



David Ford – see page A-6



Bubba Wallace – see page D-2

Jonathan Majors, Chevalier, and more at the Opening Night of the 31st Pan African Film Festival (PAFF)



From left are Thomas Q. Jones, Danny Glover, Jonathan Majors, and Ayuko Babu. (PAFF)

By KEITH UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

A red carpet would not be a red carpet without the obligatory chatter from some of the most beloved celebrities and personalities in Black entertainment - especially when it is a red carpet at the opening

night of the long-awaited, in-person return of the Pan African Film Festival (PAFF). The 31st PAFF kicked off on Thursday, February 9. It will continue through February 20. Giving sound bites to clamors of media hounds about how much they're

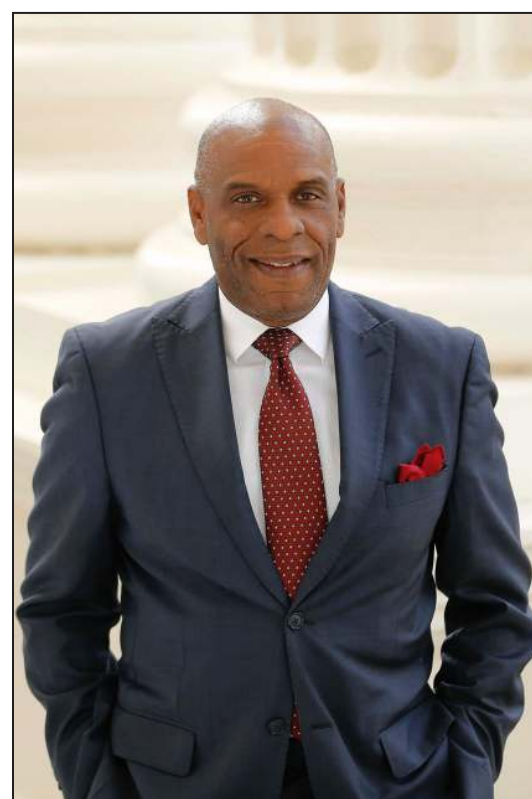
"looking forward to seeing the film" or "how much they respect the talents of the filmmakers and actors" is just par for the course for these types of events. However, their well-wishes and kind words do have honest degrees of sincerity. Perhaps because, they

{See PAFF B-5}

Memphis Police Murder Case Puts Spotlight on California Legislation

By CHARLENE MUHAMMAD
California Black Media

There was no "protect and serve." Just an out of control and outside-the-bounds-of-their-authority attack on an unarmed Black man, said Sen. Seven Bradford (D-Gardena). Bradford was referring to the beating death of Black motorist Tyre Nichols in Memphis. The Memphis Police Department has terminated the five officers involved in Nichol's death: Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Desmond Mills Jr., Emmitt Martin III and Justin Smith. Each one was indicted on a second-degree murder charge and faces up to 60 years in prison if convicted. Since the incident, Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis has deactivated the city's SCORPION (Street Crimes Operations to Restore Peace in our Neighborhoods) unit. The 50-person unit of crime suppression officers was launched in 2021 to patrol hot spot crime areas. "The beating and murder



Senator Steve Bradford (D-GARDENA)

of Tyre Nichols by five Memphis Police Officers is brutal and heart-breaking," said Bradford. "This is yet another example of the need to hold police officers accountable regardless of the color of their skin." In 2021, Bradford authored Senate Bill (SB) 2. The law creates a process to make sure police officers who break the law can never wear a badge again in

{See MEMPHIS B-5}

Legends Awards Salute Trailblazing Black Women

Prestigious honor named for notable African American women with deep roots in South L.A.

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

The Black Women Legends Awards will be presented to five accomplished African Americans at the "Power, Leadership and Influence of the Black Woman" luncheon. On Saturday, April 15, the achievements of Mayor Karen Bass, Dr. Elaine Batchlor, Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Sandra Evers-Manly, and Stephanie N. Wiggins, will be honored at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. According to Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., chairman of Bakewell Media and

program creator, the gala event will pay tribute to the "strength and dignity" of Black women "in advocating tirelessly for the advancement of our people." Bakewell added that the honorees have demonstrated strong leadership in politics, business, entertainment, community advocacy, and public service. "Our honorees have dedicated their lives towards the goal of making life better for Black people, both here, in Los Angeles, as well throughout this nation," said Bakewell as he outlined the considerable achievements of each



Brenda Marsh-Mitchell (FILE PHOTO)

woman. Bass, who previously served as Speaker of the California Assembly and U.S. Congresswoman, is the first female and second African American to become L.A.'s chief executive. Batchlor, a medical doctor, is the CEO of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Healthcare, and Dupont-Walker, a longtime community activist, is the president of Ward Economic Development Corporation. Evers-Manly, retired vice president of Global Corporate Responsibility at Northrop Grumman and president of the Northrop

Grumman Foundation, is a film producer and the founder and president of the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center. Stephanie N. Wiggins, CEO of the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and visionary transportation expert, is the first woman to serve in the role. The successes of the recipients are equaled by the attainments of the women for whom the Black Women Legends Awards are named, said Bakewell, describing the women as "trailblazers who broke down barriers."

{See LEGENDS B-6}

Lawmakers Push Bill to Grant Prisoners Right to Vote

By MAXIM ELRAMSISY
California Black Media

Last week, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles) the chair of the Assembly's



Asm. Isaac Bryan speaks at the rally on behalf of prisoners' rights. Supporters included Asm. Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Asm. Tina McKinnor, and Antoinette Ratcliffe of Initiate Justice. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Committee on Elections introduced Assembly Constitutional Amendment 4 (ACA-4). The legislation proposes amending the

California Constitution to allow felons serving time in state and federal prisons to vote.

{See VOTE B-6}

Mayor & BLM-LA Meet at L.A. Sentinel



L.A. Mayor Karen Bass and members of Black Lives Matter – L.A. Chapter met at the office of the Los Angeles Sentinel on Feb. 10 to discuss community issues of mutual concern. Following the discussion, Mayor Bass joined the gathering for a group photo. (PHIL TAYLOR)



Connecting your sole with your inner LØVCHLD

BY BETTI HALSELL
Staff Writer

Multi-faceted artist, Latoya Shaw, indulges in the art of couture fashion. Her artisan tailored shoes are provocative in nature, and they call out to celebrities on the red carpet.

"I named it LØVCHLD, because I am a love child," Shaw stated as she considered her origin story as a shoe designer, artist, and photographer. The brand holds compound definitions, with a sole connection to shoes. "In 2019, I lost someone close to me and through that pain, it sparked me needing to find a creative outlet to sift through my feelings, so I started painted shoes," Shaw said. Shoes is something Shaw had in common with her loved one.

Each shoe represents a celebration of life; they are designed to reflect the character of the person wearing it, as they live proudly and with a sense of liberation. Bright colors and rich tones adorn each part of the



Latoya Shaw

COURTESY PHOTO

shoe—creating an ethereal appeal with punk elements. Her artistic awareness

began to take form in a single-parent household in Sydney, Australia. As the

only Biracial classmate at her private school; fitting in was not an option, internally she had to find a place

called Otto," shuffling around with the likes of award-winning actor, Tom Hanks.



COURTESY PHOTO

to stand out. Shaw restored her strength on this journey by connecting with her inner child and embracing everything that makes her distinct. Each step in a Shaw original moves one closer to their true individuality.

The multi-faceted artist faced her biggest milestone and now relishes in the fact that her shoes are existing with great feat in this world. Shaw announced her shoes can be spotted in the featured film, "A Man



COURTESY PHOTO

Shaw moved to the states as she entered college; she attended USC for acting. "I recognized myself as more of a con-

as you are."

Step into your inner LØVCHLD and follow Latoya Shaw on Instagram @lovchld_

CITYBOI Inc. Brings Love of Barbecue and L.A. Into Focus with Universal Sauce

Childhood Friends Raise the Profile of Their Beloved City

BY YUMIKO WHITAKER
Contributing Writer

Daniel Cloyd, David Rose, and Michael Jenkins are on a mission to cement L.A. as a serious place for barbecue. The three young founders of CITYBOI Incorporated pay homage to a place which has given them so much — love, support, and boundless hope.

"CITYBOI as a name serves to lay hold to the claim that city boys can be serious artisans in this culinary space," states Daniel.

Born and raised in Leimert Park, Baldwin Hills, and Inglewood, their lives intersected at Price Schools with Daniel and Michael attending kindergarten through 8th grade together. Sadly, Michael's father passed away when he was eight, leaving his mom to raise four boys.

Soon after this, his beloved grandma passed. With the swift and fervent love and support of good

friends, including Daniel and his family, and a caring village of others, Michael, his mom, and his brothers prevailed.

Daniel and David met at St. Bernard High School, becoming instant friends, and playing on the football team. They too, supported one another through adversity, including David's parents' divorce and a robbery in which David's father was shot and paralyzed from the waist down.

This forced David to grow up faster than others with instant responsibilities. He had second thoughts about going to college, yet his dad urged him to go. He attended and graduated from Tuskegee University in Alabama.

Daniel attended and graduated from UC Santa Barbara where he ran track and played Rugby. Both David and Daniel went on to work in finance where they remain with day jobs to care for themselves,

their own families, and to fund CITYBOI.

Michael attended Santa Barbara City College



COURTESY PHOTO

From left are CITYBOI Inc. founders Michael Jenkins, David Rose, and Daniel Cloyd.

where he played Rugby, and El Camino College. He supports himself, his family, and the business with work in school public safety.

When asked about his thoughts about recent school shootings across the

nation, he shares, "It's hard to speak about. If you can't send your kid to school, where can you take him or

her? My mentality is if I return home, so does your kid. My job is to make parents feel comfortable through consistent action and earned trust." Values that are equally important in the marketplace — consistency and trust.

None of the founders of CITYBOI knew that life's speedbumps and a brother's keeper response would serve as building blocks for the requisite intestinal fortitude vital for starting a business. They launched just prior to the pandemic with barbecue catering that was decidedly L.A. — a cultural mecca and melting pot of flavor and style.

"L.A. may not have the same reputation for barbecue culture as other regions, yet we are the godfathers of the backyard BBQ boogie," said David. With a solid start bringing fun, and a unique, flavorful sauce to gatherings throughout Los Angeles, the trio had to reimagine their business model amid the pandemic. They retooled and emerged with an FDA-approved, proprietary barbecue sauce that is prepared, packaged, and shipped by a California distribution company.

With family lines that originate from the

Caribbean, Alabama and Missouri, the flavor-infused sauce with an L.A. flair is designed for universal use. It is thinner, making it the perfect complement to myriad dishes — enchiladas, pasta, tofu and more. It is sweet and tangy, with a touch of spice.

Dishes come to life in homes and on HBO Max's "The Sweet Life," which is produced by Issa Rae and includes David as a cast member. The trio has wrapped up 10 episodes of the YouTube cooking show, "Taste the City," and have been part of multiple community festivals and convenings, including Black Flea Market, Black on the Block, and Spicy Green Book.

They are humbly honored to have their sauce sold at Hanks Mini Market on Crenshaw and Florence, bbqLAND in Long Beach, and Byblos Mediterranean Restaurant in Westwood.

Learn more at citiboi-bbq.com.

Let's Talk About Alzheimer's, An Unforgettable Disease

BY DENISE J. GIBBS
Contributing Writer

Many in the Black and Hispanic communities suffer unnecessarily and avoid the subject of cognitive decline due to mistrust, misinformation and stigmas related to testing and clinical trials. Black Americans are twice as likely as other ethnic groups to say they "don't trust medical research" and "might not be treated fairly."

One in three seniors die of Alzheimer's or another dementia. In 2020, COVID-19 contributed to a 17% increase in Alzheimer's and dementia deaths, and in 2022 there were more than 6 million Americans living with Alzheimer's.

Recent research shows that experiencing racism is linked to poor memory. At the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2022, researchers reported that experiences of structural, interpersonal, and institutional racism are associated with lower memory scores and worse cognition in midlife and old age, especially among Black individuals.

These data are especially important given Black

Americans are about twice as likely, and Hispanic Americans are about one and one-half times as likely, to



ALZ.ORG

From left are Dr. Carl Hill, Dr. April Thames, Dr. Cozette-Lyons, Dr. Mirella Diaz-Santo, and Garrett Davis.

have Alzheimer's or other dementias according to the 2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report.

Structural racism can also influence access to healthcare that can provide diagnosis. Only 20% of Black Americans say that they have no barriers to excellent health care and support for Alzheimer's or other dementias.

Tia Delaney-Stewart, the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Director of the Alzheimer's Association, Southland Chapter, spearheaded an insightful panel discussion that took place

on Thursday, Jan. 12, and the "Unforgettable" stage play that took place on Saturday, Jan. 14, at the

only happen by ensuring that access to resources, education, clinical trials, research, early diagnosis, cognitive health screening, medications, and interventions are available and attainable by everyone regardless of their race, ethnicity, cultural background, religious preference, sexual orientation, gender, and most importantly socioeconomic status," said Delaney-Stewart.

"Continuing to be deliberate with our actions in partnering with and serving those communities and populations most affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias is how we change the narrative," she concluded.

Scarlett Quarles, a com-

munity advocate and marketing director for The Bedford Group real estate development firm, brilliantly moderated the panel discussion and shared her own experience of caring for a loved one with dementia.

The panelists included Garrett Davis, CEO and founder of Gdavis Productions and Films; Dr. Carl V. Hill, chief diversity, equity & inclusion officer at the Alzheimer's Association; Dr. April Thames, chief psychologist at UCLA; Dr. Cozette Lyons-Jones, president of the Association of Black Women Physicians; and Dr. Mirella Diaz-Santos, founder of the Latinx-Hispanic Health Aging Lab at the UCLA Center for Alzheimer's Research.

Each panelist specialized in treating or seeking a cure for the disease and shared their life-altering experiences as caregivers for their loved ones. Dr. Thames said, "When seeing a patient, I would know right away that they had Alzheimer's or another related dementia, but when it came to my grandmother, I didn't want to see it."

Dr. stated, "At the Alzheimer's Association, we

believe that engaging diverse representative perspectives are critical to pursuing health equity. We are committed to making certain that all communities have a fair and just opportunity to receive early diagnosis and access to quality care."

Unfortunately, underrepresented and underserved communities are disproportionately impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias, making them less likely to be diagnosed, less likely to have access to quality care, and support services, and importantly, less likely to be recruited to participate in clinical research.

"This must change," declared Hill. "Taking part in a clinical study is one way that anyone can help fight Alzheimer's disease. Without volunteers for research, scientists cannot find ways to prevent, treat, and ultimately cure the disease."

If you are experiencing memory loss that disrupts your daily life, or if you or a loved one is facing challenges with the disease, contact the Alzheimer's Association for help.

Visit alz.org or call the 24/7 helpline at 800-272-3900.

Dorsey Alumni Hosts 'Pave Your Own Lane' Panel for Students

BY DEVYN BAKEWELL
Assistant Managing Editor

An influential panel was conducted by alumni from Dorsey High School on Thursday, Feb. 9.

