

Charlene Dimas-Peinado – see page A-2



Janet Jackson – see page D-1

# Mayor Karen Bass Signs \$13B City Budget



From left are Pro Temp Councilman Curren Price, Mayor Karen Bass, Council President Paul Krekorian and City Councilman Bob Blumenfield. (COURTESY PHOTO)

### CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Karen Bass signed the city's revised \$13 billion budget for fiscal year 2023-24 on May 26, which she said charts a new course for the city -- one that is "stronger, happier, healthier and safer." The budget will take effect July 1.

"Just last month, I stood in this room and said that the budget was being presented as a reflection of our values and invest in the most critical needs," Bass said.

"I also said that I was confident that the relationship that we had built with a City Council that we would have a collaborative process. That's what we have here today -- that we come together united to sign the budget."

There is a difference between spending and investing, she added, and this budget makes investments to bring people inside, improve public safety and other areas that will "net a return in terms of lives saved, in terms of the quality of life and better neighborhoods, and that will save the city in the long run."

She thanked Council President Paul Krekorian and City Councilman Bob Blumenfield, chair of the council's Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee, and the rest of the Council for "locking arms" with her and approve a budget that "will bring the urgency to the crisis we face."

City Council President Paul Krekorian said the budget invests in "basic infrastructure and quality

of life." The budget will fund the basic services that people in Los Angeles need, such as improving the environment and lays the foundation for economic recovery post COVID, he added.

Pro Temp Councilman Curren Price reiterated the budget represents "our shared valued, shared commitment and sheer determination to get the job done."

The mayor signed the revised \$13 billion budget following the City Council's vote earlier this week to approve its amended version of her originally proposed spending plan earlier this week.

After weeks of deliberations, hours of public comment and final revisions, the Council voted 13-1 on May 18 to approve

its amended version of the mayor's budget. The final version includes an unprecedented \$1.3 billion to address housing and homelessness and about \$3.2 billion for the Los Angeles Police Department.

Krekorian said in a statement that the council "built on the broad outline of the mayor's proposed budget" with amendments to ensure "transparency and accountability" in the city's spending. The 2023-24 budget tops \$13 billion for the first time, a \$1.31 billion, or 11% increase, from the

prior fiscal year and includes \$566 million in a reserve fund.

Councilwoman Euniss Hernandez said she was able to talk with Hernandez about the budget, as the councilwoman was

the budget, it "fell far short" of meeting the needs of Angelenos.

"We talked over and over about how we can uplift and fund these desperately needed programs and services because we wanted to create something that reflected the needs of a very diverse city," Hernandez told her colleagues the day of the vote.

"I have to say that I'm disappointed with the outcome of this process. When we have a budget that has 25% of our money going to policing, we're not creating a budget that is reflective of our values and the demands that we get every day from our constituents."

Bass said she has not been able to talk with Hernandez about the budget, as the councilwoman was

visiting Vienna alongside Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson to learn about different housing models.

Other Council members supported the budget and applauded the investments outlined within. Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez in a statement said it was the "most progressive budget in the history of Los Angeles."

He noted direct funding for the LAPD decreased by about \$22 million compared to last year, and the budget will invest \$16 million in funding for alternative crisis response programs, compared to just \$8 million last year.

Among the significant items in the budget are those addressing the homelessness emergency,

{See BUDGET A-10}

## Exploring Future Growth in the 57th District with Highly Endorsed Candidate Sade Elhawary

BY BETTI HALSELL  
Staff Writer

Throughout her career, Sade Elhawary has shown undeniable leadership. Decades of her effort reflect her devotion to positive change and future growth. Multiple pillars of the community confirmed that Elhawary would be a strong advocate for the 57th District.



Sade Elhawary dedicates her energy to justice and uplifting the next generation (FILE PHOTO)

Los Angeles Sentinel had an exclusive interview Elhawary to discuss the growth in the 57th District. Noted public servants that recognize Elhawary's talent and support her running for the seat include State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, current 57th District Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer, L.A. Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

{See ELHAWARY A-10}

## Michelle Chambers Sets Course for California Senate District 35

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Former Compton City Councilmember Michelle Chambers, known for her service as external affairs manager for State Attorney General Rob Bonta, has officially entered the race for California State Senate District 35, slated for the March 2024 election.

Among those endorsing Chambers are California State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas



Michelle Chambers

(COURTESY PHOTO) and California State Assemblymember Tina McKinnor.

"Having dedicated nearly 15 years of service to this district, I've gained an intimate understanding of the challenges plaguing our communities, challenges that call for our immediate and focused attention," said Chambers.

"In the state legislature, we must fervently advocate for livable wages, affordable housing, job opportunities, and support for our residents

{See CHAMBERS A-10}

## Metro Extends Street Team and Community Engagement Program on the K Line

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The K Line gets an extension of Metro's reimagined safety and community engagement program. On May 25, 2023 the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority



Members of Metro's street team at the Leimert Park station. (COURTESY PHOTO)

authorized an extension of public relations' firm Lee Andrews Group's contract to continue to provide its Street Team and Community Intervention Specialists program to the K Line in the amount of \$11,929,043.

Since 2022, the launch of this program was one step further in the direction of reimagining the public safety process. This

program of 60+ Street Team members with the inclusion of Community Based Organizations from South Los Angeles - 2nd Call, Developing Options and Able Solutions -- creates a safe environment and additional presence seven days a week to enhance the K Line customer experience.

The Community Intervention Specialists

accomplish their daily job as an unarmed presence and have brought an extreme value in creating a safe environment. Their leadership continues to bring in professional expertise in handling tough local situations, and has allowed the South Los Angeles community to benefit with great jobs, further establishing that the K Line and Metro works for everyone.

Lee Andrews Group's successful community engagement program has proven a better riding experience with safety redefined and embedded in the system in new ways. This program is now a model program in big cities across the United States.

## A Wonderful Day in the Neighborhood



The sisters and niece of Susie Dorsey gathered at Harold & Belles Restaurant to celebrate Susie's 89th birthday. The celebrants also included Ann Scott, Eugenia Cook, Mattie Young and Trosha Dorsey. (Danny Bakewell Sr./L.A. Sentinel)

Subscription information for Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper, including contact details and a barcode.

# Wellnest, AltaMed Unite To 'End the Stigma, Promote Mental Health'



Charlene Dimas-Peinado



Christina Sanchez



Dr. Anthony Durham

By RODD A. AMOS  
Contributing Writer

More than 40 community members from South L.A. neighborhoods gathered at Wellnest Emotional Health and Wellness on South Vermont Avenue in University Park for a critical, in-person conversation

on the impact of mental health in Black and Brown communities.

The event was headlined by Wellnest President and CEO, Charlene Dimas-Peinado, the first Latina president in the organization's history.

"May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and this

is an opportunity to promote mental health and help reduce the stigma as it relates to mental health issues and disorders. Stigma is an inability to function day to day, to interact with other people, to focus, or self-regulate emotions," said Dimas-Peinado.

"At Wellnest, our top goals are access and equity to critically needed services, growing our services beyond our geographic area, and ensuring we are innovative in providing holistic, non-traditional health services that truly meet the needs of the communities that we serve," she declared.

Hosting duties were performed by Andrea Salazar, Wellnest's vice president of Advancement and External Affairs, who is responsible for overseeing all development activities for the organization, and raising awareness for its innovative initiatives and programs

throughout L.A. County.

