



# California for Kamala: State Leaders Rally Around One of Their Own

BY MAXIM ELRAMSISY AND ANTONIO RAY HARVEY  
*California Black Media*

Vice President Kamala Harris officially accepted the Democratic party’s nomination for President of the United States on Aug. 22, the fourth and final night of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago.

Harris, a former California U.S. Senator and Attorney General, needed the votes of 1,976 Democratic delegates to secure the nomination but exceeded that mark with 4,567 nods.

If elected, Harris, an Oakland native, would become the first Asian and first Black woman President.

“On behalf of the people, on behalf of every American regardless of party, race, gender, or the language your grandmother speaks, on behalf of my



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during the Democratic National Convention on Thursday, Aug. 22, in Chicago.



L.A. Mayor Karen Bass



U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler



Assemblymember Tina McKinnor



State Attorney General Rob Bonta

mother and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey, on behalf of Americans like the people I grew with, people who work hard, chase their dreams and look out for one another, on behalf of everyone whose stories can only be written in the greatest nation on Earth, I accept your nominations to be President of the United States,” Harris

told the DNC delegates, officials and guests gathered at the United Center in Chicago.

Among Democratic leaders on hand to witness Harris’s historic nomination were a number of California state officials, the Golden State’s DNC delegates, members of the California Legislative Black {See CALIFORNIA FOR KAMALA on A-11}

## Wellnest Los Angeles Celebrates 100 Years of Helping Youth

Wellnest L.A. President and CEO Charlene Dimas-Peinado spoke about the history and relevance of the organization.

BY BRIAN W. CARTER  
*Contributing Writer*

It’s not common to see an organization reach 100 years of service. It’s even less common to see an organization go above and beyond in being a solution to mental health issues for

underrepresented youth of color.

According to Wellnest Los Angeles President & CEO Charlene Dimas-Peinado, that is exactly what’s been happening at Wellnest L.A. for the past 100 years.

“It is truly an honor to

serve an organization that not only has achieved this monumental milestone of celebrating 100 years of serving children, families and community, but also the recognition of its legacy and that it is always been known as a pioneer in the areas of children’s men-

tal health,” said Dimas-Peinado.

She holds a Master of Leadership from University of Southern California, and a Master of Social Work from California State University, Long Beach. In

{See CHARLENE DIMAS-PEINADO on A-11}



Wellnest Los Angeles President & CEO, Charlene Dimas-Peinado



Capri Maddox

## Capri Maddox Leads L.A. Reparations Advisory Commission for Historic Report

BY LILA BROWN  
*Contributing writer*

In a landmark event, the City of Los Angeles’ Civil Rights Department and its Reparations Advisory Commission unveiled a historic report titled “An Examination of African-American Experiences in Los Angeles.”

This groundbreaking study, which was publicly released on August 27 at

CSU Northridge SOL Center, represents the first city-sponsored analysis of the Black experience in Los Angeles, documenting over 100 years of historical and contemporary harm faced by Black Angelenos.

The report, based on extensive survey responses and original historical research from California State University, Northridge, aims to address the impact of systemic and insti-

tutionalized racial violence in Los Angeles. Covering the Black experience from 1925 to the present, the study sets the stage for future reparations proposals.

Capri Maddox, executive director of the L.A. Civil Rights Department and the L.A. City Reparations Advisory Commission, presented the report. Maddox played a pivotal role in establishing the L.A. Civil Rights Department,

which was created in 2020 with the support of former Mayor Eric Garcetti.

The department was founded to address and combat issues of hate and discrimination while promoting equity and inclusion across Los Angeles. Maddox, who previously served with the city attorney’s office, was instrumental in shaping the

{See CAPRI MADDOX on A-11}

# Meet Julia Smith, New Executive Art Director of Range Projects

BY SHELBY STEPHENS  
Contributing Writer

Art can be defined as the expression of ideas and emotions through physical mediums like painting, sculpture, film, dance, writing, photography, or theatre. However, Julia Smith expresses her art through activism.

As the new executive art director at Range Projects, located at 3718 West Slauson Ave. Los Angeles, CA. Smith has dedicated her life to social change and fostering meaningful connections in her community. She champions artists who utilize their talents to raise awareness for crucial social issues as activism and art intersect in her life's journey.

Smith is an L.A. native and a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor's Degree in Art. With over two decades in the field, she was introduced to Range Projects through her advocacy work and as a community volunteer.

She channels her activism by curating spaces where art transcends boundaries. Smith believes that she was in the right place, at the right time, with an open mind that led her to her new position at the gallery.



Julia Smith

She shared, "Like many people, after I graduated from college, I thought success was only a reach away, but quickly realized that wasn't reality. I went through a long period of time trying to figure myself out and what I was going to do. I joined the union and then I realized that I have purpose along with great leadership skills."

"Since 2008, I've had the courage to be the change I want to see. I became part of the community board and found my way to Range Projects. Even though it wasn't in the plans, I am living out my wildest dream."

Most recently, Range Projects hosted "The Landscape Is a Body and The Body is a Landscape" exhibit that concluded on Saturday, Aug. 24. The gallery transformed into a beacon of artistic exploration with breathtaking work from Lanise Howard, Khari Turner, Dallin Moe, Lauren Pierce, Sowemimo Daniel, Aviante, and Jackie Nagel.

Each piece was vibrant, provocative, and impressive as the artists were invited to express their narratives, that would make a lasting impact on the community. Two major pieces by artist Lanise Howard

showcased the Black female body to make a statement about the outer limits or parts that make up a whole divine being, the Black woman.

When asked about Howard's work, Smith shared, "This is a political statement that says as Black women 'we want justice' and this is her [Howard] way of saying 'this is what I'm doing.' There are no boundaries, no one is going to hold this art back. Whatever I can do to promote forward thinking through art I will do. These artists are the future."

Smith also spends time in schools and volunteering with the youth to ensure art does not stop or end at Range Projects. She encourages young students, teachers, and counselors to get involved in the arts to allow expression across all ages. Smith plans to implement more youth programs and has incorporated photography curriculum for schools and students to learn more about the art of capturing moments on film.

Smith expressed her deepest gratitude for the community and the support she has received. "My grandmother just turned 100 years old, and she is an avid supporter of the paper and it's been a dream come

true to have the support and recognition for our work.

"Many people have never been to an art gallery. I want the community to know Range Projects is family friendly, all are welcomed, and people don't have to feel pressure of visiting a space in your local community," she stated.

"This community is facing displacement and Black and Brown erasure. The more they try to erase, the more I am going to find more artists to retell the story. Lots of good things to come! My focus is on the youth, as many of these programs for young people do not exist. Through activism I hope to keep art activated, especially on Slauson."

Many gathered over the past weekend to celebrate the exhibit and to welcome new beginnings for Range Projects. Guests floated in and out of rooms where art was displayed, pondering over their meaning and how it relates to their lives, enjoying what they understood and what they could learn more about. Smith created a safe and warm environment with refreshments and music.

Visit Range Projects Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Stay up to date with upcoming events and exhibits with Julia Smith on Instagram at Julia smith (@juliasmith3909).



The Landscape Is a Body and The Body is a Landscape

## City Council Approves \$5.4 Million for Community-Driven Projects Recognizing Racist Past

BY LILA BROWN  
Contributing Writer

The Los Angeles City Council has officially approved the results of the L.A. Civil Rights Department's second cohort of the city's groundbreaking participatory budgeting pilot program, Los Angeles Reforms for Equity and Public Acknowledgement of Institutional Racism (L.A. REPAIR).

This historic program, aimed at addressing a legacy of institutional racism, has allocated \$5.4 million to 14 nonprofit organizations selected by local voters out of a total \$8.5 million designated for community improvements.

L.A. REPAIR, which empowers nine city areas most affected by institutional racism, had previously allocated \$3.1 million in its inaugural cohort to projects in Boyle Heights, Mission Hills - Panorama City - North Hills, and Southeast Los Angeles.

For its second round, proposals were submitted by local nonprofits in response to over 1,000 ideas generated from community members across six new REPAIR Zones: Arleta - Pacoima, Harbor Gateway - Wilmington - Harbor City, Skid Row, South Los Angeles, West Adams - Baldwin Village - Leimert Park.

Baldwin Village - Leimert Park, and Westlake. Voting took place online and at in-person proposal fairs from March to April 2024.

Participatory budgeting, a democratic process used in over 7,000 cities worldwide, allows community members to decide how a portion of the public budget is spent. This process is fully community-led, with Advisory Committees in each REPAIR Zone guiding idea gathering and voting, open to anyone aged 15 and older who lives, works, studies, or is a guardian of a student in the Zone. The approved proposals will be implemented by local community-based organizations, ensuring that funds are utilized within the REPAIR Zones.

Capri Maddox, executive director and general manager of the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department (L.A. Civil Rights), expressed gratitude for the City Council's support, stating, "L.A. REPAIR Participatory Budgeting represents a direct investment in Los Angeles' most underserved communities, empowering them with real decision-making power over significant funds."

Councilmember Bob

Blumenfield (CD3), chair of the City Council's Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee, also praised the initiative, saying, "This program helps build a critical bridge between government and underserved communi-

Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez (CD13) highlighted the program's potential as a model for future resource allocation, adding, "This landmark program should serve as a model for how we allocate resources to

large-scale events.

In Harbor Gateway - Wilmington - Harbor City, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor will deliver postsecondary advising and supportive services for youth and young adults, while the Harbor Community Development Foundation will implement education and job-success programs for youth.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles will provide weekend family camps and monthly nature and cultural excursions.

For Skid Row, Chrysalis will offer job readiness training and transitional job opportunities for residents, and the Downtown Women's Center will provide comprehensive health and wellbeing services for women.

In South Los Angeles, the Girls Club of Los Angeles will focus on health education, mental health services, and case management, the Los Angeles Urban League will create a structured learning experience for job seekers in media and production, the Social Justice Learning Institute will run programs for college persistence, career readiness, and leadership development, and the South Los Angeles Com-

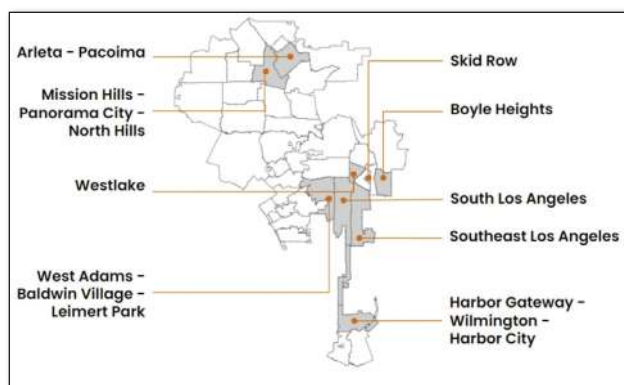
munity Foundation will offer on-the-job training for youth.

Finally, in West Adams - Baldwin Village - Leimert Park, NDICA will provide filmmaking vocational training for at-risk youth, and Teapot Gardens will establish a community garden and offer art education.

This milestone in participatory budgeting marks a significant step forward in ensuring that Los Angeles' most marginalized communities have a direct hand in shaping their futures and driving positive change in their neighborhoods.

For more details on the approved proposals and the full report, visit L.A. Repair Online <https://repair.lacity.gov/>.

This resource was supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library via California Black Media as part of the Stop the Hate program. The program is supported by partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>



Nonprofits in nine city areas most affected by institutional racism will receive funds for community improvements.

ties throughout Los Angeles and I'm excited to see how we can create more positive change together."

Councilwoman Heather Hutt (CD10) emphasized the program's role in promoting equity, stating, "The City is taking monumental steps towards healing and equity for everyone. This budget process is a testament to our commitment to dismantling institutional racism and ensuring that those most affected are leading the charge for change."

benefit our city and stop our decades-long neglect of working-class communities of color."

The proposals receiving the highest number of votes and set to be implemented over the next year include a range of community-focused initiatives. In Arleta - Pacoima, El Nido Family Centers will offer fresh fruits and vegetables, along with yoga, Zumba, gardening, and other wellness activities at the Pacoima Farmers Market, as well as

## Take Simple Precautions to Enjoy Labor Day Weekend in a Safe Way

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

With Labor Day approaching fast, many families across Southern California will travel, head to the beach, go camping, and gather with family and friends to enjoy the long holiday weekend.

However, in light of the hot weather forecasted for many areas, along with a concerning COVID-19 summer surge that has affected many people both locally and statewide, it's important to take some precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones.

### Protect your skin and eyes

According to Dr. Branden Turner, a family medicine physician with Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Hills-Crenshaw, if you're going to spend



Taking simple precautions will help ensure that you and your family can enjoy Labor Day weekend safely.

a lot of time outdoors, using sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher is critically important to prevent sunburn and skin cancer. This applies to people of all races and skin color.

When possible, wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved clothing to cover much of your skin, Dr. Turner added. And, because their skin is more sensitive, completely shield the skin of

babies younger than six months from the sun. And, to protect your eyes, wear sunglasses capable of blocking 99% of UVA and UVB radiation.

### Drink enough water

During hot weather, you're at a higher risk of dehydration and heat-related illnesses including cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. The heat makes you sweat, which cools you down, but that also means you constantly lose fluid.

"You should drink water to counteract dehydration in hot or humid weather, regardless of your activity level," Dr. Turner advised. "Drinking water helps lower your body temperature and replace the fluid you lose through sweating. Avoid alcohol, sugary drinks, and/or caffeine."

### Swim safety

To stay safe while swimming, the American Red Cross advises the following:

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards. Always swim with a friend; do not allow anyone to swim alone.
- Provide close and constant attention to children you supervise, even when a lifeguard is present, and no matter how well the child can swim or how shallow the water is. Avoid distractions, including cell phones.
- Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Designate a "water watcher" whenever in a group setting.

### Protecting yourself against COVID-19

As you may have seen or heard, an unexpected powerful summer COVID wave - the strongest in terms of infections since 2022 - has gripped Southern California and beyond. This is mainly due to increased circulation of new hyper infectious subvariants that have made many people sick, according to news reports. This surge has ruined many people's vacations and other social events.

Dr. Hudson noted if you're traveling this Labor Day weekend, consider wearing a mask in crowded places such as in airports or on the plane. If you are considered immunocompromised or have a chronic disease, wearing a mask

becomes even more important at those and other social settings, she added.

"It's all about lowering your chances of contracting the COVID-19 virus, which is airborne," she explained.

Following the recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorization of the distribution of the updated COVID-19 vaccines for the 2024-25 season, Dr. Hudson recommended that you contact your healthcare provider and inquire about getting the vaccine that will offer good protection against the new subvariants.

Kaiser Permanente expects to begin administering the shots to its 4.8 million members in Southern California in the coming days. Updates and information are posted on kp.org.

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<sup>1</sup> **Down Payment program and America's Home Grant program:** Qualified borrowers must meet eligibility requirements such as being owner-occupants and purchasing a home within a certain geographical area. Maximum income and loan amount limits apply. Minimum combined loan-to-value must be greater than or equal to 80%. The home loan must fund with Bank of America. Bank of America may change or discontinue the Bank of America Down Payment Grant program or America's Home Grant program or any portion of either without notice. Not available with all loan products; please ask for details.

<sup>2</sup> **Additional information about the Down Payment program:** Down Payment program is available with one mortgage product. Program funds can be applied toward down payment only. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back in excess of earnest money deposits. Down Payment Grant program may be considered taxable income and a 1099-MISC will be issued. Consult with your tax advisor. May be combined with other offers. The Bank of America Down Payment Grant program may only be applied once to an eligible mortgage/property, regardless of the number of applicants. Homebuyer education is required.

<sup>3</sup> **Additional information about the America's Home Grant program:** The America's Home Grant program is a lender credit. Program funds can only be used for nonrecurring closing costs including title insurance, recording fees, and in certain situations, discount points that can be used to lower the interest rate. The grant cannot be applied toward down payment, prepaid items or recurring costs, such as property taxes and insurance. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back.

<sup>4</sup> Maximum income and loan amount limits apply. Fixed-rate mortgages (purchases or no cash out refinances), primary residences only. Certain property types are ineligible. Maximum loan-to-value ("LTV") is 97%, and maximum combined LTV is 105%. For LTV > 95%, any secondary financing must be from an approved Community Second Program. Homebuyer education may be required. Other restrictions apply.

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# USC Black Alumni Association Hosts Welcome Pinning and Affirmations Ceremony

By SHELBY STEPHENS  
Contributing Writer

The USC Black Alumni Association (USC BAA) Welcome Pinning and Affirmation Ceremony is a cherished tradition open to all newly admitted Black undergraduate and graduate students.

On Saturday, August 24, the USC BAA, USC faculty, and staff spent the afternoon welcoming the newest members of the Trojan family and provided historical context regarding the legacy of USC's Black Trojans at Founder's Park on USC's campus. More than 100 students attended and received USC adinkra symbol pins to usher them into the upcoming school year.

The incoming students enjoyed an eventful program coordinated by USC alumni Simeon Stewart with addresses from USC BAA Executive Director



USC BAA and Students Culminating the Pinning and Affirmation Ceremony.

SHELBY STEPHENS/L.A. SENTINEL

Jasmine Taylor, Associate Dean for Religious and Spiritual Life Rev. Dr. Brandon Harris, Career Engagement Senior Director Lori Shreve, and live drum performances by

Brother Hanif and Uncommon Sense.

One of the most moving demonstrations was the Libation Ceremony and Calling of Ancestors initiated by Sister Abrafi Sanyika,

founder and director of the Egyptian Repertoire Company. This ceremony is reminiscent of Black traditions used to honor those who have passed away and transitioned.

Sister Sanyika reminded the students of who they are and where they are going.

During the ceremony, alumni called out the names of individuals who were the first to make history as inaugural change-makers; the first Black student, the first Black justice in California, the first Black journalism graduate, and the first Black USC All-American.

Inspiration filled the park as each name was called and as each libation was collected. The ceremony concluded with members of the Black Trojan family pinning the newly

accepted students with the adinkra symbols representing the attributes of the successful Trojan Scholar.

Preserving Black traditions ensures that Black history is never forgotten. As one observer shared, "The USC BAA has com-

mitted their legacy to uplifting, inspiring, and educating the next generation of Black scholars and alumni. A true testament to their motto, Fight On!"

Learn more about the USC BAA at [alumni.usc.edu/baa/](http://alumni.usc.edu/baa/).



Sister Abrafi Sanyika

SHELBY STEPHENS/L.A. SENTINEL



Trojan Family

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# Dawn Patton Hits the Road with Try MY T at Costco!

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD  
Contributing Writer

Dawn Patton, a resident of View Park, is the founder of Try MY T, a brand of gourmet, fresh-brewed iced tea that she created in the unincorporated neighborhood of Los Angeles. It is an accomplishment Patton rightfully speaks of with pride.

“There are only a handful, in the U.S., of African American women-owned iced-tea beverage manufacturers in the country,” said Patton. “I just happen to be one of them.”

