



# Diane Edith Watson: The Iconic Living Legend of Los Angeles Politics



Diane Edith Watson COURTESY PHOTO

BY DANNY J. BAKEWELL, JR. Executive Editor

Diane Edith Watson has lived a full life and shows no signs of slowing down. On the morning of our interview, the 87-years-young

legendary political icon had already been on the phone with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, was coordinating her pink and green wardrobe for the inauguration of her Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sister, Kamala Harris, and

had already spoken with a cadre of Washington D.C. leaders, all in the hopes that the retired congresswoman was feeling up to making the journey to the January Presidential Inauguration of President Joe Biden and

Vice President Kamala Harris.

The iconic political leader still spends her days (although quarantined) on the phone talking, mentoring and issuing advice to some of the most influential leaders from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. Over her five decades in

has traveled the world and believes that understanding the culture, mentality and customs around the world, has played a large part in allowing her to understand and succeed in all of her positions, over her long and heralded political career.

In an interview with The

her family. She was born in Los Angeles in County General Hospital. Her father, William Allen Louis Watson, was one of the first Black officers hired in LAPD and she says her mother, Dorothy Elizabeth O'Neal Watson, was an educator and one of the organizers of Holman United



Diane Watson (m) on the podium at her district office in Los Angeles with the late John Mack (l) and Willis Edwards (r). COURTESY PHOTO

## IN MEMORIAM: Keeping the Legacy of Legendary Supremes Star Mary Wilson Alive

BY STACY M. BROWN NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Mary Wilson was a friend to the Black Press of America, a neighbor to the world, and the radiance she exuded never seem to fade. At 76, the Supremes legend is gone too soon.

Wilson died suddenly late Monday, Feb. 8, at her home just outside of Las Vegas.

"I was extremely shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of a major member of the Motown family, Mary Wilson of the Supremes," Motown



Mary Wilson died late Monday, Feb. 8, at her home just outside of Las Vegas. FILE PHOTO

## NNPA Holds Roundtable with White House Senior Advisor, Cedric Richmond

Marking Black History Month, the roundtable set many questions before Richmond with racial equity in mind.



Cedric Richmond COURTESY PHOTO

{See FULL STORY A-8}

## Councilwoman Emma Sharif Launches Bid for Mayor of Compton



Councilwoman Emma Sharif

{See FULL STORY A-6}

## Black History Makers 1865-1914



{See special section B-1}

# Maxine Waters Provides Solutions at COVID-19 (Telephone) Town Hall

By BETRAM KELLER  
Contributing Writer

“I remain committed to working with my colleagues and the Biden/Harris administration to ensure more relief,” said Congresswoman Maxine Waters in Thursday’s Town Hall.

A town hall held via telephone, provided vital information regarding pandemic policy changes, finances of community projects, as well as COVID-19 vaccination efforts and updates across Los Angeles. Director of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Dr. Barbara Ferrer, and staff directors at the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services, Charla Ouertatani and Kristofor Erickson, were among the participating speakers.

To open the meeting,

Congresswoman Waters (CA-43), Chair of the House Financial Services Committee said, “We successfully negotiated a new round of stimulus checks of up to \$600 dollars per person, and extended unemployment benefits to March 14.”

The Congresswoman discussed President Biden’s upcoming proposal, pledging his efforts to increase the second round of stimulus checks, to increase the minimum wage, to allow more benefits for renters and property owners whom are affected by the pandemic, and also a \$400 billion fund that will expand mass vaccinations and reopens schools.

With more set on the horizon, Congresswoman’s town hall was mostly focused the 43rd District’s immediate access and awareness of the multi-billion-dollar fund passed in

late December—2020. “I am proud to have secured \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance—we need much more,” Waters said in late-December. She was a central endorser of the \$25 billion fund, equipping the 43rd District and other renters’ eligibility for financial benefits—to assist with unpaid rent/utility payments, grant free access to case management services as well as tenant—landlord mediation.

“Once you qualify for assistance, an administrative entity will send a payment directly to the landlord,” stated U.S. House Financial Services Committee Staff Director, Charla Ouertatani. “Property owners can also apply for assistance or apply on behalf of the tenant. As far as who is eligible to get this money—it is not for all renters. It is only for renters that have a household

income of not more than 80% of the area median income.” Applications also require proof of housing instability, or have one or more household members dependent on unemployment benefits.

Regarding the amount of funding to be received, “Los Angeles County is receiving \$160 million, and Los Angeles City is receiving \$118 million.” In regards of how to apply, Ouertatani said, “In Los Angeles—HCIDLA, is still in the process of setting up that program, but hopefully more information will be coming out from their office soon.”

The week of January 11, 2021, SBA, in consultation with the U.S. Treasury Department, reopened the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), accepting applications for a First Draw PPP Loan until March 31, 2021. “The first PPP Loan

worth \$15 billion will be going through small community banks, small credit unions; and [another] \$15 billion will be going through CDFI, MDI SBA, or micro loan intermediary,” said Ouertatani.

“Chairman Waters secured, as a part of the most recent COVID-19 package, \$12 Billion for Minority Depository Institutions (MDI) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI),” told by U.S. House Financial Services Committee Staff Director, Kristofor Erickson. He said, “These institutions play a critical role as lenders in low- and moderate-income communities, and communities of color... it is a critical role in helping businesses minimize some of the economic impact. As of August 2020, we saw 432 CDFI’s and MDI’s have provided more than \$16.4



FILE PHOTO

Congresswoman Waters expressed her take on policy changes and selected her team of experts to share information concerning Covid-19 at Thursday’s Town Hall. “I am proud to have secured \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance—we need much more,” Maxine Waters stated in late-December.

billion of PPP loans to over 221,000 small businesses.”

In essence, globally, we are all in pandemic limbo; a state of nervous flux with people clinching onto any sense of previous normalcy. Generally, just as concerned

**{See WATERS TOWN HALL on A-11}**

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital Receives \$500,000 BofA Grant to Train and Hire More Healthcare Professionals in South L.A.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

To help meet the increased demand for highly-trained nurses and essential healthcare workers in medically-underserved areas like South Los Angeles, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH) announced it has received a half million dollar grant from Bank of America to expand its healthcare worker career programs.

The two-year grant - the largest philanthropic gift Bank of America has pro-

vided to a healthcare organization in South Los Angeles - will enable MLKCH to train and hire more than 200 new health care professionals including nurse residents, nurse fellows and college health scholars.

“This is a critical contribution to building the kind of healthcare workforce that is needed in socially and economically vulnerable communities,” said Dr. Elaine Batchlor, CEO of Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital. “This gift will help our hospital recruit, retain and develop

high-quality nurses and other essential healthcare workers in a high-need area.”

The lack of access to high-quality healthcare providers is a key driver of acute health disparities in the nation. Significant parts of South Los Angeles are designated as Medically Underserved and Healthcare Professional Shortage areas by the Healthcare Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). In 2017, a study commissioned by the hospital found the community had ten times fewer doctors

than more affluent areas.

The grant is part of Bank of America’s focus on critical needs like healthcare and workforce development, especially for local communities of color disproportionately impacted economically and medically by the pandemic.

“As we consider the challenges that our communities are facing - from the health crisis brought on by the coronavirus to the need for progress on racial equality and economic opportunity, supporting workforce development in the healthcare sector is a relevant and timely way we can help make a lasting positive impact,” said Raul Anaya, Los Angeles market president for Bank of America. “This grant can help MLK Jr. Community Hospital strengthen the pipeline of local talent to qualified medical professional roles where it can address the greatest needs.”



FILE PHOTO

Studies have shown that health care workers are more likely to stay in the area where they train. To help train health care workers, the bank’s grant will be used to support a number of MLKCH’s healthcare workforce development programs, including the Nurse Residency and Fellowship Program, a critical care two-year training program for recent nursing school graduates and advanced training for experienced nurses, and will result in the hiring of 46 locally-sourced registered nurses through the program. The grant will also sup-

port MLKCH’s partnership with COPE Scholars, a program that brings college students from South Los Angeles into the hospital to shadow and train with healthcare professionals. Since the program’s inception in 2019, more than 100 students have been trained, 69% of whom are from South Los Angeles and 72% of whom are now college graduates pursuing a degree in healthcare. As a part of the support from bank of America, MLKCH will continue to expand COPE Scholars, training 160 new COPE Scholars during the grant period.



# DON'T WASTE BEAUTIFUL



## THROW AWAY YOUR TRASH & KEEP LA LITTER-FREE



Scan the QR code or visit [WaterforLA.com](http://WaterforLA.com) to learn more.

## Health Officials Urging Holiday Celebrations Stay Within Households, Warn of COVID-19 Variants

*Avoiding holiday celebrations with those outside the household helps slow COVID-19.*

By BRIAN W. CARTER  
Contributing Writer

As of Monday, February 9, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health confirmed 227 new deaths and 3,353 new cases of COVID-19. There were 4,079 people with COVID-19 hospitalized with of 29% these people in the ICU.

Public Health identified 1,152,239 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 18,360 deaths. Across the Southland: within Los Angeles County shows 1,092,128 cases, within Long Beach with 49,603 cases and within Pasadena with 10,508. According to race and ethnicity, COVID-19 statistics show: American Indian/Alaska Native with 1,904; Asian with 48,111; Black with 38,409; Hispanic/Latino with 522,701; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander with 4,094; White with 108,876; those of other race and ethnicity with 108,385 and 259,648 under investigation.

“We are only weeks away from reducing transmission in L.A. County to a level where elementary schools will be allowed by the state to offer in-class instruction, provided they

adhere to all state and county directives,” said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, director of Public Health. “Schools that decide to open will need to require masking, distancing and routine testing. Please do your part to continue to slow the spread so that our recovery journey does not suffer a setback.”

So, it seems, no holidays equal no gatherings, which means COVID-19 infection rates drop. The L.A. County Dept. of Health is asking for the public not to gather for the upcoming holidays: Lunar New Year, Valentine’s Day, and Presidents Day. Statistics showed COVID-19 surged after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The public is still being asked to limit social gatherings to their households as we see a decline in COVID-19 after the major holiday surges. The coming weeks will show if guidelines were followed during the Super Bowl weekend.

These guidelines are all very important to follow especially since we are continually seeing new variants of COVID-19. Again, keep in mind, health officials have stated that mutations and variants are common place when it comes to



GETTY IMAGES

The L.A. County Dept. of Health are asking for the public not to gather for the upcoming holidays: Lunar New Year, Valentine’s Day, and Presidents Day.

viruses. Public Health has confirmed five additional cases of COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7. (U.K. variant), which brings it to eight cases in Los Angeles County. The B.1.1.7 variant is more easily transmissible, which means following the well-known health guidelines are more important than ever.

For more information and statistics on COVID-19 in Los Angeles County, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>

For more detailed information on COVID-19 vaccination plans in L.A. County and to sign up for a vaccination newsletter, visit: [www.VaccinateLA-County.com](http://www.VaccinateLA-County.com).

# HBCU Buzz Continues to Amplify Black Voices across Campuses

By KIMBERLEE BUCK HAYES  
Contributing Writer

Since 2011, HBCU Buzz has been a news hub for prospective students, current students, and alumni who attended historically Black colleges and universities. In honor of Black History Month and the publication's tenth anniversary, we caught up with the creator of HBCU Buzz, Luke Lawal, to discuss their plan to amplify Black voices in the New Year.

### How it all began

Lawal had the idea to create HBCU Buzz while attending Bowie State University and pledging for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

"It's so hard to describe what it's like to attend an HBCU and put it in a box. What I can say is imagine you left home to find a new home," said Lawal.

"You have your parents who are looking out for you; that's creating your best interest. You have your



COURTESY PHOTO  
HBCU Buzz creator, Luke Lawal.

news coverage.

Lawal recalls the first time he saw local news stations on his campus.

"They publicized a story about someone who passed away on our campus. I realized that's the only time I had seen [news stations] on our campus," he said.

"That story broke nationwide, and I thought, 'wow, who is telling the good side of things that are happening on our campus? Who is telling our stories from our perspective?'"

After witnessing a gap in

Buzz team.

What started as a media outlet created to generate awareness of HBCU collegiate culture turned into an influential brand whose primary goal is to rewrite the script on Black colleges and universities that White mainstream media has projected to the public.

From campus news to information on alumni, sports, and entertainment, HBCU Buzz has coverage of all of America's one hundred and five historically Black colleges and universities.

"The Buzz promotes pride and unity within all HBCU communities to enhance the Black college experience and improve the perception of America's historically Black colleges and universities," said the brand.

In addition, HBCU Buzz provides trends and produces breaking news coverage on all Black colleges and universities by referencing schools, organizations, and other news outlets.

companies to create new initiatives like our HBCU march that we put on last year in Washington D.C.," said Lawal.

"We have also worked with brands like Nike, Proctor & Gamble, Amazon, Warner Brothers, and all these big companies creating opportunities and highlighting and showcasing things that are going on at HBCU's with the hopes of

"In the past decade, we have taken the editorial of our brand to become more of an aggregator, a consultant. We have worked with a lot of companies like Goldman Sachs to help them fill career opportunities. Also, we have brought more opportunities to the HBCU space than most brands or any HBCU brand."

Lawal says that his proudest moments are the



COURTESY PHOTO  
"We have also worked with brands like Nike and all these big companies creating opportunities and highlighting and showcasing things that are going on at HBCU's with the hopes of continuing that same message but just on a bigger scale," Lawal.

continuing that same message but just on a bigger scale."

HBCU Buzz is more than a publication; the company also focuses on raising awareness and shedding light on Blacks issues like politics. Recently, the brand partnered with the Biden/Harris campaign to encourage students to vote.

"Our direct campaign was to create awareness on some of the issues surrounding the election, to dispel information, and to re-energize our community," said Lawal.

### What's next for the Buzz?

With the brand's tenth anniversary approaching in March, we asked Lawal to reflect on how HBCU Buzz has grown.

testimonials he receives from people who have worked with the brand that have landed career changing jobs at other news organizations.

In the next ten years, HBCU Buzz plans to tell as many stories as possible and continue improving the perception of historically Black colleges and universities.

All-in-all, the future of HBCU Buzz is bright! The brand plans to launch the #HBCUStrong campaign in March that will celebrate ten years of progression and spotlight HBCU students and graduates who are entrepreneurs.

As far as professional goals are concerned, Lawal has his eyes set on creating more brands that solve prob-

lems that affect the Black community.

"I think we must continue to solve problems and create brands that are leaving lasting experiences in our community."

Aside from launching HBCU Buzz, Lawal is the CEO and founder of L & Company, a minority-based corporation in Los Angeles, CA, and Taper, an app designed to change how hairstylists and barbers engage with consumers. He is also the founder of Root Care Health, which spotlights the importance of Black mental health.

Also, Lawal is the co-founder of Suited Lifestyle, a unique space for men of color that provides young professionals with peer-to-peer engagement and social and cultural events.

Head over to [www.hcubuzz.com](http://www.hcubuzz.com) to see what all the hype is about. Don't forget to follow the brand on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @HBCUBuzz.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Luke Lawal.



COURTESY PHOTO  
HBCU Buzz works with different companies to create new initiatives like the HBCU march that the brand put on last year in Washington D.C.

brothers and sisters dealing with the same issues you are. Then you have the people under you who are looking to you for guidance."

Despite his newfound pride in attending an HBCU, Lawal felt something was missing; HBCU

HBCU news coverage, Lawal decided that he would take on that responsibility.

With zero news experience, Lawal hit the ground running. He found students who were interested in writing to join the HBCU

Today, HBCU Buzz is the leading source for HBCUs. The brand is also an aggregator for fortune 500 companies that are figuring out how to partner and network in the HBCU space.

"We work with different

For more information about Concorde, including our graduation rates, please visit our website at [www.concorde.edu/resources](http://www.concorde.edu/resources). Concorde cannot guarantee salary amount or employment.

210008 2/21

**CONCORDE.EDU**

# Some Calif. Black Churches Will Ignore U.S. Supreme Court; Continue to Abide by CDC Advice

By TANU HENRY  
California Black Media

On Friday, Feb. 5, the United States Supreme Court voted 6-3 in favor of allowing California churches to reopen their doors to worshippers. The ruling, which lifted the state's ban on indoor, in-person church services, went into effect this weekend.

But some California Black Churches say they will keep their doors closed for now. They will, instead, continue to hold virtual services online, which makes it easier for them to adhere to Centers of Disease Control and Prevention social distancing guidelines.

"For the sake of our members, we will continue to abide by CDC guidelines. We know that COVID-19 is

real. Our community has been devastated by this virus. We value our members physical and spiritual health," said the Rev. K.W. Tuloss, president of the National Action Network Los Angeles and pastor of Weller Street Missionary Baptist Church, which is in downtown L.A.

Tuloss says he can't speak for every African American congregation in California, but he can safely say a large number of Black ministers in his network up and down the state will take a wait-and-see approach to reopening. They will prioritize the safety of their church members, he says, over all the benefits of fellowshiping in-person.

Associate Justices Elena Kagan, Stephen G. Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor, the

high court's three liberal-leaning members, voted against the request to lift the ban submitted by two California churches -- Chula



SHUTTERSTOCK

Vista's South Bay United Pentecostal Church and Pasadena's Harvest Rock Church.

"Justices of this court are not scientists," wrote Justice Kagan in her opinion regarding the case. "Nor do

we know much about public health policy. Yet today the court displaces the judgments of experts about how to respond to a raging pan-

demic."

The court's more conservative leaning members, Chief Justice John G. Roberts and Associate Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito, Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M.

Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett voted to overturn previous decisions upholding Gov. Newsom's ban issued by federal judges in San Diego and San Bernardino, and the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeal in San Francisco.

"Since the arrival of COVID-19, California has openly imposed more stringent regulations on religious institutions than on many businesses," wrote Justice Neil M. Gorsuch in his opinion against California's order. "California worries that worship brings people together for too much time. Yet, California does not limit its citizens to running in and out of other establishments; no one is barred from lingering in shopping malls, salons, or bus terminals."

Responding to the

Supreme Court's decision, the governor's office said it is revising the ban, now allowing churches across the state to hold indoor services at 25 % capacity.

"We will continue to enforce the restrictions the Supreme Court left in place and, after reviewing the decision, we will issue revised guidelines for worship services to continue to protect the lives of Californians," said Gov. Newsom's press secretary Daniel Lopez, said in a statement.

So far in California, there have been 3.41 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 43,987 deaths.

Among African Americans in the state, there have been 101,004 confirmed cases and 2,601 deaths – about 6 % of all mortalities in the state.

## AT&T Dream in Black Honors Iconic Black Future Makers and Everyday Heroes This Black History Month

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

This Black History Month, AT&T Dream in Black presents the return of Black Future Makers, a future-forward celebration of inspirational people in the culture. The campaign was announced via a commercial celebrating frontline workers and everyday heroes from Chicago in a spot voiced by NBA superstar, philanthropist and entrepreneur, LeBron James. James is also one of this year's Black Future Maker honorees.

"How do we revere the doers and the dreamers, thank the makers, shapers and creators of not just today, but tomorrow?" James asks at the beginning of the commercial. Over his baritone voice, the



viewer sees a montage of moving images of the everyday heroes.

A doctor, a dancer, a veteran, a teen activist, a firefighter, and an AT&T essential worker are among the inspirational figures highlighted in the Black Future Makers spot.

Throughout the month of February, a new group of Black Future Makers will be revealed every week. The honorees range from Grammy-award-winning music artists and media executives to independent filmmakers and even a medical physicist.

This spot is just one of many ways AT&T is celebrating and uplifting the Black community while also framing what the campaign is really about - how all members of the community, even people who are not public figures - have it within them to be Black Future Makers.

In addition to Dream in Black's celebration of Black Future Makers, AT&T is committed as a company to championing equality and supporting the Black community beyond the month of February.

"A core part of our commitment and responsibility to diversity and inclusion is to speak up for change and make a meaningful contribution to a more equitable society," said Corey Anthony,

AT&T chief diversity and development officer. "AT&T spent \$3.1 billion with Black-owned suppliers, surpassing a \$3 billion two-year commitment to drive diversity and inclusion across our business and communities where we live and work. We know we have more work to do, and it is our hope that through supporting the Black community in actionable ways, we can champion equality, create opportunities, and support the next generation of Black Future Makers."

### A Call To Join The Dream In Black Future Maker List

The ideal Future Maker is someone who is making history today, giving back to their community, and pursuing their dreams. These

Future Makers are shaping the now, the new and the next for the culture.

For a chance to be honored as a Dream in Black Future Maker, consumers can post a video highlighting what they are doing in their communities or fields to make a positive impact using the #DreamInBlack and #ATTFutureMaker hashtags. Consumers are also able to nominate other members of the community for consideration for the honor using the same process. Ten lucky winners will be selected as part of the 2021 class of Black Future Makers and will win \$10,000.

Visit [att.com/dreaminblack](http://att.com/dreaminblack) to learn more about how to enter the AT&T Dream in Black Future Maker contest.

## BROTHERHOOD CRUSADE'S COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

**DRIVE-THRU "GRAB AND GO!"**

# Celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Saturday February 27, 2021**

8am until all items are gone

at The Los Angeles Sentinel  
3800 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90008

**FREE while supplies last!**

Everyone must wear a face mask properly and observe social distancing rules. Must remain in vehicle.



*Sharing is Caring*  
We will be providing 1,500 families with food baskets, new clothes, shoes, and Target gift cards. This will be a drive-thru event only.

**No Walk Ups Allowed!**



For more information contact: Stacy Hill-Williams 323.846.1649

Blue Shield of California is an independent member of the Blue Shield Association.

## BROTHERHOOD Crusade

Brotherhood Crusade sharing support to the community in partnership with Agape International Spiritual Center, Blackline, Blue Shield of California, Door Dash, El Pollo Loco, Ford Motor Company, Golden Road Brewing, Heather Hutt, LA Regional Food Bank, Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper, Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, SEIU 2015, SEIU Local 721 and SEIU UHW

[bhcrusade](https://www.instagram.com/bhcrusade) [BCrusade](https://www.facebook.com/BCrusade)

# California Foundations Drop \$100 Million in 'Black Freedom Fund'

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY  
*California Black Media*

Last week, philanthropic organizations and other funders joined hands to launch the California Black Freedom Fund (CBFF), a new \$100 million initiative that will provide resources to Black-led organizations in the state of California over the next five years.

Co-created with Black leaders and organizers, the first-of-its-kind fund will ensure that California's growing ecosystem of local grassroots, Black-led organizing groups have sustained investments that equip them with the resources they need to push back against entrenched forces of systemic and institutionalized racism.

"Over the past year, we've seen Black communities across the country step up boldly as the conscience of our nation to challenge the status quo," said Cathy Cha, president and chief executive officer of the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, a Bay Area philanthropic organization that tackles a broad range of social issues. "The California Black Freedom Fund represents a great opportunity to build on that momentum and support Black-led organizations and a movement that can keep racial justice front and center and reimagine a better future for all of us."

According to participating organizations, the fund intends to correct philanthropy's history of underinvestment in Black-led organizations and "power-building" in African American communities. For example, across the United States, only about 1% of community foundation support was

specifically designated for Black communities in recent years, according to the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy.

"To make racial justice and equity real in California, philanthropy needs to elevate its investments in Black organizers that are focused on advocacy, organizing and holding our institutions accountable -- something that we call power-building," said Lateefah Simon, who is the president of Akonadi Foundation, an Oakland-based organization that fights against the criminalization of Black youth. "The vision of the California Black Freedom Fund is to bring justice to our communities by making sure Black-led organizations are sufficiently supported and strong, and their leaders are galvanized."

Simon says the fund's focus on "power-building" prioritizes mobilizing Black Californians to become engaged in their communities and effect systemic change through "advocacy, direct action, voter organizing and mobilization."

"It is commendable that the funders are focused on equity. It has a positive ring to it. It's encouraging," says Paul Cobb, publisher of the Post News Group, a Black-owned newspaper publishing house based in Oakland. "But it is important that they follow these high-minded words with meaningful action -- backed with a strategic plan of action to even the playing field."

Robert K. Ross, president and CEO of The California Endowment, a statewide foundation headquartered in Los Angeles that is focused on improving the health of all Californians, says the initiative is a

strong effort that addresses longstanding equity issues that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and amplified.

"But we know it will take bold moves such as this in order to reimagine institutions that are more inclusive and racially equitable for all Californians," Ross stated. "The pandemic and the racial divide in this country have exposed the anti-Black systems that are in place. These resources will make sure we build and sustain an ecosystem of Black-led organizations and networks that can move racial equity work forward, while leading California towards healing and structural change."

With an initial investment of \$32.4 million, CBFF will raise additional dollars over the next five years through a mix of foundation, corporate and individual donor support to reach its \$100 million goal.

Regina Wilson, executive director of California Black Media, says she applauds California's largest foundations making a significant initial investment in community-based organizations, adding that she is hopeful multi-year funding will be expanded to include Black media.

"I'm optimistic funders will consider supporting Black newspapers and other African American-owned media outlets in the future because of the vital public service role they play in our state. The Black press

watches and breaks down government policy, while keeping our community informed, connected and engaged," Wilson said.



