



Biden Wants Michelle Obama as Veep (See page A-7)



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



Seasoned Comic David A. Arnold Reaches New Heights with Latest Netflix Special 'Fat Ballerina' (See page C-1)

VOL. LXXXVI NO. 17, \$1.00 +CA. Sales Tax "For Over Eighty Years, The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself." THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

Leimert Park Fire Damages Historic Vision Theatre

BY BRANDON I. BROOKS
Managing Editor

During the early morning hours on Tuesday April 21, firefighters from the Los Angeles Fire Department extinguished flames that damaged part of the historic Vision Theatre located in L

Firefighters extinguished the fire in about 25 minutes. The first reports of the fire came in around 4:35 a.m. on Tuesday. There were no reported injuries and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Sentinel, City Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson hinted that a homeless individual may have started the fire but nothing was confirmed as of press time.

"The fire department referred to it as a rubbish fire," said Wesson. "Reports are that there are some kind of barbecue pit or some type of fire that was started by the individual that was staying right next to it (Vision Theatre). And it's my understanding that authorities are trying to find him to have a conversation with him."



Firefighters contained a fire at the legendary Vision Theatre, a community landmark in Leimert Park.

The theater has been undergoing a year's-long, multi-phase renovation. Wesson said the most important thing is that the fire did not delay the timeline

of the scheduled reopening of the Vision Theatre. An exact date has not been set but the councilman said he is hopeful the revitalization project will stay on course

for reopening at end of the calendar year.

"We're fortunate that the Vision Theatre basically escaped what could have been a catastrophe," said Wesson.

"When I was initially informed, my heart stopped because we had been working on this project for so long. In fact, the past three council people have been

working on this project and now we can see the finish line. So, when I heard the news and saw some of the film, it was

{See FIRE A-8}

Mayor Garcetti Gives State of City Address, Delivers Fiscal Budget for 2020-2021

Garcetti outlines tough times ahead, but reminds Angelenos they can meet the challenge.



COURTESY PHOTO

In his State of the City Address, Mayor Eric Garcetti shared that the city faces some tough challenges in the months ahead.

{See FULL STORY A-8}

State and Federal Electeds Fight For COVID-19 Funds for Black Community



FILE PHOTO

Congresswoman Karen Bass



FILE PHOTO

Congresswoman Barbara Lee



FILE PHOTO

Assemblymember Shirley Weber



FILE PHOTO

BOE Member Malia Cohen

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

As the country faces unprecedented health and economic crises, Black state and federal elected officials are making sure that issues important to African Americans are addressed in the battle against COVID-19.

In a briefing with African American media on April 16, Karen Brown Wilson, executive director of California Black Media, brought together U.S. Congresswomen Karen Bass and Barbara Lee, Assemblymember Shirley Weber and Board of Equalization member Malia Cohen

to outline the societal and budgetary concerns that they are advocating for on both the state and federal level.

Bass (D- Los Angeles), who chairs the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), also serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs where, she chairs the

subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. Lee, the only African American woman in Democratic leadership, serves as co-chair of the Policy and Steering Com-

{See FUNDS A-9}

Gov. Taps Diverse Group for COVID-19 Recovery Task Force

BY TANU HENRY
California Black Media

"It's been like tons, or gallons, of alcohol was thrown on the open wounds of in-



AP PHOTO

California Governor Gavin Newsom

equality and racism in this country. And as we think about how to recover, we're going to have to think about how to make sure that we don't go back to where we were before," said Angela

Glover Blackwell, an African American author and policy specialist based in Oakland.

Blackwell is the founder

{See TASK FORCE A-8}

ADJUSTING TO ADAPTATION: Educating University Students Amid The COVID-19 Health Crisis

BY THOMAS A. PARHAM
PH.D PRESIDENT
Special to the Sentinel

Springtime is a season when thoughts turn toward warmer weather, new beginnings, and budding opportunities. Such is the case for freshman and transfer applicants to colleges and universities around the state and country, as both groups wait on that hoped-for letter of admission and consider which opportunity they will accept among the options they have been provided. California State University, Dominguez



COURTESY PHOTO

Thomas A. Parham, president California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH).

Hills (CSUDH), one of 23 campuses in the California State University system, has extended offers to its Fall 2020 class and is now await-

ing students' decisions to enroll. This admissions season, however, brings a mixed bag of feelings.

{See CRISIS A-8}



WWW.LASENTINEL.NET

MLK, Jr. and Centinela Hospitals Receive Big Donation of PPE and Masks

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

Uniting to help others is one way to describe the massive donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) and masks to two local medical facilities.

Freddie Figgers, an entrepreneur based in Florida, reached out to Bishop Kenneth C. Ulmer of Faithful Central Bible Church and the result was Centinela and Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospitals receiving 750,000 masks and 250,000 PPE. Inglewood City Hall was also a recipient of some of the supplies.

The initial shipment arrived at MLK Hospital on April 17, and Ulmer presented the items to Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Dr. Elaine Batchlor, MLK chief executive officer.

“Thank you Bishop Ulmer; this donation means the world to us,” said



On behalf of businessman Freddie Figgers, Bishop Kenneth Ulmer presents a box of personal protective equipment to Dr. Elaine Batchlor, CEO, MLK, Jr. Community Hospital and Supv. Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Batchlor. “Our staff is on the front lines of this pandemic and are here for the community everyday. They really appreciate it and love the fact that the community is here for them. This is extremely important to all of us, we need to keep our healthcare workers safe.

This is what keeps them safe.”

Offering a similar perspective, Ridley-Thomas said, “What we have is a private-public partnership, a non-profit hospital that is essentially doing extraordinary work 24/7, 365 days a year. Frontline workers

doing what needs to be done joined by a religious institution, Faithful Central Bible Church, giving first rate quality care.”

Ulmer was able to facilitate the donation after Figgers, founder of Figgers Communications, expressed his desire to help provide a safer working environment for hospital staff working at urban medical facilities. The staff at MLK and Centinela perfectly matched Figgers’ vision since they are critical team members in the fight against COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Also, the facilities’ patients are largely minority and that demographic is experiencing disproportionately higher infection and death rates compared to their percentage of the population.

“This donation is a result of the bigheartedness of Mr. Figgers, an African American businessman and

philanthropist, who wanted to make sure his gifts would reach the inner cities of our country, and reach people in Los Angeles. It is an example of the connection between our government officials and the grassroots part of our community, and we just wanted

donation is an example of partnerships and relationships. Our communities are so knit together...the government, the faith community, the public and the medical community. Martin Luther King Hospital is on the front line fighting this pandemic, and Faithful



Bishop Ulmer and MLK, Jr. Community Hospital staff surround the PPE and masks donation from Freddie Figgers of Figgers Communications.

to be a part of it,” explained Ulmer.

“The essence of this

Central Bible Church, as a part of this community, wanted to let them know we are supporting them and we are with them,” added Ulmer.

Describing MLK as L.A. County’s “premiere campus,” Ridley-Thomas insisted that alliances of this nature are sorely needed to survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The spirit of volunteerism, the spirit of community engagement, the spirit of generosity is being displayed by philanthropy, the faith community and all of this means a lot,” noted Ridley-Thomas. “We cannot win unless we have this kind of partnership. We will not be defeated by COVID-19. We are very grateful today.”



Bishop Kenneth Ulmer, Dr. Elaine Batchlor and Supv. Mark Ridley-Thomas discuss the benefit of receiving the major donation from Freddie Figgers of Figgers Communications.



Inglewood Mayor James Butts, right, accepts PPE donations from Bishop Ulmer, left, who presented the items donated by entrepreneur Freddie Figgers.



Helping You Stay Safer at Home

During this uncertain time with the coronavirus, LADWP wants you to know that we are working 24/7 to keep your power on and water flowing.



Your tap water is safe to drink. There is no need to buy bottled water. The coronavirus does not affect your drinking water.



Our crews will respond to water and power outages. Call us or report an outage online at ladwp.com/outages.



Our team members are essential city workers continuing to work hard while taking safety measures.



Need help paying your bill? We can help. Visit LADWP.com/financialassistance or call us at 1-800-DIAL-DWP.




We will not shut off your water and power for non-payment.

We're Here for You

ladwp.com 1-800-DIAL-DWP





DEAR BIG TOBACCO, WE ARE DYING.

But you already know that.

Smoking kills more African Americans than AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, car crashes, and murder combined. And 70% of us who smoke use menthol cigarettes.

That's no coincidence.

You've spent decades pushing menthols into Black communities with cheap prices and slick advertising.

And the worst part is, you think you can keep getting away with it.

You come after our brothers, sisters, parents, and friends.

Now, we're coming after you.

We want you out of Black neighborhoods, because our lives are worth more than your bottom line.

We are people, not profit.

Signed,

**The Communities
You Are Trying to Erase**

Fight back at
[WeAreNotProfit.org](https://www.WeAreNotProfit.org)

© 2020 California Department of Public Health

California Small Businesses Struggle While Waiting for Stimulus Aid

BY EBONE MONET
California Black Media

M'dears Bakery & Bistro fills the air in its South Los Angeles neighborhood with smells of fried chicken, French toast, and homemade desserts. "It was very serendipitous," said 66-year-old restaurant owner Carrie Reese about how she transitioned from a vendor at jazz festivals to opening a dine-in restaurant at 77th and Western Avenue.

"You could see through the window, piles of chicken. And people started saying, 'can I just buy a plate,'" said Reese.

Eighteen years later, M'dears recently renovated dining room is empty during what would normally be its busy lunchtime rush, and Reese is struggling to come up with the money to pay her staff.

"I was a little bit slow to do the furloughs and the layoffs. I was hoping against hope that I wouldn't have to do that. I kept people on longer than I should have. Everybody has kids to support. It's a really big burden for me to have to make those decisions," said Reese.



COURTESY PHOTO

Reese said she's paying her remaining employees order-by-order and when that's not enough, she pulls money from her retirement savings. At the same time, she notices more customers are paying with credit cards. That means it takes days before sales of smothered pork chops or plates of wings and waffles make them money. "It's embarrassing. It breaks my heart when people say 'hey the check didn't go through,'" said Reese.

M'dears Bakery & Bistro is one of nearly 4 million small businesses in California. About 1.6 million of them are minority-owned. The restaurant industry as a whole has been hit hard by the

impossible for a business such as hers with "razor thin profit margins" to survive this prolonged slowdown. Reese has decided to focus on meeting payroll while everything else falls behind. She described earning "just enough to get through the day."

Reese applied for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) intended to help small business owners stay afloat. But on Thursday April 16, The US Small Business Administration (SBA) announced it is "unable to accept new applications" due to a lack of funding. The \$349 billion program was nearly out of money. "Without that money, how am I going to pay off debt," she said.

As of April 13, SBA said it had approved more than 1.3 million PPP loans totaling more than \$296 billion. Reese has not heard from her bank JPMorgan Chase about her application. "I feel so helpless and disheartened," said Reese. Chase was one of the banks that received criticism for delays in launching its online PPP application platform.

The President requested another \$250 billion to replenish the COVID-19 small business relief funds, but members of Congress have not reached an agreement. This deadlock comes about two weeks after lawmakers passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The \$2 trillion stimulus package included \$377 trillion to help small businesses survive and to keep people employed. The bulk of the funding was divided into two types of loans. The PPP loan and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). Reese applied for both stalled programs.

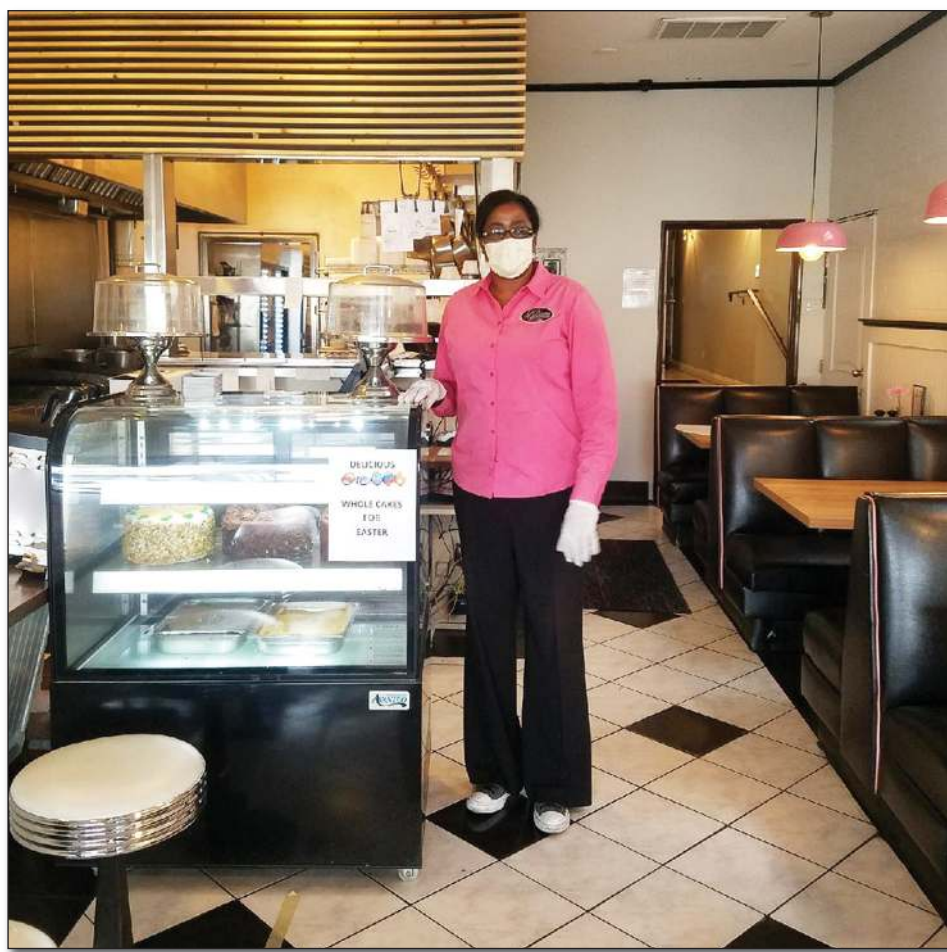
resume, there is small business aid at the state and city levels.

California COVID-19 Small Business IBank Loan Program

Earlier this month, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced \$50 million in loan guarantees for small businesses that may not be eligible for federal relief. The State is also allowing small businesses to defer payment of sales and use taxes of up to \$50,000, for up to 12 months. In a move said to help workers and small businesses, people receiving unemployment benefits are temporarily being paid

hopes Congress reaches an agreement to fund the loan programs soon and that more applications in the queue are approved. In the meantime, three days a week she and her scaled-down team cook M'dears signature soul food for about 50 seniors who are shut-in during this pandemic.

The emergency meal delivery program was launched by LA City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. Reese says compensation for the heartwarming cause has been slow. In fact, on the Friday leading into the Easter holi-



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Since mid-March, Reese estimates that her business has slowed by 65% - 70%. She's had to furlough most of her staff. This comes during nationwide efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. LA Mayor Eric Garcetti closed the city's restaurants and bars; only takeout, and delivery are allowed. This is happening as authorities issue daily reminders for people to follow the state's stay-at-home order.

COVID-19 social distancing policies. By April 9, the National Restaurant Association estimated more than three million restaurant employees across the country have lost their jobs; 560,000 here in California.

Reese employs about 40 people at M'dears LA and M'dears Lakewood near Long Beach. She wants to bring all her employees back when restaurants can return to full operation. But Reese says it is nearly

an extra \$600 on top of their weekly amount.

California City Level COVID-19 Small Business Aid

Small business owners in San Francisco are being encouraged to apply for the San Francisco Hardship Emergency Loan Program (SF HELP). The loans have a 0 percent interest rate and are administered by Main Street Launch in partnership with the city of San Francisco. Small businesses can make loans of up to \$50,000 for terms of up to six years. Additionally, through the city of Los Angeles Small Business Emergency Microloan Program, businesses and microenterprises in Los Angeles that are responsible for providing low-income jobs can apply for emergency microloans in an amount between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Reese

Small business owners in San Francisco are being encouraged to apply for the San Francisco Hardship Emergency Loan Program (SF HELP). The loans have a 0 percent interest rate and are administered by Main Street Launch in partnership with the city of San Francisco. Small businesses can make loans of up to \$50,000 for terms of up to six years.

Additionally, through the city of Los Angeles Small Business Emergency Microloan Program, businesses and microenterprises in Los Angeles that are responsible for providing low-income jobs can apply for emergency microloans in an amount between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Reese

day weekend, Reese couldn't afford to pay some of her staff. "Up to today, we have provided 300 meals and haven't gotten a penny for it," she said, "You wanted me to keep them on staff to do this, but you're not giving me the money to pay them, so I can't pay them."

Reese does not have a financial parachute. M'dears Bakery & Bistro is her retirement plan. A plan she sees being threatened every day that potential customers are told to stay inside, "All I see is my retirement flashing before my eyes. I am going to be so far in debt trying to dig my way out of this. I'll be 75-years-old before I can think about retiring."

The National Restaurant Association has launched RestaurantsAct.com to share the latest COVID-19 relief information.



Are you a high school senior that needs money for college?

Bakewell Media's Taste of Soul Family Festival is once again awarding 20 - \$500 scholarships.

If interested in this opportunity, please apply at tasteofsoul.org/scholarship



DEADLINE MAY 8TH, 2020
(323) 299 3800

Congresswoman Karen Bass Answers the \$1200 question, Where's My Check?

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In a letter to her district and to all of America. The California Congresswoman and Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus the Honorable Karen Bass issued this statement: "This week, about 60 million Americans received a \$1,200 bank deposit as mandated by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that Congress passed at the end of last month.

People who received this first round of payments generally filed 2018 or 2019 taxes, and provided their banking information to the IRS for their



PHOTO BY TOM WILLIAMS/CQ ROLL CALL
Rep. Karen Bass

refund. If you are one of those households, I hope that the additional funds will help you in this very stressful time."

Furthermore, the congresswoman stated that as of Monday, April 20, another 80 million households who haven't received the payment are

wondering where there payments are and when will they be arriving?

In order to track the status of your check the congresswoman said the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS have launched two online tools to try and answer that question. You can access them here: <https://bass.house.gov/wheres-my-check>

She also encouraged residents to "Please remember to stay healthy by following guidelines put out by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health." She said she will also be posting regular updates on her website as well as on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Community Service Legacy of Brenda Marsh-Mitchell Continues Focus on the Underserved Even During Crisis

By JASMYNE A. CANNICK
Special to the Sentinel

The late Brenda Marsh-Mitchell served as the first President of Mothers In Action. In honor of her 73rd birthday, Mothers In Action did exactly what Brenda had dedicated her life to doing--helping others.

