THE WASHINGTON
Informer
VOL. 51, NO. 19 FEB. 18 - 24, 2016

black history MONTH

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Washington, D.C. resident Vera Abbott and Washington Informer staff members Angie Johnson and Sarafina Wright, WI Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes, and Desmond Barnes view a depiction of the conditions on a slave ship in the middle passage on the African American Heritage Tour in the "National Great Blacks in Wax Museum" in Baltimore on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by Roy Lewis

Fellowship, History Merge in WI Heritage Tour

Hundreds Explore Baltimore in Annual Trip

By Sarafina Wright
WI Staff Writer
@dreamersexpress

The Washington Informer's 6th Annual African American Heritage Tour kicked off this year's journey with the theme "Discovering Baltimore: The Charm City of Neighborhoods, Monuments and Rich Heritage.

Hundreds of Informer readers including men, women and a large number of children, along with corporate sponsors, gathered on Saturday, Feb. 13 at THEARC [Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus] in Southeast which has hosted all six of the Informer's tours to embark on a Black history tour – this time focusing on the rich but often untold history of Baltimore.

"Baltimore is a place whose notoriety rose in the news because of crime, police and lack of economic development. The news hasn't been favorable in contrast to the real story," Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes said.

"There is a strong and very rich African-American history in Baltimore. Our history often gets lost and this is a great opportunity to remind everyone about our contributions,"

TOUR *Page 8*

CBC PAC Endorses Hillary Clinton

By Stacy M. Brown
Special to NNPA Newswire

While Sen. Bernie Sanders was in New York dining with the Rev. Al Sharpton and courting the Black vote, Hillary Clinton scored a major coup in the nation's capital by earning the endorsement of the Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee, an organization that works to increase the number of African Americans in the U.S. Congress and who offers support to non-black candidates who champion the interests of minorities.

The CBC PAC also promotes African-American participation in the political process with an emphasis on young voters – a group that proved pivotal in President Barack Obama's two election victories.

"When we needed someone to come and rally the Democrats and the Congressional Black Caucus, Hillary Clinton has been there," said Congressman Gregory Meeks, in announcing the endorsement on Thursday morning. "On the issues that

CBC PAC *Page 9*



Antonin Scalia / Courtesy of quotesgiant.com

Battle Ensues Over Replacement of Supreme Court Justice

Obama Faces GOP Challenge as He Seeks to Fill Seat of Antonin Scalia

By D. Kevin McNeir
WI Editor

While President Barack Obama has vowed that he will "fulfill his constitutional responsibility" by nominating a new justice to replace Justice Antonin Scalia, who died suddenly last Saturday during a hunting trip, Republican senators and presidential candidates say they will filibuster any nominee the White House sends to Capitol Hill.

Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Shultz said the White House will not rush to offer a nomination and will wait until the Senate returns from recess. But already the president is gearing up for a Supreme Court battle.

SCALIA *Page 11*

Social Sightings The CoLumn Is Everywhere!



By Dr. Charles Vincent & "Mickey" Thompson Vincent

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HELLIAN WIVES HOST ANNUAL BRUNCH

The wives of the members of the Hellians Social Club (Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity) held their annual brunch at the JW Marriott. Music was provided by The Mystical Waters.



THE HELLIANS WIVES
(Not in Order)
Donna Taylor, Audrey Little, Phyllis Morris, Martha Baron, Carolyn Clay, Katherine Cooper, Deidere Brewer, Lynn Beebe, Elsie Bryant, Shelly Jackson, Tanek Jenkins,



SEATED (L-R) Dr. Iris Morton, Lynn Beebe, Martha Baron & Sylvia Belton
STANDING (L-R) Samuel Foster, Dr. Verdise Rollins, Atty. Chuck Baron & De Vaughn Belton



STANDING (L-R) Edward Wood, William Funderburk, Elsie Bryant, De-Vera Redmond, & Barbara Jeffries
SEATED (L-R) Francella Press, Marilyn Funderburk, Dr. Gladys & Dr. Anthony Watkins, & Enid Johnson



STANDING (L-R) Frederick Davis, Eugene Kinlow, Philip Hampton & Del Mar Nelson, Jr. SEATED (L-R) Kimberly Wingfield, Tenya Kinlow, Audrey Little & Susan Nelson



STANDING (L-R) Claude Martin, Harold Thomas, Phyllis Morris, William Morris, Claude Tellis, & Joseph H. Williams Jr.
SEATED (L-R) Priscilla Martin, Ann Thomas, Shelly Morris, Evelyn Tellis & Bernadine Barnes



STANDING (L-R) Michael Horton, Maceo Davis, Atty. Tilman L. Gerald, & Jesse Weaver SEATED (L-R) Alfredda Horton, Trena Brown, Dori B. Cook, Alice Pinderhughes & Lauren Horton



STANDING (L-R) Eddie Galiber, Tim Thomas, CherylTeare, Presley Reed, Keith Perry & Michael Butler
SEATED- (L-R Debbie Galiber, Monica Monroe, Cheryl Teare, Belinda Perry & La Tanya Butler



STANDING (L-R) Philip Hughes, Robert L. Jenkins, Jr. & Marvin Muldrew SEATED (L-R) Althnia Hughes, Tanek Jenkins & Sarah Muldrew



STANDING (L-R) Earl & Rosalind Jeffers, Butch & Lisa Hazel, Becky Mungo, Timothy & Linda Stickland, Nat & Sabrina Davis, Walter & April Jernigan, John & Denise Cotten, Kevin & Christie Jones, Erick & Shelly Jackson & Robert & Donna Taylor



STANDING (L-R) Michael Burgess, Leroy Clay, III, Leroy Clay, Jr., Gary Jackson, Dorsainville & Mare Clay SEATED (L_R) Nicole Burgess, Jennifer Fisher, Carolyn Clay, Desiree Boykins & Judith Clay



STEATED (L-R) Katherine Cooper & Renee Newton
STANDING (L-R) Robet Cooper & Jonathon Newton

To Publish your event on the Social Sightings-the CoLumn Page and/or in the MagaZine Contact us at socialsightings@aol.com

Kurt Pommonths, Sr, Photographer * Photo Enhancer & Graphic Designer
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WI HOT TOPICS

COMPILED BY D. KEVIN MCNEIR / WI EDITOR

NAACP Calls for 'Civil Disobedience' in Flint



The NAACP said it will recommend disruptive "civil disobedience" in Flint if Michigan's Governor Rick Snyder doesn't present a plan in the next 30 days that has a deadline for replacing the city's water pipes, the organization's national leader said earlier this week.

"The NAACP, having seen the generosity of Americans from one end of this country to the other sending water bottles to Flint, (is) going to call on the people in 30 days to send bodies and conscience to Flint," and engage in a mass demonstration, said Cornell Brooks, national president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Brooks says calling for civil disobedience is a responsible demonstration that would not disrupt schools but would be a direct action, a protest "in the same way your grandparents may have engaged in civil rights movement."

Snyder's office has issued a statement saying that the project to replace lead lines "is proceeding with great urgency" and that part of $28 million approved last month will go toward utilities; $25 million was requested last week for removing lead pipelines.

Brooks said he expects a "timeline, deadline (and) price tag" for replacing the water lines. As the crisis rose to national prominence, the state has worked to restore a protective coating to the pipes using phosphate chemicals. But the NAACP leader said it amounts to a "bargain-basement Band-Aid" not guaranteed to keep people safe. "There's not one scholar, not one study, not one expert who can ensure, who can guarantee, who can attest that this plan will in fact work to ensure safe, clean drinking water," Brooks said.

Stawinski Named Prince George's County Police Chief

The Prince George's County Council unanimously named Interim Police Chief Hank Stawinski as the permanent chief of the Prince George's Police Department. Stawinski, a native of Prince George's County, has served the department for 23 years and is also the son of a Prince George's police officer.

He told the County Council that he is committed to diversity. "I am committed to a police department that reflects the community." His first case is the investigation of Deonte Carraway, 22, the Prince George's school volunteer at Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School in Glenarden, charged with 10 felony counts of child pornography and related charges.

Henderson said recent events around the country illustrate why recordings must be made available in ways that promote accountability. He added that the proposed rules would enhance accountability by making recordings made in public spaces compatible with the Freedom of Information Act and allow subjects of videos to review the footage themselves.

"For the sake of the people of Washington who will be subject to more police surveillance than ever before under this program, we urge [the council] to unanimously support this legislation again and to send it to Mayor Bowser for her signature," Henderson said in a prepared statement.

Activist DeRay McKesson Enters Baltimore Mayoral Race



Baltimore native and the symbolic 'godfather' of the Black Lives Matter movement, DeRay McKesson, has joined a crowded field of candidates for the city's Democratic mayoral primary, slated for April 26.

Some wonder if having 300,000 Twitter followers can benefit his candidacy. But that, along with his two years on the political scene, may be enough for him to make a credible showing. Historically, the annals of Black politics has shown that successful community organizers have often able to transition from grassroots projects to electoral politics.

McKesson has said he's running on a platform of change.

"I have come to realize that the traditional pathway to politics, and the traditional politicians who follow these well-worn paths, will not lead us to the transformational change our city needs. Too often the elected individuals we put our public trust in disappoint us. We have lived through lofty promises and vague plans," he said.

McKesson, 30, joins a dozen contenders including former mayor Sheila Dixon and Councilman Nick Mosby. Democratic Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Black has decided not to seek reelection, choosing instead to focus on seeing the city through the trials of the six officers charged in the Freddie Gray case.

CBC Report: Blacks Still Far Behind Whites in Economic Well-Being



The Joint Economic Committee [JEC] and the Congressional Black Caucus [CBC] recently released an update to their 2015 report on the economic status of African Americans.

The study finds that Blacks lag far behind white Americans in almost every measure of economic well-being in all 50 states.

In a joint statement, CBC Chairman G.K. Butterfield and JEC Ranking Democrat Carolyn B. Maloney said, "Our country has come a long way, and African Americans have made significant economic progress since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, but so much more work remains ahead. We'll never eliminate economic disparities based on race if Congress continues to ignore the issues facing the Black community."

Key findings of the report include: the Black unemployment rate (8.8 percent) is more than twice the rate for white Americans (4.3 percent); Blacks are twice as likely to live in poverty as whites – 26.2 percent compared to 12.7 percent; the median income of Black households is $35,400 – nearly $25,000 less than the median income of white households ($60,300); among those 25 and older, 36 percent of white Americans hold Bachelor's degrees or higher compared to 22 percent of African Americans.

New Ward 8 Candidate Enters Race

Seeks to Change the 'Bad' Narrative

By Sarafina Wright
WI Staff Writer
@dreamersexpress

Newcomer Aaron Holmes, 32, looks to shake up things in the highly contentious Ward 8 City Council race.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, Holmes stopped by The Washington Informer office in Southeast to let potential voters know why his approach to change will be more effective than incumbent LaRuby May's.

"Someone like (LaRuby May) who feels it's okay to support legislation where you can do unwarranted searches on individuals who are awaiting trial, on probation and increase the penalties for kids who are on Metro and those kinds of things really do a disservice to the community," Holmes said.

"The policy that put all those kids on the Metro came from the government. So, you bear some of the responsibility for that creative solution. The creative solution is not to turn up the penalty; let's just put them in jail for longer. That's ridiculous," he said.

Holmes asserted that better neighborhood schools would address the root problem, not seeking to lock kids up. He also said that when you have people like Pat Collins saying wolf packs of kids are beating up people on the Metro, it adds unnecessary fuel to the image of Washingtonians east of the river.

Deeper than better schools, Holmes said workforce building and capacity building will help the residents of Ward 8.

"There are very big institutions in Ward 8. You got DC Water, Homeland Security and a lot of other things," he said. "Making sure these pipelines are being appropriately utilized, getting kids who live in this community to work in those organizations in greater numbers and understand what the fundamentals of office culture are in a professional environment is what pays dividends.

"The difference between the kids who stood up, or the adults who stood up when Marion [Barry] died and said he gave me my first job, if you listen to the type of jobs they had, they are vastly different from the DPR jobs that all the kids who are in the programs now mention," he said.

Holmes graduated from Oxon Hill High School in Prince George's County. He then went on to the University of Maryland College Park, where he attended for three years before leaving to pursue professional endeavors.

Now a procurement consultant in a lucrative industry, he conceded that he isn't a traditional politician.

Admittedly, Holmes doesn't have much of a network, although you can find him on the board of directors for Southern District Little League in Southeast, but he believes backing from regular everyday people will mean much more in the long run.

"Fundraising is important and I need it, but I won't out-fundraise people in this race, and I know that.

The key for me is small donations," Holmes said. "People who feel like you stand for them is what I am searching for.

"Five dollars from someone who doesn't have much means a whole lot more to me than 500 dollars from someone who has a whole lot more then they need," he said. "I will fight every day to make sure that 5 dollars is used as efficiently as possible."

Holmes resents that his opponents are running on a message that positions Ward 8 as the worst ward in the District.

"Changing the narrative is something I care passionately about. I'm running on a message that has legs, which is the difference between people who carry their message via money," he said.

"We have to beat down the narrative of Ward 8. We want to paint a different picture than what is painted from LaRuby May to Trayon (White)."

"We have more champions in this neighborhood than we do challenges." WI



▲ *Ward 8 Council candidate Aaron Holmes. / Photo by Roy Lewis*



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Unit Type	Rent	Max No. of Household Members
Studio	$818.00	2
One-bedroom	$839.00	3
Two-bedroom	$987.00	5

Combined Annual Household Income Before Taxes

Number in Household	Maximum Gross Annual Income cannot exceed
1 Person	$38,250.00
2 People	$43,700.00
3 People	$49,150.00
4 People	$54,600.00
5 People	$59,000.00

*Rents and Income Limits are Subject to Change

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FEB. 11

1894 – Paul Revere Williams, renowned architect was born.
1913 – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was incorporated at Howard University.
1931 – Pulitzer Prize winner **Toni Morrison**, (born Chloe Anthony Wofford), was born in Lorain, Ohio.

FEB. 19



1940 – William "Smokey" Robinson was born in Detroit, Michigan. Robinson's first singing group was the Miracles, which he formed in 1955 while still in high school.
1942 – The Army Air Corps' all African-American 100th Pursuit Squadron, later designated a fighter squadron, activated at Tuskegee Institute.
1992 – John Singleton, the first African-American director to be nominated for the Academy Award is nominated for best director and best screenplay for his first film *Boyz N the Hood*.
2002 – Vonetta Flowers became the first Black gold medalist in the history of the Winter Olympic Games. She and partner Jull Brakken won the inaugural women's two-person bobsled event at Salt Lake City, Utah.

FEB. 20



1927 – Sidney Poitier was born in Miami, Florida, he was the first African-American to win an Academy Award in a starring role.
1931 – Army Lt. Gen. Emmett Paige, Jr. was born in Jacksonville, Florida.
1936 – Jazz singer, actress, **Nancy Wilson** was born in Chillicothe, Ohio.
1963 – Charles Wade Barkley, was born in Leeds, Alabama.

FEB. 21

1933 – Singer **Nina Simone** (Eunice Waymon), was born in Tryon, NC.
1936 – Barbara Jordan, who will be the first African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives, is born.
1940 – John Lewis, founder and chairman of SNCC, was born.
1965 – On Feb. 21, 1965, **Malcolm X** was assassinated in Audubon Ballroom at, 11 months after his split from Elijah Muhammad's Nation of Islam.
1987 – African-Americans in Tampa rebelled after an African-American man was killed by a White police officer while in custody.
1992 – Eva Jessye choral director for the first Broadway production of Porgy and Bess died in Ann Arbor, Michigan Feb. 21, 1992.

FEB. 22

1911 – Activist and social reformer **Francis Ellen Watkins Harper** dies in her home in Philadelphia. Harper founded the National Convention of Colored Women in 1864 and was involved in other projects for women's rights.
1938 – Poet **Ishmael Reed** was born.
1950 – Julius Winfield ("Dr.J") Erving, former basketball player, was born Roosevelt, NY.
1989 – DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince win the first rap Grammy for the hit single "Jeff and the Fresh Prince win the first rap Grammy for the hit single "Parents Just Don't Understand."

FEB. 23

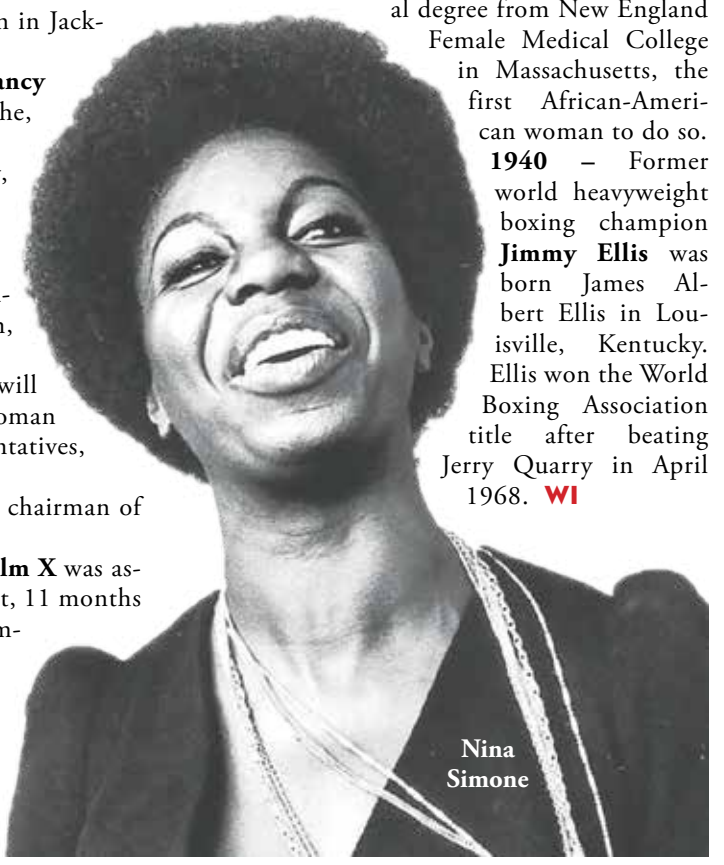
1929 – Baseball catcher **Elston Gene Howard** was born in St. Louis, Missouri. Howard signed a $70,000 contract with the NY Yankees and became the highest paid player in the history of baseball at the time.



1965 – Constance Baker Motley elected Manhattan Borough President, the highest office held by a Black woman in a major American city.
1979 - Frank E. Peterson Jr. was named the first Black general in the Marine Corps.
1995 – Bass Singer **Melvin Franklin** of The Temptations died of complications following a brain seizure in Los Angeles. He was 53.

FEB. 24

1864 – Rebecca Lee Crumpler earned a doctoral degree from New England Female Medical College in Massachusetts, the first African-American woman to do so.
1940 – Former world heavyweight boxing champion **Jimmy Ellis** was born James Albert Ellis in Louisville, Kentucky. Ellis won the World Boxing Association title after beating Jerry Quarry in April 1968. **WI**


Nina Simone

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY ELTON HAYES

VIEWPOINT

THE UNEXPECTED PASSING OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA LAST WEEK OPENS A VACANCY ON THE COURT. REPUBLICAN LEADERS IN CONGRESS HAVE SAID THEY PLAN TO BLOCK ANY NOMINEE PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA APPOINTS. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?



ANDREW VANNUCCI
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

The Republicans are definitely going to try to be obstructionists about it. I think that given the historical precedence set by other situations that we have seen in the past, President Obama should definitely have the authority to try to appoint someone to the Supreme Court. I think Republicans will want to try to prevent him from doing so, but I think he will pick someone who is relatively moderate, so that he can get that person through, and I think he will be successful.



JIMMIE ROBERTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

I think that it's ridiculous – it never seems to happen to anyone else. Even at a point this late in his presidency, he's still having to fight and prove himself. He seems to have to go that extra mile to get what he wants. He's had to use executive orders because Congress won't work with him. We're seeing it again with this. It's the same thing.



R.M. HODGES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I think he should be able to appoint his person. I think the people leading this fight are at the root being prejudiced. Many of the policies that he has offered and tried to push through have been shot down and the Congress has disagreed with the president. Even when he became president, some of the said he wouldn't serve more than one term. I think they're being petty.



ROBERT THOMPSON
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Of course, President Obama should be able to replace Justice Scalia with his justice. It's the only logical course of action. Why should we the people have to wait a year? It just doesn't make any sense to me. But with this presidency, a lot of what I've seen from the Republicans in Congress hasn't made much sense to me.



EMILLE ROBINSON
TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

The president should be able to nominate whomever he believes is qualified. He's the president until January of 2017. Why should we delay this? The Republicans want to delay his selection so that they could possibly get their justice on the Court. But President Obama has the constitutional authority to appoint his choice to the Supreme Court, and he should be able to do so.

FINAL PITCH
The Reality PITCH Competition

By Inez Kelley
CEO; Kelley Media Marketing, Inc.
www.finalpitchtv.com

"The return I want from this $100 million investment is your success, because your success is Africa's success," these are the words spoken by African billionaire, Tony Elumelu. Coming into the limelight in 1997 Mr. Elumelu led a small group of investors to take over a small, floundering commercial bank in Lagos. Within a few years his foresight proved profitable. In 2005 in an aggressive maneuver, he merged it with the United Bank for Africa, making Mr. Elumelu one of Africa's four newest billionaires as noted by Forbes, Inc.

While searching for an ideal blue print by which to format our newly formed FINAL PITCH Sustainable Start-Up Development Program, I happened upon what looks to be the most dynamic start-up game changer. The Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme (TEEP), a multi-year program of training, funding, and mentoring, designed to empower the next generation of African entrepreneurs. This born of the philosophy that investing in start-ups will stimulate job growth, generate financial wealth and prosperity while transforming Africa's economy, TEEP is slated to create 1 million jobs, and add $10 billion in annual revenue across Africa over the next decade.

Impressive to say the least, but if that wasn't enough, this foundation is solely funded by Mr. Elumelu. TEEP is the first of its kind to be launched by any African philanthropic organization. So why not, they say there is nothing new under the sun and imitation is the best form of flattery. So as we continue to develop FINAL PITCH the competition into the 'SSDP' Sustainable Start-up Development Program, know we are mentored by the best and are standing on the shoulders of giants.

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TOUR *from Page 1*

she said.

The day-long excursion started with a continental breakfast and greetings from sponsors that included Coca-Cola, Bank of America and Pepco.

With this being Pepco's sixth year as a sponsor, regional President Donna Cooper said that her company will continue to support the work of The Washington Informer.

"If you look at our history, we have been a supporter of The Washington Informer since its inception," Cooper said. "We view ourselves as a part of the community we serve. The Informer is a trusted voice and a critical vehicle for providing information to the community."

Cooper said that her being at THEARC representing Pepco provided an additional opportunity to connect directly with customers.

"The African American Heritage Tour is another example of the paper's effort to educate the community on African-American culture and its contributions to society," she said.

Coca-Cola administrator Cari Taylor said she attends the heritage tour every year because of the history lesson it provides.

"Even though I am from Cuba, I really enjoy learning about African-American history," Taylor said.

"We're trying to get our employees to know more about their history and culture because many don't get a chance to."

Four employees of first-year sponsor Bank of America from the Vermont Avenue branch in Northwest attended the tour.