The funders currently participating in CBFF include Akonadi Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, Bishop Ranch, Blue Shield of California Foundation, The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Crankstart, Emerson Collective, and Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.

In addition, the roster of funders extends to Farella Braun + Martel LLP, Friedman Family Foundation, Hellman Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, Liberty Hill Foundation, Libra Foundation, Rob McKay, Rosenberg Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, Sierra Health Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Stuart Foundation, Tundra Glacier Fund and Weingart Foundation.

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation will provide fiscal and administrative management of the fund.

"The (CBFF) sets forth a model that can be replicated across the nation, potentially bringing significant resources to movement-building networks and organizations that are fighting racial injustice on behalf of marginalized groups," said Nicole Taylor, president and CEO, Silicon Valley

Community Foundation, a philanthropic organization based in Mountain View. "Silicon Valley Community Foundation is proud to support the California Black Freedom Fund, as it aligns with our aspirations of advancing equity and opportunity for all members of our communities."

Over the next five years, the CBFF says it will strategically increase the resources available to Black-led organizations throughout California, prioritizing the courageous and visionary grassroots advocates and organizers leading California as a whole toward systemic transformation.

In its first round of grantmaking, CBFF is investing over \$6 million to support three established Black networks that have proven, long-term working relationships with more than 50 Black-led organizations across the state.

The first of the three networks is the Black Census and Redistricting Hub, a network of over 30 Black-led and Black-serving organizations that focuses on maximizing participation in the census and redistricting process among hard-to-count Black communities.

Second is the Black Equity Collective, a community-public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening the long-term capacity and infrastructure of Black-led and Black-empowering social justice organizations in Southern California (Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire).

Third is PICO California: Live Free/ Bring the HEAT. This organization centers its work on intervention to protect the basic health, safety, and well-

being of all people by demanding a series of immediate and sweeping changes to the current policing system in the United States.

"Black-led organizations have been leading the work to advance racial justice and dismantle anti-Black racism," said Miguel A. Santana, president and CEO of the Los Angeles-based Weingart Foundation. "We are proud to join our colleagues in investing at greater scale to support these movement leaders and stand shoulder to shoulder with them in the work to eradicate systemic racism."

CBFF's next round of grantmaking is anticipated in late February 2021.

In addition to grantmaking, the fund will also provide capacity-building support through technical assistance in communications, narrative change, and policy; research and data; and convening and learning opportunities.

"Building a better future for everyone starts with centering those who have been politically, socially, and economically marginalized," said Priscilla Chan, Co-founder and Co-CEO of the Redwood City-based Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. Chan is Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg's wife.

"We support the California Black Freedom Fund and its work to ensure that Black-led organizations and movements have the power, resources, and recognition to continue their missions and make racial equity a reality in California," Chan emphasized.

To learn more about the California Black Freedom Fund visit [CABlackFreedomFund.org](http://CABlackFreedomFund.org).

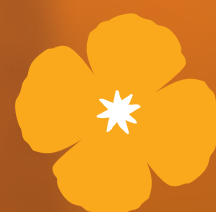


## COVID-19 emotional support wherever you are.

During these challenging times with so much to worry about, it's easy to forget that your emotional wellbeing is as vulnerable as your physical health and safety. If you're feeling stressed, anxious, or lonely because of COVID-19, you're not alone.

CalHOPE offers free tips and tools, including a warmline, to help you manage stress and navigate emotional changes. Call to talk to someone who understands your struggles and can offer support.

Call (833) 317-HOPE (4673) or visit: [CalHOPE.org](http://CalHOPE.org)



California  
**HOPE**

# IN MEMORIAM: Keeping the Legacy of Legendary Supremes Star Mary Wilson Alive

{continued from Pg. A-1}

founder Berry Gordy wrote in a statement emailed to NNPA Newswire shortly after 2 a.m. Tuesday.”

Gordy emphasized, “The Supremes were always known as the ‘sweethearts of Motown.’ Mary, along with Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, came to Motown in the early 1960s. After an unprecedented string of number one hits, television and nightclub bookings, they opened doors for themselves, the other Motown acts, and many, many others.”

“I was always proud of Mary,” Berry Gordy concluded. “She was quite a star in her own right and continued to work hard to boost the legacy of the



From left, Diana Ross, Mary Wilson, and Florence Ballard of the Supremes.

States Postal Service stamp. “People forget that Florence Ballard not only gave us our name, but she formed

most successful act of the 1960s, scoring 12 No. 1 singles.

They also continue to reign as America’s most successful vocal group to date. Their influence not only carries on in contemporary R&B, soul, and pop, but they also helped pave the way for Black artists’ mainstream success across all genres.

Mary achieved an unprecedented 12 No.1 hits, with 5 of them being consecutive from 1964-1965. Those songs are “Where Did Our Love Go,” “Baby Love,” “Come See About Me,” “Stop! In the Name of Love,” and “Back in My Arms Again,” according to Billboard Magazine.

In 2018, Billboard celebrated the 60th anniversary of Motown with a list of “The Hot 100’s Top Artists of All Time”, where The Supremes ranked at No. 16 and remain the No. 1 female recording group of all time.

Jan. 21, 2021, marked the 60th anniversary of the day The Supremes signed

the group,” Wilson revealed on “Fiyah!”

“It was really Flo who formed us, and I want people to know that. I am putting together a program to get Florence Ballard a U.S. stamp, hopefully, so I want people to send their request and say something about Florence. All those hits were Florence, so when you listening to [The Supremes], it’s about Flo, so I want people who listen to those songs that bring back memories, think about Flo.”

A singer, best-selling author, motivational speaker, businesswoman, former U.S. Cultural Ambassador, mother, and grandmother, the legendary Mary Wilson made great strides on her inevitable journey to greatness.

As an original/founding member of The Supremes, she changed the face of popular music to become a trendsetter who broke down social, racial, and gender barriers, which all started with the wild success of their first number one song.

Formed in Detroit as The Primettes in 1959, The Supremes were Motown’s

anniversary of The Supremes.

“With the same passion as she did singing with the original Supremes as well as with her solo career, the world-renowned performer was an advocate for social and economic challenges in the United States and abroad,” Wilson’s longtime publicist and friend, Jay Schwartz, said.

“Ms. Wilson used her fame and flair to promote a diversity of humanitarian efforts, including ending hunger, raising HIV/AIDS awareness, and encouraging world peace. Mary was working on getting a U.S.

Supremes were known for over the decades and delved into more history of the most successful female recording group of all time,” Schwartz wrote in an email.

He provided the following extensive recent bio of Wilson:

She was honored at the Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills, celebrating her work in music and her influence on young African Americans and entertainment.

Her conversation with Janice Littlejohn left the audience laughing with her unmatched humor and

first time on the charts with a solo recording since The Supremes.

She was working on new projects for 2021, including an album she recently teased on her YouTube channel. Her primary love of preserving the legacy of The Supremes and introducing her music to new generations.

“I think that The Supremes had a lot to do with the awakening of the world in terms of what blackness was,” Wilson said in her 2020 NNPA interview. “The whole world was watching Black people in a



Mary Wilson was a singer, author, motivational speaker, and a former U.S. Cultural Ambassador. and a former U.S. Cultural Ambassador. COURTESY PHOTOS

Supremes over the years. Mary Wilson was extremely special to me. She was a trailblazer, a diva, and will be deeply missed.”

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, affirmed, “On behalf of NNPA Chair Karen Cater Richards and all of the 230 African American NNPA member publishers across the United States and the Caribbean, we pause solemnly today to pay tribute and our profound respects to the living memory, legacy and cultural genius of our beloved Mary Wilson. She loved and supported the Black Press of America, and we will always love and keep Mary Wilson’s transformative spirit in our hearts as the NNPA continues to publish truth to power in America and throughout the world.”

In a 2020 interview on the Black Press of America’s “Fiyah!” livestream program, Wilson talked about her life and career and her long pursuit of having Florence Ballard memorialized with a United



From left, Mary Wilson, Florence Ballard, and Diana Ross of the Supremes. COURTESY PHOTOS

postage stamp of her fellow bandmate and original Supreme Florence Ballard who passed away in 1976,” Schwartz said.

In 2019, Wilson stretched her dancing muscles when she joined the cast of the 28th season of ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars,” Schwartz recalled.

He noted that in 2019 she also published her fourth book, “Supreme

standing with applause displaying her graceful composure throughout the night. Showing the same love she has always demonstrated to all her fans, Wilson gladly met and personally thanked every attendee that night for their support throughout her career.

Wilson’s influence reached beyond music.

In 2018, Mary’s longtime fight for the passage of the Music Modernization Act (MMA) came to fruition when it was signed into law on Oct. 11.

The law modernized copyright-related issues for new music and audio recordings due to new forms of technology like digital streaming, which did not protect music recorded before Feb. 15, 1972, according to Schwartz.

Her tireless advocacy for this legislation included trips to Washington D.C. to personally meet with Congress members to advocate for legacy artists gaining fair compensation when their songs are played on digital radio stations, Schwartz continued.

Mary Wilson’s last solo recording, the song, “Time to Move On,” reached No. 23 on the Billboard Dance charts, which marked her

way they’d never seen.”

STATEMENT ON PASSING OF MARY WILSON

I was extremely shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of a major member of the Motown family, Mary Wilson of the Supremes.

The Supremes were always known as the “sweethearts of Motown.” Mary, along with Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, came to Motown in the early 1960’s. After an unprecedented string of number one hits, television and nightclub bookings, they opened doors for themselves, the other Motown acts, and many, many others.

I was always proud of Mary. She was quite a star in her own right and over the years continued to work hard to boost the legacy of the Supremes.

Mary Wilson was extremely special to me. She was a trailblazer, a diva and will be deeply missed.

Berry Gordy,  
Founder, Motown  
February 8, 2021



From left, Diana Ross, Florence Ballard, and Mary Wilson of the Supremes. COURTESY PHOTOS

with Motown in 1961. This year, Mary kicked off the celebration of the 60th an-

Glamour.”

“The coffee-table book showcased the gowns The

# Councilwoman Emma Sharif Launches Bid for Mayor of Compton



Councilwoman Emma Sharif COURTESY PHOTOS

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

This week, Councilwoman Emma Sharif officially launched her campaign for Mayor of Compton. Sharif released the following statement as she formally entered the race for Mayor:

“I would like to first thank Mayor Aja Brown for leading our city over the last 8 years. She has led Compton through some turbulent times and it has been my pleasure to work alongside her to accomplish great things for our beloved Hub City”. Since being re-elected to the city council in 2019, we have accomplished the following:

- Completed \$5.9 mil-

lion in street repairs

- Approved \$45 million in revenue bonds to fund additional street repairs

- Stood up a COVID 19 Testing Site in Compton

- Created a Homeless Outreach Plan and provided services to 90 individuals

- Approved an Illegal Dumping contract

- Hired an Anti-Graffiti painter

- Approved a \$1.2 million Tree trimming contract

- Built or approved over 500 units of housing

- Worked with Assemblyman Mike Gipson to revitalize the Compton Creek

“Although we have much to be proud of as a city, we still have work to do to increase the quality of life for all Compton residents. I look forward to working with the council, staff and residents to take Compton to the next level”. My administration will focus on tackling the homeless issue, finishing street repair projects, recruiting businesses that will bring revenue to the city and increasing programs and resources for our seniors.

Councilwoman Sharif, a 30-year resident of Compton who raised her four

children in the city, is battle-tested, honest, transparent, and has remained true to the people she serves. Emma Sharif holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science/Sociology; and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. Prior to being elected to the city council, Emma served the City of Compton as an elected School Board Member and proud union member in the Compton Education Association. She represents the city on several regional boards and serves as an elected member of the California Democratic Party State Central Committee.

# Black Investors Take Note: Reddit Rebellion Rescues GameStop Stock

BY STACY M. BROWN  
 NNPA Newswire Senior  
 National Correspondent

The story of 10-year-old Jaydyn Carr and his mother, Nina Carr, is just one example of the impact of Wall Street's ongoing GameStop rally.

Their financial windfall came about as a result of a trading frenzy that was never witnessed before—and one that found even some of the most astute stock market experts struggling to explain.

A band of amateur day traders that interacts with one another on the Reddit page WallStreetBets, encouraged whoever was listening to buy shares of the flailing GameStop, AMC, Macy's and Koss stocks. The goal: counter the influence of the big investors, often hedge funds, who bet against struggling public companies using a process referred to as "shorting." Shorting a stock allows investors to bet on the degree of misfortune a stock may experience and earn billions of dollars in profits as a result.

In just one day, WallStreetBets' actions (also known as the Reddit mob or the Reddit Army) resulted in hedge fund losses of over \$14 billion. And, despite recent declines, GameStop shares continue to show gains of more than 1,584 percent. The stock now trades at about \$150. A year ago, it was just \$4.

AMC's stock is up 200 percent and Koss is up by more than 400 percent. WallStreetBets actions



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA

*In just one day, WallStreetBets' actions (also known as the Reddit mob or the Reddit Army) resulted in hedge fund losses of over \$14 billion. And, despite recent declines, GameStop shares continue to show gains of more than 1,584 percent. The stock now trades at about \$150. A year ago, it was just \$4.*

have also incited jumps in BlackBerry, Macy's and other stocks that were heavily shorted.

As a community, African Americans and other minorities have generally shown little interest in stock trading beyond mutual funds and 401Ks established by employers, but the exposure of how Wall Street works has intrigued many.

Jaydyn had been a GameStop customer when, in 2019, his mother decided to purchase ten shares of the company's stock for a little over \$6.

Nina Carr told the New York Times that her phone blew up during the recent trading frenzy, and she noticed the stock soaring to an eye-popping \$351 per share. She consulted Jaydyn on what he wanted to do since she had purchased the stock for him.

"I was trying to explain to him that this was unusual," the Times reported her saying. "I asked him, 'Do

you want to stay or sell?'" Jaydyn decided to sell his shares, earning \$3,200 — a return of more than 5,000 percent on an investment of about \$60.

The development left the most seasoned puzzled. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen admitted that she needed to understand what occurred.

As WallStreetBets group of investors purchased stock, hedge fund short sellers, who were already committed to the loans they secured to obtain their shares, had to buy additional shares to cover their now losing bids, which only caused the stock prices to rise further. The trading term to explain what happened is called a short squeeze.

But before the squeeze by the amateur traders, hedge fund giants routinely executed short sales.

A short sale is when someone borrows a share of a stock at a certain. The borrower has a limited

number of days to either pay for the stock or return the shares to the lender. But they have already received an amount equal to the lender's sell price from whoever purchased the stock from them. Now, if the stock's price falls (which is what the borrower is counting on), the borrower can then buy the stock at the lower price and keep the difference.

In other words, as explained by CNBC, if you short a \$7 stock and it slides in price, and you buy it at \$2, your profit is \$5.

"However, if the price goes up, at some point, you still will need to finish the transaction — that is, you'd have to buy that stock to repay the brokerage. So, if that \$7 stock

rises, and you have to buy it at \$10 to cover your short position, you've lost \$3."

The GameStop situation has opened eyes — including those of many Black investors.

"What this means for the African American investor is that it shows the power of unity and a united front," Christon' The Truth' Jones, the 14-year-old African American wunderkind investor from Baltimore.

"Showing that it is possible to take back the power from the institutional investors, like the big banks and hedge funds. Because for years, the Wall Street investors have bet against the struggling GameStop, which has been a failing business ever since gamers began buying directly from the consoles," Christon added.

"With the big Institutional investors on Wall Street betting against GameStop they were sure the game retailer would fail, and they would receive big payouts from betting against the retailer. All in all, it represents our ability to come together as a people and use our numbers, resources, and intellect to our advantage to break down the systems that have been put in place to oppress us."

Film producer Jimmy Philémond-Montout of PHILEMOND LTD said the Reddit investors

democratized Wall Street and Hedge Funds' opaque world.

"What it means is that more African American investors will appear, thanks to the slew of information that is readily available online, not just the run-of-the-mill, textbook information but the gritty and dirty," Philémond-Montout offered.

"We see this in many different avenues, and to me, that is the beauty of online message boards and the internet in general. Thorvald McGregor or Lawrence Lewis are credited with being the first registered African American securities salesman in 1949.

"Harvey Thomas, Forrest Tomlinson, and George King were the first three African-American brokers to be hired by Merrill Lynch in 1965. Travers Bell and Willie Daniels established Daniels & Bell, Inc. in 1971, making it the first African American firm on the New York Stock Exchange.

"Now, thanks to Robinhood, Etoro, and TD, among others, everyone can be an investor. We have to read and learn to understand how it works fully, the good and the bad stuff, but we have access to the market. I think wild times are ahead in general, and that the Afro-descendant community has to take part in this."

## Stacey Abrams, Black Lives Matter are Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
 NNPA Newswire  
 Contributor

Both Stacey Abrams and the Black Lives Matter movement have been nominated to win the Nobel Peace Prize.



Stacey Abrams

or Medicine, and Literature.

There have been many controversies around the Peace Prize and a win by Abrams or the Black Lives Matter would likely extend the line of controversies. Past winners have included

it & would become an even bigger voting rights, VR & democracy champion," wrote the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. on twitter.

The news of the Abrams nomination arrived on the same day that Georgia Republicans launched a "Stop Stacey" group. The group was created to support current Georgia Governor Brian Kemp in his expected re-match against Democrat Stacey Abrams. The race will be in 2022.

The defeat of former U.S. Senator Kelly Loeffler to Rev. Raphael Warnock demonstrated the strength of the Black vote in Georgia. Even before Abrams announced whether she'll run again, a sign of deep concern among Republicans about the threat she poses next year to the first-term governor.

Abrams' efforts were so noticeable and the turnaround from red to blue in Georgia so pronounced that Donald Trump brought her up during his effort to flip the election results in 2020 his favor in Georgia.

The recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize will be announced in October.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964), Nelson Mandela (1993), President Barack Obama (2009), Kofi Annan (2001) and Jimmy Carter (2002).

"Stacey Abrams political activist, voter registration & voting rights advocate has set a national standard for democracy. Her political activism has resulted in a nomination for a Nobel Prize. She deserves

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Vaccines are:

**SAFE**  
California's top medical experts have confirmed the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines.

**EFFECTIVE**  
Up to 95% effective to prevent COVID-19.

**FREE**  
COVID-19 vaccines are available for free.

**PRIVATE**  
Your personal information is confidential and protected.

Even after being vaccinated, you should continue wearing your mask, washing your hands and watching your distance until the vaccine has been widely distributed.

Vaccine supply is limited. Learn more about vaccines at [VaccinateAll58.com](https://www.vaccinateall58.com) and help end the pandemic. You can also sign up to be notified when it's your turn to make an appointment at [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://www.myturn.ca.gov) or call (833) 422-4255.

**Vaccinate ALL 58**  
Together we can end the pandemic.

# NNPA Holds Roundtable with White House Senior Advisor, Cedric Richmond

*Marking Black History Month, the roundtable set many questions before Richmond with racial equity in mind.*

By Brian W. Carter  
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, February 4, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) recognized the beginning of Black History Month with a virtual conversation with White

COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Census, the American Rescue Plan and federal advertising with the Black Press. Richmond was asked questions by Chavis submitted from members of the NNPA. This is the Q&A from the recent roundtable which can be seen on the

of government commitment to advertising with African American and other people of color news and media businesses?

**CR:** This is part of where I would say let past actions give you an inference. Let me start with saying how

crease support for HBCUs and what steps will you take to bridge the widening education gap?

**CR:** It's important that we triple Title I funding, that would be a key component to not, leveling the playing field, but actu-

ally creating some equity in that space and making sure that the communities who need the money the most get the most. How do we get them more money? We get them more money, we put more money in the budget for them. We do the things that are necessary to help them and president made that commitment during the campaign, he knows the value of HBCUs in this country. The other thing [President Biden] knows and this administration knows is the great talent that HBCUs have produced—the technology and the contribution that HBCUs have made to society with limited funds compared to other public universities. We know it, we're going to invest in it because they are doing an excellent job with limited funding and we want them to do an even greater job with their fair share of funding.

enough... these publishers on this call, we need advertising, that is the lifeline and life blood of our Black businesses going forward," said Bakewell. "There's no Black community, no entity within the Black community, the Black Church, Black business, everybody comes



The virtual roundtable was attended online by members of the NNPA including publishers, editors and journalists. COURTESY PHOTO

House Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond.

"We look forward to the next briefing, in the meantime, we're going to count on you, I want you to count on us, it's reciprocity," said Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA. "We're going to do our job and help you get the message out.

He continued, "We know that the American Rescue Plan is so important and if there is anything, we can do to help get it through Congress in terms of raising public awareness, you can count on us."

"We are the team that can do outreach in our community and with that I'll just say we thank you for this opportunity," said Karen Carter Richards, publisher of the Houston Forward Times and chair of the NNPA. "We're looking forward to more briefings so that we can get this information out to our communities."

"Let me start off for thanking NNPA for what you do," said Richmond. "Not everybody knows it, so I will take a second and just let people know—you tell the unvarnished truth, you give it to us unedited and in many places, that is the most reliable news that people can get, whether picking up a copy when they leave church... local corner store or grocery store or, in my case, they're leaving their Black bank in New Orleans, this is where they pick up the information that they know that they can trust."

The virtual roundtable was attended online by members of the NNPA including publishers, editors and journalists. On the table for discussion were a variety of topics including the

NNPA Facebook Page.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.: Right now, the CDC has messaging dollars that they're spending to get the message out helping human services also, what can we do to engage more of the Black Press to help the administration get this word out? I think that in the past, at least over the last four years, there was very little, I mean less than a crumb off the table that came from these agencies that are spending money to get word out, like on COVID-19, but the Black Press has been relatively left out. How can we correct that?"

**Cedric Richmond:** We have to reach everybody in this country. [The NNPA] reach people that other newspapers, other outlets, other means of communication does not reach and you reach it with a level of credibility that others may not have. It is vital for us to get our hands around this that we include you and we're not going to ask you to do it for free and there are some things, we are going to ask you to do for free in terms of public service announcements on certain things, but to the extent that we're advertising, I think [NNPA] should be a key component because again, in Black and Brown areas, there are outlets that are unique to them that we should be advertising at.

**BC:** Can you confirm that the Biden/Harris administration will ensure that President Biden's recent executive orders on racial justice and equity will be enforced and specifically implemented by all of the administration's cabinet departments, agencies and other federal instrumentalities with respect to a whole

serious the president is on racial equity. On his first day, one of his executive orders was establishing a whole of government plan on racial equity and that is holding every agency, every department accountable and finding out where we are now and moving towards progress. We are absolutely dead serious about racial equity.

**BC:** Has the Biden/Harris administration received a comprehensive list of issues that impact the quality of life of the African American community, such as, a national Black Agenda, if so, can you share with us the major issues of that agenda that have been raised and if not, are you open to receiving a national Black Agenda for consideration?

**CR:** Yes, we have received many policy papers on what can and should be done to help the African American community. They all provide blueprints for addressing those issues, from the Urban League to NAACP, to Color of Change to Black Lives Matter, to the Black Lives Movement. Everybody has been thought leaders on getting us to an agenda. We're focusing on a number of areas. When you talk about equity, the president is very clear, equity does not start and end with criminal justice reform. It ends with helping our entrepreneurs and our small businesses have access to capital. I like the fact that we are looking at a number of issues because far too often, when it came to a Black Agenda, people thought it started and ended with criminal justice reform and we know it does not.

**BC:** How will the Biden/Harris administration in-

ally creating some equity in that space and making sure that the communities who need the money the most get the most. How do we get them more money? We get them more money, we put more money in the budget for them. We do the things that are necessary to help them and president made that commitment during the campaign, he knows the value of HBCUs in this country. The other thing [President Biden] knows and this administration knows is the great talent that HBCUs have produced—the technology and the contribution that HBCUs have made to society with limited funds compared to other public universities. We know it, we're going to invest in it because they are doing an excellent job with limited funding and we want them to do an even greater job with their fair share of funding.

**BC:** This week, the president has met with republicans, he's met with democrats about the American Recovery Act, about the \$1.9 trillion that's on the table for legislation. Can you explain to Black America how important the \$1.9 trillion figure is and where does the Black community fit in this if it's passed by the Congress of the United States?

**CR:** It's really important when we start talking about money for mobile vaccination clinics, when we start talking about using community health centers or so that we can get to every neighborhood to make sure people have access to the vaccine, we're also talking about increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, increasing the child tax credit, those two things alone would reduce child poverty

because as we look at COVID-19, we know that it's African-American communities, Brown communities that are bearing the brunt of it more likely to not survive it and then if you look at the economic aspects of it, we're bearing the brunt of that also and so we want to make sure that we deal with it all. Also, you have to look at children and getting them back in the classroom because parents can't go to work if they have to do virtual schooling and so that's \$130 billion dollars in the plan so that we can get children back in the classroom in a safe manner so that we protect the teachers and their families that they go home to and those are things that we're going to have to do in terms of testing, in terms of smaller classroom sizes, better ventilation and the infrastructure of partitions and not to mention, the most popular part of the plan, which is \$1,400 checks to put in people's pocket right now to help them through these hard times and so those are all key components that I think go across the board, but are valuable to the African-American community.