Patton said that when Try MY T first entered retail it was at six Whole Foods Markets and a select number of Sprouts Farmers Markets. Today, Patton’s tea is available in 65 Whole Foods locations across Arizona, Hawaii, and Las Vegas, as well as 93 Sprouts stores in Southern California.

In fact, Patton said Try MY T has three chains of revenue: warehouse clubs, retail, and foodservice.

“Foodservice is like



Dawn Patton

your restaurants, your corporations, and stuff like that,” said Patton. “Then you have your clubs, which is your Costco. We’re getting ready to do road shows. Costco asked us to come and try our products out in their stores... at five Southern California [Costco] clubs.”

Try MY T will be at the Culver City/Marina Del Rey Costco on September 5 – 8, and Patton will be there for a meet-and-greet on September 7. The following week, she will be in Irvine on Sept. 12-15, and then on Sept. 19-22 in Bakersfield.

Patton said it is difficult for any startup brand to get into Costco. It is also tough to have sustainability at the clubs. She said Costco had requested Try MY T for three-years, but at the time, Patton did not feel she could produce the volume of goods the large retailer would need.

“Because I’m still emerging as a brand and we’re raising money right now for our expedient growth, we could not handle the volume,” said Patton. “Costco is 6,000 peo-



A group of MY T products on the shelves at Sprouts.

ple a day, so if you don’t have the volumes to substantiate the sales, then you’re out of there.”



Dawn Patton and a Try My T display.

Patton said Costco is a worldwide brand and they have been very supportive of Try MY T. She said they even invited her to meet Costco’s president in Bakersfield.

Patton said in 2025 and 2026 she is anticipating Try MY T to do very well

across all markets. She said she is also in the process of raising \$1.5 million, which will maintain the company for the next 12 months.

Patton hopes to double or triple the investment, and that money will be used for inventory and manufacturing. Much of

that manufacturing and inventory will be used for the trial deal with Costco.

“What we are doing with Costco is so wonderful, and they are 100 percent behind us,” said Patton.

For more information on Try MY T, visit [www.trymyt.com](http://www.trymyt.com).

# Let the Good Times Roll with Creole Kings at Taste of Soul

BY SHELBY STEPHENS  
Contributing Writer

From Po’Boys to Beignets, Creole Kings are cooking from the heart while creating an extraordinary, soulful experience in

ence over the summer.

And although Jeremiah Kingdom is vegan, he believes in cooking and serving with love and intention. After pivoting from Po’Boy Brothers with his twin brother, Cre-

shared Jeremiah.

Guests at this year’s Taste of Soul can expect good energy and even better food from Creole Kings. “Welcome to Flavor Town! This is the epitome of New Orleans and

Thousand Oaks and launch their second food truck by the end of year. Jeremiah is also the Young Adults Pastor at Revelations Church and credits God for the vision to become excellent stewards. As he admits, “without Christ, this is not possible.”



COURTESY PHOTO

ole Kings will be in attendance as a vendor at this year’s Taste of Soul Family Festival.

In the meantime, grab a plate at Creole Kings located at 7782 San Fernando Rd. in Sun Valley, from Monday to Thursday, 12 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday to Sunday 12 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Follow Creole

Guests come hungry and leave happy with Cre-

ole Kings. On Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 7

Kings on Instagram at [@creolekings](https://www.instagram.com/creolekings).



Michael Ford, Sashay Kingdom, Jeremiah Kingdom, Moses Estrada

Sun Valley, CA. On Saturday, Oct. 19 at the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival, catch the Creole Kings on Crenshaw Boulevard serving traditional Louisiana flavors with love, care, and servitude.

Owners Jeremiah and Sashay Kingdom are originally from Detroit and were inspired by their creole ancestry to start Creole Kings in September of 2023. The Kingdoms believe in creating special moments for their community by way of soul food.

Within a year, Creole Kings have been the number one vendor at Black on the Block and Hot Water Cornbread. They have garnered the attention of BET and provided food for the BET Experi-

ole Kings has received unwavering support and were quickly embraced when they hit the streets.

“Our slogan is Let the Good Times Roll, when you eat with us you will definitely have a good time. One of the highlights has been being received and embraced by the community. We’re cooking the things we have always loved, good ole’ fried catfish, some gumbo, something good! That’s what we do in Detroit. Now a year later we’re here about to open our restaurant,” said Sashay Kingdom when asked about the Creole Kings experience.

“Let the Good Times Roll’ is from the originator Sam Cooke. He is one of my favorite artists,”

Detroit coming together and having a beautiful marriage. Food is for the soul and we acquire it when we eat it honestly, not based on taste, based on how it makes us feel,” he said.

“This is something people will walk away like ‘ah! I feel so much better since I had that food.’ It has a lot to do with the love that we put into it. It’s not the money, it’s about the soul and about making people feel good. You’re not just coming to eat you’re coming to have a New Orleans experience. We let the good times roll. We’re on wheels right now and we’re opening a restaurant,” noted Jeremiah.

The Kingdoms are expected to open their first restaurant next month in



Creole Kings Menu Items

COURTESY PHOTO

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# Housing 101: Intro to Housing Advocacy

**This free webinar will explore LA’s housing evolution, current challenges, and effective solutions.**

**Join AHLA's Education Director, Joshua Gonzales, to uncover why LA rents are soaring, neighborhoods are segregated, and what you can do to ensure everyone has a safe home.**

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Abundant Housing LA [AHLA] is a grassroots nonprofit organization working to solve Southern California’s housing crisis by advocating for more housing at all levels of affordability. We are composed of community members whose primary interest is making housing more affordable. AHLA envisions Los Angeles County as a place where every resident can find an affordable home that meets their needs in their neighborhood choice. We aspire to create sustainable and diverse communities that prioritize accessibility, minimize car dependency, and foster a healthier and more inclusive environment for all.

# McOsker Seeks Urgent Effort to Address Lead Contamination in Watts Water

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles City Councilman Tim McOsker Tuesday called for immediate testing, reporting and remediation to address alarming levels of lead contamination in drinking water found in homes in the Watts area.

The councilman, who represents the 15th District, encompassing Watts and other Harbor neighborhoods, introduced a motion Tuesday that, if approved, would instruct the Department of Water and Power and the city's Housing Authority to investigate and address the contamination issues. LADWP personnel would also be tasked with identifying the



COURTESY PHOTO  
Councilman  
Tim McOsker



FILE PHOTO  
Councilwoman  
Heather Hutt



FILE PHOTO  
WLCAC President  
Tim Watkins

sources of lead exposure and to repair all affected areas in Watts.

Additionally, the Housing Authority would create a strategy to communicate with residents about any efforts and progress being made to ensure their safety.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Heather Hutt, and it is expected to be heard by the Energy and Environment Committee at a future date.

A recent study conducted by the Better Watts Initiative revealed that some

water samples contained lead concentrations much higher than what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency deems normal, a level of 15 parts per billion. Higher levels require mandatory infrastructure repairs and public notifica-

tions under the agency's guidelines.

"The findings brought to light by the Better Watts Initiative are deeply concerning. This is about the health and safety of our neighbors, our friends, and our families," McOsker said in a statement. "Like all Angelenos, the people of Watts should have a safe and healthy environment to call home and that undoubtedly includes access to safe, clean water."

In 2016, the Watts Labor Community Action Committee launched the Better Watts Initiative, a collaborative for environmental justice in Watts. Over the course of four months, volunteers — resi-

dents of the area as well as students from UCLA and USC — gathered more than 500 water samples throughout the neighborhood.

"We've waited for so long to have an elected official in the 15th Council District who genuinely cares about long-term environmental justice issues," Tim Watkins, president and CEO of the WLCAC, said in a statement. "Clean water should be the bare minimum for every community, and the Better Watts Initiative is proud to have shed light on this issue because anything less than clean water is unacceptable."

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## Tens of Thousands of Black Californians Retain Health Coverage After Post-Covid Redetermination

By MCKENZIE JACKSON  
California Black Media

Over 36,000 Black Californians maintained coverage with a health insurance provider through the 14-month Medi-Cal to Covered California redetermination process led by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and Covered California.

This number does not include Californians who have employer or private insurance or those who have been enrolled in Medi-Cal or Covered California and have met all the eligibility requirements for both programs.

In total, more than 158,000 Californians retained their health coverage through the statewide redetermination initiative, which began in April 2023 and ran until June of this year, according to DHCS.

Covered California Chief Medical Officer and Chief Deputy Executive Director Dr. S. Monica Soni said the availability of affordable health coverage

can help prevent negative medical outcomes in the Golden State's Black communities. That coverage includes Medi-Cal, California's version of the Medicaid program -- which offers free or low-cost health care access to low-income people across the nation -- or one of the affordable health plans offered through Covered California, the state's health insurance exchange.

"We know primary care is one of the ways to have good health and wellness -- from behavioral health to physical health to instances where someone has a substance abuse disorder," said Soni, also a primary care doctor and the first Black Chief Medical Officer at Covered California.

"Our communities are some of the most incredible community-oriented, health-seeking ambitious folks," Soni continued.

"We have a lot of assets in our communities, but it is true we have higher rates of death for many cancers. We have more obesity. We have really higher rates of

diabetes and high blood pressure as well."

The redetermination project kicked off when Medi-Cal resumed its renewal process to establish eligibility for over 15 million of its members following the end of the federal continuous coverage requirement put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Covered California automatically enrolled individuals in one of its low-cost health plans with insurers such as Aetna Health, Anthem Blue Cross of California, Health Net, Molina Health Plan, or Valley Health Plan if they lost Medi-Cal coverage and qualified for Covered California.

Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman said people who received health insurance through Covered California didn't experience a gap in coverage.

"We are proud of these results so far, and the Medi-Cal to Covered California program is now a mainstay in our effort to keep Cali-

fornians covered with comprehensive, affordable health insurance," she said in a statement.

returned to Medi-Cal.

Soni stated that the main obstacle that prevents people without health



COURTESY PHOTO  
More than 158,000 Californians retained their health coverage through the statewide redetermination initiative.

Soni said continuing the automatic enrollment process helped to keep health insurance accessible for state residents.

According to a survey conducted last fall on behalf of Covered California by NORC and Slosar Research, 82% of people in the Medi-Cal renewal processes were covered through employer-insurance; were already enrolled with Covered California, or

insurance from selecting a plan through Covered California is a belief the price will be out of their budget.

"Sometimes people are worried about the cost," she explained. "We have zero-dollar and \$10-a-month plans, depending on household income. Regardless of what health plan you choose all of your primary care costs are the same. We believe you should be able to shop for the health plan you want."

Covered California's open enrollment period runs from November of this year to January 2025. Soni said Covered California will have record levels of support and affordability during the upcoming year.

"Incredible support we are getting from the state and federal government makes us able to do that," she said.

Everyone should use their health coverage to see a doctor as required, based on their individual or family medical history, Soni said, recalling her experience working at a Los Angeles area hospital.

"I've had many circumstances where someone wasn't going to see a primary care provider and showed up in the emergency room with an advanced cancer that could have been caught early and treated, but now it is too far advanced to really get treatment," she recalled. "That is a 40-year-old, that is a young person, who again with earlier care, all of that could have been prevented."

## LeBron James Family Foundation Inspires a Blueprint for Community Empowerment

By STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA National Correspondent

In a visit to PBS-TV's The Chavis Chronicles in Washington, D.C., Gloria James and family members of NBA superstar LeBron James highlighted the extraordinary impact of the LeBron James Family Foundation (LJFF) and its ongoing mission to uplift and empower communities. The foundation's efforts, which began in Akron, Ohio, where LeBron was raised, have become a national model for athletes, entertainers, and politicians alike.

Gloria, LeBron's mother, expressed immense pride in her son's accomplishments both on and off the court. "I'm very honored to be LeBron's mother. He has done so much for our community and for people across the world. He's so unselfish," Gloria said, emphasizing that LeBron's greatness extends beyond his athletic achievements. "He's not only the GOAT on the court, but off the court. He's a humanitarian, a great father and husband, and a great advocate for his community, people of color, and the underdog."

The LJFF, through its flagship I PROMISE program, serves over 1,400 students in the Akron area, offering comprehensive support that extends far beyond academics. The foundation's work, as Gloria

described, is about more than just raising graduation rates; it's about redefining the concepts of family and community.

"What we learned was that you can't just help one person in the family and expect it to be of great significance," Gloria explained. "Even when it comes to

and that way it'll also help them as they grow into adulthood. Family, we take that very seriously."

Curtis James, LeBron's uncle and an assistant at the foundation, echoed Gloria's sentiments, highlighting the foundation's recent projects, including a documentary. "We just launched a docu-

mentary to nurture future educators who will continue the foundation's legacy of community upliftment.

"What I've learned through our foundation is that helping your community is probably one of the most important jobs you can have," said Gloria James, who works as a third-grade

actors, mayors of other cities, and we're willing to share the blueprint so others in other cities can build up their communities. We've been able to change lives."

Reflecting on LeBron's journey to superstardom, Gloria expressed pride not just in his athletic success, but in his dedication to his community. "I've always been very proud of him," she asserted. "He's such a giving and caring and compassionate person. What's most important to LeBron is the work that he does off the court. That's the changes that he makes in the lives of the people in our community."

Gloria also shared her emotions during one of LeBron's most iconic moments—carrying the Olympic flag. "Every time LeBron exceeds expectations, which is often, I feel he's given more than he's received. But seeing him carrying the Olympic flag made me feel even more special; that was almost surreal," she noted. "Think back years ago when Blacks and people of color had such a hard time being chosen for something so honorable, so to see that made it even more special. To see them with medals around their necks, it just confirms that he's done all the right things and he's deserving."

The excitement continues for the James family, as LeBron's son, Bronny, is expected to join him on the Los Angeles Lakers for the

upcoming season. "That will be very special. I know LeBron is extremely excited about playing with his son," Gloria said, beaming with pride at the prospect of the father-son duo making history together on the court.

Sean Jones, a Cleveland native, and Curtis's music partner accompanied the family to D.C. and reflected on his journey. "When I released my first record, I was called the LeBron James of rap, but who would ever have thought I'd be sitting here today with LeBron's mother, Gloria, and Curtis," he remarked, acknowledging the deep connections that the James family has fostered within their community.

Despite the success, Gloria said the family maintains a close circle. "We've been really blessed," Gloria said. "Our family has been respectful. No one has really felt like they want a place in the center circle that we have, so things have worked out really well."

In reflecting on the foundation's broad impact, Gloria James summed up their mission with heartfelt pride: "What's most important to LeBron is the work that he does off the court. That's the changes that he makes in the lives of the people in our community. Coming from this same community at a time when we also needed this same help—he's only done what he promised to do."



Gloria James, right, with family members.

housing or food, we address those issues as well. We know that a lot of our families can't provide meals for themselves for a full family throughout the entire month, so we have pantries."

The holistic approach to community support has become the cornerstone of the LJFF's mission. "Unfortunately, some kids don't have that in their lives," Gloria noted, referring to the love, compassion, and support she said true family offers. "They deserve that,

and my job is to inspire people through my podcast. We want people to do the right thing. It's not just through our music. Family keeps me in the community, and Akron will always need inspiration, so I try to be a model for people to do better and be better," Curtis shared.

The LJFF's influence has extended to the University of Akron, where the LeBron James Family Foundation School of Education operates with selective admission cri-

teria to nurture future educators who will continue the foundation's legacy of community upliftment.

teacher's adie at the I PROMISE school. "Especially if you're on a platform that allows you to help, not just talk about it, but be about it. Put your money up. Our city has been so responsive positively that it makes us want to do even more."

# With Their Massive Resources, Corporations Could Be Champions of Racial Equity But Often Waver

By GLENN GAMBOA AND THALIA BEATY  
Associated Press

Forward Through Ferguson has made its mark on its community and the St. Louis region by focusing on justice and education, racial equity and policing reform.

The Missouri nonprofit was founded in 2015 to enact the societal changes outlined in the Ferguson Commission report to address the issues that contributed to the police shooting death of Michael Brown Jr. and the riots that

following where money from corporations and their foundations goes is very difficult.

“In many instances, it is piecemeal,” McCaskill said. “But when you put pennies in a jar, it starts to add up. Sure, I think, ‘How many things do I need to do in order to get this fund endowed?’”

That lament is common throughout philanthropy, especially among organizations that rely on public donations each year rather than those, like Ivy League colleges, for example, that have large endowments

with community donations, from altruistic, civic-minded ones to business-related ones including employee retention and building a stronger customer and employee base.

Recent trends suggest more corporations are providing goods and services at a reduced rate in addition to donations, rather than solely giving money to communities, said Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, managing director and chief operations officer for Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose, a coalition that advises companies on sus-



Brad Bottoms, a data scientist at the Center for Social Solutions at the University of Michigan stands in his office in Ann Arbor, MI, on Monday, July 22, 2024.

followed in Ferguson, Missouri.

The new nonprofit and similar organizations looking to support the community saw money pour in from corporations like St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch and major philanthropic organizations ranging from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the NBA Players Association Foundation.

It didn't last, Anissa McCaskill, Forward Through Ferguson's executive director, told The Associated Press.

She doesn't want to dwell on the negative because so many have generously helped the organization. But she won't forget the community group that pledged her nonprofit multiyear support and then decided after the first year that they didn't want to pay anymore. “Our priorities have shifted,” the group said. Local companies that initially supported the group also stopped, “shifting priorities” again.

It's not like her organization was ever getting the million-dollar donations that many businesses like to tout. In fact, experts say

that generate steady annual income. It's also not unusual for nonprofits to see a surge in giving while their cause, from protests to weather events, is in the spotlight, only to see donations quickly dry up.

However, the racial reckoning sparked in Ferguson was supposed to be different.

This story is part of an AP ongoing series exploring the impact, legacy and ripple effects of what is widely called the Ferguson uprising, sparked a decade ago by Brown's death.

Emerson Electric, a Fortune 500 company headquartered 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) from where Brown was killed, announced its “Ferguson Forward” initiative a month after the protests. The initiative allocated about \$4 million over five years to improve education, offer scholarships to colleges and trade schools and provide business development for people in the community, hoping other area companies would match it. In 2014, Emerson earned about \$2.1 billion in profit on sales of \$25 billion.

Experts say there is a wide variety of reasons companies get involved

with community donations, from altruistic, civic-minded ones to business-related ones including employee retention and building a stronger customer and employee base.

According to CECP research, a wide-ranging definition of giving including volunteerism, community donations and providing services and products to nonprofits has jumped from 24% of a company's overall corporate or social responsibility budgets in 2021 to 35% of those budgets in 2023, Niedfeldt-Thomas said.

But the current backlash against anything that could be perceived as a diversity, equity or inclusion program is making it more difficult to measure corporate commitments, even if companies are dedicating more resources toward them, she said.

Earl Lewis, a professor and director of the Center for Social Solutions at the University of Michigan, found that lack of transparency especially striking after the outpouring of corporate pledges and statements following the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

Along with his research team, Lewis, who formerly led the Mellon Foundation, designed a database to make information about the commitments and actions



Earl Lewis, director of the Center for Social Solutions at the University of Michigan stands in his office in Ann Arbor, MI, on Monday, July 22, 2024.

taken by major U.S. corporations around racial equity more accessible.