Members of Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church Sons Mentoring ministry with Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes and Marketing Director Ron Burke in the "Great Blacks in Wax Museum" in Baltimore on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by Shevry Lassiter

Other sponsors included Giant, DC Lottery, Capitol Entertainment Services, Inc., Empowerment Temple, Black Dollar Exchange, Executive Virtual Assistance, DC IN BLACK and Southwest Airlines who gave away two sets of roundtrip tickets.

Grant DuHart, one of the Southwest ticket winners said "Favor ain't fair" in response to his winning.

DuHart, president of the SONS ministry at Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church in Northeast brought 20 mentees along with six mentors on the tour for their monthly trip.

"I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, went on to City College and I am the CEO of my own company and somebody mentored me along the way, so I want to do the same," he said. "This is a great opportunity for the boys to learn history and get educated about where they came from."

"Our job is to help them understand that the people who paved the way for them paid a heavy price," he said.

The heritage tour first stopped at the Empowerment Temple in Baltimore where they were greeted by Pastor Jamal H. Bryant's mother, the Rev. Cecilia Bryant.

Also, councilman and mayoral candidate Carl Stokes attended to bring greetings on behalf of the Baltimore City Council.

Tony White of the Baltimore Mayor's office presented The Washington Informer with a proclamation from Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to celebrate the paper bringing its tour to Baltimore.

Barnes commented on the importance of both the church and the press in the struggle for equal rights for Blacks.

"The church was our first institution, the second was the Black press. Freedom's Journal, founded March 16, 1827, and which occurred 50 years

TOUR *Page 46*

WORDS TO LIVE BY



Jesse Owens (1913-1980)

"The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself–the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us–that's where it's at."

Blackthink (1970)



CBC PAC endorses Hillary Clinton at a press conference on Thursday, Feb. 11. / Courtesy of tytnetwork.com

CBC PAC *from Page 1*

are important to our constituents, Hillary Clinton has been there."

The organization, which is comprised of 46 powerful congressional members, noted that the Democratic Party and its constituents need a nominee with a track record of long, deep and varied service to underserved communities as well as a Democrat who has embraced diversity, with a detailed understanding of today's world, and experience working to heal the global system.

In further outlining their criteria for an endorsement, CBC PAC members said they needed a Democrat who has put forward thoughtful, realistic proposals on the fundamental challenges facing our nation including health care, affordable housing, education, day care, women's rights, infrastructure, voting rights, gun violence, criminal justice reform, foreign affairs and trade all of which he or she must turn into legislation that can garner bipartisan support upon taking office.

"That Democrat is Hillary Clinton. As someone who consistently worked with the Congressional Black Caucus as a U.S. senator from New York, she supported legislation to ban racial profiling, prosecute hate crimes and eliminate racial disparities in the healthcare system," Meeks said as New York Rep. Charlie Rangel, Congressional Black Caucus Chair G.K. Butterfield and others stood by him as he made the announcement near the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"And she stood with us on consistently voting to raise the minimum wage, championing the Paycheck Fairness Act, and helping minority-owned small businesses. She's been our partner long term, we believe she's made a difference, and she has helped us and helped this country by helping elect Democrats across the board."

One important distinction about the endorsement is that it did not come from the Congressional Black Caucus, that organization's spokeswoman Candace Randall said.

However, the endorsement is still seen as vital as the candidates head to southern states like South Carolina where African Americans play a large role in the primaries.

Sanders, who won the New Hampshire primary this week, had breakfast with Sharpton in New York at Silvia's Restaurant, a famous African-American eatery in Harlem.

"You can't go to South Carolina and not deal with the Walter Scott case, not deal with gun control and the ramifications of the Charleston Nine," Sharpton said in reference to the high-profile case of an unarmed Black man being shot and killed by a police officer, and the attack on a Black church last June that left nine people dead.

Sharpton said Sanders and Clinton must "earn" the Black vote.

Sanders did secure the nomination of famed African-American actor and activist Harry Belafonte who said the Vermont senator offers Blacks a chance to declare unequivocally that there is a group of citizens who have a deep caring for where the nation goes.

"I would suggest to those of you who have not yet made up your minds, or maybe even some of you who have made up your minds, to maybe consider and reconsider what it is that Bernie Sanders offers," the 88-year-old Belafonte said.

Butterfield, himself a longtime activist who is in his second year as CBC chairman, said the nation's must have a president who is knowledgeable on both domestic and foreign policy.

"Black lives are being lost on the streets of America because of police misconduct and gang violence. We must have a president that understands the racial divide," Butterfield said. "After considering the entire field, there is no question in our mind and in our minds that one single candidate – one – possesses the patience, experience and temperament," he said.

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D.C.'s Historic Black Landmarks

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▲ *Janice Moore, with her daughter and grandchildren, are descendants of Tobias Henson. / Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Anacostia Museum*

Tobias Henson was an African-American held in slavery by the Evans family of Maryland that eventually became part of Washington after the creation of the nation's capital. After the death of his owner, Henson became the property of Philip Evans, Jr. On Christmas Eve, 1818 Henson paid the inflated price of $400 for his freedom. Between 1826 and 1833, Tobias Henson bought land and the freedom of his daughters and grandchildren. The 26 acres of land he bought, which became known as "The Ridge," bordered the land that belonged to Mary Evans, the widow of his former owner. Over the years, Henson added to his landholdings and by the 1870s his family were the principal landholders in one of the local Black neighborhoods in the District of Columbia. Although the surname Henson disappeared because Tobias fathered only girls, generations of Addisons, Douglasses, Smiths, and other families heard about their ancestor, Tobias Henson. "The Ridge" remained a distinct parcel of land on the maps of Southeast, Washington, D.C. located off Hamilton Road, later named Alabama Avenue, well into the 20th century.

The last house to belong to a Henson descendant on "The Ridge," always mentioned as the "home place," was located at 1501 Alabama Avenue SE. It was sold in the early 1980s to the District of Columbia and razed in the early 2000s.



▲ *JThe corner of 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest was the site of Beverly Snow's Epicurean Eating House. / Photo by Shevry Lassiter*

BEVERLY SNOW'S EPICUREAN EATING HOUSE 6TH STREET AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW

The Epicurean Eating House owned and operated by Beverly Snow, a free Black man who was educated, wealthy, and successful. Snow was one of a few Black entrepreneurs in Washington, D.C. The restaurant was located on the corner of 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. and was the site of a riot in 1835, known as the Snow Riot. The event that sparked the destruction of Snow's business in 1835 began when an inebriated enslaved man, Arthur Bowen, went into his Mistress Anna Thornton's bedroom with an ax. The sheer fact that a slave had the opportunity to rebel against slave owners and whites infuriated slavery defenders in the city. Bowen was suspected of being taught of abolishing slavery at school. The mob wrecked havoc on anything affiliated with free Blacks for days by robbing and destroying all of their establishments. It was not until President Andrew Jackson intervened that the rioting stopped. Despite a new city ordinance that blacks could no longer operate their own businesses, Snow's restaurant reopened within a year under the ownership of Absalom Shadd, a Black man. Twenty years later Shadd liquidated the business for the handsome sum of $25,000.

Who's Reading the Informer?



▶ *Sharon Robinson reads the Washington Informer while visiting the office in Southeast on Thursday, Feb. 11. / Photo by D. Kevin McNeir*

SCALIA *from Page 1*

During his visit to California earlier this week, Obama told reporters that the constitution is clear – his job is to propose a candidate for the Supreme Court and the job of the Senate is to hold hearings to review that nominee.

Some critics say the battle that has clearly ensued serves as just another example of partisan trench warfare that has become far too common in contemporary politics.

Meanwhile, many Republican senators, most notably Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), say the president "shouldn't even bother to nominate a candidate." But then, some may recall that it was also McConnell who committed himself to making sure Obama was a "one-term" president.

Just hours after Scalia's death, McConnell issued this statement.

"The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new President."

McConnell's reaction makes it difficult to imagine Obama filling the Supreme Court vacancy created by Scalia's death as the majority leader has significant control the floor of the Senate. He continues to be supported by the conservative faction of his party.

Senate Republicans appear to have rallied behind McConnell, insisting that filling the Supreme Court vacancy left after the death of Scalia, arguably the most conservative voice on the Court, be left for Obama's successor.

Democrats, seeking to reclaim the Senate majority in the next election, have said that Republicans have chosen to put politics ahead of their constitutional responsibility.

Senator Ted Cruz, the Texan who has practiced before the Supreme Court and currently seeks the Republican presidential nomination, has made filling Scalia's vacancy the centerpiece of his campaign.

Allies of the president say denying him the right to nominate a replacement in due time would be an unprecedented step and further identify the GOP as "the most nakedly partisan, obstructionist and irresponsible majority in history."

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), in an op-ed in the Washington Post, said, "By ignoring its constitutional mandate, the Senate would sabotage the highest court in the United States and aim a procedural missile at the foundation of our system of checks and balances."

The chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus [CBC] agrees with Reid.

"McConnell is reinforcing the Republican political agenda to disrupt governmental functions when the circumstances do not line up with their philosophy. It is imperative that we have nine members of the U.S. Supreme Court deciding constitutional issues that are important to the American people. It is absurd to suggest that President Obama should be denied the opportunity to nominate a qualified jurist to replace Justice Scalia on the Supreme Court," said Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.)

"The American people should clearly understand that Senate Republicans have a political agenda to pack the Court with conservative justices who would reverse years of progressive jurisprudence. The CBC urges President Obama to expeditiously nominate a replacement for Justice Scalia who has the scholarship, values and temperament to sit on the highest court of our country and decide cases based on established law rather than a political agenda. We will vigorously confront Senate Republicans at every turn should they dismiss President Obama's nomination."

One attorney, who lives in Northwest and serves as the outside general counsel for the National Newspaper Publishers Association said the Senate should simply do its job and not get caught up in politics.

"We have close to a year before the president leaves office and he's constitutionally obligated to provide a nomination for the Supreme Court vacancy – the senate's obligated to consider it," said A. Scott Bolden, 53, who also serves as a partner at Reed, Smith LLP in Northwest.

"One has to wonder if the Senate is more interested in playing politics or fulfilling their obligations as clearly defined in the U.S. Constitution. To think it appropriate for Obama to do nothing and to allow the next president to make the appointment is nonsensical," he said.

In speaking on Senator Marco Rubio's (R-FL.) statement that no president has ever nominated a Supreme Court replacement during their last year in office, Bolden said the following.

"His [Rubio's] comment is disingenuous first of all. But second, he seeks to usurp the president's authority just because he only has one year left in office – and all for political purposes. Let's be clear – Scalia was a conservative icon who tipped the scales of the Court 5 to 4. This appointment will be huge. As the Court decides cases this year, we need nine justices. They will be weighing in on very important social, health and political issues now pending before the court," Bolden continued.

"It would be a constitutional tragedy if Republican senators were able to delay the consideration of Obama's nominee. It would be an abdication of their constitutional responsibility and a dereliction of their duty as elected officials," Bolden said.

Former secretary of state and Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, said "Barack Obama is the president of the United States until January 17, 2017 – that's a fact. It's outrageous that Republicans would seek to block any nominee for the Supreme Court, as they have said, 'no matter who it is.'"

Benjamin Crump, president, National Bar Association, expressed similar views.

"We offer our prayers to the family of Justice Antonin Scalia. As one of the primary missions of the National Bar Association has been to maintain the integrity of the judiciary by ensuring it is a diverse representation of all Americans, it is our hope that President Obama will quickly nominate and the Senate timely confirm a nominee to fill the vacancy in the U.S. Supreme Court created by Justice Scalia's passing."

One Georgetown professor and the author of a newly-published book about the presidency of Barack Obama said the president has a unique opportunity.

"I've seen the president undergo a racial renaissance recently and with his appointment of a replacement for Justice Scalia, he has the chance to engage in public policy that would last beyond his presidency and contribute to his legacy," said author, minister and professor, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson.

"In many ways, Obama has been constrained to put forth policies that would benefit minorities or Blacks because he too is Black. He is the division. His being Black in the White House is the division. The nation assumed it had overcome racism by electing a Black man but 'black' still invokes fear among many white Americans and, I believe, influences how he has governed – that is until now." **WI**



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Responses Mixed on Homeless Shelter Plans

By Howard University News Service



City officials, including Mayor Muriel Bowser, met with residents last week in community meetings in all eight wards to discuss the plan to place city-owned housing facilities in neighborhoods. / Photo Courtesy Howard University News Service

District residents expressed anger, concern, approval, excitement, frustration and acceptance in response to the city's announcement of the locations of homeless shelters in their wards to replace the huge homeless shelter at D.C. General in Ward 7.

Mayor Muriel Bowser, City Council members, Advisory Neighborhood Commission members and other city officials met with residents last week in community meetings in each ward to discuss and hear residents' thoughts on the plan to place a city-owned housing facility in their neighborhoods.

In some cases, residents said the city had acted without properly consulting them.

"I have been living here 38 years," said Willie White, who lives near the proposed shelter on Delaware Avenue Southwest. "They did not even have the courtesy to come by and let me know what they were doing."

In other cases, residents said the city had not done enough to make the facilities livable, such as providing private bathrooms for the residents. In others, residents voiced rousing approval of the new facility. Here's a snapshot of what residents said at their meetings.

WARD 6 – Tensions ran high at Friendship Baptist Church in Southwest Washington. Angry residents told the mayor, City Councilman Charles Allen and other government representatives they had not been properly consulted on the project.

"The Southwest community really wants to help the situation," said Dwayne Brown. "But I am hearing the word proposal, and it seems that this is a plan that the mayor and the team said, 'This is the plan, so live with it.'"

Jamila White, a volunteer at D.C. General, said she was disappointed at much of what she heard.

"It's disheartening to hear my neighbors say 'not in my community, not in my backyard,'" White said. "Those families give me hope, and they need us."

WARD 1 – In the packed conference room of the Anthony Bowen YMCA, Bowser, Councilwoman Brianne Nadeau and community leaders tried to assure anxious residents that the new shelter would not have a negative impact.

"The folks who live right near there are the ones who are going to be bearing the consequences moving forward for decades," said one unconvinced resident.

WARD 4 – Residents here appeared more concerned about making sure the homeless residents had the best living conditions rather than falling property values and crime.

Taylor Massie expressed her concern about the proposed dormitory-style housing.

"I don't feel that the dormitory style is appropriate for children and families," Massie said. "I don't think it inspires dignity."

WARD 7 – Deputy Mayor Courtney Snowden and Councilwoman Yvette Alexander spent most of the meeting reassuring residents that the new facility will not only provide a better place for families, but will also allow residents to breathe easier and to see more development in their community.

Alexander assured residents that the new building will be "beautiful" and functional.

"I want to see within these shelters the services that are needed to get back on their feet," she said, "not just a place to stay, not just a roof over your head."

WARD 5 – In a contentious meeting during which a number of residents stormed out, community members lamented the location of the shelter and the fact that the neighborhood already had too many similar facilities.

Some of the more than 100 residents who gathered at New Canaan Baptist Church said that the proposed location is in the midst of an industrial and warehouse district that includes various nightclubs, including Bliss and the infamous Stadium, and several bus depots and is not conducive for families with small children and is far from public transportation and offers no parking.

"I'm not really happy about the location, but I understand that might help bring up that location," one man said. Maybe this is a way that we can get the city to say, 'OK, we can put a shelter there, and we want this, this, this, and this done first.'"

Many said their ward already houses the city's second-largest homeless population with between 500 to 600 at the Days Inn and the Comfort Inn. But the mayor said she had a job to do for all of the District's residents.

"If I went out to a community and I asked people to raise their hands if they wanted temporary (shelter) in their neighborhoods, nobody would raise their hands," Bowser said. "I have a law that I have to address, and the law says I have to shelter families." WI

Howard University News Service reporters Diandra Bolton, Taj Brayboy, Kandace Brown, Leanna Commins, Tatyana Hopkins and Kiana Kisino contributed to this story

SE Residents: 'Slum Lord' Forcing Us Out



By Leanna Commins
Howard University News Service

Angry Congress Heights residents and community representatives told D. C. City Council members that the property management company responsible for four affordable housing units in Southeast Washington is purposely not repairing the property in an attempt to force out residents so it can develop the units into a more lucrative property.

Residents and Will Merrifield, an attorney with the Affordable Housing Initiative for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, told Council members Phil Mendelson, Anita Bonds, LaRuby May and Elissa Silverman Feb. 11 that Sanford Capital had intentionally and criminally failed to provide basic services.

Residents said the company intentionally failed to prevent or fix sewage backups in the basement of the buildings, provide heat and hot water in the apartments during winter months and sufficiently address rodent and bug infestation.

"I firmly believe that Sanford's neglect in these properties is absolutely intentional," Merrifield said. "Over the course of my representation, there has been a clear pattern engaged by Sanford Capital whereby once pressure is applied to them, they make very modest repairs in order to seem like issues have been addressed, only to intentionally allow things to fall apart a few months later."

Nearly 20 residents and community representatives testified during a public hearing at City Hall.

The hearings follow the District attorney general's decision to file a lawsuit against Sanford Capital for engaging in "repeated neglect, delayed response, or total inaction."

The lawsuit asks that the property be placed in the receivership due to Sanford Capital's pattern of neglect, which has led to health and safety issues for the tenants.

Even before the testimony, Silverman told the audience that the residents' issues and Sanford's management style was cause for concern.

"It should be concerning to all of us – to the council and to the city – about what's happening to these residents around the Congress Heights Metro station," the councilwoman said. "It's outrageous, it's unconscionable, and if our attorney general is correct, it's criminal. We, as a government, should not stand for it."

No representatives from Sanford Capital, which is based in Bethesda, spoke at the hearing.

The management company owns the four buildings in Congress Heights and is looking to utilize a fifth for redevelopment. Its plans require demolition of all of the existing buildings to make way for a 442,000-square-foot, multiuse project that would include apartment buildings and retail.

Congress Heights resident Robert Green, one of the few tenants left in the buildings, testified that the ailments at his property could be easily fixed by a good landlord.

"The real problem is that Sanford doesn't fix up the building, because they are trying to get us out of our homes anyway they can," Green said. "If the housing authorities make me move, Sanford will get exactly what they want, empty buildings to tear down and then luxury apartments for rich White people."

Green said he wanted to stay in the area because it allows him access to grocery stores, a library and other amenities.

"I have neighbors who check in on me," he said. "The list goes on and on, and I and other tenants like me should have the right to enjoy these benefits."

According to the city's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, the owner of a multiunit apartment building must send a written offer to tenant to purchase a unit in the building and the mayor prior to selling or demolishing the building. Sanford Capital is required to give TOPA notice to remaining residents, but only if they give notice of demolition.

Residents told the council members that they want to exercise their TOPA rights so they'll be able to afford to rent their Congress Heights apartments, even with redevelopment.

Residents said they feel Sanford Capital is taking advantage of a loophole in the TOPA that allows Sanford Capital to hold off on giving demolition notice until they've run residents out of the buildings.

"Sanford is very intentionally trying to wait people out before they have to give TOPA notices," Merrifield said. "They're trying to empty the building so they don't have to give TOPA notices.

The hearing also explored the broader implications of economic development in the District.

William Michael Cunningham told council members that he felt that Congress Heights was another example of systematic efforts to remove certain populations from the District and the City Council is doing little stop it.

"From an economic analysis standpoint, all this points to the basic thesis that the city is getting rid of its black residents," Cunningham said. "This council could go in and condemn that building and sell it to the tenants tomorrow if they were white."

May, who represents Ward 8 and the Congress Heights community, expressed similar sentiments at the beginning of the hearing.

"The Black residents in all of the properties where we have slum lords know, very real, that this council would have never let white people in any other part of the city live in conditions like this for as long as poor black people have been living in this building," she said, "and it is unacceptable for that to happen."

The council members vowed to assist residents of Congress Heights and other affordable housing throughout the city to make sure developers don't push them out.

"Development is critical to the vitality of our city, and to Ward 8," Silverman said. "We need more jobs in Ward 8. We need more Ward 8 residents in jobs. We need more businesses, and better housing options, but that shouldn't come at the expense of our residents. Development should benefit all of our residents – not just those who are thriving in our economy." **WI**



Police: More Children Abused by Child Porn Suspect

By William J. Ford
WI Staff Writer
@jabariwill

Prince George's County Police announced Saturday, Feb. 13 four more children reported being abused by a former Prince George's County elementary school employee, raising the total number to 16.

Police also said in a statement Deonte Carraway, 22, of Glenarden, victimized a child at Zion Praise Tabernacle Church in Bowie. The police will continue to provide updates on the case that could take several months to complete.

Meanwhile, Timothy Maloney, an attorney with Joseph, Greenwald & Laake of Greenbelt, said Friday, Feb. 12 that the total number of victims Carraway affected and directly abused could total as high as 30. Maloney represents three clients in a civil rights complaint filed Wednesday, Feb. 10 at the county's Circuit Court.

The complaint, also classified as a class action lawsuit, claims Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary Principal Michelle Williams chose not to take immediate action against Carraway because teachers had no proof. The suit also challenges the board of education did nothing to remove Carraway from the school.



Deonte Carraway was charged with producing videos of young children performing sexual acts at Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary school in Glenarden. / Photo courtesy of Prince George's County Public Schools

"It is extremely disturbing. This is a parent's worst nightmare that has happened to children," Maloney said. "We are continuing to investigate and working on more lawsuits."

Maloney said the city of Glenarden, where the school is located, could also be added as a defendant because Carraway taught choir practice to students inside the city's municipal building.

According to the complaint, the family of an 11-year-old student was a choir member and coerced by Carraway into performing sexual acts at the municipal building. The student was also abused at the school inside a bathroom, according to the complaint.

The suit claims the uncle and guardian of one student showed inappropriate photographs on the child's cell phone to Williams on Feb. 4, but was told to return to the school the next day.

The uncle took the phone to police later that day and Carraway, who worked as a teacher's aide at the school from November 2014 until September, was arrested Feb. 5. In a statement school officials released Feb. 8, Carraway worked as a school secretary at Glenarden Woods Elementary from Nov. 5-20, 2014, but no details have been provided so far on whether he abused children there.

He is charged with 10 counts felony child pornography, sexual abuse of a minor, second degree sexual offense; additional charges are pending.

He admitted to his involvement and remains at the Prince George's County Correctional Center on $1 million bond, police said.

Court records show a preliminary hearing for Carraway has been scheduled for March 3.

Maloney said his clients are seeking a reform to the school system and monetary damages.

Meanwhile, county police said those with information on the case can call the department's Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Unit at 301-772-4930.

The FBI's Baltimore office, also assisting with the investigation, continues to field calls at 800-225-5324.

School officials held a meeting Thursday, Feb. 11 at Judge Sylvania Woods to address safety and resources available to help students and parents. A school spokeswoman said the meeting wasn't open to the media.

However, she explained Friday, Feb. 12, officials provided updates on the case, resources for parents on child abuse, counseling support, cameras at the school and possibly a resource officer. Counseling and psychological support have been provided to affected students and their families and will remain as long as needed.

The school system offered a safety hotline Feb. 11 at 301-618-8342 to report any dubious activities.

State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks said staff at the school could face criminal charges if they knew about Carraway's acts and didn't report them immediately to authorities.

"We have a very sacred obligation to protect the children of this community," Alsobrooks said at a news conference Feb. 10. "These kids in this case did not receive that protection. I share the anger with all the parents in this community and we should have done better by these children."

WI



Health and Wealth

Prince George's County shines in notoriety as the wealthiest County with a majority African American population. It boasts of an upper middle class that has the highest concentration of college and advanced degrees consisting of engineers, doctors, lawyers & entrepreneurs. Coupled with the County being the epicenter of economic expansion, job creation and business development.