Danny Bakewell, chairman and CEO of the Bakewell Company, publisher of the L.A. Sentinel and L.A. Watts Times Newspaper and chairman emeritus of the NNPA, stressed the importance of the Black Press advertising with the federal government. He made it a point to let Richmond know "our newspapers are actually dying on the vine."

"It's one thing to say we need to support COVID, to give the proper messages to Black people, we can do that, we consistently do that, I can't impress upon you

first and foremost to the Black Press, even before you're known nationally, they're known within the Black community because of the Black Press.

"We need help."

Richmond made it clear during the roundtable that getting a hold on the pandemic was a top priority for the president. He stated the importance of the Black Press in getting the message out better than other media outlets and in working more with them in the future.

"In order for us to heal and get pass this health pandemic and economic crisis, people have to take the vaccine," said Richmond. "I've had it, my mother has had it, and so, look, I believe in the science, but part of what it's going to take is us being very transparent, giving the facts of how the science of this vaccine, both Moderna and Pfizer were created over 10 months, when vaccines usually take a couple of years, we're willing to do all of that and we have to do it in outlets people believe and we're going to give [NNPA] the science, we're going to give you the facts so that you can make those determinations."

Richmond continued, "We want to make sure that we spend all of our effort, time and energy right now on making sure we can past this pandemic because it is no secret that when America has a cold, the Black community has a flu. So, we have to look at this in a comprehensive manner and we cannot do it without the help of the NNPA."

For more information, please visit [nnpa.org](http://nnpa.org)



# Disenfranchised and Marginalized Communities See Hope with Biden, Harris

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Before he won the 2020 election, President Joe Biden campaigned on a promise to reverse many of the previous administration's assaults on the nation's racial progress.

The president ran on the premise of "reclaiming the soul of America" and ensuring that African Americans ("They've always had my back," he declared) and other minorities would finally experience a level playing field.

On his first day, just hours after taking the oath of office, President Biden signed a host of executive orders – one of them aimed at ensuring racial equity.

"It is, therefore, the policy of my administration that the federal government should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality," President Biden proclaimed.

He continued: "Affirmatively advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the whole of our government. Because advancing equity

requires a systematic approach to embedding fairness in decision-making processes, executive departments and agencies must recognize and work to redress inequities in their policies and programs that serve as barriers to equal opportunity."

By advancing equity across the federal government, the president offered that agencies could create



FILE PHOTO  
President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

opportunities to improve historically underserved communities, which he said benefits everyone.

"For example, an analysis shows that closing racial gaps in wages, housing credit, lending opportunities, and access to higher education would amount to an additional \$5 trillion in gross domestic product in the American economy over the next five years," Biden

spelled out.

"The federal government's goal in advancing equity is to provide everyone with the opportunity to reach their full potential," he remarked.

"Consistent with these aims, each agency must assess whether, and to what extent, its programs and policies perpetuate systemic barriers to opportunities and benefits for people of color

Bradford, a Northern California educator.

"Just look at the parallels, the country was experiencing the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, and we were about to experience a person in a position of leadership that we had never seen," Bradford related.

"Seeing a Black woman, who's an HBCU graduate, member of a Divine nine sorority, and who has steadily ascended the political ladder is inspiring in so many ways," he continued.

"The emotions are similar to when Barack Obama was elected. Generations of children had never experienced a president that looked like them.

"Conversely, many children who did not look like President Obama had never seen a Black man in a position of authority, and now the most powerful leader in the world was a Black man.

"So, I think it's equally important for people of all races in this country to see that leaders come from all races, ethnic groups, familial backgrounds, and so many other unique positionalities."

Tanya St. Julien, the Chief of Staff at Leadership for Educational Equity and a member of her Community Education Council in Brooklyn, New York, said the new administration



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LEADERSHIP EDUCATIONAL EQUITY  
Tanya St. Julien, the Chief of Staff at Leadership for Educational Equity and a member of her Community Education Council in Brooklyn, New York.

brings hope for all Americans who believe in the promise of true democracy – one in which all people can live up to their full potential.

"For people of color, this administration brings representation," St. Julien offered.

"With great pride, people of color across the country are looking at folks who share their racial and cultural identity assuming political leadership and influencing policy at the highest level."

According to St. Julien, the new administration also brings opportunity.

"Biden named and thanked Black women in his acceptance speech, and that, along with the diversity of his administration, makes us hopeful that he will support

and promote the policy priorities of the people who have been hardest hit by systemic inequity," she said.

St. Julien added that she is hopeful for economic restoration and commensurate investments in supporting Black businesses, creating jobs for people of color, and investing in our communities' economic development.

She noted that Vice President Kamala Harris offers a chance to address and uproot the legacy of White supremacy in America, so people of color could live up to their potential instead of facing systemic challenges like educational inequity, murder at the hands of police, substandard health-care, and food insecurity.

St. Julien stated that emotions might be different for the Biden-Harris administration than when Obama first won election in 2008.

"Obama's election was all about hope, and it was an overwhelming victory. This election is different," St. Julien observed.

"Decided by a handful of states and undermined by the sitting president, we are experiencing the meeting of two Americas. We are cautiously optimistic and remain ready to fight against systemic inequity so that America can finally start to fulfill its promise of equality and justice for all."

## L'Oreal USA Partners with NAACP to Launch Grant Program for Black-owned Small Businesses



NNPA NEWSWIRE

L'Oréal USA announced the creation of its Inclusive Beauty Fund, a new grant program presented in partnership with the NAACP, the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. Through this inaugural round of funding, L'Oréal USA will award 30 one-time grants of \$10,000 each to Black-owned small businesses, Black entrepreneurs, and professional services in all sectors of the U.S.

beauty industry.

As small businesses in America have been hit the hardest by the economic fallout of the pandemic and Black-owned businesses are shutting down twice as fast as others according to NBER, L'Oréal USA teamed up with the NAACP to identify the most promising Black-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs in the beauty industry that are most in need of investment.

"As the leading beauty company in the United States,

we believe that we have a responsibility to invest in the small business owners and entrepreneurs who are the lifeblood of our dynamic beauty industry. We are proud to team up with the NAACP to advance our shared mission of creating a more inclusive and equitable world during this time of great economic vulnerability for so many. We hope the Inclusive Beauty Fund will introduce us to entrepreneurs in the beauty industry that we can build strong relationships with well into the future," said Angela Guy, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, L'Oréal USA.

In addition to one-time funding, L'Oréal USA is committed to providing grantees with professional mentorship and business development support with the participation of top executives from its leading beauty brands and its professional beauty products distributor, SalonCentric. The Inclusive

Beauty Fund is part of L'Oréal USA's larger commitment to support the NAACP's mission, which will include additional initiatives to be announced in the future.

The initiative is backed by L'Oréal USA's newly formed Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board, who will work alongside the NAACP, L'Oréal USA, and SalonCentric leaders to review and select grant recipients. The Advisory Board, made up of up over 20 internal and external stakeholders, have come together to ideate as a collective on efforts to influence and reimagine social and inclusive strategies that support L'Oréal USA's Diversity and Inclusion mis-

sion to build the standard in making beauty inclusive.

"Black-owned small beauty businesses are the heartbeat of their neighborhoods, and beauty business owners are navigating tremendous challenges stemming from the Covid-19 and recent events. The NAACP is proud to partner with L'Oréal USA to help support these entrepreneurs and ensure the longevity of the services and community their businesses provide," said Yumeka Rushing, Chief Strategy Officer, NAACP.

**How to Apply**

Applications for the Inclusive Beauty Fund will be administered by the NAACP in partnership with

Hello Alice, a platform for small business owners to identify the right path to start and grow their company. Applications for the financial grants opens today January 29, and proceeds through February 18, 2021. All submissions must be conducted through Hello Alice: <https://hialice.co/LOréal-HelloAlice-Grant>. The candidates selected to receive the grants will be announced in April of 2021.

Grants are available to new or existing beauty businesses of all kinds, including but not limited to salons, spas, barber shops, stylists, makeup artists, entrepreneurs, startup founders, haircare specialists, and beauty schools.

## NNPA President and CEO Dr. Ben Chavis Named Among 100 Most Influential Blacks Today

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., was named to the inaugural CORE Multimedia Group's 100 Most Influential Blacks Today.

The CORE 100 honorees, which include changemakers like Stacey Abrams, Attorney Ben Crump, NBA superstar LeBron James, and Oprah Winfrey, mark and remind the world of the beauty, boldness, and brilliance of Black Excellence at a time when the cultural, economic, and political landscape in the United States has grown increasingly more hostile towards Blackness.

"I am grateful for the recognition from the respected CORE Magazine," remarked Dr. Chavis, who in addition to his tireless work for the NNPA, hosts a week-



The CORE 100 was unveiled in a series of communications that led to the full presentation in the CORE 100 Special Issue Magazine on Feb. 1, 2021.

ly national talk show on PBS and PBS World called "The Chavis Chronicles."

"On behalf of the NNPA, representing the Black Press of America, and on behalf of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV, I accept with rededication the global struggle for freedom, justice, and equality," Chavis concluded.

The CORE 100 was unveiled in a series of communications that led to the full presentation in the CORE 100 Special Issue

Magazine on Feb. 1, 2021.

The addition of the CORE 100 Most Influential Blacks Today to the CORE brand supports the vision of former professional baseball player, coach, and executive; and magazine founder, Bo Porter, to address the void of Black-owned, historical and culturally diverse publications.

"CORE Magazine blazes a trail with uplifting articles and a showcasing of unsung heroes often not found in mainstream media outlets," the magazine noted in a news release.

CORE – Champion of Real Excellence – debuted on Oct. 1, 2020.

Each quarterly issue contains distinct and recurring feature stories like "Ball2Business," former athletes who successfully transitioned to the business sector; and "ME2me, professionals providing inspiration by sharing their lessons learned to their "younger selves."

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

IMW  
IVIE McNEILL WYATT  
PURCELL & DIGGS

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

# Diane Edith Watson: The Iconic Living Legend of Los Angeles Politics

{continued from Pg. A1}

O'Neal Watson, was an educator and one of the organizers of Holman United Methodist Church on Adams Blvd., although Watson is and has remained, to the day, a devout Catholic and member of Transfiguration

my office and asked me to run for the school board, I told him no. I wasn't interested in serving on the school board or running for any elected office." But, as history reveals, and as the former school board member jokes, "I obviously lost

woman in the California State Senate. Although extremely popular and a political favorite throughout her Senate district, Watson left the State Senate in 1998 due to term limits.

However, Watson did not remain unemployed or out of public service for long. Upon leaving the Senate, she was immediately called upon by then, President Bill Clinton, who asked her to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, a small cluster of four Island states spread across the western Pacific Ocean.

the most liberal member of Congress in the nation.

Diane Watson was never a political leader nor was she a teacher who was only about herself; she believed that part of her role as an elected official was not just to take care of herself, but she also felt an obligation to serve as a mentor/teacher who could and would uplift those around her. The list of the former staff members and political leaders she has mentored reads like a who's who of political leaders; today's political mentees include Congresswoman Karen Bass who ran to fill her vacated congressional seat

She is justifiably revered in our community, not just for what she has done in the past but what she continues to do in advancing the interests of our community and making sure our needs get met. She's an absolute hero and I'm honored and privileged to be able to seek her counsel," stated Congresswoman Karen Bass. Current Los Angeles County Supervisor and former California State Senator Holly Mitchell, as well as current Compton City Councilwoman Michelle Chambers, both started their political careers serving on the staff of Diane Watson.

me throughout our years together," shared

Compton Council Member Michelle Chambers.

Watson says that she was driven to help her staff understand and believe that anything was possible. "Because I was often the first elected to a position, I had a responsibility to ensure that my team knew they could and would do whatever they wanted to do." Borrowing a quote from her friend and sorority sister, Vice President Kamala Harris, Watson restated the quote "I may have been the first, but I will not be the last," noted the for-



Diane Watson AP PHOTO/DAMIAN DOVARGANES

Catholic Church.

Watson grew up near 27th Street and Arlington Avenue, in what she describes as a very diverse neighborhood in South L.A., and after graduating from Dorsey High School, attended UCLA. She says she took the bus from her neighborhood to Westwood every day. Because as she explains, "In our house, education was a requirement, not an option." And while she is certainly a loyal Bruin, she is and has always been a seeker of education and has gone on to receive

that argument." In 1975, Watson won the election and was sworn in as the first African American woman elected to a seat on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board. Elected during the height of the city's school busing controversy, Watson became the leading proponent of court-ordered busing to end racial segregation throughout the sprawling district.

In 1978, Watson gave up her school board seat to run for the California State Senate, a seat that she overwhelmingly won

After two years of serving as Ambassador to Micronesia, Watson returned home to Los Angeles where upon immediately exiting

following her retirement in 2011. Prior to becoming a member of Congress, Bass served in the California Assembly and was the first and only African American woman to be elected as California Speaker.

"Ambassador Watson has long been a mentor to me, back to my days as a community organizer. And like a true organizer herself, she always lifts as she climbs. She saw that the California Assembly had no Black women in office in the mid-2000s and she informed me that I was going to run for that job. She spoke at the ceremony when I was sworn in as Speaker. You know, she's a former school teacher and she has a way of just expecting you to do what she says, kind but absolutely firm. She did the same thing again when

"You may call her Senator, Ambassador, Congresswoman or simply Diane. No matter how you addressed her, you always knew you were addressing a woman who cared and she always seized the opportunity to educate you during any conversation. Her compassion to educating others on public policy was her priority. She always wanted to equip the next generation of leadership with the defense mechanisms necessary to combat injustices and overcome any disadvantages or obstacles in your way. She made sure we understood that our job was to hold ourselves and others accountable for our actions and to fight for justice, equality and the humanity of all we served. Diane's purpose, leadership and legacy has defined why

mer Senator.

She encourages young and aspiring political leaders to "get out and socialize with your neighbors, get to know your community-members and work to understand their lives, their challenges and their expectations. This will help formulate your legislative positions and help you to lead your community on the issues that most matter and will fuel your political career," stated Watson. Following this motto has led the former school board member (ret.), state senator (ret.), U.S. Ambassador (ret.) and U.S. Congresswoman (ret.), to have a full and very successful political career. Although now retired (she says for good), the 87-years-young community Icon says that while the pandemic has shut down



Congresswoman Karen Bass and former Congresswoman Diane Watson, in Los Angeles Wednesday, Feb 17, 2010.

AP PHOTO/NICK UT



Former Congresswoman Diane Watson speaks during a press conference in Los Angeles on Monday, August 10, 2009. HANS GUTKNECHT/LA DAILY NEWS

a Master's Degree from Cal State Los Angeles, a doctorate from Claremont Graduate School, and completed courses in public policy from Harvard and Columbia University.

In 1956, after graduating from UCLA, Watson became a public-school teacher in Los Angeles and later rose to the position of assistant principal in 1969. During that time, she also held visiting-teacher positions in France and in Japan. By 1971, Watson worked as a Los Angeles Unified School District health education specialist, where she focused on mental health issues helping students with learning disabilities to transition into the working world.

In 1974, Watson was approached by then Los Angeles City Councilmember David Cunningham and one of her mother's oldest and dearest friends, in an attempt to recruit her to run for a seat on the Los Angeles School Board. A position and a career path that she had no interest in seeking and originally refused. "When Dave first came to

with over 70 percent of the vote. Watson served in the California legislature from 1978 to 1998. The longtime chair of the Health and Human Services Committee gained a reputation as an advocate for healthcare, for the poor and for children. "Watson served as chair of the Senate Health and Human Services committee for over 20 years. It was in that capacity that I witnessed, firsthand, the power of her service to us all as California residents. As the first Black woman elected to the CA State Senate, she fought tirelessly to expand access to healthcare services for those who otherwise couldn't afford it.

She elevated issues such as Black infant mortality and was an early supporter of policies to prevent the tobacco industry from targeting the Black community with advertising. She was a fighter for good her entire career in public service and I will always be grateful for her selfless mentorship," said Holly J. Mitchell Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. She was the first African American

the aircraft, she was greeted by a throng of reporters who met her at the luggage area in LAX, where she immediately announced she had returned home to run in the April 2001 special Democratic primary election for the vacated 32nd Congressional District seat of Julian Dixon who had suddenly died in office five months earlier. She won with 33 percent of the vote in a multi-candidate field, then carried the district with 75 percent of the vote in the June 2001 special election

Watson represented the 32nd, which later became the 33rd Congressional District, which stretched from South Central Los Angeles to the wealthy Los Feliz neighborhood. But Watson was such a popular representative of the district, that she ran unopposed in the 2006 election and remained in office until 2011 when she retired. While serving as a member of congress, Watson was a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus, and in 2006 was ranked by the National Journal as



Former U.S. Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif., talks to students at the renovated Mary Mc-Cleod Bethune Accelerated School in New Orleans, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007. AP PHOTO/DAVE MARTIN

she retired from Congress, telling me I would run for her seat. She has always advised and supported me -- but it isn't just me. She has played a pivotal role in recruiting, encouraging and supporting Black women in elected office for decades.

we, as a people, have a right to fight and we must continue to fight and demand our right for EQUAL RIGHTS! I am honored to say I know her; I will honor her teachings in the work that I do for those I serve and I LOVE her for that she has given

her many social events and gatherings that she used to attend on a weekly basis, she wants to let her friends and supporters know she is staying safe, doing well and looks forward to the day we can all get back together, soon.

# NAACP WELCOMES ENTERTAINMENT EXECUTIVE KYLE BOWSER AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF HOLLYWOOD BUREAU

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The NAACP is pleased to announce that Kyle Bowser will serve as its senior vice president of the Hollywood Bureau. In this capacity, Mr. Bowser will be responsible for advancing NAACP's Hollywood projects, relationships, and overseeing NAACP's Image Awards production. For nearly three decades, Kyle Bowser has worked as an entertainment industry executive. His experience spans film, television, music, theater, radio, and digital media. This immersion within a

vast sphere of media interests has provided Bowser with unique insight into the intersecting parameters of the arts, culture, business development, and emerging technologies.

"I am excited to add Kyle to the outstanding and growing team we have here at the NAACP," said Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP. "Kyle brings a long successful track record and deep knowledge of the industry with him that will be an invaluable asset to the organization as we continue to restructure our efforts to advance our advocacy strat-

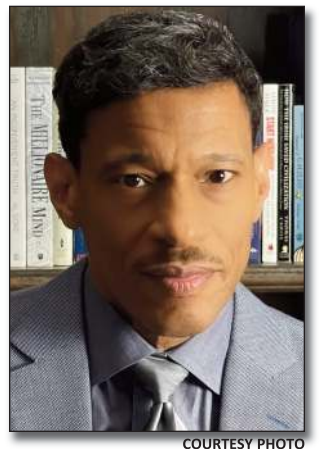
egy." "It is an honor to commit the acumen and goodwill I've developed throughout my career to the mission and legacy of the NAACP," responded Bowser. "President Johnson's leadership provides both a platform and covering to pursue progressive and measurable results, as we reimagine the breadth of stakeholders in entertainment."

Bowser's career began in theater management and concert promotion. His involvement in television began with NBC Business Affairs in New York City. He later moved to Los

Angeles to join Fox, Inc., where he developed television programming of multiple genres and creatively managed primetime fare aired on the Fox Broadcasting Company. Bowser next served as director of Creative Affairs for HBO Independent Productions, where he developed new programs and creatively supervised content licensed to primetime broadcast carriers. Throughout Bowser's storied career, his producing talents have been engaged by countless media companies, including NBC, Fox, HBO, Showtime, Starz, Comedy

Central, Lifetime, Cooking Channel, PBS, iNDemand, Facebook, Warner Bros., Harper Collins, AEG, the NFL, and more.

A native of Philadelphia, PA, Kyle Bowser received his Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio University in Radio/Television Communications and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Widener University School of Law. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Bar Associations and supports the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association and the National Association of Multi-



Kyle Bowser

Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) – for whom he founded the annual Vision Awards and received its coveted Legacy Award.

# Hallmark Names Alexis Kerr to Lead Mahogany Brand

*Company intends to expand Mahogany's products and experiences in the market*

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Hallmark Cards, Inc. has named Alexis Kerr as the new vice president of the Hallmark Mahogany Brand, a greeting card line that has honored and celebrated Black culture for more than 30 years. This move comes as the company invests in building the brand to be more than a card line.

"Alexis is a proven leader in multicultural brand development and we're thrilled she's joining us to

lead the growth of Mahogany," said Lindsey Roy, chief marketing officer, Hallmark. "We see a great deal of potential in the power of this brand as we work to create products and experiences for our diverse customer base."

Kerr brings decades of experience in brand and business growth within the automotive industry, primarily with General Motors. Her most recent position was head of multicultural marketing for Cadillac, where she



Alexis Kerr

grew the multicultural brand presence by 40 percent and

consistently increased sales and market growth.

Mahogany has had an important role in Hallmark's product offering for three decades and has earned a high degree of credibility with customers through its culturally authentic designs and bold words of affirmation. In her role, Kerr will be responsible for growing and elevating how consumers see and experience the brand, and expanding it into new spaces in the marketplace.

"Hallmark's investment in Mahogany will help us deepen and strengthen our relationships with existing customers, while also attracting new and diverse audiences," said Kerr. "I am excited to lead the team as we help more people live caring and connected lives full of meaningful moments."

Just last week, Mahogany launched a one-million card giveaway in celebration of Black History Month and gave away all the

cards in less than two days. Visitors to Hallmark.com/ShareMahoganyCards received a three-card pack featuring two Mahogany cards and one card from the newest Mahogany collection, Uplifted & Empowered. This collection, created by Black writers and artists, captures the beauty, significance and power of Black lives with themes including pride in self/community, support, empowerment, inspiration, faith and solidarity.

# Glendale Library, Arts & Culture Presents 'Reckoning: Racism & Resistance in Glendale'

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In 2020, the City of Glendale took a historic step of reckoning, becoming the first city in California and the third in the nation to pass a sundown town resolution. Sundown towns kept African Americans and other people of color from living in certain communities through formal and informal methods in a purposeful effort to maintain a White population. The resolution acknowledges and apologizes for Glendale's racist past and pledges to work towards an anti-racist future.

Brand Library & Art Center and ReflectSpace Gallery present "Reckoning: Racism and Resistance in Glendale," a multi-dimensional and multi-faceted virtual exhibition, public art installation, and community engagement project that examines and responds to the city's racist history of anti-Blackness, the resistance to that racism, and our

current moment of reckoning.

"Reckoning" unfolds in multiple layers throughout February and March:

- First, the virtual exhibition explores Glendale's racist history of anti-Blackness through archived materials from the Glendale Central Library Archives and interviews with scholars, activists, and community members. The exhibition will unfold over six weeks through weekly "episodes" – "All American City" and "KKK in Glendale" are currently available, and coming episodes will address the American Nazi Party's local history, sundown town practices, modern-day White supremacy, and the current moment of reckoning and fight against racism.

- Next, a city-wide public art installation created by local artist and educator April Bey will bring the issues of racism to a larger audience. Bey's interdisciplinary artwork is an intro-

spective and social critique of American and Bahamian culture, contemporary pop culture, feminism, generational theory, social media, AfroFuturism, AfroSurrealism, post-colonialism, and constructs of race within supremacist systems.

- Lastly, a collaboration with Glendale Unified School District will engage high school students in the exhibition as viewers and contributors.

"Reckoning" is a part of Glendale Library, Arts & Culture's Be The Change series, focused on inclusion, diversity, equity, and anti-racism. The exhibit is presented by ReflectSpace Gallery, which explores and reflects on genocides, human and civil rights violations. "Reckoning" is curated by Ara Oshagan, Anahid Oshagan, and Shannon Currie-Holmes, and is supported by Glendale Arts & Culture Commission, the Glendale Library Trust, and the Brand Associates.

Find "Reckoning" starting February 1st at reflectspace.org.

### About Library, Arts & Culture

Founded in 1907, the Glendale Library, Arts & Culture Department includes six neighborhood libraries as well as the Brand Library & Art Center, a regional visual

arts and music library and performance venue housed in the historic 1904 mansion of Glendale pioneer Leslie C. Brand, and the Central Library, a 93,000 square foot center for individuals and groups to convene, collaborate and create. Now on the web at [www.eGlendaleLAC.org](http://www.eGlendaleLAC.org), the Depart-

ment also serves as the chief liaison to the Glendale Arts and Culture Commission which works to continually transform Glendale into an ever-evolving arts destination. For more information contact Library, Arts & Culture at 818-548-2021 or via email at [LibraryInfo@glendaleca.gov](mailto:LibraryInfo@glendaleca.gov).

### {Continued WATERS TOWN HALL from A-2}

as if it were day-one of the outbreak, all speculating the same question: When is this pandemic end?

According to Director of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Dr. Ferrer, she said, "We've seen these investments and relationships result in fewer cases and deaths. Even as L.A. County experienced this recent surge, the rising cases that led to increased death among the general population did not result in a steep increase in cases or deaths among residence at the skilled nursing facilities

... reductions in cases and deaths at our skilled nursing facilities has been amplified by our vaccination efforts."