AltaMed Health Services vice president of Public Affairs Christina Sanchez moderated the discussion. "This month, we're paying homage to our clinical workers. We really need to check in with our employees! So, today's conversation is going to be about what employers are doing to provide work-life balance," she said.

"At AltaMed, I ensure my clinicians and social workers are checking in with our patients and encouraging our community members to seek out resources nearby. Check in with someone you haven't spoken with to say, 'How are you, today?' Because today may be different than yesterday," said the former Univision anchorwoman.

Discussing the intake process, Wellnest Director of Intensive Services Dr. Anthony Durham noted,

"We're getting our referrals from the Department of Mental Health and a lot of our services we provide are in the home with the client. We're in the community, at parks, and in schools because our job is to keep children in the home with the biological parent, guardian or foster parent.

"We link them with highly skilled therapists or case managers to provide immediate intervention and community resources, including parent advocates with lived experiences — someone from our system who has been through an experience and who knows the nuances and complexities of dealing with those specific concerns," Durham explained.

Dimas-Peinado added, "We're aware of the huge need for mental health services for our children and families, and we're responding to the best of

our ability to ensure access to quality mental health services when they need it the most."

In an earlier address, Olivia Rios, director of Operations and Programs at the Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce, whose organization partners with Wellnest, rallied support behind fostering a community of Latino business leaders with new partnerships and opportunities at the state and local level.

Since 1924, Wellnest has empowered children and young adults to get on the track to success, reach goals in school, build healthy relationships, and enjoy emotional well-being. The organization provides mental health and full supportive services at four community-based service locations, 35 LAUSD schools, and in families' homes.

To learn more, visit [wellnestla.org](http://wellnestla.org).

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# Sharon Coleman Recognized in Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce Business Series

BY DENVER MACKAY  
Contributing Writer

The Sentinel has been recognizing businesses in the Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce and the exceptional work they do for the Los Angeles community.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sharon Coleman of Coleman Construction, and President of the Southern California Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors.

This week, the focus is on business owner Sharon Coleman, CEO and founder of Coleman Construction Inc., and president of the Southern California Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors. In an interview with the Sentinel, Coleman discussed the trajectory of her career, her experiences, and her vision of the future for minorities in the construction industry.

Coleman's career kicked off when she was in college where she did many project management jobs "to get her foot in the door." These activities resulted in her discovering her love for construction.

She did project man-

agement for about two years before moving into the corporate world. While she learned the ins and outs of many companies and worked in many different positions, she always figured out a way to be in construction.

She explained that her mother-in-law was a firm supporter of ensuring that women had benefits at any job they were working at, which then took her to her next gig at Xerox. After working at Xerox, she obtained her construction license, which launched her



COURTESY PHOTO

Coleman and board members at their 2nd Annual Women's High Tea event.

fruitful construction career.

After getting her construction license in 1995, she founded Coleman Construction Inc., where she began with residential construction, then commercial and governmental construction. Coleman Construction is a building and engineering firm that has been doing work in Southern California since 1995 offering services in con-

struction management, structural engineering, and design-build.

The company also performs new construction and renovations including tenant improvement projects for commercial and industrial buildings, demolition, building and selective site development, excavation, site work underground utilities, and retail construction.

Explaining the factors that attracted her to construction, Coleman said, "I love the concept of change, our daily life is changing.

We have to get used to different areas of our lives because our world is in a constant place of movement.

"Being able to take something from point A to point B. When I was in the field I enjoyed seeing every stage take place. I loved the concept of making something, new and modern."

Along with her love for construction, Coleman

added, "I love my community, I've been here for almost 30 years. I've had my house here for 23 years, lived with my grandmother who lives down the street for five years.

struction is that there are so many ways to get into this business now. Trade Tech, community colleges and community organizations have many programs that offer training. LAUSD also

of the Southern California Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors, Coleman has similar goals. NAMC is dedicated to fighting for the rights of our local



COURTESY PHOTO

Coleman and guests from their 2nd Annual Women's High Tea event.

"When I moved to California from New York in the 1970s, I was still here and I have been able to watch the mall become the Crenshaw Mall, Kaiser, see the movie theater be built, the train, and most of the things happening in this neighborhood I have seen change."

Coleman has this word of advice for young people that are interested working in the construction industry - "It takes patience, and for construction, you've got to put in some work somewhere. Whether you graduate and become a project manager somewhere, stick it out for four-to-five years before you cross this threshold.

"The beauty of con-

has training for those ages from 18-24 to get into this field as well," she said.

"Just know there is training available all across the city that you can do. Every union has training and bootcamps; there is plenty of opportunity, we need more minorities in construction because we are going to come up on a shortage and we need people to fill that void. You've got to get in there, pay your dues so you can move up."

Coleman hopes to continue expanding her business, gaining more commercial work with an emphasis on governmental construction. Also, she wants to hire as many people of color as she can.

In her role as president

minority construction community, forming successful partnerships and negotiating better employment and procurement opportunities in all areas of this industry.

NAMC-SC is working to increase the number of minority construction workers employed in Southern California. By providing solid career paths for thousands of adults, both women and men, from minority communities in need of stable employment, NAMC-SC can effectively change the trajectory of their lives.

To learn more about Coleman Construction and the NAMC, visit <http://www.colemancon.com/>, and <https://www.namc-sc.org/>.

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# Los Angeles Public Library to Host 'June Jubilee' Juneteenth Celebration

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles Public Library is hosting the inaugural celebration "June Jubilee: A celebration of Black Excellence" to mark the Juneteenth holiday. The Jubilee was curated by Changing Tones, one of the Library's racial equity and inclusion groups, as a way to honor and share with all Angelenos the contributions and culture of African Americans throughout the history of Los Angeles and the nation.

The free event will be held on Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Central Library, at 630 W. Fifth Street in downtown Los Angeles.

"The celebration is an open invitation to the many diverse cultures throughout the city to join the library in celebrating and recognizing the tremendous talent, achievements and heritage of the Black community," said Jené D. Brown, Racial Equity Officer and Director of LAPL's Emerging Technologies and Collections Division.

"We're excited to present this inaugural June Jubilee celebration that honors the rich heritage of

our ancestors through a joyful exploration of Black culture that fosters unity, understanding, fun and appreciation of the American experience," Brown said.

advisory committee, Changing Tones, created in 2019 with the mission to increase representation, provide support, and ensure racial equity and inclusion of African Amer-

ican Library has been intentional in honoring African Americans like former L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley and award-winning science fiction author Octavia E. Butler by naming our Cen-

tral Library atrium wing and makerspace for their respective contributions to society. We welcome everyone to join us as we celebrate Black culture and Juneteenth."

control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed. The troops' arrival came a full two-and-a-half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by

www.lapl.org/june-jubilee for real-time updates. The family-friendly event will have activities for all ages, including a scavenger hunt, storytelling, crafts for kids, games, tours and more. Attendees will also have the opportunity to engage in informative workshops, speakers, live entertainment, health and wellness programs, financial literacy information and more. It will also feature a mobile memory lab, genealogy workshops and a candid conversation about the topic of reparations in California.

A recipient of the nation's highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than eight million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at [lapl.org](http://lapl.org), and diverse programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.



Members of the Changing Tones Advisory Committee are, from left, Jasmine Slaughter, Kren Malone, Romondo Locke, Leona M. Stevenson, Alesha Jones, (group leader) Jené D. Brown, Brenda J. Breaux, David Gregory and Angela Lee.