However, behind this wealth curtain lies a persistent condition: chronic disease. Unfortunately, Prince George's County leads the state in heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and cancer related deaths. Despite its wealth, Prince George's County isn't unlike low income communities that have had generational health complications. According to the County's Health Department: the leading causes of death in 2009 for Prince George's County included: diseases of the Heart 1st; Diabetes Mellitus 4th; Essential Primary Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal Disease 15th.

The County is aggressively addressing these health complications through probing the social conditions that compound chronic disease. For example, lack of access to healthy food; communities with no walkable connection to parks; overreliance on cars and low paying jobs are a few of the stressors that contribute to chronic disease.

In business, we must make room for employees to- exercise, take mental health breaks and be rewarded for healthy behaviors. Little things like replacing snacks and sugary drinks with healthier options, providing time for employees to walk and designing space for mental breaks will go a long way to reduce stressors. From a bottom line position, a healthy employee is a productive employee.

This month is healthy heart month, let us work together with government and non-profit groups to make our hearts healthier by directing healthy habits!

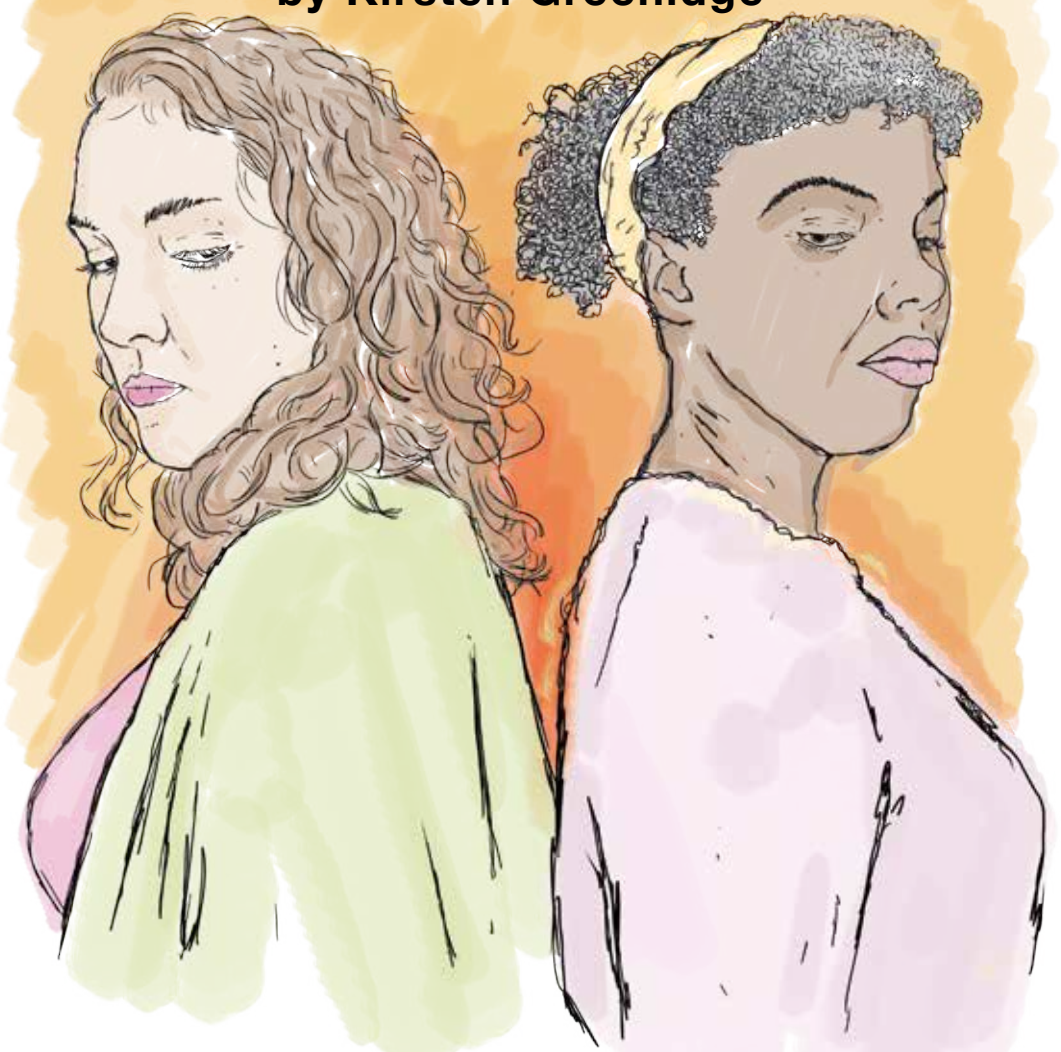
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THE CLARICE

Entrepreneur First Black Rolls Royce Dealer

Thomas Moorehead Succeeds in the World of Ultra-Luxury

By Eric Easter
Urban News Service

The world's first African-American Rolls Royce car dealer got there through hard work and perseverance, but only after disappointing his family.

Thomas Moorehead's parents thought the key to respectability was a Ph.D. Both teachers, they lived by an old-school axiom that the one thing you never can take away from a man is an education.

Yet, with just a few credits and a dissertation to go, Moorehead abandoned his doctoral program, and his parent's wishes, for an uncertain shot at learning the automobile business from the bottom up.

It was a leap of faith, an offer from a fraternity brother and mentor, James Bradley of Bradley Automotive Group, who promised to make Moorehead a millionaire in five years — if he took the risk. But it wasn't the promise that attracted Moorehead: "Teaching was a guarantee of a long career, but I always had a passion for business," he says.

His road to success required two years of apprenticeship with Bradley, the mortgaging of his home and the depletion of his savings to enter a training program, then eventually owning his first dealership, selling Buicks in Omaha, Neb.

Moorehead built a strong reputation as someone dedicated to customer service, an essential value of the Rolls Royce brand. That reputation, and his sales record as owner of Sterling BMW in Virginia, sparked an invitation from Rolls Royce Motor Cars to join the exclusive club of only 33 dealers and 130 dealerships around the globe, an opportunity he accepted without hesitation.

The new store, Rolls Royce Motor Cars of Sterling, is the sole Rolls Royce dealership in greater Washington, D.C. and covers much of the mid-Atlantic — from Virginia to southern Pennsylvania. It sits just across from Sterling BMW and Mini, his other successful dealership, a fact that fills him with immense pride.

"These are the best cars in the world, and I'm honored to be able to bring them to my customers," Moorehead says as he looks across the lot.

His dealerships thrive in one of the region's wealthiest communities, filled with prosperous government contractors, newly minted millionaires from tech start-ups and the Washington Redskins' nearby training facility.

But the opulence that Moorehead markets is a long way from his roots in Monroe, Louisiana, a town of 38,000 with a historic poverty rate twice the already poor state's average.

During his youth, Monroe Colored High was the sole choice for black students in that segregated city. It was a time when, according to Moorehead, families like his could "offer you their good name, but not money."

That upbringing drives a sense of humility that led Moorehead to keep his own name off the dealership's logo. "I always say the boss is the customer, not me. I don't get caught up in having my name on the door," he explains. "Actually, most customers who come in think I'm just another salesman, and that's fine with me."



▲ *Thomas A. Moorehead, CEO and president of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars in Sterling, VA., also owns the BMW-Mini dealership in Sterling and the Harley Davidson dealership of Washington, D.C. located in Ft. Washington, Md. / Photo by André Chung*

In a world where demanding buyers have been known to add millions of dollars' worth of custom details to their cars to reflect their personalities (fur-lined shoe-holders, built-in picnic baskets, crystal cufflink holders), Moorehead's low-key manner is a studied contrast – a contrast he believes helps him sell more cars.

"I can talk about the features of the cars all day but, ultimately, people are buying good service."

At age 71, Moorehead still relies on the daily advice of mentors, who include Hall of Fame home-run great (now car dealer) Hank Aaron and former National Urban League president John Jacob. He calls them "instrumental" in shaping his business's success.

"They marked their careers by quietly getting the job done, but also being the best at what they do."

While giving a tour of his office, Moorehead seems slightly embarrassed as he points to pictures of himself with presidents Obama and Clinton and an array of famous business leaders. That changes when he points out two items of which he's most proud.

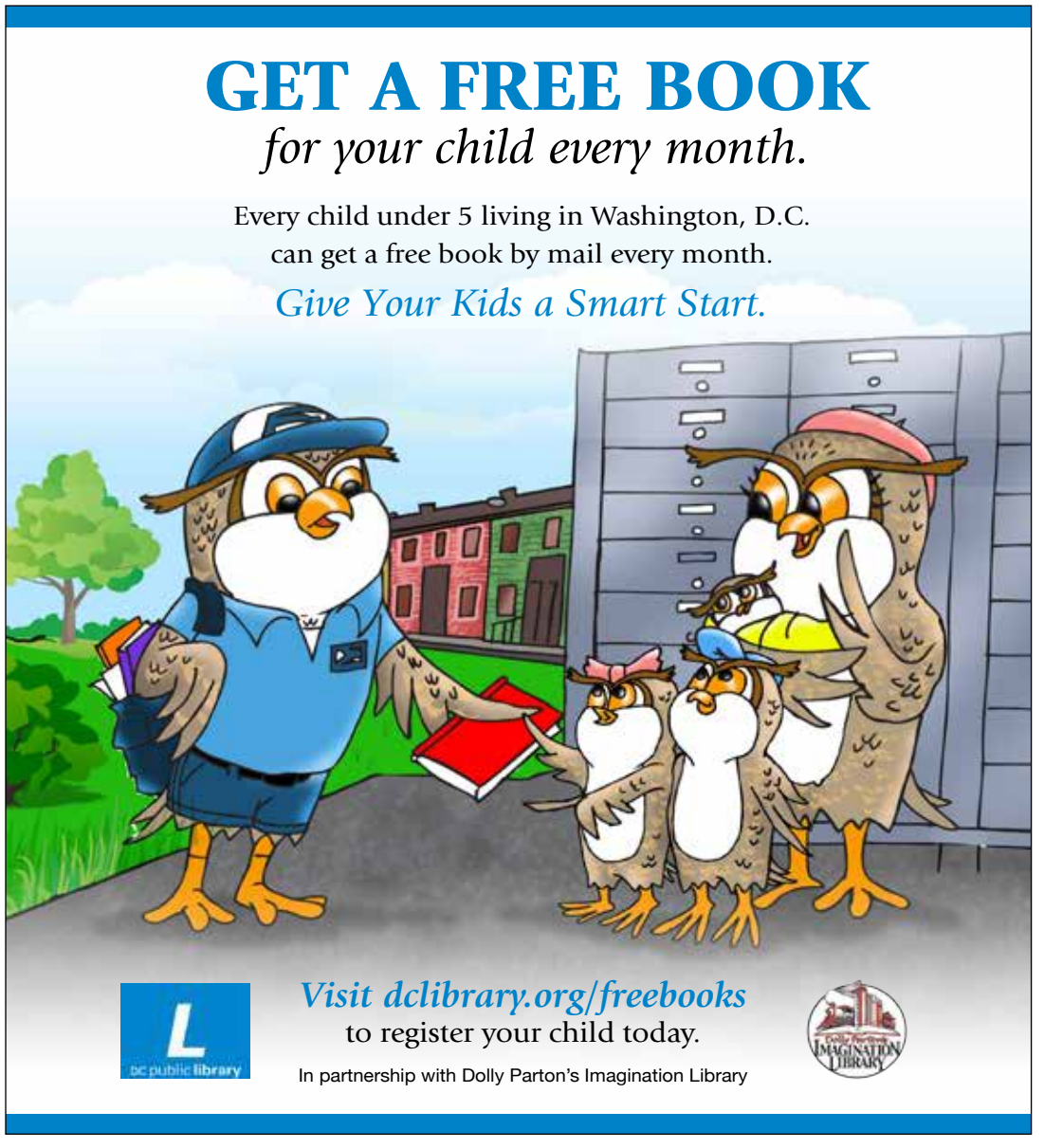
The Laurel Wreath Award, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's highest honor for lifetime achievement.

And then something much less distinct: a small cardboard sign that lists more than a dozen vendors who, he says, have contributed to his achievements — architects, decorators, contractors, cleaning-service owners and even the guy who printed the sign.

All are African-Americans, and fraternity brothers, people for whom he has paid forward the gift that Bradley gave him.

"This is really what it's all about, bringing other people up and giving something back."

For more information on Moorehead go to www.themooreheadfoundation.org WI



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with William Reed

Business Exchange

Blacks, Wake Up on Reparations

"I'm cool" is what Blacks who voted twice for President Barack Obama say when challenged about his lack of accomplishments toward Blacks' plight in America. A similar Hobson's choice awaits loyal Black Democratic Party voters in 2016. As they gave their votes to Obama in 2008 in spite of his opposition to reparations to Blacks for slavery, most Black voters will cast their ballots for either Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders, despite their stating opposition to the concept.

Hillary Clinton was asked about slavery reparations at Fusion's Iowa Brown & Black Forum and gave a rationale in which she argued instead for "more investment in underprivileged communities," citing a proposal in cahoots with the Congressional Black Caucus. At that same forum Bernie Sanders too opposed Blacks' reparations saying, "No, I don't think so… its likelihood of getting through Congress is nil. Second, I think it would be divisive …When we look at the high unemployment rate within the African-American community, we have a lot of work to do." Barack Obama's campaign "opposition" in 2007 poisoned the water on making the issue moot as Blacks gave him a 98 percent plurality.

Blacks seem to accept it when their issues and interests are subordinated to those of the candidate or party. What have you heard from your favorite candidate about Blacks and their issues/interests? Slavery began in America in 1619, and African-Americans have been freed from slavery for 150 years, but racism is inherent in the American system. If Clinton and Sanders are calling for economic justice, why aren't they actively for reparations? And why don't Black voters demands that of candidates?

At the end of the day, you won't b saying that either Clinton or Sanders "pandered" to Blacks. It's as if Blacks accept the concept of White domination and Black subjection. Why would Blacks elect people to office who haughtily tell us they won't support reparations as a remedy to our miserable plight here? Have Blacks been inculcated to the point that most of us deny we are owed, even to the point that we make excuses that "America can't afford to pay us."

Blacks are the greatest obstacle to our overall advancement. We won't demand what we are owed, and instead of paving a road to prosperity, our politicians advocate self-defeating economic policies that result in shackles of poverty and disillusionment that mire us in underachievement and social immobility.

Here is an Agenda for Blacks to focus on for the 2016 elections and beyond:

Education - African Americans are twice as likely as Whites not to finish high school. Black students are suspended and expelled at three times the rate of Whites.

Wealth - Blacks make $23,000 as compared with the U.S. national average of $53,000. The median Black household has just 6 percent of the total wealth ($7,113) of the median White household ($111,146).

Health - A less wealthy lifetime means a less healthy life. Infant mortality for Blacks is 11.5 for every 1,000 births; the figure for Whites is 5.2. Black Americans live to 74, four years less on average than Whites.

Incarceration - One in three Black males will go to prison at some point in his life. Black women are incarcerated at twice the rate of White women. Blacks are 14 percent of the national population but 38 percent of prison populations.

Violence - White America's rate of homicide is 2.5 deaths per 100,000. Black America's homicide rate is 19.4 deaths per 100,000. Blacks are more than twice as likely to be fatally shot by the police.

Blacks have been robbed by American institutions, businesses, associations and governments. This debt includes everything from land theft to red lining, to disenfranchisement, to convict-lease labor, to lynching and to enslavement. This large and pervasive thief is a major force in Blacks' lives today. The nation's great universities and early economy were founded on slavery. Contemporary Blacks have to get in their minds around how entitled they are to reparations. WI

William Reed is publisher of "Who's Who in Black Corporate America" and is available for projects via busxchng@his.com.

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Ex-Offenders Soon Allowed to Vote in Maryland

By William J. Ford
WI Staff Writer
@jabariwill

Maryland's ex-offenders will soon be able to exercise their right to vote after the Senate chose to override a veto Gov. Larry Hogan made last year that had required them to fully complete their sentence before being allowed to vote.

When the law goes into effect March 10, ex-felons, now called "returning citizens," will be eligible to vote upon release from prison no matter how long they served time behind bars. A person who has never been incarcerated but remains on parole or probation can also vote.

"Elected officials will now have to listen to all of their constituents, especially those who are ex-offenders because their issues aren't really given any attention. By March 10 that will change," Jane Henderson said after the Senate's decision Feb. 9. Henderson serves as the executive director for Communities United of Baltimore which helps former convicts reenter society.

She said about half of the 40,000 people affected are from Baltimore. The neighborhood in West Baltimore where Freddie Gray suffered a spinal injury in April while in police custody and died a week later has the highest incarceration rate in the city, she said.

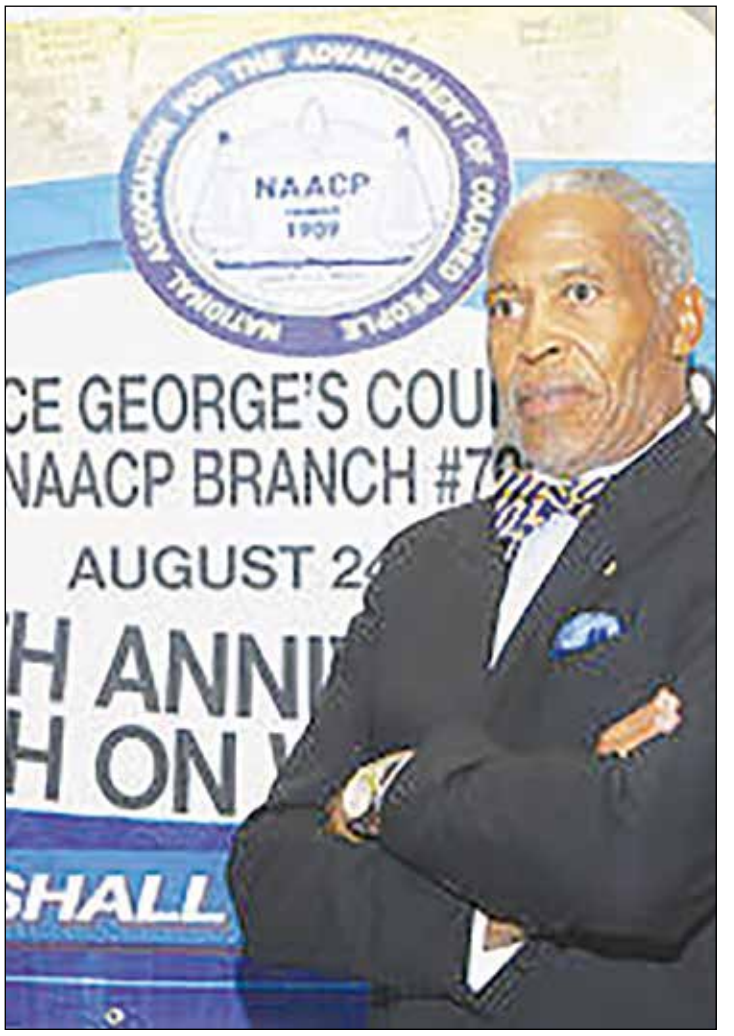
About a quarter of those affected are estimated to reside in Prince George's County, Henderson said. In addition, more than half of the 40,000 are likely Black.

Communities United stands as one of several organizations to champion the Senate to override Hogan's veto. When the law becomes official, Maryland will be the 13th state, along with the District of Columbia, to restore voting rights to returning citizens.

The next step for voting-rights advocates like the NAACP will be to inform returning citizens they will be soon allowed to vote. Some of the ideas include email blasts, visiting churches and posting links through social media.

All this must be done by April 5 to register former convicts so they can vote in the April 26 primary and Nov. 8 general election.

"When a citizen has paid his time, that person should have the right to vote," said Prince George's NAACP President Bob Ross. "Voting is very important. We are very excited about this. This is what happens when you work together as a coalition to get things done."



▲ *Bob Ross, president of the Prince George's County branch of the NAACP, supports Maryland's new law to allow ex-felons to vote after they served time in prison, or jail. / Courtesy of NAACP branch*

The Senate voted 29-18 while delegates in the House voted 85-56 last month on a similar bill to overrule Hogan's decision. A three-fifths vote in the General Assembly in each chamber must achieved in order to override a veto.

Hogan's policy group, Change Maryland, posted a message on social media Feb. 9 expressing its displeasure with the Senate vote. It also listed all the names of those senators who voted against Hogan and a link to their contact information.

"Today, 29 partisan senators voted to ignore an overwhelming majority of Marylanders and allow current felons to vote before they have repaid their debt to society," said a post on the group's Facebook page.

Sen. Jim Rosapepe (D-District 21) of College Park called the group's outburst a political strategy.

"If they stop fewer people from voting, then there wouldn't be enough votes for their opponent," he said. "I generally believe people have the right to vote and it's a core value in our democracy. The rules are now much simpler. If you are in jail, you can't vote. If you're out of jail, you can vote." WI

> *"The rules are now much simpler. If you are in jail, you can't vote. If you're out of jail, you can vote."*
>
> **Sen. Jim Rosapepe /** D-District 21

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Drexel Helps Youth Recover from Trauma

By Curtis Bunn
Urban News Service

Sobering facts: For every Black youth murdered in Philadelphia, 90 others experience grave injuries, including gunshot and stabbing wounds. Each year, more than 900 young Blacks are admitted to one specific local emergency room as victims of violence, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

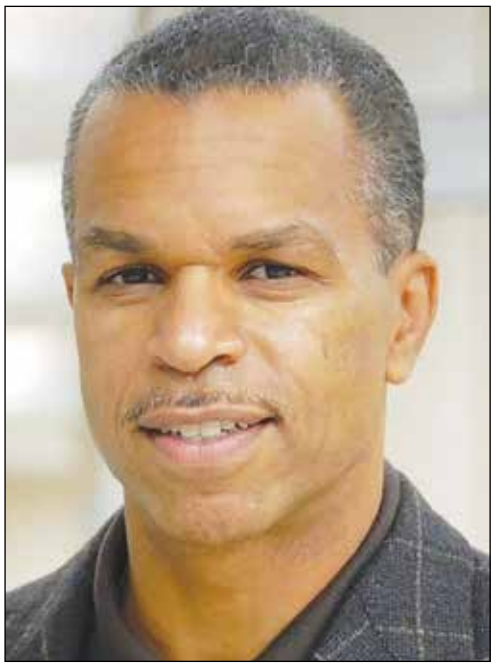
For John Rich and Ted Corbin — African-American physicians who lead Healing Hurt People, an intervention program at Drexel University's Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice — these numbers represent far more than the walking wounded.

Indeed, America's inner cities — mired in the drug trade and economic strife — often find young Black males in hospitals as victims of violence. Those who survive continue to experience trauma that goes untreated, which often leads them back to emergency rooms for therapy.

"We view this as a broader social issue," said Rich, 57, a primary care internist originally from New York. "We see young people (8 to 30 years old) who have more potential, intelligence and strength than we had. But we had a certain set of circumstances by the accident of birth, educated parents and some resources that these young people don't have.

"This isn't one of those 'Be like me' programs. It's about how the structure has failed these young people. So, it's our responsibility, our duty, to make sure these young people have an opportunity to succeed."

Healing Hurt People was created to counsel the wounded who traverse the emergency room affiliated with Hahnemann University Hospital and the Drexel University College of Medicine — often simply dubbed "Drexel." This program was expanded to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in 2009 to reach young victims of violence from ages 8 to 21.