Under the direction of Marsh-Mitchell's youngest daughter, Tracy Mitchell, who now serves as the President of Mothers In Action, the organization refused to let the COVID-19 pandemic stop them from coming to the aide of those who needed help the most--elders. Partnering with 10th Council District Councilmember Herb Wesson and Game Spot Bar Restaurant, Mothers In Action provided hot meals to the residents of Rosa Parks Villas which consists of 60 apartments

designated for low and very low income seniors, age 62+ who can live independently and is run by the Ward Economic Development Corporation.

"We have been hosting



COURTESY PHOTO

Mothers In Action gift bags to assist seniors during the COVID-19 outbreak.

this event, in my Mother's honor, for six years now--ever since she passed. This is the second year Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson partnered with us.

We are so honored to have the support of Council District 10. My mother and Mothers in Action have been working with Councilman Wesson for years serving the needs of our community," stated Tracy Mitchell.

Organizers practiced social distancing while delivering the hot meals to each resident's apartment--including wearing masks and gloves.

Each senior received a hot meal prepared and delivered by The Game Spot Restaurant and a bag of essentials and pampering supplies from MIA. The gift bag also included a Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper.

"This is what community looks like and is exactly what Brenda would be doing if she were here with us today," added Councilmember Herb Wesson. "Brenda worked tirelessly to provide resources to children, seniors and the underserved. That's what she did and her legacy is being carried on through her children and grandchildren."

Over the past several years this effort was a part of the work of the young ladies of Mothers In Action Mentoring Group, but this year they were unable to participate because of the Corona Virus explained Mitchell. In years past this was a major celebration with a sit-down meal where most of the residents were served and we provided entertainment and activities for the residents of Rosa Parks Villages in honor of



COURTESY PHOTO

Tracy Mitchell, Herb Wesson, Jackie Dupont-Walker and Jannie McKinney.

Brenda Marsh-Mitchell's birthday, but this year, unfortunately we just delivered meals to the residents. But most importantly, we upheld the tradition of service to the residents which was the most important part of today's event.

Brenda Marsh-Mitchell's commitment to service is well-known throughout South L.A. Often described as an "iconic multi-tasker," stories abound of her unique ability to mobilize multitudes of volunteers to participate in rallies, fundraisers, protests and community events.

Along with this event, Mothers In Action sponsors one of the largest back-to-school programs in the country, they have fed thousands of families during the holidays, distributed hundreds of toys for Christmas and organized countless programs to improve the quality of life for those less fortunate.

Brenda taught her chil-

dren and her grandchildren the importance of "giving back". According to her daughter, Pamela Mitchell, "My mother gave us our assignment a long time ago. We're here to serve and help others."

Sharing a similar comment, Tamela Mitchell said, "Service in our community is just instilled in me. It's a part of my life -- my fabric because of Brenda."

Tracy also expressed appreciation to Ward EDC Executive Director, Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Rosa Parks Villas manager, Judie Johnson and Wesson deputy, Kimani Black. Tracy added, "so grateful for our village of volunteers who always willingly donate their time and talents to ensure the success of all of Mothers In Action projects."



COURTESY PHOTO

L.A. City Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson and Mothers In Action volunteers serve hot meals to the residents of the West Adams Rosa Parks Villa.



COURTESY PHOTO

Mitchell Eugene-Thomas volunteers with Mothers In Action to assist the senior community during COVID-19 pandemic.



If I could do one thing, I'd make sure we stay healthy.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More walk-in clinics? More funding for health services closer to home? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform billions in funding for hundreds of services and programs in your community.

Respond online, by phone, or by mail.

Complete the census at:
2020CENSUS.GOV

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census 2020

Seeking Victory Over Two Viruses: COVID-19 and the Pathology of Oppression



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

In these troubled, troubling, tragic and trying times, more than ever, we must not only be a people in itself but also a people for itself. That is to say, a people who are not only different and distinct, but also self-consciously and actively so. In other words, they must be rightfully appreciative of themselves, deeply rooted in their own culture, and constantly and confidently drawing unlimited lessons from the culture they have created, the history they have made and the experiences, thought and practice of their daily lives. And as a people for itself, they must also be uncompromisingly committed to being themselves and freeing themselves from all constraints on their lives and their rights to a life of self-determination, security, justice, equal and equitable treatment, access and opportunity, well-being, and to realize their potential to flourish and come into the fullness of themselves.

and achievement against all odds has taught us, the ultimate solution to all our problems lies in the self-conscious ways we live our lives, do our work and wage our struggles for good in the world. And at the heart of all we endure, dare, do and overcome must be our rightful attentiveness to the quality of our relations with each other. Again, it is an urgent question and critical matter of how we love our people and each other and what we actually and continuously do for each other. And it is also about what we do with each other, not only to weather this winter of disease, disablement and death brought by the current coronavirus 19, but also to overcome the persistent pathology of oppression of U.S. society.

Thus, we must constantly keep in mind that we seek victory over two viruses, the biological virus of COVID-19 and the social virus of the pathology of oppression that preceded and increased our vulnerability to COVID-19. I use virus here to specifically mean an infectious agent which is harmful and deadly to humans, animals and plants and thus a problem for the world. It is synonymous with a pathogen, an infective agent that generates disease. And I speak here of a disease as both a biological and social condition of pathology. Indeed, those two realities interact and help explain the greater vulnerabilities to COVID-19 that Black people and other peoples of color evidence and become ill and die from in greater numbers.

So, as we struggle to keep safe and well, to save our lives and heal ourselves in the onslaught of COVID-19, let us be mindful that we must continue and inten-

our people recognized, various deviant and degraded conceptions and practices of democracy.

In the Black Freedom Movement of the 60's, this question of the problematic character of an exclusive democracy was engaged also when America was again talking about "making the world safe for democracy." Again, our people challenged the hypocrisy and vacuity of the concept and campaign. They argued that the campaign to make the world safe for democracy must be preceded by the campaign to make democracy safe for the world. For its exclusive racist character made it not of the people, for the people or by the people. Rather, as Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer noted, it was "of some people, for some people and by some people", i.e., White people. It is in this context of denouncing a diseased and disease-producing democracy that she diagnosed America as a "sick society," needing the life-saving remedy of radical reconstruction. And Min. Malcolm X

concluded, defining America as a herrenvolk master race democracy which was in fact a brutal "disguised hypocrisy" that made us not beneficiaries, but rather "victims of democracy."

There is now, as was then, in the midst of the war of the White worlds, an abundance of talk about us all being vulnerable and in this together. But the very conversation calls to mind, not only the lack of past and present practice of equal treatment to prove it, but also the actual differences in life conditions and capacities to deal with and survive the virus. Again, the pathology of oppression generates underlying and pre-existing conditions of race and class that aid in determining the disease's incidence, prevalence, mortality rates, and burdens of dealing with the disease among us and others similar.

So, we may all be vulnerable to the disease, but we are vulnerable in different ways and to different degrees. These include our chronic health conditions and the pathogenic

social conditions which help generate and sustain them; the greater risk of exposure from the conditions of our lives and work, i.e., toxic environments, front-line work, unemployment, homelessness, incarceration; lack of adequate access to quality health care, insurance and health facilities; financial limitations; food insufficiency and insecurity; the history of racism which undermined the ability and willingness to seek needed care; and lack of culturally competent healthcare, outreach, interaction and exchange with Black people. In summary, the structural inequalities, inequities and injustices euphemized as simply "disparities" or differences hide the racist history and current devastation of the pathology of oppression.

Such boilerplate conversation also suggests that we are the same, all Americans with equal worth and rights to a good, meaningful and flourishing life in this country. But we are not the same, nor are the conditions or capacities of our lives in America which are shaped and misshaped by the pathology of oppression. For our access to and possession of wealth, power and status

[See KARENGA A-11]

• BY U.S. SENATOR KAMALA D. HARRIS AND CA ASSEMBLYMEMBER PHIL TING •

Let's Come Together, Not Sow Hate

The COVID-19 pandemic doesn't discriminate – people all over our country and world are being hospitalized, losing their jobs and health care, and fearing for the safety of their families. It impacts us all, and doesn't care what your race, national origin, gender identity, income level, sexual orientation, or age is. Stopping this virus requires following the facts, providing critical resources to those who need them, and showing kindness to one another. We will not stop it by blaming the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

The threats to the AAPI community and Asian immigrants are deeply disturbing and very real. A woman riding the subway was verbally attacked; a middle school child was targeted and treated unfairly by his teacher; and a woman walking to the gym was spit on – all for simply being who they are. Sadly, these are just a few examples of reports from across the country of people being harassed, bullied, and physically attacked, resulting in anyone of Asian descent living in fear of what will happen to them. A new website recently launched where victims can report



U.S. SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS

incidents of hate and it saw nearly 700 cases logged in its first week – a figure representing just the tip of the iceberg, since hate crimes are often underreported. This discrimination needs to stop – now. Let's be clear: elected officials who are fanning the flames of hate with intentional word choice need to stop it. We see what you are doing and division is not the way to lead during this crisis.

It doesn't help when the president – who is supposed to unite us during trying times – is deliberately striking 'corona' in his script and replacing it with 'Chinese' in a speech. Calling it the "Chinese Virus" or "Wuhan Virus" isn't just racist and

against expert health officials' recommendations, but it is factually inaccurate, dangerous, and incites discrimination against Asian Americans and Asian immigrants. Not to mention, this and other similar behavior is beneath the office of a member of Congress, let alone the president of the United States. It is a blatant attempt to deflect accountability from the Trump administration's failure to prepare for a pandemic that places the safety of AAPI communities at risk.

The president recently tried to backtrack and condemn the bigotry that the AAPI community is experiencing right now, but that's not going to cut it. You can't claim to denounce hatred and bigotry when you continue to use racist terms that incite aggression toward the AAPI community.

If elected leaders don't take responsibility for their actions, we will continue to call them out when they use racist terms and bring awareness to the harm they are causing. You should, too.

Both of us will use our positions to not only spread a message of kindness and inclusion, but also advocate for policies that follow the facts and help everyone



CA ASSEMBLYMEMBER PHIL TING

through this crisis.

In the meantime, if you, a friend, or family member have been on the receiving end of hate, report it to your local authorities and hold people accountable. If you see something, say something.

During times like this, we must recognize that we have so much more in common than what separates us. Although it will be a long road to recovery from this pandemic, we know that together we can achieve anything. But to do that we have to stop hate and focus on how we will combat this virus – not each other.

THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

DANNY J. BAKWELL, SR.
Executive Publisher / CEO

JENNIFER J. THOMAS
Publisher

KENNETH R. THOMAS
Publisher / CEO (1983-1997)

RUTH WASHINGTON
Business Manager / Publisher (1948-1990)

COL. LEON WASHINGTON JR.
Founder / Publisher (1933-1974)

PAMELA A. BAKWELL
Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer

DANNY J. BAKWELL, JR.
Executive Editor / Chief of Staff

BRENDA MARSH-MITCHELL
Executive Assistant to the Publisher Member of the Board of Directors (2004-2014)

BRANDON I. BROOKS, Managing Editor
Entertainment Editor/Sports Editor/Advertising

ANGELA HOWARD, Production Designer
Family Editor / Circulation / Distribution

CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT, Religion Editor
Production Designer / Staff Writer

BRIAN CARTER, Staff Writer
Copy Editor

ALAN BRAXTON, Sports Writer
Copy Editor

E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS, Photographer / Videographer
Copy Editor

NIELE ANDERSON, Digital Editor

CLIFFORD RUSSELL, Advertising

TAMARRA WILLIAMS, Classified

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE:
Amalgamated Publishers
45 W. 45th St., New York, NY 10036
(212) 869-5220 - and -
2400 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 842-0200

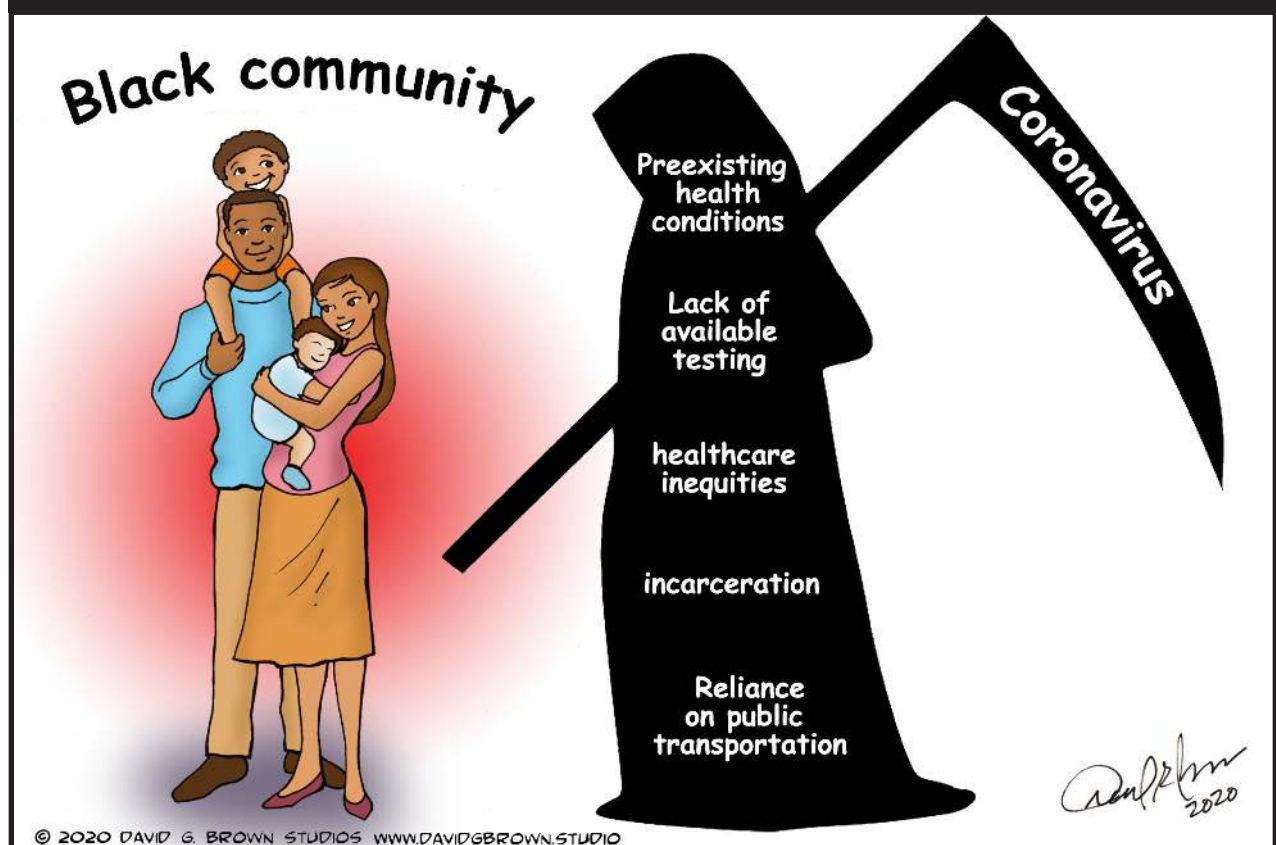
Member: Audit Bureau of Circulation, City News Service, Associated Press, California Newspaper Publishers Association, National Newspaper Publishers Association, National Newspapers Association.

HOW TO REACH US
Main Number (323) 299-3800

(ISSN 089-4340) is published weekly on Thursday for \$60.00 per year, \$40.00 for six months. Foreign countries \$120.00 per year, \$60.00 for six months by Los Angeles Sentinel, Inc. 3800 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008. Periodicals Postage Paid at Los Angeles, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Los Angeles Sentinel, 3800 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008. The Los Angeles Sentinel is not responsible for any unsolicited manuscripts, photographs or related materials.

Copyright © 1998 Los Angeles Sentinel
Entered as Second Class Matter March 2, 1947 at the Post Office of Los Angeles, California Under the Act of MARCH 24, 1879 Established 1933.

CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN



© 2020 DAVID G. BROWN STUDIOS WWW.DAVIDGBROWN.STUDIO

Biden Wants Michelle Obama as Veep

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Is a return to the White House by the Obama family in the cards?

It can happen if former First Lady Michelle Obama would accept a public invitation from former Vice President and presumptive Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden.

On Tuesday, April 21, Biden said Obama tops his list of potential vice presidential candidates, and the country would be better served if she joined his ticket.

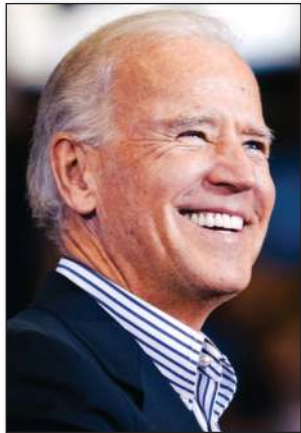
Neither Obama nor her husband, former President Barack Obama, have commented on Biden's state-

ments, which he first made on KDKA television in Pittsburgh.

Remarkably, the comments have not yet gained traction in the media, but a KDKA source pointed NNPA Newswire to the video clip that the station says has gained a lot of momentum in the Pittsburgh area.

"I'd take her in a heartbeat," Biden said of Michelle Obama in the video viewed by NNPA Newswire. "She's brilliant. She knows the way around. She is a wonderful woman. The Obamas are great friends," he said.

Tempering any enthusiasm of a Biden-Obama ticket, Biden added that, "I don't think she has any



On Tuesday, April 21, Biden said Obama tops his list of potential vice presidential candidates, and the country would be better served if she joined his ticket.

desire to live near the White House again." He concluded that it's still too early to select a running mate.

During the most recent debate in Washington, D.C., in early March, Biden pledged to select a woman as his running mate. That promise sparked a national discussion about who would best serve as vice president. Among the names bandied about in the media have been California Sen. Kamala Harris, former Georgia Rep. Stacey Abrams, and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

"In terms of who to pick, we're just beginning the process," Biden told KDKA. "We'll shortly name the committee to review this and begin to look through the backgrounds of the various potential nominees. And



Former First Lady Michelle Obama

that's just getting underway."

"I'll commit to that it will be a woman because it is very important that my administration look like the public, look like the nation. And there will be, I'm committed that there will be a woman of color on the Supreme Court, that doesn't mean there won't be a

vice president, as well," Biden said.