Dr. Ferrer stated that, "Today, about 75 percentage [of staff and residents] at the skilled nursing facilities have been vaccinated ... I'm happy to report that not only do we have about 300 vaccinations sites where people can get vaccinated this week, we have administered over 1,000,000 doses of vaccine in L.A. County, and 80 percent of the vaccines that have been allocated or in somebody's

arms already." At this time, vaccinations are only offered to healthcare workers, hospital residence and people aged 65 years or older.

For more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [www.vaccinatelacounty.com](http://www.vaccinatelacounty.com), to check the status of your stimulus check, visit [www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment), for more details on housing assistance visit [www.hcidla.lacity.org](http://www.hcidla.lacity.org), and for details regarding small business applications visit [www.sba.gov/ppp](http://www.sba.gov/ppp).



## YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR BLACK NEWS, VIEWS AND ADVOCACY!



**SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AND GET THE LA SENTINEL E-PAPER DELIVERED TO YOUR DEVICE EVERY THURSDAY FOR \$3.99 PER MONTH!**

**VISIT US ON THE WEB OR CALL (323)299-3800 TODAY!**



ANYTIME.... ANYWHERE..... [WWW.LASENTINEL.NET](http://WWW.LASENTINEL.NET)

LA Sentinel Newspaper @thelasentinel @LASentinelNews



# Support Our BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

# CRUSTEES

SIGNATURE HOMEMADE PIES BY **SHARON WASHINGTON**, CRUSTEES OWNER



[WWW.CRUSTEESATERY.COM](http://WWW.CRUSTEESATERY.COM)

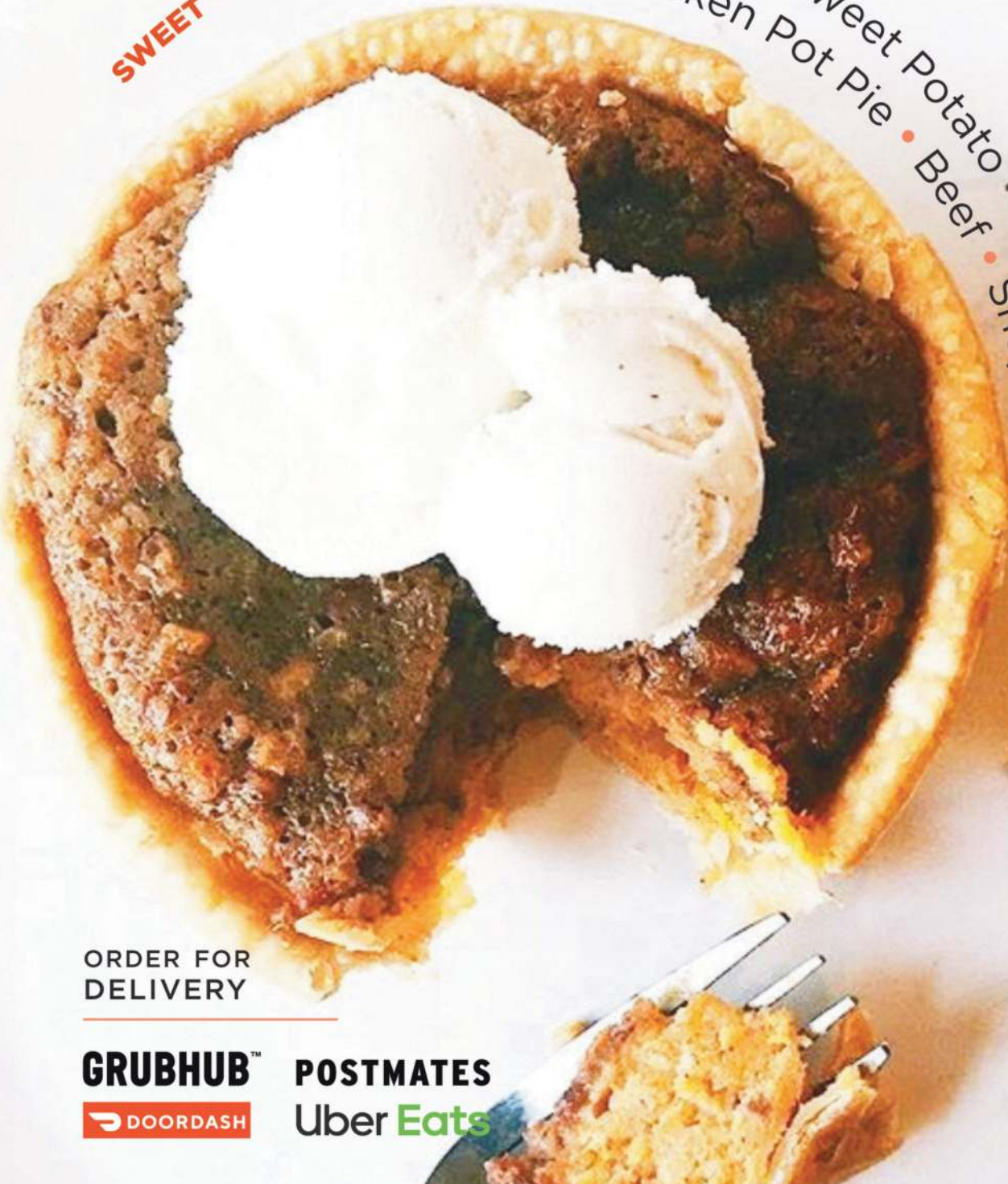
4442 SLAUSON AVENUE • WINDSOR HILLS, CA • 90043 • (323) 815-9910

HOURS OF OPERATION: TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 7PM

BEVERLY HILLS FARMERS MARKET: SUNDAYS 9AM - 1PM

@CRUSTEES   
/CRUSTEES   
@CRUSTEES

**SWEET** Berry • Cherry • Rhubarb • Sweet Potato • Beef • Shepherd's Pie  
**SAVORY** Chicken Pot Pie



ORDER FOR DELIVERY

**GRUBHUB**™ **POSTMATES**  
 **Uber Eats**



LOS ANGELES

# SENTINEL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

www.lasentinel.net

B-1

## Black History Makers

1865 • 1914



W.E.B. DUBOIS



IDA B. WELLS



MAGGIE L. WALKER



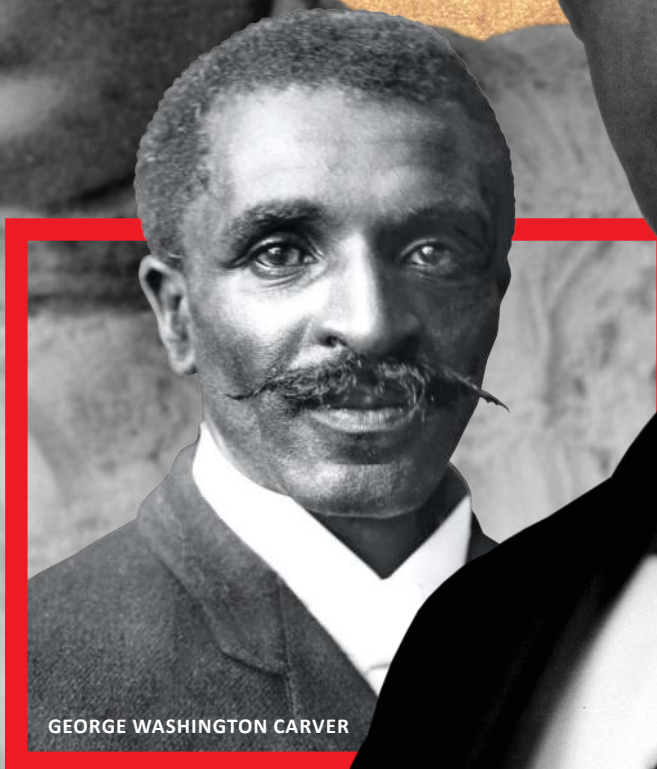
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON



EDMONIA LEWIS



MARY CHURCH TERRELL



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

# Black History Makers 1865-1914

The selected names and list order were inspired by the book "Great African Americans," by Alison J. Keyes and Gloria Blakely.

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

## Edmonia Lewis (1844-1907)

Edmonia Lewis was one of the first African American sculptors. Lewis was a mixed woman, her father, African American and her mother, Chippewa Indian. She was orphaned when she was five-years-old and lived with her mother's tribe until she was 12-years-old. Her older brother, Sunrise, moved to California where he became a



COURTESY PHOTO

gold miner and later financed Lewis' schooling, where she eventually attended Oberlin College in Ohio in 1859. While at Oberlin, she dropped her Chippewa name "Wild-fire" and took the name Mary Edmonia Lewis. Unfortunately, her career at Oberlin ended when she was accused of poisoning two of her White roommates. Lewis left Oberlin in 1863 and, eventually met portrait sculptor, Edward Brackett and studied sculpting under him. She began making medallion portraits of abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison, Charles Sumner and Wendell Phillips. Lewis' sales of her portrait busts of abolitionist John Brown and Colonel Robert Gould Shaw financed her first trip to Europe in 1865. After traveling, she settled in Rome where she rented a studio. She learned Italian and became acquainted with two prominent White Americans, actress Charlotte Cushman and sculptor, Harriet Hosmer. Lewis did most of her work without assistance. She was known for her portrait busts of abolitionists and subjects depicting her dual African-American and Native American ancestry. She also completed several mythological subjects such as "Asleep," "Awake," and "Poor Cupid," and three religious subjects, including a lost "Adoration of the Magi" of 1883, and copies of Italian Renaissance sculpture. Her "Moses," which was copied after Michelangelo, is an example of Lewis's imitative talents and "Hagar" (also known as Hagar in the Wilderness) is probably the masterpiece among her known surviving works.

## Buffalo Soldiers (1867 to 1896)

An 1866 law authorized the U.S. Army to form cavalry and infantry regiments of Black men, which led to the

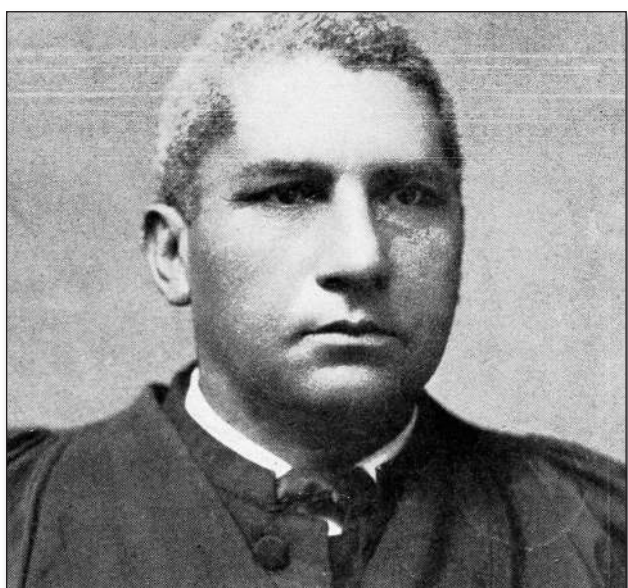


COURTESY PHOTO

units, the 9th and 10th cavalries and the 38th through 41st infantries. The law required their officers were White. These Black soldiers helped protect the nation's westward expansion by building roads and participating in significant military actions, such as the Red River War (1874-1875) and the Battle of San Juan Hill during the Spanish American War (1898). Buffalo soldier was a nickname given to members of the cavalry regiments of the U.S. Army by the Native Americans they were fighting. They also served among the first national park rangers. Black soldiers used military service as a strategy to obtain equal rights as citizens. Paradoxically, they sought to achieve this by engaging in government-led wars meant to overtake the Southwest and Great Plains from Native Americans.

## Henry McNeal Turner (1834-1915)

Black Nationalist, repatriationist, and minister, Henry M. Turner was 31 years old at the time of the Emancipation. Turner was born in 1834 in Newberry Courthouse, South Carolina to free Black parents Sarah Greer and Hardy Turner. The self-taught Turner by the age of fifteen



COURTESY PHOTO

worked as a janitor at a law firm in Abbeville, South Carolina. The firm's lawyers noted his abilities and helped with his education. However, Turner was attracted to the church and after being converted during a Methodist religious revival, decided to become a minister. He joined the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and became a licensed minister in 1853 at the age of 19. Turner soon became an itinerant evangelist traveling as far as New Orleans, Louisiana. One of the most influential African American leaders in late-nineteenth-century Georgia, he was a pioneering church organizer and missionary for the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) in Georgia, later rising to the rank of bishop. Turner was also an active politician and Reconstruction-era state legislator from Macon. Later in life, he became an outspoken advocate of back-to-Africa emigration.

## Lewis Howard Latimer (1848-1928)

Lewis Howard Latimer was an inventor and draftsman best known for his contributions to the patenting of the



COURTESY PHOTO

light bulb and the telephone. Latimer was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, on September 4, 1848. He was the youngest of four children born to George and Rebecca Latimer, who had escaped from slavery in Virginia six years before his birth. In 1864, at the age of 16-years-old, he lied about his age in order to enlist in the United States Navy during the Civil War. Returning to Boston after an honorable discharge, he accepted a menial position at the Crosby and Gould patent law office. He taught himself mechanical drawing and drafting by observing the work of draftsmen at the firm. Recognizing Latimer's talent and promise, the firm partners promoted him from office boy to draftsman. In addition to assisting others, Latimer designed a number of his own inventions, including an improved railroad car bathroom and an early air conditioning unit. Latimer's talents saw a large number of scientific and engineering breakthroughs. He was directly involved with one of these inventions: the telephone. Working with Bell, Latimer helped draft the patent for Bell's design of the telephone. He was also involved in the field of incandescent lighting, working for Hiram Maxim and Edison.

## Isaac Murphy (1861-1896)

Isaac Burns Murphy is celebrated as one of the greatest jockeys ever. According to Murphy's calculation, he won 628 of his 1,212 starts in a career that lasted from



COURTESY PHOTO

1875 to 1895. In later years, his count number was recalculated, changing his numbers to 530 wins in 1,538 rides, putting his win rate at 34 percent. Murphy was born in Frankford, Kentucky, in 1861 to his father a free Black man and bricklayer and his mother, a laundrywoman. After moving to Lexington after the death of his father in the Civil War, his mother worked at the Richard and Owings Racing Stable, where he would go to work with her. A Black trainer named Eli Jordon noticed Murphy's interest in race horses, and began to train him for his first race, when Murphy was only 14-years-old. He won his first race in 1875 at the Lexington Crab Orchard and, a year later, he had won 11 races at Lexington's Kentucky Association track. The following year, he placed fourth in his first Kentucky Derby race. By 1879, he was a star in the sport with a win at the Travers Stakes in Saratoga Springs. Over the course of his racing career, he received an average salary of close to \$20,000 per year. At the time, Murphy was the highest paid athlete in the United States, and he lived in a mansion in Lexington. The National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame was created in 1955, and Murphy was the first jockey inducted.

## Daniel Hale Williams (1856-1931)

Daniel Hale Williams III was born on January 18, 1856, in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, to Sarah Price Williams and Daniel Hale Williams II. The couple had several children, with the elder Daniel H. Williams inheriting a barber business. After his father died, a 10-year-old



COURTESY PHOTO

Daniel was sent to live in Baltimore, Maryland, with family friends. He became a shoemaker's apprentice but disliked the work and decided to return to his family, who had moved to Illinois. Like his father, he took up barbering, but ultimately decided he wanted to pursue his education. He worked as an apprentice with Dr. Henry Palmer, a highly accomplished surgeon, and then completed further training at Chicago Medical College. Williams pursued a pioneering career in medicine. An African American doctor, in 1891, Williams opened Provident Hospital, the first medical facility to have an interracial staff. He was also one of the first physicians to successfully complete pericardial surgery on a patient. Williams later became chief surgeon of the Freedmen's Hospital.

## Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

Paul Laurence Dunbar is a U.S. author whose is known for his verse and short stories written in Black dialect. He was the first Black writer in the U.S. to make a concerted attempt to live by his writings and one of the first to attain



COURTESY PHOTO

national prominence. His parents were former slaves; his father escaped to freedom in Canada and then returned to the U.S. to fight in the Civil War. Dunbar was the only Black student in his Dayton high school, where he was the popular editor of the school paper. He published his first volume of poetry, "Oak and Ivy" (1893), at his own expense while working as an elevator operator and sold copies to his passengers to pay for the printing. His second volume, "Majors and Minors" (1895), attracted the favorable notice and his next book, "Lyrics of Lowly Life" (1896), which contained some of the finest verses of the first two volumes.

## Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931)

Activist and writer Ida B. Wells-Barnett first became prominent in the 1890s because she brought international attention to the lynching of African Americans in the South. Born into slavery in Mississippi, Wells became a schoolteacher and created the first kindergarten for Black



COURTESY PHOTO

children. She settled on Chicago's South Side in 1894 after her life was threatened. Also known by her married name, Ida B. Wells-Barnett became an investigative journalist who crusaded against the lynching of Black people. In 1892, she published a pamphlet, "Southern Horrors," which detailed her findings. Through her lectures and books such as "A Red Record" (1895), Wells countered the "rape myth" used by lynch mobs to justify the murder of African Americans. Through her research she found that lynch victims had challenged White authority or had successfully competed with Whites in business or politics. Wells-Barnett also worked to advance other political causes such as the exclusion of African Americans from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and three

[See BLACK HISTORY MAKERS on B-3]

## {Continued **BLACK HISTORY MAKERS** from B-2}

years later, she helped launch the National Association of Colored Women (NACW). In 1909, Wells was a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She also actively campaigned for women's suffrage. When approved, the 19 Amendment mostly benefited White women.

### **Anna Julia Haywood Cooper (1858-1964)**

Anna Julia Haywood Cooper was a writer, teacher, and activist who championed education for African Americans and women. She was the daughter of an enslaved woman,



COURTESY PHOTO

Hannah Stanley, and her owner, George Washington Haywood. In 1867, two years after the end of the Civil War, she began her formal education at Saint Augustine's Normal School and Collegiate Institute, a coeducational facility built for former slaves. There she received the equivalent of a high school education. She attended Oberlin College in Ohio on a tuition scholarship, earning a BA in 1884 and a Masters in Mathematics in 1887. After graduation Cooper worked at Wilberforce University and Saint Augustine's before moving to Washington, D.C. to teach at Washington Colored High School. She met another teacher, Mary Church (Terrell), who, along with Cooper, boarded at the home of Alexander Crummell, a prominent clergyman, intellectual, and proponent of African American emigration to Liberia. Cooper published her first book, "A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South," in 1892. In addition to calling for equal education for women, A Voice from the South advanced Cooper's assertion that educated African American women were necessary for uplifting the entire Black race.

### **Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)**

Booker T. Washington is one of the most controversial and dominant figures in African American history. He was



COURTESY PHOTO

born enslaved on April 5, 1856 in Hale's Ford, Virginia. His mother's name was Jane and his father was a White man from a nearby plantation. At the age of nine, Washington was freed from slavery and moved to West Virginia. He had always been known as simply "Booker" until he decided to add the name "Washington" after feeling the pressure to have two names when he started grammar school. At the age of 16, Washington began college at the Hampton Normal and Agriculture Institute in Hampton, Virginia. He also attended Wayland Seminary from 1878 to 1879 before returning to teach at Hampton. As a result of a recommendation from Hampton officials, he became the first principal of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (now Tuskegee University), which opened on July 4, 1881; he remained in this capacity for 34 years until his death in 1915. As the principal of Tuskegee Institute, Washington used the platform to practice his educational philosophy and theory concerning the advancement of African Americans. Washington's contributions to African American advancement, such as his programs for rural extension work and his help in the development of the National Negro Business League, are numerous as well as his accolades.

### **John Hope (1868-1936)**

Prominent educator and college president John Hope was born on August 2, 1868 in Augusta, Georgia. His father, James Hope, was a Scottish immigrant and his mother, Mary Frances Butts, was a Black woman, who had been free prior to the Emancipation Proclamation. Hope attended Worcester Academy in Massachusetts and graduated in 1890. He continued his studies at Brown University. After graduating in 1894, Hope spent four years teaching science at Roger Williams University in Nashville, Tennessee, before accepting a position at

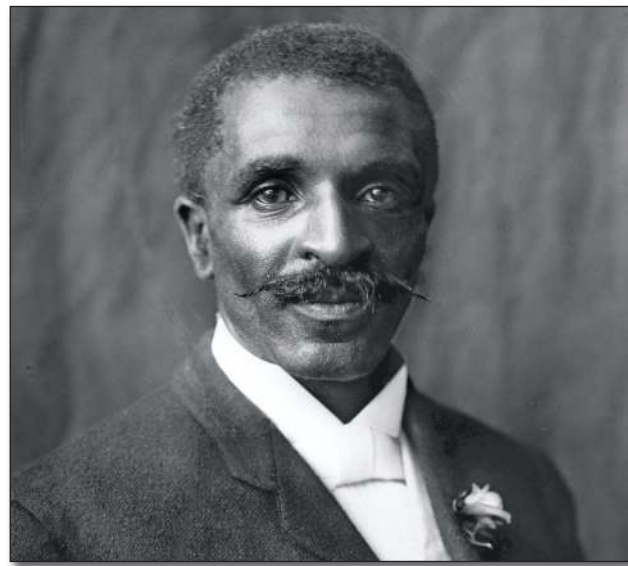


COURTESY PHOTO

Atlanta Baptist College (later Morehouse University). Meanwhile, Hope met Lugenia Burns in Chicago and married her in 1897. Burns was already beginning her career as a race leader and community activist. In 1906, Hope became the first Black President of Morehouse University and then the President of Atlanta University in 1929 when Morehouse merged with it. His presidency at each institution signaled a shift from White-led to Black-led institutions. He strove to create a university that would prepare young Black men and women for the civil rights struggle awaiting them.

### **George Washington Carver (1864?-1943)**

George Washington Carver was born near Diamond Grove, Missouri (his exact birthdate is not known). His parents were the slaves of Moses Carver, which is where he received the name, Carver. He was orphaned as a baby—his mother was kidnapped and his father died. He was later exchanged for a racehorse, and by the age of 13-years-old, he was on his own. He learned to read and write, and received a high school education despite tremendous obstacles, and was eventually the first Black student at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa and later, Iowa State Agricultural College. Young Carver showed a keen interest and a healthy attitude for growing things and for science, and he would often care for sick plants. In Iowa College, while working as a janitor, he earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural science in 1894, and two years later, he earned his master's degree from the same college. He would eventually become a faculty member at the same college. His scholarship in agricultural sciences was so



COURTESY PHOTO

amazing and well known that Booker T. Washington offered him a position at the famous Tuskegee Institute in 1896. He accepted and moved to Alabama. He became the director of its agricultural research facility, and persuaded many Southern farmers to plant peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other crops instead of cotton because cotton was eroding and destroying the soil. Back then, his approach to crop diversification and soil conservation was revolutionary and radical. He was one of the pioneers of the use of legumes to replace soil minerals depleted by the unchecked growing of cotton. His agricultural discoveries and their techniques, particularly improving the land and diversifying the foundations of the South's economy were his major contribution and most impactful work. He also made international news by making scouring powder from calcareous tripoli and siliceous tripoli. His research programs yielded 300 derivative from peanuts and about 118 from sweet potato. Carver even made synthetic marble from wood pulp.

### **Mary Church Terrel (1863-1954)**

Mary Eliza Church Terrell was a well-known African American activist who championed racial equality and women's suffrage in the late 19th and early 20th century.

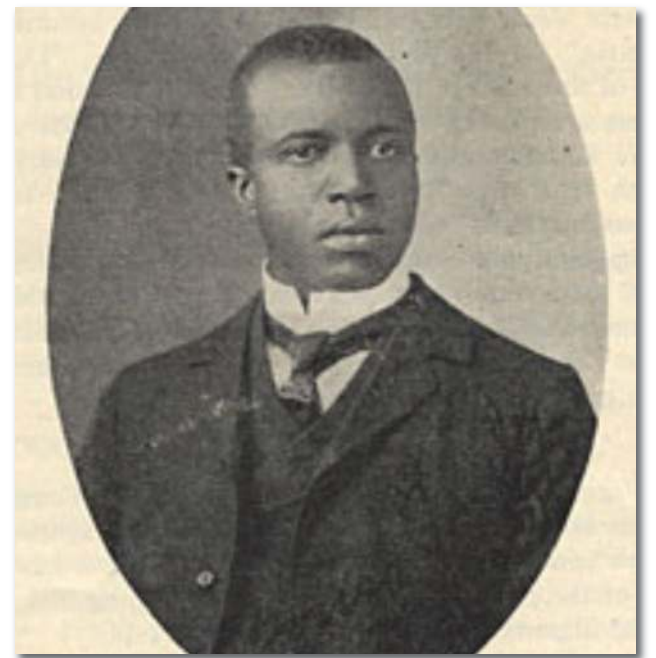


COURTESY PHOTO

She was born to former slaves, her father, Robert Reed Church, was a successful businessman who became one of the South's first African American millionaires and her mother, Louisa Ayres Church, owned a hair salon. Terrell was born on September 23, 1863 in Memphis, Tennessee. Their affluence and belief in the importance of education enabled Terrell to attend the Antioch College laboratory school in Ohio, and later Oberlin College, where she earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Terrell spent two years teaching at Wilburforce College before moving to Washington DC, in 1887 to teach at the M Street Colored High School. Her activism was sparked in 1892, when an old friend, Thomas Moss, was lynched in Memphis by Whites because his business competed with theirs. Terrell joined Ida B. Wells-Barnett in anti-lynching campaigns, but her life work focused on the notion of racial uplift, the belief that Blacks would help end racial discrimination by advancing themselves and other members of the race through education, work, and community activism. In 1896, she helped found the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) and was president from 1896 to 1901. She also actively embraced women's suffrage, which she saw as essential to elevating the status of Black women, and consequently, the entire race. She actively campaigned for black women's suffrage.