The panel titled, "Pave Your Own Lane" featured six successful alumni, whom all have their own businesses. Kamerie Gibson (Dorsey High School Class of 2015) served as Moderator, and Ashley Williams ('15), Roman Combs ('16), Alton Pitre, Diandra Dillon ('15), and Rasheeda Jones all served as panelist for the event.

"Pave Your Own Lane" is a revolutionary youth development program designed to provide mentorship and access to opportunity to underserved African American and Latino indigenous communities and help meet the community's goal of preparing a new generation to become entrepreneurs, investors, business owners and inventors. The program uses the teachings of infamous entrepreneur and rapper Nipsey Hussle, focusing on assets over liabilities, money management and business principles, along with motivational and educational programs for Black youth.

"Pave Your Own Lane" started with a short screening of "No Church in the Wild", a film co-produced by Kamerie

Gibson that examines the US government's role in the systemic eradication of African Americans, then followed with a slide show that discussed Nipsey Hussle and his influence on the community.



Dorsey Alumni hosted the "Pave Your Own Lane" Panel on Thursday, Feb. 6.

"What makes [Nipsey Hussle's] message, and being a native, so integral for the culture?" Gibson first asked the panelist.

Roman Combs, CEO of Roman's International Project LLC, answered, "the fact that Nipsey Hussle was in the gang culture, doing what we try to avoid, and then started to preach a message, not just of positivity, but more so being real about reality. You know, he wasn't trying to be a positive person, he was like this is what the world is. And he spoke from that point of view of knowledge." Combs continued, "Hav-

ing principled the marathon concept...the fact that he spoke that type of wisdom, he came from the same struggle we're trying to avoid, to seeing him making movies, starting a business, and really influencing the culture for the better. I think what made him so powerful, for me, was he was in the dirt and then rose up, not just making a difference in our community, but globally."

"Nipsey was authentic, and a perfect example of representation for people who are from South Central Los Angeles," Rasheeda Jones, CEO of Tawfiq Publishing Co. said. "Sometimes people communicate messages and want us to go to college, and want us to be a certain way, and act a certain way. But he led in a way where we didn't need that, like he was very relatable. And so being able to see him resemble someone of what my brother looked like, and someone of the culture in which I come from, I was able to hear him differently. And I think that's what we need. Sometimes we need to be able to see ourselves and people, but with a positive message."

Gibson's second question to the panelist asked, "How important is ownership to the culture in this current day and age?"

Real Estate Agent, Diandra Dillon, shared that "own-

ership is the most important thing for the culture. Owner-

propel you. They also recommended that students further



(L-R) Panelists, Kamerie Gibson, Roman Combs, Alton Pitre, and Ashley Williams pose with Dorsey Students and Teacher, Coach Dave.

ship brings power."

She continued, "Property ownership brings clarity. If you're not owning anything, you'll see life passing you by and decisions being made around you that you can't do anything about...Images and representation that's on media often portrays us as ignorant, impoverished people who are incapable or just violent. Once we start having ownership of the images that we're seeing, and having more ownership and land, we start to create our own future."

"Ownership has always been everything to me," shared CEO of InPosition Management, Ashley Williams. "I get to wake up every morning and do what I love because I own the power of creating my own company, working with artists, producers, engineers, publicists, in the UK and South Africa."

"The people I've gotten to connect with just from taking a chance on myself and owning my company is priceless," she continued. "I've met and connected with so many people around the world, and I get to have a legacy behind me."

The next question asked to the panelist was, "Is college the only pathway to success?"

Each panelist shared that while college isn't the only pathway to success, it does

propel you. They also recommended that students further

their education at some kind of college/university after they graduate high school. "We have some of the best community colleges in the nation in Los Angeles County," shared Pitre. "I went to community college and then went to Morehouse. You don't have to go to college, but in my instance, it helped me. And it's ironic because when I was young, I looked up to the active homies, and I hate to say it but a lot of them are in pain now."

Pitre also shared that, "It don't matter if you can't afford it, if you think you can't afford it, I couldn't afford it, but I made it possible. So set your mind on college, preferable a Black college and just go and finish it. College is just a testament that you can finish something and be determined to go all the way through, and you meet so many lifelong friends there."

Jones shared that, "You don't have to go to college to be successful, but it's definitely life changing if you do. There's so many things that happen in college that you can get the opportunity to be a part of. I became an activist through college and I was able to find out who I was a Black woman in college, so if it wasn't for it I don't know where I'd be."

Ashley Williams said, "if

you go to college, if you don't go to college, it's not really going to dictate how well you do and succeed. Like, that comes from self. If you have determination, that grit, the will to keep going, to fail and try again; like you will be successful. So, for me college gave me relationships that will last the rest of my life. It gave me experiences. It gave me abundance, but I know very successful people that are doing just as well as me that didn't go to college. So there's no magic answer, but just follow what you think you're supposed to do."

The panel ended with Kamerie Gibson asking the final question: "What should the students be paying attention to right now? With the wisdom everyone shared on the panel, what should they be



Moderator Kamerie Gibson connects with students after the panel.

focusing on?

Roman Combs shared that students should be mainly focusing on their character at this time in their life.

"That's not taking something that doesn't belong to you, that's telling the truth, that's doing the right thing when nobody's looking," he shared.

"That will take you to the next level. Because at the end of the day, what I learned is, success is not just about what you do, but it's who you know. It's about the favor that you have with those people, and it's only the favor that God can get you, that get you to that level."

Recovery Grant Program Assists Childcare Providers

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

L.A. County childcare providers are getting assistance to help emerge financially sound after the impact of the pandemic.



Supv. Mitchell laughs with the students at Heart Preschool.

The Los Angeles County Childcare Providers Recovery (CPR) Grant Program, announced by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and L.A.



Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and Crystal Stairs CEO Jackie B. Majors discussed the grant program on Feb. 10 at Heart Preschool and Enrichment Center in Inglewood.

County officials on Feb. 10, consists of \$20 million in federal coronavirus relief funding designated to aid licensed childcare facilities.

According to county staff, "Licensed Family Childcare Homes are eligible to receive up to \$30,000 and licensed Childcare Centers are eligible to receive up to \$80,000. Applicants will

be prioritized and selected based upon their facility's community need tier within the Los Angeles County COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Index map, with emphasis placed on funding facilities located in the highest and high need communities."

All providers in the county are eligible to apply for the grant except centers located in the city of Los Angeles. The city received a separate allocation of funds to be used for childcare operators in L.A.

The application period is open until Tuesday, Feb. 28. After that date, any remaining funds will be distributed to facilities in the lower need areas.

To learn more or to submit an applications, visit <https://lacountycprgrant.submittable.com/>.

City Officials Unveil NAACP Square in San Pedro

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Karen Bass, Councilmember Tim McOsker and San Pedro/Wilmington NAACP Branch President Cheyenne Bryant unveiled the first national "NAACP Square" on Feb. 10.

During a ceremony at the intersection of West 3rd Street and South Mesa Street in San Pedro, community members and civic leaders cheered the site's designation honoring America's oldest and largest civil rights organization. The square is located in front of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, the home church of Joe

Gatlin, the founder of the NAACP Branch 1069.

"(We) mark this (historic) moment as we celebrate Black history month, and the NAACP celebrating its 114th anniversary," said Bass. Other officials at the event were Compton Mayor Emma Sharif, State Senator Steven Bradford, Assemblymember Mike Gipson, L.A. Urban League President Michael Lawson and other NAACP Branch presidents.

"When we are talking about history being made and created, we have the first female mayor in the history of Los Angeles California," said Bryant.

"Now when you're

driving or walking by South Mesa and West 3rd Street, take a moment to reflect. Across all of our communities, and throughout the One-Five (district), by uplifting each other, we can be stronger together."

Established in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was formed in New York City by White and Black activists, partially in response to the ongoing violence against Black Americans around the country. The organization works on the political, educational, equality of minority group citizens and eliminating race prejudice.



Mayor Karen Bass and other officials prepare to remove the cover from the sign.



BUILD SKILLS

HELP OTHERS

EARN MONEY



Apply Now! Scan the QR code or visit:
WWW.CACOLLEGECORPS.COM

#CaliforniansForAll
CollegeCorps

BAKEWELL MEDIA & THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL
PRESENT



POWER LEADERSHIP & INFLUENCE OF THE BLACK WOMAN

THE
90TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



JOIN US FOR AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION
WITH OUR KEY HONOREE

KAREN BASS MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES



**SANDRA
EVERS-MANLY**
PRESIDENT
BLACK HOLLYWOOD EDUCATION
AND RESOURCE CENTER (BHERC)

**STEPHANIE
N. WIGGINS**
CEO
LA COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**DR. ELAINE
BATCHLOR**
CEO
MLK COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

MODERATOR
PAT HARVEY
CBS 2 ANCHOR

MC
PAT PRESCOTT
BROADCASTER

**JACQUELYN
DUPONT-WALKER**
PRESIDENT OF WEDC
WARD ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

APRIL 15, 2023
11AM - 2PM

BEVERLY HILTON HOTEL
9876 WILSHIRE BLVD. BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210

This is a sponsor driven event. Interested Sponsors should contact Nicolew@lasentinel.net. Individual tickets for the "Power, Leadership and Influence of the Black Woman" event are available for \$500. **Individuals should email womensevent@lasentinel.net to register for tickets.** For more information go to www.lasentinel.net Click the Power, Leadership & Influence Icon at the top of the website to learn more.



BAKEWELL MEDIA & THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL PRESENT



POWER LEADERSHIP & INFLUENCE OF THE BLACK WOMAN

THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



APRIL 15, 2023, 11AM-2PM

BEVERLY HILTON HOTEL

9876 WILSHIRE BLVD. BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210

HONORING BLACK WOMEN LEGENDS



BRENDA
MARSH-MITCHELL

Brenda-Marsh Mitchell served as the loyal confidant and special assistant to Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. for over 45 years. Working closely with Bakewell Sr., Brenda served as the President of Mothers in Action and as the President of Taste of Soul. Brenda Marsh-Mitchell was a dedicated servant of her community organizing protests, as well as self-help and community action programs like "Back to School", "Get out our Vote" and "Friends Serving Friends" on Skid Row.



JOHNNIE
TILLMON

Known as an advocate for welfare rights after being mistreated while on welfare in 1963. Tillmon organized mothers and welfare recipients in the Nickerson Garden projects, within months ANC (Aid to Needy Children) Mothers Anonymous was founded. One of the first grassroots' Welfare Rights Organizations to become apart of the National Welfare Rights Organization. Tillmon served as the first chairman, then executive director until it's demise of funds in 1974.



MARY
B. HENRY

Known as "Mother Henry" Henry served the Los Angeles Community in social educational, religious, political and health fields. Mary was the head of Avalon Carver for over 30 years. She also served as a member and president of the Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees and the Charles Drew University of Medicine and the center was named in her honor.



VAINO
HASSAN SPENCER

In 1980, Hassan Spencer began her 20-year career as the Presiding Judge of the Division One California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District. She was the first Black woman to be appointed in a judgeship in California. In 1979, Hassan Spencer and presiding justice Joan Dempsey Klein founded the National Association of Women's Judges. She is known for her groundbreaking law work and advocacy for women in the courtroom.



LILLIAN
MOBLEY

Known as the "Community Mother", Mobley worked tirelessly to bring equality, justice, and resources to the South Central and Watts neighborhoods of Los Angeles. After the 1965 Watts riots, Mobley was a key member of a driven group of women who pushed to build a major hospital in South Los Angeles as well as a medical school, the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

This is a sponsor driven event. Interested Sponsors should contact Nicolew@lasentinel.net. Individual tickets for the "Power, Leadership & Influence of the Black Woman" event are available for \$500. Individuals should email womensevent@lasentinel.net to register for tickets. For more information go to www.lasentinel.net Click the Power, Leadership & Influence Icon at the top of the website to learn more.

Ford Receives ACS Volunteer Leadership Award

STAFF & WIRE REPORT

David A. Ford is the recipient of the American Cancer Society Volunteer Leadership Award. This honor is presented to volunteers who have served as volunteer leaders for enterprise-wide programs, initiatives, or Board level committees or task forces, and to others who have provided long and distinguished service to ACS at the enterprise-wide level.

Ford has served as one of the top volunteer

spokespeople and leadership faces of ACS. He has presented on multiple national panels related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I), sharing his experiences as a Black man and two-time cancer survivor.

Professionally, Ford is a government relations manager with Southern California Edison. As an energy industry executive, he orchestrates comprehensive strategies to leverage engagement with the Los Angeles County Board

of Supervisors, Los Angeles City Council, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to ensure that SCE safely delivers affordable, reliable, and functional electric service.

His commendations include receiving the SCE Networkers BRG Excellence Award in 2020, Los Angeles Stratiscope's Impact Makers Award in 2020, Bridge Builders Foundation's Community Advocate Award in 2018, and Southwest College President's Social Impact



David A. Ford

Investment Award in 2014.

In the area of community service, Ford serves on the board of directors for the American Cancer Society, L.A. Philharmonic, L.A. County Library Foundation, Greater L.A. African American Chamber of Commerce, and Boy Scouts of America, Western L.A. County Council. He also volunteers with the American Association of Blacks in Energy and the L.A. County Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Indie Artist Javonte Rose Hosted his First Annual Food & Clothes Drive During the Holidays

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Javonte Rose hosted his first annual food and clothes drive for the homeless in

As one of his long-term goals, he said, "I've always wanted to give back and make an impact in the lives of others, and finally got to



Javonte Rose



Many volunteers joined Rose at the food drive.

downtown L.A. on December 23, just in time for the holidays.

accomplish a dream come true."

The combined forces of

the cold weather and high displacement of homeless youth and adults motivated

Rose to seek funders and contributors to help him transform his vision into reality.

"I secured four sponsors and four special guests to partner with and me and my team established two donation locations to accept donations from the community," said Rose, who also assembled 100 personal gift bags filled with hygiene and essential products.

"Little Cesar's Pizza donated 150 boxes of pizza for the day of the drive, and I featured other sponsors like Nikki Maar Salon (located in New Jersey), On Purpose Show Company, and Miracle House Real Estate," he added. His special guests included Andre, Heaven Ave, Laila V, Jimmy, Jose and Boom-Squad.

Rose insists that helping

others has always been a priority for him. He formed the anti-bullying organization,

and mindset on making a difference in the lives of people dealing with the trauma



Homeless young people were treated to free food, pizza and other items.

"I'm Here," in 2016, which he said is for young people to know that, "I'm here for you!"

In 2018, he published his autobiography, "Behind the Blue Eyes: I'm Here," which details his journey

ma of bullying.

"My book explores how to encourage yourself and ultimately experience self-love. In the future, I plan to host and organize more drives and community events," Rose said.

Black Engineers Celebrate Black History Month During 'Engineers Week'

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers (LACBPE) will host a meet and greet reception in celebration of Black History Month and Engineers' Week, which takes place from February 19- 25. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m., at Fleming's Steakhouse in El Segundo.