"I think it's really important now that we establish once and for all, we should have had a woman president already, in Hilary (Clinton), in my view," Biden added. "There are a number of qualified women out there."

Why HBO Max Refuses to Answer Questions About Russell Simmons Documentary

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

On Tuesday, April 21, HBO Max announced it would proceed with airing a controversial documentary, "On the Record," about alleged sexual misconduct by Def Jam founder Russell Simmons.

The network has repeatedly declined to answer questions about the film, including why Oprah Winfrey abruptly walked away from the documentary that features three women – Sheri Sher, Drew Dixon, and Sil Lai Abrams.

Two network spokespersons, Raina Falcon and Jori Arancio, both declined repeated requests made by the Black Press for comment.

Winfrey has stated, among other things, that she wasn't comfortable with the documentary and that it needed work.

"There were too many inconsistencies in Drew Dixon's story," Winfrey stated.

It was discovered that the lead in the movie, Dixon, has previously made five separate accusations of sexual assault against men who include her own father and uncle, and music mogul L.A. Reid.

In a years-long investigation, The Black Press learned that before bowing out, Winfrey had an ongoing dialogue with Simmons.

The music maven provided the media mogul with a list of more than two dozen individuals whom he said could back his story of innocence.

HBO has not said why they've chosen to ignore Simmons' input in a documentary about him.

Among the witnesses presented by Simmons were former Def Jam executives and an intern who worked for Dixon.



Russell Simmons arrives as The Hawn Foundation hosts Goldie's Love In For Kids, Celebration of 12 years of MindUP on Friday, May 6, 2016 in Beverly Hills, CA.

"While I take no sides in the accusations, I do have an opinion as well as an opposing view with Dixon's statements," stated the intern who at age 17 worked as Dixon's intern.

Dixon had told BuzzFeed that she never went to Simmons' home alone.

It was that statement that prompted the intern to write Winfrey, who also discovered that Dixon regularly visited Simmons' home alone despite not having any official business to conduct with the music icon.

Winfrey didn't return multiple requests from the Black Press seeking comment.

"I was made by Dixon to wait downstairs when she went up alone to see Russell Simmons, or she would take a care service and have the driver take me back to my destination," the intern wrote in a letter to Winfrey.

The letter continued:

"At no point was I ever personally introduced to him as Drew's intern. On one occasion, she mentioned that Russell

didn't like having people come with her to his home,

and that was why I could not accompany her upstairs to his apartment.

"At no time did Drew Dixon seem apprehensive or afraid about going to his home and was instead very eager to go to his house to showcase a CD or give him a personal update on her projects.

"She would also go to his home during the day for work-related issues and later return to the office. At no time did I ever witness her return to the office upset, angry, or with a changed demeanor."

Sheri Sher, who also goes by Sheri Hines, also published a book in which she had previously denied that the main character – an individual she claimed raped her – was about Simmons.

She dedicated the book to Simmons and Grandmaster Flash.

Those who worked with Sher and Simmons said the two had a relationship that ended amicably. One person said Sher 'would have whopped Russell's ass if he tried to rape her.'

There were multiple questions raised about Sher's timeline regarding the once shuttered Diplomat Hotel in Manhattan, and even her repeated changing of the dates, years, and her age.

Abrams, another accuser whose story is chronicled in the film, wrote in her book that she was "In no state to recall the events" in which she alleged to have occurred.

Carmen Ashurst, a former Def Jam president, stated that Abrams confided in her that she had slept with Simmons one afternoon, but he failed to take her out on the town. This, Ashurst said, angered Abrams.

In an affidavit, Ashurst

said she was "Absolutely sure" that Abrams wasn't truthful. Abrams has also accused former "Extra" host, AJ Calloway, of sexual assault.

Ashurst said Abrams told her that she was "sick of men using her for sex." Abrams had said that before her sexual encounter with Simmons, she had asked to be taken home, but Simmons' driver, drove her to the mogul's home against her will.

"To be clear, I have never driven anyone to any location against their will," Kenneth Lee, who was Simmons' driver, stated in an affidavit.

"If a passenger told me that she or he wanted to go

home, I would have taken that person home without exception and regardless of any instruction from Mr. Simmons or anyone else. Mr. Simmons never instructed me to take anyone somewhere against her or his will," Lee wrote.

Abrams has also claimed that Simmons apologized for sexually assaulting her. Simmons passed a three-hour polygraph test that was specifically about whether he had apologized to Abrams or anyone else for attacking them.

Despite granting other media interviews, Dixon, Sher, and Abrams have all repeatedly denied interview requests from the

Black Press.

Simmons has also declined comment, but through a spokesperson has denied all of the accusations.

"I am guilty of exploiting, supporting, and making the soundtrack for a grossly unequal society," Simmons wrote on Instagram.

"I have never been violent or forced myself on anyone. I am here to help support a necessary shift in power and consciousness. Let us get to work in uplifting humanity and put this moment and old narrative behind us."

HBO Max said it plans to air the "On the Record" documentary next month.



Russell Simmons attends the world premiere of the final season of the Starz television series "Power," at Madison Square Garden, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019, in New York.

WWW.IMWLAW.COM

IMW

IVIE McNEILL WYATT
PURCELL & DIGGS

#1 BLACK-OWNED FIRM IN CALIFORNIA
PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES
TO THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1943

Rodney S. Diggs, Byron Michael Purcell, Marie Maurice,
W. Keith Wyatt and Rickey Ivie

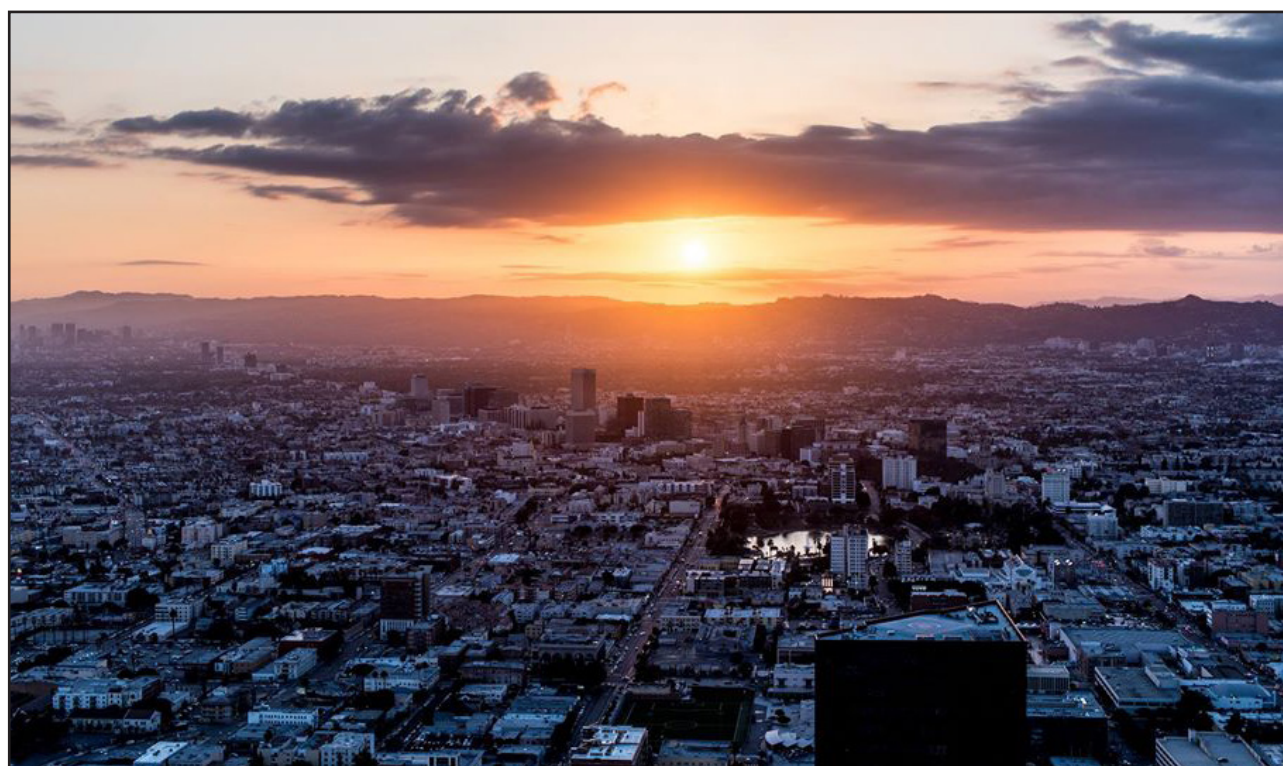
PERSONAL INJURY ■ ENTERTAINMENT LAW
CORPORATE LAW ■ CIVIL LITIGATION
EMPLOYMENT LAW ■ CRIMINAL LAW
...AND MORE

P: (213) 489-0028 444 S. Flower St., Suite 1800
F: (213) 489-0552 Los Angeles, CA 90071

IVIE McNEILL WYATT
PURCELL & DIGGS

Mayor Garcetti Gives State of City Address, Delivers Fiscal Budget for 2020-2021

Garcetti outlines tough times ahead, but reminds Angelenos they can meet the challenge.



COURTESY PHOTO

Los Angeles

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

On April 19, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti presented the 2020 State of the City Address at City Hall. On April 20, the release of Mayor Garcetti's proposed budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, further outlined more of what can be expected, which starts July 1. While the mayor's address was underlined with hope, it was also a sobering reality of the city's current and coming conditions. Despite tough times, he believes much lies in what we do after COVID-19.

"All of us remember the 2008 recession," said Mayor Garcetti. "Until now, it was the biggest economic blow of our lifetime, and it hurt. But there's no way to sugarcoat this. This is bigger, and it will hurt more." He continued, "Our city revenues have plummeted. Hotel reservations have collapsed. After 9/11, our airport closed for two and a half days, passenger traffic fell by as much as a third that month, and it took 10 years to claw our way back. Today, airport passenger traffic is down 95%." "From a fiscal perspective, this is the worst it's ever been."

Mayor Garcetti addressed that funding for certain departments will definitely feel the affects of the city's shutdown, but he intends to keep local services intact.

"Soon, many departments will have to operate at sharply reduced strength," said Mayor Garcetti. "Cherished programs will lose funding, while recreational and community services will see significant changes. We'll have less to spend on removing graffiti and caring for our urban forest."

"We face sharp limits right now, but I draw a red line around the foundation of our common good — those 'back to basics' invest-

ments that keep our neighborhoods safe, our streets clean, our families housed, and our children and seniors fed."

In his address, Mayor Garcetti addressed four questions to Angelenos during this unprecedented time:

1. How will we make it through?

"It may be months before we safely gather in large groups," said Mayor Garcetti. "It may be a year or more before a vaccine or medicine frees us from periodically returning to safer at home, but I'm so proud of what we have done as a city to stanch the bleeding. Emergency protections like our eviction moratoriums and our rent freeze are helping."

"Our manufacturers have retooled their assembly lines to produce face coverings and essential equipment and keep people at work. Our labs and universities have lent their expertise on testing, tracing, and economic revitalization."

"And our philanthropic community has stood up to ensure that no one gets left behind. With donations large and small, the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles has put food on the table and grocery cards in people's hands; provided childcare for our healthcare workers, meals for our seniors, and beds and safe havens for victims of domestic violence."

"Right now, we're in the first battle of this fight. Without a vaccine, we will almost certainly see a second wave of this novel coronavirus. But let me be clear: we cannot stay indoors for six or seven months without risking an even greater economic catastrophe."

2. When can we begin to leave our homes?

"Last week, I laid out the key elements of our return. One, testing both for the virus and for its antibodies.

"Two, real-time dynamic monitoring to see where cases are, followed by three, an immediate tracking and tracing response to quarantine people so that the virus can't spread to others."

"Four, we need to build and maintain our hospital capacity, both the human talent of nurses, techs and doctors, and the equipment and supplies so they can safely treat the worst cases."

"And five, we need ongoing research & development into treatments and a vaccine for this disease."

"To lead this effort and rebuild our economy, I have proposed the formation of a 'CARES Corps' — a coalition of local governments and health agencies, medical professionals and businesses, backed by federal funding and built to combat COVID-19 and to accelerate our economic recovery." "In the short term, the CARES corps would helm contact tracing efforts, deliver food to vulnerable populations, support testing sites, build and staff shelters, and assist small businesses."

"In the long term, it will address systemic disparities in access to medical services, incentivize careers in high-need fields, train corps members in disaster response, and cross-train individuals from the public, non-profit, corporate, and independent sectors to support essential services during emergencies. It will take advantage of the skills of public workers and put to work unemployed Angelenos."

3. When we do go back, what damage will have been done?

"At the height of the great recession, our city's unemployment rate hit 13.4 percent. Today it's higher. Preliminary numbers for the top of this month show nearly 300,000 Angelenos unemployed. That number will rise.

"Behind those numbers are neighbors, behind those statistics, stories, and it hasn't fallen upon us equal-



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

ly. Fewer Latinos, Asian Americans, and African Americans have the option of working from home. Many working-class Angelenos of color who could keep working, have had to risk their health by doing so. So, we were among the first cities to protect vulnerable workers by requiring face coverings and hand sanitizer at essential businesses."

"There's good reason to believe that your actions have flattened this curve, but to be clear, the numbers are still going up. Yesterday, we lost 81 Angelenos. Until our numbers start to shrink, we still have work to do."

4. When we do return, who do we want to be?

"You see, outside of our homes there is a great city waiting for us. The things we love about L.A. Will persist: our weather, our music, our food and culture, our drive to transform and innovate, our freedom, and what we believe in — the idea that we all belong to a block, a neighborhood, to this entire place, and to one another."

"And while we set the pace for the nation in so many ways, in innovation, in freedom, in belonging, we must ask of our city and our nation, at this time, is normal really what we want to come back to?"

"As a city, we haven't been waiting to take action. We've been digging deep, passing record investments like Prop HHH and Measure H to deliver housing, healing, and hope to the unsheltered. But in this crisis, we have a new county-wide plan to find thousands of hotel and motel rooms to prevent the spread of the virus among people experiencing homelessness. And once those fellow Angelenos come inside, they must not return to the streets."

"We passed a moratorium on evictions. But, let us guarantee that the loss of a job need not mean the loss of your home. Let's back with federal funds a sus-

*city safety

*city maintenance

*economic and youth development

*technology

"Strengthening city services, common sense reforms and a culture of problem-solving—these were the keys to building up our economy," said Mayor Garcetti. "That same solid foundation will help us build it again. After the last recession, we recovered faster than the state, and the state faster than the nation. Los Angeles was a sprinter. "And that same solid foundation and that same speed can help us do it again."

Mayor Garcetti didn't hold back on addressing the reality and results of our current situation, but he didn't hold back on the real possibility of creating a better tomorrow. He is calling on those in government to help get people working again. He is also proud how Angelenos have stood up to the challenges of COVID-19 and stated that spirit is what will ultimately pull everyone through, not just in L.A., but the country.

"To our friends in Washington, D.C., do what it takes to keep us building," said Mayor Garcetti. Pass a national infrastructure bill now, so we can put people back to work, and we'll show the country how to get it done.

"You see, when Los Angeles takes action, we inspire the nation and the world. We've led the way by staying home and by raising the wage. We've led the way

by wearing face coverings and by protecting the undocumented. Those Angeleno cards were followed by California's \$125 million fund to support immigrant families—let's follow that by opening every part of our recovery to every immigrant no matter their status.

"The soul of our recovery will shape the contours of Los Angeles' future. We've been addressing our biggest problems head-on: homelessness, traffic. So, let's not just try to recapture the past when we have the blueprint of the city of the future."

The proposal will be subject to City Council review and approval, which will take place in the coming weeks before a final budget is adopted.

For more on the State of City Address, please visit www.lamayor.org

For more on the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, please visit <http://cao.lacity.org>

pension of rent and mortgages during this crisis. Let's use a massive expansion of Section 8 to create the affordable and the social housing that will end our housing crisis for good.

"Here, we made our College Promise — the largest now in the country — our commitment to making community college free for every LAUSD graduate."

"Let's build on that nationwide with a promise to make college free for everyone who wants it. Give millions more the opportunity to pursue education as part of our recovery, to attend four-year universities as well as trade schools and community colleges as a way to get ahead, just as the GI Bill after World War II democratized education and wealth."

Some of the Mayor's proposed budget focuses on key areas such as:

*COVID-19 response plan

*homelessness

Fire {continued from Pg. A-1}

devastating."

Reports are that the damage was done to the west portion of the marquee of the theatre and there may have been a small amount of smoke that entered the facility but initial investigation is that the structure and roof look to be sturdy and intact.

The owners of the property adjacent to the Vision Theatre have boarded up that facility and this week the city sanitized and hosed down the theatre and surrounding areas affected by the flames.

The venue opened as a cinema venue in 1931 un-

der the name Leimert Park Theatre. It was purchased in 1990 by legendary actress Marla Gibbs, who gave it the Vision name. The city eventually took over the theater and turned it into a performing arts center.

"Marla Gibbs is a treasure to the community and her forethought to invest and create the Vision Theatre in the heart of the Black community will always be cherished and celebrated, said Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., executive publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel and L.A. Watts Times Newspaper. "She developed a creative space



A Leimert Park fire partially damages the Vision Theatre, renamed by famed actress, Marla Gibbs.

for African Americans to be proud of and showcase our talents. With the leadership of Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson, the Vision Theatre will continue to live and thrive for generations to come."

Ben Caldwell, who runs the Leimert Park Art Walk and manages the Kaos Network, a for-profit community media lab next door to the Vision, assessed the damage. "The damage on the property was mostly due to

the homeless encampment that caught on fire. So, the box-wall that faced the vision theater burned down and the wall that faced the encampment burned down," Caldwell said in a social-distanced interview. He says

there may have been fires on the roof. "I just hate to see that happen to my friends, there."

Caldwell says he appreciated watching the people come together during a hectic time. "It showed a community working together; we see how fast we were able to stop the fire," he said. "There are elements in the community during these hard times that are hard to work with because of the cycle of social trauma, but I think this is a good wake-up call for us all to see what we can do about taking care of emergency things."

Task Force {continued from Pg. A-1}

and president of the non-profit PolicyLink, a research institute and social action organization that advances racial and economic equity, according to the group's website.

"It was unacceptable then and it will be unacceptable going forward," Blackwell continued, pointing out the "painful" economic and health disparities the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare across the United States and here in California.