“Maybe there was a way to actually take people at their word, that they were going to do something and then, try to figure out whether in the public domain, we could find data that would support their claims,” Lewis said, explaining they reached out to all the companies on their list and will update the results if they respond with public information.

There are few requirements for companies to make this information public, though if they give through a corporate foundation they will report outgoing grants on tax forms.

Lewis' team, led by

data scientist Brad Bottoms, searched for statements and reports from 51 of the largest U.S. companies from 2020. Just over half, or 27 of the 51 companies, made a public pledge around racial equity that year. Of the companies that didn't make a pledge, the researchers found 10 mentioned racial equity when reporting about their donations.

Six companies that made pledges did not report in detail about how they fulfilled them, which Lewis and his team thought was a priority.

One of those companies, AT&T, did not respond to questions about whether it has fulfilled its \$10 million pledge to historically Black colleges

and universities.

The social media giant Meta said it fulfilled its promise to give \$10 million to organizations that work on racial equity. The company also said it granted \$20 million in cash and \$12 million in advertising credits to 400 nonprofits serving Black communities, which Meta had not previously publicly disclosed.

Health care giant Johnson & Johnson said by the end of 2023 it had spent \$80 million out of a pledged \$100 million to “community-led organizations and programs” to improve racial health inequities. In April, the company disclosed a list of recipients but not how much each had received.

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Police wait to advance after tear gas was used to disperse a crowd during protests against the shooting death of Michael Brown Jr. on Aug. 17, 2014 in Ferguson, MO.

# Black Business Association Delivers at 2nd Annual Black Business Day Expo

BBA partners with U.S. Bank and KJLH to present the popular expo featuring State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The 2nd Annual Black Business Day Expo presented by the Black Business Association (BBA) in partnership with U.S. Bank and 102.3FM KJLH, took place on Saturday, August 17, and it was a tremendous success. With 700 registrants and over 100 participants, including exhibitors, sponsors, speakers, volunteers, and event staff, the event was a vibrant celebration of Black business excellence.

Held on a beautiful summer day at the state-of-the-art Culinary Arts Building on the campus of L.A. Trade Tech College, the expo featured a steady flow of attendees visiting vendors and participating in enriching panel discussions. The three speaker panels were a highlight, offering



Black Business Association President Sarah Harris, center, with, from left, Mussie Assefaw of U.S. Bank, Jose Vega of EastWest Bank, Delphine Pruitt of U.S. Bank, Kenneth Crawford of SBA, and Richard Pally Jr. of PCR Business Finance.

business access advisor at U.S. Bank, moderated the Capital Access panel, and Kimberly Kelly-Rolfe,

President and CEO Sarah Harris stated, "We celebrate Black Business Day to honor the resilience, creativity, and contribution of Black entrepreneurs to our economy. This day is not just a celebration; it's a reminder of the importance of supporting and uplifting Black-owned businesses, which are the backbone of our communities."

"We continue to thank BBA President Emeritus Earl 'Skip' Cooper II for the foresight to petition to have Black Business Day recognized, which was first proclaimed in 1987 by Mayor Tom Bradley in the City of Los Angeles."

Expressing her enthusiasm for the BBA, Pruitt said, "Supporting the BBA and being part of the Black Business Day Expo aligns with the U.S. Bank commitment to foster economic growth in all communities. We are

proud to stand with the BBA in its mission to empower Black entrepreneurs and look forward to continuing our partnership."

This year's expo introduced a new feature - the BBA Media Studio. Hosted by Danny Morrison, the

BBA's new media partner, the studio offered on-stage interviews with businesses and organizations, furthering the mission to #BolsterBlackLA. KJLH radio personality Tammi Mac, returning as the event's host, brought her signature energy and charisma, making the day even more special.

Other highlights included a special appearance by California State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas bringing remarks on the state of Black businesses in California and advocating to establish the first Cultural District that uplifts Black contributions and influences. Also featured was a fantastic food court, and a beer and wine garden hosted by 1010 Wine & Events.

The event's success was made possible by the unwavering support of sponsors such as LADWP, Metro, SoCalGas, EastWest Bank, Turner Construction, MLK Community Healthcare, and

the CA Black Women's Health Project. The BBA also extends its gratitude to its dedicated Board Members, including Kim Anthony Morrow, Brett Byers, Ezekiel Patten II, Denise Peoples, Nathan Freeman, Ronda Jackson, and Chairman Earl "Skip" Cooper, II.

"Special thanks go out to our event staff, Linda Morgan Sam and Lela Thompson, for their tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth execution of the day," noted Harris.

"As the expo concluded, the excitement for next year was already palpable. We invite everyone to join us again on Saturday, August 16, 2025, as we continue the tradition of celebrating Black Business Day during National Black Business Month," she added.

"Together, we will keep uplifting and empowering the Black business community."

To join the BBA or for more information, visit [www.bbala.org](http://www.bbala.org).



From left are Sarah Harris, State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, and Tammi Mac of KJLH radio.

attendees valuable insights into the future of business.

Donnell Laynes, CEO of TwinFlame Ventures, led the discussion on AI and Business Innovations. Delphine D. Pruitt, vice president and

founder and director of the Southern California Virtual Business Center, guided the conversation on Contracting and Business Opportunities.

Reflecting on the significance of the event, BBA



More than 100 people participated in the Black Business Association 2nd Annual Black Business Day Expo.

## Rising Communities, Clean California and Local Organizations Unite for West Athens Community Cleanup



Volunteers after weigh-in of 100 pounds of litter collected during West Athens community cleanup organized by Rising Communities and Caltrans' Clean California.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Dozens of volunteers turned out for the West Athens Delegation Community Cleanup on Saturday, August 24.

Community members gathered to pick up litter around a 1-mile block of the neighborhood surrounding Sunnyside Baptist Church from 94th and 95th streets between Normandie and Vermont. During the two-hour event, 15 large bags were filled totaling nearly 100 pounds of litter, such as plastic cups, food wrappers, straws, cigarette ends, paper items, glass, and other garbage.

The West Athens cleanup was organized by Rising Communities in partnership with Caltrans' Clean California initiative, Sunnyside Baptist Church, The Crenshaw Organization, West Athens Westmont Task Force, and Los Angeles County Public Works. Representatives of the South Los Angeles Sheriff's Station joined the cleanup, along with Alfonso Ruiz-Delgado, assistant director, Unincorporated Areas, representing Los

Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell.

Rising Communities West Athens delegation is working to improve conditions to encourage safe walking, biking, and other active transportation as part of its effort to build community resilience in South L.A. Cleaning the sidewalks and neighborhood landscapes is a critical piece of the broader effort to improve conditions.

"I was excited to see the many volunteers who came out early Saturday morning to clean up our community," said Keith A. Crenshaw Sr., West Athens resident and South L.A. Decides delegate.

"This is just one of the many West Athens cleanup events we are planning. Zero Litter on our streets is the goal!"

Rising Communities is among 22 communities statewide that have so far taken the Clean California Community Designation Program pledge. The Community Designation Program encourages communities to commit to an array of long-term, zero-litter policies to engage resi-

dents to support litter prevention, beautification, and environmental enhancement.

Eligible communities can include cities, towns, counties, and smaller neighborhoods and groups. Each must complete 10 of 15 specific criteria to earn the designation. It is the latest feature of Clean California, Governor Newsom's sweeping \$1.2 billion, multiyear initiative led by Caltrans to clean up, transform, and beautify public spaces.

"The Clean California Community designation spotlights communities that are zero-litter leaders with a vision for a better tomorrow. These leaders, such as Rising Communities, understand the long-term benefits to clean communities, and we applaud them for their efforts," said Caltrans Deputy Director Mike Keever during the recent announcement of the Community Designation Program.

To learn more about upcoming West Athens area cleanup events, visit the Rising Communities website at [RisingCommunities.org](http://RisingCommunities.org).

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Minister Norris Milton of Sunnyside Baptist Church joined volunteers to pick up litter in neighborhood surrounding the church.



# Celebrities and Residents Celebrate Pride and Culture at Inaugural Compton Fest

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Divine Media Group, in partnership with the City of Compton Office of Mayor Emma Sharif, launched the inaugural Compton Fest on Saturday, August 24. Held on the Compton College campus, the event celebrated pride and culture within the Compton community.

The festival enjoyed sunny skies with a temperature high of 80-degree fahrenheit, attracting over 2,000 attendees. Participants described the festival



SCREENGRAB FROM @SMITTYS\_SIGNATURE\_PUDDING

From left are Jason Martin, Tray Smith and DeMar DeRoza



PHOTO BY BETTI HALSELL/ L.A. SENTINEL

*Ard's the Creative*

as exciting and peaceful, fostering a strong sense of love, connection, and community.

Residents from Compton and neighboring areas engaged in various activities, including curated panels, music performances, and activations from industry leaders like Code Next, a Google initiative, Delete The Divide, Disney's FX Networks, and the Onyx

Collective.

Notable attendees included Sheryl Lee Ralph, star of ABC's "Abbott Elementary," radio personality Tammi Mac, and rapper Jason Martin, all contributing to the festival's lively atmosphere.

A highlight was the inaugural honoree ceremony. Six-time NBA All-Star DeMar DeRoza received the Icon Award, media executive William "Fuzzy" West was honored with the Impact Award, and legendary rapper Yolanda "Yoyo" Whitaker was presented with the Legends Award. Additionally, community organizations Alma Farms, Color Compton, I Shine Youth Program, and the Compton Country Club Initiative were recognized for their contributions, highlighting the event's deep ties to local activism.

Beyond music and entertainment, the festival offered critical opportunities and resources to individuals and families. One of the festival's success stories was the clothing brand Compton Isn't Dangerous, which reported its first-ever product sellout at the Compton Fest Vendor Row, powered by Carol H. Williams Advertising. The event also featured a highly trafficked "Resource Row," where students and community members connected with local organizations and brands.

This area provided opportunities for jobs, access to aid, industry club memberships, and essential health services—including mental and women's health services—designed to stimulate economic growth in a city where the median household income is signif-

icantly lower than the state average. Health disparities are also pronounced, with Compton's women facing higher-than-average rates of breast cancer and limited access to preventative care, an issue the festival hopes

result of a collaborative local effort, including The Makers Hub playing a key role in creating designs that adorned the experience.

Divine Media Group, along with Compton Fest Co-Chairs Ravyn Neal,

Esq., Alvin Addo, Kelly Marble, David Cobert Jr, James Drake, and Carol Hood, hope to bring this event back in 2025. For updates, follow Compton Fest's Instagram page, @ComptonFest.



PHOTO BY BETTI HALSELL/ L.A. SENTINEL

*The face of Smitty's Signature Pudding.*

to help address.

"The goal of Compton Fest is to help bring equitable access to the Compton community by leveraging our cultural capital to create economic advancement through civic engagement," explained DeMira Pierre, Compton Fest founder and executive producer, a proud Compton native with a career-spanning film, TV, media, and technology.

The festival's reach extended beyond local attendees, with visitors traveling from as far as Germany. The look and feel of the festival was the



PHOTO BY BETTI HALSELL/ L.A. SENTINEL

*"Pokéball is life."*

## SoCal Black Worker Hub Sponsor Black August Event

BY JOANIE HARMON  
Contributing Writer

On Aug. 21, the SoCal Black Worker Hub and the organizations' California Black Worker Outreach Project (CWOP) hosted the the #EchoBlackVoices CWOP 4.0 Black August Event, at The Beehive.

The Black-owned venue in the historic Goodyear Tract of South L.A. set the stage for organizations and community partners to celebrate the progress made in improving working conditions, recruitment, training, and retention of Black workers across the state's industries.

One hundred and fifty attendees from across San Diego, Los Angeles, and Long Beach, as well as the Inland Empire and High Desert, gathered to network, socialize, and learn about ongoing efforts to tackle anti-Blackness in the workplace, including Senate Bill 1340 and the importance of self-

ers moderated by actor and activist Kendrick Sampson.

The history of Black

tion ... the only resource is the State Human Rights Department, and the Equal

of Long Beach; Gisele Fong, senior program manager for inclusive community devel-

oped in the Emmy-nominated series, "Insecure," co-founded BLD PWR, which includes a production company and social impact arm whose mission is to organize Hollywood, "shifting the culture toward nourishing and protecting nuanced Black, Indigenous, and marginalized leaders, especially storytellers and their stories."

Cosney highlighted not only the importance of voter participation to bring about change, but the responsibility of workers to take their message straight to the top.

"...What our work is about is making sure that the people show up day in and day out," he said. "You don't get six-pack abs by getting a gym membership, you go to the gym and work it out."

"So, go vote at the polls," urged Cosney. "But on the next day, go to city council. Go to Sacramento.

Engage your legislators, engage your representatives in Congress. They need to hear from us. We can't make them come down here all the time - we wish they would. But if they're not going to come to us, we're going to bring it to them."



JOANIE HARMON/L.A. SENTINEL

*Cynthia T. Ruffin (at left) and Cheyenne Wilkins of Earthlodge Center for Transformation in Long Beach, performed celebratory drumming, honoring Black wellness traditions.*



DEANDRE JACKSON

From left are Anthony Holmes, Gisele Fong, Jorge Placencia, Kevin Cosney, Simboa Wright, and Kendrick Sampson.

August was also shared as a commemoration of the murder of political prisoner George Jackson, who was fatally shot while incarcerated at San Quentin on Aug. 21, 1971. Today, Black August is observed with events honoring the tradition of resistance against anti-Black violence and systemic oppression.

Dawn Modkins, director of the Southern California

Employment Opportunity Commission," said Modkins.

"They are bottlenecked for eight months, just to talk to someone about whether or not you have a case. We are sending a message to [the governor] to sign the bill this time; we have been waiting for far too long."

The Black Worker Survey, conducted through a partnership between the UCLA Center for Advancement of Racial Equity (CARE) at Work and the SoCal Black Worker Hub, provided data from 1,300 Black workers across the Southern California region, painting a picture of their experiences, and contributions to the state's workforce and economy.

"This overall research is meant to explain what Black workers are experiencing in terms of ability to be promoted and have career advancement," said Déjà Thomas, CARE program manager at the UCLA Labor Center.

"It translates directly into our economy and how we're all able to support each other."

The panel discussion featured perspectives and solidarity among Black workers and Latino and Asian workers in California. Participants included Anthony Holmes, a sanitation worker for the City



DEANDRE JACKSON

*Dawn Modkins discussed the impact of Senate Bill 1340 on supporting Black workers who are impacted by discrimination in the workplace.*

care practices. Key presentations included a preview of the 2024 #EchoBlackVoices Docu-Series (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my5DXNar\_C1), which profiles 19 Black workers; the results of a survey of California's Black workers; and a discussion by labor leaders and stakehold-

Black Worker Hub, highlighted the need for Senate Bill 1340, which has been in limbo for years, and if signed by Governor Newsom, would provide localized and timely responses to reports of discrimination against Black workers.

"Currently, when someone experiences discrimina-

We are all aware there are changes in our industry. You may have heard in the news there are new laws about the way we buy and sell homes and changes to the agent's role in the process. The goal will be to educate buyers and sellers about what types of compensation they will receive or provide. While these changes mean some new forms and possibly new ways open houses are conducted, some things will remain the same.

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People stand around the statue honoring the late civil rights leader and congressman John Lewis on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024 in Decatur, Ga. STEVE SCHAEFER/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION VIA AP

## Crowd Witnesses Unveiling of John Lewis Statue at Spot Where Confederate Monument Once Stood

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A crowd was on hand at a city park in Georgia Saturday, Aug. 25, to witness the unveiling of a large bronze statue of the late civil rights leader and congressman John Lewis that stands in the same spot as a contentious Confederate monument that was dismantled four years ago.

The crowd that included neighbors, politicians and civil rights leaders applauded when a black veil was pulled down to reveal the the 12-foot-tall (3.7-meter-tall) statue of

Lewis at Decatur's historic square, Atlanta television station WSB-TV reported.

Lewis was known for his role at the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement and was a Democratic congressman from Georgia. He died in 2020 from pancreatic cancer.

Lewis' statue stands in the same spot as a obelisk that was erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1908 and removed in 2020. Groups like the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights and Hate Free Decatur had been pushing for the Con-

federate monument to be removed since the deadly 2017 white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The monument was among those around the country that became flashpoints for protests over police brutality and racial injustice, following the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis. The city of Decatur then asked a Georgia judge to order the removal of the monument, which was often vandalized and marked by graffiti, saying it had become a threat to public safety.

## Authorities Arrest Ex-Sheriff's Deputy Who Fatally Shot a Black Airman at His Home

BY CURT ANDERSON AND JEFF MARTIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former Florida sheriff's deputy charged with killing a Black U.S. Air Force senior airman who answered his apartment door while holding a gun pointed toward the ground was arrested Monday, Aug. 26, officials said.

Former Okaloosa County deputy Eddie Duran, 38, was charged with manslaughter with a firearm in the May 3 shooting death of 23-year-old Roger Fortson, Assistant State Attorney Greg Marcille announced Friday. The charge is a first-degree felony punishable by up to

30 years in prison.

Duran was booked into the county jail Monday, records show. Marcille confirmed his arrest to The Associated Press.

"He did, in fact, turn himself in," Marcille said in a telephone interview, adding that Duran's initial court appearance will be via video link Tuesday morning. "He will be held in custody pending his initial appearance."

An attorney representing Duran did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Authorities say Duran had been directed to Fortson's Fort Walton Beach apartment in response to a domestic disturbance report

that turned out to be false.

After repeated knocking, Fortson opened the door while holding his handgun at his side, pointed down. Authorities say that Duran shot him multiple times; only then did he tell Fortson to drop the gun.

On Friday, the day the charge was announced, candles and framed photos of Fortson in uniform graced the doorway of the apartment where he was killed.

According to the internal affairs report of the shooting, Duran told investigators that when Fortson opened the door, he saw aggression in the airman's eyes. He said he fired because, "I'm standing



AP PHOTO/BRYNN ANDERSON, FILE  
Chantemekki Fortson, mother of slain Roger Fortson, a U.S. Air Force senior airman, holds a photo of her son during a news conference on Monday, June 3, 2024, in Atlanta.

there thinking I'm about to get shot, I'm about to die."

Okaloosa Sheriff Eric Aden fired Duran on May 31 after an internal investi-

gation concluded his life was not in danger when he opened fire. Outside law enforcement experts have also said that an officer cannot shoot only because a possible suspect is holding a gun if there is no threat.

Duran is a law enforcement veteran, starting as a military police officer in the Army. He joined the Okaloosa County sheriff's office in July 2019, but resigned two years later, saying his wife, a nurse, had been transferred to a Naval hospital out of the area. He rejoined the sheriff's office in June 2023.

Okaloosa personnel records show he was reprimanded in 2021 for not

completing his assignment to confirm the addresses of three registered sex offenders by visiting their homes, telling a colleague he didn't care about them. Then assigned to a high school as its on-campus deputy, he was also disciplined that year for leaving the school before the final bell and the students' departure. Florida law requires that an armed guard be on campus when class is in session.