▲ *Dr. John Rich / Photo by Mike Arrison*



▲ *Dr. Ted Corbin / Photo by Mike Arrison*

These victims, Rich said, "have the same kind of disruption in their lives — post-traumatic stress disorder — as soldiers returning from war-torn countries. Most of the time, the health care system treats (victims) as if they caused the injuries themselves and don't provide them care. We realize independently, in our own settings how critical it was to address those issues."

Three of every four patients Corbin sees as an emergency-room surgeon are African-American males. After recovering from their physical ailments, they suffer from myriad post-traumatic stress symptoms: insomnia, depression, nightmares or flashbacks, alcohol or substance abuse, an inability to concentrate, and a "separation of emotions" or a lack of interest in themselves or others.

Further, these symptoms often foreshadow the victims suffering new gunshot or stabbing wounds. Rich and Corbin indicate that within five years of first suffering nonfatal injuries, 44 percent of these victims are shot or stabbed again, while 20 percent die from what the doctors call "new wounds."

"Basically, (hospitals) only treat physical wounds," said Corbin, a 47-year-old Philadelphia native.

But Healing Hurt People, which serves up to 150 participants, tackles the other side of recovery. This free program identifies and addresses the victim's trauma through concrete case management, said Rich, the author of "Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men."

"Across the spectrum of services," he said, "we ought to be thinking about trauma. Don't ask what's wrong; ask what happened to this person. Instead of jail, get them help they need to heal: support in the community, counseling. We want to change the conversation away from bad behavior and criminal justice toward one that's about healing and strength."

Healing Hurt People changed the life of Jermaine McCorey, 26. He used to sell marijuana in north Philadelphia. He was shot three times in a 2010 incident and again 18 months later. Healing Hurt People hired him and gave him a new outlook on life. McCorey, on staff as an intervention peer specialist for two years, now shares his story with victims and works as a liaison between doctors and patients.

"After I got shot, I was going through depression," McCorey said. "I had a feeling of hopelessness. I wasn't able to sleep much. I was withdrawn, and if I closed my eyes I saw gunfire. I would stay home with the blinds closed. I would stare into the TV, and it would be playing my experience over and over again."

The need is significant: For every person admitted to Drexel for severe injuries, nine are treated and soon released. "So we're putting these hurt people right back into the community from where they came and sustained injury," Corbin said.

"We see our peer intervention specialists, and they are reminders that it can happen, that (the program) works. It's a privilege to see the young men evolve," he said. WI

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Domestic Violence Remains Challenge in Prince George's



Lynnette Walker, principal at Bradbury Heights Elementary in Capitol Heights, poses Thursday, Feb. 11 with a pink heart pinned on her sweater. Pink was the favorite color of NeShanté Davis, the second-grade teacher at Bradbury Heights shot and killed Feb. 2 by Daron Boswell-Johnson. He also shot and killed their two-year-old daughter. / Photo by William J. Ford

By William J. Ford
WI Staff Writer
@jabariwill

Domestic violence in Prince George's County became a regional topic this month after the horrific death of NeShanté Davis, 26, and her 2-year-old daughter, Chloe Nichole Davis-Green, allegedly over a child support dispute.

The man accused of the killing, Daron Maurice Boswell-Johnson, 25, of Forestville, sits in a county jail with no bond and a preliminary hearing scheduled March 2.

According to online court records, Boswell-Johnson's only involvement with the court system dealt with another child support case in April 2014 while he was a resident of Temple Hills.

He filed for custody of a child, but after he and the defendant didn't show up to court in December 2014, the case was closed and neither received custody of the child. Court documents don't specify what happened to the child.

Meanwhile, advocates say domestic violence is one of the top mental health issues in the county and possibly the state of Maryland. According to the state's 2014 Uniform Crime Report, Prince George's ranked fifth with nearly 2,100 domestic violence cases reported, versus 2,489 in 2013 and fourth in the state. Sixty-seven homicides occurred statewide through domestic violence, compared with 54 in 2013, the report states.

"Not only would I classify (domestic violence) as a mental health issue, but I would also classify it as a public health issue. We can prevent abuse with honest, consistent community education involving children AND adults," said Sophie Ford, executive director of the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County in Brentwood.

Her organization not only offers up to a three-month stay for victims in a safe house, but also offers mental health treatment in its Abuser Intervention and Anger Management program. Ford said the 26-week session goes through intense therapy, mediation and group counseling that deal with a person's family history through violence by a parent, sibling or others in the community.

She said that's the only program where a fee is required. She admitted fathers in the program express frustration in being forced to pay child support and another fee, which is mandated by the court system.

The agency is one of four in the county accredited that work directly with those who verbally or physically abused their spouse, significant other, family member, or others.

"We try to get to the root of the problem before it intensifies to something greater. Someone who kills has deep-rooted mental issues and needs serious counseling," said Ford, who added more than 90 percent of those in the abuser program are required by the courts to go through the program.

State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks made domestic violence one of her top priorities as a prosecutor. Her office created a Family Violence/Special Victim's Unit to investigate cases that deal with domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

She's been involved in several community events that included her office co-hosting a teen summit Thursday, Feb. 11, with youth ages 13-21 to educate them on sexting, cyberbullying and how young man treats a young woman.

Alsobrooks stressed domestic violence isn't limited to intimate partners, but also extends to those who hurt family members. For example, Kareem Bryant, 23, of Southeast, was charged with murder and child abuse after injuring his girlfriend's 6-month-old daughter Jan. 6. She died from three days later.

She said combating domestic violence starts in the community.

"I can't resolve domestic violence by myself. No one can. It requires families to give involved to become vigilant and come forward," she said. "We need children to be more educated. We are not trying to convince the public that this is taken care of because that wouldn't be true. This is still a very big problem. This could be stopped by our families. This is really where the true solution is."

Meanwhile, the heeling process continues at Bradbury Heights Elementary.

Several colleagues talked about how Davis made such an impact in only her first year at the school.

The students made a heartstring art project with messages in red and pink hearts such as "I have a heartstring for Ms. Davis because she was the best teacher in the world" and "I loved Ms. Davis like a step-mother."

Principal Lynnette Walker recalled how Davis sought to increase her skill set as a teacher by taking teaching training courses last summer immediately after graduating from Bowie State University in Bowie.

Alisha Rowden, the school's second-grade team leader and teacher of 20 years, described Davis as a consummate professional.

Second-grade teacher Hannah Greene, 22, also a first-year teacher, said Davis would text her places to eat and made it easier for her to settle into Maryland coming from Buffalo, New York.

"Kids are resilient. I think the way they are coming to terms and seeing them able to go on gives me strength to be here for them," Greene said. "Nothing's going to be normal. We have to make adjustments for the students … and take the lessons that NeShanté taught us and put them into action."

Funeral services were held for Davis and her daughter Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Ark of Safety Christian Church in Upper Marlboro.

A $10,000 endowed scholarship at Bowie State University is being planned in honor of Davis. For those who want to contribute, call Bradbury Heights Elementary at 301-817-0570.

For more information on mental health services in the county, call the Health Department's Children and Parent Program at 301-324-2872, or go to http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Health/Resources/Find-DR/Pages/Behavioral-Health-Providers.aspx.

For the Family Crisis Center, call 301-731-1203 or 2-1-1 for counseling and other services. WI

Fiscal Year 2016 Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study

The Government of the District of Columbia, Office on Aging is soliciting applications from nonprofit organizations for its FY 2016 Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study competitive grant process. A total of $100,000 in District appropriated funds is available. This Request for Application (RFA) is to solicit submissions that will enable the DCOA to select the most qualified candidate to (1) plan and conduct a comprehensive assessment that identifies needs of the DCOA to improve overall agency efficiency, (2) plan for and implement a sustainable approach towards establishing priorities and procedures in the direction of meeting needs and programs aimed at people 60 years and older with funding implications, and (3) document in a master plan evidenced-based strategies and programs towards plan implementation that will minimize District service overlaps, identify cost savings, and increase services to more customers.

DCOA seeks an applicant who will bring extensive experience in conducting needs assessments and feasibility studies for social service agencies and or like organizations. Nonprofit organizations with places of business within the physical boundaries of the District of Columbia and evidence of sufficient staffing are eligible to apply. Because Senior Service Network (SSN) organizations are potential recipients of funds allocated as a result of the study's findings, SSN members responding to this RFA must submit a statement justifying why their selection would not present a conflict of interest.

Entities may partner to provide a single application for delivering efficient, reliable, and responsive services to the DCOA. Partnering organizations must all have nonprofit status and an identified lead entity. Partners must be identified by name in the application and budget narrative with clear distinction and justification of role and responsibility intended. A final report of findings will be due to DCOA no later than August 1, 2016.

Applicants who apply to this RFA will define DCOA core programs and programmatic needs designed to meet the complex and ever-changing needs of the city's diverse elderly population, especially older individuals with the greatest economic and/or social needs, with particular emphasis on the low-income minority elderly.

The RFA was released on February 4, 2016, and the deadline for submission is March 9, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. A Pre-Application Conference will be held on February 9, and 16, 2016, starting at 3:00 p.m. located at 500 K Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20002. Applications can be obtained from DCOA and the RFA is also available on the DCOA website, www.dcoa.dc.gov and on the Office of Partnerships and Grants Development's website, www.opgd.dc.gov.

THE 6TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TOUR



Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes and Marketing and Advertising Director Ron Burke stand with the two winners of Southwest Airlines tickets, good for one year anywhere that the airline provides service, June Lane (right) and Grant DuHart (left), at the start of the 6th annual African American Heritage Tour at THEARC in Southeast on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by Roy Lewis

Participants in the Washington Informer Charities 6th annual African American Heritage Tour stop for a photo-op at one of the Freddie Gray mural sites on Baltimore Westside on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by Shevry Lassiter



Donna Cooper, Pepco's regional president, greets guests attending the Washington Informer Charities 6th annual African American Heritage Tour at THEARC in Southeast before heading to Baltimore on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by Shevry Lassiter





Skyline view of Baltimore as the Washington Informer Charities 6th annual African American Heritage Tour buses roll into Baltimore on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by Shevry Lassiter



James Earl Reid, the sculptor of the Billie Holiday statue in Baltimore, posed for a quick photograph during the Washington Informer Charities 6th annual African American Heritage Tour on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by Roy Lewis



The Rev. Cecelia Williams Bryant, mother of the Rev. Jamal Bryant, pastor of the Empowerment Temple in Baltimore, speaks with Lafayette Barnes during the Washington Informer Charities 6th annual African American Heritage Tour on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by Travis Riddick



(L-R) Jennie Nunez, Mohammad Wahid, Herick Pena and Alexandria Baez-Ortiz all representing Bank of America, were first-time sponsors of the Washington Informer Charities 6th annual African American Heritage Tour on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by D.R. Barnes



One of the stops on the Washington Informer Charities 6th annual African American Heritage Tour was the popular Avenue Bakery where guests dropped in for pastries, pies, and other treats on Saturday, Feb. 13. / Photo by D.R. Barnes

More Affordable Service for DC



The Pepco Holdings-Exelon Merger: Affordability, Reliability and Sustainability for DC.

Monthly bills add up. It's why as part of the Pepco Holdings-Exelon merger, the companies are providing over **$25 million to offset distribution rate increases** for residential customers through March 2019. The merger will also provide **$14 million for a one-time direct bill credit** – more than $50 per residential customer.

For years, Pepco Holdings has supported the Salvation Army's work to help DC families in need. Now the merger will make electric service more affordable for those families – and for all Pepco customers. We signed the petition to show our support. You can, too, at **PHITomorrow.com**.

For more information or to show your support, visit *PHITomorrow.com*.

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EDITORIAL

Let's Give the Homeless a Home – Even in Our Own Neighborhood

As meetings continue to be held in all eight wards of the District to discuss Mayor Muriel Bowser's recently-announced plan to shut down D.C. General and establish more accommodating shelters throughout the city, residents have expressed a myriad of emotions: anger, frustration, approval, excitement – and even fear.

Yes, the responses to Bowser's plan has been mixed and varied.

But in the final analysis, perhaps what we're facing is not an unwillingness to help the homeless live in places that will give them better security and more dignity but rather the stereotypes that are often attributed to those who have nowhere to live.

Maybe before we make our conclusions, we should take a drive along the many avenues of the District where homeless men, women and children attempt to eke out a way to survive the cold, the rain and the disillusionment that comes when one has nothing but a few bags to claim as their own and no roof over their heads.

In this country, where we tend to brag that we have the best economy on the planet, it is beyond belief that we have so many people who are homeless. And the numbers continue to climb.

Some of these people have ended up on the streets due to circumstances beyond their control. They are veterans in the armed forces who suffer from substance abuse or mental impairment – conditions they now face because of the trauma experienced while serving our country. That's right, our country.

Others, like a growing number of youth, have been left to survive because of their families who have either thrown them out or have been unable to support them due to economic devastation.

Those who prefer to live on the streets are few and far between.

But their options are limited.

So, we, who have homes, education, guaranteed incomes and the ability to ponder over the future of our homeless, have continued to engage in conversations about their future. But this is more than just a conversation for some. For some – it's a life-or-death issue.

But have we spoken or listened to the homeless themselves? What do they need and how can we help them? We would do well to consider the words of Christ who said we must focus on the "least of these."

Those who are reluctant to have homeless shelters placed in their neighborhoods have an understandable and valid point. There certainly need to be additional services in place that will help the homeless get back on their feet. Some may need medical attention. Others will need counseling. Some may just need to feel that we actually care about them.

Readers may recall during the Summer Olympics in Atlanta several decades ago, when officials moved the city's entire homeless population out of the downtown area and into clean, safe hotels. That's where the homeless remained until after the hoopla of the games. The strategy was to make sure those visiting the city weren't harassed by homeless beggars or forced to witness men and women poorly dressed dragging their few belongings behind them in shopping carts or massive paper bags.

But after the Olympics were over, the city put the homeless out of those hotels – leaving them once again to make it own their own – or not.

We have a duty to help those who, for whatever reason, cannot help themselves.

We hope and pray that compassion will outweigh our concerns about declining property values and personal safety. Certainly we can find a way to help our brothers and sisters.

In fact, we must! **WI**

What Do You Think? We'd Like To Know.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vincent Gray's Time is Over

I wish that the former mayor, Vincent Gray, wouldn't throw his hat into the race against Ward 7 Councilmember Yvette Alexander. I know he says there is a lot that still needs to be accomplished for the residents of Ward 7 in the article written by Stacy M. Brown, "Vincent Gray: 'We have a lot of work to do,"[February 11, 2016]. Unfortunately, I don't think he will be able to get anything done. It's not because he is not capable, but because I don't believe the other councilmembers and the media will allow him to perform his job without always bringing up all of the controversy that has been swirling around him and his past campaign. With that type of baggage will he be able to form the kind of political alliances needed to secure the types of services needed for Ward 7? Vincent Gray was done a terrible injustice and I think he still should be the mayor of the District of Columbia, but he is not and he needs to move on, but not back into D.C. politics. I know Marion Barry was able to overcome similar obstacles, but that was then and this is now. D.C. is changing and changing fast. We don't need our councilmember bogged down, always answering question about past controversies. I really like Vincent Gray and I wish him well.

Eugene Bailey
Washington, DC

DCPS Schools Should Reconsider Strategies

I read with great interest the article about the extended learning plan for DC Public Schools in this week's Washington Informer ["Extended Learning" on the DCPS Briefs page]. Why does DC always try to copy what some other school system has tried and claims to have been successful in trying it? Over the years, the DC Schools have spent millions of dollars bringing in so-called experts, purchasing thousands of programs and training for those programs, and none of that seems to have made a significant difference in the performance of the students. Now they're going try to keep students and teachers in school all year with intermittent breaks, but giving more class time to the children who supposedly need it the most. Well, here we go again! Don't be surprised if it doesn't improve test scores or achievement. Staying in school 365 days a year won't do it either. Has anybody considered that the reason these children are academically deficient is not because they don't spend enough time in school. It's more about the time spent when they're NOT in school. If they go home to parents or other caregivers who can't help them with their homework, who can't read themselves, who don't converse with the children or have the ability to expose them to a variety of enriching experiences, they will always be lacking in academic achievement. Additional time at school will be ineffective unless the home can reinforce what has been taught in a variety of ways. Why doesn't the school system look at how to do that instead of copying yet another ineffective plan?

Margine Evans
Washington, DC



Guest Columnist

By Julianne Malveaux

Why Do Politicians Treat Addiction Differently in the Suburbs?

Nick Cocchi would like to be the sheriff of Hampden County, an Eastern Massachusetts county of half a million people. Springfield, Massachusetts, a city that is about 22 percent African-American, is the county seat. Eastern Massachusetts (and indeed, much of New England) is experiencing the devastating fallout from the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say that deaths from heroin overdoses have quadrupled in the past decade and that heroin use has doubled among Whites. Thus, it is entirely appropriate that Cocchi's candidate website includes a page that talks about opioid abuse in Hampden County.

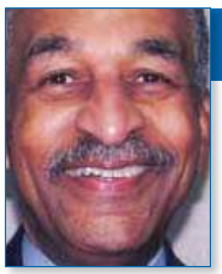
Far less appropriate – and indeed repugnant – was a statement that Cocchi made when he testified at a November hearing before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. According to Victoria Kim, a writer for The Fix, a newspaper that reports on addiction and recovery issues, Cocchi said as part of his testimony, "What was once the heroin junkie in the dark inner-city back alley has now become brother, sister, mom, dad, son and daughter. It's hit suburbia U.S.A."

Should the issue of addiction be treated more compassionately and humanely now that it has "hit suburbia U.S.A.?" Wasn't that "heroin junkie in the dark inner-city back alley" somebody's brother, sister, mother, dad, son or daughter? This is why it is so important to lift up the Black Lives Matter movement. Cocchi has implicitly said that he values the person in suburbia U.S.A. more than the person in the inner city. And his characterization of the inner-city drug abuser as someone in a back alley reeks of his biases.

Bishop Talbert Swan II, the president of the Springfield NAACP and pastor of Spirit of Hope Church of God in Christ, strongly objected to the racially coded language that Cocchi used to talk about the problem of addiction. He is not the only person who has noticed the increasingly humane way addiction is being managed as the epidemic devastates the White community, in contrast to the way addiction has been managed in the past (consider the language around the crack epidemic) or even now, when African-Americans are addicts. Even Cocchi's use of is term "junkie" lacks humanity. To call someone a "junkie" is far less humane than calling them an addict.

Before voters support Cocchi in his quest for sheriff, they might push him to get some sensitivity training. They might also ask if he would treat the inner-city addict differently than he would treat one from

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Guest Columnist

By James Clingman

What is Black Constitutional Patriotism?

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "… we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir." He went on to say, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed."

It is said that we should carefully choose the words we use, because we may have to eat them one day. That is the case with words written by this nation's founders. The only problem is, even though several have brought attention to those words, little or nothing has been done to change or enforce their intent when it comes to Black people. The words to which I refer are found in the documents written by a cadre of men held in highest esteem who supposedly had the best intentions for "all" other men in this country.

David Walker's Appeal, in 1829, turned the words of the Declaration of Independence back on those who celebrated the victory of throwing off the tyranny of King George. In reference to the Declaration, Walker stated, "Do you understand your own language? Compare your own language … extracted from your Declaration of Independence, with your cruelties and murders inflicted by your cruel and unmerciful fathers and yourselves on our fathers and on us — men who have never given your fathers or you the least provocation!"

Walker continued, particularly referring to the abuses of the King and the right and obligation of the colonies to throw off such government. "Hear your language further … I ask you candidly, [were] your sufferings under Great Britain one hundredth part as cruel and tyrannical as you have rendered ours under you?"

Later, Frederick Douglass cited the words of the Declaration and Constitution in his famous speech in 1852, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?"

Douglass said the Fourth of July was a day of celebration for White Americans but a day of mourning for slaves and former slaves like him, because they were reminded of the unfulfilled promise of equal liberty for all in the Declaration of Independence. "This Fourth [of] July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn. To drag a man in fetters into the grand illuminated temple of liberty, and call upon him to join you in joyous anthems, were inhuman mockery and sacrilegious irony."

The words written and spoken by the founders of these United States were important and, I trust, sincere, but sometimes in order to

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Guest Columnist

By Louis C. Ward

Americans Must Reject Disrespect to Presidency

Recently, retired Lt. Col Ralph Peters and Stacey Dash, both contributors on Fox News shows, blatantly disrespected President Barack Obama on different news shows on national television. Lt. Col. Peters called our president a "total p**sy," and actress Stacey Dash blurted "our president doesn't give a sh*t about terrorism."

Bill Slieve, senior vice president of programming for both networks, announced, "Earlier today, Fox contributors Lt. Col. Ralph Peters and Stacey Dash made comments on different programs that were completely inappropriate and unacceptable for our air."

Thanks for the acknowledgement, but the damage has been done. And, for me, it wasn't enough that the contributors were suspended for two weeks. They should have been fired permanently.

First, it was bumper stickers and then road signs and memorabilia disrespecting Obama; now it's lawmakers, news commentators, and even candidates seeking the Republican nomination for president being discourteous to my president, your president and our president on national television and radio.

America, when will we stand up to those who disrespect for Obama, the first African-American president of United States? Freedom of speech is a constitutional right in America, but defamation of character and disrespect are not. We must speak out against impertinence to the United States presidency.

When the presidency is disrespected at home, it sows seeds for foreign countries to disrespect our president as well. Look at what China and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said to and about our president.

When he was first elected in 2008 on the platform for "Change in America," television screens across the nation showed people, representing different ethnic groups, crying because an African-American had been elected president. Most anticipated a new day with a better life for African-Americans in the most powerful country in the world.

A new time for all people of America to come together to make America, not only the most powerful country in the world, but the greatest country in the world, where people will be able to live in harmony and, hopefully, achieve prosperity on economic and social levels.

For a short while the future of America looked bright. The

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Guest Columnist

By Austin Cooper Jr.

Proud Americans Disrespecting America

Days prior to the president's arrival on Nov. 22, 1963, thousands of posters and leaflets (see below) were distributed around Dallas by members of the John Birch Society. That morning, three local businessmen had taken out a full-page "Welcome Mr. Kennedy to Dallas" ad in the Dallas Morning News, accusing him of being both a communist sympathizer as well as anti-Christian. When an aide showed President John F. Kennedy the ad and flyer on the 13-minute flight from Fort Worth to Dallas, he is said to have shaken his head in disgust and remarked "We're going into nut country now." The president had a little more than one hour to live.

At the time of Kennedy's assassination, my father was a 30-year-old priest and principal of an Episcopal Church and mission school in an inner-city Dallas community. Recently, as I listened to a few of Donald Trump's supporters discussing his statements on "seeing hundreds and perhaps thousands of Muslims cheering in the streets of Jersey City when the towers fell," I thought of a conversation with my father.

I still reflect on two things from that conversation almost thirty years later: First, his pained recollection of making communion visits on the evening of the assassination and witnessing celebrations in the streets of downtown Dallas outside bars and related establishments. One bar was even offering free drinks.

The second is his statement, "If the President was going to be killed anywhere in America, then Dallas would have either been at the top of the list or damn near the top. The racial hostility was just that thick in Dallas."

I think it is safe to say that those celebrating in the streets of Dallas on the evening of that tragically historic day were not Muslims. Rather, they were White, Southern, racist, self-proclaimed Christians, many of whom were in their respective Houses of Worship less than 48 hours later lustily singing Christian hymns of the church. No doubt they also called themselves proud Americans.