She was speaking Friday during Gov. Gavin Newsom's daily COVID-19 press conference in Sacramento. During the briefing, the governor announced that he has appointed Blackwell and 79 other prominent Californians to the state Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery.

The governor said he is charging the diverse group of social, political and economic leaders to analyze every sector of the state economy and put together a road map to economic recovery. Newsom says he expects the task force to come up with "short-term, medium-term and long-term ideas" to put California on track to once again attain the level of economic prosperity the state had reached before the pandemic: 21 consecutive months of job growth; a \$20 billion budget surplus in 2019; and 20 billion more stacked away in the state reserves.

"I have asked and tasked some of the best and brightest minds that we could source — a disproportionate number, almost exclusively, reside right here in the state of California — some of the most well-known business leaders in the world. The great social justice lawyers reside here in

the state of California. Tribal leaders. Health care leaders. Small business leaders."

Tom Steyer, the billionaire businessman, civic leader, and former US presidential candidate will co-chair the task force along with Gov. Newsom's Chief of Staff Ann O'Leary.

Other African American task force members include Gregory A. Adams, chairman and CEO, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and hospitals; Willie Adams, president, International Longshore and Warehouse Union; E. Toby Boyd, president, California Teachers Association; Stacy Brown-Philpot, CEO, TaskRabbit; Dr. Robert Ross, president and CEO; The California Endowment among others. See the full list of members.

The impact of the global Coronavirus pandemic in California has been deep and far-reaching, hitting the finances, health, and way of life of people across class, race, and geographical lines, but especially so among African Americans and other people of color.

At press time, the coronavirus had claimed the lives of more than one thousand Californians, and more than 28,000 more across the state had been infected by the deadly virus — with the largest concentration, more than 11,000 people, diagnosed in Los Angeles County alone.

Based on racial data the state has collected so far on mortality rates, a disproportionate number of Black Californians have died from COVID-19: About 12 percent in a state where African Americans account for six percent of the total population of nearly 40 million people.



1) Governor Gavin Newsom, 2) Dr. Robert Ross, president & CEO, California Endowment; 3) Ken McNeely, president, Western Region; 4) AT&T, Gregory A. Adams, chairman & CEO Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. & Hospitals; 5) Stacy Brown-Philpot, CEO, TaskRabbit; 6) April Verrett, president, SEIU 2015; 7) Willie Adams, president, ILWU; 8) Lee Saunders, president, AFSCME; 9) Angela Glover Blackwell, founder-in-residence PolicyLink; 10) James Manyika, senior partner, McKinsey & Company; 11) Lloyd Dean, CEO, Dignity Health; 12) E. Toby Boyd, president, California Teachers Association

About 95 people died of COVID-19 Thursday, the deadliest day since the onset of the pandemic, and a day before the governor announced his economic recovery task force appointments.

Last week, the governor also announced that the state is officially in a "pandemic-induced recession."

"This pandemic has forced millions of Californians out of jobs — with the most vulnerable hit the hardest," he said. "We will use a gradual, science-based and data-driven framework to guide our

re-opening timing while planning our economic recovery."

More than 3.1 million Californians have filed for unemployment insurance since March 12, and the state unemployment rate has spiked to 5.3% from under 3% just two months ago. Before the onset of the pandemic, about 2,500 people applied weekly, on average, for unemployment insurance. Over the last few weeks, that weekly average has jumped to more than 200,000.

"This is an amazing moment despite all the suffering," Blackwell said.

"The silver lining could be to finally understand that we cannot go forward as a nation divided as we have been between haves and have nots."

Other members the governor appointed to the task force are California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Los Angeles), Senate Minority Leader Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield), Assembly Minority Leader Marie Waldron (R-Escondido), former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, Walt Disney Company Executive Chairman Bob Iger, former head of the Small

Business Administration, Aida Alvarez and dozens of other Californians from sectors, including business, labor, health care, academia and philanthropy.

Gov. Newsom also appointed the state's four living former governors as honorary members on the task force. They are Hon. Jerry Brown, Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Hon. Gray Davis and Hon. Pete Wilson.

"We need to demonstrate for the nation that it is possible to have a recovery that is transformative, imaginative and radical," Blackwell emphasized.

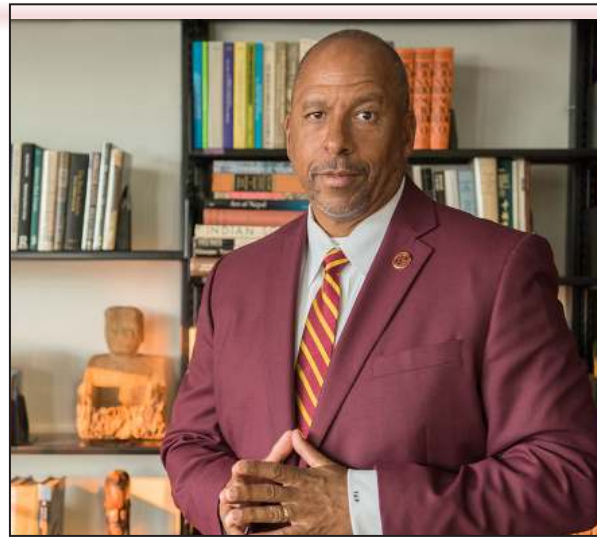
Crisis {continued from Pg. A-1}

Excitement and the normal anxiety about which offer to choose are coupled with uncertainty about life in the new reality of the current and post-COVID-19 pandemic health crisis.

As CSUDH's president, my team and I were set to welcome our admitted Fall 2020 class with the packet we normally send out this time of year. However, the historic events unfolding around us called for us to do something different. With all of Los Angeles County adhering to stay-at-home orders, I recorded an iPhone video message from my home to our newly admitted students. I shared with them

that as CSUDH Toros, they will engage in academic and co-curricular learning opportunities, intellectual enlightenment and illumination, critical thinking, creativity and innovation, discovery and inquisition.

I concluded my message with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who asserted that "life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?" In many ways, this quote has added meaning at this time, as we, as a society, collectively sacrifice to flatten the curve of this virus' spread. I also referenced that quote to remind students that at CSUDH, the education they



Thomas A. Parham, Ph.D.

will receive from our magnificent faculty and dedicated staff is not simply for job acquisition and career advancement. Rather, the education students re-

ceive at Dominguez Hills will inspire them to do for others in society, while taking the knowledge and skills they have learned and translating those into

specific skills and behaviors that will uplift their communities, this state, and this nation. Indeed, my slogan of how CSUDH "transforms lives that transforms America" could not be more accurate.

Mission-Focused

There is no doubt that a campus that sometimes has been called the "HBCU of the West" will deliver on those aspirations and goals, even amid a health crisis that may linger for some time. In fact, throughout these past months, our university has remained mission-focused even as we have had to rapidly transition our entire campus to a remote environment.

I applaud our faculty for their commitment and

dedication to our students. They have worked tirelessly to ensure the alternative forms of instruction they developed were based on sound pedagogy and evidence-based practices. I give credit to our academic support staff, who accepted the challenge of adapting student services such as academic and career counseling, tutoring, peer-mentoring, and co-curricular activities to a more virtual environment. And our campus operations have continued, thanks to the staff who provide critical IT support, clean and disinfect our environment, manage the physical plant, and provide executive leadership and management.

Funds {continued from Pg. A-1}

mittee. In this capacity, she works to ensure that committees reflect the diversity and integrity of the Democratic Caucus.

Weber (D- San Diego) chairs the California Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety. She is also a member of the Assembly Standing Committees on Education, Higher Education, Elections, Budget, and Banking and Finance. Cohen, who was elected in 2018, is the first African American woman to serve on the BOE. Previously, she served from 2010-to-2014 on the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

The powerful officials covered a range of issues impacting Blacks as a result of COVID-19, such as the disproportionate number of deaths, the lack of testing among African Americans, and delays in funding to assist minority-owned businesses.

"We have a list of demands that we're fighting for," insisted Bass, who noted that some media are advancing the position that

the underlying health issues and refusal to follow health protocols have led to a higher incidence of COVID cases in the Black community.

"But they did not say that the reason White young people are getting COVID is because they were vacationing in Florida," responded Bass. "We are recommending to reject both of those lines of argument and to focus on comprehensive testing in areas, where there are large Black populations."

"We're also calling for the essential workforce to have its protection because we know that is one of the reasons why the death rate is so high amongst African Americans is, because we're the ones on the front lines - delivering the mail, at your grocery store, etc. - and we're demanding data from the Center for Disease and Control and it should be given directly to community-based organizations to provide the public education that we need," she said.

Bass urged people not to devote time to conspiracy theories about why Blacks

are impacted by COVID-19 at rate that is nearly double their population. Instead, she recommended that such distractions be avoided and the concentration must remain on "testing, testing, testing, and also making sure that people get the health care that they need."

Further emphasizing the importance of testing, Lee said that the CBC has established a Health Brain Trust focused on health strategies like mobile testing units that community-based organizations can utilize to deliver health care services.

"We need comprehensive testing with rapid results so we can make sure that the virus is not transmitted in disproportionate rates as it is now," Lee said. "We introduced bills to mandate that the Department of Health and Human Services disclose race-specific data of the victims of this pandemic."

"We need this data to stop the rapid transmission of this virus and the unfortunate deaths that are occurring."

On a statewide level, Weber announced that the California Black Caucus is meeting regularly with

Governor Gavin Newsom and his staff to outline the specific outcomes for the Black community that impact economic, educational and health care recovery. The goal, she said, is to match resources with the programming and budget allocated to aid African Americans.

Another area of importance is assistance to minority-owned businesses and educational resources for Black children to ensure that youth are not negatively affected by lack of instruction. The Black Caucus is collaborating with Black Chambers of Commerce and educational nonprofits to hold forums on these topics to educate the community.

"We'd like an inspector general to make sure that there is oversight as to how many African Americans — not just people of color, but African Americans — are actually getting the support that's essential in terms of rescuing their businesses and doing a better job," said Weber.

"We're also focusing on education because clearly that's going to be a major challenge. Our schools, up

and down the state, have no consistent program of expectations or outcomes expected. Kids will have lost six weeks of instruction prior to the school closure that begins at the end of April.

"We are asking for a different kind of educational structure for the summer months and into the fall that could include freedom schools to make sure that the achievement gap is not permanent," Weber added.

Cohen shared that California has extended the filing deadline to July 31 for small businesses with \$1 million or less in sales. Also, she urged businesses, nonprofits and individuals struggling to pay property taxes to contact their county offices for assistance.

"This is important to Blacks because a lot of our wealth is tied to our property, along with churches, who have nonprofit arms. We need to have an elevated conversation about our finances and how we can protect them," Cohen said.

The officials also outlined their efforts to assist the homeless in light of the pandemic. Lee explained that the CBC requested and received \$4 billion in fund-

ing for homeless women, men and children in the first CARES package that Congress passed in March for coronavirus relief. An additional funding request is included in the legislation that is currently being debated.

"Homelessness has been a priority for the CDC for years and we are definitely focused on that. It's a pandemic upon a pandemic," said Lee.

Connected to homelessness is the 2020 census, which Bass said that that demographic must be counted and the CBC has formed a Census Task Force to ensure that people complete and submit the census form.

"In California, we are projected to lose a congressional seat, but if we do a real strong count, that won't be the case. People need to understand the significance of the census for resources and representation," Bass said.

Based on the response of the audience, the press briefing was well received and appreciated by the African American media. Wilson of the CBM said more briefings would be presented in the future.

AARP and NNPA Join Forces for Riveting Webinar on Saving Black Lives During COVID-19 Pandemic

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire
Senior Correspondent

AARP, the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and over, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association of the Black Press of America, held a briefing to help provide critical information for those most at-risk and impacted by the novel coronavirus.

The 45-minute webinar addressed tools and resources to help the African American community navigate through the pandemic and included a panel of experts in the fields of health, caregiving, financial security, and entrepreneurship.

Lorraine Miller and Chris Brown of Burrell Communications in Chicago coordinated the webinar, which was titled, "AARP - NNPA COVID-19 Black Media Update."

Jointly hosted by NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., and

AARP Vice President of Multicultural Leadership, Shani Hosten, the live program also marked the first appearance by renowned infectious disease expert and Meharry Medical College President Dr. James Hildreth as a member of the NNPA Coronavirus Task Force and Resource Center.

"Data is critical, and we've got to have testing, testing, testing," Dr. Hildreth stated.

"Testing is our best hope to save lives. I've been insisting this to the mayor of Nashville, the governor of Tennessee, and anyone who will listen. If we don't do widespread testing, people are going to die, and that's the bottom line," he said.

As of the webinar, more than 609,000 Americans have contracted COVID-19, the deadly disease that's caused by the coronavirus.

There have been at least 25,603 deaths, and based on incomplete data, African Americans are disproportionately affected and represent the majority who've

died from the virus.

"This is a particularly critical time for the African American community," Hosten stated, noting the various resources AARP has developed, including a Black resources tool kit on its website.

Chavis stated that it's essential to get accurate information out as much as possible to the Black community.

"We want to make sure that during this pandemic, we get information out that will help save Black lives," he said.

Rita Choula, AARP's director of caregiving and caregiving information resources, said providing care to family members has its own share of problems. Still, the coronavirus has made that all the more challenging.

"People are stressed and worried, not only about caring for themselves but protecting and caring for someone in the home or someone long distance," Choula stated.

"It's very important that



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

"AARP community connections have mutual aid and support groups where they might help with grocery shopping, financial assistance, or emotional support," said Reginald Nance, AARP's New York associate state director of multicultural outreach.

there is increased conversation with nursing facilities through virtual visitation and phone calls, which is what AARP is advocating."

Cristina Firvida, AARP's vice president of financial security and consumer affairs, noted that AARP has continued to advocate at the state and federal level for everyone struggling financially during the pandemic.

"Our friends, our families are hurting. We focused on how we can get more money

in the hands of individuals as well as businesses," Firvida said, adding that AARP lobbied that seniors also receive \$1,200 stimulus payments.

She said the original bill allowed for seniors to receive just \$600.

Reginald Nance, AARP's New York associate state director of multicultural outreach, noted the importance of fraud protection and emphasized that AARP has organized various forms of assistance for seniors nation-

wide.

"AARP community connections have mutual aid and support groups where they might help with grocery shopping, financial assistance, or emotional support," Nance stated.

Dr. Hildreth wrapped up the webinar by noting that the federal government fell asleep at the wheel and could have prevented much of the mayhem caused by the coronavirus.

He called the spread of COVID-19 "entirely predictable," and noted that the lack of planning by the federal government obviously was bad news for African Americans.

Dr. Hildreth also stated his frustration with those who imply that African Americans are more susceptible to the virus.

"Absent a vaccine or a drug, the only way

{See AARP A-11}

Wendy's

WINDOW

Forgiving for Living

Equity Vs. Equality

The travesty of COVID-19 has sparked many conversations around racial disparities among the African American community. There are a lot of people discussing how hard the Black community has been hit by this epidemic and why. It is interesting because initially there were rumors that this disease could not, would not hit our community. The novel Coronavirus is not specifically targeting the African American community; but rather, because of the health disparities that already existed within the Black community, they are among the hardest hit. There is an old African American aphorism that says, "When White America catches a cold, Black America gets pneumonia." In the case of COVID-19, more often than not when White America gets sick, they survive;



when Black America gets it, they die. People often talk about wanting equality, but the reality is we need equity. It has been expressed that equity and equality are two strategies that can be used to produce fairness. Equity is giving everyone what they need to be successful. Equality is treating everyone the same. Equality aims to promote fairness, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same help. The problem is everybody does not start from the same place. There are many that start behind the starting line and it has been that way for generations. Structural Racism is just part of the problem. Racism has been around for generations and still exists here in America. It is based on policies and practices that are put in place by those that are

in power. Because of the inequities and disparities, the Black community has higher levels of health issues such as heart disease, higher levels of stress, obesity, diabetes, asthma, and high blood pressure that are tied to racial inequality and poverty. The way the majority, especially those in power, look at minorities is often related to economics. If they are needed for labor then they have value, but the question becomes, does their basic existence matter? Do our lives matter? Since the end of slavery, racism has underwritten Black economics and the lack thereof. African Americans are heavily concentrated in low-wage jobs that the government and the powers that be have designated as "essential." In a press conference, Vice-President

{See WENDY A-11}

Success On "The Way"

Ask Dr. Jeanette Parker™

Eat What You Want...Oh' Really?