Records of 911 calls show deputies had never been called to Fortson's apartment previously but they had been summoned to a nearby unit 10 times in the previous eight months, including once for a domestic disturbance.

## A 2nd Ex-Memphis Officer Pleads Guilty in Tyre Nichols' Death

BY JONATHAN MATTHEW AND TRAVIS LOLLER  
Associated Press

Federal prosecutors agreed to recommend a prison sentence of no more than 40 years for a former Memphis police officer who pleaded guilty Friday to federal civil rights violations in the 2023 fatal beating of Tyre Nichols.

Emmitt Martin is the second former officer to plead guilty in the killing that sparked outrage and renewed calls for police reform. Three former officers still face trial in federal court next month, and two of their former colleagues could testify against them.

Martin entered his change of plea before U.S. District Judge Mark Norris in Memphis under an agree-

ment with prosecutors, pleading guilty to excessive force and witness tampering charges. Sentencing is set for Dec. 5.

Nichols' mother, RowVaughn Wells, was in the courtroom. She nodded her head and smiled when the judge accepted Martin's change of plea.

In a news conference with civil rights attorney Ben Crump after the hearing, Wells said it was "very emotional" and "bittersweet." She said the latest plea is a step in the right direction, but that she won't be content until all of the officers are brought to justice.

"Tyre was just coming home. He was just minding his own business," she said.

Nichols died in a hospital on Jan. 10, 2023, three days after he was kicked, punched

and hit with a police baton after a traffic stop. The officers said they pulled Nichols over because he was driving recklessly, but Police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis has said no evidence was found to support that allegation.

Police video released Jan. 27 last year showed the officers beating Nichols as he yelled for his mother about a block away from the home they shared. Video also showed the officers milling about and talking with each other as Nichols struggled with his injuries.

An autopsy report showed Nichols died from blows to the head, and that the manner of death was homicide. The report described brain injuries, cuts and bruises to the head and other parts of the body.

"I will never have my

son back. I will never hear his voice again," Wells told reporters Friday. "They murdered my son for nothing. And until we get justice for all of them, I won't be content."

In November, former Memphis officer Desmond Mills Jr., reached a similar deal with federal prosecutors and changed his plea to guilty. Prosecutors agreed to recommend a prison sentence not to exceed 15 years for Mills.

Both Mills and Martin could be called to testify against the final three — Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley and Justin Smith — who remain charged with federal civil rights violations and have pleaded not guilty. The judge set a Monday deadline for any plea agreements in the case. Attorneys for the other three officers attended the hearing but left early. Haley's attorney later declined to comment, while attorneys for the two others did not immediately respond to emails requesting comment Friday afternoon.

All five former officers accused in Nichols' death have been charged separately in state court with second-degree murder. That trial is postponed until the federal proceedings are complete. Mills previously agreed to plead guilty in state court. Shelby County District Attorney General Steve Mulroy issued a statement on Friday saying he expects Martin to make a similar plea in state court at the appropriate time.

Nichols was a 29-year-old father from Sacramento, California. He worked at FedEx with his stepfather and enjoyed skateboarding and photography in his spare time. Nichols was Black.

The five accused ex-officers also are Black. They were fired after Nichols' killing for violating Memphis Police Department policies.

Martin, who was the second officer to come into contact with Nichols during the



AP PHOTO/GEORGE WALKER IV  
RowVaughn Wells, center, and husband Rodney Wells, right, parents of Tyre Nichols, walk into federal court with their attorney, Ben Crump on Friday, August 23, 2024 in Memphis, TN.

Jan. 7 traffic stop, helped Haley to force Nichols from his vehicle, according to documents filed in the case to permanently ban Martin from working in law enforcement in Tennessee.

Nichols ran from Martin and his two partners after they threatened and pepper-sprayed him but he was apprehended within six minutes. As other officers tried to handcuff Nichols, who was on the ground, Martin kicked him in the upper torso and punched him in the face while two other officers held Nichols' arms, the documents show.

Martin's defense attorney, Stephen Ross Johnson, said after the hearing that Martin was "driven by anger" when he "violated Mr. Nichols' civil rights and used excessive force," but that he was "driven by fear when he later attempted to cover that up — fear of the consequences of what he had done."

"Today, we are all witnesses to Mr. Martin accepting responsibility for what he did," Johnson said.

The criminal charges are separate from the U.S. Department of Justice's "patterns and practices" investigation into how Memphis officers use force and conduct arrests, and whether the department in the majority-Black city engages in racially discriminatory policing.

The Justice Department also has announced a separate review concerning use of force, de-escalation strategies and specialized units within Memphis police.

Additionally, Nichols' mother has filed a \$550 million lawsuit against the city and its police chief.

After the hearing, Wells said she hopes the other three officers will also plead guilty so that she and her children do not have to go through a trial.

"I'm hoping that after today, that the other three officers will look in the mirror, and look at themselves, and say that they're guilty, because they know they are," she said.

Loller reported from Nashville, Tennessee.



AP PHOTO/GEORGE WALKER IV  
Emmitt Martin III, a former Memphis Police Department officer, 2nd from left, accused of killing Tyre Nichols, walks into federal court on Friday, Aug. 23, 2024 in Memphis, TN.

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## CALIFORNIA FOR KAMALA {Continued from A-1}

Caucus (CLBC) and Gov. Gavin Newsom, who officially delivered California's 482 delegate votes for Harris on the floor of the convention.

"Kamala Harris has always done the right thing -- a champion for voting rights, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, the rights for women and girls," said Newsom, who was flanked by House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-11) and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA-43).

Pelosi, whose district includes San Francisco where Harris served as District Attorney, endorsed the Vice President and thanked President Biden for his leadership and "vision for a fairer America."

During her address on the first night of the convention, Waters mentioned Fannie Lou Hamer, the

revered civil rights, voting rights and women's rights activist who spoke at the DNC in 1964.

"When the dust settles in November, Americans of all stripes have elected her President of the United States, I know (Harris) will be thinking about Fannie Lou Hamer who I happen to know is one of Kamala's heroes," Waters said.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA-12), who served as official timekeeper of the convention, said she was humbled to have a front row seat to history "as we nominate my friend and a child of the East Bay."

Other California state leaders at the convention were state constitutional officers Malia Cohen, Controller; Shirley Weber, Secretary of State; and Tony Thurmond, Secretary of Public Instruction.

Thurmond spoke to California Black Media on the floor of the convention after Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a former teacher and high school football coach, accepted the Democratic Party's vice-presidential nomination on Aug. 21.

"If you want to get something done, you want a teacher, you want an educator," Thurmond told CBM, referring to Walz.

"Teachers have to do everything, they have to pull things together, they have to find resources and he talked about running for congress being the underdog and finding ways to overcome those odds," he added.

California U.S. Sen. Laphonza Butler also spoke to CBM.

"This is the leader built for this moment," said Butler. "This is a leader who

knows how to do hard things. She knows that if we build the kind of coalitions required, we can do hard things when we choose to do them together."

Attorney General Rob Bonta contrasted Harris's speech with Trump's at the Republican National Convention last month in Milwaukee.

"You could really see the authenticity, the decency, goodness, the fairness, and we need a big dose of that, given the alternative," said the Attorney General.

According to several polls, the economy and good-paying jobs are among the most important issues for voters this election year.

"In this election, one thing is clear: Workers are going to stand with candidates who have stood with

us and will continue to stand with us," said SIEU Local 221 President Crystal Irving, who is a Los Angeles native.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who spoke the first night of the convention, praised Harris for creating the California Bureau of Children's Justice when she was Attorney General.

Lateefah Simon, who is currently running to succeed Lee in a U.S. Congressional district that includes Oakland, spoke on the third night of the convention.

"I saw Kamala Harris holding the hands of sexual assault survivors," said Simon, who worked for Harris for four years when she was District Attorney. "I saw scores of mothers who lost their babies to gun violence lining up day after day at the courthouse waiting to talk to Kamala

because they knew that she would hear them."

After Harris's acceptance speech, Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) said, "Tonight, my friend and mentor Kamala Harris made history. She will make history yet again when she wins in November."

Two days after returning home to California, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood) said she was "inspired" by her experience serving as a delegate.

Praising Harris's record, McKinnor posted on X, "Her work on transformative justice, particularly ensuring people have the resources they need after being released from prison, is crucial in our fight against recidivism in California."

## CHARLENE DIMAS-PEINADO {Continued from A-1}

2023 and 2024, she was selected by Women We Admire as one of The Top 50 Women Leaders in Los Angeles and by the Los Angeles Business Journal as a Leader of Influence: Nonprofit and Philanthropy. In March, she was honored by L.A. County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis on International Women's Day.

Dimas-Peinado joined Wellnest L.A. in August 2016. Utilizing 30 years of experience in behavioral health and non-profit organizations, she is the first Latina president & CEO of Wellnest L.A. since its founding in 1924 and provides overall leadership and a strategic direction as it celebrates one hundred years of community service.

"We are a comprehensive, trauma informed, mental health agency and housing service for children from birth to age 25," said Dimas-Peinado.

Formerly known as the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, Wellnest L.A. was created as a nation-

wide effort to have a greater understanding in the prevention of juvenile delinquency and prevention of emotional difficulties in children and their families.

"We are known for being established as an organization in 1924 by subject matter experts and the community that came together," said Dimas-Peinado.

"Think about that, this conversation was happening in 1924, psychotherapy wasn't even really heard of. It was still in its infancy and there was a tremendous amount of stigma around mental health. I mean you just did not talk about mental health."

She shared back then that the community the clinic served was predominantly White with affluent to middle class patients. Over time, the demographics would change with the community becoming predominantly African American in the 1960s and later on, a growing Latino community. People of color

were ignored when it came to mental health but according to Dimas-Peinado, one doctor changed that.

"We had one of the first African American psychiatrists and his name was Dr. Quinton James. He was a resident, and he was doing some research and at that time, the Black and Latino community that were experiencing mental health conditions were often hospitalized and medicated," said Dimas-Peinado.

She continued, "Dr. James did many demonstrations and multiple meetings to help change that mindset and actually had children and families that had participated in psychotherapy sessions and had progressed in processing trauma, healing from their trauma and being able to function successfully from any of the emotional difficulties or the trauma they may have been experiencing at that time because they benefited from psychotherapy."

Dimas-Peinado shared that Wellnest L.A. has

stood the test of time and is still doing the same in addressing mental health issues today.

"Mental health knows no boundaries, it does not discriminate, anyone can be impacted by it at any age, any gender, any socioeconomic level," said Dimas-Peinado.

Wellnest L.A. stayed in the community, committed to serving the population when other mental health agencies moved on to other areas. Reflecting on their upcoming centennial celebration, Dimas-Peinado shared that nothing is changing at Wellnest L.A. She said the organization is still about making sure youth receive the help and counseling they need.

"We will continue to provide the most current and relevant research, evidence-based practice models available out there, meeting the current needs of our children and families and that we will continue to ensure that all of our services are culturally sensitive and competent and that we will not turn

any child away," said Dimas-Peinado.

Since joining Wellnest L.A., she said that the operating budget has doubled, and the agency is serving more children. The organization has also expanded their geographic footprint into Downtown and East Los Angeles. They've also expanded their core services to include housing for transition age youth, ages 18 to 25.

"We're housing them because we believe they have promise," said Dimas-Peinado. "We're going to meet a fundamental need and that's housing and then, from there, we're going to wrap around all of these supportive services that they need."

She added they have a third interim housing project on the horizon for transition age youth. Dimas-Peinado is very grateful to the partners, community and more for standing with Wellnest L.A.

"I want to say thank you to our community for always being there to sup-

port us, to provide your guidance, to provide your feedback," said Dimas-Peinado.

"To our donors, the philanthropists, all of our leaders, our community leaders, our business partners, the private foundations that have been there for a century supporting us financially, helping us to ensure that we were providing those critically needed services when they were needed the most."

She continued, "This is a call to action due to the growing need for mental health services and housing. The need for mental health services continues to grow exponentially and we all know that, but even more so for young people."

"We have so much more work to do so let's continue to ensure that our children are safe, our children are healthy, and our communities are coming together to embrace them, nurture them and be there for them every single day."

For more information on Wellnest Los Angeles, visit [www.wellnestla.org](http://www.wellnestla.org).

## CAPRI MADDOX {Continued from A-1}

department's mission to strengthen diversity, equity, and accountability within the city.

In an exclusive one-on-one interview with the Los Angeles Sentinel, Maddox emphasized the ongoing challenges faced by Black Angelenos.

"So I want us to be intentional to know that it is still a problem," she said. "For example, many people are still dealing with the impacts of redlining. There are people right now in the city of Los Angeles paying more for their mortgages and taxes than their White Caucasian counterparts because of the color of their skin."

Maddox elaborated on the historical context of these issues: "Racial covenants kept African Americans from purchasing homes in certain geographic areas, and the impacts of those past laws are hurting people today who may have moved into these areas only in recent decades. Their generational wealth has been altered because of it."

She also addressed the broader implications of systemic inequality, stating, "African Americans continue to suffer in many spaces, from education to employment to environmental hazards. I've come

to appreciate the need for reparations not just as a concept, but as necessary restitution for injustices."

Reflecting on her perspective, Maddox noted, "As a former prosecutor, I see reparations as a form of justice. Imagine if everyone in your community who looks like you did not have access to jobs, education, or the ability to move freely."

"If that happened today, it would be a crisis. Now, multiply that by 16 generations and consider the cumulative impact of such deprivation. It's a significant harm."

Maddox underscored the resilience of the Black community despite these challenges: "Even with the adversity faced, the contributions to culture and society are profound. For example, the success of Black athletes in the Olympics highlights the immense potential that could have been realized had systemic racism not been a barrier."

The report also addressed ongoing challenges faced by Black Angelenos, including significant housing instability, low homeownership rates, and educational disparities. It highlights that Black individuals constitute 35% of the unhoused



Capri Maddox

population in Los Angeles and experience the lowest homeownership rates in the county. Additionally, less than 75% of Black students graduate high school compared to approximately 87% of their white counterparts.

Maddox expressed gratitude for the leadership and collaboration with county and city partners, including L.A. County's Human Relations Commission.

"One of our Human

Relations Commissioners, Pierre Arreola, is the vice chair of the L.A. City Human Relations Commission," she said.

"The hate crime prevention work is just a part of what we do. We want to be intentional about celebrating everyone's culture and fighting hate discrimination on all fronts."

The event also acknowledged the efforts of city leaders to address historical wrongs. Notably, \$8.5 million has

been allocated for community-based projects through L.A. REPAIR, the City's first Participatory Budgeting Pilot Program, which focuses on neighborhoods affected by redlining and high COVID-19 mortality rates.

Maddox expressed gratitude to key figures such as Mayor Karen Bass, City Council President Pro Tempore Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and Councilmembers Curran Price and Heather

Hutt, as well as the Reparations Advisory Commission and L.A. Civil Rights staff.

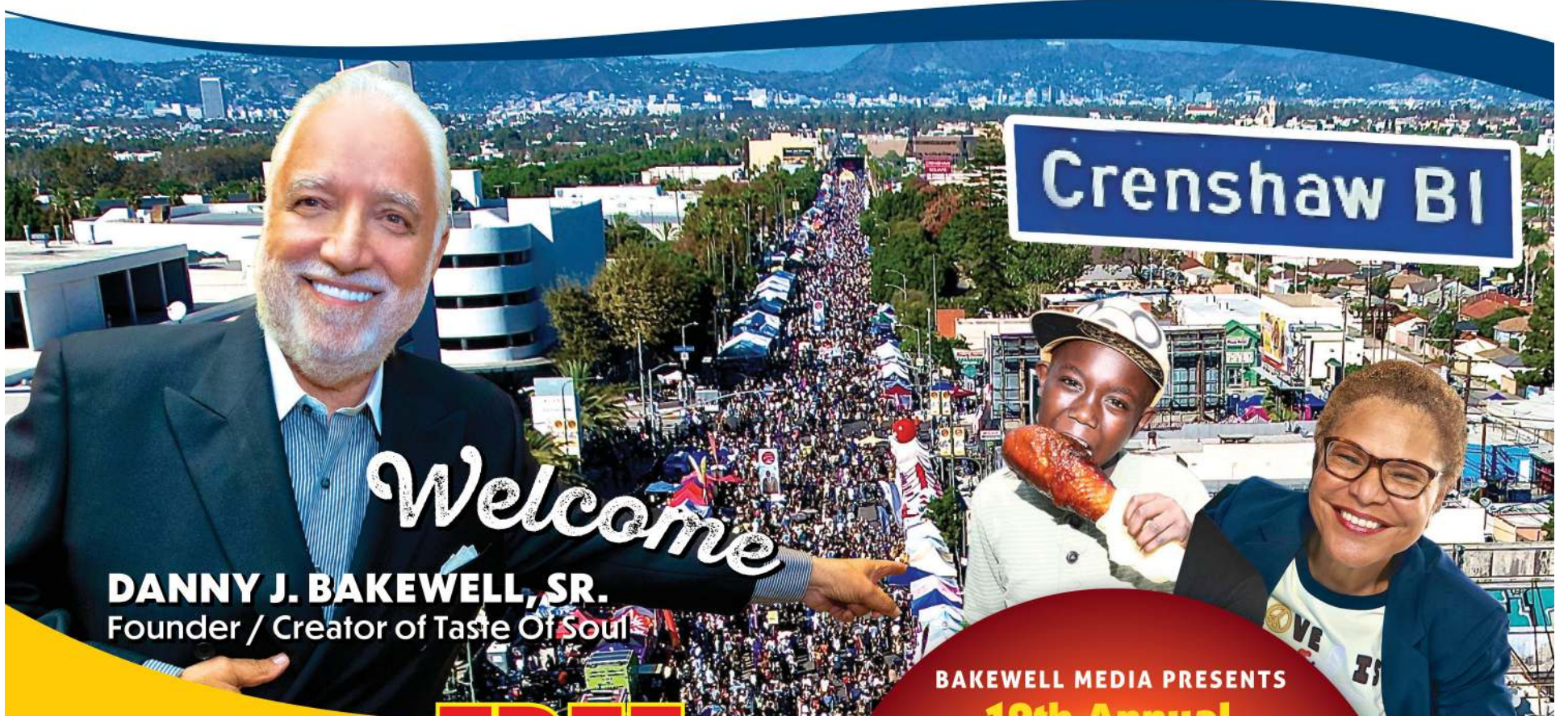
"This study would not have been possible without their unwavering commitment," she said.

The public attended the event to learn about the report's findings and the ongoing impact of the Black experience in Los Angeles. The unveiling of this report marks a crucial step in addressing past injustices and working towards a more equitable future for the city.

To read the Executive Summary of the Reparations Advisory Commission's report, visit <https://civilandhumanrights.lacity.gov/press-releases/reparations-report-executive-summary>.