Indeed, the acts of bigotry by proud Americans who justify their racism and hide behind the veil of religion did not begin nor end with the events of Nov. 22, 1963. Religion was used to justify slavery. In March 2014, Fred Ancona, Imperial Wizard of the Traditional American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, stated, "We don't hate people because of their race. We are a Christian organization." On the evening of June 17, 2015, Dylan Roof murdered nine people during Bible

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Guest Columnist

By George H. Lambert Jr.

Crime-Fighting D.C. Style

Even with a safer, more livable District, crime is still on the minds of Washingtonians.

To put the issue into perspective, it is important to note that D.C.'s days as the murder capital of America are behind us. The trend has been moving in a positive direction for decades. However, gunfire continues to sound too often in the poorest neighborhoods, and even gentrifying areas have seen an uptick in violence lately. (Enforcing the laws to keep guns out of the wrong hands is an important way to save black lives. I addressed this issue in a recent column.)

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser has demonstrated exceptional leadership by developing a task force on street crime comprising people with diverse views. Her willingness to work with people beyond her immediate circle is an admiral quality as she confronts the rising level of violent crime in our city.

Furthermore, I endorse Mayor Bowser's Safer Stronger DC Public Safety Plan. The evidence shows that a significant portion of the murders being committed by violent criminals with prior gun-related arrests, and so I urge the Council to support her in her effort to stop the senseless loss of life and stop the recent uptick in crime in the District.

I am encouraged to see how Mayor Bowser has joined forces with Attorney General Karl A. Racine and Police Chief Cathy Lanier to make the District even safer. Neither one is a Bowser appointee, but the three of them work together to secure results that count.

Last fall, Racine became the first elected attorney general of the District of Columbia, succeeding Vincent Gray appointee Irvin B. Nathan. A native of Haiti who was raised and educated in D.C., he has identified community safety as one of his top priorities. "At the same time," he told one interviewer, "We have an obligation to make sure that the office is prosecuting cases in ways that make sure the kids who can benefit from services that can keep them out of the criminal justice system get those services." Racine's collaborative spirit also extends to his work with his counterparts in Maryland and Virginia. Last month, these three chief legal officers had the first meeting of its kind, focusing on cooperation to prevent and reduce gun violence.

Appointed by Adrian Fenty in 2007, Chief Lanier is now into her third administration. That fact alone shows that she knows how to work with different styles of leadership. More important is her effectiveness as top cop. Under Chief Lanier, the

LAMBERT *Page 54*



Askia-At-Large

By Askia Muhammad

Hard Times Ahead for Senate Republicans

I confess. I am amused, tickled, delighted even, as I ponder the constitutional quagmire in which the arch-conservative Repugnikkkan Party finds itself today.

I derisively refer to them as Repugnikkans because their ideology is repugnant to me, and their quasi-legal, police-state tactics against Black people in particular in this country more closely resemble the KKK, the Ku Klux Klan, which arose in the post-Reconstruction-era Southern United States in order to quash the national reforms instituted by Abraham Lincoln's original Grand Old Party intended to benefit the freed slaves.

Now, this Republican Party of Richard Nixon and Strom Thurmond and David Duke is living its worst nightmare, a Black man is President of the United States, and he has completed seven full, scandal-free years in office.

And now, Justice Antonin Scalia, the "brilliant," arch-conservative, anchor of the Supreme Court's right wing has suddenly died, leaving the president they loathe, with the authority to name Justice Scalia's successor.

The GOP leaders are gnashing their teeth. But to use a Shakespearean term, they have been "hoisted by their own petard." The "originalist," "strict constructionist" Constitutional web they had woven for President Barack Obama, has now bound them up.

You see the Constitution (they swear by) gives the president the absolute authority to name members of the Supreme Court, with the "advice and consent" of the Senate. But the Repugnikkans want to deny Obama some of the authority the Constitution grants him for his remaining 11 months in office. Ironically, when the Constitution was written, the new president was not inaugurated until March, after the November election.

Obama's two previous nominees — Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor —required an average of 76 days (less than two months) from their nomination until their confirmation. There's plenty of time to confirm someone.

In any case, if left to the GOP, the Supreme Court will be potentially gridlocked for the next 11 months with a four-to-four split between conservative justices they love and

MUHAMMAD *Page 54*

Feel the Heritage
Arlington's Celebration of African American History and Culture

Arlington's 24th Annual
Feel the Heritage Festival
Saturday, February 27
1 - 6 p.m.
Drew Community Center
3500 23rd Street South

- Live Music and Dance
- Delicious Food & Ben's Chili Bowl's famous half-smokes
- Hall of History with Photos and Artifacts
- Artisan & Community Vendors
- FREE Kids' Crafts, Face Painting and more!
- Cooking Demo with Arlington Food Assistance Center






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Director, Lead Actor of 'Race' Discuss the Making of a Masterpiece



On February 19 at the Newseum in Northwest actor Stephan James (3rd left) who plays Jesse Owens in the movie RACE speaks on a panel discussion with movie director Stephen Hopkins (2nd left), Jesse Owens' daughter Gloria Owens Hemphill, and granddaughter Marlene Dortch (1st right). / Photo by Shevry Lassiter



Actor Stephan James plays Jesse Owens in the movie premiere RACE opening in theaters February 19. / Photo by Shevry Lassiter

By D. Kevin McNeir
WI Editor

Stephan James, 22, says he knew since high school that he wanted to be an actor. In fact, while many of his friends in his native Toronto, Canada, were doing the things usually associated with high school students, James had already secured the services of an agent – learning all he could about becoming a professional actor.

Apparently that hard work has paid off with critics proclaiming his portrayal of Jesse Owens in the new biopic "Race" as stellar. For James, who says he was not a runner, it took more than just learning his lines.

"I was still filming 'Selma' when I signed on for this role and during my free time, I would go to the track and work out," he said. "It was a strenuous training program – I had to really get in shape and then I had to work on mimicking Jesse's unique sprinting form. That wasn't easy."

"I guess I put in about two months of training. Luckily, we were in Atlanta at the time and I was able to work with the track and field coaches at Georgia Tech who helped me with my conditioning. And then, I watched films of Jesse running over and over again," said James, who still considers Toronto his home and has both a focus and insight rarely seen in one as young as he.

Best known for playing Rep. John Lewis as a youth in "Selma," James said he found it amazing that Owens could maintain his composure when, on one hand he could be touted as the greatest runner on the planet – then be forced to ride in a service elevator in order to attend his own party.

"I spent a lot of time with Jesse's family and learned so much about him that the history books don't say," James said. "He really was devoted to his family and often said both in his memoirs and to those closest to him, that the only time he really felt 'free' was when he was running. That's pretty intense and tragic."

James adds that he was honored to be part of the film because its writers and director remained committed to telling the truth.

"We all know that Jesse didn't live in a picture perfect world," he said. "America celebrated his victories but not his manhood. We had to make sure that was part of the film too. For me, it's always about doing something that is relevant – doing something that sends a message to today's youth," said James, who previously guest starred in the television mini-series "The Book of Negroes."

DIRECTOR HAS HIS SAY

The director of "Race," Stephen Hopkins, said the question he continues to be asked is how much of the film is true. His answer – "all of it."

"Many say it seems like a fairy-tale or an action thriller – it's hard to believe it really happened that way," Hopkins said. "It's an amazing story particularly at that time in history. Jesse Owens was under so much pressure in terms of whether he should even run or not in the Olympics. The Nazis wanted to promote themselves as superior and were determined to win. But inadvertently, they made Owens a worldwide superstar."

Hopkins said the film tackles not only one Black man's accomplishments but also the moral issues of the day.

"We focused on a pivotal period in Jesse's life. To be a Black man meant being in a world where the future seemed bleak. There was little hope for Blacks in the 1930s. The double entendre of the film's name helped us to examine how he experienced freedom while running but then had to face racism because of the color of his skin," Hopkins said.

"One thing – Jesse was so much more than an athlete. He was a wonderful father, he worked tirelessly with youth and he was one of my heroes," Hopkins said. "He wasn't one to seek the spotlight. He just did what he thought was right and never changed course. Working on this film, I learned a lot about history and human nature." WI

CELEBRATING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH SHARED PRIDE

MGM National Harbor is proud to honor the legacy and achievements of the African-American men and women who strengthen our communities and the nation. We recognize and celebrate their contributions to U.S. history and ongoing efforts to build an even better world for the next generation. Building a world-class resort requires a partnership with a strong community. MGM National Harbor is working together with people who represent the very best of the Capital Region's talented business leaders and skilled workforce. People like Dennese Guadeloupe Rojas, principal/interior designer at Interiors by Design, a creative and thriving Prince George's County-based business. MGM National Harbor is committed to ensuring that the development and operations of the new resort reflect the diversity and vibrancy of the local community.

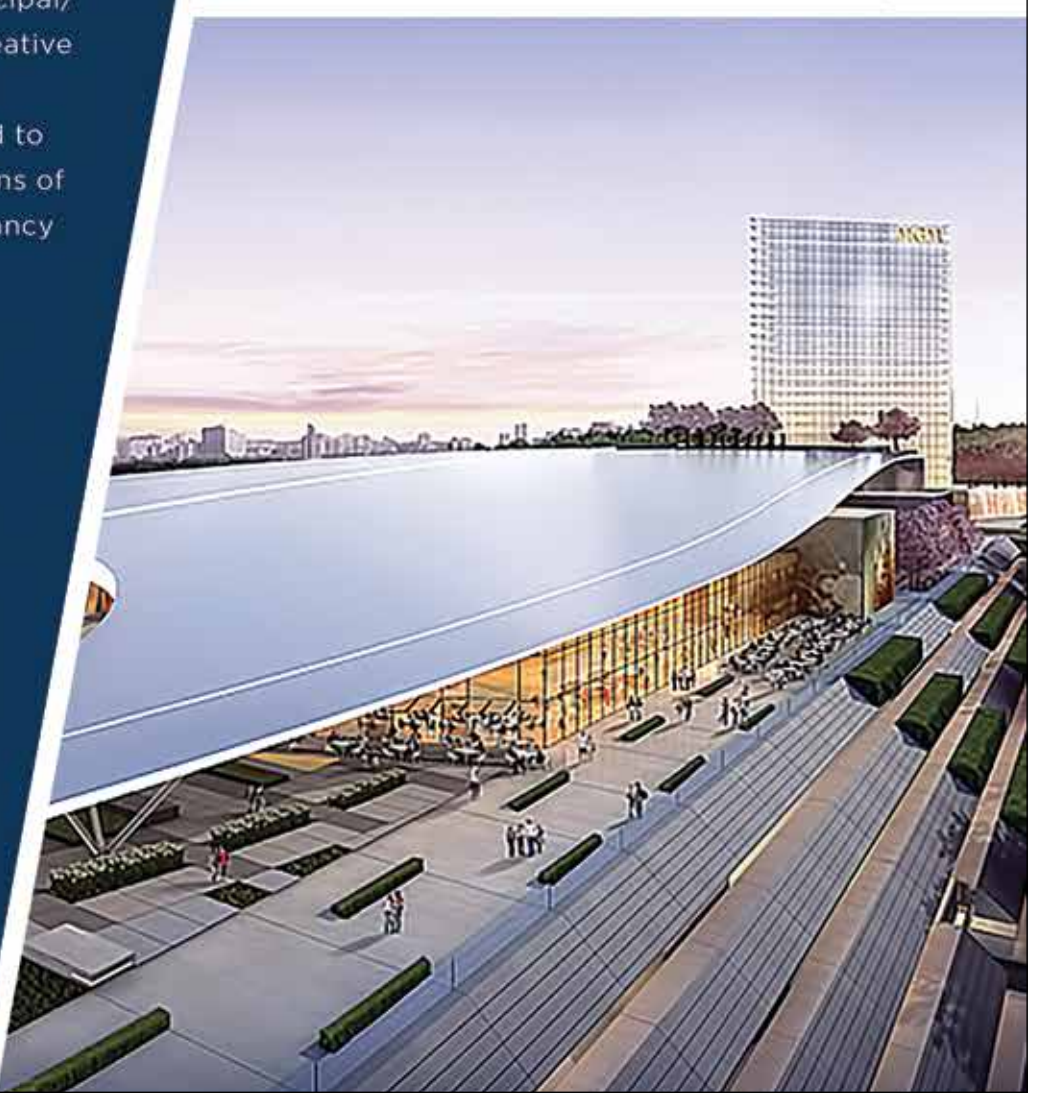


Dennese Guadeloupe Rojas
Principal/Interior Designer at Interiors by Design

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MGMNationalHarbor.com



Black History Month Events in the DMV

Southeast Church Hosts 29th Annual Concert

East Washington Heights Baptist Church will present its 29th annual Gospel Choir Concert at 3:45 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. The choir is lead by Avis-Balkcom-Williams.

This year's theme: Throughout Our Struggles Always Under His Wings.

WUSA-TV channel 9 reporter Delia Goncalves will serve as the program's Mistress of Ceremonies. Special guest group His-4 and guest instrumentalists will also appear.

The Rev. Kip Bernard Banks Sr., pastor of East Washington Heights Baptist Church, extends an invitation to the community to join the church family in celebrating Black History Month through songs that connect our past, our present and our future.

The church is located at 2220 Branch Ave. in Southeast.

The program is free to the public.

For additional information, please contact the church office at 202-582-4811.

Black Heritage Group, Local Museum Host Quiz Competition

The Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, in partnership with the Alexandria Black History Museum, will host a quiz competition from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria, Virginia.

The event is part of the ASPBH's educational and community outreach programs designed to recognize and celebrate Afro-American history.

This event is free and open to the public.

Alexandria public school students in grades 6-8 are eligible to participate in this exciting contest based on a question and answer format.

The competition will be limited to one team per school with three students each representing Francis C. Hammond and George Washington middle schools and the Jefferson Houston School.

Each school will be responsible for identifying competition participants.

Students will receive a game packet with study materials, contest rules and event specifics. Prizes will be awarded.

The ASPBH is currently seeking teachers for educational staff support and volunteers willing to serve on the planning committee who can assist with event logistics.

Since 1980, the ASPBH has sought to continue its mission to identify, preserve and educate the overall Alexandria community of its illustrious black heritage by:

- Preserving, collections and promoting the early history and impressive contributions of the black community of Alexandria;
- Financial support and volunteer services for the daily operations of the Alexandria Black History Museum;
- Over 20 years inspiring a diverse group of local children via the Martin Luther King Jr. poster exhibition.

For more information, please contact the Event Chair Tracye Funn at 202-624-9082, or go to www.alexblackhistory.org.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe St. and open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., about five blocks from the Braddock Road Metro Station on the Yellow and Blue Lines.

For more information, please call 703-746-4356.

Award-Winning Filmmaker, Harvard Professor at National Press Club

Emmy Award winner Ken Burns and Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates will talk about race during a luncheon March 14 at the National Press Club in Northwest.

Burns and Gates have teamed up to host a national lecture series that looks deep into the issue of race. The two were brought together following the mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, last year.

Both Burns and Gates will have films on PBS in coming months.

Burns' film, "Jackie Robinson," will air April 11-12 that examines the life and times of the man known for breaking the color barrier in baseball.

Gates' film, "Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise," will air in the fall and looks at the walls that continue to divide the United States.

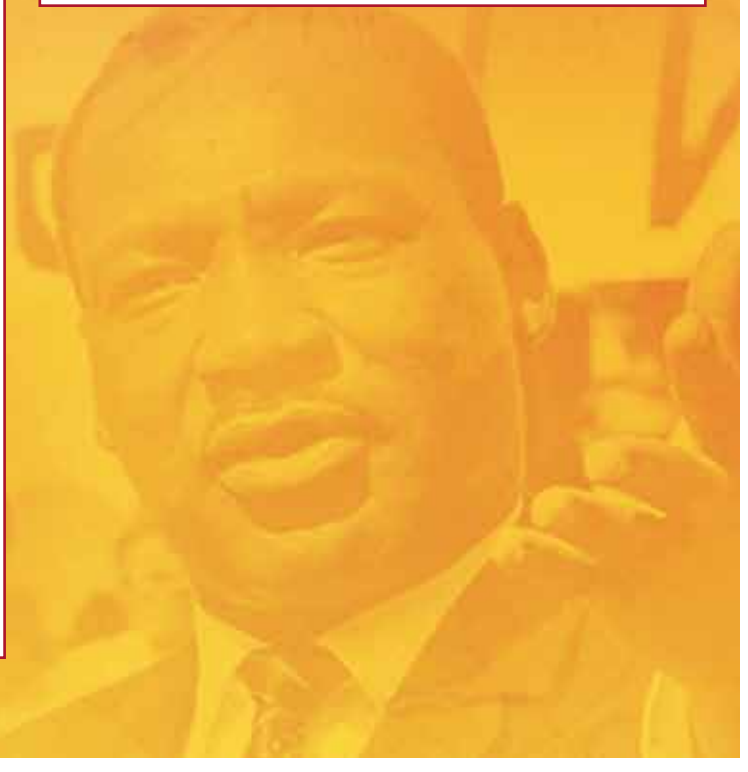
Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. with remarks beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session ending at 2 p.m.

Tickets cost $24 for club members, who may purchase two tickets at this rate, and $38 for nonmembers. Tickets may be purchased online.

For more information, please email reservations@press.org, or call 202-662-7501. Tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase.

Club members who wish to attend the pre-luncheon reception must RSVP separately to VIPreception@press.org 48 hours before the event. Space may be limited. You must have a paid reservation to the luncheon to attend the VIP reception.

To submit a question in advance, put BURNS in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 10 a.m. on the day of the luncheon.



‘Race:’ Story of an Olympic Champion

Jesse Owens’s Road to Gold



By Sarafina Wright
WI Staff Writer

A few weeks before the film “Race” premiered in theaters nationwide, the Newseum in Northwest hosted a special screening of the film, accompanied by Jesse Owens’s family members and Stephan James, the actor who portrays the track and field trailblazer.

Based on the incredible true story of Owens, the movie focuses on the world stage of the 1936 Olympics, where he faces off against Adolph Hitler’s vision of Aryan supremacy. It opens in theaters around the country on Friday, Feb. 19.

Prior to the showing, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Trymaine Lee moderated a panel including James, the film’s director Stephen Hopkins, Owens’s granddaughter and daughter Gloria Owens who put the film in context for viewers.

“He was the best dad that ever lived. He always taught me to not say I can’t do it, say you’re going to try harder,” Gloria said.

Although the film only deals with three years of Owens’s life, Gloria claims the depiction in the film couldn’t have been better.

Owens’s granddaughter also said that throughout the film she felt as though she was watching her grandparents.

Director Stephen Hopkins asserted that he has done a lot of bad [evil] movies in his life and he wanted to do something inspiring.

“I felt the whole story was extraordinary. His participation in the Nazi Olympics, a 22-year-old African-American man who came from a country where racism was the basis of the law, and who inadvertently became the most famous man on Earth thanks to the Nazis,” Hopkins said.

“This movie is an extraordinary series of events,” he said.

The difference between “Race” and other well-known sports biopics like “Remember the Titans” or “Glory Road” is that there are no fireworks. The only real drama comes when Owens steps out on his girlfriend, resulting in a break up that drives him mad.

As the film moves on, we see images of the Nazis taking Jews to concentration camps, causing the viewer to shudder in horror.

As for Owens, it quickly becomes crystal clear that while he is a champion on the field, he is also extremely lonely.

Noticeably absent is the camaraderie that other team sports display such as basketball and football, where multiple participants and personalities help to ease the pain when lose occurs.

The film opens with Owens leaving his home in Cleveland to attend Ohio State University [OSU] in Columbus, but before he departs, he must say goodbye to those he loves, including his girlfriend.

When he arrives on the campus of OSU, Owens comes face-to-face with various forms of racism from his classmates and teammates. But he maintains his focus and even-tempered spirit in order to work toward his goal – becoming the best he can be in track and field.

While Owens works on improving his skills, he must deal with an overzealous coach and the challenge of becoming a member of the Olympic team that will travel to Germany.

The hatred that manifests itself in Germany weighs heavily on Owens. While he shows his prowess on the field, breaking numerous NCAA track and field records, he wonders if he can handle going up against the Nazis.

We know the rest of the story – Owens decides to compete and makes history, going on to win four gold medals while also setting a mark in the long jump that remains the world record for 25 years.

The film, written by Joe Shrapnel and Anna Waterhouse, also features Jason Sudelkis, Jeremy Irons, Carice van Houten, Shanice Banton and William Hurt.

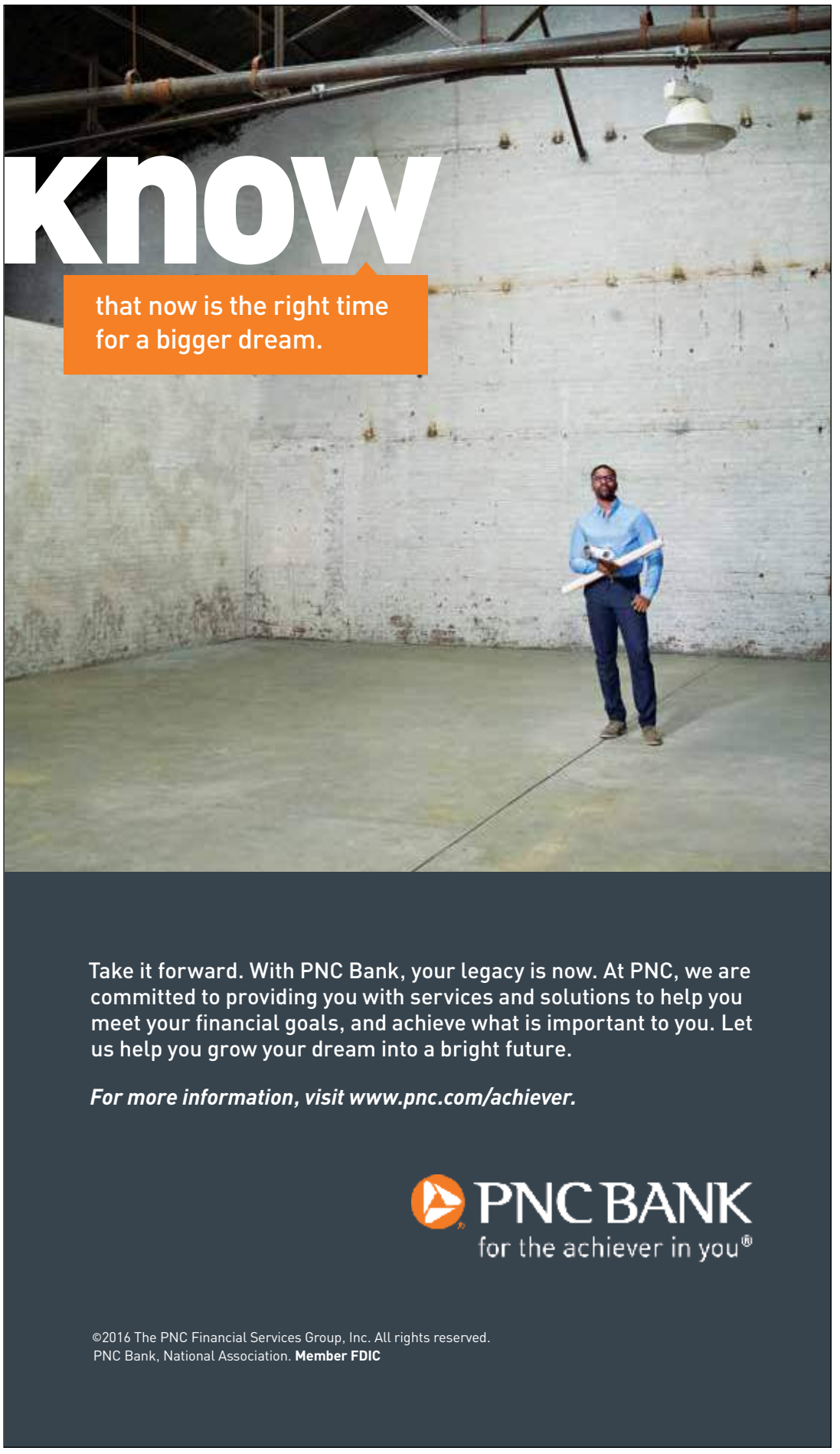
It stands as an enthralling tale about courage, determination, tolerance and friendship.