Our appetites can master and control our lives. We reflect...or should, I say most people reflect what they eat. Sometimes it's more obvious with some than with others. Just because a person is not overweight, that doesn't mean they are healthy. Exercise should be a built in regular activity in life. I didn't start writing this to talk about exercise. What I really want to talk to you about are the regulatory rituals and habits of eating. I know that the ritual eating habits of thousands of years ago may not be followed by most nowadays. However, as I read about some of the ancient ritualistic eating practices, I wonder if some of those laws are applicable today?? For example, Biblical ritualistic eating laws state there are specific foods disallowed and prohibited to be eaten. I was



astonished as I reviewed those foods in Leviticus. Of course, as you might guess, I was influenced with the onslaught of the Coronavirus-19. We do hear swirling on the news daily, either rumor or truth some people do eat foods forbidden in the Bible. Chances are we may all. What are some of them? There are many and cannot be detailed here. There is mention of it's okay to eat animals with cloven hooves and chewing the cud. The camel, for example you may not eat, because it chews the cud, but does not have cloven hooves. They are classified as "unclean." It mentions swine. There are certain birds forbidden to be eaten, the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, the falcon, the stork and the bat. Then, there are creeping things forbidden to be eaten, the mouse,

the gecko, the sand reptile, chameleon. There are others mentioned, but unclear. It's interesting to note one biblical documentary mentioned was when Abel brought his sheep offering, it was accepted, but whatever Cain brought, it was unacceptable. God was okay with Abel's offering, the first-born. One might ask, what were God's grounds for rejecting Cain's offering? Here's the thing. God gave Cain every opportunity to get it right and bring back to Him an acceptable offering. God does not give all His reasons nor does the Bible spell out why God put these prohibitions on certain foods. He did not want the idolaters/pagans mingling and mixing together with people who believed in "the one true God." He sets an ab-

{See PARKER A-11}

PLACE YOUR AD ON LINE www.lasentinel.net 323 299-3800

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL						
CLASSIFIED						
10	50	50	90	250	650	850
Rooms for Rent	APARTMENTS - UNFURNISHED	APARTMENTS - UNFURNISHED	HOUSES - UNFURNISHED	SALES	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE	CONTRACTORS
SHARED & SINGLE ROOMS FOR RENT SHARED ROOMS FOR RENT \$575 & UP FULLY FURNISHED & UTILITIES PAID, LAUNDRY ROOM ON PREMISES CALL ROBERT: (323) 841-2485 LOW COST SHARED ROOMS FOR RENT! (\$650) NEW, QUIET HOUSE IN LOS ANGELES WITH ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. SSI AND PILOT PROGRAM ACCEPTED. CALL AMIR 323-387-5889	CARPET. NEW PAINT. ONE UNIT UPSTAIRS. SECOND DOWNSTAIRS. \$1500 2 BEDROOMS 1 BATH SECT 8 OK 2 BEDROOMS 1 BATH RENT: \$2000 727 W. 82ND ST. LA BY HOOVER/ 82ND ST FRESH PAINT, CARPET, PARKING, LAUNDRY ROOM. MIKE (310) 433-8800 FULLY SECURED COMPLETELY REMODELED 1BD/ UNIT IN MID- CITIES NEW KITCHEN, BATH, CARPET, HARDWOOD FLOORS, DOWN STAIRS UNIT WITH PARKING IN A CLEAN, SAFE, QUIET ENVIRONMENT.	CLOSE TO SHOPPING & TRANSP. \$1725/MO (310) 990-5524 60 APARTMENTS - FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM APT PARTLY FURNISHED SMALL QUITE CLEAN APT. SECURITY BARS, NEW BLINDS, CARPET, PAINT, REAR PARKING, BUS STOP, SHOPPING CENTERS, LAUNDRY MATS VERY CONVENIENT. WELCOME SENIORS, SECTION 8 OK. HOMELESS PROGRAMS WITH SECTION 8 OK. MS. BRADFORD (323) 495-5554	2 BEDROOM DUPLEX 1445 W. 56 ST. LOS ANGELES, SECTION 8 WELCOME. WASHER & DRYER HOOKUP CALL 323-702-2802 MRS. BROOKS 230 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ADULT RESIDENTIAL FACILITY NOW HIRING FOR DIRECT CARE STAFF TO WORK WITH DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED ADULTS IN A RESIDENTIAL SETTING. WILL TRAIN. L.A. AREA. 310-569-1721 310-569-1721	TOBACCO/CONVENIENCE STORE TOBACCO/SNACKS CHIPS, COOKIES, CANDY, WATER AND SODAS SUMTHINDIFRENT 323-455-0378 6407 S SAN PEDRO ST LOS ANGELES CA 90003 310 BUSINESS SERVICES NICE PERSON LOOKING FOR NICE PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW HOW TO SAVE YOUR HOUSE. CALL MS. JOHNSON 562-340-2517	COMMERCIAL BUILDING RETAIL COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR SALE HAS GREAT OPPORTUNITY 4-UNITS A, B, C & D + BASEMENT EACH UNIT 4,000 SQFT, BASE 9,000 PLEASE DON'T DISTURB THE TENANT 2-APPRAISALS \$1,800,000-\$2,500,000. CASH BUYER TO CLOSE ESCROW 2-3 WEEKS. SELLING PRICE \$1,550,000 FIRM. CONTACT: MIKE 1-619-9335571 9:00 AM-9:00 PM 850 CONTRACTORS FLORENCE TOWNE PROJECT IS NOW HIRING ALL CONSTRUCTION TRADES SECTION 3 RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR FULL TIME POSITIONS FOR ALL	CONSTRUCTION TRADES** ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE CONSIDERATION FOR EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT INC. 3699 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 660, LOS ANGELES CA 90010 CHONG LEE 213-637-4702

Statement From April Verrett President Of Seiu Local 2015



April Verrett

COURTESY PHOTO

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

“The data that was recently shared on the persistent, growing and deadly outbreak of COVID-19 in California nursing homes is a clarion call to action for all of us. This deadly pandemic is targeting our most vulnerable elders. Those charged with caring for them - low wage workers, almost always women - are walking into infection zones without the most basic of protections.

Immediate testing of all residents and staff must be required as well as 100% daily reporting on infection rates from all skilled nursing facilities in the state. Raincoats and rags turned into isolation gowns and face masks are not adequate stand-ins for medical grade PPE, or a serious testing regimen.”

“As a state, and as a nation, we must rapidly escalate our coordination, manufacturing and distribution of PPE to ensure

price gouging and bidding wars don't delay critical needs on the frontline of the fight against the virus. We implore our leaders in Washington to stop bickering and start coordinating with the urgency the moment demands. That means releasing more funds for states like ours, which are grappling with major outbreak, and doing a better job coordinating a national testing regimen like other developed nations throughout the world.”

Celebration of Life

Billie Jean Barrett

Billie Jean Barrett was born to Woody and Katherine George Barrett in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern California, her Master of Science degree from Mount St. Mary's University and was a graduate fellow at the University of London, London, England.

She was dedicated to serving her community and active in many organizations. She was a Golden Heritage Life Member of the NAACP, Life Member-National Council of Negro Women, a Life Member and 50+ year member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. having served as Far West Regional Director; Organizer and Charter Member of The Society, Inc., Los Angeles Chapter, active member of the USC Alumni Association, Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society of Key Women Edu-



February 14, 1931 – March 16, 2020

caters. She was also the first African American installed as President of Music Center Education Guild.

She has received innumerable local, legislative and gubernatorial awards.

She is survived by nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. She was preceded in death by her par-

ents, Woody and Katherine George Barrett, and brother, Lloyd Benjamin Barrett, Sr.

Due to the global health crisis, no funeral service is planned. A memorial service, celebrating her life will be scheduled at a later date.

Parker {continued from Pg. A-10}

solute standard regardless of the reason for it. He doesn't always have to explain everything to us, nor our lack of understanding why. His chief directive is "obedience." Learn of me. If we swerve from His pronounced and declared standard, there are consequences. We may not like them. The thing about God is that there are some people who will warn you and try to redirect you from coming to a destructive

end. We need to become better listeners. You shall hear a word in your mind, this is the way walk in it as you go left, right, north, south, east or west. His ways are above our ways. He knows the end from the beginning. He's acquainted with all our way and knows when we get up and when we sit down. He knew us when we were in the womb. Trust in the Lord with all our hearts. Do not rely always on

our own understanding. Acknowledge Him. He will direct us. So, "Yes, you can eat anything you want to eat, but there are consequences. Some things even today are just not meant to be eaten. Ask Dr. Jeanette Parkertm Ask Dr. Jeanette Parker www. AskDrJeanetteParker.com; Articles copyright © Inquiring Minds Want To Know; Jeanette Parker is Founder/ Superintendent of Today's Fresh Start Charter School www.todaysfreshstart.org askdrjeanette.successionthe-way@gmail.com Thanks for reading!

Wendy {continued from Pg. A-10}

Pence expressed the role of low-wage workers as being "essential" workers. He said, "You are giving a great service to the people of the United States of America, and we need for you to continue, as a part of what we call critical infrastructure, to show up and do your job." There are reports that Black and low-income individuals have reported that they were not feeling well, yet they were mandated to return to work. Oftentimes without even proper protective gear. Their lives did not matter. Some have even died (check out Tyson food

workers). Where is the equity or equality in this? When people are hungry, worried about losing their homes and looking down the barrel of unemployment, they do not prioritize their safety or health, especially when the "system" has not treated them equitably in the first place. Many African American workers are on the front lines facing the public in areas such as public transportation, retail, food service, and other industries where social distancing is difficult. There are systemic factors and stereotypes lined up

against African Americans (and other minorities and poor people) that cause the "system" to discriminate against them. We must work on ending this crisis. But we will only eradicate this problem when equity and equality walk hand and hand for everyone.

Healing Without Hate: It's a choice. It's a lifestyle. Pass it on!

Visit www.WendyGladney.com and www.forgiving-forliving.org to learn more. Wendy is an international coach, consultant, trainer, author and speaker.

AARP {continued from Pg. A-10}

to protect our communities, which means to keep the virus out, is we have to have testing," Dr. Hildreth stated.

"We need to do what South Korea did, which is to identify the positive tests, do contact tracing, and screen everybody. We should have a nationally coordinated response because viruses don't respect orders," he said.

Dr. Hildreth continued: "You might have one

state controlling the virus, but if the neighboring states don't do that, we'll find ourselves right back where we started. Data is critical. Many are saying that African Americans are more susceptible to the virus, and that's absolutely not right.

"We may be more susceptible to severe diseases and death, but the evidence doesn't support that Black people are more susceptible to the virus. The only

way to prove that is to have an equal number of African Americans and white exposed to the virus at the same time and determine who got infected at a higher rate. Without data to support this, those statements drive me crazy. We have to have more tests."

Updated information on the coronavirus came be found at www.aarp.org/coronavirus and at the NNPA's www.BlackPressUSA.com COVID-19 tab.

Karenga {continued from Pg. A-6}

are different and therefore determine our life, health and death and our unequal suffering in daily life. So, we are not the same as our oppressor. And if we don't distinguish ourselves from our oppressor - intentional or incidental, we will continue to confuse our interests with theirs, see no need to resist our oppression, and simply seek a comfortable and accommodating place in oppression. There are so many lessons to draw from the libraries of our lives, work and struggle in this country and the world. But none is more central than this: that we are our own liberators; that the oppressor is responsible for our oppression, but we are responsible for our liberation;

and part of our responsibility is to hold our oppressor responsible for their oppression through righteous and relentless struggle.

In this regard, we know that every right denied must be gained, regained and sustained through ceaseless striving and struggle. And thus again, all the variant and viral forms of the pathology of oppression imposed on us can only be mitigated, contained and eventually eliminated in righteous and relentless resistance. In other words, only in the transformative fire of reaffirmation of ourselves and our rights and radical opposition to the pathology of oppression in all its diseased expressions can we heal and free ourselves

and participate fully and meaningfully in the radical reconstruction of society in clearly human-respecting and world-preserving ways.

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, The Message and Meaning of Kwanzaa: Bringing Good Into the World and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis, www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.com

Public Notices

Public Notices

Public Notices

Public Notices

Public Notices

Public Notices

Public Notices

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITY
for Contractors, Subcontractors, Suppliers

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Invite Bids for The Construction of:

POMONA WATER RECLAMATION PLANT INFLUENT SEWER GATE STRUCTURE
(Bid Opening June 18, 2020 - Estimate \$400,000 - \$800,000)

Contracting and Supply Opportunities Include:
Reinforced Steel; Concrete; Precast Concrete; Stainless Steel Treadplate; Slide Gate Supplier; Electrical Switchboard and Materials

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts encourage participation of minority, women, disadvantaged, disabled veterans, and small business enterprises.

Plans and Specifications may be obtained through Quest Construction Data Network (QuestCDN) for a nonrefundable fee of \$15.00. This can be done via a link on the Districts' Listing of Advertised Construction Projects webpage <https://www.lacsd.org/opportunities/bidspur/constrbids.asp> or by inputting Quest project number **6907963** through the QuestCDN website (www.questcdn.com). Visit our Web site at "www.lacsd.org" and click on "Opportunities, Construction Bids"

CNS-3360954#

To provide:
Visual design, Video and Digital production, Editing, Casting, Location scout, in support of marketing and communication support services anticipated projects.

RFP Due: April 20, 2020
RFP No: SP524R-20
RFP title: Marketing and Communications Support Services

Please note that there is no specific contract amount at this time as the RFP is seeking agencies to be on the bench and will be assigned specific contracts/task orders as defined by Metrolink's marketing department throughout the course of the contract term. Walton Isaacson is an equal opportunity employer.

Walton Isaacson Contact:
Walton Isaacson
3630 Eastham Drive
Culver City Ca 90232
323-677-5300
4/23/20
CNS-3360522#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Notice is given that proposals for On-Call Solar Power Systems Maintenance (BRC0000135) will be received via BidExpress or e-mail to the Contract Analyst until 5:30 pm, Monday, May 4, 2020. No Proposers' Conference will be held. Estimated contract amount is \$50,000 annually. An RFP may be obtained by accessing the link at <http://pw.lacounty.gov/brcd/servicecontracts> or

will be mailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-2575 or TDD at (626) 282-7829.
4/23/20
CNS-3359336#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MABLE C. FOSTER NEE COLVIN CASE NO. 19STPB09328

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MABLE C. FOSTER NEE COLVIN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GARRY FOSTER in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GARRY FOSTER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the

estate under the Independent 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 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: 06/05/20 at 8:30AM in Dept. 4 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.

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 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 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 section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

In Pro Per Petitioner
GARRY FOSTER
3505 W. 139TH STREET #39
HAWTHORNE CA 90250
4/16, 4/23, 4/30/20
CNS-3358772#
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

GOVERNMENT

Walton Isaacson is seeking certified and qualified DBE suppliers for:
Metrolink Commuter Rail System RFP No SP524R-20 Marketing and Communications Support Services for the Southern California Regional Rail Authority.

Councilmember Harris Dawson Joins Labor Leaders and L.A. Regional Food Bank to Provide Groceries to 5,000 Families

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

COVID-19 has taken an immediate financial toll on the city of Los Angeles. Many families are looking for ways to make ends meet and keep food on the table. Local organizations and elected officials have hit the ground to help residents access the food and resources they need safely. Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson partnered with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank to host a drive-through food pantry for more than 5,000 South L.A. Families.

Everyone is impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. This food giveaway brought together essential workers and volunteers from across Los Angeles to

support an urgent need. Volunteers from Community Coalition, Community Intervention Workers from the South LA Community Safety Initiative's partner agencies Developing Options, Ambassadors for Peace & Urban Unity, and Strong Shoulders as well as union members worked together to safely and effectively raise awareness, manage crowds, direct traffic and distribute food, drive-through style to thousands of families. Out of an abundance of safety, individuals were asked to remain in their vehicles. The event attracted several walkups who shared their contact information and had their food pantry items delivered by Council District 8 staff.

This event was at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza.



COURTESY PHOTO
Councilmember Harris Dawson with LA County Federation of Labor President Ron Herrera

Cars entered on W. Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd., between Marlton Ave. & Crenshaw Blvd. before lining up in parking spaces to reduce traffic. Even still,

the line stretched down Crenshaw and wrapped around the mall. When timed, cars took only 15 minutes to receive their items after entering the

plaza. Thanks to the hard work and efficiency of the volunteers and essential workers, the event was able to stay open two hours longer and provided meals

to twice as many families as initially scheduled.

Councilmember Harris-Dawson was joined by Ron Herrera, president, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, Armando Olivas, director, Labor Communities Services, and Michael Flood, president and CEO, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

"Families are hurting, we need to do everything we can to help, and a box of groceries can go a long way," said Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. "This event represents a true community partnership. I would like to thank Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza for hosting us, as well as the volunteers and our interventionists for doing the work that our community needs at a time like this."

A New Way of Life Reentry Project announces opening of ninth safe home in South Los Angeles

The non-profit organization will welcome women released from local jails and state prisons, as those facilities attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

As Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva scrambles to release people and stop the spread of COVID-19 within local jails, A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL) is expanding its efforts to help formerly incarcerated women by securing a ninth safe home in South Los Angeles. The house will open within the next few days.

For more than two decades, A New Way of Life has provided reentry services in the Los Angeles area and is uniquely qualified to



COURTESY PHOTO
Susan Burton

give safety and support to women being released during this pandemic. ANWOL is a non-profit organization that was founded in South Los Angeles in 1998 by Susan Burton and has pro-

vided housing for more than 1,100 formerly incarcerated women and their children, in addition to serving over 3,000 community members with its legal clinics. The organization currently operates eight safe homes in L.A. and Long Beach that can house up to 55 women at any given time; the addition of a ninth house will raise capacity to 64 residents.

"I can only imagine what it feels like to be imprisoned and unable to socially distance, to be subject to inadequate health care, and to not know whether or not you've contracted COVID-19 because of limited or no test-

ing," Burton. "We can see that COVID-19 is spreading rapidly in jails and prisons, so our newest home will be really important in providing a safe place for women to shelter. We are working closely with the Office of Diversion and Reentry and the Department of Health to facilitate coordinated jail releases so that women being released receive a warm handoff."

In addition to running nine safe homes in Los Angeles, ANWOL also facilitates the SAFE Housing Network, a nationwide network of housing for formerly incarcerated people

founded in 2018. Organizations on the SAFE Housing Network include WIN Recovery in Champaign, IL; Black and Pink in Omaha, NE; Turning Point in Los Angeles; Welcome Home SIS in Byesville, OH; True Beginnings in Las Vegas, NV; Starting Over Inc. in Corona, CA; Founding Mothers in Phoenix, AZ; and We Rise Leadership Collective in St. Paul, MN. These organizations are working in their respective communities to ensure that people being released from jails and prisons have a safe place to land.

Support for ANWOL's new home has come from

Formerly Incarcerated Convicted People and Families Movement (FICPFM), philanthropic organizations, individuals, and donors in the entertainment industry. A New Way of Life is taking donations for home furnishings via anwol.org and an online Target registry.

To learn more about the work that organizations like A New Way of Life are doing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, click here to listen to an April 14 interview on KPFK's "Sojourner Truth" with Burton and Daryl Atkinson, co-director of Forward Justice.

SoCalGas Launches 'SoCalGas CAREs' Campaign to Bring Awareness to CARE Assistance Program for Customers Facing Financial Hardship due to COVID-19

SoCalGas CAREs reminds customers they can qualify to save 20 percent on their monthly utility bills through CARE

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) today launched a campaign titled, "SoCalGas CAREs" for customers whose income may have recently changed due to COVID-19 or other reasons. The campaign aims to let customers know of their eligibility to qualify for SoCalGas' assistance program, California Alternate Rates for Energy or CARE, saving them 20 percent on their monthly nat-

ural gas bills. Over the next several weeks, SoCalGas will begin running both social media and television ads promoting the "SoCalGas CAREs" campaign.

"SoCalGas is committed to assisting the communities we serve during this challenging period," said Jeff Walker, Vice President of Customer Solutions at SoCalGas. "We recognize that many families are facing unexpected hardships such as job and income loss right now and we want to

remind them that SoCalGas' assistance programs like CARE can help."

The CARE program aids people in paying their utility bills by providing a 20 percent discount on monthly natural gas bills.

Customers who have become recently unemployed or who are currently facing financial hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic or for other reasons are encouraged to visit socialgas.com/care, complete the

quick online application and find out instantly if they qualify. The CARE online application is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.