"Amidst the pages of history, the vibrant tapestry of African American people weaves a story of resilience, creativity, and profound contributions not only to this nation, but to the world."

The inaugural June Jubilee is the inspiration of the library's award-winning African American

Public Library's workforce, programming, collections and services.

"The time is now to shine this light on our community and to celebrate the richness of black excellence," said Kren Malone, Director of Central Library.

"The Los Angeles Pub-

lic Library has been intentional in honoring African Americans like former L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley and award-winning science fiction author Octavia E. Butler by naming our Cen-

tral Library atrium wing and makerspace for their respective contributions to society. We welcome everyone to join us as we celebrate Black culture and Juneteenth."

Historically, Juneteenth, short for June 19, marks the day that federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take

President Abraham Lincoln and was documented as the official end of slavery in the United States. In 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation that established June 19 as an official federal holiday.

## Juneteenth 400 Plans Celebration in San Pedro

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Juneteenth 400, a nonprofit organization presents its annual Juneteenth Celebration from Wednesday, June 14, through Monday, June 19.

The event is a collaboration with the Port of Los Angeles, NAACP Branch

Women on the Waterfront, Port of Long Beach, ILWU Locals 13,63 and 94 as well as the City of Los Angeles.

Juneteenth is an annual commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States after the Civil War and has been celebrated by African Americans since the late 1800s. Joe Gatlin,

Los Angeles Harbor area over the years.

The Juneteenth 400 festivities will feature a Dodger Stadium outing for 100 youth from Los Angeles County to celebrate Black Heritage Night on June 14. Youth will receive an exclusive jersey, pay tribute to the rich history of Black Dodger players, and celebrate Black culture.

On June 15, a celebrity charity Domino Tournament takes place at 2 p.m. on the Battleship Iowa. All proceeds will be donated to the Leukemia and Bone Marrow Registry.

For the first time, the LA Port of Los Angeles is opening its doors to job opportunities on the waterfront in partnership with Juneteenth 400. The Economic and Workforce Development Department Job Fair will be held on June 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also, a Family Style Picnic takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The picnic and the job fair will be held at Wilmington Waterfront Park located at the corner of C and Figueroa Streets in Wilmington.

Activities will conclude on June 19 with two activities. First, the Korean Bell Preservation Committee will celebrate Juneteenth with a bell ringing ceremony

at the Korean Friendship Bell from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 3671 South Gaffey Street in San Pedro.

From 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Juneteenth 400 will host a cruise around the harbor with a cannon and firework

display. Space is limited and registration is required.

To learn more, email [bmanuel4947@gmail.com](mailto:bmanuel4947@gmail.com)



COURTESY PHOTO

1069, SA Recycling, Economic and Workforce Development Department, Pacific Maritime Association, Water Replenishment District, YWCA, 99 cent Only Stores, Dr. Bryant Institute, ICHOR Strategies, Councilmember Tim McOster, Harbor Gateway WorkSource Center,

San Pedro resident and activist has hosted an annual Juneteenth Celebration from 2000 to 2018. In 2021, he founded the nonprofit Juneteenth 400 which now has expanded partnerships and collaborations to host the celebration which has attracted thousands of Angelenos to the

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## Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL) Celebrates 48th Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Gala Fundraiser Honoring Paula Madison; Martin Muoto and Sekou Kaalund Breaks LAUL Fundraising Record

Mayor Karen Bass gave Opening Remarks; Bishop T.D. Jakes, Chairman & CEO, T.D. Jakes Group was the Special Keynote Guest while Chris Schauble and Megan Telles, co-anchors at KTLA, served as the Masters of Ceremonies. Entrepreneur/philanthropist Kathy Ireland is presenter, Tony-Award-nominated actress and singer Denée Benton provided entertainment accompanied by the Inner-City Youth Orchestra; Music royalty Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr., and Euphoria’s Nika King were among special guests

On Thursday, May 18th, the Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL) honored Paula Madison, CEO of Madison Media Management; Martin Muoto, Founder, Managing Partner Sola Impact; and Sekou Kaalund, Executive Vice President US Bank at their 48th Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Dinner at The Beverly Hilton Hotel. Bishop T.D. Jakes, Chairman & CEO, T.D. Jakes Group was the Special Keynote Guest, and Chris Schauble and Megan Telles, KTLA anchors, served as the emcees, while Tony-Award-nominated actress and singer Denée Benton provided the night’s entertainment accompanied by the Inner-City Youth Orchestra. Entrepreneur/human rights activist Kathy Ireland, served as presenter.

This year’s theme, ‘Building for Tomorrow’ was a celebration of the more than 100 years that LAUL has served as a powerful advocate for African Americans and other minorities by ensuring that these communities have access to careers with living wages, opportunities to start and grow businesses, and clear pathways to personal and professional growth. This year’s gala raised over \$2 million to support the organization’s efforts, a record for the organization’s signature fundraising event.

“We are grateful for our sponsors and our guests for their support of our organization,” said Ambassador Michael A. Lawson, LAUL’s CEO. “There is still so much work that must be done to ensure that the African American and minority communities in Los Angeles can have equal access and thrive. The generosity of our supporters, will ensure that we can continue to support our mission.”

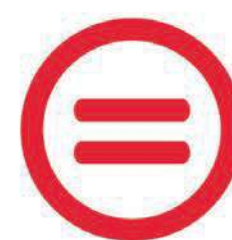
“We are thrilled with the support we’ve received this year,” says Ms. Cynthia Heard, who earlier this year made history by becoming the first African American woman appointed as Chief Operating Officer of the iconic civil rights organiza-

tion. “I could not be more pleased with the support from our guests and the generosity of our sponsors. Together, we can make a change and advance our goal of bettering the lives of African Americans and other minorities in Los Angeles,” adds Ms. Heard.

This year’s black tie gala was sponsored by First Citizens Bank, U.S. Bank, the Smidt Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, Stocker Street Creative, JPMorgan Chase & Co., American Airlines, American Honda Motor Co., Inc., Cedars Sinai, Intuit, Health Net, KTLA-TV, Lakers Youth Foundation, NBC/Telemundo, NFL Players Association (NFLPA), Sony Pictures Entertainment, and Universal Music Group and many others.

For more information on the Los Angeles Urban League and the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Dinner, please visit [www.laul.org](http://www.laul.org).

About Los Angeles Urban League  
Los Angeles Urban League serves, educates, and empowers African Americans and other minorities to secure economic self-reliance and civil rights by providing targeted social programs and advocating for issues that benefit our communities. Visit and follow the Los Angeles Urban League Website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



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[www.LAUL.org](http://www.LAUL.org)

# Black Student-Athlete Summit and Project Destined Launch Virtual Training Sessions

*New internship program includes partnerships with nine NCAA Division I colleges and universities, and mentorship from senior leaders in commercial real estate and professional sports*

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Black Student-Athlete Summit (BSAS), a platform dedicated to advancing the professional and academic success of Black student-athletes, is partnering with Project Destined to launch a new virtual internship program that will provide Black student-athletes with training in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and real estate.

Financial support is being provided by some of the nation's leading impact-minded real estate firms, including BGO, Brookfield, Catalyst Housing Group, Dune Real Estate Partners, Jemcor Development Partners, Landspire Group, Marcus & Millichap, Virtu Investments, and The Vistria Group.

The inaugural program will begin in June 2023. Student athletes will participate in Project Destined's multi-week, paid virtual internship, which includes more than 25 hours of real estate-based training. Program participants will also join executives to evaluate real-time commercial real estate transactions in their community and compete in pitch competitions to senior industry leaders.