### **Scott Joplin (1868-1917)**

Scott Joplin was born near Texarkana, Texas, in 1868 to his father, an ex-slave from North Carolina and his mother, a freeborn woman from Kentucky. His mother worked with a family as a domestic worker. When she would take Joplin with her, he was able to play the fami-



COURTESY PHOTO

ly's piano. He taught himself to play by sight and improvisation, and received some guidance from friends. A German immigrant music teacher heard Joplin play, and was so impressed that he gave him music lessons for free. The music teacher exposed Joplin to various forms of European music, such as folk and opera. Joplin was also heavily influenced by gospel hymns, spirituals, dance music, and work songs. During his teenage years he played at church gatherings and at social events, and he became known as a musical genius who did not need a piece of music to go by, and he could make up his own music. His first hit came when he moved to Sedalia, where he worked at the Maple Leaf Club and the Black 400. In 1899, he sold his "Maple Leaf Rag" to a Sedalia music publisher. The piece was an immediate hit and ragtime's first popular piece. The piece influenced hundreds of "rags" written by other composers. Joplin was dubbed the "King of Ragtime" for his unique compositions and amazing ability to improvise on the piano. He composed forty-four ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet, and two operas.

### **Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937)**

Henry Ossawa Tanner was an American painter who gained international acclaim for his depiction of landscapes and biblical themes. Tanner began an art career in



COURTESY PHOTO

earnest in 1876, painting harbour scenes, landscapes, and animals from the Philadelphia Zoo. In 1880, he began two years of formal study under Thomas Eakins at Philadelphia's prestigious Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), where he was the only African American. In 1888, he moved to Atlanta to open a photography studio, but the venture failed. With the help of Joseph C. Hartzell, a bishop from Cincinnati, Ohio, Tanner secured a teaching position at Clark University in Atlanta. In 1890, Hartzell arranged an exhibition of Tanner's works in Cincinnati and, when no paintings sold, Hartzell purchased the entire collection himself. Through these earnings, Tanner traveled to Paris in 1891 to enroll at the Académie Julian. He returned to the United States in 1893, in part to deliver a paper on African Americans and art at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. By 1894, his paintings were being exhibited at the annual Paris Salon, at which in 1896 he was awarded an honourable mention for "Daniel in the Lions' Den" (1895; this version lost). "The Raising of Lazarus" (c. 1897), also biblical in theme, won a medal at the Paris Salon of 1897, a rare achievement for an American artist. Later that year the French government purchased the painting.

### **James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)**

James Weldon Johnson was a lawyer, a United States consul in a foreign nation, and served an important role in combating racism through his position in the NAACP.



COURTESY PHOTO

Johnson was born in Jacksonville, Florida. His father was a headwaiter at a hotel and his mother was a teacher at the segregated Stanton School. Johnson attended Stanton until he entered high school. He attended high school and college at Atlanta University, where he received his bachelor's in 1894. After college, Johnson pursued several endeavors including being a principal of Stanton School, studying the law under and writing poetry and songs. In

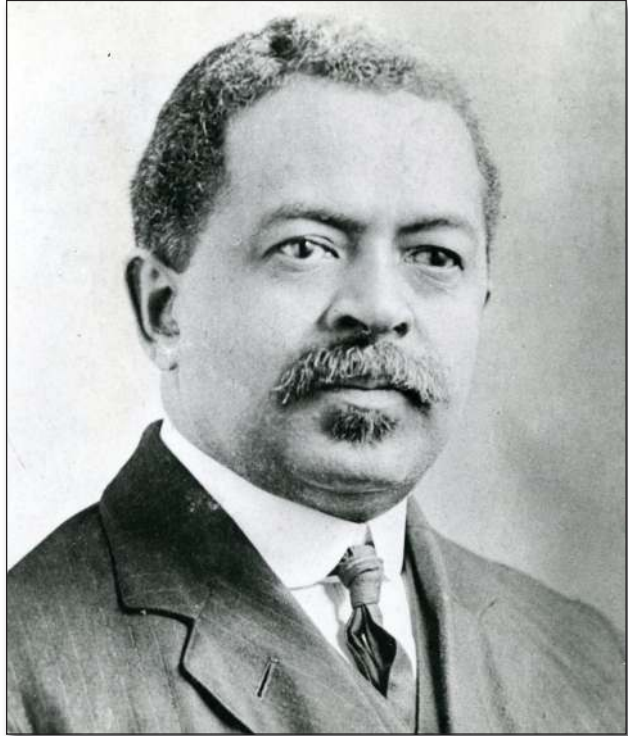
{See **BLACK HISTORY MAKERS** on B-4}

{Contiued **BLACK HISTORY MAKERS** from B-2}

1901, Johnson decided to pursue a career in writing with his brother, John Rosamond Johnson. They achieved success with the composition of around two hundred songs for Broadway. While in New York, Johnson also became involved in politics. In 1904, he served as treasurer for the Colored Republican Club. In 1906, the Roosevelt Administration appointed Johnson as the United States consul in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. In 1909, he served as consul in Corinto, Nicaragua until 1913. In addition to his service as consul, during this time, Johnson anonymously published his novel, "The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man" (1912). After leaving the public sector, in 1916, Johnson accepted the position of field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Johnson worked at opening new branches and expanding membership. In 1920, the NAACP appointed him executive secretary. In this position, he was able to bring attention to racism, lynching, and segregation.

### William Monroe Trotter (1872-1934)

William Monroe Trotter was born in Chillicothe, Ohio to James Munroe Trotter, and Virginia Isaac Trotter. He

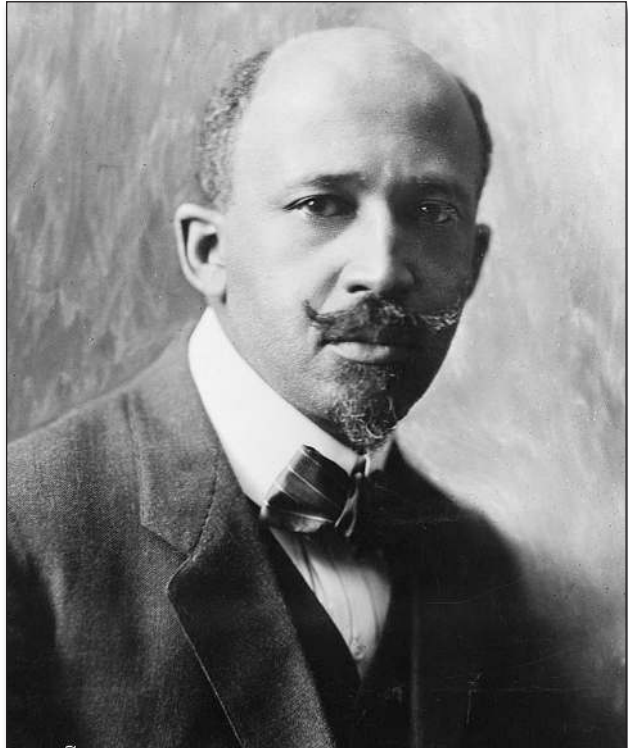


COURTESY PHOTO

was an honor student in Hyde Park High School, where he graduated in 1890. He went to Harvard University, where he received his bachelor's degree magna cum laude and he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity during his junior year. Trotter worked as an insurance agent, a real estate broker and eventually moved into mortgage funding. His early career choices were merely stepping stones towards publishing his own newspaper. He founded the Boston Guardian to urge Black people to stay on the front lines in defense of their rights. The publication took a strong stand against discrimination based on color and the treatment of Blacks as second-class citizens. As the Guardian became a successful national newspaper, Trotter's name and his national stature rose with it. He was often called upon to speak before large audiences and had unfettered access to the White House. He joined W.E.B. Dubois in forming the Niagara Movement, the forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He objected to any White financing or leadership for the new organization. The newly-formed organization and the recently-founded publication formed a natural partnership fighting for the same causes and traveling parallel paths of protest.

### W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963)

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was an American civil rights activist, leader, Pan-Africanist, sociologist, educator, historian, writer, editor, poet, and scholar. He was born and raised in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. In 1905, Du Bois was a founder and general secretary of the Niagara Movement, an African American protest



COURTESY PHOTO

group of scholars and professionals. In 1909, he was among the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and from 1910 to 1934, served it as director of publicity and research, a member of the board of directors, and founder and editor of The Crisis, its monthly magazine. Du Bois's life and work were a mixture of scholarship, protest activity, and polemics. All of his efforts were geared toward gaining equal treatment for Black people in a world dominated by Whites to refute the myths of racial inferiority.

### Claude McKay (1889-1948)

Claude McKay was a Jamaican-born poet and novelist whose "Home to Harlem" (1928) was the most popular novel written by an American Black at that time. After attending Tuskegee Institute (1912) and Kansas State Teachers College (1912-14), McKay went to New York in 1914, where he contributed regularly to The Liberator, then a leading journal of avant-garde politics and art. The shock of American racism turned him from the conservatism of his youth. With the publication of two volumes



COURTESY PHOTO

of poetry, "Spring in New Hampshire" (1920) and "Harlem Shadows" (1922), McKay emerged as the first and most militant voice of the Harlem Renaissance. After 1922, he lived successively in the Soviet Union, France, Spain, and Morocco. In both "Home to Harlem" and "Banjo" (1929), he attempted to capture the vitality and essential health of the uprooted Black vagabonds of urban America and Europe. McKay advocated full civil liberties and racial solidarity. In 1940, he became a U.S. citizen and in 1942, he converted to Roman Catholicism and worked with a Catholic youth organization until his death. He wrote for various magazines and newspapers, including the New Leader and the New York Amsterdam News.

### Maggie Lena Walker (1864-1934)

Maggie Lena Walker was the first Black woman to charter a bank in the U.S., opening St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, where she served as president. She was born to Elizabeth Draper Mitchell, a former slave and a White man, Eccles Cuthbert. Early in her life, her mother married William Mitchell who was also a former slave. Her

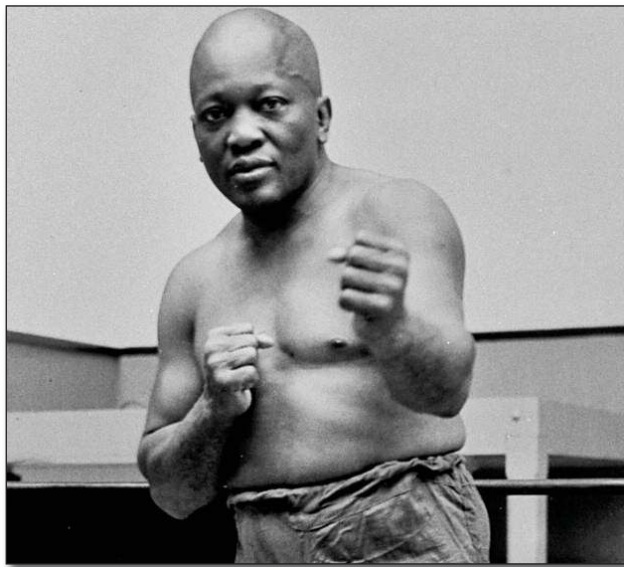


COURTESY PHOTO

parents worked in the home of an abolitionist and after a few years of exemplary service, they were freed. Maggie's stepfather (Mitchell) got a job as a "maitre d" at a prominent hotel and the family moved into a small house nearby. She attended Lancaster School and then the Armstrong Normal School, where she graduated in 1883. At age 14-years-old, she became a member of the Grand United Order of St. Luke, an African-American fraternal and cooperative insurance society that had been founded in 1867 by a former slave, Mary Prout, in Baltimore. She taught at her alma mater, the Lancaster School, until her marriage in 1886 to Armstead Walker, Jr., a building contractor. After having three sons, she went to work part time as an agent for an insurance company, the Women's Union, while attending night school for bookkeeping. She also volunteered at St. Luke and eventually worked her way up in 1889, to become the executive secretary-treasurer of the renamed organization, the Independent Order of St. Luke. Walker started publishing the St. Luke Herald in 1902 to publicize and promote the order. In 1903, she opened the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank and became its first president. She earned the recognition of being the first woman to charter a bank in the United States. The bank severed relations with St. Luke fraternal order and then merged with two other Black banks to form the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company. She became the chairwoman of the board. Walker supported many charities and organization that worked to better the quality of life of Black people such as the Urban League, the Virginia Interracial Committee and the NAACP.

### Jack Johnson (1878-1946)

Boxer Jack Johnson was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1878. In 1908, he became the first African American to win the world heavyweight crown when he knocked out the reigning champ, Tommy Burns. During Johnson's era, box-



COURTESY PHOTO

ing was one of the most popular sports, along with baseball and horse racing. A Black man reigning as champion gave pride to Black people across the nation, and enraged White America. Johnson's boxing style was patient and defensive in the early rounds, and over the course of the fight he became more aggressive. His style involved him avoiding his opponents punches and then strike with swift counters. By 1902, he had won at least 50 fights against both White and Black opponents. He won his first title in 1903, when he won the World Colored Heavyweight Championship, but he was unable to become the world heavyweight champion because James J. Jeffries, the White champion, refused to fight him. At that time period, Black and White boxers fought in competitions, but never for the world heavyweight championship, which was only for White fighters. Johnson did not get his chance at the world heavy weight title until 1908, when he defeated Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia. Whites in America were so enraged that a Black man held the title that there was a call for a "Great White Hope" to defeat Johnson. In 1910, former undefeated heavyweight champion Jeffries came out of retirement because he felt obligated to the public to reclaim the title for the White race. The fight took place on July 4 in front of 20,000 people in Reno, Nevada, and was billed as "The Fight of the Century." In the 15th round, Jeffries had been knocked down twice, the first knockdowns of his career. His corner men stopped the fight before Johnson could knock him out. Johnson's victory caused race riots all over the country.

### Andrew "Rube" Foster (1879-1930)

Rube Foster was an American baseball player who gained fame as a pitcher, manager, and owner and is known as the "father of Black baseball" after founding the 1920



COURTESY PHOTO

Negro National League (NNL), the first successful professional league for African American ballplayers. At the age of 18, he had begun playing semiprofessional baseball in Texas for the Waco Yellow Jackets. In 1902, he joined Frank Leland's Chicago Union Giants and then, left to play in an integrated semiprofessional league in Michigan. He had an impressive career as a player and eventually joined with businessman John Schorling to form the Chicago American Giants. The American Giants, led by Foster as player, manager, and owner, played at South Side Park and became one of the greatest teams in the history of Black baseball, winning Negro league championships in 1914, 1915, and 1917. In Kansas City, Missouri, in 1920, Foster met with seven other owners of African American baseball clubs for the purpose of establishing the NNL. As chief executive of the NNL, he curtailed the excessive trading of players to establish some parity of talent between the clubs. Foster was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981.

### W.C. Handy (1873-1958)

"W.C." Handy was called the Father of the Blues and was born in Florence, Alabama, the son of a minister. He learned the rudiments of music while still in junior high school and began arranging for church choirs. His father dissuaded him from any "sinful" music and directed his talent towards church groups. When he was eighteen-years-old, he left home and headed for Chicago. His rendition of the blues

was mixed with secular music that grew out of his association with farm hands, laborers, railroad workers, woodcutters. His spirituals, however, focused on higher ideals and dealt with personal relationships, freedom and the joyful things in life. He studied at Kentucky Music College, was the music instructor and bandmaster at Alabama A&M College and toured the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Cuba. He started as a cornetist, mingled with an assortment of musical groups and eventually became bandleader of the Mahara's Minstrel Band. At the turn of the twentieth century, he organized and led military and dance bands in Mississippi, then moved to Memphis, Tennessee where he formed the Pace and Handy Music Company with lyricist, Harry Pace. The company became a booking agent for other bands, and a publishing agent for Handy's musical compositions. This created an African American control of African American music and entertainment in the Memphis area. The first composition Handy published was Memphis Blues that was done earlier for a political campaign and was originally entitled, "Mr. Crump." Next came St. Louis Blues, which was an instant success and it became his signature musical piece. He went on to write over sixty songs about the Blues, that he became known as the "Father of the Blues." He also composed Aframerican Hymn, Blue Destiny, a symphonic piece, and about 150 other compositions, both sacred and secular.



COURTESY PHOTO





# FAMILY • Lifestyle • HEALTH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

www.lasentinel.net

B-5

## BLACK BEAUTY - A TRILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY — AFRICAN AMERICAN BRANDS EXCLUSIVE AT ULTA BEAUTY

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL  
Contributing Writer

Here's the thing, when it comes to beauty, African American women know a lot. I give as evidence how we have begun style trends from the very start of the beauty and hair industry. The first woman millionaire on record, in America, in the 1900's, was Madam C.J. Walker. So, there you go. And her teacher, Annie M. Turnbo Pope Malone, (also a millionaire) is considered the founder of the entire Black hair industry, according to the Black-Owned Beauty Supply Association.

The statement that Black don't crack (which, I feel is not a myth but a recognized fact) isn't by happenstance. To look as good as we feel, our community is willing to spend money to achieve our goals. Over 50% of us have a skincare regimen and we are the coveted customer but year-after-year products that are best suited for us are noticeably absent from retail shelves.

African Americans have spent \$1.2 trillion each year, and that number is projected to rise to \$1.5 trillion this year 2021. We are powerful. Constantly in the state of education as it relates to products and those that own these beauty/grooming brands we continued to be trendsetters.

But now, Black women have unleashed two potent weapons—our collective dollars and entrepreneurial spirits—to create a market that caters to our unique cultural needs.

### BLACK BUYING POWER

Rihanna's Fenty Beauty (2017), just four-years-old, understood us and launched with 40 foundation shades with a vast number of them complementing darker skin tones. And what happened? You already know family, Revlon and Dior stepped out with 40 of their foundation lines, none of which I've tried, yet.

The numbers don't lie. In starting this new beauty column, my goal is to identify African and African American-owned beauty and hair brands and to explore brands that have stepped up to the

plate, and created superlative products, for us, that would meet our very high standards. That includes makeup, hair products, fragrances, candles, and nail products.

So, I have to thank Ulta Beauty for helping me find African American owned beauty and hair products that are sold exclusively at their stores and on their website. I have never felt more seen or heard, than when dealing with Amy Clabots in their public relations department. So many companies toss-up words like "diversity" and "inclusion" but don't have evidence of that at their companies — Ulta beauty isn't one of them.



UOMA Beauty Brow Kit

Ulta Beauty sent me the following, exclusive African American product lines to try: Juvia's Place, PATTERN, and UOMA Beauty.

Although I didn't love everything that I sampled, I feel that all of the brands have a quality that speaks to the teams' desire to represent and grow into better brands.

### MAKE UP

Juvia's Place was created to celebrate the rebels, rulers, and queens of the African kingdoms and offers the richest, most vibrantly-pigmented essentials for the eyes, face, and lips.



Juvia's Place I Am Magic Foundation



UOMA Beauty Carnival Black Magic Palette



The Warrior Palette by Juvia's

Juvia's I am Magic Foundation — thank you, baby, for being you. It was the Juvia's Place velvety matte foundation (Punta Cana 435)—for me. My usual routine is mixing Black Opal, Huda (Toffee 420G), Nars (Medium-Deep 3), and Marc Jacobs Re(markable) (82 Coca Light) along with IT ByeBye under eye-full coverage anti-aging waterproof concealer (35.5 Rich, W) to get my desired color. Not

milled to give a supremely silky finish. Perfect for all skin tones. Paraben Free and Vegan.

UOMA Beauty is founded by Nigerian born, LA and London based former beauty executive Sharon Chuter. She describes the UOMA Beauty range as rebellious, innovative, and created for all. I tried four products UOMA Stay Woke concealer, UOMA Beauty Say What Foundation, UOMA Black



Juvia's Place Royalty Loose Powder

any more. Juvia's I am Magic Foundation is a natural and soft matte finish and provided flawless coverage. It evens out the complexion, refines skin texture, and erases blemishes.

The Chocolates by Juvia's eye shadow palette is hand-picked nudes and rich browns with perfect pigmentation, so smooth, you can use your finger to apply across the eye.

Juvia's Royalty Loose Powder is show-stopping, lushness. They are made with the best pearls, finely

Magic Color Palette, and UOMA Beauty Brow Kit. I only liked two of the UOMA Beauty Stay Woke brightening concealer (T3) and the UOMA Black Magic Color Palette.

The Beauty Brow Kit (shade 2) wasn't the correct color as represented by the online swatch. On my skin, it appeared gray a far cry from the rich brown/aburn that I was expecting. Now the actual products are well constructed. They would indeed fill in those sparse areas and tame any unruly hairs.

UOMA Beauty Say What Foundation was a complete miss. The foundation undertone was orange and watery.

UOMA Stay Woke concealer however is full coverage, lightweight, and it provided a seamless conceal of my dark circles and other imperfections. It's easy to blend and it's long lasting.

It's everything you could want in a concealer and the luxuriously creamy texture allows for an easy, blendable application that leaves the skin perfectly matte.

UOMA Black Magic Carnival Color Palette is perfect for travel because it has deeply pigmented matte colors, sparkle textures, and vibrant metallic textures. It is easy to go from drama, high impact to a more subdued dazzle with the pigmented matte colors are offered alongside the sparkle textures and vibrant metallic finishes, and it's long-lasting and water-resistant.

### HAIR

PATTERN's CEO and Founder is Tracee Ellis Ross. She was inspired to create Pattern after 20 years of dreaming, and 10 years in the making. In 2008, she wrote her first pitch and spent two years working with chemists. 74 samples later, her brand brings together all the pieces that she, and others, have



Pattern Jojoba Oil Hair Serum

been looking for in hair care and styling tools. PATTERN products help support organizations and programs that empower women & people of color.

The Ulta team sent me

three products and I love them all; Pattern's Argan oil hair serum to moisture and shine; Pattern's jojoba oil hair serum and the Pattern's edge tool to swoop and stay those luscious baby hairs.

PATTERN's Argan oil hair serum and jojoba oil hair serum.

I want to cry, I love this produce so much. Great for curls, and tight textures - when your hair needs extra moisture and protection. All of PATTERN's Argan Oil Hair Serums are designed to promote hair strength and health by keeping strands elastic & moisturized. Curl cuticles stay soft, smooth & protected against moisture loss.

PATTERN'S Pattern Edge Tool — priced at \$12.00 this is the gift that every woman of color should have and gift to others. It's amazing for all tex-



Pattern Edge Tool

tures when your edges want that extra love. It's three tools in 1 for combing, brushing, or swirling your baby hairs into whichever shape or smooth look your heart desires. Made of strong, vegan bristles.

To learn more about the African and African American products sold exclusively at Ulta Beauty go to <https://www.ulta.com>.

## FFL 'Healthy, Wealthy & Wise' Conference Goes Virtual – Real Talk Helps Girls Navigate the Pandemic

BY SABRA MARIE

Cicely Tyson said, "I feel so guilty about the state of young people today. And I say that because our generation fought for everything. We fought to sit down at a counter, to sit on a bus. They were left with nothing to fight for." Ms. Tyson, rest her soul, does not have to feel guilty any longer. Sadly, young people today have their hands just as full as our ancestors had fighting for social justice in the 1950s and 1960s. Prejudice, racial and social injustice are just as much alive today as back then. The civil unrest we have experienced over the past several months has been compounded by the effects of the pandemic. In 2020, racism got louder.

But so did Black voices. One such voice was that of youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman, the first youth poet to recite at a Presidential Inauguration. A voice that will echo throughout time and history.

Forgiving For Living, Inc., is a non-profit organization that has been a staple in the community for over two decades. We are committed to the Amanda Gorman's of the world; showing them they have a voice, that they are worth fighting for and investing in. We also think that it is important to equip them with knowledge and information to give them the necessary tools to navigate this time in history. On Saturday, January 30, 2021, we held our 9th annual "Healthy, Wealthy, and

Wise Conference" for young ladies between 10-18 years of age. This year, however, in light of the pandemic, the event was held virtually – for the first time ever. Community leaders came together to share their expertise to empower our girls and help them believe in the power of possibilities. Speakers covered familiar topics such as financial literacy, understanding the power of possibilities and making healthy choices. This year, with the fallout of the pandemic, there was also a focus on navigating COVID-19 in 2021 and pursuing healthy relationships.

This year's conference was provided at no cost, thanks to the support of Comerica Bank and The California Wellness Founda-

tion. "Comerica Bank was proud to support Forgiving For Living Inc. and its commitment to empowering young girls through innovative programming that addresses identified needs in LMI communities. Wendy and her team took a comprehensive approach that created a positive impact in every element of a young girl's life through financial education, behavioral and mental health. With partners like Forgiving For Living Inc., we can continue our efforts to improve gender equality and economic access for marginalized individuals," said David C. Betancourt, External Affairs Market Manager Southern California, Comerica Bank.