Other customer assistance programs SoCalGas offers include:

Gas Assistance Fund

- If you or someone you know is having difficulty paying your gas bill, the Gas Assistance Fund (GAF) may be able to provide you with a one-time grant for the amount of the gas bill, not to exceed \$100.00.

- The Gas Assistance Fund is a joint effort of SoCalGas and United Way of Greater Los Angeles. They work with non-profit partner organizations throughout our service territory to administer the program.

- You may qualify for the Gas Assistance Fund based on your yearly household income. Medical Baseline Allowance

- The Medical Baseline Allowance program provides additional natural gas at the lowest baseline rate for individuals with a serious health condition.

- You may qualify for



the Medical Baseline Allowance if a full-time member of your household:

- Has a life-threatening illness or a compromised immune system
- Is seriously disabled
- Requires more heat in winter due to a serious health condition or to prevent deterioration of the individual's medical condition

- Eligibility is based on medical condition only, not household income.

Please visit socialgas.com/assistance for more information on how to know if you qualify for these programs as well as how to apply.

SoCalGas understands this is a challenging time for all and wants to assure customers natural gas service will be there for their communities. SoCalGas will continue to make safety and

emergency service appointments, including reports of suspected natural gas leaks, carbon monoxide checks, gas meter turn-ons, natural gas outage and pilot re-lights. And we will continue to perform work needed to safely and reliably maintain infrastructure so we can continue to provide customers with safe and essential energy services.

Service disconnections have been suspended until further notice. This means no customer will have their natural gas turned off due to non-payment. SoCalGas has also temporarily waived late fees for small business customers. As a reminder, SoCalGas never charges late fees for residential customers.

Additional information about SoCalGas' response to COVID-19 is available here.

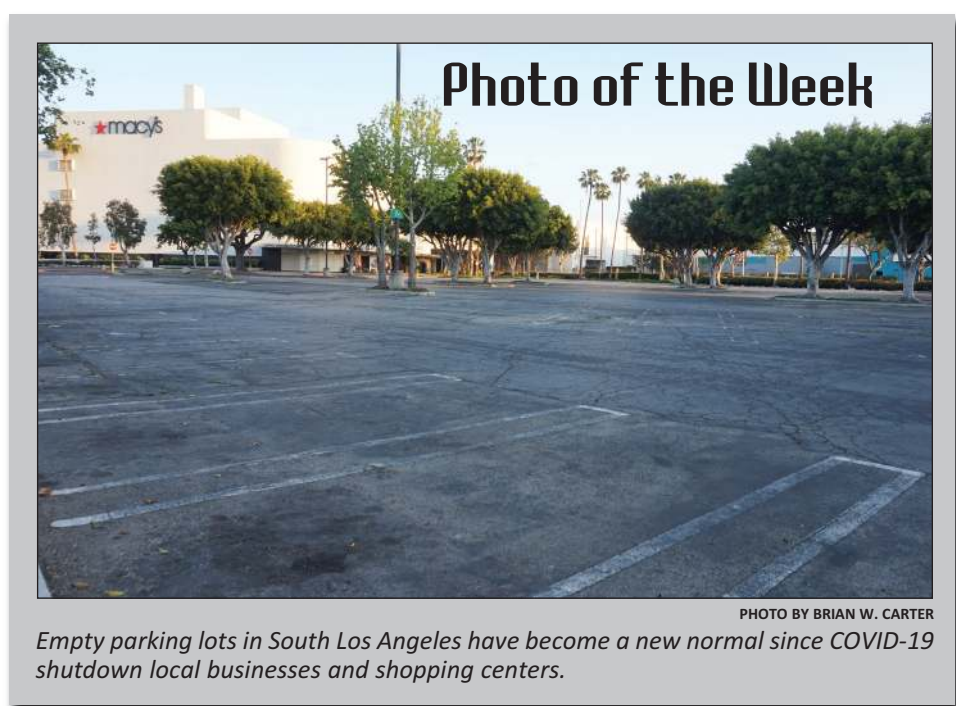


Photo of the Week

PHOTO BY BRIAN W. CARTER

Empty parking lots in South Los Angeles have become a new normal since COVID-19 shutdown local businesses and shopping centers.



Lamar Tyler, creator of Traffic Sales & Profit discusses the future of Black small businesses after the COVID-19 pandemic

By LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Lamar Tyler's public relations machine is on full alert. As the force behind Traffic Sales & Profit (TSP), he's known as a reliable source for helping small African American businesses grow. But like millions of people around the world, the question of getting back to business as usual after the COVID-19 pandemic — which is impacting African Americans at a startling and disturbing rate — is part of a much larger issue.

It's not a simple question (getting back to business, as usual) so to that end, there is no simple answer, acknowledged but what does it mean for African Americans small business owners — exactly?

I turn to Tyler, whose motto is "The Gatekeepers Are Gone," to help me find an answer on at the very least to start a dialogue around getting one. According to his press materials, he has successfully leveraged social media to build a movement of game-changing online brands that support, uplift and encourage the Black community.

Speaking with Tyler seems like a good start. He's amassed over 600 thousand social media fans and 43 thousand customers in all 50 states and 43 countries.

Tyler currently runs a digital marketing brand, Traffic Sales & Profit, which provides small businesses with solutions to drive more website traffic,

convert more online sales and increase their business profit.

What is Traffic Sales & Profit? Before I begin the interview with Lamar Tyler, I'll share what I was given.

Traffic Sales & Profit (TSP) is a success formula, pure and simple. Focusing on online technology, the organization provides fundamental learning, surefire systems and growth strategies that help small businesses and entrepreneurs take their online profits to the next level. TSP teaches in different niches and markets on how to generate profit with ease and in little time, regardless of their email list sizes or start-up budgets. What TSP provides is just as applicable for a brick-and-mortar business, like a local restaurant, physicians' office, or tutoring service, as it is for the entrepreneur creating digital products, or starting an online boutique. TSP also offers coaching and consulting services for people all over the world.

Here is the question that I had for Lamar Tyler who runs "Traffic Sales & Profit" and is the author of the book Traffic, Sales and Profit: The Ultimate Step-by-Step Guide To Creating Consistent Business Revenue On-Line" (printed in 2019). Available on Amazon but for a limited time is available is free (freetsp-book.com).

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL: Thank you for

taking the time to answer my question. I'm stunned like many Americans at the economic impact that the coronavirus is having on the African American business community. The headlines keep screaming we will get back to normal soon. Oh my gosh. What is normal and should that be our goal?

LAMAR TYLER: I think that for these [small African American] businesses to survive they should try and make it business as usual as much as they can. I also believe no matter when we go back, May 1 or June, 1 there will have been something that has changed in the market place. Now there are a lot of people working at home that normally don't work at home. Now that companies see that working at home is possible, they may continue this new practice. Whenever you see businesses kind of contracting normally these companies may realize that they have laid off people and they are still able to get the work done. They may not be bringing everybody back.

LAS: That's a sobering thought. So am I to understand that you have always suggested and continue to suggest that all businesses should have an online presence? Please, continue.

LT: One of the things that we see specifically in our organization [TSP] is how to leverage business and get online. A lot of peo-



COURTESY PHOTO

Lamar Tyler

ple that should have been looking at ways to infuse technology to build e-commerce to have more of an online platform to build a more online community around their business, I think those are the businesses that will be hurting the most. We can't go into offices or their workspaces.

LAS: True.

LT: [if] They can't sell anywhere but like that [physical location] — they will be hurt. If they were just depending on selling at a physical location. They are at a disadvantage and they are going to have to make changes soon. We were already moving to people buying and selling online anyway. This whole thing [coronavirus] has just moved this [trend] faster.

LAS: So that I am clear. You are saying that most small African American

business owners are not using online traffic to build their business? Is this what I am understanding?

LT: I don't think that Black businesses use online as well or as frequently as they should. A lot of my clients have reported more business than usual for the month of March and it's continuing in April.

LAS: Why do you think that is?

LT: People can't go to brick and mortar and shop. They can't find brands that they want or need often times but online. People are still home and people are still buying. There is a lot of opportunities that we don't talk about, and we should.

LAS: What is that, exactly?

LT: What I am telling the African American business owners in my commu-

nity is that to look at their biggest competitors, people can't buy those big name brands with the same ease, right now.

So this is the opportunity for online retailers to use Facebook Live and Instagram to promote their products and services.

LAS: What is TSP mastermind?

LT: The TSP Mastermind is a 12-month mentorship program to elevate a business to the next level. Owners are trained, coached with attention to grow this business to the next stage. We focus on driving more traffic, converting more sales, and making more profit in their business. In the program, they are part of a community of like-minded and serious business owners who are committed to taking actions to grow their business. There is peer support to help solve challenges and hold each other accountable.

LAS: What's your advice to small African American businesses going forward, if any?

LT: I would suggest not to be caught flat-footed.

LAS: To not be caught flat-footed?

LT: Yes, meaning do not be just standing there waiting for a reaction. Step up. Lead. Communicate with your community of customers and vendors so when they do get back to normal or the new normal you can hit the ground running.

To learn more: <https://trafficsalesandprofit.com>



Holly J. Mitchell

Black Maternal Health Awareness Week

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Last week Senator Holly J. Mitchell participated in an online campaign to raise awareness for the third annual national Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW), founded by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance. The goal of the campaign is to deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the US and find solutions to create change.

"Black women deserve better," Senator Holly J. Mitchell, "The Black maternal mortality rate is 4-times higher of other

racial groups."

Black women in the US are more likely to die in childbirth. Although California's rate of maternal mortality has decreased since 2006, 700 women still die each year from childbirth, according to the CDC. Of those who die in labor, 21% are Black women even though they only make up 5% of the childbirth cohort.

In her efforts to change these statistics, Senator Mitchell authored SB 464- "California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act," which became law January 2020. This law questions the disproportionate amount of

Black women who die giving birth or due to pregnancy related causes and requires evidence-based implicit bias training to all healthcare providers involved in perinatal services. The goal is to expose the explicit and implicit bias Black women face in regards to prenatal care, no matter their socioeconomic status.

"We want to encourage Black women to ask their provider, 'Have you been through implicit bias training because I want to increase the likelihood of my survival of delivering this baby,'" said Senator Mitchell.

Unlike with other health disparities, nothing can explain the gap seen in Black maternal mortality; the evidence is pointing to racism. A 2016 study by University of Virginia researchers found that White medical students believed biological myths about racial differences in patients, including that Black patients have less sensitive nerve endings, can tolerate more pain and have thicker skin than their White counterparts.

For more information or statistics follow Senator Mitchell on Twitter: @SENHJMitchell

Social Distancing Serves a Critically Important Purpose to Protecting Public Health and Curbing the Spreading of COVID-19

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL
Kaiser Permanente

Social crowding – individuals gathering less than six-feet apart – has been proven to enable the coronavirus (COVID-19) to spread through populations. The concept behind social distancing has been touted as an effective way of helping to stop the spread of COVID-19 by maintaining at least six feet of physical space from one another.

The coronavirus transmits from person to person primarily through coughing and sneezing, from which

the virus is carried on droplets that can enter through the nose, mouth and eyes of others. This is why social distancing is so important to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

"With social distancing, along with the other infection prevention guidance including staying at home, frequent hand-washing and the wearing of masks, the rate of individuals being infected by this highly infectious virus will remain lower," said Dr. James E. Baker, with Kaiser Permanente Southern California.

"Without such preventive measures, the number of coronavirus cases rises dramatically," he continued. "That steep increase can overwhelm the healthcare system of communities and countries as we have seen in New York City and Italy, for example. When the system is overwhelmed, it's harder for everyone to receive the level of care normally provided, even those who don't have COVID-19."

With social distancing, people may still be transmitting the coronavirus to others, but at a much slower rate, thus flattening the

curve," Dr. Baker explained. The number of individuals infected will be spread out over a longer period of time, which in itself will reduce rapid transmission of the virus.

"This will allow health care resources to keep up with the demand to care for patients, provide better care, and save lives!" Dr. Baker said.

For COVID-19 trusted resources for information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control or the World Health Organization. Additional information is also available at kp.org.

Happy Birthday Gwen Green!

Please join the Bakewell, Mitchell and Sentinel Family in wishing a special Happy Birthday to a community treasure, Gwen Green. Wednesday, 4/22/2020 was Green's 95th Birthday celebration.



COURTESY PHOTO



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

C-1

www.lasentinel.net

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

Student Athlete of the Week: Menelik Israel

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Norco high school baseball team junior, Menelik Israel has a passion for engineering to go along with his baseball talents. During his sophomore year, Israel committed to Duke with an academic and athletic scholarship.

Prepping for his junior season in baseball began last summer where he worked on his agility, range of motion and breathing. His developed skills helped the Cougars to a 9-3 overall record before the COVID-19 pandemic caused the end of high school athletic events.

By the premature end of their season, Norco baseball was ranked 85th in California.

"It was supposed to be my year too, I started off great," Israel said. "Over the summer just helped me

mature to tear it up this season."

Last season, Israel helped the Cougars to a 20-12 overall record. They came in second in the Big VIII League and reached the CIF Southern Section Division 2 championship game.

"I think I batted 600 to 650 in the playoffs, we had a blast during the playoffs. It was one of the best games I had in high school," Israel said. "Towards the beginning of the season, as a team, we weren't blending in, but towards the end, we kind of blended in well."

Israel mentioned how playing with talented teammates allowed him to improve, he got that with Norco along with his travel ball team Kings National. Through travel ball, Israel competed in several states on the east coast including Georgia and Florida.

"Surround yourself with better guys, better players



COURTESY PHOTO

Norco junior, Menelik Israel was invited to play for the Philippines for the World Baseball Classic Qualifiers.

than yourself to compete not only just the opposing team, but also your team," he said. "Always do something better than the next guy."

Playing travel ball not

only allowed him to compete with some of the top talent in the nation, but also to meet professional athletes. During one trip, he was able to attend a

Philadelphia Phillies vs Atlanta Braves game and met Phillies outfielder, Bryce Harper.

"We met Harper, we met the teammates, we met the Braves team," Israel said. "It was a blast."

Although he was born in the United States, Israel was raised in the Philippines. He is bilingual, knowing how to speak English and Tagalog. Israel was invited to play for the Philippines for the World Baseball Classic qualifiers which was postponed to 2021.

For Israel, being a student athlete means setting and meeting high expectations. Another priority is to give his supporters a sense of pride.

"Not doing it for yourself, but doing it for your family is the most important thing about being a student athlete," he said. "Doing what I can to help the family and making the

people that are helping in my circle proud."

This year, Israel is taking AP Physics, AP U.S. History, Honors Math, and Honors Spanish 3. Israel desires to be either a mechanical or robotics engineer.

"Growing up, I really liked building stuff and learning about mechanics and different physics," he said. "I love science and knew physics was a combination of math and science, that's why I love it so much."

During his freshman and sophomore year, Israel competed in the 400m, 200m, 100m, 4x400m and the 4x100m in track and field. He plans to become a sprinter again during his senior year.

Follow @lasentinelnews on Instagram and @the-lasentinel on Twitter to keep up with Student Athlete of the Week. To request a story on a student athlete, email amanda@lasentinel.net.

L.A. Sparks Draft Versatile Competitors for 2020 Season

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Sparks acquired talented prospects without having high picks in the 2020 WNBA Draft on Friday. The Sparks drafted Miami forward, Beatrice Mompremier and guard, Leonie Fiebich of Germany in the second round and West Virginia guard, Tynice Martin in the third round.

"I'm very excited for this moment and this opportunity to get to play with great players," Mompremier said. "I feel like my game can improve a lot and them being by my side everyday in practice and working together can help me progress my career."

Sparks head coach, Derek Fisher explained how the franchise was looking to gain players who can play at multiple positions. Mompremier has length and rebounding

pro prowess, while both Fiebich and Martin flaunt a diverse skill set.

"We wanted to bring in players that will respect the



AP PHOTO/DOUG MURRAY

Miami's forward, Beatrice Mompremier during an NCAA women's basketball game against Washington State on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019 in Miami.

names on our roster that we have," Fisher said. "But they will also come in and compete for every single possession and every opportunity that they get."

Mompremier was the 2019 ACC Preseason Player of the Year and the sixth Miami player in history to be drafted in the WNBA. As a redshirt junior, she became the all-time leader in single season rebounds per game with 12.2. She departs the University of Miami with 34 career double-doubles, an AP All-America Honorable Mention and an AP Preseason All-American honor.

Martin leaves West Virginia fourth in career scoring at 1,980 points. She was named on the 2020 All-Big 12 Second Team, scoring 14.5 points and 4.3 rebounds per game. Martin has been captain of the West Virginia women's basketball team for three years.

Fiebich plays for the German National team and for Wasserburg Basketball. During their 2018-2019 season, she contributed 10.3 points and 8.0

rebounds per game for Wasserburg. Fiebich will not be playing for the Sparks this year, according to Fischer.

Los Angeles was one of the four teams that did not have a first round pick, but Fischer mentioned how their picks have top-tier skills.

"It was more about talent, it was the talent they had. They are first round talents, and we were given a Christmas gift," Fischer said. "This team is gonna be one of the strongest, competitive camps we have in our history, because of how much talent we have."

Fisher mentioned how they signed Arizona forward, Dominique McBryde to a training camp contract. During her senior season, McBryde shot at 51 percent from the field and averaged 6.9 points and 3.5 rebounds per game. Fisher lauded McBryde for her versatility.



AP PHOTO/WASHA HUNT

West Virginia guard, Tynice Martin (5) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Mississippi State, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, in Starkville, Miss.

"We really feel like she's kind of a wing-kind of utility player, who you can fly all over the court," Fisher said.

Among the draftees is Rice guard, Erica Ogwu-mike, younger sister to Sparks players Nneka and Chiney. She was drafted in the third round to the New York Liberty, who then traded her to the Minnesota Lynx. One might assume

the Sparks organization would seize the opportunity of having three Ogwu-mikes.

"She's going to do great up in Minnesota, it'll be fun when we play Minnesota to have all those sisters play against each other," Fischer said. "I want to congratulate Erica because she's a two-time conference player of the year."



AP PHOTO/JOHN LOCHER

Oregon's Satou Sabally (0) plays against Utah in an NCAA college basketball game in the quarterfinal round of the Pac-12 women's tournament Friday, March 6, 2020, in Las Vegas.