The internship includes

opportunities for scholarships and networking with more than 250 corporate partners. During the program, real estate industry mentors will also prepare,



COURTESY PHOTO

Young people from universities across the nation will participate in the Black Student-Athlete Summit.

engage, and guide students the one-on-one to help them develop a range of fundamentals including financial, technical, presentation and leadership skills designed to launch their careers in commercial real estate.

Over the course of the next year, the program will include 100 student-athletes from the University of Arizona, University of California Davis, University of California San Diego, University of Cincinnati, Cen-

tral Michigan University, Georgetown University, University of Missouri, Washington State University and Western Michigan University.

The participants in the program will additionally benefit from the support of program co-chairs representing the NBA, Los Angeles Lakers, and Tennessee Titans, who will provide Project Destined with guidance on curriculum design and content.

"It has been three years since Catalyst partnered with UC Davis and Project Destined to launch revolutionary educational programming dedicated to the empowerment of Black

student-athletes," said Jordan Moss, founder and CEO of Catalyst Housing Group.

"The expansion of this platform is a natural evolution of this collective effort and will provide tangible pathways for thousands of Black student-athletes to pursue future careers in commercial real estate. We are incredibly grateful to the academic institutions and financial sponsors who have made this all possible



COURTESY PHOTO

A recent BSAS forum included corporate executives and college students.

on a national scale and look forward to witnessing the continued diversification of commercial real estate talent pools."

"Project Destined's focused efforts in creating new pathways for diverse, talented students to estab-

lish meaningful entry-points to a career in commercial real estate has been nothing short of groundbreaking," said Sonny Kalsi, co-CEO of BGO.

"Today, we are thrilled to join their newest venture alongside the Black Student-Athlete Summit, and so many of our esteemed peers in the industry and leading universities across the nation, including my alma mater, Georgetown University, to deliver edu-

Black Student-Athlete Summit.

"We believe that preparing black student-athletes to become the next generation of commercial real estate professionals will be transformative for the African American community."

Since its founding in 2016, Project Destined has trained more than 5,000 participants from over 350 universities worldwide, including the U.S., U.K.,

Canada, Europe, and Asia. Project Destined has also partnered with over 250 real estate firms, professional sports teams and leagues including the WNBA, Los Angeles Lakers, Tennessee Titans and Detroit Pistons.

"We are extremely excited to launch this partnership with Project Destined," said Leonard Moore, founder of the

## SNIPES Initiative Supports Historically Black Colleges and Universities



COURTESY PHOTO



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SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

SNIPES Pay It Forward initiative is a nationwide campaign to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The initiative is part of SNIPES' commitment to giving back to the community and investing in the future of HBCUs and their graduates.

Through this program, SNIPES aims to provide

opportunities for underrepresented communities and empower the next generation of leaders by supporting education and creating a platform for important conversations.

SNIPES Pay It Forward recently partnered with the Mann x HBCU Festival, the first of its kind, for the Philadelphia region. The free festival was an all-day community event celebrating HBCUs and their

vibrant culture.

As an interactive college fair featuring representatives from national and regional HBCUs, the festival served to engage and inspire the next generation of students while cele-

brating the rich and varied performing arts that are integral to HBCU culture.

The festival included performances by guests such as Terrance J, as well as live HBCU choirs including The Howard Gospel Choir and Jeremy Winston Chorale (HBCU Student/Alum Combined Choir), marching bands (The Blue Pride Marching Band of Stillman College), majorettes (Cheyney University Blue Majorettes and Stillman College Majorettes), and cheer squads. Also, attendees had the opportunity to enjoy a masterclass by Xclusive Percussion, who is the #1 drumline from Atlanta, GA.

Family-friendly activities included Snipes USA Human Claw Machine where each person was attached to a harness and able to grab a special prize from each mysterious box.

Awaiting next to the claw machine were some of the leaders from the Snipes teams, Gabrielle Golden from Talent & Acquisition, Parker Hargens from the Marketing Digital team and Katrina Merritt, a district manager for retail locations.



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# USC Hosts Annual Leslie & William McMorro Neighborhood Academic Initiative Gala

By SHELBY STEPHENS  
Contributing Writer

For over three decades the University of Southern California (USC) has used its resources to streamline children and young adults into higher education. Nearly 1,000 6 – 12 grade scholars participate in their signature college prep program, the USC Leslie and William McMorro Neighborhood Academic Initiative (NAI), with many advancing to become first-generation college students.

On Wednesday, May 24, USC celebrated 96 local students at their annual gala who have completed six years of rigorous study and



Leslie & William McMorro and Kim Thomas-Barrios with the 2023 NAI Scholars

COURTESY PHOTO

parenting and support, he credited his wife for their balanced life regarding work commitments, and acknowledged USC and the NAI program for recognizing his achievements.

To conclude the gala, Associate Senior Vice President of USC Educational Partnerships; USC University Relations Kim Thomas-Barrios, announced the 2023 NAI graduating class and acknowledged the scholars for their hard work and dedication through the last seven years.

Learn more about the USC Leslie and William McMorro Neighborhood Academic Initiative (NAI) Program and how to get



Leslie & William McMorro with Kim Thomas-Barrios

COURTESY PHOTO

who are college bound, at the university's park campus Founders Park. The gala also introduced the first Community Impact Award

graduating class in 1997, approximately 44% of NAI scholars have attended USC as first year or transfer students. To date, 107 scholars have transferred to USC as undergraduates.

Barbara Solomon, Board of Councilor member and a founder of the initiative, shared, "This is evidence that if you give the kids the right support, they can make it. All our children should have that opportunity, not just the ones in NAI, but we're hoping that this is a model we can give to other communities to show that it's all about the children."

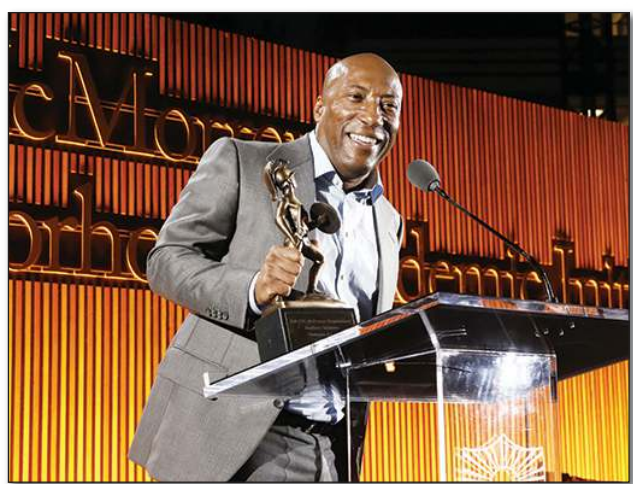
Noting the program's longevity, Board of Councilor member Pedro Noguera said, "We are celebrating scholars but what you don't realize is there are dozens behind them who are inspired by their example. We're looking to expand into schools who don't have access and to work with those schools to help them improve to serve more students."

Joshua Burks is one of the exemplary NAI scholars



2023 NAI Scholar Joshua Burks

COURTESY PHOTO



NAI Champion Award Recipient Byron Allen

COURTESY PHOTO

honoring NAI Program Director, Lizette Zarate, Ed. D.

Other program participants were Senior Vice President of University Relations Samuel Garrison, USC Board of Trustees members Leslie and William McMorro, and NAI Alumna Alyssa Young. Media personality Alysha Del Valle, served as emcee.