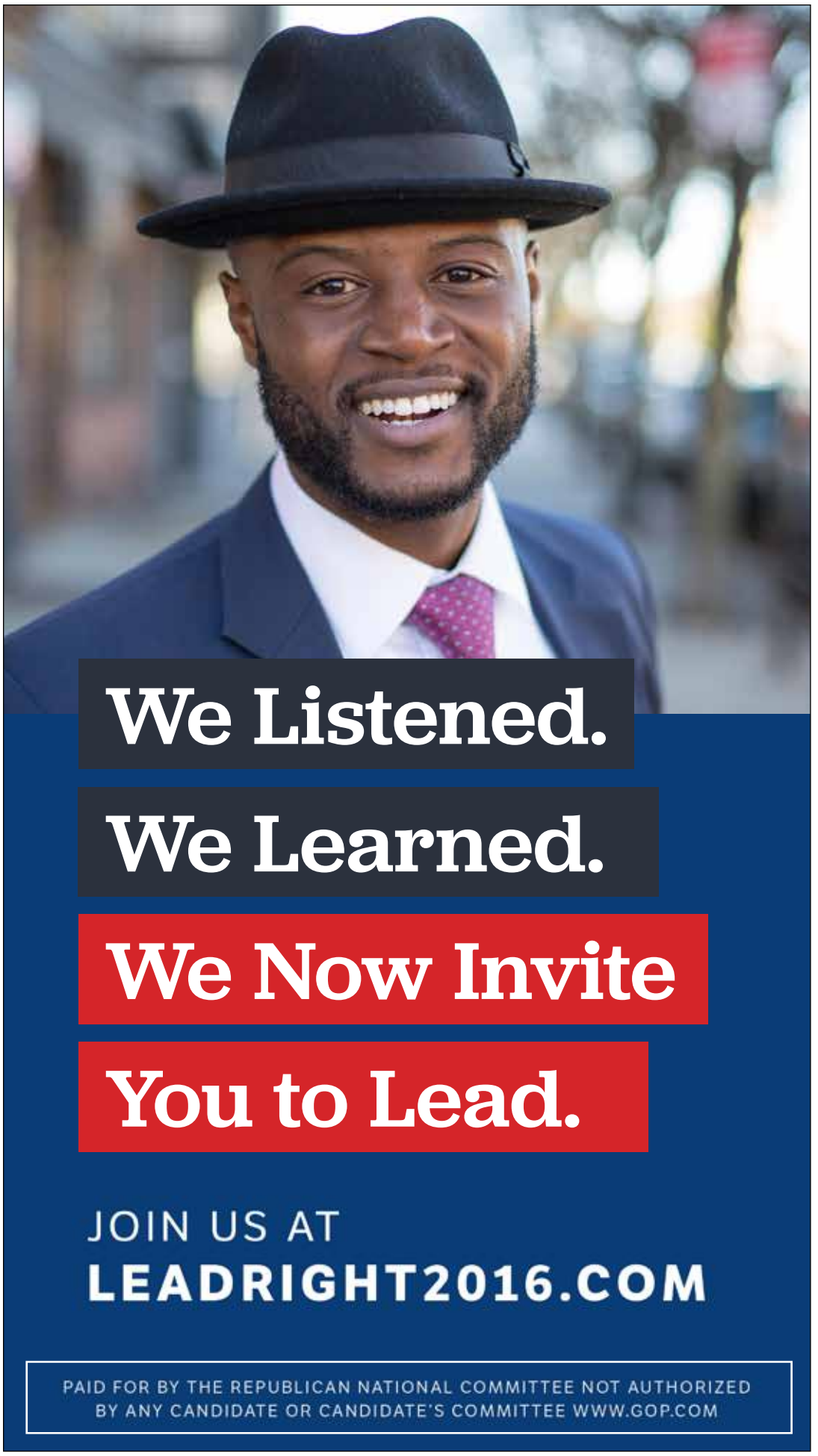
Congressman John Lewis, activist and commentator Jeff Johnson, political strategist Angela Rye and Dr. Marco Clarke, principal of Richard Wright School for Journalism and Media Arts Public Charter School, were spotted among the attendees of the screening.

Their faces showed how compelling the film was to each of them.

Owen’s daughter summed up her feelings about the movie.

“When my father was leaving this world he said to me don’t cry for me, I’ve had a wonderful life,” Gloria said. **WI**





Haircuts, Suits and Laughs Help Homeless

By Tatyana Hopkins
Howard University News Service

WASHINGTON – It felt and sounded like any other District barbershop on a busy Saturday. Laughs and chatter mixed with the buzz of the barbers' clippers, political debates ensued and barbers complimented beaming clients as they finished.

"So, what do you want done today," barber Lorenzo McCrea asked a customer as he took his seat in the chair.

But this was no barbershop. Instead, it was an opportunity for scores of men who struggle each day for a job, a meal and a place to sleep to -- at least for a moment -- feel better about themselves and to get a hand up.

"A haircut can make a man stand 10-feet-tall," said Joe Paul, motivational speaker and one of the sponsors of "New Year, New Me," a day-long service to provide help for homeless men.

Nearly 200 men from the Central Union Mission Gale's School Shelter near Union Station gathered to receive free haircuts, food and job appropriate clothing and counseling.

STRIVE DC, a workforce development organization, provided suit separates and ties for participants to choose from as they search for jobs.

Paul provided the group with life and job counseling during two sessions. He told the group that he had come to talk to them because at one point in his life, he had been just like them. He had been a homeless teenager in Miami. However, with the support of a group home, he said, he was able to finish high school and attend Florida State University in Tallahassee.

"We are responsible for each other, brothers," he said. "I owe it to you."

Paul's presentation described basic interview and networking skills, such as having knowledge of a business before the interview, preparing questions for the interview and creating an elevator pitch.

"Happiness is a choice," Paul told the men. "You're not responsible for what happens to you, but you are for how you respond."

The men said they appreciated his message and particularly the messenger.

"There is a difference between someone who is an eloquent speaker and someone who has been in our shoes," one observer said.

They also appreciated their haircuts.

Daniel Maya, for example, explained to his barber the importance cutting his hair the right length for maintenance.

Their cuts were provided by about a dozen student barbers from Bennett Career Institute, which trains students in makeup, cosmetology and barbering.

"They can call me anytime," said student Derrick Shelton, who provided haircuts for about 15 customers.

McCrea, a fourth-year instructor at the school, said it is common policy for Bennett student to provide community service. He said he believes the haircuts will make a difference in how the men see themselves and how others perceive them.

Clyde Alford, who is living at the mission while he looks for a permanent home, beamed after his haircut. A stroke in 2007 left the now 50-year-old former construction worker unable to walk without the assistance of a cane.

"I didn't just come for the haircuts, I came for the knowledge," he said. "I got to do some thinking, and the haircut was just a plus."

He said he typically rents rooms throughout the city and stays at the shelter when affordable rooms are not available. He said he hopes that physical therapy and the workshop will prepare him for work.

Mission resident Jerome Beatty said he wanted people to know that the people at the mission were just like them or possibly members of their families. Beatty recalled how he and his father once used to feed the homeless.

"You might be one check from homelessness," he said.

Originally from South Carolina, Beatty, a 54-year-old father of two, said he came to D.C. eight months ago for a demolition job with a national construction company.

Administrative hold ups prevented the job from coming through, leaving him without the typical shelter benefits of working with the company. Beatty said he found renting a room in the city's southeast quadrant too dangerous and went to the mission three days before the employment event.

He said he will stay at the Mission for the remainder of his 21 day agreement and then leave for a contracted job with the same construction company to build power lines in Wisconsin.

Until then, Beatty said, the haircut, message from Paul and the clothes were helpful.

"I will use the advice to find work in the city," he said. WI


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Exhibit Offers Journey Through Black Spirituality

By Eve M. Ferguson
WI Contributing Writer

Renée Stout's "Tales of the Conjure Woman" is more than an aesthetic trip into a vast wealth of creative energy and expression; it's a history lesson, an ongoing narrative and a whimsical take on spirituality all at once.

In this case, the Conjure Woman is the artist herself, who is characterized through her fictional alter ego, Fatima Mayfield. Along with her other cast of characters, this extensive exhibition at the Katzen through March 13 continues a saga that the D.C.-based artist began more than two decades ago.

"Right now there is just a handful, Fatima Mayfield, Reverend Beach, Black 9, Pretty Poison and Sterling Rochambeau," the petite, dreadlocked artist said.

"Fatima Mayfield, the seer/herbalist/root worker, represents the "protagonist" in my ongoing narrative. She laments that African-Americans lost a lot of the true spiritual grounding provided by honoring their ancestors spiritual beliefs and traditions when they were forced to convert to Christianity during slavery, and she feels that it's the reason we continue to flounder as a people today in this hostile environment. She has decided to make it her mission to see that the spiritual beliefs of the ancestors are not completely forgotten. She functions as a healer and a therapist in the community, especially since medical care and mental health costs are prohibitively expensive and generally out of reach for most of the people she knows."

The works in this vast array of media include sculpture, paintings, installations, video and dioramas. The works are all rooted in the explication of hoodoo, the Americanized version of Voodoo that emerged from the South and is often known as "conjure," "roots," or "obeah" in the Caribbean and Sea Islands off the coast of Georgia and the Carolinas.

Tiny colored bottles filled presumably with potions glass jars with items floating in them, such as "3 Jars with Roses and Hearts," posters and finely drawn figures, faces and fantastical scenes ground Stout's work in the supernatural and surreal.

"These characters are archetypes and continue to develop as I work through the narrative," Stout elaborated. "The story grew out of the early reactions to my work by some Christian African-Americans who expressed fear of it, but could never seem to articulate those fears when asked to elaborate on why they were afraid."

Through these works, Stout not only tells the lively tale of Fatima, her nemesis the Rev. Beach, her mysterious lover Sterling Rochambeau, her wild girl best friend Pretty Poison and partner-in-arms Black 9, but she also explains and demonstrates the practices that came from West African traditions and transformed into a unique practice in the American South.



▲ *"Renee Stout: Tales of the Conjure Woman" anchors American University's Katzen Arts Center's tribute to female artists.*

It is said that "Hoodoo" not only incorporates African traditions, but also Native American herbalism as the enslaved Africans attempted to continue their traditions in a new and strange land.

"I have a really good sense of humor and as an artist. I would hope that all of my viewers come away feeling like they have been thoroughly entertained and made to think on many levels about many different things, " Stout continued.

"As an African-American, I would hope that other African-Americans would at least consider the idea that our ancestors had their own complex societies, traditions and connections to the world of the unseen before they were brought here as slaves and that that, more than anything, is what kept them going and enabled them to survive in this hostile environment. Who they were and what they believed is nothing to be ashamed of; in fact, it is to be celebrated, and that's what I am doing with my work."

"Renée Stout: Tales of the Conjure Woman" is joined in the spacious museum galleries, which also inaugurated the newest art space, the Alper Initiative of Washington Art, which will showcase works by local artists in a bright, open, flexible-sized space.

"Impact: The Legacy of the Women's Caucus for Art," curated by local African-American art historian Leslie King-Hammond, and "Circle of Friends," a group exhibit of Stout's artistic influences, round out the exhibitions that shine a light on the immense wealth of artistic excellence among African-American female artists. A solo exhibit by Maggie Michaels adds a touch of abstract to the whole museum experience. Visit www.american.edu/cas/museum for more information or call 202-885-1300. You can also find the museum and information on programs on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. WI



MARYLAND/WDC BLACK BUSINESS GUIDE

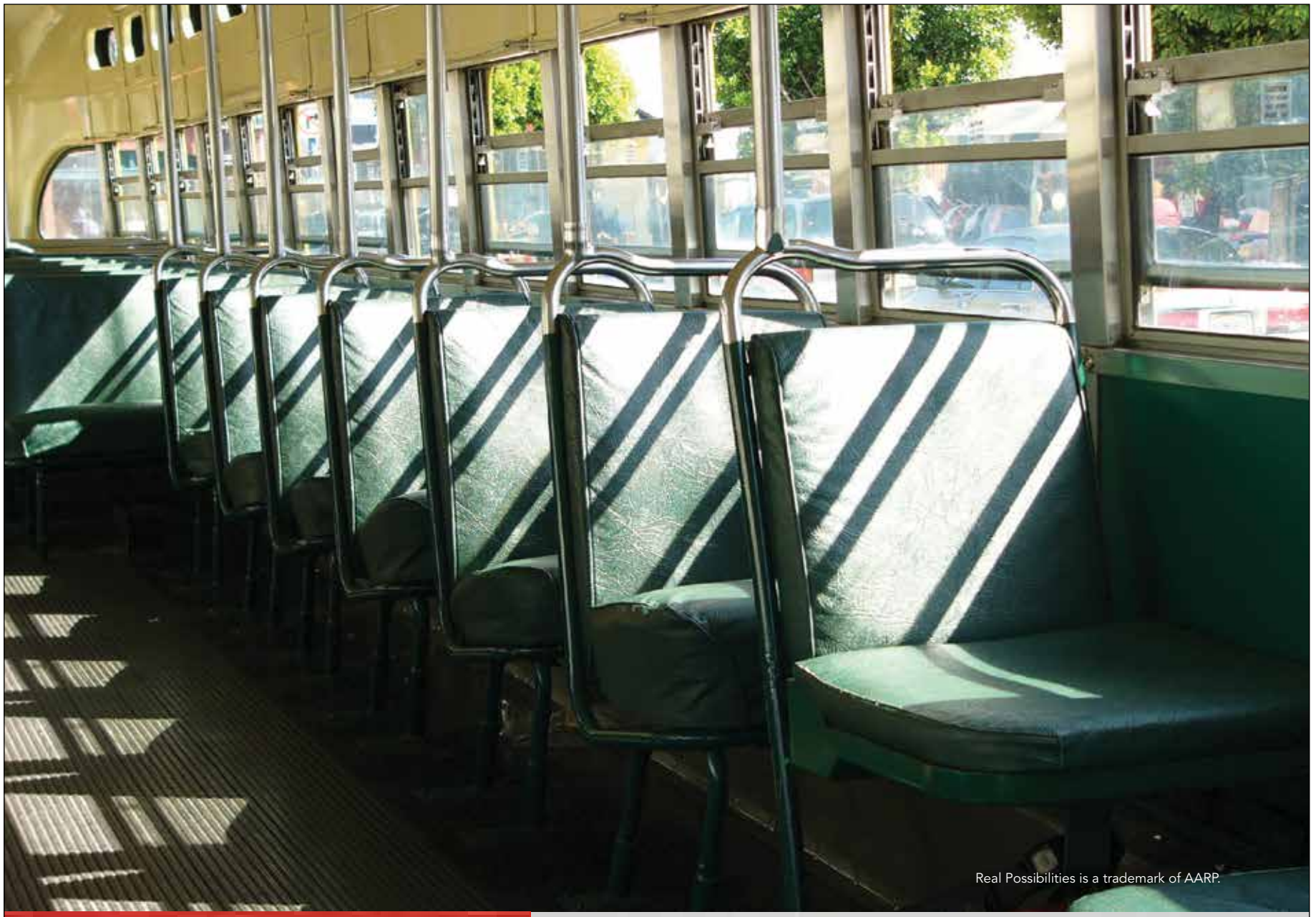
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Concert Celebrates Blacks, Southern Resistance

Rhiannon Giddens Presents 'Swimming in Dark Waters'

WI Staff Report

Led by powerhouse singer-songwriter Rhiannon Giddens, recent Grammy nominee and founding member of Carolina Chocolate Drops, "Swimming in Dark Waters: Other Voices of the American Experience" with Leyla McCalla and Bhi Bhiman will explore the experiences of people of color as outsiders that stand against injustice. It will look at ways we can grapple with our sordid past to address contemporary issues like immigration. The performance will focus on songs of resistance from the South, both old and new, the history of protest songs from McCalla's Haiti and Louisiana and the modern outsider-looking-in observations of first-generation American Bhiman.

The event takes place on Friday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street in Northwest.

Giddens, who was recently nominated for the 2016 "Best Folk Album" Grammy, is a folk scene wunderkind — she trained as an opera singer, but returned to her North Carolina roots with the formation of Carolina Chocolate Drops, a group that celebrates Black Southern musical traditions.

Her solo career took off after T Bone Burnett featured her in the 2013 concert celebrating the music in the film "Inside Llewyn Davis."

She began her rise when the audience at T Bone Burnett's concert at New York City's Town Hall recognized her indisputable talent and raved about her performance.



▲ *Ladysmith Black Mambazo / Photo by Luis Leal*

Her debut solo album "Tomorrow is My Turn," produced by Burnett, explores her own creative life and was recorded in Los Angeles and Nashville with a multi-generational group of players.

McCalla, one of her tour mates, finds inspiration from a variety of sources, including her Haitian heritage, living in New Orleans and dancing at Cajun Mardi Gras. She is a multi-instrumentalist, a cellist and singer whose distinctive sound is impossible to replicate.

Bhiman, the son of Sri Lankan immigrants, had what NPR called "an all-American childhood." Despite his upbringing, his songs have an international flavor, pulling from his family's history and providing commentary on social issues.

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▲ *Rhiannon Giddens / Photo by Michael Weintrob*

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▲ *Sharon Robison, daughter of the late famed baseball legend Jackie Robinson, tours the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy on Thursday, Feb. 11 and crosses paths with a life-size poster of her father.* / *Photo by Travis Riddick*

Daughter of Baseball Legend Jackie Robinson Visits D.C. Youth

Sharon Robinson Continues Father's Commitment to Children

By D. Kevin McNeir
WI Editor

Sharon Robinson, the daughter of legendary Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson, visited D.C. on Thursday, Feb. 11, to spend time with tomorrow's baseball stars at the Nationals Youth Baseball Academy.

However, she also made a few stops at local schools and bookstores – all in an effort to share her father's story and to encourage youth to remain focused on their studies and becoming good citizens.

"For many years, I didn't do much with baseball – I was a writer, a mother and had my own career," said Robinson, 66, who now lives in Amherst, Massachusetts.

"But when the 50th anniversary approached of my father being the first to integrate Major League Baseball approached (1947 – 1997), which by the way was prior to the integration of U.S. Public Schools or the U.S. military, I realized that I needed to become active in telling his story and representing him by reaching out to youth. But I wanted to do more than just toss out the first ball at baseball games," said Robinson, a grandmother, caregiver for her mother, Rachel, now 93 and a celebrated author of children's books.

"My mother's health was declining and she needed me to help with the increased demands of representing my father," she said. "The officials for Major League Baseball were fantastic. But then, I was a consultant with Scholastic Books too. Together we were able to establish an amazing program – Breaking Barriers: In Sports, In Life. We're now 20 years old and we've reached over 22 million children. That's an incredible feat."

"At one point I was a mother and a midwife by profession. Now, I'm in the third phase of my life and am allowed to make my own schedule. And every day I get to connect to children all over the U.S. Life couldn't be any better," she added.

The Breaking Barriers program, founded by Sharon, was designed to teach youth about the obstacles faced by her father, who broke baseball's color barrier in 1947. The educational program culminates with students writing essays that illustrate how they have been able to overcome obstacles or barriers in their own lives through the example set forth by Robinson. Young writers must focus on nine values: courage, teamwork, determination, persistence, integrity, citizenship, justice, commitment and excellence.

The 2016 program launched with newly-created online student activities and an essay contest that will award 22 students with prizes including being honored at the 2016 MLB All-Star Game in San Diego and the 2016 World Series.

Robinson said being the daughter of a legend has sometimes been a two-edged sword.

"I'm very strong and my father was a great role model. For him, character mattered much more than one's talent. He had character and he passed that on to me. It's been a real honor and joy to share my many stories about life with my dad. I think about him every day. I just wish he had met my son [now deceased] and my two grandchildren."

"I learned a lot from my parents – from my father. He exemplified true unconditional love for me and anyone who came into his life," she added.

Robinson and her mother served as consultants for the upcoming Ken Burns documentary that focuses on the complete life of Jackie Robinson.

"He [Ken Burns] did an outstanding job. It's a great documentary that will be released in April. My father always said life was not about winning trophies or awards. He said life was all about fighting against injustice. That's the legacy that I want to continue and share," she said.

WI



Mandela Wines Expands Despite Obstacles

Daughter, Granddaughter of Civil Rights Icon Thrive in Biz

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

Maki Mandela and her daughter Tukwini Mandela have found another way to carry on the legendary legacy of their family's name.

The House of Mandela Wines launched in 2010, but Nelson Mandela's offspring quickly discovered that the name carried both an opportunity and a challenge.

"It has helped because people know the name Nelson Mandela, which is closely associated with politics, and this means brand recognition," said Tukwini Mandela, the apartheid conqueror's granddaughter.

"However, people do not know the brand House of Mandela, which has helped to strongly shape the man Nelson Mandela was. He didn't just fall from the sky. He strongly emphasized that he was shaped by the political and cultural traditions and values of his ancestral roots and this is the story we're trying to tell," she said.

While Nelson Mandela's story included overcoming racism and hate under some of the most difficult of circumstances, his daughter, Maki, and granddaughter, Tukwini, have obstacles of their own.

"For all intents and purposes, the South African wine industry is still very racist and sexist," Tukwini Mandela said. "The industry is still not prepared to accept Black producers, and add to the fact that we are female – well, that just complicates matters even more."

Still, their wine business has flourished, and as Black History Month is observed, the family is helping to preserve a legacy already firmly implanted in the minds of Africans and African-Americans everywhere.

"The secret of our success is to be strong, determined, consistent and focused," Mandela said.

"Just because you have failed at one thing or something did not go quite the way you expected it to go, it doesn't mean you should give up."

House of Mandela Wines arrived in the U.S. more than two years ago, expanding a diverse portfolio that includes a mix of red and white wines which range from the Thembu collection – sauvignon blanc, chardonnay, chenin blanc, merlot, pinotage, shiraz and cabernet sauvignon – to their premium Royal Reserve, which includes chardonnay, cabernet Sauvignon and shiraz.

The wines also feature a Deep River collection with chenin chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon and merlot and the Vusani series, which focuses specifically on South African wines.

The Thembu line is named after the tribe of her family, Mandela said.

It includes three white wines, sauvignon blanc, chardonnay and chenin blanc, and three reds, cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and pinotage.

The family intends to continue contributing to what it said is a vibrant wine industry. They also want to forge ahead in creating diversity.