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

The WNBA practiced social distancing by hosting the first virtual Draft on Friday, April 17 on ESPN. One of the few athletic events that was not impacted by the COVID-19, the Draft was mainly broadcasted from the houses of league commissioner Cathy Engelbert and the Draftees.

"We felt it was really important to move forward with the virtual draft because

the prospects, they worked so hard, they didn't get their NCAA tournament," Engelbert said. "To hear their names called tonight, I think we're gonna make dreams come true for sure."

On Tuesday, the league announced that it was the most watched Draft in 16 years with 387,000 viewers.

During the Draft, the league gave tributes to the passing of NBA icon, Kobe Bryant and former NBA commissioner David Stern. The WNBA also honored

WNBA Hosts Virtual Draft

the memory of Gianna Bryant, Alyssa Altobelli, and Payton Chester by making them honorary draft picks. The three young athletes were also victims of the helicopter accident that took Kobe's life in January.

"It would have been a dream come true for her. She worked tirelessly every single day. She wanted to be one of the greatest athletes of all-time, just like her daddy," Vanessa Bryant said while donning Kobe's WNBA hoodie. "Thank you for honoring my little girl."

The League also launched the Kobe and Gigi Bryant WNBA Advocacy Award, it will be given out annually to a person or group who made a significant effort to the advancement of women's and girl's sports.

To pay homage to those fighting against the pandemic, the WNBA, the WNBP and State Farm partnered to donate to the organization Direct Relief by giving \$20,000 for every first-round draft pick.

"The players and myself

really wanted an organization that is providing ... essential medical items to help workers respond to COVID-19," Engelbert said. ESPN commentator Holly Rowe interviewed draft picks live, taking the viewers to the homes of every first-round pick. The New York Liberty selected the reigning Naismith Player of the Year Sabrina Ionescu as the first overall pick. Ionescu noted how she is eager to develop every aspect of her game, she also complimented the guards on the New York roster.

"Being able to enter an offense where it's really familiar to what I've been playing for the last four years is exciting," Ionescu said. "I'm just excited to continue to grow my game in that aspect."

The Liberty had two more first round picks, choosing UCONN forward, Megan Walker and Louisville guard, Jasmine Jones. The Dallas Wings was another big first round winner with three picks, drafting Oregon forward, Satou

Sabally, Princeton forward, Bella Alarie and South Carolina guard, Tyasha Harris.

Former UCLA guard, Japreece Dean was drafted to the Chicago Sky in the third round; she averaged 13.7 points and 3.6 rebounds per game during her senior season.

Engelbert noted that she had been in contact with international leagues and hopes to collaborate with them in terms of game scheduling. Many leagues that WNBA players compete in during their off season

suspended games in March.

To prepare for the pandemic-induced uncertainty, Engelbert has worked out different scenarios so the league can endure.

"I do believe that [COVID-19] will change sports forever from the perspective how you engage fans and how fans come into the arena," Engelbert said. "Thinking about fan engagement, how we do a better job of engaging fans at home, because maybe there's a scenario where more fans stay at home."

WNBA DRAFT '20		State Farm	Round 1		
1	Sabrina Ionescu	OREGON	7	Tyasha Harris	SOUTH CAROLINA
2	Satou Sabally	OREGON	8	Ruthy Hebard	OREGON
3	Lauren Cox	BAYLOR	9	Megan Walker	UCONN
4	Chennedy Carter	TEXAS A&M	10	Jocelyn Willoughby	VIRGINIA
5	Bella Alarie	PRINCETON	11	Kitija Laksa	ATLANTA
6	Mikiah Herbert Harrigan	SOUTH CAROLINA	12	Jasmine Jones	LOUISVILLE

ALLEN KEE/ESPN IMAGES VIA AP

In a photo provided by ESPN Images, a board in Bristol, Conn., shows the first 12 picks in the WNBA basketball draft Friday, April 17, 2020. Oregon's Sabrina Ionescu was selected with the first pick by the New York Liberty. Oregon's Satou Sabally, one of three juniors to forego their last year of college eligibility and enter the draft, went second to Dallas.



THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

www.lasentinel.net

C-2

Seasoned Comic David A. Arnold Reaches New Heights with Latest Netflix Special 'Fat Ballerina'

BY BRITTANY K. JACKSON
Contributing Writer

Known as "Comedy's Best Kept Secret," comedian, writer and actor David A. Arnold has finally stepped into his rightful place as a comedy gem, capturing laughs around the world. Arnold's newfound success comes on the heels of his latest Netflix special "Fat Ballerina," executive produced by Kevin Hart.

The glitz, glam and glory hasn't come without respect to Arnold's creative genius and long-standing presence in Hollywood, however. The Cleveland, Ohio native moved to Los Angeles in 1999 with "two trash bags of clothes" and the "addresses to two comedy clubs" where he'd wind up becoming a comedy staple. "The only thing I knew is that I wanted to be a comedian," Arnold stated.

In an exclusive interview, we discovered that Arnold isn't shy to the entertainment business at all. It turns out that the comedy vet was surrounded by entertainment legends as child. His stepfather Bobby Massey is one of the founding members of The O'Jays and his mother, Barbara Arnold-Massey worked as the group's road manager. Arnold says that seeing this kind of influence placed him in a unique position of storytelling, learning to understand the world around him and capitalize on his gift of gab.

Eventually, Arnold's



COURTESY PHOTO

David A. Arnold graces Netflix with seasoned comedic flare in latest stand-up special "Fat Ballerina" executive produced by Kevin Hart.

comedic genius would help him become a force to be reckoned with behind the scenes as a comedy writer. Over the years, Arnold has racked up a lengthy resume of writing credits, including "Tyler Perry's House of Payne," "Meet the Browns" and Kevin Hart's hilarious "Real Husbands of Hollywood" series.

More recently, Arnold both produced and wrote for the Netflix sitcom "Fuller House."

After a while, however, Arnold began to lose himself in the process of perfecting the crafts of others. "When you've been writing as a comedian, you help make other people funny all the time," he said. "Peo-

ple go, oh my God, you're so funny! They're talking to other actors, and you're standing next to them going, no got damnit, it's me!" he stated emphatically. "As a comedian, you get to a point where you're like, I need my credit, I need people to know."

When asked what was the turning point to breaking the mold and standing out in his career, Arnold noted an impromptu encounter with his friend of 17 years, Kevin Hart, who encouraged him to step out on faith and "do his own thing." When Arnold presented the idea of doing a comedy special, Hart was immediately on board, sowing a financial seed into Arnold's vision.

"When I went to ask Kevin for the money, I didn't feel like I was asking for money. What I felt like I was asking for, was an opportunity for him to put out, once again, some great sh**," he said.

And Arnold did just that with "Fat Ballerina," garnering new supporters from around the world and trending at number one for the first ten days of the show's release. "I've been doing stand-up for 24 years under the radar, a lot of people just met me the first time because of this," he said. "The response - it's been incredible," he added. So incredible that Arnold has already secured another one-hour stand-up comedy deal with other projects in the works.

One of the projects will be a revamped version of Arnold and his wife Julie's

"love story told through the eyes of divorce." Initially titled "Divorce Saved My Marriage," BET picked up and cancelled the sitcom idea nearly four years ago. Fortunately for Arnold, the rejection turned into a blessing.

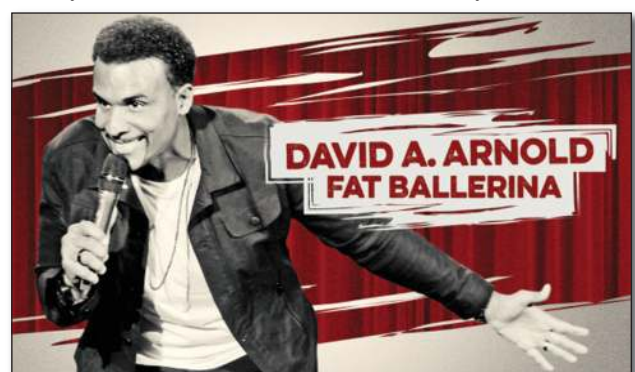
"One of the things that the network executive said was that I was not marketable, and I went wow, really?" From that point on, Arnold says he picked up his phone and started posting his social media rants and comedy sketches. "Eighteen months ago, I had 1,800 followers; now, I have over 700,000 in eighteen months," he said.

In a climate where many are struggling to survive, much less fuel their creative passions, Arnold encourages comedians and writers alike to keep pushing forward. "This is a time where you're going to find out really, what you're made of. You can do whatever you want to," Arnold

never going to until you show it to them.

Today, Arnold continues to inspire and raise up comedians around the world with his masterclass, The Art of Stand-Up Comedy. "For me, I love talking about stand-up, I love the art," he said. "I can't make you funny, you're funny or you're not. The only thing I can do is show you the tools and the work ethic that me and my friends have used to build our act and get to where we are," he stated.

Overall, Arnold says he'll remain committed to delivering timeless material. "I talk about relationships and family and marriage and kids. When I wasn't married and didn't have kids, my conversation was about my life and the way I was raised, that's always been my wheelhouse, it covers life," Arnold stated. "It's relatable and I'd like to think that it's funny."



COURTESY PHOTO

Known as "Comedy's Best Kept Secret," David A. Arnold finally bets on himself after catapulting the careers of many and frequenting Hollywood's comedy circuit for more than 24 years.

said. "You have to believe in you like nobody else. Nobody sees you, like you see yourself, and they're

To check out more from the exclusive interview, visit www.lasentinel.net or DavidArnold.com.

Emmy-Nominated Actor, Father and Author Dondre Whitfield Talks New Book and Becoming a Man

BY SAYBIN ROBERSON
Contributing Writer

While women lead the way for the #MeToo and Times Up movement, Emmy-nominated actor, author, and father Dondre Whitfield is using his platform to push men to become better men.

"Acting is my passion, but activation is my purpose," Whitfield shared. "I'm trying to activate manhood. We have to really take these kinds of moments seriously in cultivating our communities and our families."

Whitfield created The Manhood Tour, a global movement committed to awakening the consciousness of men. Objectives include giving them the keys to effective and impactful leadership and teaching them how to tap into their talents and live them to the highest degree. Since he's traveled around the world under his movement speaking to youth and men encouraging them to overcome distractions and "be a man."

His new book, "Male vs. Man: How to Honor Women, Teach Children, and Elevate Men to Change the World" will inform men how to become not only a



COURTESY PHOTO

Author of "Male vs. Man: How to Honor Women, Teach Children, and Elevate Men to Change the World," Dondre Whitfield

provider, but a man that serves his family and community with love.

"Male vs. Man: How to Honor Women, Teach Children, and Elevate Men to Change the World" defines the difference between a male and a man: males look to be served

while men chose to be of service. Whitfield takes it upon himself to uncover the ways of which he views manhood and hopes to transform it from chaotic to calm. Digging into his past and present to give a heartfelt guide to becoming a male worthy of "man

status."

"I tell people often, every man that you meet is a male, but not every man that you meet is a man. And the problem is that many of us don't know the difference," he stated. Whitfield opens up sharing he spent most of his life without a

father figure and assumed his manhood once he reached the age of 18, which society often deems to be the age of adulthood. "Not having my father around to teach me and me bumping my head up against the brick wall trying to matriculate into my manhood was the first thing that activated me to write this book."

In addition, the #MeToo and Times Up movement inspired him to create an ally, a manhood movement that would grow males into men who positively affect society. "Living in these times and having a 15-year-old daughter of my own. Being the son to a great mother and being a husband to a dynamic wife, I realized that we need to make manhood movement because someone has to raise up a son that my daughter is going to be partnered with one day," Whitfield affirming, "Somebody has to take on the responsibility doing that."

In just five months, Whitfield wrote up the blueprint to manhood based on his life experiences, including his failures and successes. "Being a man is not about you being perfect because

there's no such thing as a perfect human being. So being a man still makes me human," he expressed. "For me, every single day is about me being in the pursuit of my manhood. Me, being in the pursuit of my purpose. I don't have to be perfect, but I have to pursue my purpose perfectly which is being diligent every single day."

Sure of his purpose, Whitfield voiced, "My prayer is that this book serves as the manhood playbook that our brothers need in order to matriculate into their manhood. That it gives our sisters the instruction that they finally need in order to be able to readily identify the difference between a male and a man."

As a man of his word, Whitfield is charged and excited to share with the world his story and his purpose through "Male vs. Man: How to Honor Women, Teach Children, and Elevate Men to Change the World."

"Male vs. Man: How to Honor Women, Teach Children, and Elevate Men to Change the World" by Dondre Whitfield can be purchased on Amazon and ordered online via all major bookstores.



KJ Rose

PHOTO MATT JONG @MATTJONGPHOTO

Grammy-Award Winning Artist, KJ Rose releases new book ‘The Rose Effect’

The book that calls for your best performance

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

KJ Rose works with extraordinary talent; titans of the entertainment industry seek out the “Rose Effect” to channel a deeper level of excellence within their craft. She is known in the media culture as the “Talent Whisperer.” The energy KJ Rose exudes ignites technique with passion, that calls for the purest form of success to come out of her clients. The Grammy Award-winning artist turned talent development expert, designed a blueprint for anyone seeking out their best life. In her book, “The Rose Effect: Eight Steps to Delivering the Performance of Your Life,” Rose outlines the values she applies within her career of talent evolution, the guidance will be available Monday, April 20.

Keanna Rose Henson embedded her skills into the core of the entertainment industry. For 15 years, her voice was the instrument of choice, enhancing the per-

formances of Diddy, Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake, and many more. Keanna Henson evolved from her role as a background singer to leading artist, KJ Rose. Letting her intuition guide her into more leadership positions, KJ Rose intertwined her experience as being a creative with the business aspect of entertainment. She held positions at Sundance TV, AMC Network, and J Records (Clide Davis). Naturally, KJ observed how performers were perceived and began to create a formula that latches on to the greatness in people and pull it forward.

“The Rose Effect” grew from strong roots. Dissecting the definition, Roses adorned the women in the KJ family line. From her great-great grandmother to her mother; they all shared the name Rose or Rosa as a first or middle name. KJ use to run from its antiquity, after reflecting on her origin story, she realized the depth of courage and strength that came from the name. KJ

stated, “Once I understood how my ancestors and my family carried it, it gave me more pride in how I felt.”

The “Rose” represents courage and surrender. “The Rose Effect” is how KJ implants those two principles within singers, actors, and leaders from all disciplines. The goal from the very beginning, is to install courage for the artist to show up for themselves. KJ mentioned as she gets acquainted with a client, she lays down the framework of why she is there. The talent whisperer shared her mission, “...Whatever is your perceived capacity, ‘The Rose Effect’ is here to take you higher.” She continued, “...Whatever you think about yourself currently, my job is to push your journey further.” The Rose effect will help illuminate areas of self-discovery that may have been lying dormant within oneself.

The book, “The Rose Effect: Eight Steps to Delivering the Performance of Your Life,” speaks to everyone. The purpose is to include everybody who is looking for a deeper vision of success in their life. The term performance defines the level of execution that is carried out daily. A universal expectation is to be truthful in the work produced, KJ

explained that the narrative starts from within. There is a responsibility to share the skills and internal gifts in the most elite form. The book is a tool to reconcile the internal narrative.

Undeniably, KJ Rose is an artist. The way that she motivates and empowers her clients is a unique strategy,

that is how KJ became known within the entertainment industry, as the “Talent Whisperer.” She respects the range of emotions that everyone has, and she can adjust her tempo with the beat of her clients. Being in the business of service, KJ takes the energy that is overflowing in her cup and pours

KJ’s personal journey. The Talent development leader stated, “My days were filled with humbling tasks yet substantial teaching moments. They fueled me to walk onto any stage and into room with unwavering measure of presence.” It looks to equip the reader with tools to construct a stronger internal voice. Notable artists stand behind the teachings in this read are Anthony Hamilton, Common, and iconic producer, No ID, who has worked with Kanye West and Jay-Z, they have all benefited from the Rose Effect.

The reality is KJ sees in full color. She knows the spectrum of light that it takes to fuse discipline with passion. This book was designed to awaken the best performance that lives inside you. A moment has finally come where one can discover a deeper understanding of oneself, during this time of solitude and reflection. Equip yourself with guidance from “The Rose Effect” on April 20. For immediate inspiration, “The Rose Effect” can be found streaming live on multiple online platforms. KJ shared a liberating word that the book is rooted in, “The Applause will never determine your Yes. You have already been qualified. You are the Yes!”

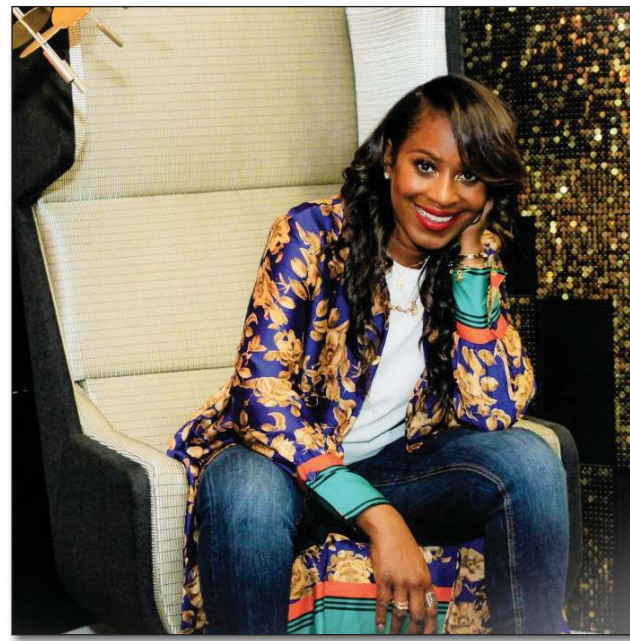


PHOTO COPY: TYREE VANCE @TYREEVANCE

engineered with humility in mind. The Grammy Award-winning artist sets herself aside, to see the treasure within other people. KJ is willing to jump into the trenches and assist with the battle of thoughts that do not serve a higher purpose. She has an innate ability to see the victory within people,

out a true devotion to those who seek her guidance. Coaching was a natural progression for KJ Rose, it allowed her to tap into a deeper assignment of helping others to fill their space and purpose in the world.

The book delivers personal testimony, derived from the vulnerability of

A little kitchen podcast is born and is now heard on 94.7 The WAVE Radio Station

BY SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

A funny thing happened while Los Angeles-based food writer, Veronica Hendrix was sitting at home, complying with the COVID-19 “Safer at Home” orders enacted by Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Out of sheer isolation and a bit of boredom, Hendrix the writer of the widely read food blog collardgreensandcaviar.com, turned on the audio recorder on her Samsung S9 Smartphone and recorded herself making a new recipe she was testing for an upcoming blog post.