More than 1,500 seniors

graduating from the number one feeder public school to USC, James A. Foshay Learning Center, and will be an incoming freshman in the fall. He was also accepted to Tuskegee University, but

ultimately decided to stay in Southern California.

Burks is fascinated by computer coding and math. He has selected Computer Science and Business Administration as his majors to continue to explore the world of STEM and learn how to open a technology-based business to create jobs in his community. A problem solver at heart, Burks successfully navigated the challenges of distance learning during the pandemic.

While discussing his time with NAI, Burks shared, "NAI has been rewarding because it has taught me to balance my work schedule and learn how to manage my time better. For future and current NAI scholars, I encourage you to just keep going! Keep doing what you're doing and do the best you can because it is hard but also very rewarding. Six to seven years of hard work and coming to Saturday school has paid off."

The technology industry has a diversity deficit, and with it a deficit of diverse perspectives and ideas. Underrepresented minorities account for just 15% of the U.S. science and engineering workforce. Approximately 20% of data scientists are women, and fewer than 8% of new AI doctoral recipients in 2019 were Black or Hispanic.

USC leads the nation's top private research institutions in the total number of computer science degrees (undergraduate and graduate) conferred each year, U.S. Department of Education statistics show. It also ranks first among Hispanic students, and second with Black students, among private top 25 universities. NAI has now expanded their reach to East and South Los Angeles communities.

"We want to continue to grow the number of scholars from the neighborhood and prepare them to be college bound," said Lika Dozier, NAI program specialist of Academic Programming and NAI Expansion Lea.

"We're going one year at a time and this fall we will have our first two cohorts of sixth graders from Audubon Middle School and Barack Obama Global Prep Academy. With the expansion program we're looking to include more African American families."

This year's NAI Champion Award was awarded to founder, chairman, and CEO of Allen Media Broadcasting, Byron Allen, who owns 36 network affiliate broadcast television stations in 21 U.S. markets, and 12 24-hour HD television networks, serving nearly 220 million subscribers. Also, he produces and distributes



Leslie & William McMorro Neighborhood Academic Initiative Gala

COURTESY PHOTO

Emmy Award-winning and nominated shows while also selling advertising for 43 broadcast and cable television programs and movements like "Black Media Matters."

Describing his connection to NAI, Allen said, "Education is everything, I believe in the five E's - making sure everyone has a great education, economic inclusion, equal and environmental protection, and an empathy button. If we position everyone to succeed, then we will have one Amer-



USC Marching Band

COURTESY PHOTO

ica and a strong America."

During his acceptance speech Allen thanked his mother for her tremendous

involved at Leslie and William McMorro Neighborhood Academic Initiative.

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*June*  
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**Speaker & Workshops**  
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Changing Tones is an advisory committee dedicated to increasing representation, providing support, and ensuring racial equity and inclusion of African Americans within the Los Angeles Public Library's workforce, programming, collections and services; and to create an environment filled with diverse perspectives, opportunities and resources.

For more information or to participate in the June Jubilee, please email [changing-tones@lapl.org](mailto:changing-tones@lapl.org).  
For ADA accommodations, please call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

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# Mayor Karen Bass Signs \$13B City Budget

{continued from Pg. A-1}

including \$250 million for the mayor's Inside Safe program, with \$65.7 million allocated initially and \$184.3 million to be released as the funds are expended. Once the Inside Safe account drops below \$25 million, the account would be automatically replenished up to \$50 million.

The plan provides City Council with the ability to halt the replenishment of the Inside Safe account, for example, if members wanted more information about how the funds are being expended or details of ongoing operations. Bass' office would need to

provide biweekly progress reports starting June 1, as well.

"That gives the mayor authority and access to the funds to be able to move forward with haste and nothing holding back, but it also gives the council that role, that they are charged with in this charger, to have that oversight and accountability," Blumenfeld said.

The budget will invest in affordable and supportive housing, funding for more personnel -- police, firefighters, emergency personnel, unarmed mental health responders and civilian staff -- and makes "needed investments" in pedestrian, traffic safety



The city's budget allocates \$250 million to address homelessness. (FILE PHOTO)

and city infrastructure.

With the revised budget, the Council and the mayor seek to restore LAPD staffing to 9,500 officers, at the minimum, with two full

classes of recruits in training and additional funding to return retired police officers to active duty for 12 months, hire additional civilian personnel and

increase staffing for 911 dispatch services.

About \$1 million is slated to expedite the application process for candidates looking to join the LAPD.

The city's budget will also fund an incentive program providing bonuses of up to \$15,000 for new officers and lateral recruitment.

"We are going to hire this many officers. Even it seems ambitious, when we leaned in and said yes, we are going to fully fund that," Blumenfeld said. "We are going to fully fund our police department."

Other highlights, the councilman noted, were investments to address the issue "of our time" -- climate change. The budget invests more than \$25 million to decarbonisation of city buildings and electrifying the city's fleet of vehicles.

## Exploring Future Growth in the 57th District with Highly Endorsed Candidate Sade Elhawary

{continued from Pg. A-1}

and Assemblywoman Tina McKinnor.

Elhawary dedicates her energy to justice and uplifting the next generation. As a foster mother, college counselor, youth organizer and high school teacher, Elhawary has felt first-hand the pains and frustration as a concerned parent and the duality of faculty maneuvering through institutionalized youth programs. She holds the experience and comprehension to work both sides of the educational spectrum, creating a sense of unity.

"My experience and history have been focused on young people," said Elhawary as she described her life patterns that led her to have a hand in shaping the future. "Young people are truly the next generation of leaders. And how we invest in our next generation - especially when we think about areas like South Central and Watts--how do we make sure that our folks have quality services to thrive in our neighborhood?"

To address that issue, Elhawary aims to develop a range of projects including youth career leadership programs, entrepreneurship for young people of color and pathways that invests in their growth. She looks



to support the youth of the community throughout different seasons and stages of their life.

Elhawary understands the astronomical impact that takes place when one focuses on nurturing future generations. She wants to protect and elevate local youth through more after school programs and creating spaces that feel like safe havens; a place to prevent and avoid violent environments. She gained experience in this field while directing youth engagement for Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass throughout her campaign season.

"The Karen Bass campaign was centered around organizing, but also engagement strategies--

like how you would get the youth's voice involved within this process," Elhawary said.

Elhawary does the work with no fear. When her focus was on the Community Coalition, she exercised her deep-rooted persistence and worked with the Community Coalition team to raise \$12 million that supported the construction of a center for like-minded social activists.

As a woman with the genetic makeup that includes Black, Egyptian and Guatemalan-- Elhawary calls for justice and liberation through her presence. She has dedicated 15 years to facing racially charged issues head on.

Elhawary continues to face the eyes of the

unsheltered, looking directly at the overcasting crisis happening in L.A., she has aligned her future initiatives to the ingenuity Mayor Bass has already demonstrated.

Recognizing the synergy that circulates between the mayor's office and the L.A. County Supervisors, Elhawary said, "We have to be really, really bold and innovative with solutions and work closely with local government." She spoke with a tone of understanding in the importance of all parts of public service to push for change.

In addition to advocating for more of an aggressive approach to solve the unsheltered crisis, Elhawary intends to support to groups that

have been on the frontlines assisting people who are experiencing homelessness. She outlined the concept that homelessness is a multi-layered issue that includes the extremities of mental health and government regulations.