LACBPE invites engineers, scientists and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) professionals in the Los Angeles area to attend. This mixer, sponsored by West Basin Municipal Water District, is designed for STEM professionals to connect with one another to interact, build and strengthen their networks and open new gates to success.

Also, LACBPE will recognize outstanding colleagues and provide an orientation regarding the histo-

ry and accomplishments of LACBPE for those interested in membership. LACBPE's history includes



Regina Dillard

supporting members obtaining their Professional Engineer's licenses, Business Development tips, and building a pipeline of elementary to college grade/level young people, mentored and educated to qualify for future jobs in the STEM fields.

LACBPE was founded in 1970 as a 501c3 non-profit organization and with the

help of grants and donations from generous corporations, organizations, and philanthropic individuals has been able to provide technical training, orientation, mentoring and scholarships to deserving students.

Regina Dillard, LACBPE president, recently retired as program director in Resilient Navigation and Reconnaissance Systems (RNRS) at Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems in El Segundo. She led a team of program managers who managed a portfolio of programs ranging from development to sustainment with multiple customers, platforms, and suppliers.

For those interested in attending the meet and greet event, email RSVPs with your name, technical discipline, degree or training to Membership@LACBPE.org.

To learn more, visit LACBPE.org or lablack-engineers.org.

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

Playwright Lee Edward Colston II – An Unapologetic Force of Nature

BY DANIELLA MASTERSON
Contributing Writer

A self-described Black queer writer, Lee Edward Colston II speaks with a force and candor that is reminiscent of James Baldwin's rhythmic eloquence and arresting insights.

And like Baldwin, Colston is unapologetic in life and in the fictional worlds he creates such as his play, "The First Deep Breath" now playing at the Geffen Playhouse located at 10886 Le Conte Avenue in Westwood until March 5.

"The First Deep Breath" deals with a family in crisis. Pastor Albert Jones appears to be the proud leader of the Mother Bethel Baptist Church, his family and the community. He is making plans for a special memorial service to honor his deceased daughter on the sixth anniversary of her passing.

But when Abdul-Malik, his oldest son played by Colston, returns home from prison as a man living his own truth, his refusal to bend to his father's terms eventually confronts deep family secrets, leading to shocking revelations - much like Baldwin who left the church and became the man he wanted to become.

"Lee's play gives voice

to many unheard souls and situations that most of us strive to keep secret," raved



JUSTIN BETTMAN

Lee Edward Colston II

actress and Juilliard School fellow Penny Johnson Jerard, adding that the play was "brilliantly thought."

Colston wrote the play 10 years ago when he was pursuing an MFA in acting at Juilliard, a prestigious performing arts college in New York. He is the first African American male to graduate from that program.

It represents a point in time when Colston began investigating healing and the desire to live life on his terms. Years wiser and more self-actualized, he doesn't hold back from

being Black, queer, and gifted.

"I am a lot less apolo-

gutter?"

"I had to decide if I was going to let that slide ... I asked, 'So you think blackness and the gutter are synonymous?' The producer said, 'No, no! Don't be sensitive.' And I said, 'I'm not being sensitive. I'm holding you accountable for what you said.'

"I decided that I wasn't going to let anybody treat me less than. It did not make me popular and I did not book the job. But, I left with an extra vertebra in

Colston worked as a prison guard when he was in his early 20s. His first play was inspired by his experience working in the prison system. It gained recognition and put him on this path.

Being a Black male is one kind of threat. But being Black and gay, that poses greater challenges. As Baldwin said and Colston has experienced, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is

the most radical things a human being can do is to define yourself on your own terms," he said.

"If I don't define myself for myself, then I leave that open for someone else to do and that's unacceptable."

"The First Deep Breath" contains profanity and sexual themes. The recommended age for attendees is 14+. For tickets and show times, visit www.geffenplayhouse.org.

Video interview with



JEFF LORCH

From left are Lee Edward Colston II, Candace Thomas, Ella Joyce, and Opa Adeyemo in "The First Deep Breath" at Geffen Playhouse.

my spine. I decided that I know how to write. I'm going home to write my own sh—t!"

faced."

Colston manages these challenges by adopting a simple life axiom: "One of

the Lee Colston II: <https://www.geffenplayhouse.org/shows/the-first-deep-breath/>

Black Historymakers in Entertainment & the Arts

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

Scott Joplin – 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 family'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 gather-



FILE PHOTO

Scott Joplin

ings 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. He died in 1917.

Michole White – Originally from Chicago, Michole White realized her dream of becoming an artist at the age of 12 when introduced to modeling, which led her to acting. Her impressive career spans theatre, film, television and commercials. Some of her credits include guest

appearances on "Family Matters", "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air", "Living Single", "Chicago Hope", "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and more.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michole White

Other works featuring White include the semi-autobiographical Apple TV Series "Vital Signs" star-

ring Dr. Dre., "The Kicks" Season 1 on Amazon TV, "Lila and Eve" starring Viola Davis and Jennifer Lopez, "The Strange Eyes of Dr. Myes" and BET's "Reed Between the Lines" to name a few. White can currently be seen on the Starz crime drama television series, "BMF" (Black Mafia Family) as Lucille Flenory.

Erykah Badu – Erykah Badu is an American singer, songwriter and record producer. Her sound drew from the roots of African American popular music with influences like Miles Davis, Al Jarreau, Chaka Khan, Stevie Wonder, and Marvin Gaye. Badu's first album, "Baduizm," was a big hit, establishing her as a popular star by the age of twenty-five. Since then, she has produced seven more

albums. Among her seven albums, one is a live performance and another,



COURTESY PHOTO

Erykah Badu

"ICON: The Best of Erykah Badu" is a compilation of her hit songs. For her songs, she has received numerous awards and nominations, making her one of the icons of her time.

Celebrating the 153rd Birthday of Katherine Davis Chapman Tillman

BY KIMBERLY SHELBY
Contributing Writer

Born in Mound City, Illinois, on February 19, 1870, American writer, activist, and feminist Katherine Davis Chapman Tillman would be 153 years-old this week.

The daughter of a hunting dog breeder and a gifted teacher, Tillman exhibited exceptional talent as a writer from a young age and took to poetry early on.

An excerpt from "The Glad New Year," evidences this elegantly:

"Swiftly cometh the glad New Year

Leaving in throes of pain

The dying year whose reign is o'er,

And who never will come again."

Tillman began writing inspirational prose teaching "young women of [her] race" domestic ideals as a teenager, and in 1888, her first poem, "Memory," was published by the "Christian Recorder."

Subsequently, her work was found often in the nationally distributed "AME Church Review," a religious

magazine, along with leading Black newspapers and periodicals, including "Our Women and Children" and the "Indianapolis Freeman."

Tillman belonged to the AME Church in Yankton, South Dakota, where she lived from the age of 12 until she attended the state university in Louisville, Kentucky and Wilberforce University.

Consistently making it her goal to uplift her race and especially young women, Tillman's 1895 essay published in "Afro-American Women and their Work," proclaims: "Women have always a mission in the world. Since God made Eve in the fair Gardens of Paradise as a helpmate unto Adam, it has been woman's task to aid man in his stupendous undertakings."

Going a step further, reflecting her knowledge of history and politics, other writings speak to women's equality to men, and certainly Black women's equality.

"We have been charged with mental inferiority; now, if we can prove that with cultivated hearts and brains, we can accomplish

the same that is accomplished by our fairer sisters of the Caucasian race, why then, we have refuted the

and worked with a range of church women's groups and missionary organizations. The year 1910 found her



COURTESY PHOTO

Katherine Davis Chapman around 1891, prior to her marriage to African Methodist Episcopal (AME) minister George M. Tillman.

falsehood."

As a pastor's wife — she married Rev. George Tillman in 1894 — Katherine's was a journey of residence through numerous states where she taught, lectured,

living in Pasadena, California, where she wrote one of her historical plays, "Fifty Years of Freedom," a work preceded by "Thirty Years of Freedom" in 1902. That year, she also published a

book of poetry, "Recitations."

Among her many presidential appointments, during World War I, Tillman was made director of publicity for the National Association of Negro Women's Clubs, for which she highlighted war work of African American women, often with the Red Cross.

As director of the Baby Department of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW's) Public Posters and Prints, Tillman monitored the publication and distribution of negative images and derogatory caricatures of African American children. In 1919, she targeted the popular Gold Dust Twins, organizing clubs nationwide protesting the distributor, the N.K. Fairbank company. While the products remained on the market, the firm toned their imagery down in response.

In contrast, here, Tillman describes a young, Black child with detail and admiration: "She had bright black eyes that seemed ever to hold a smile lurking in their depths and

a disposition that made her loved from one end of the street, in which she lived, to the other."

This finely woven excerpt is from "Fannie May's Christmas," which is about a child who learns that Christmas will not come on the given year due to her mother's illness. Tillman's mastery of seed-planting as a writer toward the element of narrative surprise is well at work in this holiday treasure, published in the "Christian Recorder" in 1921.

Other fiction included the novellas "Beryl Weston's Ambition: The Story of an Afro-American Girl's Life" (1893) and "Clancy Street" (serialized, 1898-1899).

The Tillmans had one adopted daughter, Dorothy. Katherine died on Thanksgiving Day (November 29) in 1923 after taking ill at a convention in Brooklyn the month before.

In the 1960s and 1970s, in Leavenworth, Kansas, the Katherine D. Tillman Missionary Society at Bethel AME Church was established in Tillman's memory.

•DR. MAULANA KARENGA•

Walking With Nana Woodson in History: Seeking Truth, Justice and Transformation

It is the sacred teaching of our honored foremother, Nana Fannie Lou Hamer, that there are two things we all should care about “never to forget where we came from and always praise the bridges that carried us over. And in revisiting this teaching and our homage to Nana Dr. Carter G. Woodson, we seek to honor this sacred obligation. Again, so we might remember and raise up, pursue and do the good. For he is indeed one of those mighty bridges who taught us where we came from and offered us an unbreakable bridge to carry us over.

We owe this month of meditation, celebration and recommitment to increased study of our history to Nana Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), the founder of Black History Week/Month, who rose up from the evil and debilitating depths of post-Holocaust segregation and suppression to point to a new way to understand and assert ourselves in history and the world.

An activist-scholar, he embraced the African concept that possessing knowledge carries with it an ethical obligation to share it and use it in the advancement of good in the world. Thus, he spent his life teaching and institution-building to share his knowledge, empower his people and contribute to the reconception and reconstruction of history and society in the interest of truth, justice and social transformation.

Nana Woodson wanted us to understand ourselves in expansive ways, to conceive of African history as central to U.S. history and the history of the world, a window and way to understand and assert ourselves

from a unique and fruitful vantage point. Furthermore, Nana Woodson, like Nana Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, Nana Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and other educators and leaders of that era, believed that White folks were essentially racist because of ignorance about Black people and illusions of superiority about themselves. He believed that exposing them to a massive dose of the mind-opening evidence of history could free them from such unawareness and inanities and make us and the world safer and freer in the process.

Nana Woodson, who earned his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University (1912), was not simply a historian, but also a teacher who had taught in public school and knew the value and transforming power of education. Raised by parents who had been born and lived during the unrelenting radical evil of the Holocaust of enslavement and having grown up in the midst of savage segregation himself, Nana Woodson also valued freedom and democracy and resolutely resisted the racist constraints which prevented and perverted them.

He would teach freedom by freeing the mind, cultivating a life of the mind that grounded and enhanced in dignity-affirming and life-enhancing ways how African people understood and asserted themselves in the world. He wanted us to understand and act with the knowledge imparted by our ancient ancestors, the Egyptians. And this was that we are not just in history, we are history and that given this “every day is a donation to eternity and even one hour is a contribution to



DR. MAULANA KARENGA
.....
the future.”

Thus, he began to develop a comprehensive strategy, with historical education as its centerpiece, to achieve several educational and social goals. His overall strategy, then, sought: (1) to elevate and expand Black historical knowledge and self-consciousness and teach the rich resource and reward of history; (2) to critique and correct the falsification and misconceptions of Black history; (3) to critique and correct White racist consciousness and self-congratulatory conceptions of history; (4) to integrate Black history in the educational system and social lives of the people; and (5) to use this process in the interest of remaking America and expanding the realm of freedom and democracy.

Nana Woodson’s conception of history is comprehensive and inclusive and prefigures and influences the Kawaida conception of history as a source of lessons, victorious spirit, models of human excellence, and the obligation to remember and advance the ancient and ongoing legacy of our ancestors. To

disseminate his message and make Black history an accessible resource for everyone, he trained teachers; started history study clubs; used the media; taught; lectured; wrote letters and sent literature; wrote extensively and published scholarly and popular books and articles; involved community elders; and encouraged documentation and activities of remembrance and reinforcement.

Also, to expand his work and encourage other scholars, professionals and lay persons to participate in his project, he created several institutions and organs. Nana Dr. Woodson formed the Association for the Study of Negro (African American) Life and History (1915), for the expressed purpose of “the collection of sociological and historical data on the Negro, the study of peoples of African blood, the publishing of books in this field, and the promotion of harmony between the races.” In 1916, he edited and published the first issue of the Journal of Negro History (JNH) which he defined as “a quarterly scientific magazine committed to publishing scholarly research and documents on the history and cultures of Africa and the peoples of African descent around the world”.

In 1926, Nana Woodson inaugurated the celebration of Negro History Week. He noted in an article in the JNH explaining the importance of the study and dissemination of Black history that it was designed to teach the meaning and achievements of Black people, and ensure Black people not become “a negligible factor in the thought of the world.”

Dr. Woodson also established the Negro History Bulletin in 1937 to increase readership among Black public school teachers, working class persons and youth, as well as laypersons in general. Again, his stress was on maximum outreach and engagement.

Nana Woodson was especially concerned, as he expressed in the title and content of his classic work, with “The Miseducation of the Negro” (1933), which he reasoned was caused by both bad history and cultivated historical amnesia. For him, the historical and social education of Black people was directed toward disorientation and domination and designed to control Black people’s thinking and deprive them of the capacity of independent thought and self-determination.

In a classic assertion in this text, he notes that if you control a person’s thinking and cultivate a sense of inferiority, “you will not need to tell him to go to the back door. He will go without being told, and if there is no back door, he will have one cut for his special benefit.”

Likewise, for Nana Woodson, the practice of freedom begins in the mind and ultimately fulfills

itself in liberating and liberated action. Thus, Nana Woodson’s historical project was not simply “vindicationist” or “contributionist” as is usually argued. Rather, it was emancipatory, both as critique and corrective, directed toward freedom from mental and social constraints and new ways to understand, interpret and make history.

In an essay in the Negro History Bulletin in 1940, Dr. Woodson challenged

Africans to dare greatness and emulate the deeds of their ancestors. He said, “To you then comes the challenge of what you will do in building upon the foundation which they have laid.” He noted that in spite of the hardships, oppression and discrimination that confronted them, Black people have “disappointed the prophets who said they would be exterminated, and on the contrary, they enrolled themselves among the great.”