Tanness, one of the conference attendees said after-



wards, "the Forgiving For Living conference meant so much to me. I am grateful for the information I received, but most of all the conference projected love, resiliency and strength in my eyes." We are grateful and thankful to Dr. Lauren Walton, vice president of Forgiving For Living, Inc., Jennifer Smith, MFT from Positive Results Center, Inc., Brittani Johnson, Youth

Coordinator from FCI, Inc., Attorney Charlene L. Usher from Usher Law Group, P.C. and Lucy Babiryan, VP Small Business Banking Specialist from Comerica Bank. We believe together we can help build a better community and a better future. To learn more about the work of Forgiving For Living, Inc. or to donate, please visit [www.forgivingforliving.org](http://www.forgivingforliving.org).

•DR. MAULANA KARENGA•

# Our Original Rising in Ancient Egypt: Defining the Sacred and the Moral Life

Again, we rightfully set aside time and space to celebrate the sacred initiative and narrative we name and know as Black History. It was first set aside as Black History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson (May the good he did and the legacy he left last forever). Later, it was decided more time was needed to celebrate and reflect on ourselves, and it was extended and named Black History Month. It is a time of reverent and reflective raising up and focusing on the particular specialness of ourselves, as we move and make our way through human history, leaving our awesome legacy in the world. Indeed, it is our unique and equally valid and valuable way of being human in the world. That is to say, being African, being Black, in the most beautiful, sacred and soulful ways.

We of the organization Us name our history sacred because we understand ourselves and our lives as sacred. Indeed, we take the unbudging and non-negotiable position that no people is more sacred or holy, or chosen or elect, or worthy of respect than our own. Furthermore, we define our history as sacred because our struggle for freedom, justice and other shared and common human goods is a sacred struggle, a righteous and relentless struggle to bring good in the world.

As we begin to celebrate this sacred initiative and narrative of African people in the world, it is only right and appropriate that we begin with our original rising in ancient Egypt, Kemet. For there we defined the sacred, the moral and the meaningful life in foundational and world influencing ways. Because Kemet is African and we know that African history reveals

evidence of significant achievements throughout the continent, Kemet in Kawaida thought becomes a way of conceiving and engaging Africa as a whole as our moral and spiritual ideal. And we constantly dialog with its culture, continental and diasporan, ancient and modern, asking it questions and seeking from it answers to fundamental issues of African and human life. And we use Kemet, ancient Egypt, as a focal, indeed, foundational point of departure.

My work, as evidenced in my second doctoral dissertation, Maat, The Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt: A Study in Classical African Ethics, and the role of our organization Us and the African American Cultural Center (Us) as the initial planners, organizers and hosts of the founding conference of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC) in Los Angeles sought to expand and deepen that critical dialog. Likewise, my 30-years of work on collecting, translating and organizing Kemet's sacred texts into a single sacred text called The Husia is also reflective of this commitment. And we continue to do this work within Us as we did before our outreach to others. For we, the Seba-Maat, the moral teachers in the Kawaida-Maat tradition in Us, see the moral and spiritual insights and contributions of Kemet, not only as a critical counter to the myth of ancient Egypt as a land of bondage, but also as a rich resource for engaging the critical moral and social issues of our time.

As a way to engage this rich African legacy to the world, I want to conclude the conversation focusing on five fundamental con-

cepts that reflect Kemet's deep thinking about the sacred, the moral and the meaningful life. The first is Maat, the anchoring moral, spiritual and social conception in Kemet. It is a multiple meaning word, but essentially means rightness and righteousness in the world. It is also the interrelated order of rightness established at creation, involving three interrelated realms of relationships: the Divine, nature and human society. And we are to strive to establish and maintain right relations with the Divine, nature and each other. We are to do this by practicing critical virtues, especially those I defined as the Seven Cardinal Virtues of Maat: truth, justice, propriety, harmony, balance, reciprocity and righteous order. And we are to do all the good we do with a loving heart and mind.

Second, in the Maatian conception of the world, humans are created in the image of God, *senen netcher*. This is the first written conception of this and is found in the Husia in the Book of Kheti. Kheti says, "well cared for is humankind who are the flocks of God. He gave breath to their noses. They are his images and came from his body." This concept offered as early as 2140 BCE taught and reaffirmed the sacredness of the human person and human life and thus that humans are worthy of the highest respect. But this concept also gave us an obligation to act as a divine image, as a possessor of divinity and to emulate the Divine in loving, creative, caring and self-giving ways.



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

Thirdly, Kemet gives us in the narrative of the sage Djedi in the Husia the companion concept of human dignity, *shepesu*. It posits that all humans have an inherent worthiness that is transcendent of all biological and social attributes – race, class, sex, gender, sexuality, age, ability, religion, nationality, etc.,. Moreover, this Maatian moral concept argues this inherent worthiness is equal in all, using Djedi's defense of a nameless prisoner before Pharaoh Khufu as an example and emphasizing that there are no hierarchies of inherent worthiness of human beings. And finally, dignity, *shepesu*, in Maatian moral thought, is inalienable, i.e., it cannot be taken or given away, regardless of social or physical status or condition. It thus becomes an indispensable pillar in the definition and defense of human rights.

Maatian ethics also gives us the Four Good Deeds of Ra at the dawn of creation found in the Husia in the Book of Vindication. These are divine endowments to create and sustain

a Maatian life – a rightful and righteous world. And with every endowment named there is an associated right. And they are the Husia says, given to all humans, small and great, male and female, in every time and every place, everywhere and all the time. These endowments are the breath of life and the right to life; the sustenance of life and the right to the necessities of life; the dual endowment of human equality and the right to equal treatment and free will and the right to self-determination; and finally, the moral and spiritual consciousness and the right to freedom of conscience and by extension freedom of expression.

Fourthly, humans in Maatian ethics are defined also, not only as bearers of dignity, divinity and rights, but also as *rekhyt*, knowing and wise beings. And thus, there is an emphasis on cultivating a life of the mind and heart, of consciousness and commitment and using knowledge in the interest of human good and the well-being of the world. Moreover, the Husia teaches that the *ib* (the heart and mind) is "a divine presence within us" and we should cultivate it with utmost care and commitment. Also, the Husia says, we should "examine every matter that we may understand it; that we should study the structure and functioning of the heavens and earth." And it reminds us that whatever other learning we get, we must acquire moral wisdom that aids us in developing character. For "it is in the development of character

that education succeeds."

Finally, our ancestors of ancient Egypt tell and teach us we must embrace and practice the moral imperative of *serudj ta*. It is the moral obligation to constantly repair, renew and remake the world, making it more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it. This is reflective of the world-encompassing character of Maatian ethics, involving both the natural and social world, our relations with the earth and environment and our relations with each other and others. We are then on every level of life obligated to: raise up what is in ruins; repair what is damaged; rejoin what is divided; replenish what is depleted or diminished; strengthen what is weak; set right what is wrong; and make flourish that which is fragile, insecure and undeveloped. And this speaks to how we should live our lives, do our work and wage a righteous and relentless struggle to bring and sustain Maat, deep and expansive good in and of the world.

*Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis. www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.*

•DR. JOHN E. WARREN PUBLISHER, THE SAN DIEGO VOICE & VIEWPOINT•

## The President's Covid Relief Package

President Biden has announced bold goals for the much needed Covid relief package that America so desperately needs. But sometimes good intentions can fall upon bad roadblocks. In this case, it's the President's desire to try and work with the Republicans who have demonstrated that they have no real concern about the pain and suffering of Americans outside of their own interest as a political party.

The U.S. House of Representatives has enough votes to pass the 1.9 trillion dollar relief package and as



DR. JOHN E. WARREN

of February 2nd has begun the process of moving the legislation toward enact-

ment. In the U.S. Senate, we encourage the Democratic leadership and majority to treat the Republicans as they have treated America for the past four years. That is, vote according to having the numbers with no concern for the other side. The Democrats have the numbers for a "simple majority" to pass the relief package with Vice President Harris standing by as the tie breaker if one occurs. The Republican package, presented to the President this week in their meeting with him at the White House, should be considered "dead

on arrival" and viewed as no more than another effort to delay getting relief to the American people. There is still time to talk about unity after we get relief to the American people.

Mr. President, U.S. House of Representatives and the United States Senate, let's get this legislation passed and on the President's desk with all deliberate speed. The Republicans can catch up later, if they are still interested in democracy, their oath of office and the constitution they swore to serve.

**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

**CLIFFORD RUSSELL**, Advertising

**ALLEN MORET**, 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 per year, \$30.00 for three months. 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**

**THEN BLACK HISTORY**  
more than just a month!

**NOW**

Trust us this is for your own good.

Why don't you trust us?

**Tuskegee Experiment 1932**

**Covid-19 Vaccine 2021**

© 2021 DAVID G. BROWN STUDIOS WWW.DAVIDGBROWN.STUDIO

• SANDRA EVERS-MANLY •

# Till Victory Is Won

As I examine Black History Month 2021, and what may be accomplished during the shortest month of the year, I am reminded of a special song that continues to motivate generations since the late 1890's. First commissioned as a poem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was written by James Weldon Johnson, Principal of the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida. It was then set to music in 1905 by his brother J. Rosamond Johnson a composer who trained at the New England Conservatory of Music. These influential and talented brothers worked together all of their lives, both in show business and as critical players in the civil rights movement. They believed that "artistic and cultural excellence was key to Black Advancement in America." I believe that we have all witnessed many examples of this cultural excellence from the past as well as today.

As we are reminded this month (and should be all year) another such example of artistic and cultural excellence key to Black advancement during that time, was the impact of the indomitable Soprano Matilda Sissieretta Joyner Jones known as "Black Patti". From the years 1897-1915, Miss Jones was the highest-paid African-American performer of her time. Miss Jones performed at the White House for various presidents such as: Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt — as well as the British Royal Family. Of note, for three of her White House performances, Jones had to enter the building

through the back. She was finally allowed to enter through the front door for her performance for President Roosevelt. Miss Jones would employ as many as 40 black entertainers in her "Black Patti Troubadours" for more than two decades.

When James wrote the song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing", it was meant to be a prayer of thanksgiving for faith and freedom. For the promise of better days ahead, of unity and a collaborative purpose while carefully and purposefully notating the trials of a people. However, the poetry represents only half of the power of the song.

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of liberty

Let our rejoicing rise, High as the listening skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Until brother J. Rosamond added the music, the song was not complete. You see as the historians have discovered; the melodies match the text. "Lift every voice" always ascends when you sing it, to lift you up. The middle passages that speak to our trials and dark past, are gloomy and minor, mournful keys but arrive on an uplifting key to proclaim an affirmative statement of hope.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

At the time that this song was written, reconstruction

had largely failed. Although there were achievements by some Blacks, the hopes and progress of a people rested on Black professionals, educators, and businessmen, like the Johnson Brothers and Miss Joyner Jones. Their rise belonged to all of the Black community as a sense of pride and inspiration. This song, performed in that segregated school room, by 500 children in celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1905 came to symbolize the musical icon that still to this day visualizes a people's history; infused inspiration, faith filled vision, and a resolute hope. Unknown to the brothers at the time, was how the song would embed itself in the minds and hearts of the school children who performed that day.

"Shortly afterwards my brother and I moved away from Jacksonville to New York, and the song passed out of our minds. But the school children of Jacksonville kept singing it; they went off to other schools and sang it; they became teachers and taught it to other children. Within twenty years it was being sung over the South and in some other parts of the country ... The lines of this song repay me in an elation, almost of exquisite anguish, whenever I hear them sung by Negro children." -James Weldon Johnson.

In reviewing this song, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) adopted as the "National Black Anthem" and as their "Official" song in 1919, I am amazed at how relevant the lyrics remain to this day. The second verse



SANDRA J. EVERS-MANLY

applies very aptly to the economic uncertainty, civil unrest, police brutality, rise of white supremacy, threat of voter suppression, and our current health disparities made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, makes you want to "throw up your hands and holler!" And... yes, we are weary, we are tired. We have been in this same place before as the song states...

Stony the road we trod  
Bitter the chastening rod

Felt in the days when  
hope unborn had died

Yet with a steady beat

Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for  
which our fathers sighed?

However, just as we stand today for future generations, we stand on the shoulders of those who have brought us through and to this time - better than the past, but miles to go. Our heroes and sheroes such as Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers, Ella Baker, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Daisey Bates, Bayard Rustin, C.T. Vivian and others brought us the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Which desegregated the schools, theaters, housing, offices and so much more and would

lead us the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Those courageous, intelligent, and steadfast men and women who committed themselves to the fight for the basic human rights promised to all of under the Constitution. And for our God-given human dignity, which was done with the greatest amount of sacrifice, enduring death of both young and old, beatings, hosing; while fighting peacefully with sit-ins, marches, legislation, unity, coalition building and more. Through words, music, serving the poor and hope. Just as our forebearers, we cannot grow weary. We cannot and should not forget the horrific and unjust killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and so many others who have died as a result of police brutality. We must continue to affirm that "Black Lives Matter" as we Lift our voices with conviction -- as in times before -- repeatedly to renew our hope and to press on toward victory each time we sing that hymn of hope.

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered

Out from the gloomy past

Till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of a bright star is cast.

Lastly, where would we be without faith? Hope I believe is born of a great faith. Faith in God, faith in your fellow man/woman/child and faith in yourself. In our most fervent and reverent acknowledgment of a glorious history of in-

credible men and women, known and unknown, I urge each of us to pause to honor Black History Month. In the manner you are accustomed, give a word of thanksgiving for those who came before. Who carved out a path toward a better future for Black Americans and in doing so, made all of America better.

God of our weary years,

God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who hast by Thy might,

Led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

On January 13, 2021, House Majority Whip Congressman James Clyburn, the highest-ranking Black American in Congress put forward a proposal. Mr. Clyburn proposed that "Lift Every Voice and Sing" be given a special place as a "national hymn" alongside the official US anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." Clyburn believes it would help unite the country in a time of reckoning with its long history of racial turmoil. "It would say to people, 'You aren't singing a separate national anthem, you are singing the country's national hymn. The gesture itself would be an act of healing. Everybody can identify with that song.'" -- Congressman Clyburn

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;

Shadowed beneath

(See VICTORY E-1)

• CHARLENE CROWELL •

## President Biden's Racial Equity Initiative: Moving Marginalized Communities Toward America's Bounty

On January 26, President Joe Biden took steps to bring the nation towards the long-promised, but never realized, pledge of racial justice. Four executive orders signed that day make clear that the new Administration will take meaningful and corrective actions.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was directed to take steps necessary to redress racially discriminatory federal housing policies that have contributed to wealth inequality for generations. Similarly, the Department of Justice (DOJ) was ordered to end its use of private prisons. The whole of federal government also recommitted to respect Tribal sovereignty and strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations. Finally, President Biden committed to combatting xenophobia against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

"We have never fully lived up to the founding principles of this nation, to state the obvious, that all people are created equal and have a right to be treated equally throughout their lives," said Biden. "And it's time to act now, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because if we do, we'll all be better off for it."

"Yes, we need criminal justice reform," he contin-

ued, "but that isn't nearly enough. We need to open the promise of America to every American. And that means we need to make the issue of racial equity not just an issue for any one department of government; it has to be the business of the whole of government."

Responsibility for implementation and oversight will rest with the White House's Domestic Policy Council, led by Director Susan Rice, a former Obama Administration appointee who served as National Security Advisor and U.S. Representative to the United Nations and a Black woman.

Millions of marginalized people — many who are Black and Latino — face imminent financial disaster. When people are poor, they face compounding struggles — ranging from food insecurity, to the threat of losing utilities, and the risk of homelessness — and hardships seemingly multiply each day. During this still-raging pandemic, a new kind of poor — those who were formerly gainfully employed — are learning the harsh realities of how hard life becomes when adequate income and decent health insurance are no longer available.

Regardless of income — or the lack thereof — every family still needs a home, one that provides shelter and sustenance. As much



CHARLENE CROWELL

as America needs vaccinations from the pandemic, its people need and have a right to housing.

In 2020, to address this newly urgent need, a focused and collaborative national policy endeavor began, called the Housing Playbook Project. The effort was led by Community Change, a nonprofit with the mission of changing the policies and institutions that impact the lives of low-income people — particularly those of color — with support from the Ford Foundation. The sum of the project's insights and recommendations specific to housing challenges were contained in its report released on January 25th.

Entitled A New Deal for Housing for Housing Justice: A Playbook for the Biden Administration, the report is a road map to achieving housing justice that details bold federal actions that can effectively respond to the housing crisis and

charts a path for leveraging policymaking to build power in the nation's most neglected communities.

"We face a housing affordability crisis, an evictions crisis, and a homelessness crisis like this nation has never seen," noted Julian Castro, project co-chair and former HUD Secretary and San Antonio Mayor. "The Housing Playbook outlines a bold and ambitious blueprint to tackle these crises head-on, with housing justice and racial equity at the forefront. This is how we ensure housing is not just a commodity, but a basic need and a human right granted to every single American."

"Regardless of where we come from, what we do for work, how we identify or whether we've been caught up in our unjust criminal system, everyone deserves a roof over their head," added Community Change President Dorian Warren. "The Biden-Harris Administration has signaled that they would make racial justice and equity in COVID-19 relief and long-term economic policy a priority. Safe and reliable housing is the cornerstone to economic security. This proposal is a blueprint for how to help move the country toward that vision."

The report's seven specific policy recommendations include:

- Provide COV-

ID-19 federal relief financial assistance to renters on the verge of eviction and homeowners in danger of foreclosure. Additionally, the report calls for the relief package to award community control of foreclosed and abandoned properties — a nagging blight in neighborhoods of color since the foreclosure crisis;

- Create a renter's tax credit for consumers who pay more than 30% of their income on housing, thereby affording renters a comparable tax break to that of homeowners;

- Enact a Presidential Commission on Reparations comprised of lawmakers and diverse perspectives of community organizations and advocates who would together formulate 10-year goals to undo the legacy of anti-Black federal housing policy, establish long-term household, community, regional, and national metrics to track success in achieving the goals; and

- Guarantee all low-income families a home by passing legislation to make housing choice vouchers an entitlement for eligible families and create 500,000 new vouchers for families with children under age six.

The urgency of America's housing needs during the pandemic are poignantly analyzed in the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies' (JCHS) State of the

Nation's Housing 2020, an annual report that analyzes the changes and challenges in American housing.

As of last September, the Black-White homeownership gap stood at 31%, according to the annual report. Additionally, 49% of renters and 36% of homeowners experienced employment income loss between March and September of last year. Those marketplace dynamics contributed to late rental payments that also reflected racial disparities affecting 10% of Whites, but 23% of Blacks and 20% of Latinos.

The JCHS report also found that from 2019 to 2020, the total number of homeless people grew in part because 17,000 more people needed shelter. In all, America's homeless that could be measured came in at 568,000 people.

"Widespread calls for racial justice have pointed out the high degree of residential segregation and economic inequality that still exists in the US," says Daniel McCue, a JCHS Senior Research Associate. "In fact, the sharp racial disparities in housing are both a cause and a consequence of other social inequalities."

For people of color, the combination of concentrated poverty and under-representation in higher income areas leads

(See CROWELL C-5)



WINDOW

Forgiving for Living

We All Need a Little Margin in Our Lives



Do you ever feel like you are being pulled in many different directions? Does it appear that you are busier now more than ever, but you are not sure you are getting the results you want? Do you find

it difficult to say no? Do you allow your day to be interrupted by things that could have waited? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions then you are like me and feel like you need to take better con-

trol of life's demands, so you can focus on what really matters.

I thought the pandemic would slow my life down, but I have become busier. Sometimes I feel as if there is no margin or space where

I can breathe or pause to reflect on living out my purpose, plan, and passion. It is easy to get caught up in what is pulling at us or has the loudest voice at the time. I know I have failed to place limits and boundaries around my time. I need to do better so I can better focus on clients, friends and family that need me. As well as practice self-care.

There comes a time in our life when we must recognize and confront that if we are too "busy" to pray, read our bible, spend more quality time with family or be available for a friend who needs an ear or a shoulder to cry on then we may be way to "busy". Life has shown me I need a lit-

tle more margin to accommodate these things in my life. Yes, I will probably always lead a busy life in some form or fashion, but I want to make myself available as much as I can to the things and people in my life such as, living out my faith, family, and friends.

I know I cannot do everything that gets thrown at me, but I am committed and willing to slow my pace just a bit so it will allow me to take that desperate call or answer that unexpected knock at the door. Leaving a little margin in our lives will also allow us to raise our eyes and look at what is happening around us and see if we can get involved with some of the issues current-

ly happening in society and contribute to make a difference and a positive impact. I also want to encourage you to give yourself a little grace as you work through this process. It takes time to practice something new on a regular basis.

On a more personal level, giving ourselves more margin and space in our lives can be good for our health. It will allow us to find the time to take walks. Walking is not only good for our health, but it can also be a time where we meditate and listen to God's direction for our lives. It can also be a time when we dream. Some of us have stopped dreaming. Dreams help us think big

{See WENDY C-6}

Success On "The Way"

Ask Dr. Jeanette Parker™



WWW.ASKDRJEANETTEPARKER.COM

'Trial Of The Conscience' Look For The 'Good In Everyone!'

Sometimes, our first thoughts are not our best thoughts. We may want to think this is a great strategy to follow: that is,"Follow

your first mind." However, that can get you into a lot of trouble. First mind may be a wrong impulsive decision. Just because you

think it: your best thinking may not be your first thoughts. Do you remember what happened to the Apostle Peter? He was

in a trance with a vision (ecstasy; amazement), when he heard a voice and saw a great sheet open up with all kinds of strange animals from every part of the world (four corners). He did not realize that God was preparing him to go on a great mission: carrying the message of the Gospel to the Gentiles. He was caught up and thinking in every direction that his thoughts could go. He didn't understand what the Lord was speaking to him. The voice had to speak to him three times before he could adjust his mind to following the instructions! It was then that he came to his senses. He followed

the instructions given him regarding the vision he had experienced. Was it his first thought to follow the directive? No. He was hesitant. He thought it was saying, "Peter! Sacrifice and eat." He knew he had been following the Levitical food laws. Even though he was not clear on the whole meaning of his commission, he knew he had heard God's voice. Therefore, he had to follow without questioning. Afterwards, he, along with his servants left and met Cornelius' (who had also had a vision and given directives of what to do. Peter met with Cornelius close relatives and friends, he

was remembering the custom (not an Old Testament regulation) to not socialize with Gentiles. He said "It is unlawful." There was no O.T. law that forbade meeting with Gentiles was against the Mosaic law. This is similar even today. There are tensions between some people and some races today. No, I'm not saying it is right. We cannot continue looking at people by their differences; rather, we "see the good in people." When you look at a person and you say inside your mind, "I don't like him/her. Every time I see that person, they make

{See PARKER C-6}

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

CLASSIFIED

Table with 7 columns: Rooms for Rent, Apartments - Unfurnished, Houses - Unfurnished, Employment Opportunities, and Personals. Each column contains various classified advertisements.







*Celebration of Life*

**Lawrence “Larry” Massengale**

**Thomas C. McLurkin, Sr.**



**Lawrence “Larry” Massengale**  
December 16, 1954 ~ December 2, 2020

Lawrence Cornell Massengale was born in Los Angeles, CA on December 16, 1954, the son of Joe D. and Dorothy J. Massengale. After graduating from Horace Mann Junior High, he attended Crenshaw High

School. At Crenshaw, Larry was a charismatic leader who excelled as a football star and was student body president. He maintained a relationship with his football teammates throughout his life.

Lawrence attended Pepperdine University Los Angeles. He was student body president, received the distinguished “Who’s Who in American Universities & Colleges” award and graduated in 1976 with a BS degree in Political Science. He was a successful entrepreneur operating Complete Auto Detail, Inc. for over 40 years.

Larry made his peaceful transition on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. A loving Husband, Father, Brother, Brother-in-Law, Uncle, Grandfather, and Loyal Friend, he will truly be missed.

A Virtual Memorial will be held Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

Please email your request to: massengaleLC1@gmail.com



**Thomas C. McLurkin, Sr.**  
November 14, 1921 – January 14, 2021

Thomas Cornelius McLurkin, Sr. was born on November 14, 1921 in the Philippine Islands; the third of seven children born to Dr. Robert McLurkin and Rosario McLurkin. His father was a member of the Army Medical Corp for the 10th Calvary Unit (The Buffalo Soldiers) and his mother was Filipina. Soon after his birth, his fa-

ther was re-assigned to Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.

Upon high school graduation in 1939, he moved to California to attend Pasadena City College, where he received his AA degree in 1941; then transferred to UC Santa Barbara. His education was put on hold when drafted into the US Army during WWII. Thomas became a

Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He received his flight training and was assigned to the 477th Bombardment Group as a navigator-bombardier. He was Honorably Discharged in 1946, returned to UCSB and earned a BA in 1948. Thomas then enrolled at USC to obtain his MS in Education.