This resource was supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library via California Black Media as part of the Stop the Hate program. The program is supported by partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org/>

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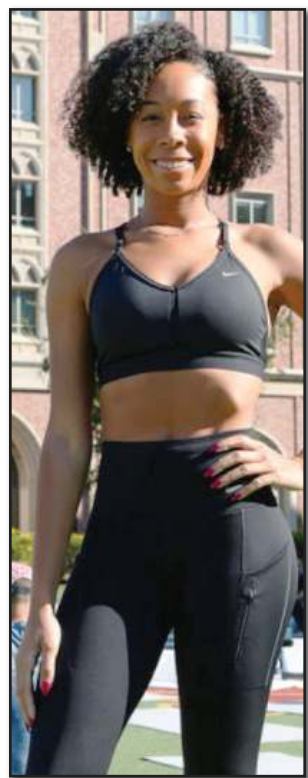
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# Naomi Hutchinson Helps Community Prioritize Self-Care & Wellness with Healthy+Well

By SIMONE GRANT  
Contributing Writer

Born in Louisville, Kentucky and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Naomi Hutchinson had a vibrant



COURTESY PHOTO

*Healthy+Well founder Naomi Hutchinson's goal was to share practical ways for the community to improve their health and wellness through diet, exercise, and self-care.*

childhood where she was able to be creative and expressive.

"Outside of school, I

spent my time dancing, cheerleading and hanging out with friends," she recalled.

After high school, she obtained a BFA in Dance from The University of the Arts. Her passion for wellness led her to acquire a holistic health certification from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition as well as certifications in yoga, mindfulness, reiki, plant medicine, and trauma-informed facilitation.

Having worked with Nike, Cigna Healthcare, Tia, California State University and The National Coalition of Black Women to foster well-being for diverse communities, she finds joy in sharing her love for holistic wellness and offering a safe space for her clients to transform by fostering growth and empowerment.

Hutchinson is a Los Angeles-based holistic healer, yoga teacher, reiki healer, and IIN certified holistic health coach who embarked on a personal wellness and healing journey in 2020. She obtained a plethora of valuable information from conducting personal research and aspired to share it with people who looked like her. She utilized books, podcasts, and other digital content to better educate herself.

This journey led her to



ASH GONZALEZ

Attendees are all smiles as they pose at a Healthy+Well event.

creating an Instagram account named Healthy+Well. She would post photos and video content about nutrition, self-care, and mindfulness. In April 2020, she created virtual offerings like donation-based Instagram Live Yoga classes and ebooks. Now, four years later, she leads personalized wellness services for those on a journey to better health.

After spending some

time hosting classes virtually, Hutchinson hosted yoga events on the rooftop of her apartment building. Her classes are thriving immensely and are filled with individuals who share similar goals - to live a healthier lifestyle.

Her experiential wellness activations, such as Rooftop Yoga Classes and Luxury Retreats, are a great way for people to focus on themselves, but also connect with like-minded individuals and build a sense of community.

Out of the many who have benefited from attending one of her classes, she recalls a community member named Fatima as one client of hers who stands out immediately. She is a long-time supporter of Healthy+Well, who is also a fellow wellness practitioner. Hutchinson provided the Sentinel with direct feedback from Fatima.

"I haven't attended a yoga class since before the pandemic. Healthy & Well Rooftop Yoga with Naomi was an amazingly sacred invitation back home to myself. Her style of teaching, knowledge, and compassion are exactly what I needed to jump back into practice," said Fatima.

"My body re-membered, my soul said 'yes,' and my heart expanded with so much love. I'm back to myself again! Thank you, Naomi and The Healthy & Well Team, for the amazing work that you are putting out into the world! It matters. I AM... So incredibly grateful."

Healthy+Well yoga classes are themed. During one class, you might be listening to the sounds of R&B singers Sza and Kehlani. Another class might be candlelit yoga with a sound bath. It varies, but this is what makes her classes

unique. When asked what the inspiration was for hosting themed classes, she said she finds her inspiration through her personal yoga practice and life experiences.

"For example, I came up with the Rooftop Yoga Veruz class concept because of my love of music and also the cultural influence of the Veruz battles which happened during the pandemic," she explained.

"I thought why not combine the Veruz concept with Yoga in order to reach my desired audience of people of color and inspire well-being."

Her classes and events generally happen in North Hollywood and West Hollywood.

For more information on Healthy+Well, visit <https://www.healthyandwell.la/online/>.

Follow on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/healthyandwell.la/>

## Compton High Plans 21st Annual Alumni Family Reunion

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Compton High School Alumni Association (CHSAA) and the Compton Unified School District Governing Board of Trustees will host the 21st Annual Alumni Family Reunion on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Benjamin O. Davis Middle School, located at 621 W. Poplar in Compton.

"All Compton High alumni and the community are invited to bring their families and have a fun-filled day mingling with your Tarbabe family and the community. Bring your own canopies, chairs, tents, food, and bev-

erages," said a spokesperson.

"Please note that alcohol



COURTESY PHOTO

raise funds for scholarships and other alumni association projects. The class which raises the most money that day will have its name added to a perpetual plaque.

The Compton High School Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit the website [www.ComptonHigh-Alumni.org](http://www.ComptonHigh-Alumni.org) or send your donation via

Zelle to [ComptonHigh-Alumni@gmail.com](mailto:ComptonHigh-Alumni@gmail.com).

To learn more, call Jerry Rising, event chair, at (310) 710-1122 or Elizabeth Atkinson at (310) 489-7985.

and smoking are prohibited. You are also encouraged to purchase merchandise from the CHSAA and other vendors."

A "Clash of the Classes" contest is planned to

## Morningside High Alumni Raise Funds For Last Graduating Class

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

With the closure of Morningside High School in Inglewood set for June 2025, the Morningside Monarch Alumni Association (MMAA) is raising funds to sponsor all activities for the 120 seniors in the class of 2025, which will be Morningside's last graduating class.

According to alumni officials, the goal is to raise \$117,600 to present each senior with gifts valued at \$980. The gifts will include one prom ticket, one grad bash ticket, one senior breakfast ticket, one senior outing ticket, one



COURTESY PHOTO

the support of all MHS alumni and the community at-large to help us reach our goal of \$117,600 by donating and/or sponsoring a senior," said Valerie Lathern, MMAA board member.

"The MMAA has created a go fund me account to accept donations: <https://gofund.me/81d20efe> No donation is too big or too small." Lathern added that the Morningside Monarch Alumni Association is a 401c organization and all donations rare tax deductible.

For more information, e-mail [localorie@prodigy.net](mailto:localorie@prodigy.net).

yearbook, one class t-shirt, and one class hoodie. All remaining funds will be used to provide other benefits throughout the school year.

"With such a big endeavor, we are seeking

## Simon Burris: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

### FAMOUS FIRSTS: BLACK ICONS

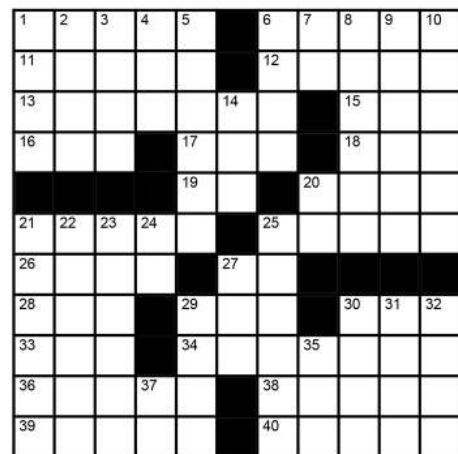
[www.simonburris700.com](http://www.simonburris700.com)

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- \*\*Icons Owens or Jackson
- \*\*Malcolm X's Nebraska birthplace
- \*Singer Baker or Attorney Hill
- Wandering
- EXO \_\_ (Bible book)
- Chemical suffix
- The \_\_ of the Covenant (Deut. 10:3)
- ADJU \_\_ (supplement)
- Concerning
- \*\*Iconic gospel singer Winans
- Removes water
- \*\*Los Angeles' Karen Bass, for example
- Richland, Nebraska, for short
- \*TY \_\_ Banks (famed Supermodel)
- H \_\_ OG (ballpark snack)
- \* \_\_ Jordan
- "A Nightmare on \_\_ Street"
- AKRON, \_\_ O
- \*\*Honorable Chisholm first elected Black U.S. Congresswoman (1969)
- New Hampshire city
- \*Famed dancer/actress Debbie
- \*\*A First Daughter Obama
- 'Nowhere \_\_ solution'

#### Down

- \*\*"Beloved" Nobelist author Morrison
- \*\*S \_\_ E Biles Olympics champion
- Contest
- Enid Hockey Assn., briefly
- Detection devices
- \*\*First Black heavyweight boxer Johnson (1908)
- Letter N



- \*\*Oscar's first Black Best Actor Poitier
- Building material
- Spring holiday
- Anger
- WA, OR, \_\_, NV
- \*\*First Black Pulitzer Prize author
- \*\*Tennis champion Gibson
- \*West \_\_, Jamaica's locale
- \* \_\_ Bron James
- \*\*First Black singer at Metropolitan Opera House Anderson (NYC, 1955)
- \*\* \_\_ ANNA (Barbadian singer)
- Fishing, perhaps
- \*\*First Black Grammy Award winner Fitzgerald (1949)
- Stare
- Girl's name
- SCA \_\_ T (deep red)
- ORTH \_\_OLLYWOOD

(ANSWERS ON D-2)

# Tuskegee Airman Jerry T. Hodges Receives Gift of Jazz for his 99th Birthday

BY LYNDA "SUNNYE" SIMPSON  
 Contributing Writer

"I love Jazz," Jerry T. Hodges, Jr. said, with a smile in his voice, when reacting to Jim Nygaard's and Sunnye Simpson's idea to be the guest of honor at a jazz concert for his 99th birthday.



COURTESY PHOTO  
 Jerry Hodges



A vintage photo of Tuskegee Airmen courtesy of Jack Morris III.

Jerry T., a documented original Tuskegee Airman pilot, CPA, and member of fraternity Omega Psi Phi, turned 99 years old on June 29. By all accounts, he is a man for all seasons - academic, military, professional, and cultural.

Life for Mr. Hodges began in Memphis Tennessee on June 29, 1925. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Heth (St. Francis County) Arkansas where Jerry T. grew up being a farm boy, excelling in school, graduating as high school valedictorian in 1943, matriculating at Hampton Institute and

along the way developing a deep and growing interest in aviation.

A passion took hold and moved him to enlist in the Army Air Corps, completing basic training at Kessler Field in Biloxi Mississippi in 1944. Afterwards he entered rigorous and intensive pilot training at Tuskegee Army Airfield and earned those much-coveted silver wings of an Army pilot in September 1945.

While still at Tuskegee, he served in various positions until June 1946. When

discharged, Jerry left the red clay of Alabama for the sunshine of Southern California. He enrolled in the Uni-



COURTESY PHOTO  
 Tuskegee Airman Jerry Hodges

versity of Southern California where he earned a BSE degree in accounting and finance, and later received his license as a certified public accountant.

Following a career in accounting - including a position as vice president in an African American owned insurance company - he opened his own accounting business with several employees.

Induction into the Arkansas Black Hall of fame in 2012 for his achievements was a great honor for Jerry T. Other

commendations followed including one from his fraternity of more than 75 years, Omega Psi Phi. In 2018, he received an award from the "Qs" saluting his continuous service and that acknowledgement still gives him joy.

Since Jerry T. loves listening to jazz, attending jazz concerts, and supporting the arts around Los Angeles, it was a no-brainer when Jim Nygaard, chapter ambassador for the Los Angeles Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc., suggested to his fellow chapter

member, what better way to honor Jerry T. than with a private performance by a living jazz legend.

The idea took flight and Jerry agreed. Daryl Darden performed on Saturday, Aug. 24, for Jerry T. Hodges.

"I am honored to be performing for this great gentleman and American hero" said Darden, a celebrated guitarist and vocalist.

"This is going to be one of those events that can only happen once. I'm very proud to have played a small part," said Nygaard.

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# RELIGION

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B-3

## Dr. Kathye Jenkins Moves Higher in her Walk with Christ

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT  
Religion Editor

Friends and family celebrated as Kathye D. Jenkins, First Lady of Abundant Grace Bible Church in Compton, received her Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Organizational Leadership. The degree was conferred by New-

burg Theological Seminary and Newburg College of the Bible on June 12.

The spirit of rejoicing continued Saturday, August 10, with a hooding ceremony Abundant Grace conducted by her son and pastor, Bishop Michael Jenkins. Other program participants were her husband, the Rev. Dr. James

Jenkins Sr.; her son, Dr. James Jenkins, Jr.; and Mrs. Michelle Jones, president of the Gardena Valley & Vicinity Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows Sisterhood Connection.

"I'm always seeking opportunities to strengthen and grow in my relationship with the Lord. Obtaining this degree helps me

move closer to fulfilling that goal," said Dr. Kathye, who also holds a Master of Public Health Degree.

Active in the L.A.-area faith community for several years, Dr. Kathye has aided many local pastors in launching wellness ministries in their churches. Emphasizing that philosophy, her dissertation was titled, "You Should Be A Witness To Fitness."

"My focus is on educating faith leaders in bringing about health and wellness education by utilizing their influence in changing mind-sets on health matters,"

health entities.

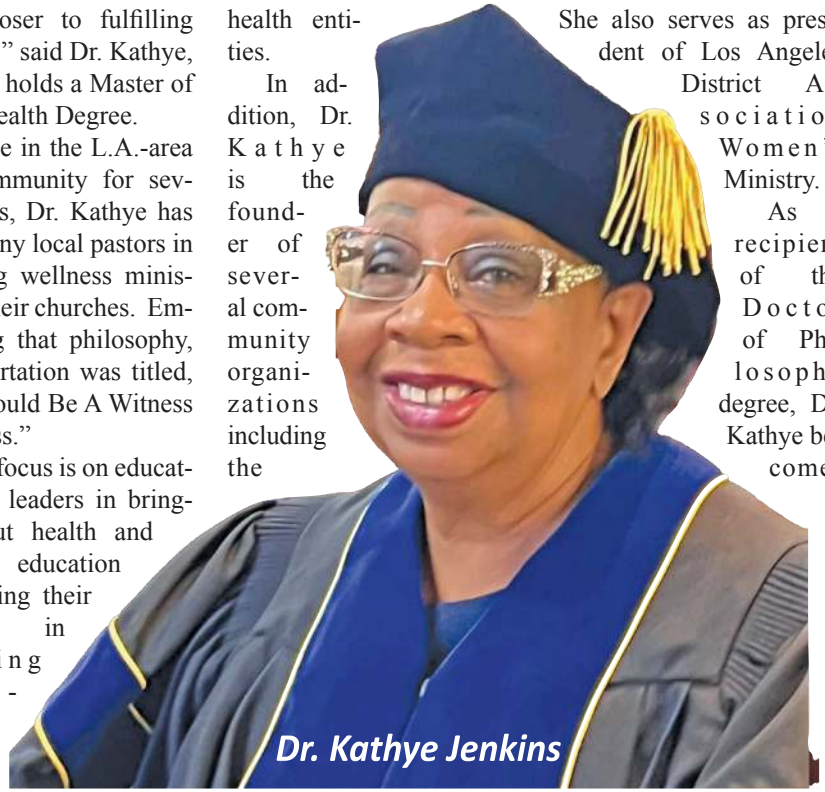
In addition, Dr. Kathye is the founder of several community organizations including the

She also serves as president of Los Angeles District Association Women's Ministry.

As a recipient of the Doctor of Philosophy degree, Dr. Kathye becomes



The Jenkins family of doctorate degree holders are, from left, Bishop Michael Jenkins, PhD, Dr. Kathye Jenkins, Rev. Dr. James Jenkins, Sr., and Dr. James Jenkins, Jr.



Dr. Kathye Jenkins

COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Kathye insisted. As a health education advocate, she works closely with the City of Hope, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, and other

Gardena Valley & Vicinity Ministers' Wives & Ministers' Widows Sisterhood Connection, their nonprofit outreach Cynthia Perry Ray Foundation, and the CPRF Witness2Fitness Health and Wellness Awareness.

the fourth member of the Jenkins family to hold an earned doctorate. Both Bishop Michael and Dr. James Sr., are graduates of Liberty University while Dr. James Jr. received his degree from UCLA.

## Voices of Faith at Speak Out at Democratic National Convention

By JEFF BRUMLEY  
Baptist News Global

Interfaith Alliance President Paul Raushenbush spent much of his time at the Democratic National Convention canvassing activists, clergy and politicians on the intersection of religion, culture and politics leading up to the 2024 election and beyond.

He also attended Promise 2025, an Aug. 21 meet-up of faith leaders focused on providing positive visions to counter Project 2025, the Christian nationalist blueprint for ending democracy and the federal government.

"It was about what religious and spiritual people say about the future and about how faith leaders can contribute to creating an inclusive vision for the future in our country," he said on the "State of Belief" podcast. "It was not connected to a political party. It was just a group of people with a shared hunger to talk about this moment and the future of our democracy."

It was clear to him from encounters in and around the DNC that religion is of major importance to many Democrats

and often serves as the inspiration for the legislation and policies they support, Raushenbush added.

To drive that point home, Raushenbush conducted brief interviews with several members of Congress and ministry and nonprofit leaders on the state of the nation and the part faith can play in reviving and protecting democracy.

He included those conversations in "Change-makers at the DNC," the latest episode in his podcast series. Excerpts from some of those interviews are presented here.

**Michael Eric Dyson**, professor of African American and diaspora studies at Vanderbilt University and professor of ethics and society at Vanderbilt Divinity School, urged Americans to see the good along with the bad heading into November.

"It's like Charles Dickens. It's the best of times. It's the worst of times. It's the best of times because that moral arc is real, as Dr. King used to like to quote, the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. ... And it's good to remember that as



Michael Eric Dyson

EBONY MAGAZINE

bad as times are now, they have been equally bad, if not worse, across the board.

"And for me, white supremacy is a dry run for fascism. So, the issues that we are confronting now have been prefigured in denying Black people the right to vote and denying African American people full citizenship in denying a standing in the open society, in imposing Jim Crow laws upon us. These are the remnants of a fascist element in a fascist state that is now being unleashed on broad varieties of American citizens. ...

"We have to make certain the choice of freedom is something we embrace. And it is a spiritual question. I like to say religion binds us together, spirituality makes religion be-



U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett

WIKIPEDIA

have. We need spirituality because spirituality connects me to a cosmos, a companion who may not share my religious belief, but we are spiritual heirs of a common legacy of democracy, of truth, of justice. And that allows us as compatriots along this way to link arms even beyond our religious differences, to have a spiritual connection to the next human being."

**U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett**, a Democrat from Texas, said people of faith have to stand up against Christian nationalism.

"It's important we stop the co-opting of Christianity because so much of this is being done in the name of Jesus. This has to be the same Jesus that they used to justify slavery back in the day. And so, if we don't come out and start talking about what Jesus' love really is and what it looks like even in the form of policy, then I think that we will lose that war. ...

