excerpt from his essay: "Your purpose and ideal for a world where black lives are no longer systematically and intentionally targeted for demise is evidently supported. However, we must remember to convey to society our purpose through peaceful protest and testimony."

The other essay winners were: Noelia Chavez from Carrollton Elementary in New Carrollton, and Hinako Barnes from Samuel Ogle Middle School in Bowie.

Besides Kearney, three other students also received an award for a poster submission: Jenny Pham at Heather Hills Elementary in Bowie, and Judith Angel and Jalen Thomas, who attend Laurel High School.

The program also highlighted several students who received honorable mention for their work.

"The contest makes the children read, something we must do all the time," said Annett Jones, co-chair of the association's minority affairs committee. "It brings families together and takes time to talk about why Dr. King's message would be still relevant today."

WI

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**2**  
SECOND CHANCE



By William Reed

## Business Exchange

# What Share of the Black Vote do Republicans Need to Win in 2016?

The contest to become the 45th president of the United States could come close to costing \$5 billion in total between the campaigns, party funds, independent expenditures and third parties. Enterprising Black groups should tap into programs and grants to impact African Americans and their ballots. In the 2012 match the Republican Party spent close to \$1.24 billion. If the GOP seeks to penetrate the Democrats' stronghold on Black votes, they'll have to do more than talk about getting Blacks to

support their ideology.

Black groups should note that toward the 2016 competition, political organizations have begun pumping money into voter-registration drives and get-out-the-vote efforts. In line with tradition, groups are funded to participate in partisan ground wars typically carried out below the radar that could be decisive in battleground states.

Knowing how critical the Black vote is in the 2016 elections, some Black Republicans have embarked on strategies that oppose Democrats

by offsetting, or outperforming liberal and labor group in targeting Blacks. Republican Party officials are urging Blacks to make their presence felt at the polls. National Black Republican Council (NBRC) chair Fred Brown as seeks to impact the Black voter turnout rate and has embarked on "Get Out the Black GOP vote" programs. GOTV are terms used to describe political activity aimed at increasing the number of votes cast in elections. Campaigns typically attempt to register voters, and then get them to vote,

hasn't noticeably improved their lives. "We made history, but I don't see change" says Brown. Brown seeks increased support nationally among Black voters and to represent their values, challenge the status quo and in ensure that barriers to opportunity are broken and access to economic capital and educational choice is secured.

Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee wants to have the GOP compete for the White House and says that the party is currently spending about \$8.5 million a month on outreach operations targeted at Black, Hispanic and Asian voters. Chairman Priebus says that the program has offices in 15 states with paid full-time staff and 500 volunteers.

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*"African-American voters turned out at unprecedented levels to support Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012."*

Bill Reed /

either by absentee ballot, early voting or Election Day voting. Other GOTV activities include literature drops early on Election Day or the evening before and an active tracking of eligible voters who have already voted.

Over past years, the Republican Party has struggled to attract Blacks' votes. So, what percentage of African-American voters can the Republicans count on in 2016? That result is seriously dependent on the Republicans' investment in this population.

After the Civil War almost all Blacks considered themselves Republicans. It was the Republican Party that was started by abolitionists and the party of President Abraham Lincoln. Over the last 40 years Black Americans have overwhelmingly voted for the Democratic presidential candidate. The most votes any Republican candidate received from Blacks since 1968 was the 15 percent that Gerald Ford got in 1976.

African-American voters turned out at unprecedented levels to support Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. But in 2015, that some are disillusioned that Obama's election

To secure Republican Congressional victories and the White House, Brown aims to increase GOP Black voter participation by 50 percent nationwide. To solidify his party place Brown asserts that NBRC state chapters will implement voter participation strategies such as "boots-on-the-ground" and door-to-door campaigns; robocalls; registration drives; and community outreach. For the NBRC to maintain its historical place in national GOP politics and its base in the Republican National Committee Chairman Brown asserts that NBRC chapters can galvanize the Black vote for the GOP at every level of politics at the national, state and local levels.

Too many Blacks put too much faith and reliance on government and elected officials. People like Brown can help the Republicans get a better understanding of issues that matter most among African Americans. The key to Republicans gaining ground in 2016 depends on whether they can turn out African Americans to vote for them in significant numbers. Things will only work for Blacks if they get their issues high on political agendas. **WI**

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# City Seeks Ways to Replace Walmart

## Focus on Ward 7 Location

By Leanna Commins  
Howard University News Service

City officials and the Skyland Town Center developer told frustrated Southeast residents Thursday they will continue to search for a retailer to replace Wal-Mart after the company announced it will not be building a store in Ward 7.

Gary Rappaport, CEO of Rappaport Companies, the development company handling the Skyland Town Center, told residents during an Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting that his company has been talking with other big-box retailers, but he was unwilling to discuss which companies.

"There's not a retailer that is in Washington, D.C., or ever wants to be in Washington, D.C., that doesn't know about Skyland, because we've been working on this project for 15 years," Rappaport said. "It's not going to happen in a couple of weeks, but at least everyone knows the project."

Rappaport said his company does have a signed lease with Wal-Mart, which calls its individual stores Walmarts, as of December 2014, but said it can't force Wal-Mart to open.

"You could look at the liabilities, and we can go down that road, with the District's help, but at the same time, we can't wait," he said. "So, what we do is we list every kind of retail tenant that could possibly fit in this space. We have put together that list and we have started calling that list."

The city and developers learned Jan. 15 that Wal-Mart was pulling out of a project to build two superstores in Ward 7 east of the Anacostia River, citing disappointing performances at the three stores it has opened in the District since 2013.

The other store was to be built at Capitol Gateway Marketplace on East Capitol Street in Northeast Washington, another property owned and managed by Rappaport.

The Skyland Town Center is a property that was sold to Rappaport in Dec. 2014, a decade after the city seized the property. Sitting on the intersection of Good Hope Road, Naylor Road and Alabama Avenue in southeast Washington, the 18.5 acres of land is to be home to 340,000 square feet of retail space and 480 residential units.

The retail space was to be anchored by a Walmart. As of early



December, Skyland Town Center was still under construction.

Rappaport said Wal-Mart's decision has made it unclear whether construction for the Skyland property will continue. CVS will be moving into the temporary trailers in the parking lot of the property in the first week of February. They will continue to operate until Skyland is built.

"I can't answer anything else after four or five days other than we are out there as fast we can, trying to build our anchor tenants again," Rappaport said. "We were under construction and we're actually as of today still under construction. But we can't continue to build unless we have some interest (from retailers) at some point."

Deputy Mayor Brian T. Kenner told residents city officials were as disappointed as they were.

"To say that it's disappointing, not only in terms of us getting Skyland shopping center to a point where we all felt it was ready to move forward, disappointment does not describe the perspective," Kenner said.

Council member Yvette Alexander of Ward 7 tried to assure residents, the city is working with Rappaport to finish the Skyland Town Center project.

"What we can do on the council and working with the executive (office) is to offer whatever incentives that we can for any retailers that are interested in coming," Alexander said, "and that's something that I definitely want to do and that's something that the mayor is willing to do at this point, because we have to get these projects done."

"So, I just want to say it's not over. We're definitely committed to getting it done and it will get done."

Despite Alexander's reassurances, some residents were frustrated that the city never had a written contract with Wal-Mart that required it to build in Southeast. Kenner said the city had what he described as a "pledge" from Wal-Mart to build in neighborhoods throughout the city but no official contract.

Tiffany Brown, an advisory neighborhood commissioner for Ward 7, said that many residents were under the impression that there was a signed agreement between Wal-Mart and the District.

"I just wonder who does business like that," Brown said. "[The District is] dealing with people's lives and livelihoods. There's no place to shop. There's no place to work. There's no place to eat. There's no place to live."

Residents also express concern that while the city and developer attempt to find a new retail tenant, the Skyland Town Center property will become troublesome for those who live near it.

"When I look at other construction sites in other places, when there is a hole, immediately (developers) will put up walls," Brown said.

Gary Butler, another advisory neighborhood commissioner, said he thinks the city should start the Skyland Town Center project over in its entirety after 15 years of development.

"We really need to stop dealing with big developers and start trying to nurture some of small midsize developers that actually serve the city," Butler said. **WI**

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# Toyota Wins Big at Diversity Leadership Awards

*Minorities Still Poorly Represented Among U.S Car Dealerships*



▲ Alva Adams-Mason, the director of African American Business Strategy and Corporate Communications of Toyota North America (center) accepts a Diversity Volume Leadership Award for the Toyota team from Marc Bland, the vice president of diversity and inclusion for IHS Automotive (left) and Damon Lester, the president of NAMAD. / Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA News Wire Service

**By Freddie Allen**  
**NNPA News Wire Senior  
 Correspondent**

Toyota demonstrated their commitment to reach minority consumers, winning 10 out of 20 top honors during the Diversity Volume Leadership (DVL) Awards in Detroit, a few days before the North American International Auto Show opened to the public.

The awards were determined based on new vehicle registration data collected from October 2014 through September 2015 by IHS Automotive, a research group that provides insight into the global auto industry.

The National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers (NAMAD), a non-profit group that advocates for diversity in the auto industry and IHS Automotive presented the awards.

"We wanted to recognize, celebrate and educate the fastest growing group of new vehicle consumers in the automotive industry which happens to be the diverse consumers, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and women," said Marc Bland, the vice president of diversity and inclusion for IHS Automotive.

Toyota won DVL awards for sales in the New England region (RAV4), the Plains region (RAV4) and the Southeast region (Corolla) as well.

The Japanese automaker also

collected awards for Top Ethnic Vehicle for African Americans and Asian Americans for the Camry and the Top Ethnic Vehicle in the Hispanic market for the Corolla. Lexus, Toyota's luxury brand, won the award for the Top Luxury Vehicle for women for their sports utility vehicle (RX). Lexus also won the Top Luxury Vehicle for Hispanics for the IS coupe.

The Toyota Corolla drove home with the crown for Top Ethnic Vehicle.

Alva Adams-Mason, the director of African American Business Strategy and Corporate Communications of Toyota North America, said that even though Toyota has worked hard for decades to establish relationships in minority communities, the team was still surprised by how much those communities have supported the automaker.

General Motors and Honda each one four DVL awards. Mercedes Benz won an award for the Top Luxury Vehicle for African Americans (C-class). The Ford Motor Company didn't win a single award.

Damon Lester, the president of NAMAD, said that the automakers that won awards pursued and continue to pursue diversity as a business imperative at all levels.

"The winners are paying close attention to the ethnic marketplace," Lester said.

Bland said that while the general consumer market grew 5 percent, the ethnic consumer market

grew 11 percent. That means that the record number of cars sold last year would have been even higher if the general consumer market had grown at the same rate as the ethnic consumer market.

"We're dealing with facts, that means that everybody has the opportunity to get there," Bland said. "If you sell the most, you get an award."

Perry Watson, the chairman of NAMAD, said that each trophy represents millions of dollars in sales and market share.

"Minorities are changing the course of events in the automotive industry," Watson said. "Diversity is not only playing a central role now, but will continue to do so for years to come."

While acknowledging the impact that minority consumers have on the auto industry, Watson lamented the lack of diversity among owners at the dealership level. He said that of the 18,000 new car dealerships in the U.S., only about 1,100 are owned by ethnic minorities.

The DVL awards ceremony was the first of many initiatives to empower and inform ethnic minority consumers about "who's helping and who's not," he added.

"The battle is far from over, but progress does exist," Watson said. "It's not fair that we take our money and we patronize and we make these companies powerful and we don't share in [the prosperity] at the dealerships or in advertising." **WI**

# Welsing: A Scholar Who Loved Black People

By Sam Collins  
Special to The Washington Informer

In the years leading up to her death, scholar-warrior Frances Cress Welsing, with the help of friends and colleagues, fought tooth and nail against the very forces she described in her 1991 book, "The Isis Papers: The Keys to the Colors."

That battle, however, would prove to be futile.

Welsing's confidants say exploitative lawyers and timid power brokers in the D.C. Zoning Commission foiled her attempts to stop what has been described as the Jewish Primary Day School's encroachment on her property. For years, high noise levels emanating from the private school's playground rattled the 80-year-old psychiatrist, possibly causing the stroke that landed her in MedStar Washington Hospital Center on New Year's Eve.

The news of Welsing's Jan. 2 death shocked many. Her healthy disposition, even in her last moments, didn't surprise Januwa Moja, a renowned artist and Welsing's close friend.

"Dr. Welsing was for us as a people 24/7. Her first priority was her patients, then the Welsing Institute," Moja told AllEyesOnDC, referring to the three-hour sessions Welsing held in Howard University's Blackburn Center in Northwest on the second Thursday of each month of the academic year.

"Once she prepared for her patients, she would prepare for the session on the second Thursday. She was speaking everywhere and always hopping on planes. During those times, she was traveling by herself. In her 80s, she kept it moving, working on our behalf and elevating our consciousness. She read almost everything that had to do with our people," Moja added.

Welsing, a Chicago-born alumna of Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and Howard, rose in notoriety during the 1970s and 1980s after she defined racism as a global white supremacist system built out of a white minority's fear of genetic annihilation. She reached this conclusion after hearing Neely Fuller, author of United Independent Compensatory Code System Concept, mention such a perspective.

In "The Isis Papers," Welsing postulated that people of color, especially those with darker shades of melanin, are targeted in nine major

areas of activity including politics, law, entertainment, labor, sex and war. Her premier work included a collection of essays penned over the course of more than 20 years. For many, Welsing's scholarship made sense of the mental issues black people continued to endure one generation after Jim Crow. It also inspired Public Enemy's album "Fear of a Black Planet."

In the decades since she developed what's known as the "Theory of Color Confrontation,"

Welsing has unflinchingly defended her position to white and black detractors alike, contending that black people's failure to understand the totality of racism maintains the status quo. In 1973, she debated William Shockley, physicist and proponent of eugenics, debunking most of his points and pushing him into obscurity.

"She had this infectious energy and came ready to deliver this message about white supremacy and racism," millennial singer, rapper, and songwriter Jeni Calhoun told AllEyesOnDC. In August, she met Welsing during a lecture at Fisk University in Nashville during which the warrior-scholar signed a copy of "The Isis Papers."

"The first time I came across 'The Isis Papers,' I wasn't ready for the knowledge," said Calhoun, an employee of Jazzy 88.1 WFSK, which is located on Fisk's campus. "Now that I've come back to it, it has a different message because I have a higher level of consciousness."

After Welsing died, students and fans took to social media to mourn someone they considered a legend and staunch advocate for blacks. A multigenerational gathering of more than 200 community members took place at the Blackburn Center earlier this month in place of Welsing Institute.

Two more events, a 40-day ascension ceremony and memorial service, are scheduled for February and March. Despite minimal acknowledgment of Welsing's work by the mainstream, her influence among those who consider themselves "conscious" remains strong.