While at USC, he met Willie Mae O’Connor and they were wed on August 4, 1950 in Baton Rouge, LA. The newlyweds settled in Los Angeles to raise their family. They had five children: Thomas, Jr., Kandice, Patrice, Oren and Charles.

Thomas rose through the ranks of LAUSD, ultimately becoming a principal in 1965. He was also a co-founder of the Council of Black Administrators and served as its President.

Thomas recently celebrated his 99th birthday last November. He will be dearly missed.

**Morris, Edith H. Morris “Edi”**

Morris, Edith H. Morris “Edi” was born December 9, 1940, in Cleveland, Ohio to Kenneth A. Morris, Sr. and Wilhelmina Morris. The family relocated from Louisville, Kentucky to Los Angeles, CA where she attended Virginia Road Elementary School, Mt. Vernon Elementary School and graduated from Dorsey High School. She received a B.A. from Cal State Los Angeles, and her M.A.

in School Administration from Pepperdine University. Always an educator with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Ms. Morris loved her students, while her staff loved her. She enjoyed uplifting and encouraging students, letting them know that they could accomplish ANYTHING. Ms. Morris gave 36 years to LAUSD. Ms. Morris retired as The Principal at Mary McLeod



**Morris, Edith H. Morris “Edi”**

Bethune Middle School. She received NUMEROUS awards, including, Educator of the Year-Region 8, as well as Administrator of the Year. Upon retirement, Ms. Morris Co-Founded Teach Academy Charter School, where she poured her heart and soul into the curriculum. Ms. Morris was LOVED by her students, staff, and the community that she served for so many years. Ms. Morris’ warm

smile and spirit will be missed by ALL. She is survived by her Sister, Katherine Huante; Brother, Kenneth A. Morris, Jr.; Nieces, Karen Huante-Alexander and Julie Young (Craig); Nephew, Kenneth A. Morris III; and Great Nephews, Kirk J. Alexander, Jr. Kameron R. Alexander, and Bryce Young. Edi was laid to rest at Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, CA.

**City Council Approves Watts Site For Proposition HHH Housing Project**

CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles City Council today approved a Watts property as the site of a Proposition HHH supportive housing project for homeless Angelenos.

The council, on a 13-0 vote with two mem-

bers absent, directed the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department to make a conditional financial commitment of \$6.72 million for the project at 1522 E. 102nd St.

The financial terms are subject to approval by

the Proposition HHH Citizen’s Oversight Committee and the Proposition HHH Administrative Oversight Committee.

HCIDLA was also authorized to negotiate agreements for the project’s acquisition, pre-development and construction and to

create a side-by-side comparison on the proposed cost and time line compared to existing HHH-funded projects.

Voters in November 2016 passed Proposition HHH to use \$1.2 billion to build 10,000 units for homeless Angelenos, more

than tripling Los Angeles’ annual production of supportive housing.

Projects are currently taking between three and six years to complete and some developers have asked for extensions ranging from 42 days to more than a year, Los Angeles

City Controller Ron Galperin said in September.

The first permanent supportive housing project funded by Prop HHH opened at 88th Street and Vermont in January 2020.

**We All Need a Little Margin in Our Lives**

{continued from Pg. C-3}

also be done with partners; we can even practice social distancing while having fellowship. So why do we hesitate to do the things we know are good for us? Simply

put, it is because we are too busy, and we do not have enough margin in our lives.

As we continue to navigate through this year be kind to yourself. Give yourself the gift of margin. Slow down and make your-

self available for the things and people that come your way. You may be the encouragement they need along their journey. “Some talk to you in their free time, while others free their time to talk to you.” Which one are you?

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

Visit [www.WendyGladney.com](http://www.WendyGladney.com) and [www.forgivingforliving.org](http://www.forgivingforliving.org) to learn more. Wendy is a life

strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker. You can hear her every Wednesday on Instagram Live at 12 noon PST @wendygladney

**‘Trial Of The Conscience’ Look For The ‘Good In Everyone!’**

{continued from Pg. C-3}

me sick! He looks awful...Or on the contrary, “Every time I see that person, he/she always looks so perfect. Don’t they ever have a bad day?” Their clothes fit well. They’re not skinny or overweight. {In your mind you might be saying, “I wish I didn’t have to diet.” (or whatever your thoughts might be.) You don’t know what is going on in that person’s life. Or even if someone says negative things to you, it’s not always that it is about

you. It could be about them. So, what should you do? You remember the lyrics to the song, “Take it to the Lord in prayer.” Good advice. Do you have a better friend than Jesus? Who else will be with you through thick and thin? ‘I’m concerned about the millions of people incarcerated people in the U.S. have criminal records. Forbes.com reports, “An estimated 40,000 people are incarcerated for marijuana offenses even as: the overall legal cannabis industry is booming: one state after another

is legalizing; and cannabis companies are making healthy profits” Forbes.com further states “There are over 70 million people in this country with criminal records, and each and every one of them goes through hell finding a job,” said Richard Bronson, founder and CEO of 70 Million Jobs, a staffing agency for people with criminal records.” “Many, many are men and women of color who have done their time, “Bronson pointed out, “and too many are in jail for activity that has subsequently

been legalized. It’s an irony of gruesome proportions.” Regarding seeing some good in everyone; we no longer evaluate others from a worldly point of view. We no longer determine a person’s character by outward appearance. We look at each individual as one created by God, not “look like a nobody (so to speak). Every person has value. That’s first to recognize and remember. Yes. Those 70 million people were created by God. Thanks for reading! Teach the children!

Jeanette Grattan Parker, Founder-Superintendent Today’s Fresh Start Charter School 323-293-9826 [www.todayfreshstart.org](http://www.todayfreshstart.org); [Askdrjeanette@gmail.com](mailto:Askdrjeanette@gmail.com). [Tm\\_Askdrjeanette.successontheway@gmail.com](mailto:Tm_Askdrjeanette.successontheway@gmail.com) tm “Inquiring minds want to know.” © All rights reserved © Askdrjeanetteparker.com tm Today’s Fresh Start Charter School 323-293-9826.



# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

D-1 [www.lasentinel.net](http://www.lasentinel.net)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

## Former Heavyweight Champion Leon Spinks Dies at 67

By TIM DAHLBERG  
Associated Press

Leon Spinks, who won Olympic gold and then shocked the boxing world by beating Muhammad Ali to win the heavyweight title in only his eighth pro fight, has died. He was 67.

Spinks, who lived his later years in Las Vegas, died Friday night, according to a release from a public relations firm. He had been battling prostate and other cancers.

His wife, Brenda Glur Spinks, and a few close friends and other family members were by his side when he passed away.

A lovable heavyweight with a drinking problem, Spinks beat Ali by decision in a 15-round fight in 1978 to win the title. He was unranked at the time, and picked as an opponent

he was not only not a top contender but shouldn't have been a contender at all," promoter Bob Arum said Saturday. "He was just an opponent but somehow he found a way to win that fight."

Spinks would lose the rematch to Ali in New Orleans and fought for the title only once after that, when he was stopped in the third round in 1981 by Larry Holmes. He continued fighting on and off into the mid-1990s, finishing with a record of 26-17-3.

Spinks, with a big grin that often showed off his missing front teeth, was popular among boxing fans for both his win over Ali and his easygoing personality. But he burned through his earnings quickly, and at one point after retiring was working as a custodian at a YMCA in Nebraska, clean-

Spinks won the light heavyweight division at the 1976 Olympics in Montre-

sports books didn't even take bets on the fight.

"In that fight everything



AP PHOTO/MIKE GROLL, FILE

In this June 12, 2011, file photo, former heavyweight boxing champion Leon Spinks waves during a Boxing Hall of Fame parade in Canastota, N.Y. Former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks Jr. died Friday night, Feb. 5, 2021, after battling prostate and other cancers. He was 67.

pagne smoking a cigar. He suddenly had an entourage as big as one that Ali had," Arum said. "We were all staying at the same hotel in New Orleans for the rematch and one morning I was coming down to breakfast and Leon got in the elevator and collapsed on the floor. Obviously he had been out drinking and I said, 'Leon, are you crazy, you're fighting in just a few days.' He said 'What do you mean? I'm just coming in from roadwork.'"

Among the notable people in Spinks' entourage was Lawrence Tureaud, who would later be known as the actor Mr. T and served as bodyguard for the champion.

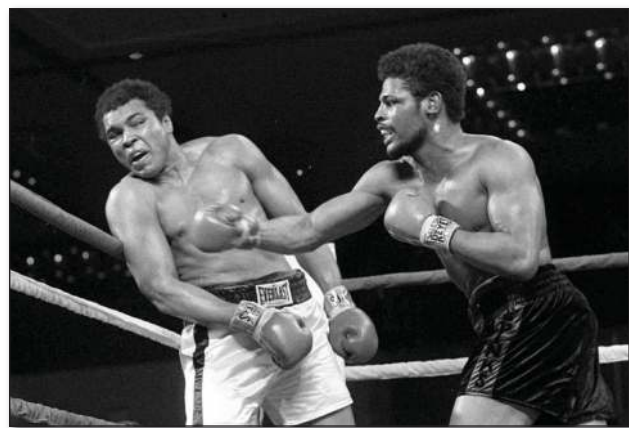
Spinks was born July 11, 1953, in St. Louis, raised in poverty along with

middleweight gold.

Michael Spinks would go on to win the heavyweight title himself in 1985, defending it three times before being knocked out by Mike Tyson in 91 seconds in their 1988 fight in Atlantic City. By then, the best part of Leon's career was over, though he would fight until losing a December 1995 fight against Fred Houpe in St. Louis.

After moving to Las Vegas, Spinks was married to Brenda Glur Spinks in 2011. The two were often seen at boxing-related activities, including Spinks' 2017 induction into the Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame.

"He was happy go lucky, the salt of the earth," Arum said, chuckling at the



AP PHOTO/FILE

In this Feb. 15, 1978, file photo, Leon Spinks, right, connects with a right hook to Muhammad Ali, during the late rounds of their championship fight in Las Vegas.

because Ali was looking for an easy fight.

He got anything but that, with an unorthodox Spinks swarming over Ali throughout the fight on his way to a stunning win by split decision. The two met seven months later at the Superdome in New Orleans, with Ali taking the decision this time before a record indoor boxing crowd of 72,000 and a national television audience estimated at 90 million people.

"It was one of the most unbelievable things when Ali agreed to fight him because you look at the fights he had up to then and

ing locker rooms.

He later was part of a group of ex-fighters who had their brains studied by the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas. Spinks was found to have brain damage caused by a combination of taking punches to the head and heavy drinking, though he functioned well enough to do autograph sessions and other events late in his life.

"He was a good soul," said Gene Kilroy, who was Ali's business manager when he fought Spinks and became friends with the fighter.

al, beating Sixto Soria of Cuba in an upset to become one of five U.S. fighters to win gold. His brother, Michael, who would later become heavyweight champion himself, won the middleweight gold, and Sugar Ray Leonard took the welterweight title.

Spinks was hardly spectacular after turning pro, winning six of his first seven fights. Just four months before he met Ali, he could manage just a draw with journeyman Scott LeDoux and he wasn't on anyone's radar in the heavyweight title picture.

But Ali was coming off a brutal fight with Earnie Shavers and wasn't looking forward to what would have been a mandatory bout against Ken Norton, whom he had already fought three times and who seemed to have Ali's number. Instead, he sought an easy mark for a fight that was to be nationally televised on ABC, even knowing he would be stripped of one of his titles for taking another fight.

Enter Spinks, who was such a big underdog most

clicked," Arum said. "He came in with a game plan and he beat Ali. It wasn't that Ali wasn't at his best, but Leon shocked everybody with how good Leon was."

Suddenly, Spinks was the heavyweight champion of the world at the age of 25.

"I'm not The Greatest," Spinks said afterward. "Just the latest."

Arum was in the dressing room with Ali after the fight, and said Ali directed him to sign Spinks to a quick rematch. The two fought seven months later in a prime-time fight on CBS that set television viewing records at the time, with nearly half the country tuning in.

Ali took the rematch more seriously than he did the first fight, winning a decision though Spinks was competitive. Spinks might have been better, Arum said, but enjoyed the life of being heavyweight champion too much and partied much of the time between fights.

"Leon posed in a bathtub with a glass of cham-



AP PHOTO/LENNY IGNEZI, FILE

In this Feb. 15, 1978, file photo, Leon Spinks celebrates as his entourage holds him aloft after his 15-round split decision victory over world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali in Las Vegas.

his brother Michael. After discovering boxing both brothers became top amateurs, culminating in the 1976 Olympics where Leon won the light heavyweight gold and Michael won the

memories. "Leon was nutty but you couldn't get angry at the guy. He never meant any harm to anyone. You couldn't help but love him even though you shook your head at how he acted."

## Team USA Women's Basketball Hold Training Camp for Summer Olympics

By AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Writer

The members of Team USA Women's basketball reunited for a training camp at the University of South Carolina for the first time in almost a year. Team USA women's basketball had a dominant winning momentum prior to the pandemic shut down, having gone undefeated in the 2019 FIBA AmeriCup and the FIBA Pre-Olympic Qualifying Tournament, and only dropping one of their exhibition games against college teams.

Head Coach Dawn Staley was excited to coach Team USA Basketball while coaching the No. 1 South Carolina Gamecocks. She held practice sessions for both teams on Saturday as the Gamecocks prepared to play against the UCONN Huskies on Monday.

"We got the best players in the world and the best players in the country that I get to work with," Staley said. "This is basketball utopia for me."



TRENTON MILLER/USA BASKETBALL

Sparks forward, Nneka Ogwumike (56) will be competing in her first Olympic games.

In 2017, Staley became the first Black woman to coach a national team. She is a three-time Olympic gold medalist who was the flag bearer for the USA National Team for the 2004 Olympic Opening Ceremony. Staley hopes to take some names from the pro players and instill them into her South Carolina players.

Team USA is looking for their seventh consecutive gold medal in women's bas-

ketball, Minnesota Lynx center, Sylvia Fowles, helped them win their last three golds.

This was the first time she practiced on court with contact since the 2020 season, she struggled with a right calf injury throughout her time in the WNBA Wubble.

"I was doing a lot of training prior to this with non-contact," Fowles said. "To see myself come out there and play with the pace that these young ladies was playing with was a good marker for me."

One of the new faces on Team USA Women's basketball is reigning WNBA MVP A'ja Wilson. Her career has come full circle with her reuniting with her college coach Staley. Last month, South Carolina commemorated Wilson's achievements with a statue. For Wilson, the statue is "a true honor."

"It means a lot honestly, especially when you have greats looking at it and just saying congratulations," Wilson said. "Its not for me

and my accomplishments, it's to show that anybody's fully capable of doing what

they want to do when they put their mind to it."

For Sparks star Nneka



TRENTON MILLER/USA BASKETBALL

Minnesota Lynx center, Sylvia Fowles (13) is competing to win her fourth Olympic gold medal.

Ogwumike, there is not much of a difference between playing for Los Angeles and playing for Team USA. For competing with Team USA means return back to the basics of basketball.

"Team USA knows what I'm capable of, but what are we willing to do to maintain that championship culture?" Ogwumike said. "That doesn't mean that every single person out there is taking every single shot, it's being able to adhere to a system, understand what we're trying to do, the bigger picture."

For the Summer Olympics, 12 women's basketball teams will compete. They will be divided into three teams for preliminary play, then be seeded for tournament-style competition. On February 2, FIBA drew Team USA to be in a pool with Nigeria, Japan and France.

Team USA will battle Nigeria in their first preliminary game on July 27.





# ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

www.lasentinel.net

D-2

## Frankie Beverly and Maze — Living Legends — Still Making Black History

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL  
Contributing Writer

Do you want to feel good? I mean, really, really good? Me too, fire up your communication device and fall back into the music and legacy of Frankie Beverly and Maze. I guarantee there is something in their 52 albums that has touched your soul, becoming a part of the soundtrack of your life.

For me, it's their song — "I Wanna Thank you."

*You are my sunshine you brighten up my life*

*I know that I'm not right sometime oh I need you so*

*Your something special you prove it all the time*

*I know that you are mine all mine*

*You always let it flow*

*I just want to thank you Cause you've made it this way*

*Oh oh oh oh oh*

*Oh oh oh oh oh*

*You keep me smiling*

*The things you do for me*

*I know that you will be right here*

*Your always around*

*You make me happy the lovely things*

*I wanna thank you,*

the power of vocal harmony but it was the sounds of Sly & The Family Stone, in the late '60s, that changed his musical direction, creating a new group.

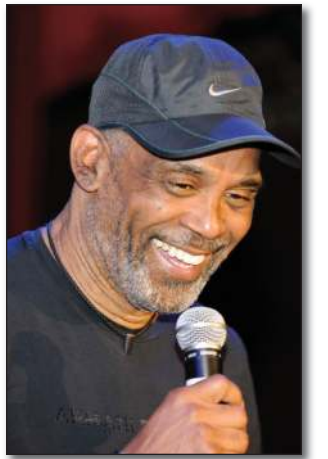
Raw Soul, whose line up included Maze percussionist McKinley 'Bug' Williams, an original member of The Butlers. They did work, locally, but in May 1971, they headed out to the Bay Area and continued creating more of their original material. So powerful, fresh, and new, they landed a year-long job at a club (San Francisco) called The Scene. And the club owner made an invest-



Frankie Beverly & Maze

tremendous movie, limited series, and a powerful, long-running Broadway, and then touring musical.

There is certainly more than enough material to cull from, including thirty hit singles since 1977, nine of which have been Top 10 R&B charted singles including the classics "Running Away," "Love Is The Key,"



AP PHOTO/EARL GIBSON III

Frankie Beverly thanks everyone in attendance at An All-Star Tribute to Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly CD release party on Thursday August 8, 2009 in Los Angeles, CA.



PHOTO BY AMY HARRIS/INVISION/AP

Frankie Beverly performs at the 2019 Essence Festival at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Sunday, July 7, 2019, in New Orleans.



PHOTO BY AMY HARRIS/INVISION/AP

Frankie Beverly performs at the 2019 Essence Festival at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Sunday, July 7, 2019, in New Orleans.

"Back In Stride," "Too Many Games," "Can't Get Over You," and "Silky Soul." Eight of the group's ten albums have gone gold,



PHOTO BY MATT SAYLES/INVISION/AP

Frankie Beverly, center, accept the lifetime achievement award at the BET Awards on Sunday July 1, 2012 in Los Angeles.

Frankie Beverly and Maze for putting your music into the world. It's immortal as are you. That's the power of music.

It's a language of emotion that knows no boundaries, limitations and makes no judgments: pure love.

How did it begin? Let's rewind to December 6, 1946, that's the day Howard Beverly, aka Frankie Beverly, was born. He was raised in Philadelphia, the city of "Brotherly Love," and like so many wonderful singers, growing up, he performed in churches around the city.

Secular music entered Frankie's life when he was around eight or nine.

Determined, he listened, and he grew eventually forming a couple of local groups including The Butlers where they performed acapella, and doo-wop. Influenced by groups like The Dells, The Moonglows, and Vikings, he continued building his reputation in the city. Eventually, he recorded for local labels between 1963 and 1968: Guyden, Liberty Bell, which was owned by Leon Fisher, who became his mentor in the business, Fairmount, Parkway, and Gamble, the first label that legendary producer Kenny Gamble started.

Frankie's records with The Butlers were filled with



ment where they recorded what would eventually become the basis for the first Maze LP.

And then something very groovy happened, Marvin Gaye's sister-in-law caught one of the band's performances. She introduced them to Gaye, who was so inspired by the group that he took them out on the road, letting them perform some of their original material as an opening act. Frankie and Marvin become tight, like brothers. Positive word-of-mouth continued to grow, and Beverly's demos went out and one landed on the desk of Larkin Arnold at Capitol Records.

That's where singer/producer/ and visionary Beverly made a business deal that was ahead of the times. Along with pure talent, he had brains and guts —this recording deal

assured that he retain the publishing rights to all of his songs.

This was major because Capitol is where Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, the Beach Boys, the Beatles, and Pink Floyd stepped into their legendary status. It was 1977 when the first Maze featuring Frankie Beverly album (Maze featuring Frankie Beverly) was released.

It was a fortuitous arrangement for both parties. Maze created 10 recordings for Capitol, including six studio albums, two live albums, and two greatest hits collections. They hit gold with seven recordings, including "Golden Time of Day" (1978), "Inspiration" (1979), "Joy and Pain" (1980), "Live in New Orleans" (1981), "We Are One" (1983), and "Can't Stop The Love" (1985).

Their impressive sales drew industry attention and they re-located to Warner Bros. Records in the late '80s, earning two more gold certifications for 1989's "Silky Soul" (1989), and "Back to Basics" (1993).

In many ways, the term living legends is overused or just misused but as it relates to Frankie Beverly and Maze, it's accurate.

Facts. Their collection of songs are part of the soundtrack of so many African American Black baby boomers' lives, it's like they are members of your family. Think about it. If you hum "Back In Stride," "Happy Feelin's," or "Joy and Pain" — I wager — you would rush back, to the exact location where you first heard those songs. That's the hidden superpower of Frankie Beverly and Maze. That's how they became part of our cultural DNA.

Their alchemy mix blends the funk, owns the funk, and amplifies the funk shaping it with their collective will. That's why Frankie Beverly and Maze are legends.

It's been four decades and counting. Neuroscientist understands that music is the language of emotion, able to speak directly to our hearts, in a language that you don't



PHOTO BY DONALD TRAILL/INVISION/AP

Frankie Beverly is seen performing at 2015 Essence Music Festival Concert at Superdome on Friday, July 3, 2015 in New Orleans, LA.

know, but your emotions understand.

The paragraph is my way of trying to describe why Frankie Beverly and Maze are — Frankie Beverly and Maze.

Beverly is more than just the band's writer, producer, and lead singer.

He's more than just a distinctive smooth baritone voice with a charismatic stage presence, known for dressing almost always in all-white custom-designed clothing and a baseball cap. He's that pin light coming towards you in a dark tunnel, illuminating, directed, and moving with purpose.

I hope Hollywood is listening because the story of Frankie Beverly and Maze's rise to fame and consistent success would make a

all the way from their 1977 Capitol debut to the 1993 Warner Brothers' album, "Back To Basics."

I'll close with some lyrics from their iconic song "Can't Get over You" (Frankie Beverly & The Butlers, Maze). I think their words sum up fans the collective feeling of love, respect, and joy that is felt when listening to their music.

*I guess you'll always have a part*

*Somewhere deep in my heart*

*It's just too hard to hide*

*I can't get over you*

*I tried to lose myself in song*

*But the ties are much too strong*

*What I'm I going to do*

*I can't get over you.*

# Creative Visionary Laurieann Gibson Shares Worlds of Wisdom in her Debut Book 'Dance Your Dance'

By SAYBIN ROBERSON  
Contributing Writer

Emmy-nominated choreographer, creative director, and entrepreneur Laurieann Gibson has been known throughout pop culture over the years as an extremely passionate, tough loving, and driven artist. As she continues to push through glass ceilings, she's ready to tell her story in her debut book "Dance Your Dance: 8 Steps to Unleash Your Passion and Live Your Dream."

Gibson has worked with a plethora of celebrities, creating unique experiences for each as she either directs or choreographs artists enhancing their overall stage presence. A figure not only in pop and hip-hop cul-

ture, but her work has reached businesses via television, commercial, film, gaming, and now publishing. Dance Your Dance highlights her life's trajectory as a dancer from a young girl to a career woman. Still expanding and exploring a successful career, her book speaks to the dreamer within us all, sending messages

of empowerment and encouragement. Her passion for the arts exudes throughout her spirit whether in person or on camera. A performer since before she could even talk, she shares her mother always knew she'd be a dancer. "She says I left the most incredible scars on her belly and my other two sisters didn't leave anything but I tell her it's because I was dancing in the womb," Gibson shared. After years of following her spirit and dreams, she says turning her story into a book was a God moment.

"I didn't think I would be writing a book. I didn't know that I would have a passion as an author. I didn't know that [my] creativi-



PHOTO CREDIT: NATHAN JAMES

Emmy-nominating Creative Visionary and Author of "Dance Your Dance" Laurieann Gibson.

side of my artist or the things that I had done. It was something that I wanted to be able to connect with and not have the artists that I built change the manifesto where everybody has their own mission. I wanted mine to be unapologetically truthful and inspiring."

"I wanted to change the narrative and inspire people that there are no politics to becoming; becoming is being."

Her desire to speak to the passion of others came from her wanting to make the world dance and to find freedom in themselves. Ultimately she says, "it helped me, inspire people to dance their own dance and it came from a passion to connect [people] directly with my talent and my gifts."

She details that the past year being in quarantine allowed her to truly reflect on her life and begin the writing process. She allowed her creativity to bounce from one skill to the next, using her love of rhythm and movement to inspire the way she put her words on paper. "I wanted

the reader to feel like they were moving, feel like they were alive. I wanted it to have a flow. I wanted it to have a rhythm so that it wasn't just words judging you or making you feel like you could never acquire something but it was the rhythm of the writing that was unlocking your passion and inspiration." In her process she remained in her present moment, intentional and truthful with her word choice and stories, she aimed to translate in her writing her vulnerability and honesty. She shares that was the hardest part of it all. "I had a hard time accepting that a lot of challenges were there to make me. A lot of challenges I went through, I realized just how great my gift is and just how powerful I was capable of becoming. I think the acceptance of that was a tad bit difficult when I would go back and read the stories," she continued, "But I made it through."