He then asked what we will do in our time with more advantages and access. And he states that “If we do not take hold where they left off and advance further in the service of truth and justice, we are unworthy to claim descent from such a noble people.” This is our challenge and it cannot be changed or left to chance, but can be met by self-consciously taking our history in our own hands and directing it toward good and expansive ends in the interest of ourselves, humankind and the well-being 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.

•KARA JAMES•

Reproductive Justice is Black History

Sunday, January 22nd, 2023, should have marked 50 years since the U.S. Supreme Court issued one of its most momentous decisions; the Roe v. Wade ruling that a Texas statute criminalizing abortion in most instances violated a woman’s constitutional right to privacy. Instead, Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022, and the fight for reproductive rights was again on.

As we begin Black History Month, it is worth reflecting on the origins of reproductive justice and the historical impact of Black women. In fact, Black women coined the term “reproductive justice” in 1994, providing a framework for social movements across the country. It is often said, “Educate a woman, educate a nation.” Black women throughout history have been prime examples of influencing and mobilizing their communities to achieve social, racial, and health equity.

Just like much of American History, where Black’s contributions across the business, scientific, educational, and cultural sectors has been systematically washed, our influence in human rights efforts is also often underrepresented. Our brothers and sisters have always been at the frontlines of movements, from civil rights to women’s rights to Black Lives Matter and many more. Fighting for reproductive health and social justice has always been part of our Black History. This heritage in Repro-



KARA JAMES

ductive Justice crystallized in 1994 when Toni M. Bond Leonard, Reverend Alma Crawford, Evelyn S. Field, Terri James, Bisola Marignay, Cassandra McConnell, Cynthia Newbill, Lorretta Ross, Elizabeth Terry, ‘Able’ Mable Thomas, Winnette P. Willis, and Kim Youngblood, gathered in a hotel room in Chicago to plan, plot and strategize on President Clinton’s

healthcare reform effort.

The Women of African Descent for Reproductive Justice (WADRJ), as the twelve women would become known, felt Clinton’s reform did not address critical issues, including systemic biases and racism, that directly, and continue to, disproportionately affect Black women’s choices around reproductive care. Through their joint efforts to combine ideals of reproductive rights and social justice, the term “Reproductive Justice” was born and defined “as the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.” WADRJ launched the Reproductive Justice movement by publishing a historic full-page ad with more than 800 sig-

natures in The Washington Post and Roll Call.

Additionally, in partnership with the Women of Color Partnership Program of the Religious Coalition of Reproductive Choice, the WADRJ republished their “We Remember” pamphlet featuring 29 more signatures as a way for government leaders, afraid of backlash from their constituencies, to initiate conversations around abortion access and supporting the right to choose. One of the original twelve women, Toni M. Bond Leonard, stated at the time, “We were still fighting for Black women to be able to discuss abortion and also to be trusted as moral agents with the capacity to make decisions about our bodies.”

{ READ MORE WWW.LASENTINEL.NET }

THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

DANNY J. BAKEWELL, 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. BAKEWELL
Executive Vice President / Chief Operating Officer

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

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

CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT, *Managing Editor/ Religion Editor*

DEVYN BAKEWELL, *Assistant Managing Editor/ Digital/Social Media*

ANGELA HOWARD, *Production Manager /Designer*

BETTI HALSELL, *Staff Writer/Copy Editor/ Digital/Social Media*

AMANDA SCURLOCK, *Sports Editor*

KASSIDI STYNNERT, *Copy Writer*

CLIFFORD RUSSELL, *Advertising*

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

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

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

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

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

CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN

Black History
more than just a month!

The Negro Baseball League

Because black athletes were not being accepted into the major and minor baseball leagues due to racism they formed their own teams. The Negro Baseball leagues comprising of teams of African Americans was established in the 1920's through 1951. They eventually found their way to professional teams with white players.

© 2023 DAVID G. BROWN STUDIOS WWW.DAVIDGBROWN.STUDIO

Wendy's

WINDOW

Forgiving for Living

Keeping Our Heritage Alive



I remember the days when I had the honor of working with Ms. Mordena Moore. Ms. Mordena was very active in our community and she made sure her "girls" (no matter how old we were) stay connected to and understood our history. She is one of my heroes.

One of her favorite organizations was Our Authors Study Club (OASC), founded by Vassie D. Wright, which is also connected to the

Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH), founded by Carter G. Woodson.

During my years of being under Ms. Mordena's tutelage, I learned a lot about the history of Black people in Southern California, but also our history across the diaspora. She knew the importance of keeping our heritage alive for future generations.

Our Authors Study

Club (OASC) is under new leadership with Dr. Lura Daniels-Ball serving as the president. Each year, they put together an extensive program for Black History Month that can be found on their website, oascla.org. The organization tries to embrace our past while acknowledging new traditions and events.

One of my favorite activities is their bus tour where you can see first-hand historical areas around Los Angeles that were once

the epicenter of Black life. They also partner with the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Urban League, and others to bring both in-person and virtual activities throughout the whole month.

African Americans' footprint can be found just about everywhere. Most cities have an area of town that once was primarily Black and the families that lived there contributed to building those communities. I am originally from San Bernardino County (Riverside), and I learned from research that San Bernardino's first African American Community sprung up around the 1920s.

Most of its original population came from the Los Angeles area seeking employment or wanted to get away from big city life. Much of the area in San Bernardino County was focused on farming.

My paternal grandparents came to

California and settled in Riverside in the 1940s and were involved in "some form or another" of the farming industry. My grandfather, father, and uncles harvested and picked various fruits and vegetables that grew in the area during their early years of settling into California.

Black History Month is a great time to start projects with your children and grandchildren to learn more about not only the history of famous African Americans and their contributions to our country, but also investigate and find out what legacy your own family may have contributed to the city or community you currently live in or are originally from.

My grandmother was not only a teacher in the Inland Empire area, but she was also an entrepreneur and owned a restaurant, a tax preparedness service, she helped women with their hair, and eventually she became an advisor at

Riverside City College. A true renaissance woman. Her contributions are still making life better for many that have come after her, including her children and grandchildren.

What legacy will you leave to help make your neighborhood, city, state, country, better even on a global level? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said we can all be great because we all can serve.

When we take time to serve our fellow man, that is one of the best investments and contributions we can make to the world. It is up to each of us to keep our heritage alive.

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

Visit www.WendyGladney.com and www.forgivingforliving.org to learn more. Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker.

Success On "The Way"

Ask Dr. Jeanette Parker™



WWW.ASKDRJEANETTEPARKER.COM

"Bake The Cake"

Rodney King said words like these - "It's not an easy sentence to accept or reject." There are different ways this may be said to you and not exactly in these words.

If you say, "I'll take it," you may not know exactly what you are accepting. Why? Because we don't know either the consequences to be good or bad. Therefore, we may hesitate to even decide for fear of the unknown or lack of confidence in our ability to judge the outcome or withstand whatever it may

be. There could be easily taken all the measures to lead to a good conclusion most likely. You did everything. You put in all the ingredients: your flour, baking powder, how long to bake it, the yeast, the butter, the sugar or whatever the planned ingredients were. So, what happened?

You overcooked it or you under cooked it. The cake fell...right in the middle. Your heart and disappointment fell right with it. You say words, but you go unheard.

What were you going to do with this cake after you finished it? Were you going to keep it for yourself and slowly day after day nibble at it until you had eaten it all? Or were you going to give it away? Or were you going to cut it up and share with friends? Were you baking it for the poor?

In the account of Abram and Lot, we find that Lot had come with Abram... and because he had come with Abram, he had gained much riches. Lot benefitted by Abraham's knowledge, calling and his reputation.

Abram was already very rich in cattle, silver and gold. Abram would invoke the LORD by name. Lot was also well off. He had flocks and herds and tents. But, it was because of Abram and his blessings that Lot became rich.

Now we have all heard about the famous Sodom and Gomorrah. Let's be reminded that there were more than just the two cities. There were about five and there was Zoar. Lot decided during the oncoming destruction that he would go to Zoar with his daughters. This was a big mistake. He was blinded by his greed.

This ended up being a disastrous decision. The cities of the plain were not only destroyed because of their sexual immorality, but also because they would not give to the poor and needy and would not work, but they were idle. (Ezekiel 16:49, 50) But, God was faithful to Abram and saved Lot.

If you ask the question, "If I give to the poor

and needy and still be a practicing immoral person, will the Lord just skip over my immoral behavior and only look at my giving to support the poor and needy?"

You know, the Lord can do whatever he wants to do. My recommendation would be don't put the Lord to the test. Don't think you can get a pass, practice illicit immoral behavior and expect God will ignore and turn his head and forget.

Some would ask, "What must I do to be saved? (Romans 10:12) There are those who may have illicit, immoral desires and thoughts, but never practice it. What do I say? I say, get control over your lustful mind, resist those thoughts and feelings and make the choice to choose salvation.

If you ask, "Dr. Jeanette, do you hate people who have the tendency or the actuality of committing those immoral acts?" Absolutely not! I love them. I don't approve.

But, I'm putting forth my position now. I am like Jesus Christ. And I want to be like Him and have the mind of Christ. My prayer is that all are saved. The problem is that not all will be.

It's tough work, folks - that is to sustain ourselves, resist temptation, walk upright before the Lord. It's a tough walk. But, think about it. Don't fool around with God! Take His offer for salvation very seriously.

Thanks for reading! Jeanette Grattan Parker is founder-superintendent of Today's Fresh Start Charter School, 4514 Crenshaw Boulevard, L.A. 90043, 323-293-9826, www.todaysfreshstart.org (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) "Inquiring Minds Want to Know." All articles are copyright. All rights reserved © Errors? Let me know. Join Sundays for music & message: 11:30am {1-712-775-8971—code 266751} Keep praying and keep hoping.

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

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL CLASSIFIED

10 ROOMS FOR RENT	10 ROOMS FOR RENT	50 APARTMENTS - UNFURNISHED	50 APARTMENTS - UNFURNISHED	50 APARTMENTS - UNFURNISHED	230 Employment Opportunities
<p>Furnished 3-Bedroom House 2 Share w/ Utilities Included for \$800 mo. Private room. Includes bedroom furn. Prefer male over 45 y/o. Call 323.547.1511 Viewings Weds-Sat by appt. only</p> <hr/> <p>Shared Rooms Looking for Mature Seniors. Cable TV Free WIFI Free Wash/Dryer Must see to believe. Shawn Baker 213 884 0700</p> <hr/> <p>Rooms of Rent in Los Angeles NEW HOMES, shared \$700/Mo. Private \$975/Mo. All Utilities paid, washer/dryer, Internet, SSA, SSI, Pilot Program welcome. Call 310-766-0501.</p> <hr/> <p>SAFE Women's Transitional Independent Living Housing Shared Living Program Woman Only Financial Assistance Available 657 E 97th St LA 90002 Call now! 323-509-4135 savingafamilyeveryday@gmail.com</p>	<p>SHARED ROOMS FOR RENT Pico/Crenshaw/ And Other Areas All utilities paid, Laundry Room on site. \$750/mo We are almost full, come and see why (323) 841-2485</p> <hr/> <p>50 Apartments - Unfurnished X-LRG 2 Bedroom 1 1/2 Bath Townhouse for Rent - \$2700 Mo. & Nice Upstairs 2 Bedroom 1 Bath for \$2500 mo. (City S8 Only) All Families Welcome! Don't Wait! Schedule Appts W-S! Submit Application Now! www.hollisrents.com 310.923.6973</p> <hr/> <p>Owner Brand new 3 bedrooms and 1 bathroom detached unit. 944 W. 74th St. Section 8 is OK David 6265364303</p> <hr/> <p>2 Bedroom Apt. for Rent 2 Bedrooms. Newly Renovated. Washer/Dryer Hookup. Section 8 Ready. \$2250. per mo. Mr. Willims. 626-818-2847</p>	<p>APARTMENT FOR RENT 1 Bedroom Apartment 1488 W. 39th St., LA \$2,000 Monthly Sec 8 OK Call (213) 700-6569</p> <hr/> <p>2 BEDROOM FOR LEASE Triplex Unit 5240 West 57th St. Ladera Heights 1/Bth City veiw, Fireplace, 2/Car Garage \$2400.00 Monthly Security Deposit \$2500.00. Call 323.493.9961</p> <hr/> <p>2 BEDROOM APTMENT 2 BED/1BTH Plus dining room. Over looking courtyard, West LA Location. \$2,000.00 Monthly Sec 8 O.K. Call (310) 626-3877</p> <hr/> <p>APARTMENT FOR RENT LG Single new renovated 2nd Floor section 8 ok 5317 Cimarron St. LA 90062 call Ms. Snead at (213) 910-0503</p> <hr/> <p>1 Bedroom Apartment Inglewood Another Nice One, Carpet, drapes Bedroom/Livingroom Full Bath, Linen Closet And Laundry room on Site .Street Parking, \$1,400.00/Month Credit</p>	<p>Check, No Pet. Also Unfurnished Bachelor Apartment \$800.00/Month New Refrigerator Blinds, Curtains, Full Bath, All Utilities Paid. Call (310) 677-6686</p> <hr/> <p>Large 1 Bedrm Apt Large entry room, security gate, shower, tub, frig, stove, laundry rm in unit \$1600 plus deposit. SCE 8 Welcome 747 E. 47th St L.A. 90011 Monique (818) 298-0011</p> <hr/> <p>LOVELY 2BEDRM 1 BATH COMPLETELY REMODELED LOWER UNIT (4PLEX), MID-CITY, CLOSE TO BUSES, WOOD FLOORS, NEW BLINDS \$2,500.00 PLUS DEPOSIT (323)804-7042</p> <hr/> <p>APARTMENT FOR RENT In Leimert Park Freshly Updated Bachelor Unit quiet building \$1275.00 Monthly Call (323) 270-3179</p> <hr/> <p>Apartment for Rent Unfurnished. All appliances included; laundry room on site. Close to pub. trans & shops. Located in West Adams Contact (323) 935-5267</p>	<p>LARGE 1BD/1BA Newly decorated in Crenshaw area. Call (323) 294-4853</p> <hr/> <p>1 Bedroom Inglewood 3305 West 83rd St. Nice size Unit All New Flooring. \$1750.00 Monthly (310) 645-1303</p> <hr/> <p>90 Houses - Unfurnished</p> <hr/> <p>No Down Payment Needed To Buy Your Home Buy your home with no down payment. Call us to see if you qualify. Total verifiable income must be \$5,000 to \$10,000 per month. A-1 Home Buyers Assistance Institute Ms. Sands DRE01895755 Call 562-414-6922</p> <hr/> <p>\$3200 3br/2ba House for rent near Century Blvd./Western Ave approx 1,800 sq ft. Gallery kit, hrdw floors, a large br or den, wall heater A few miles from LAX, Sofi Stadium, a community college, shopping, and restaurants. Close to 110,105 and 405 freeways. (310) 989-2456 for information and application</p>	<p>Employment Opportunity - DSP Seeking a direct support professional, working with developmentally disabled adults. Will train with some experience. Reatha Howard (323) 252-3530 or (323) 944-7944</p> <hr/> <p>560 Pets</p> <hr/> <p>Jack Russell terrier puppies Jack Russell terrier puppies available. Born and raised in our home with lots of love . Males and females . Contact for more info and pics of parents Krissy 209-400-4545</p> <hr/> <p>860 Electrical</p> <hr/> <p>ELECTRICIAN ON DUTY ANY ELECTRICAL REPAIR AND TROUBLESHOOTING SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT UPGRADES 24 HOURS SERVICE (213) 595-2912 OR (213) 908-8094 C-10 #571792</p>

Jonathan Majors, Chevalier, and more at the Opening Night of the 31st Pan African Film Festival (PAFF)

{continued from Pg. A-1}

themselves stand in the same “shackled footprints” as their contemporaries - all vying for an opportunity to showcase their talents and their works in a business, in the words of one attendee, that “doesn’t really want us, but they tolerate us.”