"If she was white, Dr. Welsing's passing would be on the front page of The New York Times and all over CNN," Gregory Carr, chair of Afro-American studies at Howard, told AllEyesOnDC. "The critique of whiteness has become so vogue, but it's something she and Neely Fuller pioneered." **WI**

## FINAL PITCH The Reality PITCH Competition

By Inez Kelley  
Kelley Media Marketing, Inc.  
[www.finalpitchtv.com](http://www.finalpitchtv.com)

### Language of Leadership

The ability to articulate a vision in such a way as to paint on the minds of those charged with the carrying out is nothing short of surgery. From the words selected to the inflection of the voice and the continence of speech, a leader is never without his greatest tool; language. It is as much of an important component of leadership as is the mission itself.

When we consider those who display strong oratory skills, we think of influence and power. Whether within the family structure, a community or organization most often leaders are identified with the ability to convey a vision. It is the seemingly effortless in gaining the trust of the 'group' as to why these individuals are in the place of leadership. This is certainly not to imply that anyone who is either hearing impaired or mute would not be considered amongst great leaders. The ability to use language is not just verbal nor does it come only in the form of speech. True leaders will find a way to transmit thought...to communicate vision as well as assuming the position of forerunner. As has Stephen Hawking, renown English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, (no, he doesn't do hair!) author and Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology within the University of Cambridge.

Language and leadership intrinsic though they may be, only the skilled will ever possess the power to cut and not draw blood, to engrave words and worlds on the heart and mind with the power to unite in cause and common purpose. Leadership will always find a way to deliver the message to the people and to bring the vision to pass... And we the people benefit from the length and tenacity by which a true leadership will go.

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# Local Resident's Cancer Scare Leads to Advocacy

By Stacy M. Brown  
WI Senior Writer

Tamika Felder was going through her daily routine, filing stories as a freelance journalist in Washington, D.C., and simply living the life of a happy-go-lucky 25-year-old.

Then, out of nowhere, Felder received news from her doctors that she had cervical cancer, a disease that starts in the lower part of the uterus.

About 4,100 women will die from cervical cancer while doctors discover about 12,900 new cases of invasive cervical cancer each year, according to the American Cancer Society.

For Felder, the disease not only meant concern for her well-being, but also it meant she

had to deal with the stigma attached.

"There were a few people who, because of the misinformation that's attached to cervical cancer, said cruel things because my cancer was linked to a sexually transmitted virus," Felder said.

"That was painful. When I was diagnosed, human papillomavirus – or HPV – which is the virus that can cause cervical cancer, was not in the news as much as it is now. So, I felt all along and embarrassed. But, I had to educate myself," she said.

Despite the misinformation and having her cervix and uterus removed which meant she would not be able to ever give birth, Felder decided to fight the disease and to help others to do the same.

She's started a nonprofit, Tamika and Friends, an advocacy organization, to offer financial help to women with cervical cancer and to educate people about the disease.

Felder, who like many others are observing Cervical Health Awareness Month in January, now reaches women on an international level, getting the word out and giving support.

She's traveled to Dubai and London and across the United States helping to spread a positive campaign and to encourage others who have experienced the disease.

Recently, she founded another national nonprofit and online advocacy learning platform called "Cervivor," which combines the words cervical and

*"Cancer completely changed my life. Once I finally embraced it and became a cancer advocate, it truly healed me, inside and out."*



▲ Tamika Felder / Courtesy photo

survivor.

Through her nonprofit, Felder has successfully built a network of more than 100 women, 40 of whom have graduated from her Cervivor School, a support and empowerment event for anyone looking to become involved in the cervical cancer movement.

Ultimately, Felder said her mission is to share stories of the more than 12,000 women who are diagnosed each year, and she wants to help reduce the stigma behind this disease.

"I had an amazing support network and I knew that I was in good hands with my health care," Felder said. "So my coping strategies became research and understanding for my disease. The more I learned, the more I was determined to beat it."

Felder is also putting the finishing touches on a new book, "Ignite Your Life in 13 Steps," which explores her triumph over cervical cancer and shares 13 ways she said an individual can ignite their life.

"Cancer completely changed my life. Once I finally embraced it and became a cancer advocate, it truly healed me, inside and out," she said.

"My cancer experience has defined who I am now as a person. I know that tomorrow is truly not promised. That life can change in an instant, and that it's up to me to make a difference."

To learn more about cervical cancer and Felder's organization, visit [www.cervivor.org](http://www.cervivor.org) or [www.tamikafelder.com](http://www.tamikafelder.com). **WI**

Dr. Gilbert Daniel, Internal Medicine and  
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# Educator to Tackle Challenges Facing Minority Boys

*D.C.'s First All-Male School to Be Led by Dr. Ben Williams*

By D. Kevin McNeir  
WI Editor

The concept of an all-male public school has received mixed reviews across the U.S.

But given the overwhelming challenges facing Black youth nationwide who routinely suffer from higher dropout rates, lower test scores and grade point averages and an overabundance of behavioral problems, many educators have sought to help these boys by providing single-gender schools where their needs can be specifically addressed.

D.C. Public Schools, joining a growing number of other U.S. school systems, will open its first college-preparatory school as part of a \$20 million city program, "Empowering Males of Color" with the goal of increasing opportunities for young minority men. The school, which will be named by members of the com-

munity, will be led by Dr. Ben Williams, the recipient of three degrees from the University of Virginia, including a doctorate. His dissertation focused on Black students and their underrepresentation in Advanced Placement classes.

Williams, 36, understands the myriad of issues facing young Black males. Born in Las Vegas, he became a ward of the state after his mother, a prostitute and drug addict, gave up both he and his younger brother. The two moved from home to home, enduring multiple forms of abuse. Williams said he did his best to shield his brother from the pain as much as possible and remained adamant that they would not be separated.

Fortunately, both were adopted by a man in Seattle. With the help of coaches and teachers who recognized his intellectual abilities, education would become

Williams' goal and life's calling. But it wasn't easy for him he says, as he was often reluctant to trust others. But eventually, he overcame his fears. Since then he has committed his life to helping other young men make it and reach their fullest potential.

"I wanted to do for others what had been done for me and believed the best environment would be in an all-male school," said Williams who most recently served as an associate principal at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens Education Campus in Northwest and who will lead a school for the first time in the fall.

"We're going to shoot for the stars with our students," he said. "And I believe that the stars were aligned in this opportunity. All the research I've done, the 10 years I've devoted to the topic of how to better educate minority students – all of that and my own

personal story will serve me well as I work with young men from the District. I'm not saying 'why me.' Instead I've chosen to say 'why not me.'

Williams, who lives in Arlington, said he's looking for a place in the District so he can fully experience life as a Washingtonian. But he lived here briefly during his youth with his father, who maintained a home in the District for over 20 years.

He said a key part of the daily curriculum will involve discussions on current events, conversations about being young men of color in the new millennium and discovering individual ways to become self-motivated, no matter what obstacles may be in their lives. In addition, the school, which will open its doors in the fall with a freshman class, add-

ing one class each year until it's comprised of freshmen through senior classes, will offer sports teams and other extracurricular activities and will have a dress code consisting of jackets and ties.

"I think my story will give me great validity in the eyes of my students. I used my own story as a way to push me forward – I never desired anyone's pity. I walked the path that many young men, particularly young men of color are facing today," he said. **WI**

*Families can apply to the Empowering Males High School on the My School DC website. The deadline to apply to schools for grades 9-12 is Monday, Feb. 1. The deadline to apply to schools for grades PK3-8 is Tuesday, March 1.*

## DCPS Feeds Hungry Children, Despite Snow



Despite the closing of D.C. Public Schools due to the blizzard, students like Tianiya Hill (picture) were able to get free breakfast and lunch meals at Eastern High School in Northeast on Monday, January 25. / Photo by Patricia Little

By Diandra Bolton  
Howard University News Service

WASHINGTON – The snow that has blanked the region and has kept millions confined to their homes, has put a frown on many faces, but not Loletta Robinson.

On a day when most people stayed at home and businesses, schools and organizations were shut down, Robinson, the cafeteria supervisor at McKinley Technology High School, headed to work on Monday, Jan. 25 with a smile on her face, because she was doing the one thing that she really loves.

"My passion is for feeding kids, more so than being in a classroom setting," Robinson said in between checking with staff to make sure all was prepared properly for the

children.

"It brings me joy to feed students. Some children go without eating in the morning. Some are homeless. Some don't have the income to provide enough food."

Despite D.C. Public Schools [DCPS] being closed, McKinley and nine other public middle schools opened their doors to feed any children who may not have had enough to eat. Fifteen students braved unplowed streets to eat breakfast at McKinley in Northeast on Monday, receiving either a hot or cold breakfast option in addition to a hot lunch. About 90 percent of the students at McKinley eat two meals each day as part of the school's free meals program.

Chartwells, a food service management organization, provides services for all DCPS.

"We love serving kids; we love giving back," said Mikia Dixon, an area manager for Chartwells. "I didn't like that we had to come out into the show, but I think that it's really, really good that this option is available."

Students and their families also turned out to eat at Brookland Middle School in near Catholic University in Northeast. The cafeteria was staffed with six volunteers and four employees from Chartwells. They fed around 17 students and family members a cold breakfast in addition to cheese pizza for lunch.

For some of the children, the meals were the only ones they would have for the rest of the day. **WI**

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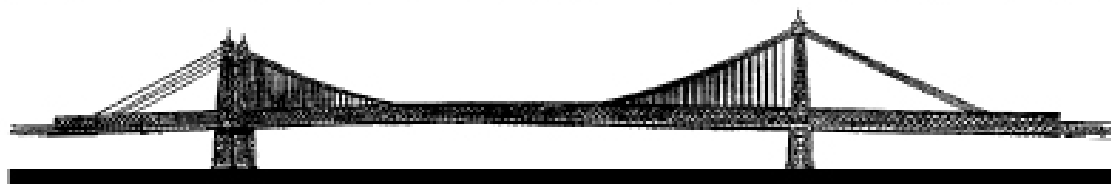
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# BRIDGE

## REBIRTH





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## ON THE COVER



(L-R) Yannick, Jada, Danielle, Tari, Kyah, and Tasaun counted among dozens of students from College Bound, Inc. who painted a mural on the second floor of the Perry School in Northwest as part of a community service project for the Dr. King Holiday. College Bound Inc, based in Perry School, helps local students prepare for college through tutoring, mentoring, and scholarship programs. For more information or to become a partner (mentor), visit [collegebound.org/](http://collegebound.org/) Photo by Jeremy Mines

## MISSION STATEMENT

The WI Bridge sets out to highlight contemporary issues through the experiences of youth and capture the progressive, entrepreneurial spirit of the Millennial generation other publications gloss over. Writers will take to streets and feature people, programs, initiatives, and movements that uniquely address prominent youth issues. This hard-hitting coverage will lay to rest misconceptions of Generation Y and bring all to an understanding of diverse youth experiences.

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Nearly one month into the New Year and my excitement about what's to come hasn't faded, even as I slip into the monotony of the daily grind. In 2015, I became more patient in what's going to be a long fight for black self-determination. These days, I'm learning to embrace the behind-the-scenes work more and argue with apologists and internet trolls less often.

Indeed, this mindset has translated to WI Bridge.

As we approach the first anniversary of our launch, I'm eager to expand our presence in the D.C. metropolitan area and recruit more young journalists and columnists with a fresh perspective on the pressing issues of our time. Starting this month, readers can find copies of the Bridge at a slew of local gathering spaces and offices including Sankofa Video Books & Café, College Bound, Inc., Plymouth Congregational Church, and We Act Radio. As always, those interested in joining our paper and representing their community by emailing [sam.collins.89@gmail.com](mailto:sam.collins.89@gmail.com) with "WI Bridge" in the subject heading.

The writers in the latest edition, aptly named Rebirth, have taken on this responsibility, documenting history as their contemporaries see it while adding to their own bodies of work. In this issue, you get the black millennial take on President Barack H. Obama's final State of the Union address and overall legacy. You also learn how the late warrior-scholar Dr. Frances Cress Welsing inspired an entire generation of nation builders. Our profile of local STEM camp Cyberninjaz showcases our generation's entrepreneurial spirit. Finally, the WI Bridge profile of Reggae artist Jah Cure will make you embrace the sounds that propelled the music genre to an international audience.

May you read this issue in its entirety and become inspired to grow in all that you do. In 2016, WI Bridge will reach more young people and create a common understanding of our problems while celebrating our victories. We hope that you join us in this journey for not only throughout this year but many more to come.

Yours in the Struggle,  
Sam P.K. Collins  
Editor-In-Chief, WI Bridge

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# MILLENNIALS WEIGH IN ON OBAMA'S FINAL SOTU ADDRESS



President Barack H. Obama delivered his last State of the Union address earlier this month./ Courtesy photo

**By Brianna Rhodes**

WI Bridge Contributing Writer  
@Bri\_Rhodes24

For the last eight years, President Barack Obama has been the face of the United States. Time has flown since he first entered office and it's hard for some to believe that his State of the Union (SOTU) address before Congress on Jan. 12 would be his last.

In the weeks after the SOTU, many individuals have shared their reactions to a speech that focused on a hopeful future and outlined goals President Obama said he wanted to fulfill in his last year as head of state.

"I think [the president] made some very good, valid points that needed to be said but I feel like he focused too much on international relations and other accomplishments that he has achieved while in office," said Asia Ewell, a couple and family therapy graduate student at the University of Maryland College Park.

"I feel like he strayed away from talking about what really mattered to Americans," said Ewell. "Gun control is the [hottest] topic right now with all of these recent shootings and I feel like that's the number one thing I was waiting for."

During his historic 2008 presidential

campaign, Obama promised to be the change America needed after a controversial Bush presidency. At the start of his presidency, troops were engulfed in the Iraq War, Osama Bin Laden had been a fugitive for nearly a decade, and the nation had suffered through what has been called the Second Great Depression.

Since entering office, Obama expanded healthcare access through the Affordable Care Act, ended the conflict in Iraq, furthered LGBT rights and expanded hate crime protections, tweaked the federal student loan program, and advocated heavily for gun control. However, there has been some controversy. Some people said he didn't address racial and ethnic divisions, criticizing his record on immigration reform and what they described as an inability to understand the perspective of marginalized groups in the U.S.

After reflecting on his eight-year tenure, most Millennials are still up in the air about whether President Obama kept his promise to the American people about what he planned to change. There's debate about what he has done in office, especially as it relates to black people.

"I think in the beginning [President Obama's] platform was sort of built on that desire to serve African Americans, but when it came down to actual legislation it wasn't targeted toward that

group," said Shannon Jeffries, an UMD College Park graduate student receiving her master's in school counseling.

"My brother's keeper is a good initiative," said Jeffries. "I think that identifying [the plight of] African-American males as one of our biggest civil rights issues of this century is definitely a big deal, but when you're afraid to say 'Black Lives Matter' on television, I really don't know if you're willing to go [great] lengths."

During his SOTU address, President Obama discussed many issues that are relevant today and revealed what he would like to see change in the years after he leaves the White House. He focused heavily on international issues, touching on the strength of America and how the country has not been weakened while people may otherwise think so.

President Obama also gave his thoughts on the course of action that some presidential candidates for the upcoming election would take against terrorism. m. He also assigned Vice President Joe Biden to be in charge of the push to fight against cancer.