Though "Dance Your Dance" stands as an inspirational timepiece, Gibson still wanted to make clear just how powerful she is and how powerful it is to

see a Black woman in those positions. As history would tell, a Black woman should not have the opportunities she's been afforded, yet she fought against a system of

oppression and made a way. Her goal is to help others understand that it is possible and that it is equally okay to step into

your power and remove anyone who tells you otherwise. "I wanted to create a narrative where the process was sexy, where what it takes to produce greatness is a challenge that we want to embrace."

Gibson's story is still being written along with a legacy of drive, motivation, and passion. While she may still be "downloading," her purpose to serve and inspire others through movement has proven to be a compelling ride. Regardless of what happens, her only hope is that her legacy leaves behind a message of strength in oneself.

"I want the person to feel that they are unshakable, unbreakable. I want them to know that who they are, is more powerful than who someone says you have to be. I want them to feel in their spirit that they don't have to receive the accolades of the world to be empowered by what's inside of you or to feel like you need that to confirm your identity. I want that feeling to be felt."

Laurieann Gibson's, "Dance Your Dance: 8



PHOTO CREDIT: JOE "FLIP" WILSON

Steps to Unleash Your Passion and Live Your Dream" releases February 16, 2021, and can be pre-ordered now at [danceyourdance.com](http://danceyourdance.com).



PHOTO CREDIT: CHERYL FOX

ty could come out in this form," she stated. After selling a scripted show based on her life, her nephew helped her map out the outline for what would become Dance Your Dance. Amazed by what he created, she continued to detail her purpose. "I had a passion to communicate and inspire people directly, out-

ty could come out in this form," she stated. After selling a scripted show based on her life, her nephew helped her map out the outline for what would become Dance Your Dance. Amazed by what he created, she continued to detail her purpose. "I had a passion to communicate and inspire people directly, out-

## Film Review

# 'Malcolm & Marie' — Made During the Pandemic - An Explosion of a Damaged Couple Trying to Keep it Together

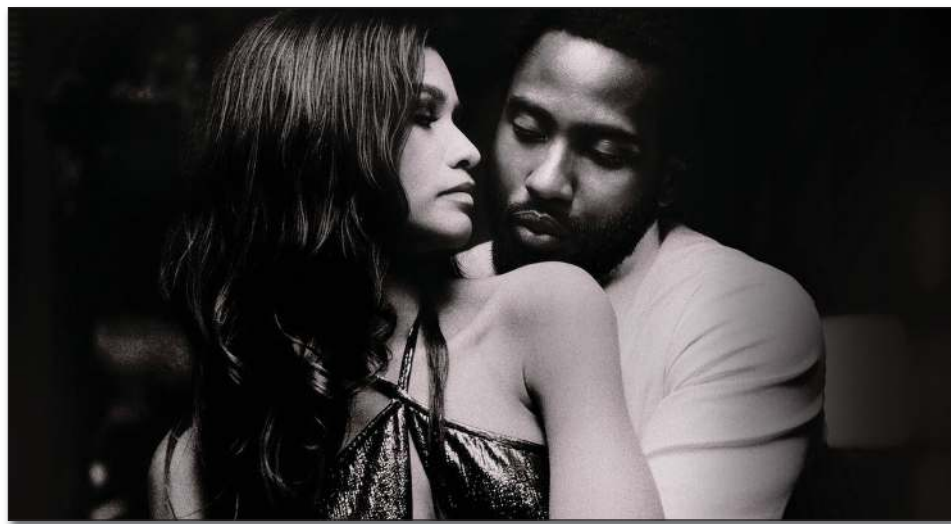
By LAPACAZO SANDOVAL  
Contributing Writer

Writer-director-producer Sam Levinson's visually compelling film and self-financed film, "Malcolm & Marie," was made during the pandemic and stars John David Washington (Malcolm) and Zendaya (Marie), who is one of the producers. They made it for 2.5 million and it sold to Netflix for \$30 million.

The black-and-white drama set over the course of one long night is an examination of two deeply hurt people in a dueling monologue where old grievances are constantly unearthed.

This examination of this dysfunctional relationship is done inside a luxury rental somewhere in Hollywood. They are both self-involved people creating a mood so depressing it makes you pause, ponder and ask yourself — oh God, is that what I look like when I have an argument with my significant other but with a soundtrack to highlight the lows and highs?

James Brown's "Down and Out in New York City"



floats through the film as Malcolm a rising filmmaker shakes off his anxiety dancing across the living room with a style that suggests, I belong here and here is a perpetual state of luxury being admired and well paid.

It's his night, he's just returned with his stunning girlfriend, from a successful premiere, and he's feeling himself, high-high-high on his own steam. Is he as good as he thinks he is? Hell yes, he screams with every line and everybody movement. He's peacocking which irks Marie.

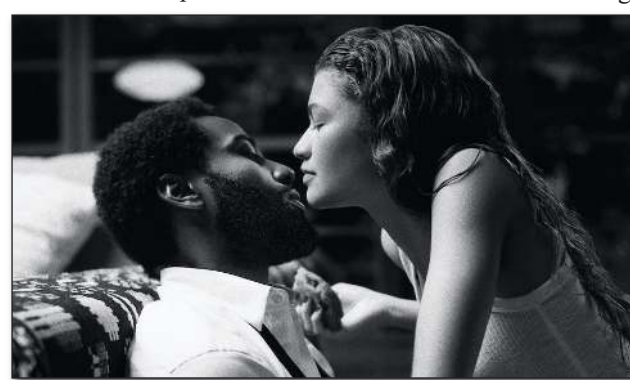
Marie is complicated. Beautiful and layered, a

former drug addict whose horrific experiences inspired Malcolm's film, and she's furious because — wait for it — he forgot to thank her, during his acceptance speech.

The question looms, which is, how much more can she take? She's filling fast with resentment and about to unload on her unsuspecting partner. This would be brand new behavior. She's not one to stick up for herself. To that end, she carefully listens to his rant which evaporates into his hatred for "those" film critics who define him by his Blackness. I get it. He has a meltdown in an

almost 10-minute tantrum, not unlike a spoiled child. But later, when one of "those" critics (Los Angeles Times) praises him he's ecstatic.

A failed actress, Marie asks him why he didn't cast her in his movie, the very one that she inspired?



Spotlight on his soul, Malcolm turns on Marie, telling her she's not special and assuring her that the character, in his brilliant film, is not based on her. He asserts that it's an amalgam of all the deeply damaged women he has known. She's wounded which was his intention the moment he opened his mouth.

But it's at this point, that we can see that Malcolm is deeply insecure giving a picture for the saying: hurt people, hurt people. That's Malcolm, a hurt person trying to give more pain to Marie. It's at this point, I feel, that the film turns itself into a mirror and if you are honest with yourself (and I am), I've had a few Malcolm & Marie moments.

Marie is the underdog

but you have to ask, why? Why is she taking this amount of abuse? She's drop-dead gorgeous, and strong because she's no longer using drugs. So why stay with an ungrateful man?

Zendaya is stunning in her performance and allows us an important glimpse of what Marie's suffering feels like.

"Malcolm & Marie" — maybe, on the surface, to be asking what, if any, does a storyteller has to its muse. But what I think it's really about is what amount of abuse will one person take to feel validated.

Here, Hollywood fills in that space and, Hollywood is glamorous. Hollywood pays ridiculous amounts of (validation) money and creates stars pumping them up with hope and then can (and often does) systemically tear them down. These are facts. So the question in "Malcolm & Marie" is will these equally damaged people find their self-worth in time, and by extension will the universal "I/me/you"?

"Malcolm & Marie" now playing on Netflix.

# Crustees'



Hi LA Sentinel,

Just wanted to reach out to say THANKS for all you do. Taste of Soul has been a constant blessing in our family business. We are so grateful for the continuous support we've received from Taste of Soul/LA Sentinel over the past several years. The Washington family and Crustees has been beyond blessed as a result of connecting with Taste of Soul. The latest blessing is directly connected to The LA Sentinel Newspaper article published on January 28, 2021. As a direct result of the Sentinel article, NBC4LA featured Crustees in their Black History Month business highlights, which aired February 3rd and February 4th.

Again, words cannot express how grateful we are for all you guys do for the community.

Sincerely yours,  
Sharon

(Crustees')

## Councilman Curren Price Mobilizes the South LA Community to get Hundreds of Local Senior Citizens Vaccinated

*Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic: The First to Come to District 9*

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In an effort to save lives in one of the areas hardest hit by the public health emergency, Councilman Curren Price partnered with the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) and CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort) as part of a weeklong effort that will provide hundreds of COVID-19 vaccines to District 9 senior citizens at South Park.

The mobile clinic, the first for District 9 neighbors, has the capacity to administer 800 Pfizer vaccines to

individuals from the community aged 65 and older, as well as local healthcare workers, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 9 through Friday, Feb. 12 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The local initiative is part of a grassroots campaign led by Councilman Price, which includes a cross collaboration with local senior housing facilities, public housing communities, churches and nonprofit organizations from South LA.

Councilman Price also enlisted the assistance of private buses, as well as City vans to provide transportation for the seniors that

needed a ride to the park. Pre-registration is required and local residents can do so by calling Councilmember Price's District Office at (323) 846-2651 to schedule an appointment. COVID-19 testing will be provided concurrently on a walk-up basis.

Stay tuned for updates on future mobile units coming to the Ninth District, including a second opportunity next week. Individuals and families from District 9 in need of additional resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, can call Councilman Price's District Office at (323) 846-2651.



Councilman Curren Price of the 9th District to provide hundreds of COVID-19 vaccinations to senior citizens. COURTESY PHOTO

## L.A. Nonprofit Launches Black Economic Development Agenda

CITY NEWS SERVICE

A nonprofit organization is launching an initiative to focus its resources and programs on closing the racial wealth gap and empowering Los Angeles County's Black communities, the group announced today.

"It is more important than ever to center Black Angelenos and focus on closing the racial wealth gap through economic empowerment, which is what we hope to provide through

this year's programs," said Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, executive director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation Los Angeles.

The group's Black Economic Development Agenda includes its ASCEND L.A. program to provide small businesses owned by women and people of color with capital, market opportunities and executive management education. In 2020, 60% of the program's participants were Black.

"ASCEND LA not only

challenged me to push myself but also changed my paradigm in how I run my business and set up my infrastructure to be prepared and have the capacity to compete for these multi-million-dollar contracts," said Desiree Saddler of Saddler Consulting Group, a 2020 ASCEND LA graduate.

"Even in the year of the pandemic, I now am prepared and have the capacity to compete and deliver and I have even secured a

3-year contract during the program!"

More information about the ASCEND LA program can be found at [www.ascendla.org/](http://www.ascendla.org/).

LISC LA's agenda also includes the Black Business Excellence Technical Assistance Initiative to provide Black-owned small businesses in the personal care industry with support to bring their business to the next level.

A program offering mid-career professionals year-

long leadership and executive management training will also be offered. The Elevate B.L.A.C.K. Leaders program (which stands for Black Leaders Academy Collective Knowledge) also supports succession planning efforts for Black-led community development and L.A. racial justice organizations.

The nonprofit will also host discussions on racial health, wealth and opportunity gaps on its Changemakers L.A. pod-

cast throughout 2021. The podcasts will explore how communities of color are affected by opportunity gaps, how the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted disparities in crisis support in communities of color and what LISC LA and its partners are doing to help.

More information about the Black Economic Development Agenda can be found at [www.lisc.org/los-angeles/BEDA](http://www.lisc.org/los-angeles/BEDA).

## Till Victory Is Won

*{continued from Pg C-2}*

Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

Today, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is more than just a song, a hymn, the "Official song of the NAACP, the "National Black Anthem." It is still a hymn full of the musically cultural architecture of Black classical and jazz music. With

a deep history of Black pride, and a stirring cry to uplift and empower. It is firmly embedded in African American Culture. Pop artists from Beyoncé to Alicia Keys have performed it at high-profile concerts introducing the song to new generations and cultures worldwide. The song has always enjoyed a global appeal because of its pledge of unity, promise and proclamation, combined with its musical and inspirational rallying

cry for people who fight for equality and justice.

I am proud to reaffirm my faith, my hope, and my commitment to continue to "Lift My Voice" to proclaim the excellence and influence of the African American culture and personas in the American narrative. To proclaim that Black History is World History to be shared, taught, and honored 365 days of the year.

As we reflect on the past let us remember those who

have paved a way that is both wide and deep for us. A way that so many have watered with tears, nourished with blood, built with inventions, a way decorated with artistry, ruled by governance and business, a way powered by raw energy, embellished with theater, TV, and film, and fueled with hope. Those who have provided both aspiration and inspiration, encouraging us rise up and to march on with HOPE in our hearts.

To meet the challenges of today while forging a path for generations to come.

Please, go out and set a path for light and love. Deepen the waters of justice and let equality flow down until every woman, man and child see justice and liberty for all.

Till Victory is Won!

Ms. Sandra J. Evers-Manly is president of the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC)

and former president of the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP in Los Angeles, California. In October 2018, Evers-Manly released her first children's book, "Raised Up By Mrs. Manly and Her L's" from which all proceeds go to charitable organizations. Evers-Manly is the cousin of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

# RELIGION

E-2

www.lasentinel.net

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

## First AME to Host City's AAHM Worship Service

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

The city of L.A.'s annual worship service commemorating African American Heritage Month takes place on Sunday, Feb. 14, at 10 a.m., at First AME Church of Los Angeles.

As in the past, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti and Our Authors Study Club will join with Pastor J. Edgar Boyd and the members of FAME to sponsor the virtual celebration. The service will focus on the

theme, "National Healing in a Time of Global Challenge."

According to AAHM Chair Mike Davis and Pastor Boyd, special recognition will be extended to leading health scientists and medical professionals who have played pivotal roles in helping to stem the pandemic and provided care for those infected by the deadly disease.

"We are delighted to recognize and honor Black health profession-



Pastor J. Edgar Boyd



Mayor Eric Garcetti

als, who have helped to protect the mental and physical health of the community. We are especially proud of

the achievement of Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, the Black immunologist responsible for the discovery of the key element in the coronavirus vaccine," said Boyd. "Their collective contributions are vital to the well-being of our community."

Also, singer/songwriter Ann Nesby, a Grammy award-winning artist, will perform with the FAME choir and the U.S. Postal Service will unveil the 44th stamp in the Black

Heritage stamp series, which honors esteemed American playwright, August Wilson. In addition, city, county and state elected officials will be acknowledged as well as Los Angeles-based Consul Generals, who represent the African Diaspora.

View the worship service online at [famechurchla.org](http://famechurchla.org) or on YouTube. To learn more, call (323) 735-1251 or (213) 978-0254. (Vicki Phillips contributed to this article.)

## WORDS OF THE WEEK – ONE NATION UNDER GOD

BY REV. DR. MARY S. MINOR  
Pastor, Brookins-Kirkland Community AME Church

Scripture: Deuteronomy 17:14-20

America has a great deal of work to do to bring these words from our Pledge of Allegiance to fruition: "...one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Today's scripture text comes from the book of Deuteronomy. Moses is the author of Deuteronomy. Therefore, it's known as the Book of the Law of Moses.

Jesus attributed the book of Deuteronomy to Moses (Matthew 19:8). The apostle Peter, in Acts 3:22-23, credited Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 and 19 to Moses. The apostle Paul affirmed Moses as the author of Deuteronomy by quoting him in Romans 10:6-8.

But, it is clear from chapters 1 and 34, the preamble and the conclusion, that an unknown author contributed to the book. The opening verse, 1:1, says, "These are the words

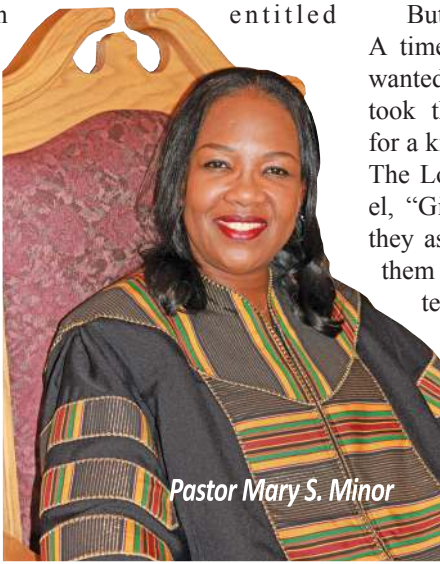
Moses spoke to all Israel in the wilderness east of the Jordan..." (Baker, Kenneth L., John H. Stek, Mark L. Strauss, and Ronald F. Youngblood, ed., Earl S. Kalland, contributing author. "Deuteronomy." In Zondervan NIV Study Bible. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.)

Moses prepared God's chosen people, Israel, just before they entered Canaan, the Promised Land. This new generation of Israelites, the Lord's chosen people, would be representatives of God in the land God promised their patriarch, Abraham. The people were admonished to live as God's obedient covenant people in the land of Canaan.

God, through His servant Moses, led the people. Moses was chosen by God to lead the people from Egyptian slavery into the wilderness and now to the door of the Promised Land. While in the wilderness, God spoke to the people through Moses. God led His people with the visible symbol of His presence —

a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God was with His people.

Beginning at Deuteronomy 16:18 through 21:21, Moses taught a leadership workshop entitled



Pastor Mary S. Minor

"How to be a leader in God's righteous kingdom." Included was a section on how to select a king. Moses anticipated a time when the people of Israel would ask for a king. So, he gave guidance on the eventual selection of a king (Deuteronomy 17:14-20).

Israel's first leadership structure was a theocracy, a form of government

where God rules over the people. The Israelites were to remain faithful to God, their covenant Lord. There would be blessings for obedience, and curses for disobedience.

But Moses was right. A time came when Israel wanted a king. Samuel took the people's request for a king to God in prayer. The Lord answered Samuel, "Give the people what they asked for ... but give them a clear warning, telling them how the king will rule over them" (1 Samuel 8:7).

Samuel explained about the king: "He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots... he will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your male and female servants

and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day" (1 Samuel 8:10-18).

But the people refused to listen to Samuel. Then the Lord told Samuel to give the people what they want.

Be careful what you ask for. Some Americans wanted to make America great again. They put their hopes in President 45, who led them down a rabbit hole. He used his supporters in an attempt to overthrow democracy for autocracy.

Like Israel, America looked for her security in a human being as opposed to God. Beware of leaders who want you to serve them and their idols and believe in their ideologies. Stop worshipping politicians, pastors and preachers, priests and prophets. Stop idolizing celebrities, comedians and sports figures. Don't transition away from God.

The time has come for America to transition back to the true and living God. President Joe Biden is now the 46th President of the United States of America. America has rid herself of a diabolical man who tried to become king by hook or crook.

President Biden comes with a message of unity. The people of God must continue to be guided by God. We must pray!

Let's pray that President Biden was chosen by God, is a member of the household of faith, will move this country forward and lead us back to moral values, human decency, civility and God!

Let's pray for the healing of our nation, the control of the coronavirus, a positive change in our economy, and an end to racial injustice. Let's pray for God's will to be done!

That same power that resurrected Jesus can save and unite our country! United we stand, but divided we fall! "...one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." In the name of Jesus, Amen!

**GREATER EBENEZER**  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Equipping the Saints, Engaging the World, Enjoying the Lord"

**Virtual Worship Service!**  
Sunday at 10AM on Facebook, YouTube and audio live stream @ [gembcla.org](http://gembcla.org) | Website: [gembcla.org](http://gembcla.org)  
Giving Options: Zelle and PayPal giving@gembcla.org, Givify at Greater Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church or Mail to: Stewardship, 5300 Denker Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90062  
Phone: (323) 759-4996 (leave message and staff will respond)

5300 S. Denker Ave. Los Angeles, CA (323) 759-4996 • [gembcla.org](http://gembcla.org)

**Brookins-Kirkland Community**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Virtual Worship Service – Sunday at 9AM**  
Call the Church Office at (323) 296-5610 for the conference number and code  
Website: [bcamechurchla.org](http://bcamechurchla.org)  
Giving Options: Online at [www.bcamechurchla.org](http://www.bcamechurchla.org), Tithe.Jy at Brookins-Kirkland Community AME Church, or Mail to: 3719 W. Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90043  
Phone: (323) 296-5610 (leave message and staff will respond)

**WEST ANGELES**  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

3800 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90018  
(323) 733-8300

**RT. REV. CHARLES E. BLAKE**

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE**  
Sundays at 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 7:00 PM at [westa.tv](http://westa.tv)  
Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7 PM  
Website: [westa.org](http://westa.org)  
Giving Options: Online at [westa.org](http://westa.org), Text WestA to 41444 or mail to: Tithes and Offerings, 3045 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016

"A CHURCH ON THE MOVE FOR GOD"

**TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH**

2040 W. JEFFERSON BLVD.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90018  
PHONE: (323) 735-0044 FAX: (323) 735-0219  
Email: [trinitybaptistc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trinitybaptistc@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [trinitybaptistchurchofla.org](http://trinitybaptistchurchofla.org)

**Virtual Worship Service**  
YouTube at [tv.trinitybaptist.cloud](http://tv.trinitybaptist.cloud), sermon podcasts on website  
Giving Options: PayPal or mail to: 2040 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Phone: (323) 735-0044 (leave message and staff will respond)

REV. ALVIN TUNSTALL, JR. ~ PASTOR

**Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Virtual Worship Service**  
Sunday at 9:30 a.m.  
Call: (605) 475-6333, Access Code 34516#  
Website: [grantamechurch.org](http://grantamechurch.org)  
Giving Options: Online at [www.grantamechurch.org](http://www.grantamechurch.org) or Mail to: 10435 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90002  
Phone: (323) 564-1151

**faithdome.org**

**CRENSHAW CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
FAITH DOME

323-758-3777

**Live Worship Service – Sunday at 10:30AM and Tuesday at 11AM and 7:30PM at [faithdome.org](http://faithdome.org), Facebook, Roku, YouTube and the EIF app (download in Apple Store and Google Play). Website: [faithdome.org](http://faithdome.org)**  
Giving Options: Text to 28950, type EIFMO and amount you wish to give (ex. EIFMO 50) or mail to: P.O. Box 90000, Los Angeles, CA 90009  
Phone: (323) 758-3777 (leave message and staff will respond)

7901 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90044

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF Christian Fellowship**

REV. JAMES K. MCKNIGHT, SENIOR PASTOR

**Virtual Worship Service: Sunday at 10AM**  
on Facebook @ The Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship  
Pastor's Daily Prayer Line: Weekdays 6AM, (310) 372-7549, Code 342408  
Giving Options: Givify or mail to: 2085 S. Hobart Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Phone: (323) 731-8869 (leave message and staff will respond)

**SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH**

2412 Griffith Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90011  
[SecondBaptistChurchLA.org](http://SecondBaptistChurchLA.org)

Ph: (213) 748-0318 Fax: (213) 748-1015

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND STUDY  
Sunday, 8:00 am Radio Broadcast, KJLH 102.3 FM  
Wed., 7:00 p.m. Teleconference Bible Study 605-475-3220, 1029200#  
Giving options Givify or mail to church address

FOUNDED IN 1885 AND CELEBRATING 92 YEARS AT THE SAME LOCATION.  
U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR'S NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

**CHRIST OUR REDEEMER A.M.E. WORSHIP CENTER**

45 Tesla  
Irvine, CA 92618  
[www.corchurch.org](http://www.corchurch.org)

Pastor Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Williamson  
Ph: (949) 955-0014 Fax: (949) 955-0021  
KJLH-FM Broadcast Sundays at 7:30 a.m.

**Live Worship Service – Sunday at 9AM at [corchurch.tv](http://corchurch.tv)**  
**Re-streams on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 1:30PM**  
Pastor's Daily Prayer Line: Weekdays 6AM to 6:15AM Call: (701) 801-1211, Code: 636-074-192 Website: [corchurch.org](http://corchurch.org)  
Giving Options: online at [www.corchurch.org](http://www.corchurch.org) or mail to: 45 Tesla Irvine, CA 92618

**FAME**  
FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

Join First AME Church of Los Angeles on YouTube or [firstamechurchla.org](http://firstamechurchla.org) for live streaming services at 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 Noon this Sunday

Pastor J. Edgar Boyd, Senior Minister  
2270 S. Harvard Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA  
(323) 735-1251 ([www.famechurchla.org](http://www.famechurchla.org))

**Crenshaw United Methodist Church**  
3740 Don Felipe Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90008  
(323) 292-0141

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 a.m.

Virtual Worship Service Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live

Rev. Royce Porter, Senior Pastor

**Truth and Love Christian Church**  
1129 E. Dominguez St., Suite C, Carson, CA 90746

Virtual Worship Service on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/walter.tucker.56](http://www.facebook.com/walter.tucker.56)  
Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Encouraging Videos – Daily at 12:00 p.m.  
Intercessory Prayer - Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m.  
call (781) 399-5774; pin#: 79511  
Giving options: Cash App: \$truthandlovecc  
Or mail/drop off offering to our physical address