Established in 1992 by Hollywood veterans Danny Glover (“The Color Purple,” “Lethal Weapon”), the late Ja’Net DuBois (“Good Times”), and Ayuko Babu, PAFF executive director, the Pan African Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has remained dedicated to the promotion of Black stories and images through the exhibition of film, visual art, and other creative expression.

For over 30 years, PAFF has been the international beacon for the African diaspora film and arts communities. This is what their website says, and if you ask anyone who has ever been to an event, this is what it does.

“I’ve been to a lot of film festivals, but this one is the truth,” said Teresa, an attendee at opening night. “It’s always so well organized, they bring quality films, and the event is always so well done.”

And one truth that surprised many during the opening awards ceremony



From left are Stephen Williams, Stefani Robinson, Jess Hall, Chris Bowers and Michael Abels. (PAFF)

was the inspirational appearance of respected and thriving actor Jonathan Majors (“Creed III,” “Quantumana,” “Lovecraft Country”). He was being honored with the PAFF Canada Lee Award presented by Glover, Babu and fellow actor Thomas Q. Jones (“P Valley,” “Luke Cage,” “Being Mary Jane”).

It has unfortunately become common for many celebrities, when they reach a certain plateau in their careers, to send a proxy to receive awards at Black events. But Jonathan Majors showed up, and he showed up in a major way. Sharing anecdotes from

his life about his journey to where he is today, the support of family, a good Christian upbringing, and the importance of community – the African American community.

Mayor Karen Bass also gave an official welcome, stating that she’s been a long-time supporter of the PAFF.

Some other known faces in the audience included, Brandee Evans (“P Valley,” “David Makes Man”), Walter Fauntleroy (“Tyler Perry’s the Oval”), Pooch Hall (“The Game”), and Jimmy Jean-Louis (“Claws,” “Phat Girlz,” “Heroes”).

The film screening during opening night of the PAFF was the period piece, “Chevalier.” It is inspired by the incredible story of composer Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges.

The son of an enslaved African woman and a French plantation owner, Boulogne (Kelvin Harrison Jr. in a tour de force performance) rises to improbable heights in French society as a celebrated violinist-composer and fencer.

The film’s director Stephen Williams, writer and producer Stefani Robinson, the composer of the original score Kris

Bowers, and musical performances producer and arranger Michael Abels were all in attendance.

One viewer found the film problematic because they wanted to see more of

member found the film to be “refreshing and positive.” “There’s so much ‘trauma porn’ out there it was great to see a historical figure who had a little more control over their destiny,”



Mayor Karen Bass speaks at the PAFF opening ceremony. (PAFF)

Boulogne as “the French Revolutionist,” and less of the romantic aspects of the film. Although overall, he enjoyed the film and called it “a good watch.” Another audience

said the viewer.

For more information on the Pan African Film Festival, additional screenings and events visit <https://www.paff.org>.

Memphis Police Murder Case Puts Spotlight on California Legislation

{continued from Pg. A-1}

California. “This legislation will save lives,” he said.

Bradford is currently working on SB 50, which would prohibit police in California from making traffic stops for low-level violations. This will reduce the potential for more harm to innocent citizens, said the lawmaker.

“We tend to pass a lot of legislation that doesn’t really have a lot of binding power,” said Cephus “Uncle Bobby” Johnson. His nephew, Oscar Grant, III was shot in the back while subdued on a Bay Area Rapid Transit District station platform on New Year Day in 2009.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act does not adequately address some of the most critical issues that we’re dealing with, said Johnson, referring to the bill named for the 46-year-old Minneapolis Black man who was murdered by White cop Derek Chauvin on May 25, 2020. The officer was convicted of 2nd and 3rd degree murder and manslaughter.

The bill would end police restraint techniques, including chokeholds and carotid holds at the federal level, as well as improve police training.

More money for training has been part of the problem, according to Johnson, who supported Assembly Bill (AB) 392, the California Act to Save Lives, which mandates that police officers should only use deadly force when necessary. It was introduced by California Secretary of State Shirley Weber when she was a San Diego Assemblymember. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed that bill in 2019.



Police screenshot from body camera footage of Tyre Nicholes lying on the ground after being brutally beaten by police officers

“What happened to Tyre impacted so many in California. It re-traumatized many of the families,” said Johnson. “Many families’ wounds have been reopened. Many families’ hopes that there has been some progress have been totally erased,” continued Johnson.

In Los Angeles, the Rampart police division scandal exposed gang unit officers planting evidence, framing suspects, and stealing drugs and money.

In Oakland, a group of cops dubbed the “Riders” stood trial for beating, planting evidence on, and stealing drugs and money from alleged suspects. But a deadlocked jury acquitted them of eight charges and a judge declared a mistrial after they could not agree on 27 other charges. The

officers went free.

“Initially, it looks like they’re doing great things but behind the scenes, people in communities will tell you they are terrorized by them,” said Johnson.

Marc Philpart, executive director of the California Black Freedom Fund, organized 26 foundation CEOs and leaders to issue a call to action to push back against systemic barriers. Established two and a half years ago following the murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and countless others, the California Black Freedom Fund is a five-year, \$100 million initiative created to mobilize the resources necessary to build Black power and eradicate systemic and institutional racism.

The coalition

leaders posted on a blackfreedomfund.org a letter reminding the public of the protests that gave voice to collective outrage, frustration, and grief that permeated Black communities and communities across the country in 2020.

“America recognized that the problem lies not within Black communities, but within structures that institutionalize and perpetuate racial violence and inequity,” they wrote.

Nationally, police killed at least 1,176 people in 2022 - about 100 a month - making last year the deadliest year on record for police violence since killings began being tracked, according to Mapping Police Violence.

“While the nation is

grieving, some are making statements telling Black people how to express their outrage. That’s not the focus of our letter. Our letter is a call to action for everyone concerned with the brutalization of Black people and Black communities,” the leaders wrote.

During a Jan. 29 protest for Mr. Nichols and 31-year-old Keenan Anderson, Dr. Melina Abdullah, co-founder of Black Lives Matter L.A. and Black Lives Matter Grassroots, said outrage over the police-involved murders of Black men is justified.

“We should shed tears. We should feel it. We should refuse to become numb. Our hearts should break,” shouted Abdullah.

“We should allow

ourselves to sob in the dark of the night. And we should demand justice, not just for what’s happening in Memphis, but what’s happening right here in L.A.,” said Abdullah to demonstrators blocking the intersection of Lincoln and Venice boulevards. The location is where Anderson, a cousin of Black Lives Matter Movement co-founder Patrisse Cullors, flagged down a Los Angeles Police Department motorcycle officer for help following a traffic collision.

Anderson died in police custody hours later, after being tasered six times on the back of his heart, according to family attorneys. LAPD body cameras detailed what happened during the minor traffic stop, when a man, afraid, called the police for help, said family attorney Carl Douglas. In every way, Anderson was respectful of authority: “Sir! Help me, sir,” the unarmed and compliant man repeatedly pleaded, Douglas said.

“That officer then calls for backup, and Keenan sees several officers then rushing toward him. His reaction then was a reaction that several Black men would react in a similar situation, one of fear. And that fear drove him to run into the middle of the street,” stated Douglas.

Back in Memphis, Mr. Nichols’ brother Michael Cutler urged people to stand together and fight for their rights. “We definitely speak loud and proud, and we are there marching and protesting and all that’s great, but it has to be about something,” he said.

Legends Awards Salute Trailblazing Black Women

Prestigious honor named for notable African American women with deep roots in South L.A.

{continued from Pg. A-1}

“Whether behind the scenes or on the front lines, these courageous women fought for the rights of their communities. Each of our honorees will be presented with an award named after one of these dynamic women who paved the way for us all,” he said.

One of the awards is named for Brenda Marsh-Mitchell (1947-2014), Bakewell’s trusted confidant and treasured executive assistant. A native of Los Angeles, she served as president of Mothers In Action and Taste of Soul, two organizations that continue to positively impact thousands of people every year.

Citing the expansive influence of Marsh-Mitchell, Bakewell recalled in a 2016 Sentinel article, “Ms. Marsh-Mitchell exceptionally organized and mobilized successful marches, rallies, receptions, community service events, fundraisers and political campaigns like only she could. She was politically active, socially conscious and served the African American community with an unwavering and fearless commitment to helping those less fortunate and disenfranchised.”

Johnnie Tillmon (1926-1995), pioneering activist for welfare rights and the founder of Aid to Needy Children (ANC), displayed



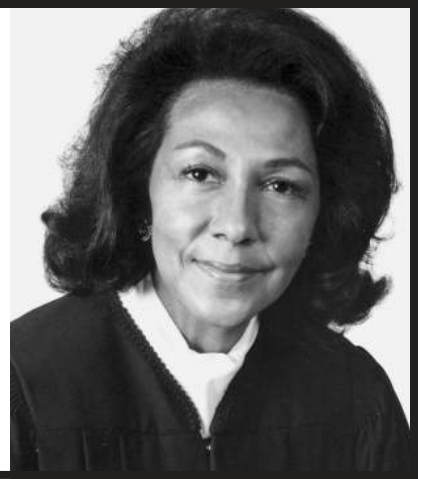
Johnnie Tillmon (FILE PHOTO)



Mary B. Henry (FILE PHOTO)



Lillian Mobley (FILE PHOTO)



Vaino Hassan Spencer (FILE PHOTO)

a similar devotion to the underserved. ANC became one of the first grassroots organizations for women on welfare and attracted more than 25,000 dues-paying members.

Tillmon also advocated for women’s reproductive rights and battled against the practice by some agencies of forcibly sterilizing mothers on welfare to prevent them from having more children. She wrote a brilliant essay in “Ms.” magazine in 1972. In an article entitled, “Welfare is a Woman’s Issue,” Tillmon declared a woman’s right to receiving an adequate income, whether she worked in a factory or as a stay-at-home mother.

The Head Start program owes its beginnings to Mary B. Henry (1927-2009), who served on President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty task force that created the national agency emphasizing

nutrition and education for urban children. Henry was also instrumental in raising awareness about child education, quality healthcare and civil rights for communities of color.

Hundreds of people benefitted during her tenure as director of the Avalon-Carter Community Center in South Los Angeles. Her deep allegiance to education was revealed during her three terms with the Compton School District as she persuaded trustees to implement campaigns that would raise the self-esteem of youth and establish programs to combat the district’s drug and gang issues. In the area of healthcare, Henry played a key role in the construction of the King/Drew complex. In 2002, the Mary B. Henry Child Development Center opened on the campus.

Lillian Mobley (1930-2011) was a contemporary, who worked hand-in-hand

with Henry and other activists. A co-founder of Mothers In Action with Marsh-Mitchell and Bakewell, Mobley was another valuable leader in the building of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in 1966, MLK Hospital in 1972, and King Drew Magnet High School in 1982, all in the Watts-Willowbrook area in South Los Angeles.

Referred to as “a voice for poor people and working folks,” Mobley served on many citizen’s boards and commissions where she pushed for quality education, affordable healthcare and services for the elderly. She served as executive director of the South Central Multipurpose Senior Center and fought valiantly against the 2007 closure of MLK Hospital, which has since reopened as the MLK Community Health Center.

Vaino Hassan Spencer (1920-2016), who founded the National Association of Women Judges, was the first Black woman appointed as a judge in California. A native of Los Angeles, Spencer earned a law degree in 1952 and became the third African American woman admitted to the bar in California.

In 1961, she was named a municipal court judge and in 1976, she ascended to become a judge in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. She rose even higher with her appointment as presiding judge of the California Court of Appeals. When Spencer retired in 2007, she was hailed as “one of the longest serving judges in California history.”

Bakewell credited Spencer as being a valuable ally “who worked personally with me (as did all of these women) to

speak to employees in the city about the importance of contributing to their own communities by signing up for payroll deduction through the Brotherhood Crusade.”

The “Power, Leadership and Influence of the Black Woman” luncheon is a sponsor-driven event. Interested sponsors should contact Nicolew@lasentinel.net.

Individual tickets for the “Power, Leadership and Influence of the Black Woman” event are available for \$500. Individuals should email womensevent@lasentinel.net to register for tickets.

For more information, visit www.lasentinel.net and click the Power, Leadership & Influence Icon at the top of the website.

Lawmakers Push Bill to Grant Prisoners Right to Vote

{continued from Pg. A-1}

Proposition 17, approved in 2020 by California voters, enabled persons convicted of felonies on parole to vote.

If the bill passes the Assembly and Senate, and the governor approves it, voters in California could vote to join Vermont, Maine, and Washington D.C. in allowing incarcerated individuals to vote.



Asm. Isaac Bryan speaks at the rally on behalf of prisoners’ rights. Supporters included Asm. Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Asm. Tina McKinnor, and Antoinette Ratcliffe of Initiate Justice. (COURTESY PHOTO)

“After the 13th Amendment liberated the slaves, we started to see different types of voter disenfranchisement occurring,” Bryan explained in an interview with California Black Media (CBM).

“We saw Black code, we saw Jim Crow, poll taxes, literacy tests, felony disenfranchisement, becoming more commonplace in statewide constitution and so it’s through that legacy that we’ve been trying to roll back all of these years and make sure that our

democracy is inclusive of everybody,” Bryan commented on the systemic discrimination and disenfranchisement African Americans have endured over centuries.

Lawmakers opposing the legislation say allowing incarcerated felons to vote is a slap in the face to victims of the crimes they committed.

“I believe that it discounts the impact that

Responding to Lackey’s objection, Bryan said,



Asm. Isaac Bryan addresses the media following the rally. (COURTESY PHOTO)

“That’s like saying allowing incarcerated persons to breathe is an affront to their victims, allowing incarcerated persons to drink water, allowing incarcerated persons to hold conversations with one another.”

“There is no reason that that should be coupled with disenfranchisement and the expelling of individuals as citizens of this country.”

“There’s a difference between suspending a privilege and dehumanizing someone,” Lackey said. “Certainly no one expects someone to go through inappropriate suffering. That is not part of justice. That’s not part of our judicial process.”

David Liamsi Cruz, an advocate from Initiate Justice, was released in September after serving 13 years in prison.