He talked about the broken immigration system, protection of gun violence, equal pay, equal work, raising minimum wage, and giving everyone a fair shot and security in the new economy as well. But, some say he stumbled on issues

regarding race and police brutality.

"When he mentions an issue with black people, people think that he's being a race baiter. That alone lets us know that there is still racism and the acknowledgement of race in this country," said Jeffries.

"Just that fact that he didn't even have the audacity to say the word 'black' on television. I think that he definitely should have said more," Jeffries continued. "We also need to stop looking for a Messiah. We have to stop looking for a savior because, it's simply not going to be there. We just have to advocate for ourselves and stop waiting for another person to do so and give us a voice."

Towards the end of his speech, President Obama acknowledged his regrets as commander in chief, alluding to disenchanted young people who felt that their voices wouldn't be heard in a system that favors the rich and powerful.

"I think it was really big of him and how he said there was a lot of things that he did not get a chance to do in his eight-year presidency he did want to correct," Ewell said. "It's just the fact that a lot of presidents don't ever say stuff like that and how they regret not making decisions or not doing something during their presidency. I just felt like that was very humbling and very big of him to say that especially looking at it retrospectively."

# WELSING REMEMBERED AS SCHOLAR

By **Sam P.K. Collins**

WI Bridge Editor-in-Chief  
@SamPKCollins

In the years leading up to her death, scholar-warrior Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, with the help of friends and colleagues, fought tooth and nail against the very forces she described in her 1991 book *The Isis Papers: The Keys to the Colors*.

That battle, however, would prove to be futile.

Welsing's confidants say exploitative lawyers and timid power brokers in the D.C. Zoning Commission foiled her attempts to stop what has been described as the Jewish Primary Day School's encroachment on her property. For years, high noise levels emanating from the private school's playground rattled the 80-year-old psychiatrist, possibly causing the stroke that landed her in MedStar Washington Hospital Center on New Year's Eve.

The news of Welsing's Jan. 2 death shocked many who recounted seeing a clear-thinking, vibrant and mobile elder during public appearances locally and across the country months earlier. Such a healthy disposition, even in the scholar's last moments, didn't surprise Januwa Moja, a nationally renowned artist and Welsing's close friend of 40 years who recalled often seeing her face light up during discussions about racism. "Dr. Welsing was for us as a people 24/7. Her first priority was her patients, then the Welsing Institute," Moja told AllEyesOnDC, referring to the three-hour long sessions Welsing held in Howard University's Blackburn Center in Northwest on the second Thursday of each month between September and May of the academic year.

"Once she prepared for her patients, she would prepare for the session on the second Thursday. She was speaking everywhere and always hopping on planes. During those times, she was traveling by herself. In her 80s, she kept it moving, working on our behalf and elevating our consciousness. She read almost everything that had to do with our people," Moja added.

Welsing, an alumna of Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio and Howard, rose in notoriety during the 1970s and 1980s after she defined racism as a



Dr. Frances Cress Welsing receives an award at the Black LUV Festival in 2008. / Photo by Elvert Barnes, Creative Commons, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/perspective/2934266592/in/photolist-5ou47F-5thTej-5td4Gc-5td4FV-5td4Gi-5td4FZ-5td4Ga-5tdqfV-5tdqfH-5tdqg4-5thTem-5tdqgg-5tdqfD>

# WHO LOVED BLACK PEOPLE



Libation is poured for Dr. Frances Cress Welsing and others who have transitioned during Jan. 14th program at Howard University./ Photo by Sam P.K. Collins

global white supremacist system built out of a white minority's fear of genetic annihilation. She reached this conclusion after hearing Neely Fuller, author of United Independent Compensatory Code System Concept, mention such a perspective. That encounter inspired her to find out why white people have acted in this manner historically.

In *The Isis Papers*, Welsing postulated that people of color, especially those with darker shades of melanin, are targeted in nine major areas of activity including politics, law, entertainment, labor, sex, and war. Her premier work included a collection of essays penned over the course of more than 20 years. For many, Welsing's scholarship made sense of the mental health issues black people continued to endure one generation after Jim Crow. It also inspired Public Enemy's album *Fear of a Black Planet*, introducing her to legions of young people.

In the decades since she developed what's known as the Theory of Color Confrontation, Welsing has unflinchingly defended her position to white and black detractors alike, contending that

back people's failure to understand the totality of racism impedes progress and maintains the status quo. In 1973, she debated Dr. William Shockley, physicist and proponent of eugenics, debunking most of his points and pushing him into abject obscurity.

The Millennial generation became familiar with Welsing's work after her appearance in the *Hidden Colors* documentary series. In recent years, they counted among a significant number of people in the audience during her lectures across the country.

"She had this infectious energy and came ready to deliver this message about white supremacy and racism," Millennial singer, rapper, and songwriter Jeni Calhoun, told AllEyesOnDC. Last August, she met Welsing during a lecture at Fisk University in Nashville during which the warrior-scholar signed a copy of *The Isis Papers*.

"The first time I came across *The Isis Papers*, I wasn't ready for the knowledge," said Calhoun, an employee of Jazzy 88.1 WFSK, located on Fisk's campus. "Now that I've come back to

it, it has a different message because I have a higher level of consciousness. I love how Dr. Welsing always broke down stuff and showed us how racism affects us on all fronts. I see all of the propaganda and things they're doing to keep us enslaved in this system."

After Welsing succumbed to complications from her stroke, students and fans took to social media to mourn who they considered a legend and staunch advocate for black people. A multigenerational gathering of more than 200 community members took place at the Blackburn Center earlier this month in place of Welsing Institute. That evening, guests poured libations, told stories about the late Welsing, watched YouTube videos of her interviews, and purchased copies of *The Isis Papers*.

Two more events, a 40-day ascension ceremony and memorial service, are scheduled for February and March respectively. Despite minimal acknowledgment of Welsing's work by the mainstream establishment, her influence among those who consider themselves "conscious" remains strong, making a large turnout at future events a

strong possibility.

"If she was white, Dr. Welsing's passing would be on the front page of the New York Times and all over CNN," Dr. Gregory Carr, chair of Afro-American studies at Howard, told AllEyesOnDC. "The critique of whiteness has become so vogue but it's something she and Neely Fuller pioneered. With *The Cress Theory*, Dr. Welsing was attempting to answer the call for a social science paradigm to analyze racism. That's why she identifies as one of the great theoreticians of the 20th Century."

Carr, critical of how social media diminished young people's will to read and organize interpersonally, said that youth could best honor Welsing by eradicating the white supremacist system methodically, not only in times of tragedy. "Organizing is based on collective study and work. That's what Dr. Welsing often talked about," Carr said. "There was always a mix of talking and work but that's all it is now. What we have to do now is commit ourselves to real time organizing and building between generations."

Technology enthusiast and podcaster Big Baba Rob shared Carr's sentiments, telling AllEyesOnDC that he wants to honor Welsing's memory by acting in the manner she often encouraged her audience to exemplify: respectful of one another.

"Dr. Welsing wanted us to be smarter and act better as a people," said Big Baba Rob, 42. "She wanted us to be aware and fight. Her lectures and book analyze where we are as human beings. We have to educate ourselves. We're being dumbed down and things are setting us up for failure. That's why we must continue to fight."

This article originally appeared on AllEyesOnDC.com

# CYBERNINJAZ EXPOSES YOUNGSTERS TO SCIENCE

By Dejah Greene

WI Bridge Contributing Writer  
@greeneuphorias

For a long time, the D.C. metropolitan area had few, if any, technology programs that centered on creating a healthy learning environment for young black children, particularly girls. Last year, a group of young black entrepreneurs started on a path to fulfill that need.

Cyberninjaz is a black-owned summer camp that aims to help children and young adults mature into educated, disciplined individuals that utilize skills needed to work in the fast-paced digital age. This program holds nine-week sessions at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland.

After a successful launch, Cyberninjaz is gearing up for another round of fun slated to kick off in just a matter of months. In their upcoming courses, campers will learn the basics of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) by building drones and robots. The Cyberninjaz program goes beyond that, exposing children to 2D game design, Java, video production, 3D animation utilizing Cinema 4D, web design, and comic and digital art.

"Young women have a lot to contribute to science and technology, especially within the gaming industry," said Piankhi Zimmerman, founder of Cyberninjaz. With the help of his business partner and Cyberninjaz vice president Clarence Alexander, University of the District of Columbia student Christopher



(L-R) Piankhi Zimmerman, Clarence Alexander, Jeffery Melvin, and Christopher D'Angelo lead a presentation for the 4th Annual Girls and STEM event in Baltimore last November. / Photo by Carrie Kelly

games are male oriented with female characters who have unrealistic physical characteristics.

Research also shows an underrepresentation of women and members of non-white groups in the technology field. At Google for instance, African Americans and Hispanics accounted for three percent of the staff in 2014. This low representation most likely stems from the historic denial of access to resources and opportunities that would level the playing field for marginalized people.

Members of the Cyberninjaz staff said

Alexander said he believes that if children in the area brush up on their math skills during the summer, their grades would improve during the school year. "We know the kids want to learn, the best part about teaching is teaching the ones who really want to learn," he said.

Once students complete their projects, they can present it to their parents and peers and showcase it on the official Cyberninjaz website. The feat allows often allows participants a chance to reflect on their work, improve their skills, and boost their self-esteem.

recess hour called "Ninja Fit Time," the camp counselors encourage the kids to run, exercise and play sports such as Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, and boxing. "A big thing about Cyberninjaz is that we strive to keep everyone healthy and fit with Ninja Fit Time. We want to emphasize the importance of staying active," Zimmerman said.

Another aspect of the program that makes it stand out from others in the D.C. metropolitan area is what Zimmerman describes as a the dedication to maintaining a positive and close relationship between the students, parents and camp counselors.

Before Cyberninjaz, Zimmerman led his share of summer enrichment camps in the D.C. metropolitan region. He said he became aware of the disconnect between the camp counselors and the students, realizing that there needed to be a more positive and memorable environment for everyone involved.

"I wanted to open up this camp, because I wanted a place where parents and students didn't feel completely separated from the teachers," Zimmerman said. "The biggest thing we want to offer is exposure and exposure with actual take away from the new concepts they have learned."

---

**"Girls play video games just as much as guys, so why aren't they creating them? Why aren't they detailing the characters and creating story lines? We need to start correcting some of those things,"**

---

D'Angelo, and businesses coordinator Jeffrey Melvin, Zimmerman keeps the program's curriculum up to date.

"Girls play video games just as much as guys, so why aren't they creating them? Why aren't they detailing the characters and creating story lines? We need to start correcting some of those things," said Zimmerman, an alumnus of American University in Tenleytown.

Even though women account for more than half of gamers, there has been criticism that the majority of video

they believe that teaching young girls how to create video games can empower them and pave the way for a new wave of products with a more female leads.

"Women have a lot to contribute to science and technology, especially within the gaming industry."

In response to the recent decrease in math test scores from students in the Washington metropolitan area, the Cyberninjaz family also offers math tutoring for subjects such as algebra and geometry.

Alexander recalled seeing this first hand, recounting instances when he only had to show a child how to complete a task once.

"After showing the kids the basics, we had one girl do really amazing 3D modeling of a sword from her favorite cartoon," he said. "Her work was extremely meticulous. It was great to see such refined art."

The Cyberninjaz summer camp also allows its participants to engage in physical activity. During the daily

# THE CURE: AN ALBUM OF PROPHECY AND LOVE



Kingston-born Reggae artist Jah Cure released *The Cure* last year./ [Reggaebeatmaker.com](http://Reggaebeatmaker.com)

**By Adolf Alzuphar**  
WI Bridge Contributing Writer  
[@alzuphar](https://twitter.com/alzuphar)

Siccatore Alcock, who's also known as Jah Cure, was arrested at the age of 19 and later convicted for rape, robbery and gun possession. During his 12-year prison sentence, he released his first musical work, titled *Free Jah's Cure The Album*. Nearly a decade later, he has remained true to conscious Reggae, even as many of his contemporaries turn to dancehall for potential riches and stardom.

His newest album *The Cure*, released last year by Jamaican music titan VP Records, still stands as prophecy that teaches us to maintain some sanity all the while moving our souls; wise words from a man who's served time. In terms of musical direction, it stands as classical work though it departs from its classical Reggae roots. For those of us living in the United States, it would be safe to assume that an album with this title would be an exploration of an artist's wealth and winning personality. Instead, Jah Cure shows us how to "find the light." It simply means loving your better half, praising Jah, keeping great

friends, abstaining from corruption, and delivering oneself from painful living. Though you're not rich or dating runway models, you'll be "cured."

Like his fellow Reggae artist Sizzla Kalonji, Jah Cure makes music one can easily fall into. Additionally, the cover art for *The Cure* raises the standard, showing a head shot of Jah Cure vibing to music with his eyes closed. All 13 songs speak about finding a path to sanity, whether through ganja, introspection a woman, or Jah.

In listening to these tracks, it's important to remember Jah Cure's life story. It puts everything he says into perspective. In "Set Me Free," Cure bluntly states that "you set me free." Given his time in prison, that's not a clam to take lightly. In "Other Half of Me," he tells a woman with whom he sips "tea by the fire" that "I can't live without you" and that "only love will remain when we get old". On "I surrender" he sings "[l]ook what I've been through" that "they don't want me to touch the sky", but that "I'm working over time". He then sings that "Jah is by my side" and it all makes sense. It is a profoundly spiritual song and the best on the album.

*The Cure* also includes an interpretation of John Legend's "All of Me" on the album, quite an unexpected move. He sings it better than the platinum-selling R&B crooner, giving it a feel that's more aligned with everyday living than the glamour of pop-soul. In "Corruption" and "No Friend of Mine," Jah Cure speaks out against corruption, which he calls "the greatest enemy." They are both wise, philosophical, songs.

In a sense, the circumstances of Jah Cure's life and the political climate in which he lived molded his perspective and message.

He was born in 1978 during a golden age of Jamaican politics during which Roots Reggae became a mythical, global sound. In that period, Jamaica was a hotbed of political conflict, priming artists to express their disdain through music. By the time Jah Cure started making music of his own, the political landscape changed. With globalization, Jamaica turned away from its leftist past, and with the growing conservatism in President Edward Seaga's administration came dancehall music, a brand of Reggae with lyrics much less about love, and

more about sexuality. Even so, certain musicians persevered with Reggae music, reinventing it into a much more technologically modern version of itself adhering to the traditional principles of love, chanting down barriers, and praising Jah. Jah Cure belongs to this group of new Reggae musicians.

"The cure is here." Jamaican society is full of evil, as are most societies today. Corruption, relationships not based on love, and the nonliving according to Jah's prescribed good is at the heart of the ever present "Babylon", the unsacred city. Jah Cure is singing to the corrupted. Like any commercial artist, he dresses up his music to appease the industry's tastes in great dress and great visuals. Cure does not dress ragged, Reggae, as for example Bob did and his stance against corruption is less believable, though it is very believable. It might be a new way of symbolizing Reggae. Jah Cure is a great torchbearer of the Reggae tradition that has dimmed due to dancehall's hegemony. It is a must listen for all of those who would like to live a life of both art and wholesomeness.