When it comes to prosperity in the community and providing more job opportunities, Elhawary is focused on creating apprenticeship programs for unions and she complimented the expansive opportunities that different unions offer.

Additionally, she is leaning heavily into introducing proactive measures for community safety. "We have to be thoughtful around community safety and prevention programs that really work in our community. I'm really invested in being able to provide stronger opportunities, pay and benefits for gang intervention," Elhawary stated.

Elhawary closed with the following issue that holds a massive space in her heart by stating, "We have to solve the housing crisis-- and knowing that it's going to take bold solutions, in particular, attacking the root causes."

She continued, "Mental health is a huge reason why folks are on the streets, so

if we don't actually think about how we are going to increase and make mental health treatment better, the housing crisis doesn't go away, substance abuse treatment as well - how do we make sure that the providers have what they need, how do we make sure to expand access to those things, and even beyond that.

"We are in Black and Brown communities, where mental health is often seen as a stigma. If we aren't actively providing more treatment for folks around mental health, then we also see more folks on the streets or more folks that don't have the support that they need." Elhawary is also addressing this thread of mental health that is caught within the mind of youths as well.

An alum of UCLA and Harvard, Elhawary has been attracted to public service since being elected student body president in elementary school. Her desire to serve others and her deep commitment to community make Elhawary a strong candidate to represent the 57th Assembly District.

To learn more, visit [sadeforassembly.com](http://sadeforassembly.com). Support Black news by visiting [Lasentinel.net](http://Lasentinel.net) and follow us on Instagram @ [lasentinelnews](https://www.instagram.com/lasentinelnews).

## Michelle Chambers Sets Course for California Senate District 35

{continued from Pg. A-1}

reintegrating into our communities. As a seasoned public servant, my commitment remains steadfast in providing our residents with fundamental human rights, adequate resources, and ensuring legislative policies along with financial resources that echo these initiatives."



## Happy Birthday! Henry Maine Turns 100!



## Man Pleads Not Guilty to Making Deaths Threats vs. Rep. Maxine Waters

A 60-year-old man pleaded not guilty on May 31 to making a series of phone calls to the Hawthorne office of Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles, and threatening her with violence and death.

Brian Gaherty of Houston faces four counts of making threats in interstate communications and four counts of threatening a United States official, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. A trial was scheduled for July 25 before U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner, but that date is expected to change.

Gaherty was arrested on April 13 after federal prosecutors filed a criminal complaint that outlined the series of threats to Waters and alleged Gaherty had threatened other elected officials and a news reporter in Houston. An indictment filed in Los Angeles federal court alleges that

Gaherty called the congresswoman's office four times last year -- twice on Aug. 8, once

on Nov. 8, and again two days later. Gaherty allegedly left four voicemails,

each of which contained a threat.

"Threats to harm and kill an elected official impact the intended victim, her entire staff and every constituent who is not receiving services because the elected official is dealing with the security threat," U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada said in a statement.

"The entire Justice Department is dedicated to protecting American democracy, which includes combating threats that terrorize officials who have been elected to serve the public."

After Gaherty was arrested at his residence in



Rep. Maxine Waters (FILE PHOTO)

Houston, he made a court appearance and on April 17 was ordered released on \$100,000 bond, federal prosecutors said.

Each count of making a threat to a United States official carries a possible sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison. The charge of making threats in interstate communications carries a possible maximum penalty of five years, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In 2018, a San Pedro man who left a voicemail for Waters threatening to kill her was sentenced to six months of house arrest. Anthony Lloyd was additionally ordered

to complete 100 hours of community service.

In a letter filed with the court prior to sentencing, Waters said that while she appreciates that Lloyd pleaded guilty and expressed remorse, a lenient sentence would "only embolden others to engage in similar conduct."

Capitol Hill office. He had become angered while listening to talk radio when he heard a report in which Waters made disparaging comments about then-President Donald Trump, according to court papers.

# High Blood Pressure Plagues Many Black Americans - Combined with COVID, It's Catastrophic

BY KAT STAFFORD  
Associated Press

Charles Thomas was unwell but he had no time for rest.

He was on the cusp of a management promotion and a move to Florida to begin a new chapter that would alter his family's financial future and break the cycle of generational poverty.

Yet, as his family's prospects improved, concerns about his health grew.

A severe bout of COVID-19 left the 52-year-old weak and in recovery for weeks. His wife, Melanese Marr-Thomas, worried he was pushing himself too hard to get back in the swing of things. Charles was a big man at 6 feet tall and 300 pounds. He struggled for years to get his weight under control.

Later in life, that struggle gave way to high blood pressure and a medley of medications.

In a nation plagued by high blood pressure, Black people are more likely to suffer from it — and so, in the time of COVID-19, they are more likely than white people to die. It's a stark reality. And it has played out in thousands of Black households that have lost mothers and fathers over the past three years, a distinct calamity within the many tragedies of the pandemic.

It has devastated families like the Thomases of District Heights, Maryland.

Charles had an intense fear of hospitals, needles and doctors, partially because they had, in the past, brushed aside his concerns. He felt doctors were quick to blame any ailments solely on his weight, but slow to listen to his symptoms or examine other causes. He eventually gave up on seeking medical care for a long time because he was tired of feeling judged.

His family had recently found a Black doctor who, for the first time in his life, made Charles feel comfortable — and most importantly, heard.

"He knew he needed to take better care of himself so we were trying to change his diet and be more active," Melanese said. "His blood pressure was beginning to come down."

But then, COVID intervened.

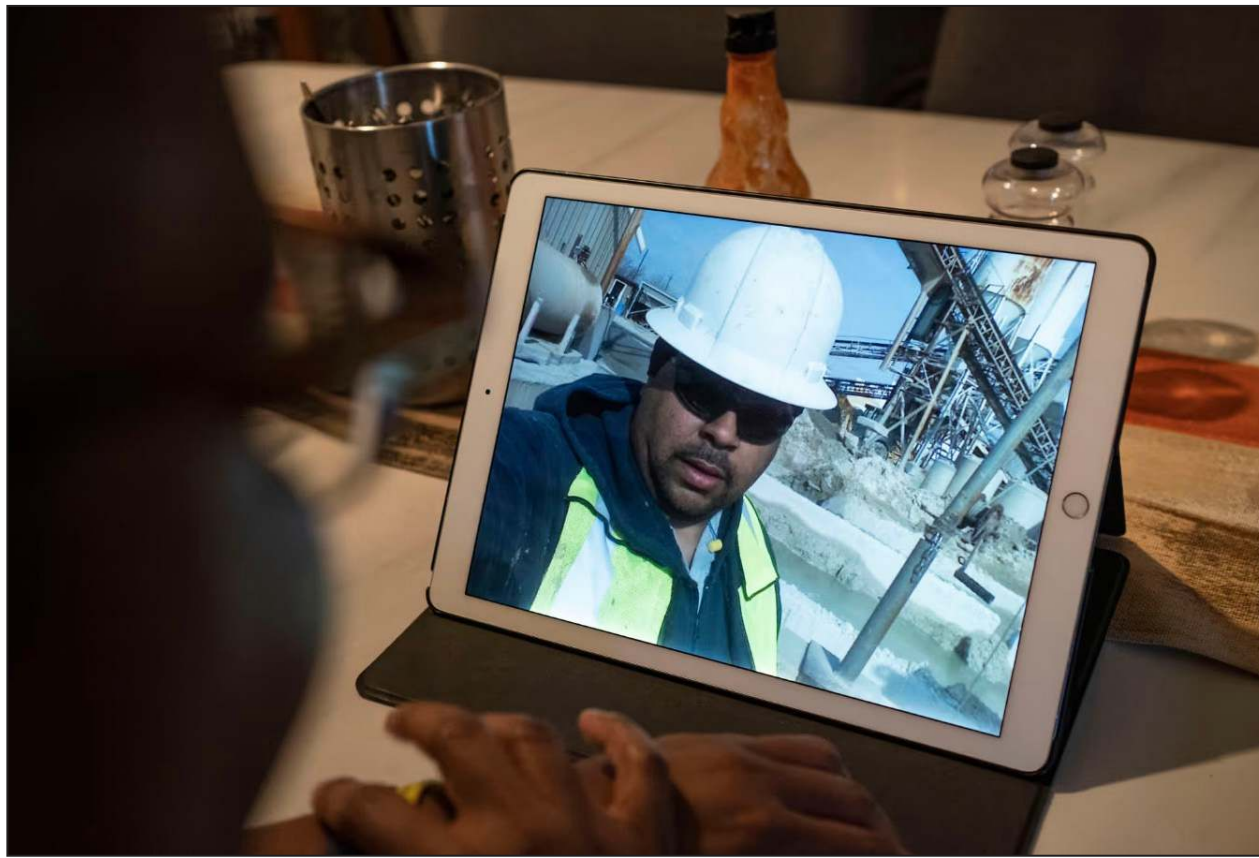
About 56% of Black adults have high blood pressure, compared to 48% of white people. Three in four African Americans are likely to develop the disorder by age 55.