“One problem that I constantly came across was that people serving their sentence alongside me felt that they didn’t have the means to improve their environment that controlled their lives or to contribute to their families’ wellness outside. Despite what many people assume, people in

prison care about the same political issues that we

this, then the policy not allowing those who are

outside do,” Cruz said.

“Those who were willing to become civically engaged with me were diligent in their work, they even brought me bill ideas that could have solved issues that were longstanding in their communities. I was honored to witness their passion for change, for an opportunity to grow, and to contribute to something way bigger than themselves. Even though I am home [from] prison now, I have not forgotten the 10,000 voices of people who are still inside and have so much to contribute. I want their voices to be heard.”

Supporters of the plan say that reducing recidivism - or the reincarceration of persons less than 3 years after they are released from prison - is one of the primary benefits of this plan.

“We already know a lot of the facts, and the facts are that the more someone is engaged in their democracy, they are 50% less likely to reoffend,” said Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) who is a co-sponsor of the bill.

“So, if we already know

incarcerated to vote has nothing to do with public safety.”

Kalra said when he was a public defender it was “plain as day” to see who was given second chances.

“Those who were given probation versus prison, and it was so connected to race and class and the same communities who have been fighting to be free since the inception, and before the inception of this nation,” he said.

Another concern is the ability for those who are incarcerated to hold public officials accountable. “Those who are incarcerated and their families are some of the most educated people in our state, far more educated than the average voter,” said Kalra. “And they will hold us accountable, and maybe that’s what people are afraid of. They don’t want that accountability from those who are suffering the most from decisions that are made traditionally in [the Capital].”

The legislation is backed by a coalition of lawmakers, including California Legislative Black Caucus members

Assemblymembers Lori Wilson (D – Suisun City), Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), Tina McKinnor (D – Inglewood), Mia Bonta (D-Oakland), Dr. Akilah Weber (D – San Diego) and Senators Steven Bradford (D- Inglewood) and Lola Smallwood Cuevas (D-Ladera Heights).

“There was a time where women couldn’t vote,” Jones-Sawyer said at the press conference held last week to announce the bill. “There was a time when African Americans couldn’t vote, and just recently we tried to get slavery out of the California state constitution and it failed, because of Democrats.”

“An American citizen’s right to vote is the most powerful right in our nation,” McKinnor said. “Let’s be clear, an incarcerated American citizen is an American citizen, and no law should ever restrict an American citizen’s right to vote. Too many Americans have died, too many Americans have sacrificed, too many Americans have been denied the right to vote for too long.”

Lackey and others who oppose the legislation, however, insist that denying a felon to vote is appropriate punishment.

“There has to be a period of reflection and a period of suspension of certain what I would call privileges or rights in order for the judicial process to be effective,” Lackey said to CBM.

Bryan said the protection of citizens’ rights is paramount.

“There are some basic human rights, and then there are some basic American rights that have to be preserved, even in the systems of accountability,” he emphasized.



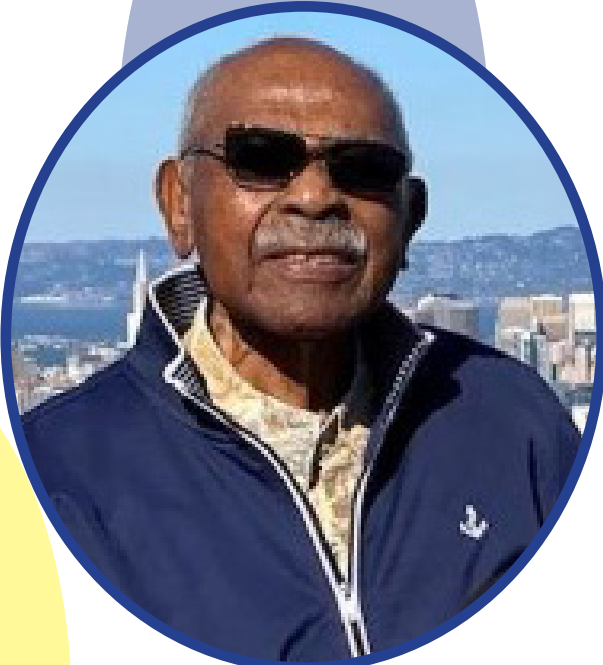
Wilmer Abrams Reaches 100th Birthday

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

Wilmer C. Abram, the owner of multiple businesses in the Carson area, celebrated his 100th birthday on Valentine's Day. A lover of life and people, Mr. Abram lives each day following the Golden Rule — do unto others as you would have done unto you.

He credits his long life adhering to mantras cited by the great professional baseball player, Satchel Paige. Those sayings include, "Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching," and "Don't look back. Something bad might be gaining on you." By applying that approach to his business career, Mr. Abram ended up owning four dry cleaners, two mailbox stores and several water vending machines in the South Bay.

Born on February 14, 1923 in Picayune, Mississippi, Mr. Abram likely learned his business acumen from his mother, who sold burial insurance to support her family after Abram's father died in a sawmill accident when Abram was seven-years-old. One of his most enduring memories was winning two state oratorical contests when he was in the 10th and 11th grades.



Wilmer Abram (COURTESY PHOTO)

According to his daughter, "His first speech was on "Creation" and the second was on "Toussaint Louverture." Winning these State-wide contests back-to-back was a real highlight."

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, he served in the U.S. Navy and was a member of the first class of African American seamen. When his military service ended in 1946, Mr. Abrams held positions at the USO and U.S. Post Office. He went on to work nine years for Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company followed by 10 years with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. He briefly

resumed selling insurance and even became a real estate broker, before realizing greater success as a small business owner.

Not does Mr. Abram have a significant business history, but he also has several offspring to continue his legacy. He has four children, 10 grandkids, 18 great grandkids and five great greats.

Mr. Abrams enjoys life with his sweetheart, Alice, whom he met in 1966 and married in 1974. He has maintained his subscription to the Los Angeles Sentinel for more than 30 years.

Judge Albert D. Matthews Celebrates Centennial Birthday

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

The Honorable Albert D. Matthews has enjoyed several memorable moments during his 10 decades of life. As he prepares to mark his 100th birthday on February 19, many of the people that he positively influenced will join the celebration.

Before retiring as a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge in 1989, Mr. Matthews inspired countless lives while serving in the military, practicing as a lawyer as a teaching as a Sunday School Superintendent. His reputation for achieving excellence resulted in Matthews graduating cum laude from Howard University School of Law, which in turn, led to an internship with Attorney Thurgood Marshall as he argued the famous Brown v. Board of Education case.

Judge Matthews continued to rise to the top throughout his long career. His resume indicates that he became the first African American state hearing officer for the Unemployment and Disability Insurance Appeals Board in 1960 and shortly thereafter, appointed as the first Black commissioner for the State of California.

In 1968, he was named as the second Black judge



Judge Albert D. Matthews (COURTESY PHOTO)

in the Compton Municipal Court and five years later, assigned to L.A. Superior Court by then-Governor Ronald Reagan. Even after retiring after 42 years of judicial service, Matthews was repeatedly called upon to adjudicate special court cases.

Faith played a large part in the judge's life as evidenced by his active involvement as a member of Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles. Joining the congregation in 1959, he regularly participated in Bible Study, the Young Couples Club and as a board member for the church-operated Henderston Community Center.

A gifted Christian

education instructor, Matthews truly loved teaching Sunday School, especially the Senior High School Class. He also served many years as chairman of the Deacon Board and as regional officer for the American Baptist and the Black American Baptist Convention.

The goodness of the Lord is reflected in Judge Matthews' progeny, which consists of five children, 28 grandchildren, 86 great grandchildren, and more than 11 great, great grandchildren.

His family and friends will hold a 100th birthday celebration for him on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Nuebiome Offers Plant-based skincare for People of Color

BY MAGRIRA
Special to Amnews

The creators of nuebiome™ took a multifaceted approach with biofer-



ments and naturally derived ingredients to support the skin's microbiome. The microbiome is the delicate balance of microbes, enzymes, vitamins, and nutrients that maintain the skin's barrier function and a balanced pH.

They took their time in developing the products after meticulous research and countless revisions with an emphasis on high quality, and scientifically validated, naturally derived ingredients. The exclusion of toxic ingredients is at the foundation of every formulation.

Their unique clinician developed triple bioferment blend of prebiotic, probi-

otic, and postbiotic bioferments that resembles your skin's natural microbial activity to condition and seal in moisture.

Black don't crack — they say — and brown won't bend, but skin care is as necessary for our communities as it is for others. Skincare is self-care and self-care is self-love.

Their products designed for the face are hydrating. Those include The Biotic Glow Ferment Essence, Biotic

Radiance-Boosting Hydrator, and (Glycol-Biotic) Ultra-Synbiotic Facial. Coming soon is their Biome Balancing Creamy Cleaner.

To keep your hands soft, try their Amaretto and Biotic Hand Remedy, and the Biotic Relief Deep Hand Treatment, which are game changers.

Knowledge is power and understanding what is good, and bad for your skin is just being smart. Their website does an amazing job in that department. Did you know that Prebiotic inulin when used in skincare formulations acts as a non-digestible carbohydrate to support your skin's good

bacteria by serving as an energy "food" source?

Did you know that changes in the prebiotic state of the microflora can promote the growth of bacteria that can shift the microflora out of homeostasis and lead to unwanted skin conditions?

Did you know that Prebiotics selectively support the growth of one or a limited number of bacterial species and studies show that prebiotics enhances the growth of probiotic bacteria that can help with acne, eczema, and photo-aging?

The benefits seem plentiful. According to research on Prebiotic inulin conditions, the skin helps to stabilize the skin's microflora and strengthens its barrier function.

Every nuebiome™ formulation incorporates prebiotics in the form of inulin obtained from chicory root to support the skin's good bacteria and provide skin conditioning and protective benefits to the surface layers. Find it in Amaretto and Biotic Hand Remedy, Biotic Radiance-Boosting Hydrator, and (Glycol-Biotic)™ Ultra-Synbiotic Facial to name a few of our favorites.

To learn more, visit nuebiome.com

Simon Burris Black History Crossword (2)

www.simonburris700.com

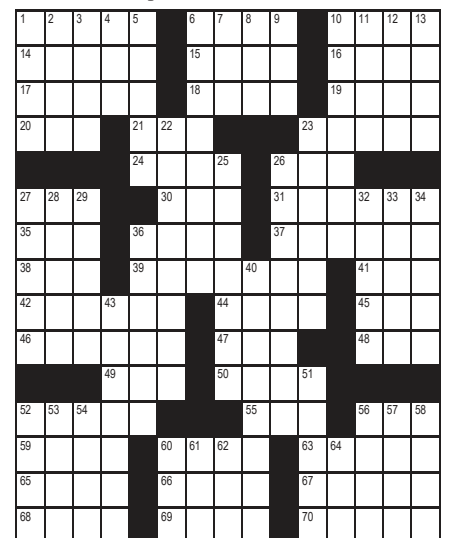
Africana Diaspora

Across

- Spring flower
- *Kevin of "Jumanji" films
- *Tennis Hall of Famer Arthur
- *44th American president
- Confess or testify
- Shakespearean king
- Part of a flight
- *Turner and Cole
- *Prince's "Purple ___"; song & film
- Initials for Infantry Squad Trainer
- *Oprah Winfrey's TV network, for short
- *Kamala Harris' concerns?; Nov. 3, 2020
- Hawaiian necklaces
- *Philander Smith College state site (abbr.)
- *Charles Barkley's home state (abbr.)
- *Actor Pinnock's "For Life" network
- Female relatives
- *___ Time; Scott Joplin's music
- *Mike Tyson; practice boxing
- Come up with
- Egg cells
- Keeps in order
- *Spike or Daniels
- *___ Luther King, Jr.; American patriot
- Low grade diamond
- *___ Spots; "If I Didn't Care"; singing group
- Make certain
- Letters between kays and pees
- Farm animal
- *Michael Jackson hit song in 1987
- *"Giovanni's ___"; James Baldwin novel
- Horror movie character
- Put ___ good word for (2 wds.)
- Contract Delivery Date, for short
- *James ___ Jones; Celebrated actor
- *Julian ___; civil rights activist (1940 - 2015)
- Email option
- *"The Learning ___" (1969 film)
- *Operatic solo for Grace Bumbry
- Shade of green
- *Wally ___; famous cookie maker
- *"Go ___ It On The Mountain"; John W. Work, Jr. Christmas spiritual
- *Freedom ___; John Lewis, at times (1961)

Down

- * ___ Lightfoot; Chicago's mayor (since 2019)
- *Sacred bird of Egypt
- *The ___ King of Scotland"; Forest Whitaker Oscar winning film (2006)
- *African Methodist Episcopal (abbr.)
- * ___ Moseley Braun; U.S. senator (Illinois)
- *Legendary Cathaginian (African) general almost toppled Roman



- *"Selma" movie director DuVernay
- *Abbreviation after Gen. Colin Powell's name
- Telephone Relay Service; initials
- *NBC veteran weather forecaster
- *British-born singer; "Crazy" 1991 hit
- * ___ to the chief!"; BHO presidential anthem
- Sea eagles
- Gave missiles to
- *James A. Healy; first U.S. Black Catholic ___ (1854)
- Wood-marking tool
- *Anthony of "Black - ish"; TV sitcom
- Something in the air
- Volcanic hot rocks
- Food thickeners
- Eyelashes, to anatomists
- Ties up
- Goes after
- Type of staircase
- Shaped like a megaphone
- Small tubes or pipes
- David Dinkins, for one (1990 - 1993)
- *African emperor of Rome; son of Severus
- "What's the ___?"
- Black and white bite
- Scolded, berated
- * U.S. Poet Laureate, Rita (1993 - 1995)
- A go-getter
- *Willie Mays' club
- Wash., ___, Calif.
- Nothing!
- Muhammad ___; champ boxer

(See ANSWERS C-2)

Sentinel Staff Highlight City's African American Heritage Month Event



Niele Anderson (COURTESY PHOTO)



Devyn Bakewell (COURTESY PHOTO)

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

Niele Anderson, Sentinel digital editor and podcast host, and Devyn Bakewell, Sentinel assistant managing editor, are among the participants in an upcoming African American Heritage Month event sponsored by the City of Los Angeles and Our Authors Study Club.

"An Evening with African American Authors," set for Tuesday, February 21, at 6 p.m. via Zoom, will feature Anderson as the moderator and Bakewell ("Greater Life") as one of five Black writers of widely-read books. Other program participants are

social justice leader Tamika Mallory ("State of Emergency"), Kevin Powell ("Grocery Shopping with my Mother"), Kellye Garrett ("Like A Sister") and Aaron Phillip Clark (Under Color of Law").

Also, Dr. Donald Singleton, an educator at Dorsey High School, will be recognized for his contributions to creating an African American history curriculum for students.

The involvement of the Sentinel staffers is a natural fit considering their expertise in their respective fields. Anderson is well known throughout greater L.A. for her broadcasting skills, which she honed during stints on 100.3 The

Beat, V100 and 93.5 the radio stations. Also, she was an inaugural anchor and

senior producer on "Fox Soul's Black Report" when it debuted on KCOP-TV in 2021.