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EDITORIAL

## District Residents Show Real Compassion during Storm

It's been tough going for those who live in Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland and other places along the East Coast as Mother Nature paid us a visit that we will never forget.

Winds howled, snow fell with record accumulations. The result: schools, businesses, airports, even the federal government, shut their doors – advising everyone to stay home.

As we watched more and more snow fall from Friday thru Sunday, most of us did try to remain indoors, watching television, sleeping a few more hours, engaging in house cleaning – or just talking on the telephone.

But once the snow stopped falling, hundreds of thousands of area citizens began the arduous task of clean up. And in these instances, one thing became apparent: as human beings we are still more alike than unlike.

Gone were the differences of race, creed, color, sexual orientation or political affiliation. It didn't matter how young or old a person was.

Everyone picked up a shovel or broom and began to clear away walkways, dig out automobiles or chip away at ice on pathways.

Younger men with more strength and energy, assisted the elderly. Children, while playing in snow mounds that were sometimes taller than they were, also helped out in the cleanup operation.

There are those who seek to emphasize the differences that exist between us. Some, like several GOP presidential candidates, almost seem to enjoy pointing out how different we are. Certainly differences exist – and they should be celebrated.

But what makes us most proud is the way people from across the Greater Washington Area came together for a common cause – making things safer during a weather emergency.

As the poet Maya Angelou once said in her poem "Human Family," we are more alike than unlike, more alike than unlike, more alike than unlike." Indeed we are.

It would be a beautiful thing if we maintain her optimism as we return to business as usual.

Maybe, instead of concentrating on our differences, we'll be able to focus more on the similarities that exist. After all, when the blizzard of 2016 hit, Mother Nature didn't care about our color, our economic status or our religion. We didn't either. We just extended our arms and helped out a neighbor, pushed a stranger's car out of a ditch or shared a hot cup of coffee with someone we'd never seen before.

We salute the thousands of Good Samaritans throughout the region. Well done. **WI**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Wizards Need a New Coach to Win

The Cleveland Cavaliers just did it and they have the best record in the east and went to the championship last year. The Houston Rockets did it and they were one shot from going to the championship last year. The Chicago Bulls did it and had one of the best teams in the NBA for years. The Oklahoma Thunder did it and they were always competing for the best record in the west. What did all of these teams do? They fired their coach. Why? Because they want to win a championship! They see that what they had was not working and saw that they needed to change. I am saying this because the Wizards need to fire their coach. His system is not working and the players are not responding to it. Randy Wittman is a good man and probably a good coach, but it's not working, and if we want to win a championship, he has to go. Ownership needs to take its head out of the sand and pull the trigger before it's too late. Do we really want to win a championship or are we satisfied with being a second level team always competing for the last playoff spot. The NBA is a business and players make a lot of money, and you can't fire them. So when a change is needed you fire the coach, that's the nature of the beast in the NBA. Sorry, it's time for Randy Wittman to go!

**Robert Mullberry**  
Washington, DC

### Bowser Not to Blame for Blizzard's Impact

The so-called Blizzard of 2016 brought Washington, D.C. to a standstill. Unfortunately, Mayor Muriel Bowser is taking the blame for the hazardous conditions, the closings and other inconveniences brought on by this massive snowstorm. The citizens of the District are notoriously famous for blaming the mayor for every inconvenience related to these snowstorms – from unplowed streets to Metro closing to power outages – the list goes on. People should understand that no matter how technologically advanced we think we are, we can never tame Mother Nature. It certainly isn't Mayor Bowser's fault that this storm happened the way it did, and even if salt trucks and plows had been deployed to the city streets earlier in the day on Wednesday, traffic backups would have happened anyway. The unexpected ice storm on Wednesday before the blizzard was not the fault of the Mayor. There is very little we can do to make icy roads navigable and safe. Every mayor of D.C. has been criticized for the way they handled snowstorms. Let's give Bowser a break. This was an extraordinary storm for this region. She did the best that she could do at the time.

**Larinda Mathis**  
Washington, DC



Guest Columnist

By Robert White

## Wal-Mart: Too Big to Trust

For years, I lived in Ward 7 near SkyLand. If there ever was a neighborhood that had waited and was due support from the city, it was Skyland.

But was Wal-Mart really ever a solution for Skyland?

Yes, it was a bait-and-switch. Yes, I think that the mayor and attorney general should work together on a lawsuit on behalf of the District and then let Wal-Mart have it right in the mouth.

Yes, we need jobs and shopping options for fresh foods and reasonably priced goods near our homes. We also need to recognize the truth.

In the same way that the U.S. Congress uses us as a pawn in a never-ending political chess match, some corporations play us against other municipalities, twisting arms to see who can take the most pain and give up the largest incentives. If they break their word after a deal is made, they think "So what."

Wal-Mart did not come to the District to revitalize Skyland or any other neighborhood. Wal-Mart

came to suck out profits from a new market.

At nearly half a trillion dollars in revenue and \$120 billion in gross profits, it was too big to trust.

If Wal-Mart wanted to invest in SkyLand, it could have. To naysayers who claim it already had invested real money, I say that its investment to date was a pittance – less than a rounding error in its financials.

The more we all think about it, the more incredulous we should be about what happened. And we should remember a couple of things.

First, our government officials have a responsibility to cut good deals – good for the residents, I mean – with developers that want to build here and with businesses that want to make money from District residents. These deals and incentive packages must be balanced by enforcement mechanisms and penalties so that if a business breaks a deal, it pays a price.

Furthermore, we have to be specific in writing about what we want. Did the incentive package require developing Skyland first? Obviously not, although that is what was dis-

cussed in all the media coverage.

Similarly, the District government should not release businesses from legal and regulatory requirements – as with affordable-housing requirements – as a matter of course. Our perspective should be "Don't like our deal. I bet the next business will."

Second, we have to make doing business in the District more transparent. The old way of doing business in D.C. was about insiders. Many still see DC as a corrupt place

WHITE Page 37



Guest Columnist

By James Clingman

## The Economics of Water

"Water, water, everywhere, and not a drop to drink."

— Rime of the Ancient Mariner, by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

I can hear the backroom discussion now: "We can save money if we stop taking our drinking water from Lake Huron and start using water from the Flint River instead." Those may not be the exact words, but the leaders of Flint, Michigan, including the two recent Emergency Managers, City Council, the Environmental

Protection Agency, and the governor, have caused a catastrophe.

Money is the common theme among the perpetrators in Flint; it is always lurking in the shadows of the many problems facing Black and poor people. Now, in a city that is approximately 60 percent Black and has a 40 percent-plus poverty rate, money trumps life again. Money trumps the long-term effects on more than 8,000 children, many of whom will grow up suffering from the physical, cognitive, and emotional illnesses caused by lead poisoning. As one person said,

"Everybody in the city has been poisoned, everybody."

Sophia A. McClennen (Salon.com) wrote, "The story of Flint is the story of what happens when profits are more important than people. What Michael Moore captured in (Roger and Me) was a clear prelude to what is happening (in Flint) today. First, Flint residents lost their jobs. Twenty-five years later they have lost their water and their health. There are ten dead...from Legionnaire's disease in Flint and countless others with serious illnesses from contaminated water."

Politicians are playing games with this emergency, and trying to garner votes from it. Remember Rahm Emmanuel's quote? "You never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that is it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before." Where is the "opportunity" in this crisis? Was the slow response to this crisis really just an opportunity to get more money?

This is far from being about what party is in charge. Some folks are blaming the Republican governor and some are blaming

the city council, on which the Democrats hold a 7-1 majority. But so what? The damage is done; the right question is "Now what?"

Many people have marshalled their forces to assist the people of Flint, first, by bringing water. The Feds have granted a measly \$5 million to help but the president of the United States, who went to nearby Detroit but did not go to Flint, denied the request by the governor to declare the situation a "major disaster,"

CLINGMAN Page 37

Guest Column

## NAACP Honors Luminaries

LOS ANGELES – This year, the chairman of the National Association of Colored People National Board of Directors, Roslyn M. Brock, will present the prestigious Chairman's Award to individuals and organizations that have used their platforms to promote change.

The recipients are Brittany "Bree" Newsome; Justice League NYC; Concerned Student 1950 Collective at the University of Missouri, Columbia; The University of Mississippi NAACP College Chapter; the Rev. Otis Moss III; the Rev. Howard-John Wesley; the Rev. Jamal Harri-

son Bryant, and Jussie Smollett. The presentation will take place during the 47th NAACP Image Awards, broadcast live on Feb. 5 on TV One, the civil rights organization announced today.

"It is a rare privilege for me to present the NAACP Chairman's 2016 Award to an outstanding group of trailblazing leaders all under the age of 50 who have given voice and vision to the mantra that black lives matter," stated Brock. "The five individuals and three organizations have raised awareness of social, educational, and economic injustice from college campuses, church

pulpits and the streets, and exemplify what this award symbolizes, "Courage Will Not Skip this Generation."

The Chairman's Award recognizes special achievement and distinguished public service.

### 47TH NAACP CHAIRMAN AWARD HONOREES:

**Justice League NYC** is a rapid-response criminal justice task force launched by The Gathering for Justice, a nonprofit founded by iconic actor Harry Belafonte in 2005. The Justice League NYC has established itself as a leader in the Movement for Racial Equity, utilizing the talents and resources

of its members to advocate for viable reforms to the criminal justice system.

**The University of Mississippi NAACP College Chapter** is an organization committed to ensuring the educational, political, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. The College Chapter's leadership was a key catalyst in the student-led campaign to remove the Mississippi state flag, which includes the Confederate battle emblem in its upper left corner from campus grounds.

Concerned Students 1950 Collective at the University of Missouri, Columbia stood up to

institutional apathy and racial hostility on the campus. The Collective organized a series of "Racism Lives Here" protest rallies that included a hunger strike by a graduate student and a pivotal boycott by its football team, the Missouri Tigers, that resulted in the resignations of the University of Missouri System president and the chancellor.

**Bree Newsome** has always been sensitive to the essential role that art and symbols play in shaping culture and consciousness. As she watched the funeral of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, one of nine people slaughtered in

NAACP Page 37



Guest Columnist

By Julianne Malveaux

## Economic Inequality at Home and Abroad

Days before the opening of the World Economic Forum, Oxfam, the international organization that works on world poverty issues, released a report that addressed inequality. They found the international wealth gap growing rapidly. Last year, just 62 individuals had the same wealth as the 3.6 billion people who make up the bottom half of the world population. Wealth has become much more concentrated – in 2010, more than five times as many people shared the same amount of

wealth as the bottom half.

While the top 62 people saw their wealth grow by 44 percent in five years, the bottom half saw their wealth drop by about the same amount (41 percent). And world incomes reflect increasingly concentrated wealth inequality. Nearly half of the world's population lives on less than \$2 a day. One in five people – 1.2 billion – live on less than a dollar a day. Oxfam says that, “growing economic inequality is bad for us all – it undermines growth and social cohesion...the consequences for the world's poorest people are particularly severe.”

While the Oxfam world inequality data is jarring, we don't have to go global to witness the “particularly severe” consequences of domestic income and wealth inequality. Consider Flint, Michigan, the small (population around 100,000) Rust Belt city that has made national (if not international) news because of the quality of its drinking water. Republican Gov. Rick Snyder appointed an emergency manager who recommended switching the city's water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River. The river water was so foul that General Motors refused to use it, saying it would rust auto

parts. If it would rust parts, what about kids? More than 40 percent of the people in Flint are poor. Fifty-six percent are African-American. The city's median income is about \$23,000 a year, compared to \$48,000 for the rest of the state. Clearly, the people of Flint can't afford to purchase politicians or to force them to be responsive to their needs. Instead, like a billion people worldwide, the people of Flint have been deprived of the human right to clean and safe water.

We in the United States like to brag about how much better off we are than the rest of the world. But

we can't seem to provide our citizens with something the United Nations has declared a basic human right. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly said that access to clean and safe water is a human right, noting, “Everyone has the right to water, no matter where s/he lives.” The United States has said that they will monitor the progress of nations in providing water and sanitation. Maybe the United Nations should come and monitor Flint.

While the United Nations has said that water is a human right,

**MALVEAUX** Page 38



Guest Columnist

By Marc H. Morial

## Tuning Out: Why I Will Not Watch the Oscars

It turns out that Hollywood does, in fact, love a sequel.

For the second straight year in a row, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences – the organization behind Hollywood's biggest and splashiest awards show – failed to nominate a single actor or actress of color in the lead and supporting acting categories. This year, when pay equity and gender equality were as much a Hollywood narrative as anything screened in local mov-

ie theaters, women earned more Oscar nominations (up almost 24 percent versus 21 percent in each of the last two years), but they were shut out from the best cinematography and best director categories – again.

In a nation as diverse as ours, an Oscars ceremony that neither recognizes nor includes the vast artistic talent and contributions of women and people of color is a white-washed fiction that would better serve us as the premise of a sci-fi feature and not as a mirror of our multicultural reality.

While my role is not to ques-

tion the cinematic credentials of the academy's 6,291 voting members, I do question how it is that in a season that produced critically-acclaimed films such as “Beasts of No Nation,” which stars Idris Elba as an African warlord; the N.W.A biopic “Straight Outta Compton,” and “Creed,” the latest installment in the iconic “Rocky” franchise, there were no Black screenwriters, directors, composers, cinematographers or actors to be found whose contributions deserved academy recognition.

Ironically enough, two films

helmed by either Black actors and/or directors – “Creed” and “Compton” – were recognized by the academy, but their sole nominations were denied to people of color, with Sylvester Stallone receiving a best supporting actor nod for his role in “Creed” and writers of “Compton” receiving a nomination for best original screenplay.

A lot of ink has been spilled citing the composition of the academy and its role in travesties like this year's copycat lock out of talent from communities of color. A much-cited 2012 survey of

the Academy by the Los Angeles Times highlights the crux of the problem: the Academy's members are 94 percent white, 77 percent male, and an average age of 63 – hardly representative of the diversity we see in the streets and increasingly on our TV screens. There was a push for more inclusion after last year's infamous snub of the civil rights movie “Selma,” with a record 322 invitations sent to join the Academy.

The list of invitees included fewer than 20 new Afri-

**MORIAL** Page 38



Askia-At-Large

By Askia Muhammad

## Obama, Secret Service, Slipping and Sliding

“Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.” Arguably, that quote is attributed to the great author, Mark Twain.

The deeper, indisputable wisdom of that statement is clear. Who knows someone who can do something about the weather?

Twain also said: “If you don't like the weather in New England now, just wait a few minutes.” New England is a metaphor for

everywhere, because we all know, the weather is constantly changing.

Washington and the entire Eastern seaboard were pummeled recently by the blizzard of 2016 in D.C., the fourth-largest snowfall on record.

The great military minds that surround the president of the United States might have done saved themselves and their boss some embarrassment and some minor peril two days before the major storm hit, had they simply heeded the advice of Mark Twain's second weather quote above.