"When we start talking about things I do as it relates to the farm bill and making sure people have food to eat in the form of SNAP benefits, that's what real love and real Christianity looks like. It looks like looking out for all of us."

**Democratic U.S. Rep. Becca Balint**, the first woman and openly gay person to represent Vermont in Congress, lamented the current state of conservatism on Capitol Hill.

"The Republican Party that used to stand for ideals around the economy, ideals around how we organize ourselves as citizens, has just become a party of grievance and hatred. It speaks to a deep lack of spirituality because I am always thinking about the light in the other person regardless of political party, regardless of background."

**Katherine Stewart**, author of "The Power Worshippers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism," offered a tutorial on Christian nationalism.

"Christian nationalism is not Christianity, it's not a religion, and it's not just about a few culture war issues at the margins. It is both an anti-democratic ideology — the idea that America was founded as a Christian nation according a very particular and reactionary idea of Christianity.

"The ideology is really a tool for a leadership-driven machine that turns that story into political power. So, it's exploitation of religion for politics and power. ...

"We're seeing an alliance between the old Religious Right and what we call the new right. A lot of the key thinkers of the new right — of which JD Vance is a product — their core values are not necessarily religious values. They just see the utility of religious nationalism and Christian nationalism in drawing what they would think of as a lot of people to their side.

**Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Bock**, Washington director of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, urged people of faith to move beyond the politics of division by embracing the repeated scriptural commandment not to fear.

"If we fear the divine, then we're not going to be manipulated by the people who try to make us afraid all the time. And that puts us in a place where we can build the multiracial democracy we have never experienced in this country, but constantly dream about. It can help us build a sense of safety for everyone that's not built on carceral systems or police violence but is actually built on a sense of us all being together and in community together.

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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

# Nana Marcus Garvey's Liberating and Uplifting Message: A Covenant and Call to Continuous Struggle

In his clear and compelling call to African peoples to continue the liberation struggle, keep the faith and hold the line, Nana Marcus Mosiah Garvey promises to return after death and bring with him "countless millions" of ancestor soldiers to aid our peoples in achieving victory in "the fight for liberty, freedom and life." And he asked us, as an enduring inspiration, to look for him in the "whirlwind or storm" as a sign of both a covenant and call to struggle.

Measured in the accurate and unfalsified scales of history, Nana Garvey brings a heavy weight and worth in the world in his global pan-African efforts to liberate and uplift African peoples, and his message remains relevant to our current and ongoing struggles. For our essential and enduring struggle is ever to be ourselves and free ourselves, flourish and come into the fullness of ourselves.

Recognizing the world historical importance of Nana Garvey's and his organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association's global reach and work, the UN General Assembly chose August 31st, the day the UNIA declared an international day of celebration of African peoples as the UN International Day of People of African Descent.

This day was established by the UNIA at its 1920 Rights Convention in New York where it also issued the Declaration of Negro Rights, stressing the shared human rights and common goods justly and equitably shared by all and especially the right of all peoples to self-determination, self-representation, freedom and justice.

His continuing concerns are African dignity, rights and the redemption of African people, a concept with spiritual, psychological and political implications, including meanings of reclaiming, recovering and rebuilding ourselves and our culture and history, saving and liberating ourselves, developing ourselves and

ultimately flourishing and coming into the fullness of ourselves. He holds that acquisition of knowledge of self and the world is a practice of freedom.

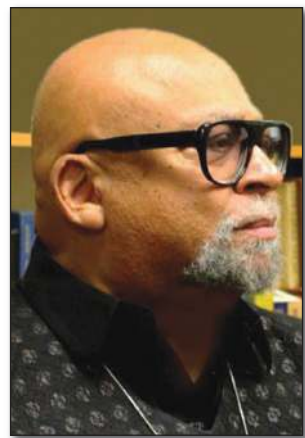
Using the concept of emancipation as a synonym of freedom, he urges us to free the African mind from its negative European accretions, saying, "We are going to emancipate ourselves from mental slavery because whilst others might free the body, none but ourselves can free the mind." Indeed, this self-emancipation of the mind is critical because "The man who is not able to develop and use his mind is bound to be the slave of the other man who uses his mind."

This is an affirmation that in order to truly free ourselves we must not only free our bodies, but also our minds. One of Nana Garvey's most illustrious students, Nana Haji Malcolm X, reaffirms this essential understanding, saying that "we must recapture our heritage and our identity if we are to ever liberate ourselves from the bonds of white supremacy. We must launch a cultural revolution to unbrainwash an entire people." And this contention concerning freeing the mind is also reaffirmed in Nana Frantz Fanon's statement that the liberation struggle is to achieve "not only the disappearance of colonialism, but also the disappearance of the colonized person."

In his "Dissertation on Man," Garvey defined the human person in terms of their capacity for self-formation and self-determination. He states, "Man is the individual who is able to shape his own character, master his own will, direct his own life and shape his own ends." It is a strong sense of agency reflected in ancient African texts and modern Afrocentric thought such as Molefi Asante's Afrocentricity, with its stress on agency, victorious consciousness and audacious initiative in the world.

Nana Garvey is ever insistent that it is we, our-

elves, who must wage and win the victorious struggle for liberation. Thus, he repeatedly in one form or the other tells us "If you want liberation, you, yourselves,



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

must strike the blow. If you must be free, you must become so through your own efforts." It is a restatement and reaffirmation of Nana Frederick Douglass' counsel to the enslaved and oppressed Black people all, during the Civil War. He said, those "who would be free themselves must strike the blow."

Kawaida philosophy, building on these teachings, asserts that "We are our own liberators and no matter how sincere or numerous our allies are, those who would be free must strike the first, the final and decisive blow."

Nana Garvey also stresses the need for Black people to be self-authorizing, self-legitimizing and self-determining. He believes in the unquestionable equality of

human beings and argues that whatever rights any human beings have are also the rights of others. It is we, he taught, who must decide who is worthy among us of sainthood, to be considered a martyr for the struggle and any other positions of honor and elevated respect. Thus, he says, "we must canonize our own saints, create our own martyrs and elevate to positions of honor Black men and women who have made their distinct contributions to our racial history."

He foregrounds Nana Sojourner Truth as a saint; Nana Crispus Attucks for being the first to die in the cause of America independence and Nana George William Gordon, a Jamaican radical rebel, executed without due process for resisting British colonialism, as a martyr equal in status and stature to any other martyrs in the world. And he cites Nana Toussaint L'Ouverture, one of the leaders of the Haitian Revolution, as a brilliant "soldier and statesman" of the highest level.

He wants us to "see good and perfection in ourselves." Here he agrees with Nana Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and others in terms of our past achievements and the richness of our contribution to world civilization. Dr. Bethune states that "We are custodians as well as heirs of a great civilization. We have given some-

thing to the world as a race, and for this we are proud and fully conscious of our place in the total picture of mankind's development."

This great civilizational legacy position is expressed in Nana Garvey's contention that "the world is indebted to us for the benefits of civilization." He asserts that many modern achievements are "duplicates of a grander civilization that we reflected thousands of years ago, without the advantage of what is buried and still hidden."

Here he argues that there is a great treasure of knowledge and know-how in various disciplines that remains undiscovered and that can add to the further development of humankind and human society, if we practice sankofa, reaching back and retrieving the best of our achievements and posing them as fruitful options for initiatives in our time.

The aim, then, is not simply to recover historical memory and culture, but to revive that history and culture of excellence and achievement to initiate "a return to it in the rebuilding of Africa." And here, we speak not only rebuilding the Continent of Africa, but also the liberation and upliftment of the entire world African community in every part of the world.

Finally, Nana Garvey reaffirms the critical impor-

tance of the liberational project. He says, "We declare to the world Africa must be free, that the entire [Black] race must be emancipated..." from all constraints and restrictions on full human freedom. Like Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah, another of his illustrious students, would also argue later, he wanted Africa liberated to be a self-conscious force for good in the world.

Thus, he asserts that, as in ancient times, "Africa has still its lessons to teach the world. We will teach man the way to life and peace, not by ignoring the rights of our brother, but by giving to everyone his due." Indeed, "The hand of justice, freedom and liberty shall be extended to all mankind," ever mindful that "there can be no peace without equity and justice to all mankind." Clearly this is a critical and compelling lesson and moral imperative for our times.

*Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Introduction to Black Studies, 4th Edition, www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.*

• REGINA WILSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA •

## California's Historic Partnership to Save Journalism Creates a Critical Way Forward for News Publishers

Last week, California arrived at a turning point in the decades-long quest to find a solution to the news crisis in our state.

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland) brokered a deal that promises to change the future of news in our state. This isn't just another plan -- it's a unique collaboration that brings together the State of California, news publishers and tech companies, to give our newsrooms the financial support they desperately need.

It also includes the launching of a new National AI Accelerator to explore how artificial intelligence can help journalism thrive in today's digital world.

This partnership couldn't come at a more critical time. Local journalism is on life support across our state. Across the country, news outlets are shrinking or shutting down at an alarming rate, leaving communities without vital information. A recent study from Northwestern University found that two and a half newspapers in the U.S. close every week. Since 2005, we've lost two-thirds of our newspaper journalists. In California alone, over 100 newspapers have disappeared in the last decade.

Assemblymember Wicks, along with the state and other key players, have come up with a pragmatic way to address this crisis. They've created an agreement to revive local journalism in California by using tech industry and public resources -- without raising taxes on Californians.

Over the next five years, more than \$250 million in public and private funding will go to California's newsrooms, especially small, local, and community-focused outlets. The plan is to invest \$100 million in the first year to get things started. This money will help hire hundreds of new journalists, strengthen existing newsrooms, and rebuild a strong press corps across our state.

This isn't just about saving what's left. It's about creating a future where journalism can be strengthened enough to resume its critical roles as interpreter of current events; watchdog of developments in business and public policy; and reliable source of news and information.

At the center of this initiative is the News Transformation Fund that will be managed by the UC Berkeley School of Journalism. This fund will provide financial support to California-based journalism, with help from both the tech sector and the state. The focus is on helping news organizations fill the gaps in local news deserts, serve underrepresented communities, and prioritize California coverage. Small, independent publishers -- the ones closest to their communities and most in need.

As the Executive Director of California Black Media, I can't stress enough how important this initiative is for ethnic and community media outlets. We've always been the trusted voices for historically underrepresented communities, providing news and information that larger outlets often overlook or under-explore. But many of our outlets are struggling to survive, often relying on just a few dedicated people to

keep going.

This new partnership recognizes the crucial role of



Regina Wilson

ethnic media in California's diverse landscape. It offers immediate and much-needed help, allowing our newsrooms to adapt to a changing media world, embrace new technologies, and continue our important work. For many of us, this funding could mean the difference between staying open and closing down.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's support for this initiative, along with his backing of AB 1511, authored by Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles), demonstrates the administration's strong commitment to local and underrepresented media. AB 1511 seeks to increase the state's investment in marketing, advertising, and outreach dollars directed specifically to our local communi-

ty news providers.

It's important to note that this partnership is just the beginning. As Assemblymember Wicks said, this effort is about laying the foundation for a free and vibrant press in California. The National AI Accelerator will provide even more resources to explore how AI can help solve some of the toughest challenges facing journalism and society.

This isn't just about money. It's about reaffirming the essential role that journalism plays in our democracy. It's about making sure all Californians have access to reliable and trustworthy news, no matter where they live or what language they speak. It's about empowering local news outlets to keep telling the stories that matter most to their communities.

As we move forward, I encourage all stakeholders -- publishers, journalists, community leaders, and policymakers -- to come together and make the most of this opportunity. The future of California's media landscape is at a crossroads, and with the right support, we can ensure it is incrementally funded to become more diverse, dynamic, and democratic.

*Regina Wilson is the Executive Director of California Black Media.*

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**JOY AND UNITY**      **HATE AND DIVISION**

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*Coach*  
**Wendy**

Life Strategist / Consultant  
Author / Speaker

**Her Empathy is Her Strength**

I am blessed to say that within a few days, I will be turning 63 years old. I am grateful for the opportunity to not only live another year, but also have the honor and privilege to sow into the lives of others regularly. As we grow older, we begin to think about our lives and our contributions, and we wonder if they made a difference.

Sometimes the things we do in life can be hard to measure by man's standards

as they relate to success or being significant, but when we look at what we do from the perspective of God's eyes, if we are helping others and trying to add something positive by showing compassion, kindness, forgiveness, and empathy, it truly is making a positive difference.

Recently, during the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, I was moved by many of the speakers. One phrase that



stood out to me was when the First Gentleman, Doug Emhoff, spoke about his wife, Vice President Kamala Harris. He mentioned that sometimes she can be misunderstood because of her big, beautiful smile and laugh, but he highlighted that her empathy is her strength. When he said that statement it resonated with me deeply because that is truly how I have tried to live my life.

Empathy is described as the ability to understand and share the feelings of others,

which is different from the emotion of being sympathetic. Empathy involves recognizing emotions in someone else, imagining how they might feel, and responding with care and consideration.

It is said that sympathy is when you care, but empathy goes one step further by having the ability to feel what the other person is going through. Extending empathy can play a crucial role in authentically building strong relationships with people and opening doors of communication and understanding.

On the other hand, strength is about endurance, resilience, and the ability to handle difficult situations. When you possess a quiet strength, it can be incredibly powerful because people often underestimate you and your capabilities. Strength can come in various forms, including physical, mental, emotional, and moral, but in this context, I am specifical-

ly referring to inner strength. Inner strength is a combination of mental and emotional durability.

This type of strength allows an individual to face life's challenges with confidence and grace. People with this kind of strength believe in themselves and others, and they never give up. Being empathetic and extending attributes such as kindness and forgiveness can get exhausting when we do not feel valued or appreciated, but Galatians 6:9 in the Bible reminds us, "Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

During this political season, there has been a lot of turmoil and fighting among friends, family, and neighbors about who is the better candidate, and I feel that some people are putting not only a particular party before our country, but even an individual before their party and before what is best for America. This is a per-

fect example of where our strength must come in and show empathy towards those who may be lost or confused.

Former President Barack Obama said just like we would have patience if one of our grandparents said something a little off-kilter, well we must extend the same grace (and empathy) towards others that are a little off-kilter right now. We can learn to love our neighbors and people in general who do not look like us, think like us, love like us, speak like us, pray like us, vote like us, or feel like us.

Just love them, no exceptions. This is truly showing your strength through empathy.

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Visit [www.WendyGladney.com](http://www.WendyGladney.com) and [www.forgiving-forgiving.org](http://www.forgiving-forgiving.org) to learn more.

Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker.

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**Seductive Realm of the Seduced Ones**

Although this topic may relate to today's news, similar past events may also be of great interest and benefit. Jesus held audiences within enemy territory. But He had done His homework, and He was not coming up behind through the back door. He was well-prepared and obedient to the way His campaign should go, including how He should answer tough questions.

Those who were against Him gave Him no slack. He was called dirty names ... like a bastard...child of the devil ... blasphemer ... employee of the devil and others. There were numerous confrontations with His enemies, e.g. Pharisees, and

elders. They held starkly different views from His. Although He ushered in a new program, He had the backing of the Father who had already taught Him to only speak and do those things which His heavenly Father had taught Him and had shown Him what to do.

He was divinely prepared for a timed mission set for Him to complete during a precise moment. He did not have to rehearse. He did not try to laugh His way through His mission as the incarnate God or fool everybody into believing He was who He said He was. He proved His position as "The God Man." He was not a fake. He held interviews (or



one might call them question-and-answer periods). He was never shy, afraid, or unprepared. He wasn't going to sit back with no real or hidden agenda. He revealed His agenda and what it was about. He taught, preached, and performed miracles that no one could imitate or compete with.

When He spoke, He spoke with such authority and background of divinity that none could successfully dispute His message. His enemies were bewildered by His actions and refused to believe the miracles He performed right before their eyes. He was accused of casting out demonic spirits

by speaking with such authority that they could not successively deny His power and authority to carry out His mission. At one time, they would say, "What kind of man is this? He raises the dead, walks on water, and commands men's understanding to be opened." What kind of man is this who was raised and walked and talked to those walking on the road to Emmaus and propounded to them the history from eternity of Himself, Moses and the Prophets!

Jesus would dine with "sinners" and "tax collectors." What would he say to them? "It is the sinners who need a physician." They followed Him. Somewhere inside of themselves, they knew they had a need but may not have known what it was, but they knew something was missing and that which was missing was love that only Christ could give them, forgiveness, acceptance...not of their lifestyle but of their acceptance and need of change, which may be a long process. It takes the praying one and the one you are praying for.

Here's the point here: There is a deceiver, a liar with a substantial following who gives orders to disrupt their lives and those of others. Some people need a savior. Jesus is seeking them out; that's the harvest and we are to work for that change. Right now, millions and millions of people are being deceived, seduced by music, orgies, and drawn in by leaders through popular, loud seductive music that takes their minds and twirls it in whatever way it wants until they no longer have control, but swept up into the seduction thinking somebody or something will come and be their "sugar daddy" or "sugar momma" and solve their problems. That only works for a short or shorter while and in their imagination.

Some may say, "Well, they're old enough to know better." Maybe so. But they may know but don't follow. Keep praying. It's going to be over sooner than later. It's not real. The curtain will be pulled back and there is the naked prince with no clothes. The lead-

ers who lead multiple millions of people astray have a greater price to pay and it is great price...a great price.

How do you treat the minds of our young who have been taken away into an imaginary, evil realm? This is the work of the adversary. Resist him. Pray to Jesus Christ for them to return to their true senses and accept Jesus as the true answer.