When the force of your blood pushing against the walls of your blood vessels is consistently too high, it makes the heart and blood vessels work harder and less efficiently, which can lead to significant health issues.

While only 32% of white adults with high blood pressure have their condition under control with medication, the figure for Black Americans is even lower — 25%.

And it's likely to get worse: By 2060, the number of Americans battling cardiovascular disease is expected to drastically increase. High blood pressure rates alone are projected to rise 27.2%, or from roughly 127.8 million to 162.5 million Americans.

Among white people, the prevalence of



A photo of Charles Thomas at work. (WONG MAYE-E/AP)

cardiovascular risk factors and disease is projected to decrease over time. Yet significant increases are projected among people of color, especially Black and Latino Americans.

It is clear that high blood pressure has played a major role in COVID deaths, and especially in the COVID deaths of Black people. Together, high blood pressure and COVID have created a deadly combination: While high blood pressure is listed as a contributing factor in 15.5% of the deaths of white COVID sufferers, the figure for Black victims is 21.4% — the highest of any racial group.

Like many conditions, genetics do play a part. Experts also blame poor diets, high cholesterol, obesity and smoking — risk factors that often exist at higher rates in Black communities. In recent years, more academics and doctors have called attention to structural inequities.

The nation's health disparities have had a tragic impact: Over the past two decades, the higher mortality rate among Black Americans resulted in 1.6 million excess deaths compared to white Americans. That higher mortality rate resulted in a cumulative loss of more than 80 million years of life due to people dying young and billions of dollars in health care and lost opportunity.

and specialty care and medications.

"If we don't do that, then we don't have a just society," Ferdinand said.

Charles Thomas' infectious laugh could fill any room he entered. He also was a great storyteller. It's what made his wife, Melanese Marr-Thomas, fall in love with him decades ago when she was still a college student at Howard University in the late '90s.

When they met, the two quickly hit it off and could spend hours just talking. But they were in vastly different places in life: While Melanese was focused on her studies, Charles was trying to survive in a particularly tough Maryland neighborhood.

He eventually cut off all ties from her with little explanation.

"You deserve so much more than what I can give," Melanese recalled Charles saying to her. "I was so hurt."

Years later, she found out it was because he was struggling to find his way out of a life of selling drugs.

Charles eventually had a son, Charles Thomas III, with another woman — a child whom Charles tried to be heavily involved in raising. But his street life eventually caught up with him.

Charles was incarcerated off and on for much of his son's childhood and teenage years.

"He was heavy in the

to eventually begin the hard journey of changing his life. Years later, he acknowledged the vicious

home and find my purpose and meaning."

Charles and Melanese reconnected in late 2009 and



Melanese Marr-Thomas reflects on memories of her late husband, Charles Thomas. (WONG MAYE-E/AP)

cycle he found himself in. As a young Black man, he grew up poor and bounced around various communities that all suffered from the simmering effects of racism and segregation-era policies, with little hope and few pathways to escape poverty.

Eating healthy was hardly at the top of his mind, and largely out of reach. His neighborhoods were filled with fast food options, yet few grocery stores. And he was inundated with the toxic stress of living in a dangerous environment.

While in prison, Charles' health suffered, too. Healthy foods weren't readily available and routine health care was sporadic. His wife

rekindled their romance. The couple eventually married and blended their families. He never shied away from talking about his earlier struggles in life. He acknowledged his mistakes and instead used it as a powerful way to teach his children to avoid the pitfalls he fell prey to.

"My dad, he was a great father to me and my best friend," said Charles Thomas III, who is now a teacher. "He taught me what I needed to know. He taught me how to be self-sufficient and stand on my own two feet. When he did things that were wrong, he never made excuses for it. He always told me the truth, so I never held anything against him."

Charles' family is what mattered most to him. And Black fatherhood was something that he cherished. He often spent long nights staying up with his kids and wife, reminiscing and sharing fatherly wisdom — sage advice they cling to today.

He worked his way up at his job as a concrete truck driver and became well respected in the company — and within his community, as a known father figure to other Black boys at his youngest son's football games. He launched a food truck and catering business, Sol Familia Mobile Kitchen, with his wife. Everything was looking up, finally.

But Charles Thomas began to feel sick around Thanksgiving in 2020. He thought it was a passing cold, but his wife was worried; the number of COVID cases was climbing, both nationally and locally, and the vaccine wasn't yet widely available.

Melanese was right. The entire family — parents

and six children — would be diagnosed with COVID. But as the others got better, Charles' condition worsened.

His wife convinced him to go to the hospital, where his oxygen levels dropped severely and he spent eight days in the intensive care unit, where he was nearly placed on a ventilator. But he recovered, and went home in time for Christmas.

The family thought the worst was over.

Then Charles began having trouble breathing. The smallest tasks left him breathless and taking a few steps left him tired and struggling for air. Still, in late January 2021, he decided to go back to work.

"He was so enthusiastic about trying to make sure we got our food truck back up and running," Melanese said. "But I told him he just came out of the ICU with double pneumonia. I asked, 'Why are you going back so quickly?'"

She suspects Charles

felt he still had to "make up" for time lost and his past mistakes.

The stress of it was toxic, and taxing on his health, and Melanese worried it exacerbated his high blood pressure — and also his COVID complications.

"I think that also killed him," Melanese said.

Near the end of February 2021, Charles Thomas' 16-year-old ran into the room one evening and shook Melanese awake. Something was wrong with Dad.

She rushed into the bedroom and found her husband on the floor on his hands and knees.

"It looked like he had fallen and was trying to get himself back up," Melanese said. "I said, 'What's wrong?' He couldn't speak. He couldn't say anything to me."

He struggled to get up, but collapsed on the floor and stopped breathing.

Emergency responders performed CPR, but it was too late. Charles died Feb. 28, 2021, of COVID-19 related complications. He was 52.