President Barack Obama wound up stuck in the massive weather-related traffic jam like thousands of other rush-hour motorists on Jan. 20, two days before the big storm actually arrived. The president's motorcade was delayed as 1 inch of snow crippled traffic for hours all around the Beltway, which surrounds the nation's capital. They should have waited a few minutes before trying to transport the president in a motorcade.

White House pool reporters accompanying His Nibs from Joint Base Andrews in Maryland after

his 7:30 p.m. arrival from a day-trip to Detroit watched as his motorcade slipped and slid on the snow-covered roads.

At several points, the motorcade even hit the curbs. Navigating the ice and snow-slicked roads took the motorcade drivers more than an hour to get back to the White House at about 8:40 p.m. — a trip that should have taken 25 minutes. White House pool reporters spotted at least three crashes along the way.

“The vans slipped and skidded on the icy roads, making contact

several times with the curb during the more suburban part of the drive. After nearly an hour, the motorcade vehicles started making more aggressive use of their sirens and stoplight privileges,” according to Reuters White House correspondent Jeff Mason, who accompanied the motorcade back to the White House and who filed a “Pool Report” for White House correspondents not present.

The trip was unusually slow, with the motorcade “stopping at

**MUHAMMAD** Page 38

# Toni Braxton TV Film Draws Three Million Viewers

*'Unbreak My Heart' Based on Singer's Personal Memoir*

By D. Kevin McNeir  
WI Editor

During the recent blizzard that forced millions along the east coast to remain in doors, television became a popular means of passing the time. That decision may have helped producers for the Lifetime cable network in attracting more people to their television sets and watching the premier of an original movie, "Unbreak My Heart," which focused on the life of singer, songwriter, pia-

nist and actress Toni Braxton.

Nielsen preliminary national estimates indicate that the film averaged 3.6 million viewers, becoming cable's No. 1 original movie with adults and women and surpassing numbers for the January 2015 premier of "Whitney," also on Lifetime.

After the movie, Lifetime aired the special "Beyond the Headlines: Toni Braxton," which featured interviews with Toni, her family, L.A. Reid, Babyface, songwriter Diane Warren and record producer

David Foster.

The film, which draws heavily upon Toni's memoir, looks at the ups and downs of her life, including her battle with chronic illness [lupus], financial setbacks [two bankruptcy filings], divorce [from musician Keri Lewis] and the challenge of raising a son with autism.

Lewis and Braxton have two sons: Denim, 14 and Diezel, 12, whose early detection of autism became instrumental in his development.

"He's [Diezel] doing great. He's been working so hard and he's almost off the spectrum, pretty much," she said in an interview with USA Today.

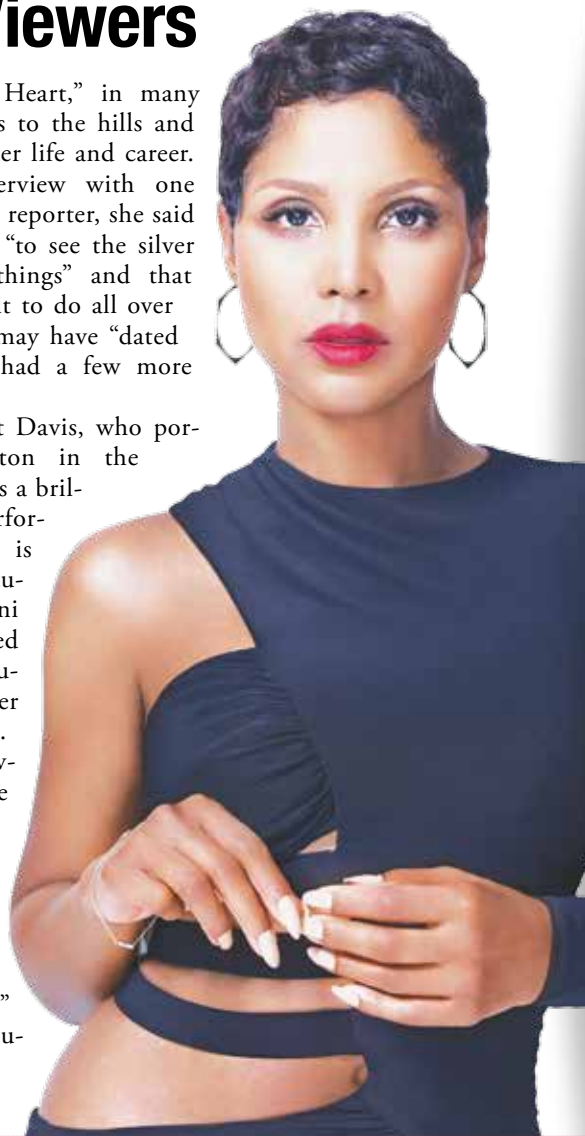
Braxton, 48, rose to fame in the early 1990s, becoming an R&B icon and one of the top-selling female artists of the decade. She released her self-titled debut album in 1993, selling over 10 million copies worldwide. She has garnered seven Grammy Awards and sold over 67 million records.

Her signature song, "Un-

break My Heart," in many ways speaks to the hills and valleys of her life and career. In an interview with one USA Today reporter, she said she prefers "to see the silver lining in things" and that if she had it to do all over again, she may have "dated more and had a few more cocktails."

Lex Scott Davis, who portrays Braxton in the movie, gives a brilliant performance and is just as beautiful as Toni who served as co-executive producer for the film.

If you haven't seen the movie yet, check the Lifetime schedule. In a word, "Unbreak My Heart" is simply "superb." **WI**



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## SPECTRUM DANCE TO DEBUT IN D.C.

Washington Performing Arts and CityDance will present Spectrum Dance in the company's District debut at Sidney Harman Hall in Northwest on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. The company will perform works from its acclaimed "Rambunctious" program, and will be joined on stage by the award-winning New York City-based Attacca Quartet. "Rambunctious" premiered in Seattle in May 2014 and is comprised of seven pieces by choreographer Donald Byrd, each set to a string quartet by an American composer. The fusion of dance with live music serves as a hallmark of Spectrum Dance. For tickets, call 202-785-9727 or visit [washingtonperformingarts.org](http://washingtonperformingarts.org). / Photo courtesy of Bucklesweet Media





## Alvin Ailey to Return to D.C. for Black History Month

*Performance to Include Two Premieres and Three D.C. Debuts*

By D. Kevin McNeir  
WI Editor

With Artistic Director Robert Battle leading the way, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater will return for its annual Kennedy Center appearance in the District during the first part of Black History Month in performances that will include Battle's first world premiere since becoming the popular troupe's leader in 2011.

The seven performances, which

open on Tuesday, Feb. 2 and will continue through Sunday, Feb. 7, will feature two company premieres and three D.C. debuts for a total of 11 works by a diverse group of choreographers. As has become the company's tradition, the Ailey-choreographed "Revelations" will serve as the finale for each program.

The D.C. premieres promise to capture the attention of the audience in masterful style.

Battle's piece, "Awakening," set to a symphonic score by John Mack-

ey, employs his taut, ritualistic style to powerful effect in a dance that balances chaos with resolution and dissonance with harmony.

In "Exodus," choreographer Rennie Harris blends his signature house dance moves to their very depth, while exploring the idea of "exodus" as a necessary step toward enlightenment and away from personal ignorance and conformity.

Finally, Ronald K. Brown, a frequent traveler to Cuba, embellishes his signature style in "Open Door" – a piece set to music from Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra's most recent album, "Cuba: The Conversation Continues."

New productions include "A Case of You," choreographed by former artistic director Judith Jamison and "Blues Suite" and "Cry," both by Ailey.

◀ The Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe returns to the Kennedy Center on its annual American tour from February 3-8. / Photo by Andrew Eccles courtesy of the Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe

"Blues Suite" uses characters from Ailey's childhood in the South with a cast called to dance and celebrate for the duration of one long, hot night to the poignant songs of the blues.

As for Ailey's signature solo, "Cry," which he dedicated to "all Black women everywhere – especially our mothers," he first presented it to his own mother as a gift.

And then there will be fan favorites that will be performed again: "Night Creature" by Ailey, "ODETTA" BY Matthew Rushing that moved viewers to their feet with thundering applause during last year's appearance and of course, Ailey's "Revelations."

To kick-off their annual return to Washington, D.C., there will be an opening night gala benefit on Feb. 2 with the proceeds going to the support of Ailey's District-based outreach programs as well as scholarships to young dance students from

the D.C. area who would otherwise be unable to afford tuition at The Ailey School in New York City.

Battle, the third director to head the company, first began creating ballets for the Ailey company and Ailey II in 1999 and has served as an artist-in-residence with The Ailey School Battle. Jamison hand-picked him for the job.

The Alvin Ailey Dance Theater traces its roots to a group of young Black dancers who performed in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Y in New York City led by Ailey and a determined group of other young, Black modern dancers. It has since earned a reputation as one of the finest international ambassadors of American culture, promoting the uniqueness of the Black cultural experience while preserving and enriching American modern dance.

For tickets, call 800-444-1324, 202-467-4600 or visit the visit the Kennedy Center's website. **WI**

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# Yolanda Adams Headlines ‘Let Freedom Ring’ Concert

*Annual Event at Kennedy Center Honors Dr. King*

By Eve M. Ferguson  
WI Contributing Writer

Gospel star and multiple Stellar Award-winning singer Yolanda Adams took center stage at the “Let Freedom Ring” – an annual concert paying tribute to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The standing-room-only event, held on Monday, Jan. 18, returned to the Kennedy Center in Northwest for the second time in the past decade.

Co-sponsored by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Georgetown University, the celebration has been an anticipated concert for 15 years and has become a regular feature held on the national holiday that honors King.

The event also endows the John Thompson Jr. “Legacy of a Dream Award” to a local community activist, this year to Nakeisha Neal Jones, an alumna of Georgetown University and executive director of Public Allies DC, one of the first AmeriCorps National Service programs. The nonprofit organization matches diverse new leaders with community organizations for 10-month apprenticeships.

Because it is known as an “ardent advocate for social justice,” Jones said, “it’s hard to go through Public Allies DC and not change personally. I want to be known as a servant leader. That means I have a purpose. It’s something greater than me.”

Before the presentation of the award, the Rev. Nolan Williams Jr. led the Let Freedom Ring Choir in a rendition of an anthem from the civil rights era, “Stayed on Freedom,” and then introduced his commissioned work for 2016 – a collaborative musical piece titled “Say Something, Do Something,” which was performed with the choir and the Georgetown University Black Theater Alliance.

Enjoining the audience to stand up, the theater students performed skits asking “What would you do?” in situations where one should say something, or better yet, do something in support of their brother or sister being taunted, bullied or berated.

When Adams hit the stage,

looking svelte and glamorous in a long black suede jacket, she mentioned that she had wanted to come out and participate in the upbeat musical piece, but they told her “Ma’am, it’s not your time yet.”

However, when her time to perform did arrive, she belted out several of her heart-felt songs of praise, much to the delight of her fans, including “Be Blessed,” “Open Up My Heart” and “Since the Last Time I Saw You.”

Interjecting songs with commentary, Adams spoke about taking the subway in Japan and having two girls, who spoke no English, start singing the lyrics to “Open Up My Heart.”

“I hope there is something we sing or say tonight that blesses you,” Adams said before confessing that she was there to sing, not to talk. “Our goal is to inspire, uplift and encourage so when you leave, you will know that

you have been in the presence of God.”

The Texas native, who worked as a schoolteacher before focusing on gospel music in 1988 with her first recording, “Just As I Am,” continued to energize the audience when she joined the choir in renditions of “Never Give Up” and her cover of R. Kelly’s “I Believe I Can Fly.”

As she exited the stage, the audience remained, waiting for an encore. But Adams had an early-morning engagement as the hostess of her popular “Yolanda Adams Morning Show” and could not honor the audience’s request.

On her radio show, she continues to share messages of faith and forgiveness. There’s also an informative website, <http://theyolandaadamsmorningshow.com>, where listeners who can’t catch her in the morning can still hear the show. **WI**



▲ Grammy Award-winning gospel singer Yolanda Adams performs during the Let Freedom Ring! concert at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Northwest on Sunday. / Photo courtesy of Georgetown University



▲ Members of Georgetown’s Black Theatre Ensemble – back row: Caleb Lewis, Kylan Small, Nona Johnson, Airton Kamdem, Lisette Gabrielle, Mar J. Cox, Kundalini Nicholson-Walker, Walter Kelly; front row: Joshua Street and Yerlyn Rojas – perform with the Let Freedom Ring! Choir during the musical selection “Say Something, Do Something.” / Photo courtesy of Georgetown University

# WI Book Review

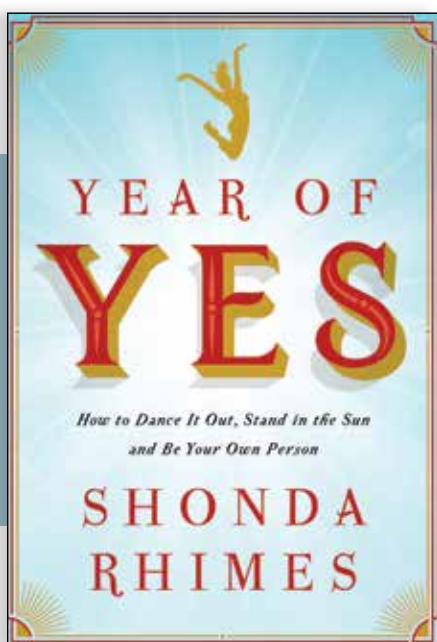
## Year of Yes

by Shonda Rhimes

c.2015, Simon & Schuster

\$24.99 / \$32.99 Canada

311 pages



▲ Shonda Rhimes

For far too long, you've been holding back. Opportunities have presented themselves, and you've passed on them. Chances have leaped in front of you and you skipped them, but you're not sure why. Some days, you feel like you're in a ten-foot-deep rut; in the book "Year of Yes" by Shonda Rhimes, you'll see how to get out.

With two babies and a "tween" at home, several mega-hit productions, and hundreds of employees on her payroll, writer-creator-producer Shonda Rhimes had ample reason for turning down requests. She was busy – and she was also terrified.

Rhimes is a private person, an introvert's introvert. She hated publicity, interviews, and foofaraw, all of which scared her to the point of panic. "NO" was a much safer word until, on Thanksgiving Day a few years ago, her sister said six words that set Rhimes back on her heels: "You never say yes to anything."

A few days later, after those words sunk in, Rhimes realized how wrong it was that her sister was right. Rhimes was "miserable" and knew that she shouldn't be, so before she was tempted to let the idea go forever, she texted a friend and vowed to say "YES" to everything scary for one year's time.

Almost immediately, the "Universe" sent her the first challenge: an invitation to speak at her alma mater's graduation. Next came an invitation to interview with Jimmy Kimmel and, said Rhimes when it was done, "I didn't die."

She said yes to letting go of outdated ideas about motherhood. She became "a big social butterfly" before learning to say yes to play. As an F.O.D. (a "First. Only. Different."), she'd already said yes to "literally changing the face of television," but she had to learn to watch the yeses she stuffed in her face... and she said yes to weight loss.