*Thanks for reading! Jeanette Grattan Parker is the founder-superintendent of Today's Fresh Start Charter School, 4514 Crenshaw Boulevard, L.A. 90043, 323-293-9826, www.todaysfreshstart.org. (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) "Inquiring Minds Want to Know." All articles are copyright. All rights reserved © Errors? Or Questions? Please let me know. Join Sundays for music and message at 11:30 a.m. by calling (712) 775-8971, code 266751. References: The Holy Bible, Matthew 25. Don't stop praying and hoping. "Today is another great day to do good and be successful."*

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La Salle Ave Los Angeles, CA 90018 upstairs Senior Citizens, Section 8 and Veterans welcomed \$2400 Contact Gloria at 213-319-9640 Contact Gloria at 213-319-9640</p> <p>Duplex \$2,575 2bd 1ba Lower unit, 894 sq ft, sec 8, seniors &amp; veterans welcome, freshly painted, new carpet, AC, gated, new windows and doors (soundproof) remodeled kitchen &amp; bath, laundry optional Call John / 310-704-6784</p> <p>2 Bedroom Apartment 4706 1/2 S Van Ness Ave Los Angeles, CA 90062 One Parking Space Sec 8 Welcome Call / (337)303-2290</p> <p>Crenshaw/Slauson 1bedroom/1Bath Updated unit. Laminate Flooring. Nice size!!!! 310-417-8156</p>	<p>SENIOR CITIZEN BACHELOR/ SINGLE APT. Senior citizen Single \Bachelors\ 1 person apartment, very nice apartment No Parking sec 8 ok No Utilities Paid Good credit + references Manchester/near Gramercy (323) 759-0339 \$1050.00/mo. Seniors Building must be 55 year +</p> <p>Apartment for Rent Unfurnished. All appliances included; laundry room on site. 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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24STCP02225
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES

Notice of Hearing: Date: OCT 04, 2024, Time: 10:00AM, Dept.: 86, Room: 836
The address of the court is 111 NORTH HILL STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

1st AMENDED SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 23STLC07045
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Jensen Kumamoto YOU ARE BEING SUE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24STCP02681
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of: Aeron Perry Brown for Change of Name

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24SMCP00376
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
Petition of: ROBERTO ORTIZ for Change of Name

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24TRCP00318
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
Petition of: LYDIA LIU LIU for Change of Name

Public Notices

PERSONS:
Petitioner LYDIA LIU LIU filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
LYDIA LIU LIU to LYDIA NG

Notice of Hearing: Date: October 4, 2024, Time: 08:30 AM, Dept.: M
The address of the court is Torrance Courthouse, 825 Maple Avenue Torrance, CA 90503

1st AMENDED SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 23STLC07045
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): Jensen Kumamoto YOU ARE BEING SUE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24LBCP00221
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
Petition of: MARIA ARACELI TURCIOS for Change of Name

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24SMCP00376
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
Petition of: ROBERTO ORTIZ for Change of Name

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24TRCP00318
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
Petition of: LYDIA LIU LIU for Change of Name

Public Notices

Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Afshin Siman, Esq., Siman Law Firm, 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 118, Los Angeles, CA 90048, 424-229-9778

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24VECP00348
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
Petition of: TIANNA ELISE DONEY for Change of Name

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24LBCP00221
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
Petition of: MARIA ARACELI TURCIOS for Change of Name

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 24LBCP00221
Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES
Petition of: MARIA ARACELI TURCIOS for Change of Name

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SIDEWALK SWEEPERS LLC, 2329 W 76TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90043

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SIDEWALK SWEEPERS LLC, 2329 W 76TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90043

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SIDEWALK SWEEPERS LLC, 2329 W 76TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90043

Public Notices

Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ROSAINZ LANDSCAPE, 18216 ARMINTA ST., RESEDA, CA 91335

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TERRY L. GREEN, 8223 S. NORMANDIE AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90044

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SURRENDERED JEWEL, 5279 SANCHEZ DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
DOROTHY D WILLIAMS, 5279 SANCHEZ DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
VERDANT STRATEGIES LLC, 8383 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 800, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
PLATINUM MF LLC, 8383 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 800, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
RICH TONE MUSIC PUBLISHING, 3129 S. HACIENDA BLVD. STE. 697, HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE GOOD NAIL CLUB, 6330 GREEN VALLEY CIRCLE #315 CULVER CITY, CA 90230

Public Notices

Los Angeles County on 07/26/2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TERRY L. GREEN, 8223 S. NORMANDIE AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90044

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
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THE GOOD NAIL CLUB, 6330 GREEN VALLEY CIRCLE #315 CULVER CITY, CA 90230

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE GOOD NAIL CLUB LLC, 6330 GREEN VALLEY CIRCLE #315 CULVER CITY, CA 90230

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE GOOD NAIL CLUB LLC, 6330 GREEN VALLEY CIRCLE #315 CULVER CITY, CA 90230

Public Notices

exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/ PAUL QUICK, OWNER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/21/2024.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ALFA HEATING AND COOLING, 2 ALFA HOME IMPROVEMENT, 14500 SHERMAN CIRCLE APARTMENT 241, VAN NUYS, CA 91405

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ALFA HOME SERVICES, INC., 14500 SHERMAN CIRCLE APARTMENT 241, VAN NUYS, CA 91405

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
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• TONY WAFFORD •

# Let's Not Make Perfect the Enemy of Good

Now that we, the supporters of Vice President Kamala Harris to become the 47th President of the United States, have gotten through the convention, enjoyed, celebrated all of the pomp and circumstance, and clinging to the promises and platitudes; it's time for us to get to work.

I don't mean just getting negroes off the couch into the voting booth, which is going to be some of that work. We've also got to get out in these streets and talk with some of our brothers and sisters that may feel that they can't commit themselves or their vote until or unless VP Harris makes a public declaration about what her plans are for Black people and what she's going to do to address our issues

and concerns. If any of you reading this article thinks for one minute that as a true test to



Tony Wafford

VP Harris's Blackness is that she needs to host a press conference with the National Association of Black Journalists and layout her Black agenda addressing what she is going to do

specifically for Black people, you're a bigger fool than the Tangerine Queen!

I'm not throwing salt, shade, or questioning anyone's concern for our people or their love for our community. It is good that they (we) ask before and after we vote what's in it for us Black people. What I will also say is this, anyone of us that holds back our vote for VP Harris because we don't have a clear understanding of what we can expect and what we will get on our return on investment before voting for her, you clearly don't understand politics, America or White people.

So where am I going with this? Let's have an adult conversation and not one that is going to be politically correct. I'm

going to have an honest conversation with ya'll and guess what, you may not agree with me, and that's cool but we're going to have it, and just maybe we'll both learn something.

I say without apology that during this election cycle we're going to have to be even more skillful, strategic and selective in our strategy moving forward. We are going to borrow from the Chinese military strategy of "make a sound in the east, then strike in the west," taking advantage of when an opponent is distracted and least expects it.

I would even go so far as to say even more so than we were when we worked our butts off to get President Barack Obama elected. This applies to all of us from

VP Harris down to the brothers and sisters in the community. This time we are going up against not only racism, but sexism inside America, the Republican Party and White people in general. We're going to have to address and deal with the sexism within our own culture and community.

We've got to be honest, Black people. One of the most sexist environments in our community is within the Black church — that is unless or until the pastor decides he wants to make the first lady co-pastor, hoping to keep the money in the family.

I said we were going to have an adult conversation. Let's be honest with ourselves. Am I the only one that knows a few Black

ministers that have been silent when it comes to fighting for women's reproductive rights? And we all know some churches that still won't allow a woman in their pulpits.

Fannie Lou Hamer once said, "Christianity is being concerned about [others], not building a million-dollar church while people are starving right around the corner. Christ was a revolutionary person, out there where it was happening. That's what God is all about, and that's where I get my strength."

We always talk about being Christ like, let's do something revolutionary and elect the first Black/woman to be the president of these United States.

• JULIANNE MALVEAUX, ECONOMIST AND AUTHOR •

# Democrats Have Both Joy and Policy Initiatives

The Democratic National Convention, held August 19-22, was, among other things, an occasion of joy. I've attended every Democratic convention since 1976, and have never experienced such energy, enthusiasm and, yes, exuberance.

People were happy. Happy with Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, the candidates for President and Vice President. Happy for the leadership team at the Democratic Party. Happy for the platform, for the entertainment, for the connections. Happy for the offsite events, organized by affiliate organizations. Just plain happy.

People got it and used the word "joy" in many of the columns and commentary around the convention. Some compared the effervescent joy to a "sugar high" and suggested that it

couldn't last. Others say the joy as "rootless" because, they said, the joy was not matched by policy initiatives. Because VP Harris had not agreed to an unscripted interview before the convention, her detractors posited that she was unable to do such an interview.

New York Times columnist Patrick Healy wrote a snarky column titled, "Joy Is Not a Strategy." Healy says that Harris can't "coast on joy," but she isn't trying to. He says the debates will be her test, and I say she will be time enough for the former President.

Vice President Harris can't expect the rest of the country to come together with the same enthusiasm as we did at the Democratic National Convention. As

the nominee for President, she can expect some shade, some brickbats, and even the outright lies in which the former President is addicted. A columnist like Healy should be honest enough, though, to admit that there were solid policy proposals in the speech he described as "good."

He might have mentioned her notion of an "opportunity economy" or written about her proposal to grant new parents \$6000. He might have delved into the ways she proposes to deal with the housing crisis, including granting \$25,000 for first-time homebuyers. Or he might have written about her foreign policy firmness. She wasn't smiling or laughing when she warned dictators and despots that she would not dally with them.

Healy is right, joy is not a strategy. Joy is icing, a public policy is cake. You can have cake without



Julianne Malveaux

icing, but you can't have icing without cake. The Democratic National Convention showcased the cake that Harris has built through her career — as a prosecutor, District Attorney, Senator and Vice-

President. As a mentor, mother, and aunt. As a fierce advocate for women, and a protector of those who have been abused. That's the cake. The joy is the icing.

The Republicans have their own cake, a mean-spirited cake full of attacks and lies. And if they have any icing it is the bitter vitriol that repulses from the top down. The Democratic cake is solid public policy that helps people, and the icing is a joyful icing, one to be savored. It's the kind of icing that you lick the spoon on, the kind of icing that you might even eat by itself.

But few want icing without cake, without substance. My message to Patrick Healy is fasten your seatbelt and watch the details of the opportunity

economy emerge. What will you write then? Will you stop with the snark?

Patrick Healy isn't the only one. The Wall Street Journal and the right-wing press have been clamoring for details, and Harris has provided some of them. Others have reprised her 2020 Presidential campaign and insisted that she explain her pivot on certain issues. Simple explanation — people evolve; people learn.

The opposite of is despair, misery, sorrow, wretchedness. Coupled with strategy, joy is the blissful delight I observed at the DNC. There was wretched haranguing at the Republican National Convention a month ago. What kind of icing goes with that?

*Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author.*

• JOE W. BOWERS JR., CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA •

# As Harris Makes History, Trump Campaigns to Be Gaslighter-in-Chief

With the Democratic National Convention in Chicago now concluded and Vice President Kamala Harris officially nominated as the party's candidate for President, former President Donald Trump has wasted no time reverting to his usual playbook, peddling division and negativity.

Rather than campaigning on the critical issues facing the country, Trump is trolling anyone he perceives is making fun of him or questioning his competence. In front of his supporters, he openly mocked his advisers who urged him to focus on policy.

Gaslighting, a tactic designed to make people question their reality, has been a constant feature of Trump's political career. Whether downplaying the severity of COVID-19, casting doubt on the legitimacy of the 2020 election, or distorting his administration's achievements, Trump has skillfully used this approach to manipulate public perception in his favor.

While Democrats celebrated Harris's historic nomination and urged the nation to turn the page on Trump, he was in swing states launching personal attacks and spreading misinforma-

tion, reinforcing his image as an "unserious", "weird", and backward-looking candidate out of touch with American values. His appearances were filled with off-the-cuff remarks, unhinged tirades, and humiliating blunders. He ridiculed President Joe Biden's appearance, labeled former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "crazy," called Harris "lazy" and "stupid," and described former President Obama as "nasty."

Trump's gaslighting of Harris goes even deeper, questioning her background and identity, implying that Democrats might not fully understand "where she came from" or her "ideology." This tactic which he's used against other prominent Black leaders, including Obama and women of color in Congress, is designed to paint Harris as an outsider, despite her Oakland roots, her experience being bused to public school, and graduating from Howard University, a historically Black college. His deliberate mispronunciation of her name, a blatant sign of his racism and disrespect, aims to marginalize her as "other."

On Trump's list of jabs at Harris is making fun of her laugh, calling it a "cackle." He ridiculously claimed that

he's "better looking" than her —not realizing he was implying he's also better looking than his wife, Melania, since he had remarked that Harris's Time Magazine cover resembled her.

Trump has tried to label Harris as "Lyn' Kamala" and brand her a "communist," calling her "Comrade Kamala", even suggesting that "Kamala" sounds like "communist" -- a childish play on words that he finds clever.

Ironically, when Trump calls Harris "stupid," he's absurdly trying to demean someone whose parents both earned PhDs, who holds an advanced degree, and is a member of the California State Bar, having passed one of the most challenging exams in the country. Meanwhile, Trump, who lacks an advanced degree, has gone to great lengths to keep his academic records and threatening legal action to prevent their release. By throwing this derogatory label at Harris, Trump is once again projecting his own insecurities onto others, conveniently forgetting that his Secretary of State reportedly called him a "moron."

As Trump campaigns, it's

clear he thinks focusing on division and negativity and not offering constructive



Vice President Kamala Harris joins the crowd in cheering the tenure of President Joe Biden during the Democratic National Convention.

solutions is the way to win the election. There's no message of unity or progress—just a constant barrage of grievances and complaints about the state of the country and how he's being treated.

The barrage of personal attacks Trump's been launching is part of a broader pattern in his strategy, which hinges on the "Big Lie" -- the baseless claim that the 2020 election was stolen from him. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, Trump's repeated falsehoods have deeply influenced many Republicans, damaging their trust in democratic institutions.

As Harris steps into her

role as the Democratic nominee, her campaign offers a hopeful vision for the future



COURTESY PHOTO

and bold solutions to national challenges, standing in stark contrast to Trump's backward approach. For Black Californians, and all voters, the challenge is to assess each candidates' rhetoric, evaluate the information, and make a choice based on the facts.

At their convention, Democrats highlighted Project 2025, the controversial plan from the conservative Heritage Foundation detailing policies Trump is expected to adopt if elected. They exposed its extreme agenda, threatening civil rights, environmental protections, and social programs such as access to reproductive rights. In

response, Trump is denying any connection to the MAGA manifesto mostly written by people from his administration, telling Fox News, "I have nothing to do with Project 2025," and Newsmax, "I have no idea what it is."

As the 2024 election approaches, it's important to critically evaluate the information presented, recognizing Trump's tactics for what they are: an attempt to distort reality and undermine Harris's candidacy, which embodies progress, diversity, and inclusion.

Trump's gaslighting underscores his persistent disregard for the truth and his readiness to exploit fear and prejudice to stay relevant, raising questions about what national leadership role he's really after.

While "Gaslighter-in-Chief" may aptly describe the position Trump is campaigning for, and although he is seeking another higher office, it's essential for the future of the America that he doesn't succeed in achieving this title as well.

*Joe W. Bowers Jr. is a contributing editor to California Black Media. He is a graduate of Stanford University.*

<p><b>Public Notices</b></p> <p>Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or</p>	<p><b>Public Notices</b></p> <p>consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 10/07/24 at 8:30AM</p>	<p><b>Public Notices</b></p> <p>in Dept. 67 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.</p>	<p><b>Public Notices</b></p> <p>IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in</p>	<p><b>Public Notices</b></p> <p>section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in</p>	<p><b>Public Notices</b></p> <p>California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code</p>	<p><b>Public Notices</b></p> <p>section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner RICHARD MARQUESS NEAL JR. 1931 E. 123RD STREET COMPTON CA 90222 8/15, 8/22, 8/29/24 CNS-3843135# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL</p>
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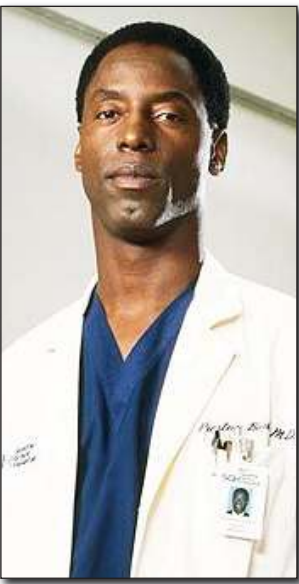
# ENTERTAINMENT

## Isaiah Washington is His Name



BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD  
Contributing Writer

Isaiah Washington stars as Congressman Daryl Smith in his latest film "God Is Not Dead: In God We Trust." The film is about a compelling political hopeful whose platform advocates for "religious freedom" and ignites a national debate. The film will be in theaters on Sept. 12.



Isaiah Washington in "Grey's Anatomy."

Washington is praised for his multi-award-winning performance as Dr. Preston Burke in the Shonda Rhimes ABC drama series "Grey's Anatomy."

Early in his career, Washington gained notoriety for his roles in the Spike Lee films "Get On the Bus," "Crooklyn," "Girl 6," and "Clockers." He also had a pivotal role in the CW science fiction series "The 100."

Texas born and raised, Isaiah Washington is the fourth in a lineage of family members who had the name before him. However, he said the invocation of the name does not come without its own dark history.

"My biological father was not a great father for a number of reasons, but I'm not going to get into that," said Washington.

"He was very abusive – abusive to my mother. She warned him that if he didn't change his ways, there would be some woman who was not going to take it from him."

Washington said after his biological parents divorced, his mother remarried, and his father began a relationship with a woman who would become his common-law wife.

"When she [father's common-law wife] defended herself and murdered him from one of his attacks – I found out about it... on Channel 13 news," said Washington.

"I was a child, and when I heard Isaiah Washington was murdered on Lucky St., which is where I grew up...



Isaiah Washington in "God Is Not Dead: In God We Trust."

I was like, "whoa."

Washington said the event will always be unforgettable, even though he was only 13-years-old when it happened. "I remember my stepfather coming out of the bedroom," said Washington.

"Apparently he already knew, and my body just went numb."

From that day forward, Washington vowed to reclaim his name from the event that led to the tragic death of his father by creating a new and affirmative narrative for the name through his work.

"I said, 'If I ever hear the name Isaiah Washington again in my life, it would be as a famous football player,'" said Washington. "I'm



Isaiah Washington in "The People."

going to make something out of my name. I'm going to make people respect that name."

Washington said it would become ironic that he would later have his own controversies while on the set of "Grey's Anatomy," where Isaiah Washington would become one of the "most hated" names in media – but that is not the focus of the story.

Washington said only God and his faith helped

Daryl Smith is "a really smart character."

"By the time I've reached page ten of a script – if I connect with the character, I've already said, 'yes,' even before I've finished the script," said Washington. "All the things I asked God for came together in one opportunity."

Washington said when it comes to the political landscape of "In God We Trust," Smith is "very fair in a time of unfairness." He said the



Isaiah Washington, right, in "Get On The Bus."

him to overcome those challenging times, and he strives to continue to uplift his name by attaching himself to provocative projects like "God's Not Dead: In God We Trust."

"This my way to speak to the people," said Washington.

Washington described his character in "In God We Trust" as a "great man." Originally introduced in "God's Not Dead: We The People," a previous film in the series, Washington said

only other time he felt this positive about a role he was undertaking was Preston Burke in "Grey's."

"When it's all said and done, that character [Burke] is still iconic," said Washington. "People might say, 'You're comparing Daryl Smith to Dr. Burke?' Absolutely! They're both not me, but to be able to convey the ideals of a writer, and that's not who you are – it resonates with people... that means we did our jobs."

## Debbie Allen Honors Lee Daniels During Remember My Name Ball

BY ANNDRETTA LYLE, PhD  
Contributing Writer

The second annual Remember My Name Ball hosted by Debbie Allen and conceived with Jack Mizrahi and playwright Jordan E. Cooper manifested on August 16, at the Rhimes Performing Arts Center in South L.A. Patrons witnessed legends and emerging icons of Ballroom culture deliver dynamic artistry on the runway through dance and rhythmic movement with Black bodies that were opulently adorned.

Lee Daniels, responsible for the only role resulting in an Oscar for best actress to a Black actor so far, sat adjacent to the runway only a few feet away from competing performers. He was flanked on each side in a row that included Hollywood rainmakers, actors, influencers and LGBT activists.