"Resilience is the key to success, and there is always a silver lining somewhere," Mandela said. "When we started out, many people thought that House of Mandela was just a little project, a gimmick that would not last and that attitude is pervasive across the wine industry toward most black-owned brands."

The wine industry in South Africa is also a capital-intensive market and the financial requirements to keep a wine business operating is challenging, Mandela said.

"Most Black-owned wineries struggle with this, and it is often the main reason that they do not survive," she said.

But, true to the Mandela legacy, Mandela and her daughter often reach out to assist other minority wine makers even though they're the competition.

"There are only a handful of female-owned wineries in South Africa, and we have largely had the same challenges," Mandela said. "When we do see each other, we encourage each other to stay in the wine industry and soldier on even though it is challenging in the best of times."

For the wine aficionado, the Mandelas also enjoy offering suggested pairings. For their Thembu cabernet, the family suggests pairing it with any red meat with a sweet or spicy sauce or trying a more exotic option such as spicy Moroccan tagines or any spicy meat stews.

Cheeses to try with the wine are Beafort and Caerphilly, Mandela said.

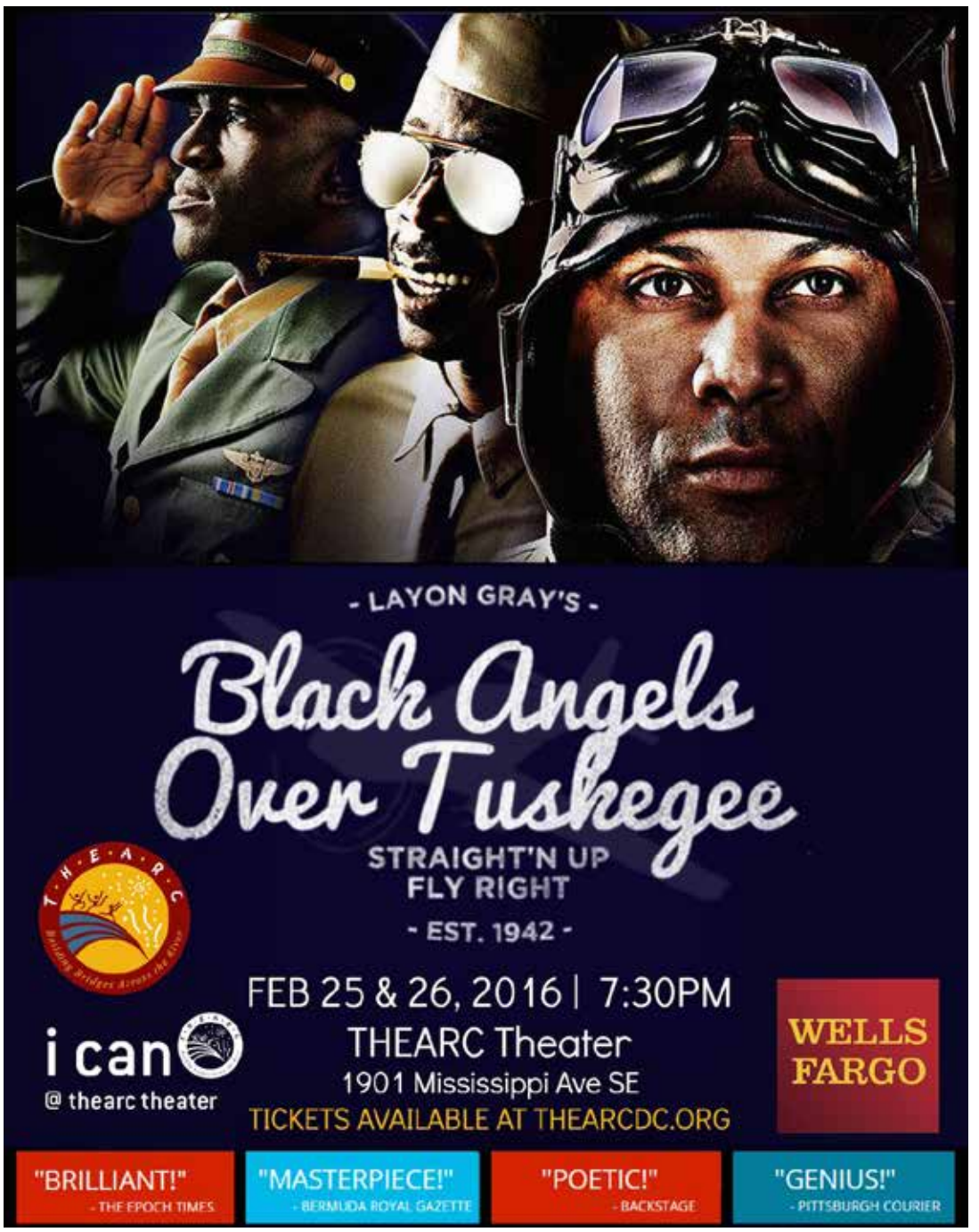
Also, in a suggested pairing for the Thembu collection's shiraz, Mandela said the rich wine works with a spicy seasoning and pairs well with intensely flavorful dishes such as roasted venison with a meaty red wine jus or lamb with a chocolate-chili sauce.

"This wine also goes well with rich cheeses such as bleu cheese or Pont-l'Eveque," she said.

For more information, visit www.houseofmandela.com.

WI





Poetry 'Read-In' Promotes Black History, Literacy

By Dorothy Rowley
WI Staff Writer

In honor of Black History Month, an audience of about 50 people braved the cold temperatures Saturday, Feb. 13, in a trek to the GapBuster Learning Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, for an evening of prose and rhymes featuring the works of famous Black poets.

The poetic read-in, titled "Lift Every Voice," was presented by the Bethesda, Maryland-based Afro Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics. The event served as a platform for young budding poets while featuring the talents of an all-star lineup of community members and elected officials.



▲ / *Photo courtesy of ACT-SO*

"Overall, the idea of the program – a high school initiative which promotes literacy – was to showcase student poets, as well as to continue the legacy of great black poetry," said ACT-SO chair Patricia Price.

"We had a variety of community members who read the poetry of famous Black poets like Paul Laurence Dunbar, Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, and Langston Hughes."

Among the poetry readers were Maryland Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Montgomery County Council member George Leaventhal, at-large Board of Education candidate Jeanette Dixon, and Nathan Peoples, the 2014 Vocal Gold Medalist from Blake High School who received a standing ovation for his presentation. Sheneta Malkia, executive director Empowerment Essence, served as mistress of ceremonies.

The event also featured remarks by local poet and NAACP member Jeremiah Floyd and special guest Jonathan Legesse, a member of President Barack Obama's My Brothers' Keeper initiative.

"The poetry gathering, which is part of the national African-American read-in, served as a unique opportunity to encourage our students' talents" Price added.

"The read-in – the second since 2012 – also engages the larger community and promotes both literacy and Black History in a family-friendly event," said Price. "It was a great evening of poetry reading, and we had children of all ages and senior citizens participating."

ACT-SO, which fosters excellence among high school students through workshops centered around poetry, drama, art, filmmaking, short-story writing, comprises 29 competitive categories – including science, technology, engineering and math and the humanities.

Price stressed that the ACT-SO workshops culminate in a competition slated for April 16 at Montgomery College.

"The (final opportunities for applications are due by March 4, so we've been encouraging participating students [to sign up]," said Price.

She added that winners of that competition will advance to the national contest, which takes place in July in Cincinnati, Ohio. **WI**



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Kendrick Lamar Shines at Grammy Awards

Stellar Performance Talk of the Night

By Sarafina Wright
WI Staff Writer
@dreamersexpress



Kendrick Lamar's production is being touted as one of the best performances in the history of the Grammy awards that aired on television Monday, Feb. 15. / Photo courtesy of YouTube.com

Rap artist Kendrick Lamar owned the 58th Grammy Awards with a record 11 nominations, five wins and an electrifying politically charged performance.

The show opened on Monday, Feb. 15, at the Staples Center in Los Angeles with rapper/actor Ice Cube and his son, "Straight Outta Compton" star O'Shea Jackson Jr., presenting the Best Rap Album category, which Lamar won for "To Pimp a Butterfly".

"First off, all glory to God that's for sure," Kendrick said accepting his Grammy. "My foundation, my roots to me being on this stage, Kenneth and Paula Duckworth who gave me the responsibility of understanding and accepting the good with the bad. I'll always love you for that.

"Whitney, I will always love you for supporting me and keeping me motivated to be the best person I can be," he said.

He went on to thank the man responsible for his career as a musician.

"My top dog brothers, top dog himself us eating you out a house and home we'll never forget that. Taking these kids out of the projects of Compton and putting them right on this stage to be the best they can be, we'll never forget that," he said.

Lamar wasn't done; he made sure he paid homage to hip-hop legends who historically haven't always been embraced by the Grammys.

"Hip-hop, Ice Cube, this for hip-hop, this for Snoop Dogg, 'Doggystyle,' this for Nas and 'Illmatic.' We will live forever. Believe that."

Later on in the evening, Lamar opened his performance with an acapella rendition of "The Blacker the Berry" dressed as a prisoner in chains with cell blocks adorning the stage. He also had a bruised eye as a nod to police brutality.

Throughout the magnetic show African drums and African dance styles served as the background to the strong politically charged lyrics of of Grammy-nominated song "Alright.'"

At the end of what seemed like a Broadway production with the use of a live band, hypnotizing instruments and provoking imagery Lamar stood in front of a picture with an outline of Africa with the words Compton over it.

Many on Twitter interpreted the imagery as Compton representing Africa not because the Black folks in Compton were born in Africa, but because Africa was born in them. Everywhere they are, the ancestors of Africa are present.

Other highlights of the night included tributes to Lionel Richie, David Bowie, B.B. King and Maurice White of legendary group Earth, Wind and Fire.

Earth Wind and Fire, Run DMC, Celia Cruz, Herbie Hancock and Ruth Brown were among those awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The wave-making hip-hop musical "Hamilton" broadcasted live from the Richard Roger Theatre in New York City during the show. The cast went on to win Best Musical Theater album.

Hosted by LL Cool J for the fifth year straight, the Grammys had many superstar appearances such as

NFL stand-out and Walter Payton Man of the Year Anqaun Boldin and Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller.

Singer Beyonce presented Record of the Year at the end of the evening to Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson for "Uptown Funk."

Thirty minutes before the show began, singer Rihanna, who was billed to headline the show, canceled her performance due to bronchitis, per reports.

Another no-show, six-time Grammy winner Lauryn Hill had been scheduled to perform with singer The Weeknd, but was unable to after she arrived late to the performance.

Although the Grammys aired on a Monday, a move away from the traditional Sunday, spectators still tuned in with roughly 25.3 million views, which is second, behind the Academy Awards, which airs Sunday, Feb. 28, hosted by actor/comedian Chris Rock.

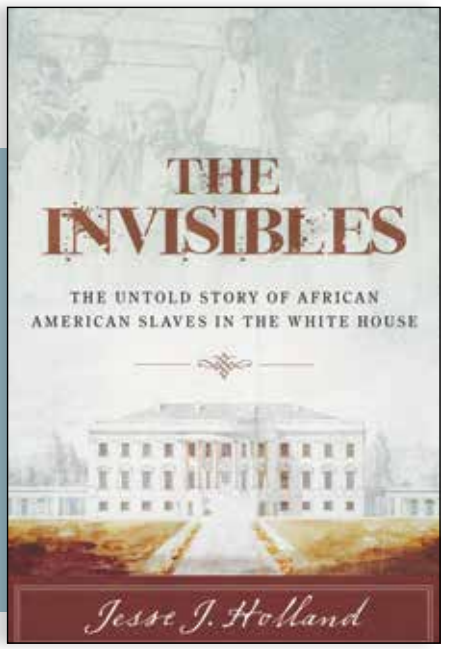
WI



WI Book Review

"The Invisibles: The Untold Story of African American Slaves in The White House"

by Jesse J. Holland
c.2016, Lyons Press
$25.95 / higher in Canada
226 pages



If the walls could talk, imagine what they would say.

They would reminisce about family meals, holidays, celebrations and romance, take sides in arguments, and watch children grow. If those walls could talk, they would tell of triumph, disappointment, beginnings, and endings. And, as in the new book, "The Invisibles" by Jesse J. Holland, they would talk of freedom and history.

When Barack Obama moved into the White House in 2009, he was, by far, not the first Black man to live there. From the beginning, as soon as America had a president, there were slaves residing in the Executive Mansion. In fact, says Holland, "ten of the first twelve presidents [were] slaveholders at some point in their lives."

When George Washington fought in the Revolutionary War, his "favorite" slave, Billy Lee, went with him so it was natural that Washington would bring Lee to New York, to the first presidential mansion. Lee reportedly loved New York but when he suffered physical disabilities, Washington summarily replaced him, sending him back to Mt. Vernon where Lee was later one of a handful of slaves who comforted Washington as he died.

As a child, Oney Judge was brought up to learn sewing at Martha Washington's knee. Years later, Washington would say that she thought of Judge as a "surrogate daughter," but she was more than willing to give Judge away in order to keep her enslaved. Judge, by the way, was one of a few slaves known to have escaped from a president.

Thomas Jefferson brazenly took a slave to France, where slavery was disallowed; the slave, who was the brother of Jefferson's "concubine," Sally, did not try to escape. When Dolley Madison fell on hard times after leaving the White House, her husband's former slave gave her money. Andrew Jackson kept slaves in the White House stables; they were jockeys and Jackson loved racing ponies. James Monroe spoke out against slavery, even as he owned slaves. Andrew Johnson possibly had a "'colored concubine.'" And just one ex-slave of a president was "honored by a holder of that office."

Wow.

Please practice saying that word – "Wow!" – because you'll need it even more when you start reading "The Invisibles."

In just under two hundred pages, author Jesse J. Holland packs so many interesting stories, so many jaw-dropping facts that, even though there were small errors and minor repetition, I very much regret this books' shortness. Holland's storytelling skills have a way of making a reader hungry for more, and the tales he tells are surprising and even inspirational.

Some of those tales – mixed in between those of the presidents' slaves - precede the White House, to look at slavery from the nation's very beginning, even before there was a president. That's where we learn that an African immigrant was the owner of the first legal slave.

Admittedly, die-hard historians might not find much new here, but I simply couldn't put this book down. If you want something that's short on pages but long on interest, "The Invisibles" is the one you'll be talking about. **WI**

Horoscopes

FEB. 18 - 24, 2016

ARIES Steer clear of argumentative folks this week, and let yourself flow with the energy that is spectacularly positive for launching new project plans. Happiness at home is almost a given this week. You may be feeling festive at a late-night social gathering. *Soul Affirmation: New insights create new directions and a new cast of characters. Lucky Numbers: 9, 20, 54*

TAURUS Watch for surges in energy that encourage you to overdo it this week, You are brimming over with energy, most of it very positive. Take a walk to burn some of the other kind of energy off and to keep your mind free and clear. Harmony rules at home this week. *Soul Affirmation: I get joy from giving good things. Lucky Numbers: 33, 42, 51*

GEMINI It's a very pleasant and wonderful week of the year for you, Money matters go well, and there is a very sweet harmony between friends and family. Have fun in the present moment, but don't go overboard, okay? *Soul Affirmation: I let my spirit light my path this week. Lucky Numbers: 4, 13, 46*

CANCER Lots of happy reasons for goofing off this week. You'll be in a luxurious state of mind, expansive and dreamy. Ideas and dreams seem very real this week. . .enjoy them, and let yourself think about how wonderful it will be when your dreams come true this year. *Soul Affirmation: I focus on long-range financial security this week. Lucky Numbers: 22, 43, 50*

LEO Happiness is the order of the week as a relationship improves in a way that you didn't think was possible. Just goes to show you, the power of positive thinking. Be happy and keep your outlook happy. *Soul Affirmation: I let positive emotions carry me through the week. Lucky Numbers: 16, 21, 53*

VIRGO You are free to love and laugh, and you're free to criticize and complain. It's all in how you want to feel about yourself. Do what feels best to you in the situation that you find yourself in this week. Remember that you have many options! *Soul Affirmation: I keep money on my mind this week. Lucky Numbers: 8, 19, 30*

LIBRA All planetary indicators lead to one conclusion, Party! Get together with some friends for a gab-fest and snack food feast. It doesn't have to be fancy to be loads of fun for all involved. *Soul Affirmation: I let my spirit light my path this week. Lucky Numbers: 17, 29, 31*

SCORPIO You can rejoice in every new experience this week, because you know the secret to your happiness. What? You don't know? Sure you do. Sit quietly somewhere this week and think about it. *Soul Affirmation: I stand firm for what I believe in. Lucky Numbers: 29, 38, 41*

SAGITTARIUS Your unique energy is urging you in a new direction. Listen to your inner voice and go! You'll be very happy with the outcome if you give your worries up to the universe. Many blessings are available to you if you let go and let the blessings come. *Soul Affirmation: I let children supply my life with wisdom this week. Lucky Numbers: 8, 15, 20*

CAPRICORN A relaxing week at home might be just the cure for what seems to be troubling you this week. Set aside some time to attune yourself to the sound of truth. You are an extraordinary teacher; teach yourself a new way of being with yourself this week. *Soul Affirmation: I keep in mind the practical side of life this week. Lucky Numbers: 25, 45, 51*

AQUARIUS Your ideas are windows into the future. You may be feeling a bit off-center this in the present moment but all you need to do is refine your presentation. Your truth is sound and solid. You can teach with beautiful words. *Soul Affirmation: Cooperation with others is the key to success for me this week. Lucky Numbers: 21, 39, 45*

PISCES Surprises are on tap this week, and you may be the messenger. Or a new message may come to you; whatever happens, it's going to be pleasant. Base your sense of reality on the pure vision you have in your head. *Soul Affirmation: This week is a gift that I deserve. Lucky Numbers: 1, 26, 32*

Georgetown Shellacs St. John's College, 92-67



Georgetown center Jessie Govan takes on his opponent in the second half of Big East Conference action on Monday, Feb. 8 at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Georgetown defeated St. John's 92-67. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

Georgetown guard Tre Campbell goes to the basket during Big East Conference game on Monday, Feb. 8 at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Georgetown defeated St. John's 92-67. / Photo by John E. De Freitas





St. John's guard Felix Balamou drives past Georgetown guard Tre Campbell in the first half of Big East Conference game on Monday, Feb. 8 at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Georgetown defeated St. John's 92-67. / Photo by John E. De Freitas





Georgetown forward Isaac Copeland takes on two opponents in the second half of Big East Conference action on Monday, Feb. 8 at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Georgetown defeated St. John's 92-67. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

Georgetown guard D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera goes to the basket in the second half of Big East Conference action on Monday, Feb. 8 at the Verizon Center in Northwest. Georgetown defeated St. John's 92-67. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

St. Joseph's Turns Back George Washington, 84-66



George Washington forward Kevin Larsen takes on St. Joseph's College forward Isaiah Miles in the second half of A-10 Conference action on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Charles E. Smith Center in Northwest. St. Joseph's defeated George Washington 84-66. / Photo by John E. De Freitas



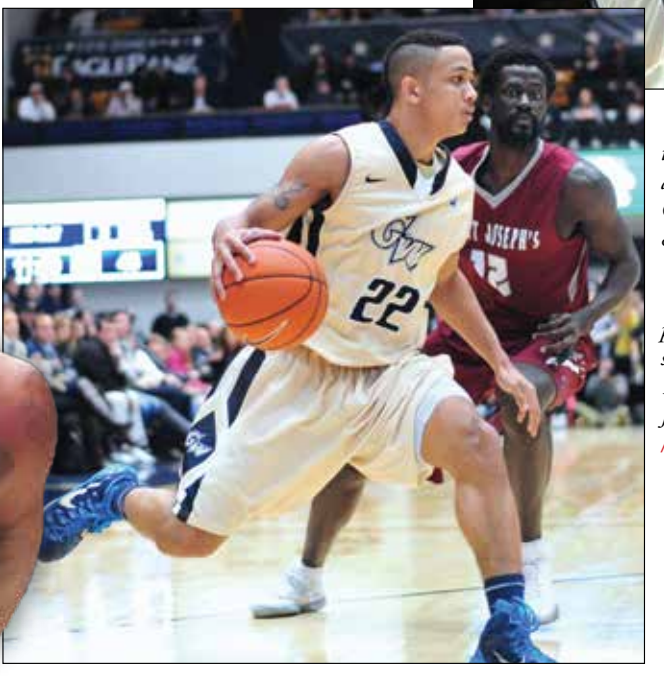
George Washington forward Kevin Larsen s hoots over St. Joseph's College forward Isaiah Miles in the second half of Atlantic-10 (A-10) Conference action on Friday, Feb.10 at the Charles E. Smith Center in Northwest. St. Joseph's defeated George Washington 84-66. / Photo by John E. De Freitas



George Washington forward Tyler Cavanaugh is defended by St. Joseph's College forward Papa Ndao in the second half of A-10 Conference action on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Charles E. Smith Center in Northwest. St. Joseph's College defeated George Washington 84-66. / Photo by John E. De Freitas



St. Joseph's College guard Shavar Brown goes to the basket in the second half of A-10 Conference action on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Charles E. Smith Center in Northwest. St. Joseph's defeated Georgetown 84-66. / Photo by John E. De Freitas



George Washington guard Joe McDonald drives past St. Joseph's College forward Papa Ndao in the second half of A-10 Conference action on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Charles E Smith Center in Northwest. St. Joseph's defeated George Washington 84-66. / Photo by John E. De Freitas

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TOUR *from Page 8*

before slavery was abolished, marked the first publication of a Black-owned newspaper in the U.S. That was the beginning," she said.

The tour consisted of six buses traveling to Baltimore's historic Black sites such as the Billie Holiday monument, New Psalmist Baptist Church, the NAACP headquarters and the block where the Freddie Gray was arrested in April of 2015.

As a result of the uprising in Baltimore which occurred after Gray's arrest and subsequent death while in police custody, one historic Black-owned business, The Avenue Bakery, got caught in the crossfire and had to temporarily close and then rebuild.

Those who the tour had the opportunity to patronize the business by purchasing freshly-made treats that have attracted those with a "sweet tooth" from near and far.

However, The Great Blacks in Wax Museum served as the highlight and finale for many on the trip.

The museum showcased an interactive slave ship that re-enacted the journey along the Middle Passage which brought millions of Africans to the new world slaves. Other exhibits in the museum featured various aspects of the African-American experience from ancient African civilizations to the inauguration of America's first Black president.

For some, the lynching exhibit brought the startling story of the pain and torture that our ancestors faced to viewers in a new light.

Dwight Hiunant, who found out about the tour as a volunteer at Pepco, said he couldn't believe his eyes.