She said yes to those who inspired her.

She said yes to compliments.

She said yes to learning how to appropriately say "no."

She said yes to singlehood because everybody's "happy ending" is different. And she said yes because "Saying yes... is courage."

With all she has on her plate – one high-profile company, three kids, four hit TV shows – you should wonder where author Shonda Rhimes found time to write a book. And you should be glad she did.

With wisdom, wit sharper than a Ginsu knife, and the warmth of a BFF, Rhimes takes readers on her year-plus-long journey, from "It's NEVER going to get better" to a life of joy, on a road filled with potholes of self-doubt, hairpin curves, and the realization that inviting fears into her life wasn't going to kill her. Yes, I loved it.

Inspirational? YES, and because her TV creations are dramas, you'll be surprised and delighted to find that Rhimes is a funny writer, too. She's also thoughtful, and her experiences will make you think: maybe you do need to play. Maybe you do need to learn when "no" is appropriate. Maybe you do need "Year of Yes," no holding back. **WI**

## Horoscopes

JAN. 28 - FEB. 3, 2016



**ARIES** A party or gathering with friends from the past gives you the opportunity to strut your stuff a bit. You've made tremendous strides and accomplished much in your life, so be pleased with yourself this week. Pass some of your wisdom along to others. *Soul Affirmation: All that I need is within me. Lucky Numbers: 18, 42, 47*



**TAURUS** Do not throw a wrench in someone's else plan and undermine their project to get ahead in what you are trying to do this week. Be peaceful and seek harmony in the relationships you have in your personal and professional life. You will go further than you think by helping co-workers and friends. *Soul Affirmation: I get because I give. Lucky Numbers: 1, 16, 22*



**GEMINI** This week your fortune will delight you in ways that you've never experienced before. Don't be slow in sharing good fortune with others who helped you achieve what you have. Fill their coffers as yours are being filled. A wonderful gift to have is the ability to give to others. *Soul Affirmation: The success of others is the investment I make in myself. Lucky Numbers: 7, 20, 55*



**CANCER** This week do not seek the "highest" source of information for your answers. Look towards a humble source for the truth about your vibrations this week. The ability to learn from any of God's creation will lead to better answers than finite human knowledge will produce. *Soul Affirmation: Truth is revealed in the smallest grain of sand. Lucky Numbers: 12, 23, 30*



**LEO** This week your strong fortitude will be able to carry you through hurdles that you once perceived as insurmountable. Don't begrudge your situation or begrudge others for what they have. You will become a better person when you overcome any stumbling blocks in your path. You will look back and count it as a milestone. *Soul Affirmation: What life has given me is sufficient to any task. Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 31*



**VIRGO** One of your greatest talents and gifts is the ability to give freely to others. Exercise it this week with a passion. You are very timely when others are in need. Your capacity to be a stronghold for others is remarkable. The power of giving will always supersede the feelings of neediness. *Soul Affirmation: Being there for others is a way of being there for myself. Lucky Numbers: 20, 25, 35*



**LIBRA** Living in the past has been one of your favorite things, do it this week. Memory will give you clues to the answer to a pressing problem. Ask for help in finishing up the week's work. Be diplomatic and you'll get all the help you need. Pretending to be a little bit helpless can work to your favor. *Soul Affirmation: My needs will be met if I just ask. Lucky Numbers: 34, 39, 41*



**SCORPIO** There is a fresh discovery about yourself that you can make this week by taking a poll of friends. They are especially aware of your real self. It shines through on the surface of your life. Ask others what they see and listen well. Situate yourself so you'll be ready for it. *Soul Affirmation: I enjoy the love that others have for me. Lucky Numbers: 13, 53, 54*



**SAGITTARIUS** It is amazing how a restless soul like you can button down when you have to. This week is the kind of week when obligations must be met. The best way to get it done is to think about it with only half your mind. Let the other half roam around restlessly like you like your mind to do. *Soul Affirmation: This week silence speaks loudest and truest. Lucky Numbers: 2, 5, 15*



**CAPRICORN** You've done a lot of things in life that no one has agreed with at the beginning. Finding agreement this week will be difficult, but it should not deter you from moving forward. Feeling sorry for your loneliness will discolor what you are doing. Be happy that you are alone. *Soul Affirmation: I accept fate and see good in it. Lucky Numbers: 16, 18, 24*



**AQUARIUS** You should know by now that trying to be in two places at once is very taxing to your nerves! Slow down a bit and trust that you'll get what needs to be done accomplished. Give yourself a head start on all road trips so that you have time to enjoy the view. *Soul Affirmation: Seeing my past clearly this week gives me a clear vision of my future. Lucky Numbers: 11, 30, 40*



**PISCES** An afterglow surrounds you during the week, and you may not feel like getting immediately into work-mode this week. It's okay to go with your feelings; the world will wait for a little while. Treasure happy moments. *Soul Affirmation: Facing down challenges makes me feel good about myself. Lucky Numbers: 7, 25, 31*

# Washington Wizards Stomp the Miami Heat, 106-87

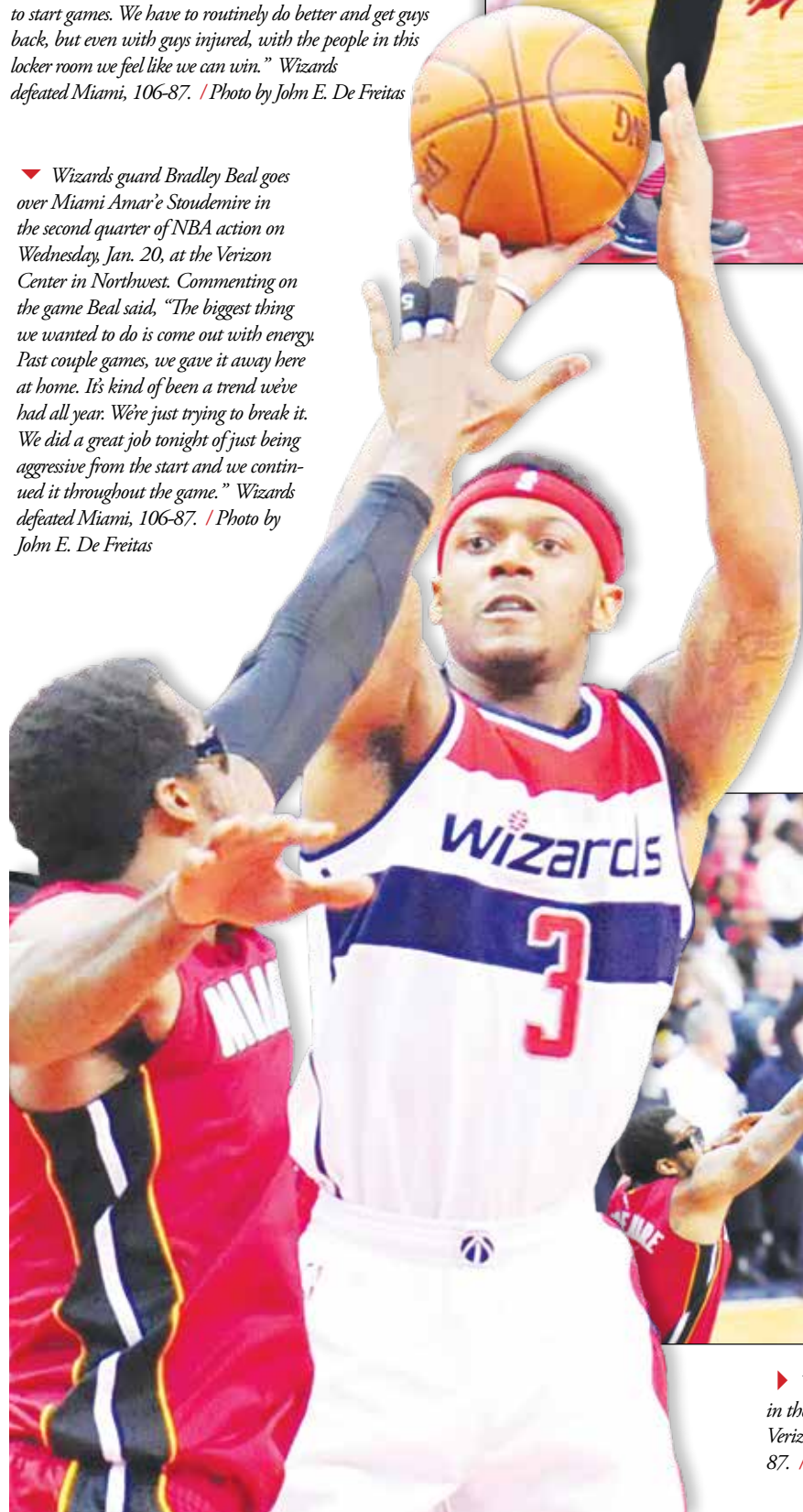
► Wizards guard John Wall drives to the basket in the first quarter of National Basketball League action on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Commenting on the game Wall said: "We are never where we want to be, even with the injuries that we have we still could have been above .500, we let a lot of games slip and not come in with the focus to start games. We have to routinely do better and get guys back, but even with guys injured, with the people in this locker room we feel like we can win." Wizards defeated Miami, 106-87. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

▼ Wizards guard Bradley Beal goes over Miami Amar'e Stoudemire in the second quarter of NBA action on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Commenting on the game Beal said, "The biggest thing we wanted to do is come out with energy. Past couple games, we gave it away here at home. It's kind of been a trend we've had all year. We're just trying to break it. We did a great job tonight of just being aggressive from the start and we continued it throughout the game." Wizards defeated Miami, 106-87. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

► Wizards Marcin Gortat goes over the attempted block by Miami center Hassan Whiteside in the first quarter of NBA action on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Wizards defeated Miami, 106-87. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

▼ Wizards guard Gary Neal goes for two points in the second quarter of NBA action on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Wizards defeated Miami, 106-87. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

► Wizards forward Nene goes to the basket for two points in the first half of NBA action on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Wizards defeated Miami, 106-87. / Photo by John E. De Freitas



**THE WASHINGTON AREA** WAS UNDER A SEVERE BLIZZARD DURING THE EFFECTS OF WINTER STORM JONAS WHICH STRETCHED FROM GEORGIA TO MASSACHUSETTS. MOST RESIDENTS SPENT MONDAY AND TUESDAY DIGGING OUT WHILE WAITING FOR THE SNOW PLOWS TO REACH SOME AREAS. / PHOTOS BY SHEVRY LASSITER, ROY LEWIS, PATRICIA LITTLE, TRAVIS RIDDICK, AND NANCY SHIA

/ Photo by Nancy Shia



/ Photo by Shevry Lassiter



/ Photo by Kevin McNier



/ Photo by Roy Lewis



► MGM senior leadership officials and distinguished MGM colleagues from across the company in a group photo in front of the ceremonial tree before it is hoisted to the top of the hotel tower at the MGM National Harbor Topping Off Ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016 at the National Harbor, Md. / Photo by Patricia Little

▼ MGM Chairman and CEO, Jim Murren greets senior leadership team, colleagues, the construction workforce and the media at the MGM National Harbor Topping Off Ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at National Harbor, MD. / Photo by Patricia Little.



◀ A ceremonial tree is hoisted to the top of the 24-story hotel tower at the MGM National Harbor Topping Off ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at National Harbor, Md. / Photo by Patricia Little.

► The atrium of the new student center at the University of the District of Columbia has a three story glass facade and an open ceiling which allows in natural light was on display during the opening on Wednesday, Jan. 20 in Northwest. / Photo by Roy Lewis

▼ The University of the District of Columbia President Ronald Mason Jr. (2nd left) and Mayor Muriel Bowser along with other officials, cut the ribbon at the entrance of the new UDC student center on Wednesday, Jan. 20 in Northwest. / Photo by Roy Lewis



## THE RELIGION CORNER

## It Pays to be Persistent

**I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

*Philippians 3:14 KJV*

"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while ... " Hebrew 10:35-37. Simply put, press toward the mark. Don't quit!! Don't take no for an answer as you go. Instead, pray daily, use your imagination and find a way around your obstacles. Persistence pays. Hill said something like this about the eighth principle, persistence, our lesson for this week.

"Persistence is an essential factor in transmuting desire into good health, to a better job, to increasing your business stream of income, to building the congregation of your church, to your monetary goal no matter what it is you seek.

Thomas Edison commented that 90 percent of people quit 90 percent of the way to accomplishing their goals. Those who persist win; those who do not lose; that is as true today as it was 60 years ago when Hill wrote "Think and Grow Rich."

Persistence of bad habits seems to continue to flourish, though. Despite the overwhelming evidence that the way we think and what we believe is not producing the results we desire, we persist in hanging on to what does not work.

Many people see small problems, molehills, as a major mountain blocking their path. Only a few choose to see a mountain in their

path as an opportunity to gain a broader perspective as they continue to travel along life's journey. Persistence turns stumbling blocks into stepping stones; you get the attitude that nothing is going to stop you like Rocky Balboa or Muhammad Ali. Like His servant Job, who persisted, never turning from his God. The three Hebrew boys, would not bow down, got thrown into the burning fire. It is simply a matter of attitude.

Many fail to be persistent for fear of failure. They lose hope. You will not be persistent when you operate in fear; fear will cause you to quit.

A recent example of this principle in action for me ... as I finished up my weekly radio broadcast at Radio One, WYCB, downtown Silver Spring. I realized it was pouring down rains a few weeks ago. My windshield wipers had stopped working. My son checked at the auto repair shop while I was in Arizona for the holidays and discovered my wiper system needs a new motor. It didn't occur to me to put the car in the shop for the work to be done when I got home. However, as I left the station in Silver Spring that Friday, all I could do was pray through the rain storm that I could drive home safely, in the dark with water pouring down on my windshield. Too late in the evening for a mechanic, so I persisted!

It was not easy. I found myself



with Lyndia Grant

running off the road several times in an effort to avoid crossing the line as I drove through Sligo Creek Park. It was so dark. Sitting as close to the windshield as possible, praying and trusting God seemed my only option. I knew that my God could help me to do anything, including this trip. I made it home, all the way to Gaithersburg without a scratch. As I parked my car at home, my son called saying, "Where are you?" I said, "I have just parked my car, I'm home." It wasn't easy, but I prayed, and decided to persist, trusting God. Thank God, I was operating in faith.