In addition still serving as a Fox Soul news correspondent, Anderson produces and hosts "Daily Briefs" airing on the L.A. Sentinel website and the weekly Bakewell Media podcast, which covers topics important to the African American community.

Bakewell serves as assistant managing editor for the L.A. Sentinel and L.A. Watts Times. In this capacity, she writes and edits articles for both publications on topics ranging from local news to trending entertainers to emerging businesses owners and impactful nonprofit campaigns.

Also, she is the author of two popular romance novels. Her first book, "Greater Love," was written during her first year at

Howard University and follows the relationship between two characters attending Truth University, a fictional HBCU in New York. Her second tome, "Greater Life," was released last year and the plot continues the love story of the two college students.

To view "An Evening with African American Authors," visit zoomgov.com/j/1604351180. The meeting I.D. is 160 435 1180 and the passcode is 344541.

Commissioner Mike Davis is the chair of the city's AAHM celebration and Lura Daniels-Ball is the president of Our Authors Study Club. To learn more, call (323) 871-5801.

ANSWERS FROM C-1

1	L	2	I	3	L	4	A	5	C	6	H	7	A	8	R	9	T	10	A	11	S	12	H	13	E
14	O	B	A	M	A	15	A	V	E	R	16	L	E	A	R										
17	R	I	S	E	R	18	N	A	T	S	19	R	A	I	N										
20	I	S	T			21	O	W	N	22					23	P	O	L	L	S					
						24	L	E	I	S	25				26	A	R	K							
27	A	L	A			28				29	A	B	C	30				31	N	I	E	C	E	S	
35	R	A	G			36	S	P	A	R	37	D	E	R	I	V	E								
38	O	V	A			39	P	O	L	I	C	E	S					41	L	E	E				
42	M	A	R	T		43	I	N						44	B	O	R	T			45	I	N	K	
46	A	S	S	U	R	E								47	E	N	S				48	A	S	S	
						49	B	A	D					50	R	O	O	M							
52	G	H	O	U	L					53				54	I	N	A			56	C	D	D		
59	E	A	R	L		60	B	O	N	D				63	Y	A	H	O	O						
65	T	R	E	E		66	A	R	I	A				67	O	L	I	V	E						
68	A	M	O	S		69	T	E	L	L				70	R	I	D	E	R						

California Bank and Trust
FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION!!!

What to Bring	
Proof of identification (photo ID)	Proof of foreign status (applying for ITIN)
Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification notices/cards for you, your spouse, and/or dependents	Personal Expenses for: -Medical Expenses -Real Estate Taxes -Contributions -Auto Registration -Home mortgage -Gambling Losses
Birth dates for everyone on the return	All W-2s and 1099s
For Married Filing Joint-both spouses must be present	Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099s)
Total paid to daycare provider and their Tax ID	Copy of last year's federal and state returns
Health Care Forms (1095-A, B, or C and Form 3495 (if appropriate))	All retirement income (1099-R) and Social Security Benefits (SSA-1099)
Student loan interest	Unemployment Forms (1099-G)
Education Expenses	Voided Canceled Check

Address: 3810 Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90008
DROPP OFF ONLY
Tuesday thru Friday 10 am to 4 pm (NO appointment necessary)
February 1 through April 15, 2023
(323)296-4301

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 | Website: gembcla.org

Giving Options: Zelle and PayPal giving@gembcla.org, Givelify 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

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

Giving Options: Online at www.bcamechurchla.org, Tithe/ly 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)

WELCOME HOME TO
WEST ANGELES
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

3600 CRENSHAW BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA
SUNDAY SERVICE: 10AM
SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST
KJLH 102.3FM: 10AM

SENIOR PASTOR
CHARLES E. BLAKE II

(323) 733-8300 | OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8:30AM-5:30PM
WESTA.ORG | WEST ANGELES CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
#WEAREWESTANGELES

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

2040 W. JEFFERSON BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90018
PHONE: (323) 735-0044 FAX: (323) 735-0219
Email: trinitybaptiste@sbcglobal.net
Website: trinitybaptistchurchofla.org

Sunday In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Virtual Worship @ YouTube trinitybaptistcloud 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Radio Broadcast (KJLH 102.3 FM) 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study via Zoom: 480.271.5449 or call 669.900.6833 7:00 p.m.

Giving Options: PayPay/In Person or mail to the church address

REV. ALVIN TUNSTILL, JR. ~ PASTOR

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES
WEDNESDAYS: 6:30PM
SUNDAYS: 1:30PM PST

JESUSJUBILEECHURCH.ORG
1-877-8-JUBILEE
424-385-6035
MATTHEW 28:19

JESUS IS OUR JUBILEE CHURCH COGIC
1129 E. DOMINGUEZ ST., STE. WB, CARSON, CA. 90746
(6 BLOCKS EAST OF IKEA)

faithdome.org

CRENSHAW CHRISTIAN CENTER
FAITHDOME

323-758-3777

Live Worship Service - Sunday at 10:30AM and Tuesday at 11AM and 7:30PM at faithdome.org, Facebook, Roku, YouTube and the EIF app (download in Apple Store and Google Play). Website: 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
7901 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90044

Phone: (323) 758-3777 (leave message and staff will respond)

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: Givelify 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

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 Givelify 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 Telsa
Irvine, CA 92618
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
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
Giving Options: online at www.corchurch.org or mail to: 45 Tesla Irvine, CA 92618

PASTORAL POSITION OPENING
Mount Gilead Missionary Baptist Church

is prayerfully seeking God's choice for a Pastor.
We are looking for a Pastor called by GOD.
Serious applicants must mail a cover letter, resume, three (3) professional letters of recommendation and one (1) Personal reference letter to:
Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Pastoral Search Committee
9201 S Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90044
Or email to
mtgileadmbc@yahoo.com

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
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

Western Baptist State Convention Plans Mid-Winter Board Meeting

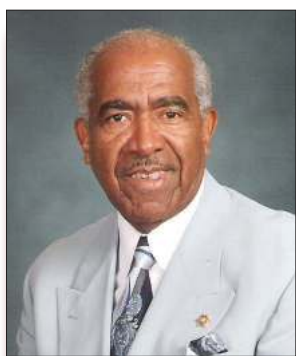
SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Western Baptist State Convention of California will hold its 133rd Mid-Winter Board Meeting beginning Saturday, March 4, through Thursday, March 9, at McCoy Memorial Baptist Church, located at 802 E. 46th Street in Los Angeles.

The theme is "Our Convention, Led by the Holy Spirit, That We Do Not Fall Away During Unprecedented Times" based on 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3.

The Rev. Dr. J. Benjamin Hardwick, WSBC president, and the Rev. Dr. R.A. Williams, Jr., host pastor, invite the entire Christian community to attend.

"It will be an honor for each of you to join us for a state and district proclamation of God's profound word, the finest in worship,



Rev. Dr. J. Benjamin Hardwick



Rev. Dr. R.A. Williams



Dr. Cynthia Perkins Smith



Dr. Franklyn Richardson

singing, and praise, and a range of events designed to meet the needs of all age groups," said Dr. Hardwick.

The Young People's Department will present an appreciation service for WBSC pastors on Saturday, March 4, at 10 a.m. The Young Adult Department, led by Dr. Raymond L. Chandler, will meet at 12:30 p.m.

The Mass Musical, directed by Lady Les-

lie Chandler and featuring voices from WSBC churches, will take place on Sunday, March 5, at 5 p.m.

On Monday, March 6, an evening of Prayer and Praise will be led by Dr. Dexter Kilpatrick, dean, and district moderators.

The Mid-Winter Board Meeting officially opens on Tuesday, March 7, at 12 noon with a message by the Rev. Douglas Nelson, WBSC ex-

ecutive secretary and pastor of True LA Church.

Evangelist Manuel Scott, Jr., will preach at 3 p.m., and at 6:45 p.m., the Usher's Session will be led by President Carolyn Chapman. Pastor Frederick Howard of Southside Bethel Baptist Church will deliver the sermon.

Activities on Wednesday, March 8, begin at 9:30 a.m., with President Calvin Armstrong and the laymen

in session. At 12 noon, the Rev. K. W. Tulloss, president of the Baptist Ministers Conference-Los Angeles and senior pastor of Weller Street Missionary Baptist Church, will bring the message.

The Pastors and Ministers Conference and Luncheon starts at 1:30 p.m. Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell will be the guest speaker. At 7 p.m., Dr. W.

Franklyn Richardson will preach. Richardson is the senior pastor of Grace Baptist Church, chairman of the Conference of National Black Churches, chairman of the National Action Network, chairman of Virginia Union University, and board member of Comcast and Pepsico.

On Thursday, March 9, at 9:45 a.m., President LaRonda Nelson and the Women's Department will welcome Dr. Cynthia Perkins Smith, president of the National Baptist Convention Women's Auxiliary.

At 12 noon on Thursday, the Rev. Xavier Thompson, 3rd Vice President and senior pastor of Southern Missionary Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church-Pacoima, will bring the message.

The Pastors and Ministers Wives Luncheon will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship Presents Black History Worship Service

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Pastor James. K. McKnight and the members of the Congregational Church of Christian Fellowship (CCCF) will hold a special Black History worship service on Sunday, February 19, at 10 a.m., in the edifice located at 2085 S. Hobart Blvd., in Los Angeles.

The service will celebrate the 78-year history of Our Authors Study, Club, Inc. (OASC) and the 73rd consecutive year that

OASC has hosted a city-wide Black History Month celebration with every L.A. mayor since 1950.

Established in December 1945, CCCF was born as an interracial church of Japanese and African American members during a time when Japanese residents were returning from internment camps and Blacks were challenging restrictive covenants and becoming residents in the West Adams area. CCCF is a key part of Black history



Pastor James McKnight



Charmaine Jefferson

in Los Angeles.

In addition to a special sermon by Pastor

L.A. Cultural Affairs commissioner, and chair of the Board of Trustees of California Institute of the Arts, will give remarks on the history of Los Angeles. As a descendant of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Jefferson will provide valuable insight and perspective into the background of the city.

Selections will be rendered by music director Ash Faatoalia and vocalist Lura Daniels-Ball.

After the service, the U.S. Postal Service staff

will be on hand and attendees can purchase Black History Stamps from the past and the current 2023 Ernest J. Gaines stamp. OASC and ASALH Black History books and posters will also be available.

Attendees are encouraged to wear African-inspired clothing. Masks are encouraged, but not required. CCCF is handicapped-accessible, and parking is available in a large lot directly across from the church.

Deaconess Jacquelyn 'Jackie' Snead Passes Away at 90

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

Deaconess Jacquelyn "Jackie" Marie Snead, who demonstrated a life of dedication to God and service to others, passed away on January 28. She was 90-years-old.

A member of First AME Church since 1942, Jackie grew up in FAME and shared her time and talents with the youth choir, youth ushers, young adult Lay Organization. Later, she served as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent as well as an officer and president of the Sarah

Allen Women's Missionary Society.

She went on to hold positions at the conference level of the WMS and became a WMS life member in 1997.

A celebration of her life will be held on Friday, February 17, at 11 a.m., at First AME Church, 2270 S. Harvard Blvd., in Los Angeles. Pastor J. Edgar Boyd will officiate.

Jackie was born on July 11, 1932 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to George and Gladys Rambo. Relocating to L.A. with her parents at the age of 10, she later graduated from Jordan

High School and enrolled in CSU Los Angeles. After earning her Bachelor's degree in Education, Jackie attended USC where she received her Master's degree in Education.



Jacquelyn "Jackie" Snead

education.

Employed by Los Angeles Unified School District for 40 years, Jackie was assigned as an instructor and counselor, along with filling other capacities, before retiring in 2005. Also, she served as treasurer for the California Retired Teachers Association.

Her community involvement included active memberships in the National Council of Negro Women, Delta Head Start, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Minerva Foundation, Forti-

tude Foundation, NAACP, Toastmasters, Ladies for Ethnic Advancement and Dignity, and Church Women United where she served as district coordinator.

Cherishing her memory are her sons, Albert Snead and Alfred Snead; granddaughters, Joi Marie, Alyssa Renee and Milani Denise Snead; her niece, nephews, extended family members Annie and William Bolden, Geraldine Hayes, and Karen Caffee, and a host of friends and acquaintances.

The Rev. Barbara Brooks and Juanita Kurasaki contributed to this article.

GETHEMANE CHRISTIAN LOVE MBC

"The Church Pressing with Christian Love as we celebrate: Bishop Byron L. Smith Sr., M. Div., M.A., D.D., Lady Jill and family's





COME JOIN US!

1st

Pastoral Anniversary Celebration

3:30 UNTIL 5PM

FEB 19

9616 South Avalon Blvd.
Los Angeles California 90003

Ways to assist us with your generosity
Zelle: pressatgethmane@gmail.com
Cash App: \$CCLPRESS



CLAYTON EVERETT/FAME CHURCH

FAME Hosts Citywide African American Heritage Month Worship Service

Pastor J. Edgar Boyd and the members of First AME Church of Los Angeles hosted the African American Heritage Month worship service presented by the City of Los Angeles and Our Authors Study Club on Feb. 12. Mayor Karen Bass and several elected officials participated. Also, L.A. Postmaster Jeremie Six unveiled the Ernest Gaines stamp, which is the latest stamp in the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage series. Music was performed by FAME's Freedom Mass Choir and gospel vocalist Elaine Gibbs.



ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

www.lasentinel.net

D-1

'Wu-Tang' Actor Damani Sease Discusses His Role as U-God in the Series and How Taking Risks Led to His Budding Success

BY DEVYN BAKEWELL
Assistant Managing Editor

You may recognize Damani Sease as rapper U-God, in the hit Hulu series, "Wu-Tang: An American Saga." Starting as a stunt part for the Wu-Tang series, the actor worked his way up to a regular and series favorite for his first real acting role.

"Wu-Tang: An American Saga" tracks Wu-Tang Clan's formation and rise to become the unlikely of American success stories. Premiered in 2019, the show tells a fictionalized story of the formation of the hip-hop group and is gearing up to air their third and final season on February 15th.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Sentinel, Damani Sease discussed how he started his rise to stardom, portraying U-God in the show, and even the upcoming series.

Los Angeles Sentinel (LAS): Have you always had a passion for acting? When did your journey start?

Damani Sease (DS): I always wanted to do something in the entertainment industry, whether that be acting, singing, dancing, or whatever else, but I never really pursued that dream. I played football and I stuck with it, but skip some years later, I was in high school, got recruited, and went to college [at Lycoming College], and I discovered I'm not really taking this football thing serious.

I used to skip practices, I wouldn't go a hundred percent at games, and even though I was a talented individual, I just knew I wasn't passionate about it. So, I asked myself what did I want to do? I remembered being a kid, thinking about acting, and so I called my parents one night, told them I was going to dropout and pursue acting as a career. Thank God for the parents I have. They supported my dream and said, "If that's what you want to do go ahead." I dropped out that same month and I

booked my first co-star. That was a sign from God for me.