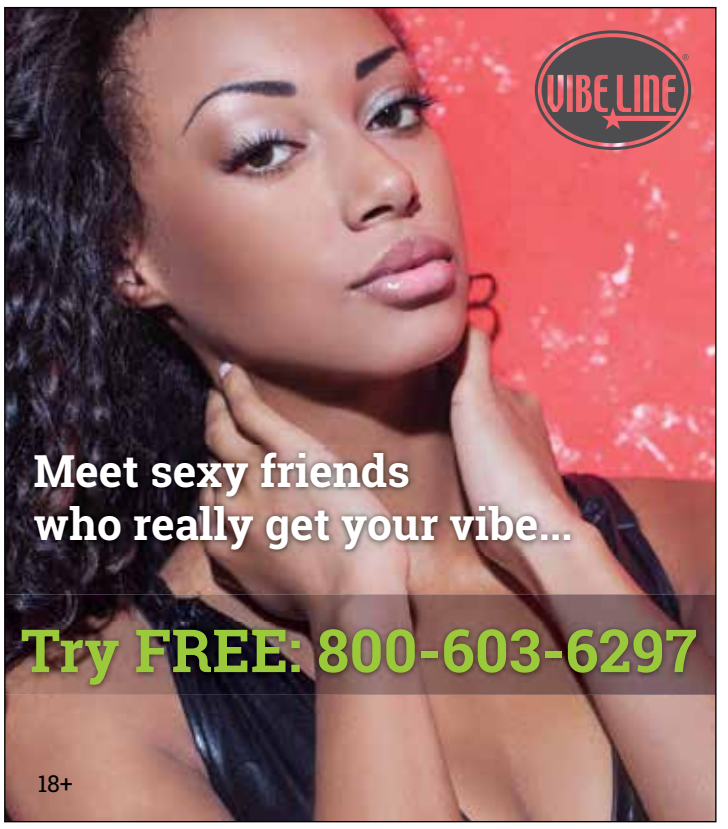
"Only a strong people could survive that. We know as a people there is a God," he said.

The lynching exhibit showcased an actual noose, wax figures of maimed, castrated bodies and actual newspaper clippings documenting lynching in America.

Attendees could be heard gasping and thanking God as they viewed the exhibit.

Baltimore resident Lou Fields served as the lead tour guide while D.C.-based Gist Family Catering provided boxed lunches for tour attendees.

"I always wanted to know about our history – the more you know the better prepared you are," Hiunant said. "The best part of the trip was the slave ship, yes, but more so the fellowship we had today in remembering our history." **WI**





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Black Civil War Memorial Needs Your Help



with Lyndia Grant

I'm asking for your support for The African-American Civil War Memorial, now a national monument maintained by The National Park Service, yet no permanent park rangers have been assigned. The only national monument that pays tribute to the 209,145 United States Colored Soldiers who fought to help save the Union during the American Civil War, this monument is deserving of a federal visitor's center staffed by park rangers.

The founder and director of the current museum, Councilman Frank Smith, served the residents of The District of Columbia as the Ward 1 council member for sixteen years; he founded and established the monument unveiled on July 11, 1998, which is located at Vermont Avenue & U Streets Northwest in Washington, D.C. Soon, following the unveiling of the monument, a museum which currently services more than 100,000 visitors annually was established. Bus loads come from around the world; they come for family reunions and for conferences and conventions. This is history that must be preserved for future generations.

Though Smith and his team have done an outstanding job, with support from the District of Columbia government, sponsors, donors, descendants and friends, the small museum is in desperate need for permanent funding and support. The Grimke School is directly across from the monument and has been designated as the permanent visitor's center. To date, the petition has nearly 1,000 residents who have sent letters of support to President Barack Obama asking for his assistance. Will you join in this petition campaign and help The African American Civil War Memorial? We need your help.

The mission of the African-American Civil War Museum is to preserve and tell the stories of the United States Colored Troops and African-American involvement in the American Civil War. The museum utilizes a rich collection of primary resources, educational programming and technology to create a meaningful learning experience focused on this pivotal time in American history.

Below is the letter that was prepared by Smith. It has been sent out by www.change.org. When you, your family members, friends, co-workers and church members send this letter to Obama, he will have no choice but to listen. Here is the copy of our letter:

Dear Mr. President,

The year 2016 will mark the 8th and final year of your presidency, and the Department of the Interior/ National Park Service has still not opened a visitor center or stationed a National Park Service ranger at the African American Civil War Memorial located in Washington, DC. You still have time to correct this great wrong in history before you leave office.

We respectfully request you to direct the Department of the Interior/ National Park Service to establish a visitor's center and assign park rangers permanently to the African-American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C. This Memorial lists the names of 209,145 African-American Civil War soldiers and their White officers who helped to keep the nation united under one flag and end slavery.

The District of Columbia has already invested $10 million in grants to help build the African-American Civil War Memorial and Museum, including $5 million to fund an expansion of the Museum, which is currently underway. However, only the National Park Service can play the significant role of stationing knowledgeable rangers or other employees who can share the rich history of our Civil War heroes with visitors to the Memorial.

We thank you for giving this matter your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you. Thank you, Frank Smith, Founding Director; African-American Civil War Memorial Museum.

Tune in to the Lyndia Grant Show, this Friday, Feb. 19 on Radio One at 6 p.m., WYCB AM, for a Black History Month tribute to the African-American Civil War Memorial with my special guest, Councilman Frank Smith.

WI

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Christian Season of Lent Begins

Thousands of Christians in the D.C. area celebrated Ash Wednesday on Feb. 10 [Wednesday]. The day begins the season of Lent, which highlights the time Christians prepare for Easter to observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Religious leaders mark the sign of the cross with ashes on a worshipper's forehead. This year's Easter celebration takes place on Sunday, March 27. WI



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Tuesday New Beginnings Bible Study: 6:30pm
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4th Sunday – 10:30am

"We are one in the Spirit"
www.ssbc5757.org
e-mail: ssbc5757@verizon.net



Third Street Church of God

Rev. Cheryl J. Sanders, Th.D.
Senior Pastor

1204 Third Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-347-5889 office
202-638-1803 fax

Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday Worship: 11:00am
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study:
Wed. 7:30pm

"Ambassadors for Christ to the Nation's Capital"

www.thirdstreet.org



Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church

Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr.; Senior Bishop
& Evangelist Susie C. Owens – Co-Pastor

610 Rhode Island Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 529-4547 office • (202) 529-4495 fax

Sunday Worship Service: 8 AM and 10:45am
Sunday Youth Worship Services:
1st & 4th 10:45am; 804 R.I. Ave., NE
5th 8 AM & 10:45am; Main Church
Prayer Services
Tuesday – Noon, Wednesday 6am & 6:30pm
Calvary Bible Institute: Year-Round
Contact Church
Communion Every 3rd Sunday
The Church in The Hood that will do you Good!
www.gmchc.org



ST Marks Baptist

Come Worship with us...

St. Mark's Baptist Church
624 Underwood Street, NW
Washington, dc 20011

Dr. Raymond T. Matthews,
Pastor and First Lady Marcia Matthews
Sunday School: 9:00am
Worship Service: 10:00am
Wed. Noon Day prayer service
Thur. Prayer service: 6:45pm
Thur. Bible Study: 7:15pm



Campbell AME Church
Rev. Dr. Henry Y. White

2562 MLK Jr. Ave., S E
Washington, DC 20020
Adm. Office 202-678-2263
Email: 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
"Reaching Up To Reach Out"

Mailing Address
Campbell AME Church
2502 Stanton Road SE
Washington, DC 20020



Twelfth Street Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)
1812 12th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202-265-4494
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: 12thscc.org
Email: Twelfthstcc@aol.com



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
gsccm.administration@verizon.net



Mount Carmel Baptist Church

Joseph N. Evans, Ph.D
Senior Pastor

901 Third Street N.W.
Washington, DC. 20001
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

themcbc.org

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Shabbath Commandment Church

7801 Livingston Road
Oxon Hill, MD 20745
301-534-5471

Bishop Adrian A. Taylor, Sr.
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: Shabbathcommandmentchruch.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
Christian Education
School of Biblical Knowledge
Saturdays, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM,
Call for Registration

Website: www.allnationsbaptistchurch.com
All Nations Baptist Church – A Church of Standards



King Emmanuel Baptist Church

Rev. Daryl F. Bell
Pastor

2324 Ontario Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(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 Communion1st 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: Froffice@firstrising.org
Website: www.firstrising.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@mthoreb.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. 2011 ADM 000842

Ray D. Staten
Decedent

Ronald Dixon Bynum & Jenkins
1010 Cameron St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Attorney

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

Ronald Dixon, whose address is 1010 Cameron St., Alexandria, VA 22314, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Ray D. Staten who died on May 6, 2011 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 August 11, 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 August 11, 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:
February 11, 2016

Ronald Dixon
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. 2016 ADM 60

Clinton T. Carroll, III
Decedent

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

Tanys E. Carroll, whose address is 3952 Clay Place, NE, Washington, DC 20019, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Clinton T. Carroll, III who died on December 15, 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 August 11, 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 August 11, 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:
February 11, 2016

Tanys E. Carroll
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. 2016 ADM 52

Simon N'Guiamba
Decedent

Tabitha R. Brown, Esquire
1200 G Street, SE, Suite A
Washington, DC 20003
Attorney

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

Myriam Oussou N'Guiamba, whose address is 1668 Tamarack St., NW, Washington, DC 20012, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Simon N'Guiamba who died on July 17, 2015 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 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 August 11, 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 August 11, 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:
February 11, 2016

Myriam Oussou N'Guiamba
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 1504

Madgie R.W. Giddens
Decedent

Brett Cohen
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1430
Bethesda, MD 20814-7047
Attorney

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

Brett E. Cohen, whose address is 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1430, Bethesda, MD 20814-7047, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Madgie R.W. Giddens who died on December 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 August 11, 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 August 11, 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:
February 11, 2016

Brett E. Cohen
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. 2016 ADM 54

Deloris E. Lewis
Decedent

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

Michael A. Lewis, whose address is 4508 Eads Place, NE, Washington, DC 20019, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Deloris E. Lewis who died on December 26, 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 August 11, 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 August 11, 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:
February 11, 2016

Michael A. Lewis
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 1110

Gwendolyn C. Pressley
Decedent

Michelle Lanchester, Esq.
601 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 900 South Bld.
Washington, DC 20004
Attorney

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

Leslie R. Rhetts, whose address is 11400 Glissade Dr., Clinton, MD 20735, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Gwendolyn C. Pressley who died on August 15, 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 August 4, 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 August 4, 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:
February 4, 2016

Leslie R. Rhetts
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 1532

Ethel Bradford Halsey aka Ethel B. Halsey
Decedent

Peter D. Antonoplos
1725 DeSales Street, NW #600
Washington, DC 20036
Attorney

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

Nick Louis B. Halsey, whose address is 4914 Muskogee Street College Park, MD 20740, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Ethel Bradford Halsey aka Ethel B. Halsey who died on October 11, 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 August 11, 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 August 11, 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:
February 11, 2016

Nick Louis B. Halsey
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY

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 1474

Alonzo F. Smith
Decedent

Edward M. Biggin
11300 Rockville Pike, Suite 405
Rockville, MD 20852
Attorney

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

Gerri Cherry, whose address is 2302 Good Hope Rd., Apt. #103, SE, Washington, DC 20020, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Alonzo F. Smith who died on November 1, 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 August 18, 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 August 18, 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:
February 18, 2016

Gerri Cherry
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. 2016 ADM 88

Lillian Louise Hall aka Lillian L. Hall
Decedent

Jacqueline Jones Moore
7605 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012
Attorney

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

Jeffrey E. Hall, whose address is 14 Princess Lane #2, Sausalito, CA 94965, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Lillian Louise Hall aka Lillian L. Hall who died on June 9, 2014 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 August 18, 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 August 18, 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:
February 18, 2016

Jeffrey E. Hall
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 1168

Sylvia Ross aka Sylvia M. Ross
Decedent

Gerald R. Belton, Esquire
1101 L Street, NW, Suite 806
Washington, DC 20005
Attorney

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

Gerald R. Belton, Esquire, whose address is 1101 L Street, NW, Suite 806, Washington, DC 20005, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Sylvia Ross aka Sylvia M. Ross who died on May 13,2011 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 August 18, 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 August 18, 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:
February 18, 2016

Gerald R. Belton, Esquire
Personal Representative

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Register of Wills

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

Administration No. 2016 ADM 110

Flora L. Brown
Decedent

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

Robilyn S. Brown, whose address is 1710 T St., SE, Washington, DC 20020, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Flora L. Brown who died on January 14, 2016 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 August 18, 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 August 18, 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:
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Robilyn S. Brown
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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Probate Division
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Administration No. 2016 ADM 98

Vernon Otho Jackson
Decedent

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

Sharron J. Jackson, whose address is 2030 Ft. Davis St., SE, Apt. 201, Washington, DC 20020, was appointed Personal Representative of the estate Vernon Otho Jackson of who died on December 27, 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 August 18, 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 August 18, 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:
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Sharron J. Jackson
Personal Representative

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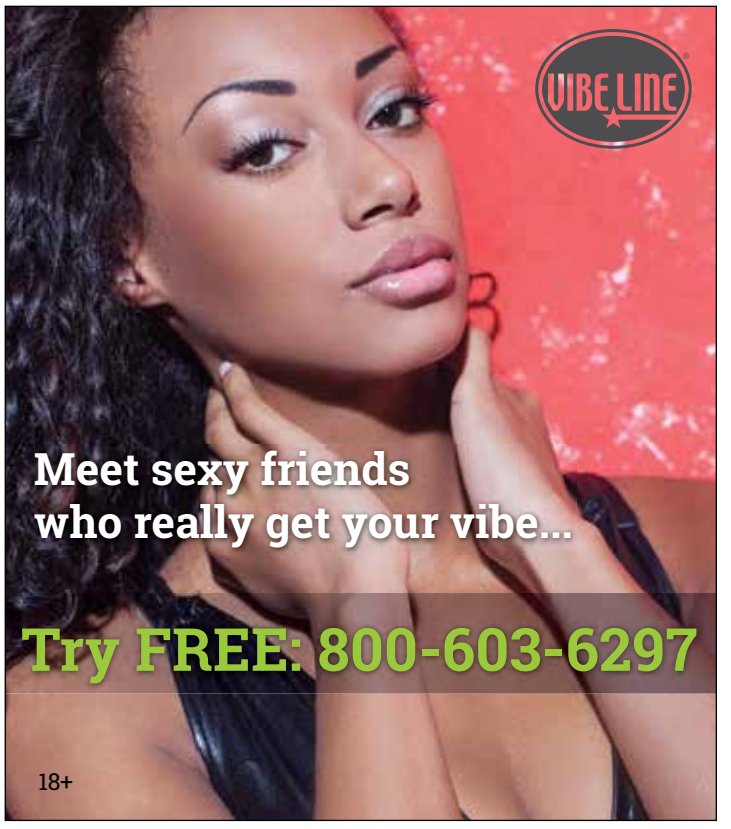
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6

MALVEAUX *from Page 26*

a Hampden suburb. The larger question, though, is why there is such sudden empathy for addicts, an empathy that was utterly lacking when the increase in crack addiction devastated the African-American community, and when zero-tolerance policies and mandatory drug sentencing placed people who were seriously ill behind bars for decades. Addiction, after all, is more an illness than a crime.

In Gloucester, a city about 40 miles north from Boston, heroin and opioid addicts who voluntarily turn themselves in at the police station are provided with treatment services, and not charged with any crime. The program has gotten national attention. Some addicts from outside Massachusetts have come to Gloucester because they can't find affordable drug treatment where they live. Imagine that there were such a program for crack addicts when the inhumane "war on drugs" was little more than a war on Black people. Even as I applaud the new empathy toward addicts, I mourn the years that so many have spent behind bars, denied of the kinds of "innovative" treatment options available in Gloucester.

Irreparable damage was done to the African-American community, especially the inner-city community, because of the draconian and racist "War on Drugs." Now, because the face of addiction has changed, so has public policy, and treatment options are preferred to incarceration options. Even as today's addicts are being treated more humanely, where is the compassion for the addicts of two decades ago, many of whom remain incarcerated? President Barack Obama's efforts to pardon nonviolent drug offenders are a step in the right direction toward repairing individual lives. Is there a step our nation might take to repair the lives of these individuals and their communities? **WI**

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 to order at www.juliannemalveaux.com.

CLINGMAN *from Page 26*

have accountability for the words people say, especially politicians' words, they must be recanted and rewritten by those to whom those words apply. That is why the One Million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors will insist on verbal and written support of its political planks by any political candidate seeking our votes.

When put together just right way, words can have serious, consequential effects on people. When Thomas Jefferson used words that attacked slavery in his draft of the Declaration of Independence he initiated the most intense debate among the delegates gathered at Philadelphia in the spring and early summer of 1776. Jefferson's passage on slavery was the most important section removed from the final document. It was replaced with a more ambiguous passage about King George's incitement of "domestic insurrections among us." Part of Jefferson's original passage on slavery appears below.

"He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where men should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this execrable commerce…"

Had those words not been stricken from the Declaration, just imagine the effect they would have had—then and now. So what lessons can Black people take from "Black Constitutional Patriots" like Walker, Douglass, MLK, and others who recited the very words that are "the bond of the Union?" Black leaders of old made the Founders eat their sacrosanct words, and it is shameful that we have not continued to keep today's politicians on a steady diet of those same words.

David Walker believed the nation belonged to all who helped build it. He went even further, stating, "America is more our country than it is the Whites — we have enriched it with our blood and tears." Are we MEN? — I ask you, O my brethren! Are we MEN?

WI

WARD *from Page 26*

dream of Martin Luther King Jr. was realized, and racism seemed to be put on hold. Unfortunately, there's always a small group of individuals within the American populace with a hidden agenda, an agenda for evil, wickedness, and the pursuit of fairness, equality and justice for just a few Americans.

As soon as Obama won the election, a group of individuals huddled together and vowed to thwart his agenda for change in America. Let's not be naïve, America, you know exactly who I am talking about. Many of those individuals are in office today.

But that's politics! And we all know politics is a nasty business.

In 2009, when Obama was addressing Congress, Republican Congressman Joe Wilson shouted: "You lie!" This kind of behavior is reprehensible.

I don't ever recall anyone calling the president of the United States a liar while he addressed Congress. Why does it happen now, and why to Obama? Can it be because he's an African America?

My take on it is yes!

Despite the small group's endeavor to continue to belittle Obama, now in his last year, he's still continues to make great accomplishments for the people he was overwhelmingly elected twice to represent.

At the end of the day, America, you may not like the man, but you have to respect the Office of the president of the United States. It deserves our respect, our loyalty and our support. We must stand up America and demand that it receives as much.

What actions can I truly expect from writing this column? My prerogative as a writer is to raise the consciousness. Prayerfully, many will step up and hold anyone accountable who chooses to disrespect the United States presidency. If one person stands up, and agrees to say something or do something about the disrespect of our president, I have made a difference.

We must not accept the disrespect against our president any longer. Stand up, say something and do something about it, now!

Stand up America! Demand respect for Obama, and the office of the president of the United States of America. **WI**

Louis C. Ward is a photojournalist, community activist and contributing writer to The Orlando Times. You can find more of his work at www.orlando-times.com.











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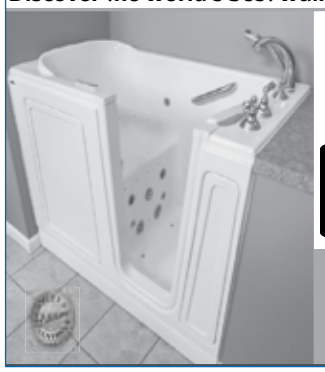
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COOPER *from Page 27*

study at the Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. All of the slain were African-American.

On Feb. 3, 2016, President Barack Obama delivered remarks at the Islamic Society of Baltimore. According to a CNN/ORC poll last September, twenty-nine percent of Americans believe the President is a Muslim, and 20 percent of Americans think he was born outside of the United States. President Obama was born in Hawaii and has publicly provided documentation asserting the same. He is the first and only president of the United States thus far who has been required to provide proof of his birthplace. He is also a Christian and has evidenced his religious affiliation throughout his presidency.

The U.S. Constitution has three requirements to be president: (1) 35-years of age; (2) resident "within the United States" for 14 years; and (3) natural born citizen. Why should an American of the Muslim faith be denied the opportunity to serve his or her country as commander-in-chief?

The only requirement for president not mentioned in the Constitution is one must raise millions to a contender. For example, Hillary Clinton has raised $163 million and Jeb Bush $155 million.

What other U.S. president has had to answer questions about his membership in a United Church of Christ parish (the Rev. Jeremiah Wright dust-up) and subsequently have that argument replaced with the argument that he is a Muslim? The United Church of Christ is indeed a Christian denomination. Therefore, on those grounds alone, it renders the "President Obama is a Muslim" argument invalid.

In his remarks at the mosque, the President stated: "I want to say two words that Muslims don't hear often enough and that is thank you. Thank you for serving your community. Thank you for lifting up the lives of your neighbors and for helping keep us strong and united as one American family. We are grateful for that."

Just as we should not condemn any race or ethnicity for the actions of a few, nor should an entire religion be condemned because of the actions of some. Do I believe that there were some Muslims celebrating on 9/11? Absolutely. However, I also believe that the vast majority of Muslims worldwide were in pain as was I. Similarly, I do believe that the majority of Dallas residents mourned the killing of the President. Only a few did not.

WI

Austin R. Cooper Jr., is the President of Cooper Strategic Affairs, Inc. He may be reached at acoo-

LAMBERT *from Page 27*

District's police force has steadily improved. A recent independent review found it to be "a very different, and much better, law enforcement agency." Police departments in other big cities are implementing D.C.-like reforms, and prosecutors are increasingly criminally charging officers for deadly shootings. This improvement is a major factor in our city's growth in recent years. Simply put, it's a better place to live.

Bowser's productive, results-focused style of governing is a good match for Racine and Lanier's approaches. Like them, she is passionate about the safety of our community. An unrepentant crusader against guns from her first day on the job, she remains determined to use every means in her power to keep deadly weapons out of the hands of criminals.

The strategic alignment of Bowser, Racine, and Lanier against violent crime should be the envy of every city in America.

Please share your thoughts on facebook.com/GreaterWashingtonUrbanLeague and twitter.com/GWUrbanLeague. **WI**

ASKIA *from Page 27*

the liberal justices they despise. They would render the Court to be dysfunctional, just like their leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives have been since 2014.

"The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) said in a statement, issued even before he offered condolences to Scalia's wife and nine children. "Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new President."

Obama would have none of it. "I plan to fulfill my constitutional responsibilities to nominate a successor in due time," Obama told reporters traveling with him in California on the day Scalia's death was known. "There will be plenty of time for me to do so and for the Senate to fulfill its responsibility to give that person a fair hearing and a timely vote. These are responsibilities that I take seriously, as should everyone. They're bigger than any one party. They are about our democracy."

Obama remembered Scalia as a "larger-than-life presence on the bench. He influenced a generation of judges, lawyers and students, and profoundly shaped the legal landscape," the President said. "He will no doubt be remembered as one of the most consequential judges and thinkers to serve on the Supreme Court."

Meanwhile, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) was quick to respond to the threats from her Republican colleagues. "Sen. McConnell is right that the American people should have a voice in the selection of the next Supreme Court justice," she posted on her Facebook account. "In fact, they did—when President Obama won the 2012 election by five million votes." Ba-da-boom. Rimshot.

What's worse for the GOP is that they could in fact lose not only the presidency with their toxic leading candidates—Trump, Cruz, Rubio—but could also lose their Senate majority. "Mitch McConnell is in a very awkward circumstance," Dr. David Bositis, a political scientist and statistician told me, "where he could easily lose his majority in the Senate. This is a favorable year for Democrats."

In 2014, the majority of the Senate seats up for re-election were those held by Democrats. In 2016, of the 34 Senate seats in contention, 24 are currently held by Republicans, including several in states which Obama won in both 2008 and 2012.

Add to that the changing national demographic with more eligible Latino and Black voters heading to the polls in 2016, and declining numbers of White voters whose population is declining rather than increasing, and I'm delighted. **WI**

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