Be bold, persist, and operate in faith. Don't move forward on what it is you see. Walk by faith, and not by sight. Believe in God, and know He will direct your path. **WI**

*Women's Day Weekend Retreats are in need of a facilitator. Call Lyndia Grant at 202-558-2107. Visit the website of Lyndia Grant at [www.lyndiagrants.com](http://www.lyndiagrants.com); send requests to [lyndiagrants@gmail.com](mailto:lyndiagrants@gmail.com).*

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Fax: 301-843-2445

Virgil K. Thomas, Sr.  
Senior Pastor/Teacher

Services & Times  
Sunday School 8 - 9 AM  
Worship Service 9 - 11 AM  
Tuesday Night Bible Study 6:30 - 8:00 PM  
Wednesday Daytime Bible Study 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Motto: "A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment"  
Website: [www.turningheartchurchdc.org](http://www.turningheartchurchdc.org)  
Email: [faithdefender@verizon.net](mailto:faithdefender@verizon.net)

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Wednesdays: 12:10 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

[www.stmarysfoggybottom.org](http://www.stmarysfoggybottom.org)  
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(202) 547-8849

Worship Sundays: 7:30 & 11:00am  
5th Sundays: 9:30am  
3rd Sundays:  
Baptism & Holy Communion  
Prayer & Praise:  
Wednesdays @ Noon & 6:30pm

[www.pilgrimbaptistdc.org](http://www.pilgrimbaptistdc.org)



**Church of Living Waters**

Rev. Paul Carrette Senior Pastor  
Harold Andrew, Assistant Pastor

4915 Wheeler Road  
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

301-894-6464

Schedule of Service  
Sunday Service: 8:30am & 11:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday 7:30pm  
Communion Service: First Sunday

[www.livingwatersmd.org](http://www.livingwatersmd.org)



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Sunday Church School - 9:15am & Sunday Adult Forum Bible Study - 10:30am  
2nd & 4th Monday Women's Bible Study: 6:30pm  
Tuesday Jr./Sr. Bible Study: 10:00am  
Tuesday Topical Bible Study: 6:30pm  
Tuesday New Beginnings Bible Study: 6:30pm  
Wednesday Pastoral Bible Study: 6:30pm  
Wednesday Children's Bible Study: 6:30pm  
Thursday Men's Bible Study: 6:30pm  
Friday before 1st Sunday Praise & Worship Service: 6:30pm  
Saturday Adult Bible Study: 10:00am  
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Rev. Dr. Alton W. Jordan  
Pastor

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202-548-0707  
Fax No. 202-548-0703

Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00am  
Holy Communion: 1st Sunday  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Men's Monday Bible Study: 7:00pm  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00pm  
Women's Ministry Bible Study: 3rd Friday  
7:00pm  
Computer Classes: Announced  
Family and Marital Counseling by appointment  
E-mail: [Crusadersbaptistchurch@verizon.net](mailto:Crusadersbaptistchurch@verizon.net)  
[www.CrusadersBaptistChurch.org](http://www.CrusadersBaptistChurch.org)



**Isle of Patmos Baptist Church**

Reverend Dr. Calvin L. Matthews • Senior Pastor  
1200 Isle of Patmos Plaza, Northeast  
Washington, DC 20018  
Office: (202) 529-6767  
Fax: (202) 526-1661

Sunday Worship Services: 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion: 2nd Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Church School: 9:20 a.m.  
Seniors Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
Noon Day Prayer Service: Tuesdays at Noon  
Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 p.m.  
Motto: "A Ministry of Reconciliation Where Everybody is Somebody!"  
Website: <http://isleofpatmosbc.org>  
Church Email: [ipbcsecretary@verizon.net](mailto:ipbcsecretary@verizon.net)



**Blessed Word of Life Church**

Dr. Dekontee L. & Dr. Ayele A. Johnson  
Pastors

4001 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(202) 265-6147 Office  
1-800 576-1047 Voicemail/Fax

Schedule of Services:  
Sunday School: 9:30am  
Sunday Morning Worship Service: 11:00am  
Communion Service: First Sunday  
Prayer Service/Bible Study: Tuesday, 6:30pm

[www.blessedwordoflifechurch.org](http://www.blessedwordoflifechurch.org)  
e-mail: [church@blessedwordoflifechurch.org](mailto:church@blessedwordoflifechurch.org)



**Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ**

Drs. Dennis W. & Christine Y. Wiley  
Pastors

3845 South Capitol Street  
Washington, DC 20032  
(202) 562-5576 (Office)  
(202) 562-4219 (Fax)

Services and Times:  
Sundays: 10:00am Worship Services  
Bible Study: Wonderful Wednesdays in Worship  
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Office 301-899-8885 - fax 301-899-2555

Sunday Early Morning Worship: 7:45am  
Church School: 9:30am  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45am  
Tuesday:  
7:00pm/Kingdom Building Bible Institute  
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Sunday Worship Service: 8 AM and 10:45am  
Sunday Youth Worship Services:  
1st & 4th 10:45am; 804 R.I. Ave., NE  
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2562 MLK Jr. Ave., S E  
Washington, DC 20020  
Adm. Office 202-678-2263  
Email: [Campbell@mycame.org](mailto:Campbell@mycame.org)

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 am  
Sunday Church School: 8:45 am

Bible Study  
Wednesday: 12:00 Noon  
Wednesday: 7:00 pm  
Thursday: 7: pm  
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Fax: 202 265 4340

Reverend Dr. Paul H. Saddler  
Senior Pastor

Service and Times  
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am  
Communion every Sunday: 11:00 am  
Sunday School: 10:00 am  
Bible Study Tuesday: 12 Noon  
Pastor's Bible Study Tuesday: 6:30 pm

Motto: "Discover Something Wonderful"  
Website: [12thstcc.org](http://12thstcc.org)  
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**Mt. Zion Baptist Church**

Rev. John W. Davis, Pastor

5101 14th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20011  
202-726-2220/ 202-726-9089

Sunday Worship Service:  
8:00am and 11:00am  
Sunday School: 9:15am

Holy Communion 4th Sunday 10:00am  
Prayer and Bible Study  
Wednesday 7:00pm

TV Ministry -Channel 6  
Wednesday 10:00pm  
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Phone (202) 842-3411  
Fax (202) 682-9423

Sunday Church School : 9:00am  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:10am  
Bible Study Tuesday: 6: 00pm  
Prayer Service Tuesday: 7:00pm  
Holy Communion: 3rd Sunday 10:10am

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Pastor

Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Service 11:00 a.m. Praise & Worship  
Preaching 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Motto: "A Church Keeping It Real for Real."

Website: Shabbathcommandmentchurch.org

Email: Praisebetoyhwh@gmail.com



### All Nations Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. James Coleman  
Pastor

2001 North Capitol St, N.E. • Washington, DC 20002  
Phone (202) 832-9591

Sunday Church School - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 AM  
Holy Communion - 1st Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Prayer - Wednesdays, 6:00 PM  
Bible Study - Wednesdays, 7:00 PM  
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Rev. Daryl F. Bell  
Pastor

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(202) 232-1730

Sunday School - 9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 am  
Baptismal Service - 1st Sunday - 9:30 am  
Holy Communion - 1st Sunday - 11:00 am  
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - Wednesday - 7:30 pm



### Emmanuel Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Clinton W. Austin  
Pastor

2409 Ainger Pl., SE - WDC 20020  
(202) 678-0884 - Office  
(202) 678-0885 - Fax

"Come Grow With Us and Establish a Blessed Family"  
Sunday Worship  
7:30am & 10:45am  
Baptism/Holy Communion  
3rd Sunday  
Family Bible Study  
Tuesdays - 6:30pm  
Prayer Service  
Tuesdays - 8:00pm  
www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org



### Florida Avenue Baptist Church

Dr. Earl D. Trent  
Senior Pastor

623 Florida Ave., NW • WDC. 20001  
Church (202) 667-3409 • Study (202) 265-0836  
Home Study (301) 464-8211 • Fax (202) 483-4009

Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Church School: 8:45 - 9:45 a.m.  
Holy Communion: Every First Sunday  
Intercessory Prayer:  
Monday - 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Pastor's Bible Study:  
Wednesday - 7:45 p.m.  
Midweek Prayer:  
Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.  
Noonday Prayer Every Thursday



### Holy Trinity United Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. George C. Gilbert  
SR. Pastor

4504 Gault Place, N.E.  
Washington, D.C 20019  
202-397-7775 - 7184

9:30AM. Sunday Church School  
11:00 AM. Sunday Worship Service  
The Lord's Supper 1st Sunday  
Wednesday 7:00pm Prayer & Praise Services  
7:30pm. Bible Study  
Saturday before 4th Sunday Men, Women,  
Youth Discipleship Ministries 10:30am  
A Christ Centered Church  
htubc@comcast.net



### Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Keith W. Byrd, Sr.  
Pastor

4850 Blagdon Ave, NW • Washington D.C 20011  
Phone (202) 722-4940 • Fax (202) 291-3773

Sunday Worship Service  
10:15AM- Praise and Worship Services  
Sunday School 9:00am  
Monday: Noon Bible School  
Wednesday: Noon & 7PM:  
Pastor's Bible Study Ordinance of Baptism 2nd  
Holy Communion 4th Sunday  
Mission Zion Baptist Church Shall;  
Enlist Sinners, Educate Students, Empower the  
Suffering, Encourage the Saints,  
and Exalt Our Savior. (Acts 2:41-47)  
www.zionbaptistchurchdc.org



### Israel Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Sr.  
Pastor

1251 Saratoga Ave., NE  
Washington, DC 20018  
(202) 269-0288

Sunday Worship Service:  
10:00 A.M.  
Sunday School: 8:30 A.M.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday:  
10:00 A.M.

Prayer Service:  
Wednesday at 6:30 P.M.  
Bible Study:  
Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.



### Lincoln Park United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Diane Dixon Proctor, Pastor

1301 North Carolina Ave. N E  
Washington, D C 20002

202 543 1318

lpumconthegrow@gmail.com

www.lpumcdc.org

Sunday worship 10: am

Holy Communion first Sunday 10: am

Sunday school 9: am

Bible Study each Wednesday @ 12 noon and  
6:30pm

Motto: "A CHURCH ON THE GROW".



### Sermon On The Mount Temple Of Joy Apostolic Faith

5606 Marlboro Pike  
District Heights, MD 20747  
301-735-6005

Elder Herman L. Simms, Pastor

Sunday Apostolic Worship Services  
11:00 A.M and 5:00 P.M

Communion and Feet Wash  
4th Sunday at 5:00 P.M

Prayer/Seeking  
Wednesday at 8:00 P.M.

Apostolic in Doctrine, Pentecostal in Experience, Holiness in Living, Uncompromised and Unchanged.  
The Apostolic Faith is still alive - Acts 2:42



### Matthews Memorial Baptist Church

Dr. C. Matthew Hudson, Jr.  
Pastor

2616 MLK Ave., SE • Washington, DC 20020  
Office 202-889-3709 • Fax 202-678-3304

Early Worship Service 7:30a.m  
Worship Service 10:45a.m.  
New Members Class 9:30a.m.  
Holy Communion : 1st Sunday -10:45a.m  
Church School 9:30a.m.  
Prayer, Praise and Bible Study:  
Wednesday 7p.m  
Bible Study : Saturday: 11a.m.  
Baptism: 4th Sunday - 10:45a.m  
"Empowered to love and Challenged to Lead a  
Multitude of Souls to Christ"



### Christ Embassy DC

6839 Eastern Avenue, R1  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
(202) 556-7065

Kelechi Ajieren  
Coordinator

Sunday Worship Service  
10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Study  
7:00 P.M.

Friday Evening Service  
7:00 P.M. ; Last Friday

"...Giving Your Life a Meaning"

www.Christembassydc.org



### St. Luke Baptist Church

Rev. Aubrey C. Lewis  
Pastor

1415 Gallatin Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011-3851  
P: (202) 726-5940

Sunday Worship:  
11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.  
Holy Communion: 11:00 a.m., 3rd Sun.  
Bible Institute  
Wednesday - 1:30 pm  
Prayer Meeting  
Wednesday - 12:00 Noon



### Mount Moriah Baptist Church

Dr. Lucius M. Dalton, Senior Pastor

1636 East Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20003  
Telephone: 202-544-5588 Fax: 202-544-2964

Sunday Worship Services: 7:45 am and 10:45 am  
Holy Communion: 1st Sundays at 7:45 am and 10:45 am  
Sunday School: 9:30 am  
Prayer & Praise Service: Tuesdays at 12 noon and 6:30 pm  
Bible Study: Tuesdays at 1 pm and 7 pm  
Youth Bible Study: Fridays at 7 pm

Web: www.mountmoriahchurch.org  
Email: mtmoriah@mountmoriahchurch.org



### Eastern Community Baptist Church

Damion M. Briggs  
Pastor

8213 Manson Street  
Landover, MD 20785  
Tel: (301) 322-9787 Fax: (301) 322-9240

#### Service and Times:

Early Morning Message 7:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Sunday Church School 9:00 AM  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday 7:30 AM & 10:00 AM  
Prayer, Praise and Testimony Wednesday 7:00 PM  
Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 PM

"Real Worship for Real People"

Website: www.easterncommunity.org  
Church Email Address: ecc@easterncommunity.org



### New Commandment Baptist Church

Rev. Stephen E. Tucker  
Senior Pastor

13701 Old Jericho Park Road  
Bowie, MD. 20720  
(301) 262-0560

Services:  
Sunday Worship 11 AM  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Wednesday Mid-Week Worship, Prayer & Bible Study - Wed. 7 PM

"A Church Where Love Is Essential and Praise is Intentional"



### Peace Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Michael T. Bell

712 18th Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone 202-399-3450/ Fax 202-398-8836

Sunday Morning Worship Service  
7:15 am & 10:50 am  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:50am  
Wednesday Prayer & Testimonies Service 7:30pm  
Wednesday School of the Bible 8:00pm  
Wednesday - Midweek Prayer Service - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

"The Loving Church of the living lord"  
Email Address pbcexec@verizon.net



### Pennsylvania Ave. Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry  
Pastor

3000 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E  
Washington, DC 20020  
202 581-1500

Sunday Church School: 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.  
Monday Adult Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Youth & Adult Activities: 6:30 P.M.

Prayer Service Bible Study



### St. Matthews Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington  
Pastor

Worshiping Location  
Knights of Columbus - 1633 Tucker Road  
Fort Washington, MD 20744  
(240) 838-7074

Order of Services  
Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 am  
Sunday School: 9:00 am  
Holy Communion 3rd Sunday Morning  
Prayer / Bible Study: 6:15 pm - 7:20 pm (Tuesday)

Theme: "The Kingdom Focused Church"  
Matthew 6:33 and Mathew 28:18-20, KJV

Email: stmatthewsbaptist@msn.com  
Website: www.stmatthewsbaptist.org



### Rehoboth Baptist Church

Rev. Curtis I. Staley  
Pastor

621 Alabama Avenue, S.E. • Washington, D.C. 20032  
P: (202) 561-1111  
F: (202) 561-1112

Sunday Service: 10 am  
Sunday School for all ages: 8:30 am  
1st Sunday Baptism: 10: am  
2nd Sunday Holy Communion: 10 am  
Tuesday:  
Bible Study: 6:30 pm  
Prayer Meeting: 7:45 pm

Motto: "Where God is First and Where Friendly People Worship"



### Salem Baptist Church

Rev. Alonzo Hart  
Pastor

917 N St. NW • Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 232-4294

The Church Where GOD Is Working....  
And We Are Working With GOD

Sunday Morning Prayer Service: 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:40 a.m.  
Third Sunday -  
Baptismal & Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday -  
Church At Study Prayer & Praise: 6:30 p.m.



### Shiloh Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith  
Pastor

9th & P Street, N.W. • W. D.C. 20001  
(202) 232-4200

Sunrise Prayer Services  
- Sunday 7:00 a.m.

Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m.  
Church School: 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 10:55 a.m.  
Bible Study, Thursday: 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting, Thursday: 7:30 p.m.



### First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Reginald M. Green, Sr., Interim Pastor

602 N Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20001  
Office: (202) 289-4480  
Fax: (202) 289-4595

Sunday Worship Services: 7:45am & 11:00am  
Sunday school For All Ages 9:30am  
Prayer Services Wednesday  
11:30am & 6:45pm  
Bible Institute Wednesday at Noon & 7:45pm  
"Changing Lives On Purpose"

Email: foffice@firsrising.org  
Website: www.firsrising.org



### Mt. Horeb Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. H. B. Sampson, III  
Pastor

2914 Bladensburg Road, NE Wash, DC 20018  
Office: (202) 529-3180  
Fax: (202) 529-7738

Order of Services  
Worship Service: 7:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion: 4th Sunday 7:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m.  
Prayer Services:  
Tuesday 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 12 Noon  
Email: mthoreb@mtthoreb.org  
Website: www.mthoreb.org  
For further information, please contact me at  
(202) 529-3180.

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1527

Johnnie L. Horner  
Decedent

Matthew F. Shannon, Esquire  
1420 N Street, NW #102  
Washington, DC 20005  
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Herbert Horner, Jr., whose address is 6209 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Johnnie L. Horner who died on December 9, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 14, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 14, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 14, 2016

Herbert Horner, Jr.  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1537

Theresa Taylor  
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Keith A. Moore, whose address is 765 Girard St., NW, Washington, DC 20001, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Theresa Taylor who died on August 8, 2015 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 14, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 14, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 14, 2016

Keith A. Moore  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1535

Christa McClure aka Christa Prinz  
Decedent

Ethel Mitchell  
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1118  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Tipp Karl McClure and Sarah Barbara McClure, whose addresses are 5511 Broad Branch Rd, NW, Washington, DC 20015 and 1689 Princeton Dr., State College, PA 16803 were appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Christa McClure aka Christa Prinz who died on October 16, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 14, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 14, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 14, 2016

Tipp Karl McClure  
Sarah Barbara McClure  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1137

Gloria Alexander  
Decedent

Alan Solomon  
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1430  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Alan Solomon, whose address is 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1430, Bethesda, MD 20814, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Gloria Alexander who died on September 19, 2011 without a Will. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 21, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 21, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 21, 2016

Alan Solomon  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1534

Elizabeth Jean Whatley  
Decedent

Ethel Mitchell  
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1118  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Julius Whatley, whose address is 534 Newcomb St., SE, Washington, DC 20032, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Elizabeth Jean Whatley who died on December 4, 2014 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 14, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 14, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 14, 2016

Julius Whatley  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1040

Wilheimina Carey  
Decedent

Gemma Antoine-Belton, Esquire  
1101 L Street, NW, Suite 806  
Washington, DC 20005  
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Gemma Antoine-Belton, Esquire, whose address is 1101 L Street, NW, Suite 806, Washington, DC 20005, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Wilheimina Carey who died on December 30, 2014 without a Will, and will serve with Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 28, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 28, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 28, 2016

Gemma Antoine-Belton, Esquire  
Personal Representative

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Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 1335

Zema M. Tucker  
Decedent

Deborah D. Boddie, Esq.  
1308 Ninth Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20001  
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Elaine C. Myrick, whose address is 11760 Sunrise Valley Drive, Unit 201, Reston, VA 20191, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Zema M. Tucker who died on February 20, 2015 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 28, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 28, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 28, 2016

Elaine C. Myrick  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 29

Lula M. Miller  
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Peggy A. Miller and Jamila A. Barber, whose addresses are 5130 7th St., NE, Washington, DC 20011-2625, were appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Lula M. Miller who died on December 7, 2015 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 28, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 28, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 28, 2016

Peggy A. Miller  
Jamila A. Barber  
Personal Representatives

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills

Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2015 ADM 577

Rex Gholson  
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Ashima Reed and Aaron Gholson, whose addresses are 4224 Ft. Dupont Terr., SE, Washington, DC 20020 and 1105 47th Place, NE, Washington, DC 20019, were appointed Personal Representatives of the estate of Rex Gholson who died on February 4, 2015 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W., Building A, Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before July 28, 2016. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before July 28, 2016, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
January 28, 2016

Ashima Reed  
Aaron Gholson  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills

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services here:

call Ron Burke at

202-561-4100

or email

rburke@washingtoninformer.com

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## WHITE from Page 22

where insiders get special treatment.

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We want business owners who look residents eye-to-eye, not ones who look past us to the next new market. Its small- to medium-size businesses that deserve our limited resources and the best incentive packages. This is how we build sustainable communities and neighborhoods with our residents.

## CLINGMAN from Page 22

which under law applies to natural disasters and "certain other situations." Isn't this a "certain other situation"? Isn't it just as important as getting water to Katrina victims and providing healthcare for Flint's citizens?

It would be great to see our doctors, psychologists, attorneys, scientists, engineers and technical personnel lend their talents to help, like we do in other countries. In light of this terrible situation, Flint is in need of all the services, assistance, contributions, and prayers that we can muster. By the way, so are the folks in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, where the citizens are suffering from all sorts of diseases and untimely deaths, because of the still lingering effects of the BP oil spill. Earnest McBride of the Jackson Advocate has covered this story.

The lawsuits will come and the

People like to play lotteries. With \$2 from your pocket, you too could have a chance to win over \$1 billion as in the recent Powerball jackpot. It sounds wonderful, but communities do not win by playing the lottery. It does not put food on residents' tables each night or pay for medicine or rent. In a lottery, there are at best only a few winners and a lot of losers.

We thought Wal-Mart was the Powerball jackpot, but in fact Wal-Mart was the one selling us lottery tickets. Wal-Mart led us to expect that it would do something incredible for us and our communities. It didn't. Instead, it cashed out our hope. It cost us time and money, and Skyland and surrounding communities are left with another broken promise.

Ultimately, the paper signed by Wal-Mart was worth about as much as a Powerball ticket with one matching number the day after a drawing.

It's time that the District government changes its focus to the kinds of businesses that want to be our partners, want a level-playing field and want to find homes in our neighborhoods. This is what will make a difference in the lives of our residents, not multinational companies that have records of mistreating their employees and that ready themselves with armies of lawyers for the time when they inevitably break their word.

We should build our future, not wager on it. **WI**

money from the taxpayers' coffers will flow, money that could have been used to prevent the problem in the first place. The long-term health ramifications of lead poisoning are irreversible but manageable if the funds to do so are available. The State of Michigan, as it deals with myriad financial issues, will now have to pay billions for its neglect and lack of concern for poor people.

Beginning with Idlewild in 1912, Michigan has had issues with Black/White relationships, social/environmental justice, and economic progress, which provides a context from which to view Michigan's current predicament, Detroit and its recent economic woes notwithstanding.

In Benton Harbor, with a 90 percent Black population, Edward Pinkney was imprisoned for fighting for social and economic justice, another example of money trumping what is right.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People abandoned brother Pinkney and opted, by its silence and lack of advocacy on his behalf, chose the path of least resistance, and who knows what they received from the Whirlpool Corporation in return for their silence? Once again, as it has throughout the nation, the NAACP manipulated the local election to get rid of Pinkney as President. He went to prison and Whirlpool got an NAACP award.

Three of the five great lakes, Michigan, Huron, and Erie, virtually surround Michigan. For folks in Flint to have to drink water from the Flint River in order to save money is reprehensible. "Water, water, everywhere, and not a drop to drink." To all of you "Civil Rights" advocates: What could be a greater "civil right" than having clean water to drink?

**WI**

## NAACP from Page 22

the name of white supremacy at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, she recognized the message being communicated clearly by the U.S. flag and the South Carolina state flag at half-staff while the Confederate flag remained fully furled. Refusing to accept the premise of this image – that White supremacy is supreme, untouchable and invincible – she scaled the 30-foot flagpole in front of the South Carolina Statehouse and removed the "stars and bars" boldly declaring, "This flag comes down today!"

"Empire's" **Jamal Lyon**, actor-singer-songwriter Jussie Smollett, is a longtime activist who has actively stood up for civil rights, HIV/AIDS awareness and more social justice causes since age 15. Smollett volunteers with such nonprofits as the Black AIDS Institute, Artists for a New

South Africa, and United Negro College Fund, among others.

Time magazine has identified the **Rev. Jamal Harrison Bryant** as one of the key figures of this hour to move the generation forward. His training and tutelage emanated from his time serving as national youth and college director of the NAACP, where he organized a national "Stop The Violence Start the Love" campaign to counter the violence that claimed the lives of thousands of young African-Americans.

Senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, the **Rev. Otis Moss III** is a preacher, activist, author and culture critic with an eye toward justice and equality, as evidenced through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Moss regularly provides biblical context and theological support to a myriad of groups and causes. This "new millennial" preacher

is committed to preaching prophetically that the message of love and justice are inseparable companions.

**The Rev. Howard-John Wesley**, a biblical scholar and arguably one of the greatest orators of our generation, is the much sought-after, gifted, anointed, and dynamic pastor of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, whose history dates back more than 200 years. Under the helm of this powerful visionary, teacher and social justice leader, Alfred Street Baptist Church is the first and only faith-based organization to date to donate \$1 million to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

For all information and latest news, please visit the official NAACP Image Awards website at <http://www.naacpimageawards.net>. **WI**

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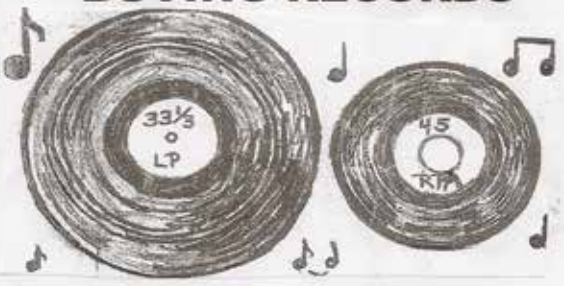
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## MALVEAUX from Page 23

some industrialists disagree. In 2013, Nestlé's chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe said he wanted to privatize the water supply. While he has been vocal in talking about the fair distribution of water, he also leads a company that is the world's top seller of water, and is charged with returning value to shareholders no matter how water is distributed. It would be good to see Nestlé and Brabeck-Letmathe weighing in on the Flint situation, perhaps providing some donated water to underscore the need for fair water access. Certainly, capitalism minimizes the possibility of fair access when proposals to privatize water are considered.

## MORIAL from Page 23

can-American members, close to 14 Asian and Pacific Islander members and a handful of Latin Americans, according to "The Wrap," an industry-insider magazine. Here are a few more statistics you should also take into consideration. In its most recent study, the Bunche Center at UCLA found that film studio heads were 94 percent white and all male and that film studio senior management was 92 percent white and 83 percent male. The problem is two-fold.

The struggle to transform the academy into a diverse body that

Cher has donated 180,000 bottles of Icelandic Global water to Flint. She is paying for half of the bottles of water, and the water bottlers are donating the other half. She has shared her outrage about the Flint situation in cyberspace, calling out Snyder for his callous indifference to the people of Flint. The governor's tepid apology, only delivered under pressure, does nothing to ameliorate the damage to thousands of children and young people who have been exposed to the lead water.

Snyder says he hopes the issue does not become "political." Really? If politics is the practice of dividing resources, then this clean water matter is intrinsically political. Who gets clean water? Why? When the demographics of Flint

thoughtfully contemplates and recognizes the work of communities who do not fit the cookie cutter mold is one that must take place within the academy, but change will remain elusive if there is no transformation of a white male dominated studio system that decides what gets made – and perhaps most importantly, what doesn't get made. Major studios are not greenlighting the projects that reflect our nation and the few movies that are produced end up on the cutting room floor of the nomination process.

Like so many others, I am scandalized by the shut out of

are compared with those in the rest of the state of Michigan, it is clear that the poorer, blacker residents of Flint get far less attention from the governor than wealthier, whiter residents. The citizens of Flint have been forced to accept a deficient water quality, for political reasons.

The plight of Flint citizens will hardly make the agenda of the Davos World Economic Forum. But the United States cannot claim lofty space as a world human rights leader when our own citizens are denied the basic right to clean water.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available for pre-order at [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com). **WI**

people of color across most major awards categories for the second consecutive year. I will continue to add my voice to the public scrutiny necessary to keep this issue on Hollywood's front burner. And I will also be doing something else this year: I will not be watching the Oscars. I am not an Academy Award member.

I do not green-light films, nor do I direct them. But I do control what does – or doesn't – appear on my television screen. If we want Hollywood to tune in to our legitimate concerns and issues, I, for one, will be tuning out.

**WI**

## ASKIA from Page 23

most stoplights and easing its way through slow and crowded traffic, often employing sirens and flashing lights," Mason wrote. Ordinarily, the president travels to and from Joint Base Andrews via helicopter. White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the next day that the decision to transport the president on the ground was made by military and Secret Service officials and noted that Obama traveled in a "heavy SUV with a highly trained professional driver at the wheel."

Air Force officials made a "bad-weather call," which means the snow forced the president and his Secret Service detail to return to the White House via motorcade instead of his usual method: Marine One, the presidential helicopter. "Helicopter travel is not something he's likely to have regular access to as a former president," Earnest said, looking to Obama's future as a former president. "So yesterday, last night may have been a reminder of how painful his transition (to civilian

life) could be," when his term ends on Jan. 20, 2017.

That doesn't excuse the error in judgment, putting the prez at risk, stuck in a traffic jam somewhere on Suitland Parkway. I'm thinking there must have been some comfortable lounges somewhere on that huge military base where Obama might have cooled his heels until the weather permitted the helicopter transport.

"The president getting stranded on his way back from Joint Base Andrews really tells us that the most powerful man in the world in the most powerful country in the world cannot defeat the laws of nature," Wilmer Leon, a political scientist and host of "Inside the Issues," heard on Sirius-XM Satellite Radio told me in an interview.

"It did put the President in some level of peril. I'm sure of course they were prepared for whatever possible contingencies might have arisen from that, but one wonders, why they didn't just keep him at Andrews. They had to have known that there was peril ahead.

"Had something happened, then one would have wondered, 'Does this take us back to the front door of the White House being unlocked? Does this take us back to the drunk Secret Service agents crashing their car on the White House grounds? Does this just once again demonstrate poor judgment by the Secret Service?'" Leon continued.

Shades of Dealey Plaza in Dallas, November 1963. Then as now, neither the President's schedule nor is his travel route to and from regular destinations is any kind of a secret. Ordinarily, when the motorcade proceeds, the entire street is blocked, and adjoining streets are cut off so that the Prez is the only one proceeding on the boulevard.

Not this time, though. He and the Secret Service was slipping and sliding like everybody else. "But fortunately it wound up being an innocent traffic jam. The president wound up being like every other citizen in Washington, D.C. stuck in traffic. Fortunately for him and his family he arrived home safely."

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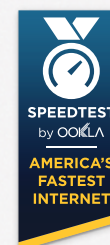
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