Veronica Hendrix

The audio wasn’t highly polished – and she knew it – but her messing around and

musings in the kitchen were a whimsical attempt at keeping herself entertained while alone in the kitchen.

That first audio recording, which was about 15 minutes long, featured her making her “Soulful Hummus” recipe which is made out of black-eyed peas and red beans beans.

On the recording, Hendrix steps through the hummus preparation with spontaneous and entertaining commentary. And the sound effects from her tinkering about in the kitchen are a welcomed delight to the imagination, not to mention

the recipe is creative and easy to follow.

Hendrix’s podcast Cooking with Collard Greens and Caviar can now be heard on Los Angeles’ 94.7 FM The Wave Radio Station. The organic, home-spun podcast is recorded from her kitchen.

Hendrix is chatty, engaging and unapologetically real and relatable. “With so many people quarantined and sheltering in place, this is just the kind of podcast to ignite their epicurean imagination and take them on a cooking excursion from my little kitchen,”



Soulful Hummus

COURTESY PHOTO

said Hendrix adding that she hopes her podcast will inspire listeners to get cooking and keep cooking long after the Coronavirus is behind us.

Here’s the link to her debut podcast on 94.7 FM The WAVE Radio <https://947thewave.radio>

[o.com/blogs/pat-prescott/recipes-to-get-you-through-your-time-in-isolation](https://www.instagram.com/collardgreensandcaviar/)

Follow Veronica Hendrix on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/collardgreensandcaviar/> and Facebook at <http://facebook.com/collardgreensandcaviar/>

The African American Film Critics Association (AAFCA) Offers Coronavirus Shut-in Streaming Recommendations

At home with endless choices on what to watch – don’t worry! The world’s leading body of Black Film Critics Shares is offering some special initiatives for you!

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

During this time of global crisis prompted by the coronavirus, the African American Film

Critics Association (AAFCA) has compiled a list of recommended streaming and TV titles for both children and adults to help people pass the time.

AAFCA shares its recommendations via social media and through radio and print media partners around the country. “Our titles are a combination of

series, documentaries and feature films, both classic and contemporary, that cover the complete landscape of entertainment content. Our goal is to helpfully help lower people’s stress levels as we move through these turbulent times. We will share our lists of recommended titles every week for as long as the crisis persists,” said AAFCA CEO, Gil Robertson.

“AAFCA members are uniquely qualified to help people decide on what programs they should invest their time. Our Children’s List will also help parents as they look for activities that will keep the kids occupied. We feel that it’s part of our duty as film critics to offer our best advice.

The association has also launched AAFCA Virtual Roundtables to provide a platform for creatives—actors, producers, directors, thought leaders, etc.—to discuss their latest projects virtually with AAFCA members from across the

country and viewable online in real time via Zoom. AAFCA Virtual Roundtables are archived at The AAFCA Channel on YouTube. Guest have included, Tichina Arnold (star of the CBS hit comedy, “The Neighborhood”); award-winning actor, Courtney B. Vance (“Unc-

orked”/“Genius: Aretha”), “Queen Sugar actress, Tina Lifford, producer, Deon Taylor; #balckAF director, Kenya Barris writer/director, Janet Mock, and actor, Jeffrey Wright with more to be announced.

For more information about AAFCA, please visit [aafca](https://www.aafca.org/) on Instagram.



RELIGION

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

www.lasentinel.net

D-1

Through Christ, Williams Moves Smoothly Between Ministry and Academia

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

Life has been a memorable journey for the Rev. Dr. Helen Easterling Williams. From picking cotton in South Carolina and attending revivals at Morning Star Baptist Church, she's now an associate minister at First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles and dean of the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University.

While some may be surprised by her trajectory, Williams is not in that number. In her opinion, understanding her past has served as a springboard to her future and she credits "humble beginnings as a major factor in my development of strong and positive character traits and of a Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' work ethic."

This scripture has inspired Williams from a young child and motivated her as she earned her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees and continued to affirm her when she received her Doctor of Education degree. Prior to assuming her current position at Pepperdine, where she is the only person-of-color on university's senior leadership team, Williams served as a senior assistant dean at the University of Delaware and as dean of the School of Education at Azusa Pacific University.

Over the years, Wil-

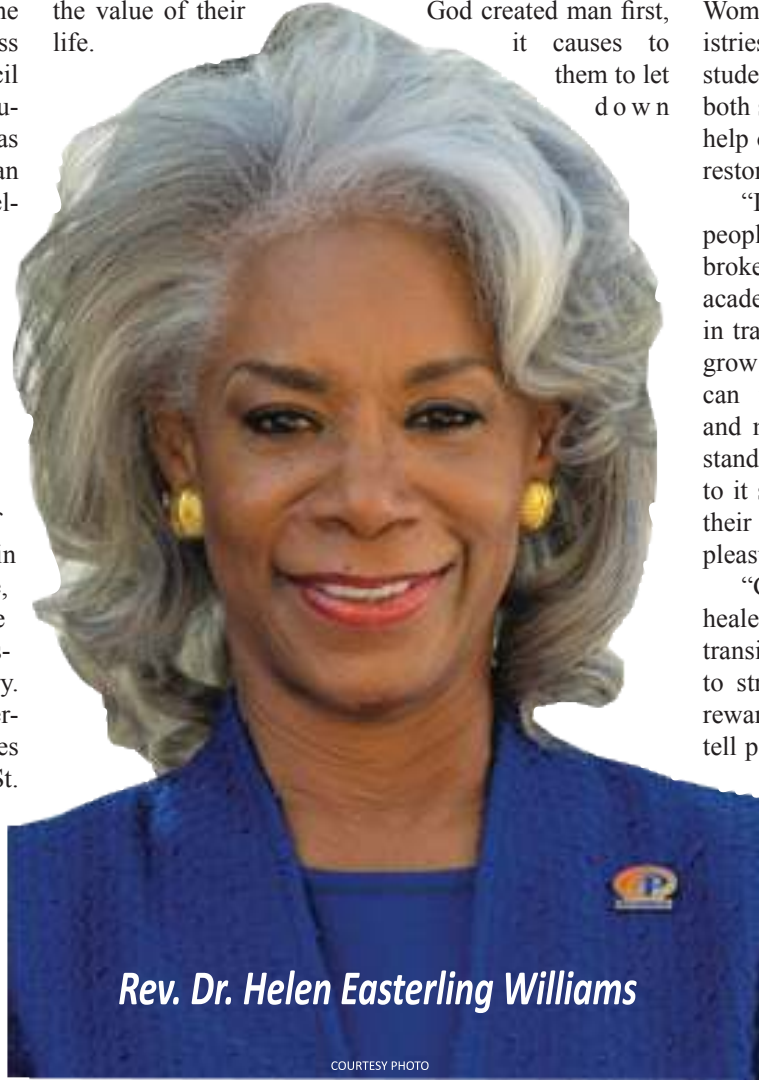
liams has been the recipient of countless awards and honors. In 2019, the Los Angeles Business Journal Women's Council recognized her as Executive of the Year. She was also named as an American Council on Education Fellow and a John A. Widtsoe Foundation Fellow.

But, it was in the midst of pursuing her education that Williams answered her call to the ministry and she responded with enthusiastic action. As a member of the ministerial staff at Bethel AME Church in Wilmington, Delaware, she worked with the Bible Study, Women's Ministry and Prayer Ministry. Williams went on to perform in similar capacities at FAME-L.A. and at St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Orlando, Florida.

"There was a time when I thought women's ministry was my specialty, but God has made it clear that He has called me to all segments of the kingdom," said Williams. "Although I do focus on girls and women's ministry, I also tend to have a ministry for boys and men. Also, I have strong focus on prayer."

Explaining how she, as a woman, can connect with men, Williams said she seeks to appeal to the basic needs of all human beings — to be loved, valued and appreciated. Her philosophy is that people will give

you their time and attention when you recognize the value of their life.



Rev. Dr. Helen Easterling Williams

COURTESY PHOTO

"Some men have a preconceived notion that I don't know what it's like to be a man. In some regards that is true, but we are all human beings. We all want the same thing. How we get it is different and the experiences we have in life shape us differently," she noted.

"Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, I am able to see men as God cre-

ated them. When I am able to establish for men that God created man first, it causes them to let down

comparable approach with people participating in her Women's and Prayer Ministries as well as with her students at Pepperdine. In both settings, her goal is to help others develop and be restored.

"I really enjoy seeing people grow who come broken into the church or an academic setting. They're in trauma and seeing them grow to a point where they can manage that trauma and manage that pain and stand against it and speak to it so that it doesn't ruin their lives gives me great pleasure," Williams said.

"God wants us to be healed and seeing people transition from weakness to strength is the greatest reward that you can have. I tell people all the time that

'I don't want to make you dependent upon me.

I want you to put me out of business. You don't have to call me to get a prayer through. I'll teach you to pray so that wherever you are, you can handle it.'"

Williams' message about healing is quite appropriate, especially in light of the coronavirus pandemic, which appears to be causing anxiety and stress among believers and non-believers alike. To those who may be experiencing such feelings, she advised those people to turn their attention to God

and spend time establishing a closer relationship with Him.

"I don't think God sent the virus, but He allowed it to happen and is using it for our good. He is teaching us to get back to Him. The pandemic is allowing us to see where we have gone away from God," said Williams. "My advice is to go back to the basics of getting close to God. Designate an altar in your home. Have a conversation with God, turn our eyes to Christ and we'll turn out better than we were."

Also, Williams shared three scriptures that guide her in her daily living, no matter what events may occur. The verses are Acts 17:28 — "For in Him we live and move and have our being," Matthew 6:33 — "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well," and Matthew 22:37 and 39 — "Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul and mind. Love you neighbor as yourself."

"I live, move and have my being in Christ Jesus. I am nothing without Him, so I must seek Him first, — the kingdom of God and His righteous and all these things shall be added unto you," Williams said. "My third scripture is to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and spirit and love your neighbor as thyself. These are basic and if we stay there, we can't go wrong."

TUCKER CALLS GOD 'MY BEST WRITING PARTNER'

Camille Tucker, an L.A.-area writer, penned the script for "The Clark Sisters: First Ladies of Gospel"

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

If there's one thing Camille Tucker knows is true about the craft of creating stories for the screen, it is this: keep writing.

Tucker says she strives to have "a couple stories in my head, a script-in-progress on my laptop, another ready to be printed out for a final tweak, and as many as I can in the hands of producers."

Tucker says it's her love of storytelling that keeps her creating, as well as the knowledge that along with the scripts that hit, and the ones that miss, are those that reveal themselves in their own way and in their own time.

When she considers the fact that her first produced script — about the rise of the renowned gospel group,



Camille Tucker

COURTESY PHOTO

The Clark Sisters — almost didn't happen, Tucker chuckles and says, "That's why God has always been my best writing partner."

It seems prophetic that Tucker's story — "The Clark Sisters: First Ladies

of Gospel" — broke ratings records when Lifetime Television aired the biopic over the Easter weekend. The film drew 2.7 million viewers, making it the network's highest-rated movie since 2016. As of this

week, subsequent airings of "The Clark Sisters" have increased the film's total viewership to more than 11 million, according to Lifetime.

The film depicts the challenges, conflicts and sacrifices experienced by the sisters — and their mother, choir director, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark — in the pursuit of gospel music stardom for her daughters. "The Clark Sisters" stars the Aunjanue Ellis as Mattie Moss Clark. The sisters are portrayed by Christina Bell (Twinkie); Kierra Sheard as her real-life mother, Karen; Shelea Frazier (Dorinda); Raven Goodwin (Denise); and Angela Birchett (Jacky).

Directed by Christine Swanson, "The Clark Sisters: First Ladies of Gospel" is produced by Queen Latifah and Flavor Unit Entertainment, Grammy Award-winners Mary J. Blige and Missy Elliott, and Holly Davis Carter. Tucker, who developed the story on which "The Clark Sisters" is based, shares "written by" credit with Sylvia L. Jones.

Like many scripts in Hollywood that languish in development — or never get made at all — Tucker's journey with "The Clark Sisters" began 15 years ago when she and colleague, Sara Finney-Johnson, joined forces on the project. Brought on by producer Carter, Tucker and Finney-Johnson were tasked with writing a treatment that captured the lives and careers of the sisters and their mother.

Commitments to her own projects, however,

prevented Finney-Johnson from continuing work on the project. Now solo, Tucker moved forward in crafting the gospel group's story until the project became part of Lifetime's production slate in 2017. Simultaneous to her work, Tucker entered the screenwriting program at Loyola Marymount, earning her MFA in 2018. Fast forward to 2019, when at long last, "The Clark Sisters" began filming with Carter and a new production team.

"Everything changed once Queen Latifah got the script and signed on as a producer," said Tucker. "The Clark Sisters are widely admired in the industry. They were instrumental in infusing gospel music with a 'pop' sound. The fact that Queen

(See TUCKER D-2)

BHERC 'Operation Love' Aids Union Rescue Mission During COVID-19

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) continued its "Operation Love" outreach on April 19, with a drive to collect toilet paper for the Union Rescue Mission (URM).

Located on skid row in downtown L.A., URM works directly with homeless individuals through its life-transforming ministry focused on the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. BHERC is a nonprofit, public benefit organization designed to advocate, edu-

cate, research, develop, and preserve the history and future of Black images in film and television.

The "Operation Love" effort was planned to meet a dire, essential, and practical need during the COVID-19 pandemic. BHERC asked the public, individuals and various organizations to join them by donating wrapped and or packaged toilet paper with a goal of amassing 2,500 rolls for URM.

With the help of the donors — some that delivered twice—3,841 rolls were collected. In addition,

BHERC and the donors made a \$15,000 contribution to URM. According to the organizers, volunteers and donors who came from across the southland represented all ages and ethnicities.

"There was a spirit of joy and camaraderie as the donations came in and the volunteers worked to organize the toilet paper and load it onto the Union Rescue Mission Truck," said one participant. "Toilet tissue continues to be a vital item and one of the most difficult to find during the

(See BHERC D-2)



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers load toilet paper donations to be contributed to the Union Rescue Mission.

BHERC

{Continued from D-1}

pandemic and it continues to be hard to keep stocked. So, this drive was very important and filled a specific need for the Mission."

Sandra Evers-Manly, BHERC president, stressed, "Now more than ever, we need to practice more love and kindness. That's why we started Operation Love."

BHERC "Operation Love" has several other upcoming programs. On Saturday, April 25, at 5 p.m., the organization will host "An Evening of Reflection," an online event to celebrate nurses and healthcare workers working on the frontlines of the battle to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group's support of the homeless continues on



BHERC volunteers fill bags of donated toilet paper.

Sunday, April 26, with the distribution of 300 packets filled with essential toiletries and health supplies. The items include gloves, hand sanitizer, facemasks, lipchaps and snacks.

"This outreach to the

underserved and often forgotten continues to broaden a campaign that provides love and practical support that included services to seniors in Los Angeles over the past three weeks by BHERC 'Operation



The volunteers loaded the Union Rescue Mission's truck with donations of toiletries.

Love," said Evers-Manly, who noted that more than 500 seniors have been served to date.

The packets for the homeless will be prepared and delivered by a host of volunteers including the

National Black Nurses Association.

Contributors to the packets include the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program led by Dr. Bill Releford, Mothers in Action headed by Tracy

Mitchell and Larry Chatman, production coordinator for Record One Studio.

For more information, email bherc@bhrec.org or call (310) 284-3170 or (213) 400-3489.

Tucker

{Continued from D-1}

Latifah, Mary J. Blige and Missy Elliot wanted to be involved in this film is a testament to the sisters' influence on all styles of music."

Dramatizing the trials and tribulations of the Clark women was an opportunity that resonated with Tucker; especially because their story dove-tailed her own professional and personal pursuits. Not only is Tucker an associate professor of Writing for Film and TV at Biola

University in La Mirada, CA., she's also an ordained minister through Truth and Love Christian Church in Carson, CA.

"To have this story come to fruition as it has and when it did is an honor and a blessing beyond anything I could have anticipated," said Tucker.

"My family, my church family and university family are excited and looking forward to seeing the film on Lifetime.

"There is joy in that, and in being part of a film that speaks to my purpose and to my faith, as well.

The Clark sisters - as people, and as a film - will always be particularly special to me."

Tucker says she's among those who have found solace, inspiration and encouragement in the gospels sung by the Clark sisters. "The Clark Sisters" biopic features several of the group's biggest gospel hits in a story that chronicles the sisters' faith and their triumphs over illness, mental health, departures of group members, and the disapproval of church elders as the group moved ever-closer to national re-

nown.

"Their music speaks to my soul and playing it during the process of sharing their story was a key to ensuring that the script was authentic to their experiences," said Tucker, who added that the songs "Miracle" and "Is My Living In Vain?" are among her favorite Clark Sisters' recordings.

"Their music has truly taken the message of God and His love all over the world."

The screenwriter points to her family and her faith as factors that help to keep

her grounded and focused. Although the ratings performance of "The Clark Sisters" could cast Tucker as an "overnight success," this industry veteran is already shopping her next two projects.

"The Kennedys of Compton" is a multi-generational drama about the political aspirations of an African American family. And the other, "Blessed In The City," puts Tucker's humorous skills into play with the story of four multi-ethnic women facing the challenges of faith and love.

If Tucker feels any pressure about coming up with her next big film success, she doesn't let it show.

Borrowing a lyric from a hit Clark Sisters song, Tucker says, "In the end, the journey's easier because up the road is eternal gain."

To view "The Clark Sisters: First Ladies of Gospel," visit www.playmylifetime.com/movies and sign in via your cable provider.

You can also visit philo.com and sign up for their free seven-day trial to view the movie.

Greater Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Brookins-Kirkland Community African Methodist Episcopal Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

West Angeles Church of God in Christ advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Trinity Baptist Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Faith Dome advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

The Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Second Baptist Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Christ Our Redeemer A.M.E. Worship Center advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

FAME Church of Los Angeles advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Crenshaw United Methodist Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Truth and Love Christian Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Miracle Center Apostolic Community Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Church of the Transfiguration advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

New Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Your Business Card Goes Here! advertisement for Sentinel.

Peace Apostolic Church Inc. advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.

Founder's Church advertisement with contact info and virtual worship service details.