Daniels and this row of insiders watched competitors pass by enroute to their evaluation across the categories of "face, vogue, runway, best dressed, and sex siren." Performers proceeded to the spot where they would stand before our beloved Ms. Debbie Allen, and her celebrity guests on the judges panel.

The assemblage of celebrity judges included Tina Knowles, Billy Porter, Lena Waithe, Jordan E. Copper, and Wayne Brady. The judges also walked the runway upon introduction and were the main attraction for many patrons. They did not disappoint. It was exciting to watch Allen and Knowles who silently

conferred and exchanged glances with each other as we sat in suspense of the decision.

The celebrity judges delivered more than scores. Their reactions, often captured on a large screen



Debbie Allen speaks about Lee Daniels' accomplishments as a producer and director.

above the runway, ranged from curious to ecstatic, with surprise, laughter, and ovations along the way. Performers were asked multiple times to avoid getting on top of the judge's table. To our collective delight, they did not listen.

Jack Mizrahi and Dashaun "Basquiat" Wesley were the real-time commentators who not only moved the program along, but they were also vocal musicians. They provided spoken percussive cues to dancers who kicked, landed splits, and flexed poses on the beats they provided. With their voices, they led the call-and-response that not only directed and uplifted the performers on

the runway, but compelled vibrant participation from the audience and judges alike. They spoke the body electric.

Between the competition segments that rendered ruptures of excitement,

Allen glided onto the runway to soothe our senses and cleanse our ocular palates before consuming more. In those segways she introduced Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA) dancers who then rendered performances with breathtaking beauty and the highest possible expertise. Notable figures spotted in the crowd with eyes of admiration included actor/comedian Kym Whitley and Tony Award winner Cynthia Erivo.

To seal the occasion with honor, Allen also called our attention to Lee Daniels. She spoke about him and his many accomplishments. Then she faced him, looked him in the

eyes, and spoke to him directly to culminate with, "We remember your name." Daniels accepted the honor and reflected on his teen years when he was involved in Ballroom culture. With great solemnity,

underground world has contributed to all facets of American life. Typically, these faces are Black and Brown. All too often (their stories are) sacrificed for the larger Black movements." Taylor warns against Ballroom culture and participants being excluded from conversations of Black life that are "political, social, and economic." Taylor's insight helps us understand that for a community of Black performers who regularly encounter injustice because of race, sex, sexuality and economic status, Ballroom gatherings can be a form of glamorous resistance.

Daniels shared much more than his personal history with patrons that night. Audiences got an early viewing of footage from his next film: Deliverance. The entire space burst into cheers and high frequency affirmations at the sight and sound of the film's star, Monique. The reunion we had been hoping for between Lee Daniels and Monique had indeed taken place. Not only did the film clip resonate because it constitutes reunification

and reconciliation - a key pillar for Black love. But Monique was absolutely stunning - and chilling - in her delivery. The film is fire. Lee reminded us of why Monique, following Halle Berry, is the second Black woman to win an Oscar in a film that Lee produced.

Another surprise that evening came at the end of the audience competition series. Fashion forward audience members - some who volunteered and others who were actively recruited - took turns walking for the judges. The last woman standing, taking the audience trophy in the fashion category was a woman of youthful appearance who dawned all white with rhinestone accents. As she accepted her trophy, Jack Mizrahi revealed the identity of the slim beauty for those unaware by listing a few of her credits. She wrote "Man in the Mirror" on the Michael Jackson's "Bad" Album, and sang with him on the duet "I Just Can't Stop Loving You." As Mizrahi ended the impromptu tribute, the

**{See LEE DANIELS HONORED on D-2}**



The Sons of DADA from the Debbie Allen Dance Academy deliver a captivating performance.

# Keith Powers is the Plot Twist in 'Emperor Of Ocean Park'

BY ZON D'AMOUR  
Contributing Writer

Actor Keith Powers was a welcome addition to the cast of the political thriller, "Emperor of Ocean Park." Known for his roles as Ronnie DeVoe in "The New Edition Story" and Eric in "The Perfect Find," in "Emperor" Powers plays a former athlete and current law student named Lionel Eldridge.

Adapted for TV from author Stephen L. Carter's New York Times best-selling book, the MGM+ series follows the Garland siblings who are unwittingly working to unravel the unscrupulous secrets of their late father Judge Oliver Garland, played by Oscar Award-winning actor Forest Whitaker.

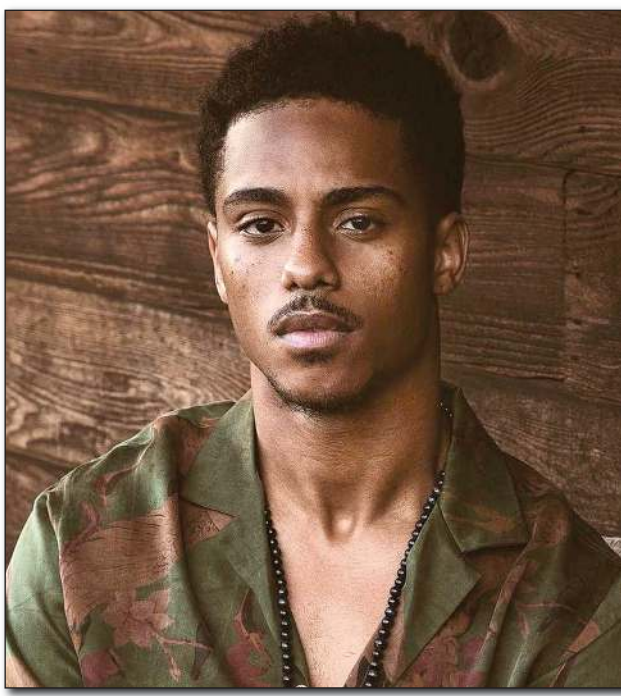
When the audience is first introduced to Power's character, Lionel, he's an unassuming, well-mannered student of Professor Talcott Garland (actor Grantham Coleman). We later learn that Lionel works with Tal-

cott's wife Kimmer (actress Paulina Lule) and their relationship is far from plutonic. While this revelation seems to give Lionel some power over a visibly shaken Talcott, in a series filled with chess analogies, Powers tells the Sentinel, "My character is also a pawn on the board."

Sharing what excited him about the role, the Sacramento native said, "Lionel went from the NBA to law school. That's one extreme to the next and I was really excited to dive into the character and the story as a whole because this is the type of show I could see myself watching."

Powers gives insight into joining the cast later in the season while still having a pivotal role in the storyline.

"When I came on to set as a recurring character, I just wanted to be able to deliver, because everyone already had their rhythm, and you just want to get in where you fit in and I don't like to be disruptive in a



JUSTIN WU  
Keith Powers as Lionel Eldridge in the MGM+ original series, "Emperor of Ocean Park."

way where I'm slowing down the pace of the momentum."

When asked about his experience acting opposite the show's lead Grantham Coleman, Powers said, "That's the best feeling as an actor, to have scene partners that can bring so much

more out of you. I was really excited to work with Grantham, especially after seeing him as 'Ronnie' on 'Raising Kanan.'"

Powers went on to share that having the unique opportunity to work on a show that was created and directed by Black men fur-

ther inspired him to spearhead his own projects.

"It was amazing working with show creator Sherman Payne because I could tell him exactly what I want, and he understands it. I think that's really important for Black men or women, working on, Black sets, you're able to get your message across more easily."

He continued, "Seeing director Damien Marcano's creative process inspired me because I've always wanted to direct. When you're on set, even though you have the scene on paper, everything changes. To see Sherman and Damien figure it out in that moment and talk how we would talk at a barber shop, in the most respectful way and creative way, was dope."

He added, "They would just hash it out and we were able to make the scene what it is and that was amazing. And of course, you know, I didn't have to worry about making sure my hair or makeup was on point! It

was amazing and I had a great time."

When asked how he would describe "Emperor of Ocean Park," Powers shares his best descriptor of the series.

"It's a murder mystery, crime thriller. It's like 'Law & Order' (NBC) meets 'Succession' (HBO). Forest Whitaker being the face of the series really gives it that 'Succession' feel [similar to patriarch] Logan Roy and their family dynamics."

He added, "The Garland's are a Black Republican family just because their dad was a Republican. I've never seen something like this, but it gave me the same feelings I felt watching 'Succession.'"

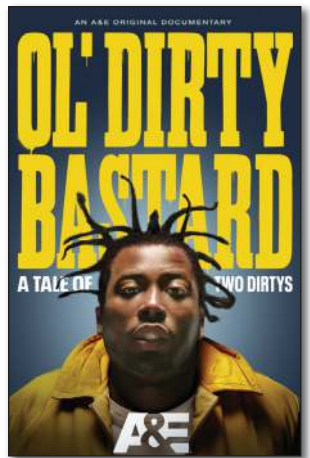
"I would never dive into a family like that on a regular, everyday basis but I feel like 'Emperor of Ocean Park' was perfectly written, whereas you'll easily be able to find characters that you really relate to."

New episodes of "Emperor of Ocean Park" air weekly on MGM+.

# 'ODB: A Tale of Two Dirtys' Shares Insight into Rap Legend

BY CHERYL ECKFORD  
Contributing Writer

The late Ol' Dirty Bastard, also known as ODB, blazed a legendary trail in the world of hip hop. The achievements of the pioneering rapper are revealed in the "Ol' Dirty Bastard: A Tale of Two Dirtys," which was recently screened at the Grammy Museum in downtown Los Angeles.



COURTESY PHOTO  
A promotion flyer of the A&E movie.

Produced by Messiah Jacobs and Nicole Beckett, the documentary covers the life of ODB - also known as Russell Tyrone Jones - from childhood to fatherhood. ODB died of an accidental overdose on November 13, 2004.

ODB's wife, Icelene Jones, and son, Bar-Sun Unique Jones aka Young Dirty Bastard participated with the producers in creating the documentary, which was directed by Jason Pollard and his father, Sam Pollard.

ODB was an original member of the legendary Wu-Tang Clan. The members, who were in attendance, included Raz, GAZ, Method Man, Raekwon, Ghostface Killa, Inspectah Deck, and U-God. Also



COURTESY PHOTO  
Producer Messiah Jacobs and ODB's wife, Icelene Jones.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Icelene Jones and Bar-Sun Jones

present were ODB's daughters Shaquita and Taniqua Jones.

The Wu-Tang Clan first single was "Protect Ya Neck" in 1992. Raz set a precedent as he negotiated a contract that would allow all members of Wu-Tang to create their own solo projects while still in the group. Steve Rifkind of Loud Records signed the group.

"This project is very special and extremely important to myself and my family. ODB's life work has left a huge impact. ODB was, and still is, a very vital

part of the music industry, my family and my partners at Four Screens and I are ensuring that ODB's legacy lives on," said a member of Wu-Tang.

"Wu-Tang forever," said Icelene.

The movie chronicles the success of ODB and highlights his crossover hit with Mariah Carey entitled "Fantasy" where he rapped on the song.

"The song 'Fantasy' stayed on the #1 charts for eight consecutive weeks," said Carey in the documentary. "I loved his music, and

I was just so excited to work with him."

The documentary also recounts ODB's family life and how he was often in trouble with the law due to committing petty crimes and substance abuse problems. However, he insisted that loved his family and didn't believe in divorce.

Icelene noted that "there were individuals that hung out with ODB, but they weren't his real friends. They would get high with him, would smoke weed or sometimes crack cocaine and drink alcohol [with him,

but] those so-called friends were just using him."

Also in the documentary, Method Man talked about the last time ODB went away to jail for three years, and recalled, "ODB was never the same. It was a place where he would receive meds, and this made him a different person." Unfortunately, ODB was not able to stay sober and he died at a music studio.

The documentary is a must see for those who are fans and even those who are not. ODB's talent was incredible. He was one of

the most original rappers of all time and his free style was amazing. Also the Wu-Tang Clan's music was raw, refreshing and something that the industry had never heard before. ODB's death greatly affected the group and those who knew him.

Now, ODB's son, Young Dirty Bastard, performs with Wu-Tang Clan and performs his father's part, according to Raekwon.

"ODB: A Tale of 2 Dirties" is currently airing on A&E. Check local listings for times.

## LEE DANIELS HONORED {Continued from D-1}

large room exploded with applause, cheers, and voluminous praise following the words, "Siedah Garrett, we remember your name."

The final revelation of the evening might not have been a surprise to those who follow Ballroom culture or watch popular relativity television. The House of Miyake-Mugler, featured in the show "Legendary" on HBO+ as well as the series "House on Fire," took home the ultimate prize.

Also, Dashaun "Basquiat" Wesley teaches adult-only Vogue classes at

Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA) on Wednesday nights. To learn more,

visit [www.debbiealldanceacademy.com](http://www.debbiealldanceacademy.com) for more information.



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# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

D-3

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

## Student Athlete of the Week: Kloey Bacchus

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editors

During her senior year, Kloey Bacchus was the captain of the ICEF girls rugby team. She learned being a captain means being a sounding board for her teammates. Previous captains provided that for her.

"I needed somebody to talk to and the captains that were there last year helped me," Bacchus said. "Just knowing that I am a legacy of that and I helped my teammates just really makes me happy."

Providing help to her teammates made her realize

how much she has grown emotionally and mentally. Along with playing rugby, Bacchus was a member of ASB (Associated Student Body). She also did an internship with the Angel City Football Club and was a member of the Alliance Leadership Initiative.

Soon after joining the rugby team as a junior, she traveled to Fiji with the team.

"We stayed in the homes of the villagers," Bacchus said. "It was very nice because we had no Wi-Fi, we didn't even have time to be on our phones and that's what I wanted to get out of that trip."



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

With ICEF Rugby, Kloey Bacchus has competed in several countries, including Japan, New Zealand and Fiji.

During her senior year, the Urban Rugby Championship. She mentioned ICEF rugby competed in

how her opponents felt evenly matched. A match against a team from New York felt like "a war."

"That was our last game that we had and that game got rough," Bacchus said. "They definitely came with a tough game and they had that determination and they showed up and showed out and so did we."

Growing up, Bacchus learned MMA and gymnastics. The physicality of both sports helped her when competing in rugby.

"For MMA, you really have to get low when you're going in to get somebody down and that's the same thing for rugby,"

she said. "On the field, I do a lot of tackling because I just love doing it. It's fun; it's like a stress reliever."

For Bacchus being a student athlete means showing a different side of herself while displaying skills that go far beyond academics.

"A lot of people don't really see that side of me because I feel like I'm very nice," Bacchus said. "I'm not just a smart person, I'm also an athlete who does stuff outside of school, who supports their school, who has that spirit who is committed to something for the long run."

## Howard Golfer Marley Franklin is in Full Swing



COURTESY PHOTO

Marley Franklin competed for the Sherman Oaks Notre Dame girls golf team.

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editor

Howard stand-out golfer Marley Franklin has several achievements throughout her years in high school and college.

Franklin recently competed in the John Shippen Women's Invitational for the second time in her career. The Invitational is a 12-player tournament for the top amateur and professional Black female golf players.

"Being invited to the John Shippen for the second time is amazing," Franklin said. "You're also playing against professional golfers. It's considered to be highly ranked and to be able to have a chance to play with profes-

sional golfers, that's a big deal."

The John Shippen Invitational is a 36-hole contest that lasts for two days. Competing at the college level prepared her for this.

"Usually, we do 36 holes in one day, so it's kinda nice that we get to do 18 and 18," Franklin said. "36 holes is very challenging, especially in collegiate golf, because you're on the golf course for 10 hours a day."

A 36-hole tournament requires mental toughness and Franklin tends to get nervous on the golf course. She has activities to put herself in a good place mentally.

"The best way I prepare for my tournament is listening to meditation or

listen to music or have a talk with my teammates," Franklin said. "We say good affirmations that help us."

With the Bisons, Franklin became the Northeast Conference Rookie of the Year. She also helped Howard win the 2024 National Collegiate Championship.

"I've gotten the opportunity to play a lot of amazing golf courses," Franklin said. "We play on the top-of-the-line tournaments that we can get into."

As a sophomore, Franklin helped Howard win the Hornet Classic at the Creek. She executed a personal best of four-under 68 in the second round.

"That was a turning

point for me because that was my first tournament as a sophomore," she said. "I also didn't play that well my first round; I actually shot an 80. That second-round score, that really helped cushion my team to victory."

A native of Los Angeles, Franklin competed for Notre Dame high school. She was named MVP in 2021. The following year, she won the Los Angeles City Junior Golf Championships.

"It was a sweet way to end off my senior high school golf experience," Franklin said. "The last two years I've come in tied for second, tied for third. I definitely think my senior year, that was my time to take home the win."

## Washington Beats Hollywood in Season Opener

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editor

The Washington Prep Generals football team is starting a new season and a new era with a victory. The Generals defeated the Hollywood Sheiks 32-7.

Washington Prep not only has a new coach in Frank Rice but a newly refurbished field. Rice put emphasis on this game as the team trained during the summer.

"All eyes are on us right now," Rice said. "Even though they went to the championship last year, we had some challenges coming in. We've been able to mitigate all of those challenges."

This also marked the first game as quarterback for junior Shane Sullivan.

The Generals scored three touchdowns in the second half. Sullivan noted



DARWIN WALKER/TGSPORTSV1

Washington Prep junior Shane Sullivan (1) played in his first game a quarterback against Hollywood.

that he told his teammates to trust in him during half-time.

"We argued in the second quarter," Sullivan said. "We went back in the locker room, talked it out and

realized that it's only so much I can do with so much time."

Caleb Boyer gave Hollywood a strong start and was a key player that helped the team score a touchdown early in the second quarter. A successful extra-point kick gave them a one-point lead.

Boyer knew how to make first downs on the rush but the Generals worked to counter his efforts.

"The linebackers was right where their assignments was," Sullivan said. "They cleaned up the job."

Going into the third quarter, Washington Prep had a 12-7 lead. With 5:21 left in the phase, Hollywood punted the ball on fourth down and Washington Prep senior Ma'Hari Jarmon returned the ball

for a touchdown. Acting as a holder for the extra-point, Jarmon received the ball and rushed to the endzone to commit a two-point conversion.

Sullivan made key passing and running plays, scoring a touchdown run late in the third quarter.

"[Sullivan] got amazing vision," Jarmon said. "He knows when to take off or when to throw it out."

Rice was impressed with how the offensive line performed in the matchup.

"We knew we had a good offensive line and they showed out today," Rice said. "I'm extremely happy with the way everybody played ... the resilience that they showed and how focused they were when it got tough for us."



DARWIN WALKER/TGSPORTSV1

Washington Prep senior Ma'Hari Jarmon (9) reaches to make a catch.

Washington Prep battles Panorama on Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. and will battle Jordan High School of

Long Beach on Sept. 6 at 7:00 p.m. Hollywood will next battle Carpinteria with Marquez to follow.



DARWIN WALKER/TGSPORTSV1

Jessee Parker of the Generals (22) scores a touchdown.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Hollywood quarterback Marquese Robinson (4) runs for a first down.