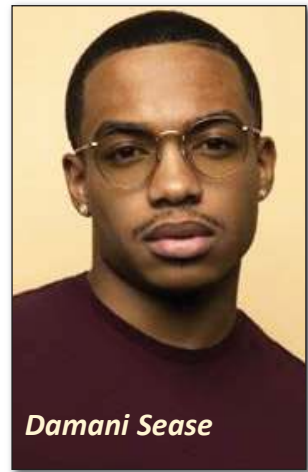
LAS: Tell me about your character, U-God, on "Wu-Tang: An American Saga."

DS: People know U-God as the quiet one in the group, never getting much of the shine. According to some people, he doesn't get out too much, but I just feel like he's unique in his own way. I'm so glad to have the role. This character feels so much like me in just so many ways. Everybody in the group is known as something and U-God is known for his bass-filled voice that everyone loves. He's a team player and he's been through a lot, but he's always there for his brother, no matter what they're going through.

LAS: You said you guys are similar. How so?

DS: When I was doing my research on U-God, watching all his interviews, reading his book, "My Journey into the Wu-Tang," opened my eyes. And then after talking to him, we con-

nected right off the bat. I just feel like I'm the younger version of him. It's hard to pre-



Damani Sease
COURTESY PHOTO

pare for a role for this because it's such an iconic group, especially him, but it wasn't too much for me besides studying his voice. But, I'm really much like him in a lot of ways.

LAS: How did you prepare for this role?

DS: Oh God, a lot of YouTube. I've watched every Wu-Tang interview there is on YouTube, studying mannerisms and, like I

said before, his voice. Listening to music, trying to get the cadence down and I talked to him a lot. I also read his book a couple of times, which really helped me because the book is his life from when he was young to when he got that fame. So, it gave me a lot of information.

LAS: What does it mean to you to be a part of telling Wu-Tang's story, as well as the show?

DS: I'm going to say it's a blessing, but it's so much more than that. You know, my parents growing up back in this time when Wu-Tang came out, they were fans of Wu-Tang's music and now their son is playing one of the original members [in the show]. It's a crazy experience, especially for my first big role. I wouldn't want anything else.

LAS: You voiced on how you and U-God are similar, and that there are a lot of rewards, but are there any challenges that come with playing him?

DS: The voice. The voice is always the hardest part. I got to the point where I felt like I was overdoing it, so I'd do little experiments. In season two, I would switch up my voice every now and then to see what the fans would like the most. I don't know if anybody peeped that, but it was a risk. I feel like this business is all about taking risks sometimes.

LAS: Is there any advice you'd give to fans, or young actors, trying to follow in your footsteps?

DS: Don't follow in my footsteps, definitely follow your own. Just be yourself, have faith, and believe in yourself. I had so many people tell me I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing now. Don't listen to them, and always believe in yourself.

The third and final season of "Wu-Tang: An American Saga" premieres on Hulu on February 15. To keep up to date with Damani Sease, check out his Instagram (@damanidsease).

Black Herstory Month: Women Making Moves and Leading Change in the Music Industry

BY SHELBY STEPHENS
Contributing Writer

African Americans have made significant contributions to the art of music in many genres across generations. One musical genre that has roots back to slavery is gospel music. As slaves became Christians, a religion forced upon them, they



Desiree Perez

began singing hymns later termed spirituals. Then with the abolition of slavery, a new form of music began to emerge. Free Blacks found themselves expressing their disappointment in a post-slavery society, birthing the smooth sound of the blues. Fast-forward to the late 1970's, Hip-Hop was born. This cultural movement encompassed all past and present music expressions like spirituals, the blues, poems, art, stories, and dance, making it the most popular genre in the United States. Now in 2023, learn about the women behind the music, who are making moves to expand our genres' reach through their work in business, activism, and representation.

Desiree Perez is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the full-service entertainment agency Roc Nation. Based out of New York City, Roc Nation started as a joint venture between Hip-Hop mogul Jay-Z and Live Nation in 2008. Roc Nation is comprised of a comprehensive talent agency, sports agency, record label, management agency, television and film enterprises, fashion clothing line, and educational and philanthropic endeavors. More than half of the agency's employees are women and minorities.

Perez rose to her leadership roles at Roc Nation after starting her career as a

part-time nightclub manager. In that role, that's when and where she first met and booked Jay-Z and later helped launch the 40/40



Brianna Agyemang & Jamila Thomas

Club in Manhattan. Perez has negotiated major deals for Roc Nation, like the Beyoncé Formation stadium tour and the Rihanna deal with Samsung. She is a part of a collective that runs the entire operation of Roc Nation, along with its sections of management, labeling operations, publishing, and the popular streaming platform, Tidal.

Perez succeeds former CEO and now chairman, Jay Brown, and now oversees development and growth across the Roc Nation portfolio of services and ventures, including new business development, music, management, publishing, touring, television and film development, and philanthropy, like the Shawn Carter Foundation, Team Roc, the REFORM Alliance, and the RC24 Foundation. In 2019, Brown presented Perez with the Billboard Executive of Year Award at the magazine's annual



The Black Music Coalition

Women in Music award ceremony. Her contributions to the multi-million-dollar agency have solidified her place in Black history.

On June 2, 2020, Brianna Agyemang and Jamila Thomas took a stand against racism in the music industry and founded the movement

#TheShowMustBePaused. In conjunction with Black-out Tuesday, a black square on social media — shared more than 700,000 times — calling out the music industry for its historic profit from Black artists while reinforcing systemic biases, #TheShowMustBePaused was birthed out of frustration after the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubrey, and many other young Black people. "Pause, process, and heal" have been the key points of the movement's reflection process when dealing with traumatic experiences involving police brutality and white supremacy.

Agyemang and Thomas hosted three discussion groups on June 2 and were joined by 1,500 invitees from the Black music community to discuss their thoughts and experiences about racially charged tragedies happening in their community. Meanwhile, Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment, Warner Music Group, and other companies suspended normal operations to organize workshops for their employees to help deal with the reoccurring incidents, resulting in the death of many Black people. Spotify and Apple Music, as well as numerous radio stations, offered playlists and other programming focused on Black music and artists, in hopes of promoting solidarity and inclusion. And because of their courage, there has been a significant increase in diversity, inclusivity, equity, and representation across all areas of music and entertainment.

The Black Music Coalition (BMC) was founded in the United Kingdom in 2020 by an all-female team, Afryea Henry-Fontaine, Char Grant, together with Komali Scott-Jones, and barrister Sheryl Nwosu, as a response to the movement #TheShowMustBePaused. The BMC is dedicated to eradicating racial injustice and establishing equality for Black music executives, artists, and their communi-

ties, by equipping the next generation with knowledge and resources to succeed. This movement was inspired by executives working in the

industry and reflecting upon their experiences of both interpersonal and systemic racism in the music industry.

The collective was estab-

lished to act in the best interests of its network and encourage industry leaders to

{See WOMEN IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY on D-2}

THE HILTON ALS SERIES

Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Five works by Nigerian-born, Los Angeles-based Njideka Akunyili Crosby are spotlighted in this exhibition curated by Hilton Als, in collaboration with the Yale Center for British Art and the artist.

Feb. 15–June 12, 2023

Organized by the Yale Center for British Art.

This exhibition's presentation at The Huntington is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation and an anonymous foundation.

THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

D-2

www.lasentinel.net

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
NASCAR driver Bubba Wallace finished the 2022 season at 19th place.

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

NASCAR driver Bubba Wallace goes into the 2023 season with a new car and a new hope to reach the playoffs. He will be competing in the Daytona 500 on Feb. 19 at 11:30 a.m. PST.

"This is the most excit-

Bubba Wallace Confident About 2023 Season

ed I am for a season to start just because of the momentum we were on last year," Wallace said "It's shaping up to be hopefully our best year yet."

Wallace recently competed in the Clash at the Coliseum in Los Angeles. He is happy about how the event exposes NASCAR to the South Central L.A. community.

"I think it's big ... getting into a market where it's so diverse and exposing our sport to eyeballs and new faces," he said. "It's important, we have to continue this trend ... I think it's a start for changing the face of NASCAR and it's fun to be a part of it."

In the 150-lap race, Wallace led for 40 laps midway through the race. The cars

bumped and pushed each other as they raced around the diminutive, temporary track. In order to prepare,



JERRY KELLY/TGSPORTSTV1
During the Clash at the Coliseum, Wallace was in first place for 40 laps.

Wallace did simulator training and relied on his experience with legend car racing.

"I had to go back to 2019 or 2006 when we in

legend cars on tracks this size," Wallace said. "I spent a lot of my career racing legend cars and getting that feel.

Simulation, running as many laps as you can to get a comfortable feel, make a little bit of tweaks here and there to adjust to your needs."

Wallace battled to get back to first place during the final laps but he was bumped by Austin Dillon and his car spun out. The Mobile, Alabama native ultimately came in 22nd place.

This is the third year Wallace is racing with 23XI, which was created by Michael Jordan and Denny Hamlin. He will also go into this season with Bootie Barker as his crew chief. Barker has been his crew chief since 2021.

"It's been fun working with [Barker], continuing to grow with him and push that leadership throughout our team," Wallace said.

Last season, Wallace won the Hollywood Casino 400 at the Kansas Speedway. The Hollywood Casino 400 is the second event in the first

round of the NASCAR Cup Series Playoffs. He also came in second place at the Daytona 500. He finished the 2022 season in 19th place.

"We've been able to win the last two seasons, but at the wrong time, we need to win before the Play-



JERRY KELLY/TGSPORTSTV1
Wallace is going into his third year with 23XI Racing-

offs," Wallace said. "We have the right people in place, the mentality is there, our work efforts are there, so I just have to do my job and go out and start this year off right."

Student Athlete of the Week: Janiya Hughes

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

King/Drew senior running back Janiya Hughes is the team captain for the Golden Eagles girls flag football team. Being a captain, she learned the importance of leading by example.

"If we're losing, I have to be the one to tell everybody 'we're losing but at the end of the day, we still gotta have fun and we got to keep everything chill and just play with our heart,'" Hughes said.

During her fifth-grade

year, Hughes competed in the ICEF rugby program as a winger. She noticed how that position is similar to the wide receiver and running back positions.

"I have the ball more like handed to me, that's why I transitioned over to running back because I don't have to catch," Hughes said. "Running back has my heart because it's closest to playing wing in rugby."

At the end of the flag football season, Hughes won the MVP award for her team. She noted how

she did not expect to receive the honor.

"It's a very, very good thing to see that my coach actually sees what I'm doing," Hughes said. "I'm trying to help out."

A proud moment for Hughes was a time when she scored a touchdown and a two-point conversion with the same play. She was surprised when her opponents did not suspect the Golden Eagles to run the same play two consecutive times.

"I was really geeked out about it because it was

like reading the field," Hughes said. "Being able to read the field and be like 'they're not going to see it again' and doing it and it still worked geeked me out, that was a good thing."

For Hughes, being a student athlete means that the same level of effort that's put into sports must be put into academic work.

"You out on the field doing everything that you do but you go to school and you're joking off and it's not going to balance out," she said. "You got to give both of them your all."



AMANDA SCURLOCK
King/Drew running back Janiya Hughes started playing rugby in the fifth grade.

Time management helps Hughes balance her academics with athletics.

"Procrastination is gonna be the silent killer of everything," she said. "You have to really be on everything that you do."

Hughes' favorite class is English with her favorite book being "On The Come Up" by Angie Thomas.

"She tackles the book from different perspectives," Hughes said. "It's a good read."

Rams, Chargers Host League of Champions Super Bowl

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

To conclude their second season, the Los Angeles Rams and Chargers hosted the L.A. Girls Flag Football League of Champions Super Bowl. Days after the event, the CIF Southern Section approved of a proposal to make girls football a CIF-sanctioned sport as soon as this coming Fall.

"I remember back in 2020, we're talking about how can we build a platform for girls to give them access and opportunity to play flag football and here we are," said Rams director of social justice and football development Johnathan Franklin. "Everybody culminating here at Redondo Union to celebrate this his-

toric moment."

In the League of Champions Super Bowl, 14 teams



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
The League of Champions Flag Football Super Bowl took place at Redondo Union high school.

battled in a seven-on-seven, single-game elimination tournament. The Serra Cavaliers ultimately earned the Super Bowl title.

"This is an opportunity for girls to see that they can

come out too and be as athletic, as passionate and pursue their dreams as well,"

said Serra flag football head coach Monique Adams. "I love being a mentor on and off the field, so being able to provide this experience for them to how to be professional, how to be committed ... I think it's very beneficial for their lives.

Prior to the start of the tournament, there was an opening ceremony where the athletes heard remarks from the Rams and Chargers franchises and from Southern Section executive committee president-elect Dr. Paula Hart Rodas.

"There are 20 NFL teams that are committed to participating in pushing this forward across our country," Hart Rodas said. "It's about creating these oppor-

tunities and putting the weight of the NFL and our partner organizations like Nike and Gatorade to get these opportunities open for these girls."



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
In the second season, the League of Champions expanded to 16 teams.

Each coach also elected an MVP on their respective teams and awarded them with a trophy. Crenshaw senior Dechelle Brackett had been competing in the League of Champions for both seasons.

"It really means a lot because they were working on it the first year, so it was basically just building up to this point," Brackett said. "I'm glad that they're doing stuff like this, I feel like it should have been done a long time ago."

Hawthorne flag football head coach Corey Thedford is proud that the Chargers and Rams have given female athletes a platform

to showcase their abilities.

"Being able to bring football to the girls on the campus really meant a lot to me," Thedford said. "I want to have a football communi-



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
The Rams and Chargers provides the League of Champions with a myriad of resources including stipends for coaches, uniforms, and transportation.

ty and they're making that happen."

During the first season, there were only eight teams. The League of Champions then expanded to 16 teams

for the second season.

"The sportsmanship, the eagerness, just the fire that these ladies have inside of them to come out here and compete and have a great time and most of all, there's another level to this," said Chargers manager of football development Angellica Grayson. "Now they can to college and play flag football for a scholarship."

Reigning champion Serra senior Kyli Bixon was happy to see the joy on her teammates' faces.

"Football has always been my favorite sport and

having an opportunity to have it come to our school, something new, it got me excited," Bixon said. "Now it's the future for us and other women."

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

18th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival

TASTE OF SOUL

SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 2023

OVER 300,000 GUESTS!

REGISTER AT TASTEOSOULLA.COM

@los_streetfestia EMAIL: TOSVENDORS@LASENTINEL.NET PHONE: 323-299-3800

{Continued WOMEN IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY from D-1}

make meaningful and effective changes. The BMC has maintained the coalitions mission and goals through demonstrations like Blackout Tuesday, important conversations with The Half Cast

Podcast, and sharing their stories in the June 2021 issue of Music Week. The coalition and its members give a voice to Black execs and ensure the challenges they face are recognized, heard,

and ultimately removed.

Black women have always been historically present in music. Beyond record sales and performances, their presence is still needed behind the scenes to

fight for representation and equity in an industry they've helped build and maintain. Since its inception, the Black woman's imprint on the culture has remained relevant in music.