So much was lost that night. The family was getting ready to move to Jacksonville, Florida. Charles had just been offered a job he spent 10 years working toward. He was slated to be a plant manager. The family was in the midst of planning a trip to look at homes there.

"I still relive that night," Melanese said. "I was so numb and in disbelief that someone that was just talking to me is no longer here. He was the pillar of our family, the foundation, our protector. He was everything and it is an immeasurable loss."



Melanese Marr-Thomas hugs her youngest son, Savion, while her other son, Zachary, sits with their pet dog in the living room. (WONG MAYE-E/AP)

"Until we reach health equity, these disparities are going to be a scar on the health care landscape in the United States," said Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand, the Gerald S. Berenson Endowed Chair in Preventive Cardiology at Tulane University's School of Medicine. He emphasized the importance of equal access to primary

streets," Charles Thomas III, 33, recalled. "But he made his presence known even when he was in jail. He would still find a way to send me gifts for Christmas. I'll never forget the little toy car he sent me and I said 'My daddy sent me this present,' not putting two and two together that he was in jail."

It took years for Charles

believes his high blood pressure and other ailments could have begun while he was incarcerated.

It wasn't until his mother died while he was in prison that Charles felt a true spark to change.

"She was his backbone," Melanese said. "But after his mother passed, he had no sense of home and he said, 'I have to create my

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**DANNY BAKEWELL, SR**  
*Community Engagement Award*



**DARRELL BROWN**  
*Financial Empowerment  
Award*



**AREVA MARTIN, ESQ.**  
*Community Service Award*



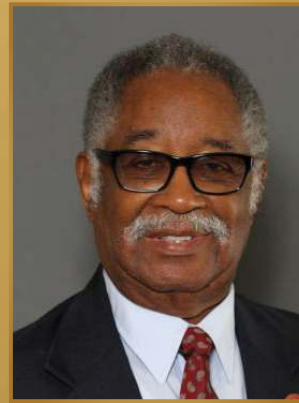
**DR. JERRY ABRAHAM**  
*Health and Wellness Award*



**REV. DR. CARIETA  
CAIN GRIZZELL**  
*Health and Wellness Award*



**CLIFTON ALBRIGHT, ESQ.**  
*Law and Justice Award*



**WILFRED MARSHALL**  
*Black Business Development Award*

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Get Fit with Britt-Nick Hosts 12th Annual Women's Trinity Retreat, "Glow Up" In Montego Bay, Jamaica

BY DENVER MACKAY Contributing Writer

Cassandra Nickerson, founder of Get Fit with Britt-Nick Organization, and Janeshia Robinson, co-founder of the Annual Women's Trinity Retreat, hosted their 12th annual retreat, "Glow Up" in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Get Fit with Britt-Nick is a growing health and fitness organization, dedicated to helping women of color develop the nutrition and fitness tools necessary to create a positive health legacy in their homes and communities.

Being mentally and physically fit should be goal of every human being. However, sometimes lack of information, cultural influences and plain old bad habits, prevent us from living that reality. Get Fit With Britt-Nick is responding by hosting this retreat every year.

Making every day an opportunity to learn something new about oneself and make new connections others, Nickerson created an itinerary to make all attendees feel "Glowed Up" by the end. The women got in on Thursday, May 18, and had their welcome reception where the ladies

got to meet one another. During this reception, Nickerson gave women time to set their intentions for the trip, and write down what fears, internal battles, or baggage they want to let go of.

The next morning, the retreat began with the Orange Bang Workout, getting everyone motivated and starting the day with energy. Following that exercise, Nickerson gave her Wellness Keynote where she discussed the retreat's beginnings with only a small number of ladies in attendance in Idyllwild.

Nickerson reflected, "This Idyllwild trip was a chance for us to just come together and have a moment to breathe. Many of us were in the midst of loss and we still made it a point to make sure we got up there to come together and make sure we were catering to ourselves."

Nickerson also emphasized importance of exercise, and how it can change your daily life. She noted that starting with a small goal can make all the difference "even if you are just walking two to three times a week, that is a start to jumpstart your fitness journey."

Following this work-



Cassandra Nickerson with women in attendance at the Glow Up Gala. (DENVER MACKAY/LA. SENTINEL)

shop, the women headed out on an adventure through the lush culture filling the streets of Jamaica including a visit to Negril where the ladies participated in retreat's Beach Olympics tradition.

All the ladies were teamed up in four different groups, competing in a beach workout competition with weights, strength training, and cardio. After the Beach Olympics, the journey through Negril continued where they ended the night at Rick's Café for a meal and dancing before heading back to Montego Bay.

Saturday consisted of an all-day eco-adventure as Robinson would describe it. After a short drive to the Chukka Adventure Park, the ladies ziplined, went river tubing, and learned

the history of rum at the Joy Spence Appleton Estate Rum experience, also located at the park. To end this day, the ladies had some leisure time and then attended the all-white party and gift exchange where the ladies got to receive numerous self-care goodies from one another.

Finally, Sunday started off with another workout the Bombshell Pink workout, followed by the Persuasive Confidence Workshop by Kessan Taylor, a motivational speaker and self-help author of "Tired of Crying." Taylor first took the ladies through her life journey, speaking on developing resiliency through life's trials, ending with a workshop on a fun dance class on sensual confidence.

The day concluded

with the Glow Up Gala where everyone celebrated the memories made as well as shared their team chants, reflecting the joy that happens when women take moments to have fun and be silly.

Expressing what the retreat means to her, Robinson said, "As the cofounder, this retreat has become a sense of pride and joy. I look forward to seeing women, including myself, live out loud and have experiences that I might be brave enough to have on my own."

"The retreat provides a unique, multi-generational fellowship that is not as commonplace in our community anymore. The conversation, ministry and memories that occur help to build a positive health legacy."

The Glow Up Retreat would not have been made possible without the efforts of Janeshia Robinson, Stephanie Bates, Mealia Mayers and Kessan Taylor to ensure the trip occurred without a hitch. The Annual Women's Trinity Retreat reflected the magic that arises when women come together to uplift and inspire one another.

Visit the Get Fit with Britt-Nick website, and Cassandra Nickerson's Instagram for my information on further retreats, and highlights from the Glow Up Retreat here https://www.getfitwithbrittnick.com/retreat, @getfitwithbrittnick.

Captivating TikTok Star Redefining Fashion with Aliyahcore

BY MAGRIRA Contributing Writer

Now, before you find yourself in a delightful tizzy attempting to answer my question — who is the enchanting Aliyah Bah — allow me to offer you a delightful hint: one must be fully immersed in the captivating realm of TikTok, or else this vivacious 19-year-old from Clayton County, Georgia might have eluded your discerning gaze, and the beguiling term "Aliyahcore" may have yet to grace your ears.

Let us delve into the enigmatic world of TikTok, a realm of peculiar wonders, where the indomitable Ms. Aliyah Bah has carved out a unique niche for herself. Her personal style, adorned with earmuffs, fishnet stockings, an abundance of Hello Kitty memorabilia, and the ever-alluring Moon Boots, has propelled her into the realm of TikTok stardom, earning her the prestigious moniker of "Aliyahcore" as a testament to her distinctive fashion sensibilities.

Undoubtedly, she possesses an innate flair for captivating hearts and minds, as her TikTok posts have captivated the attention of a staggering 171 million pairs of eyes. Such a resounding number appears to perfectly align with her charismatic comedic nature, effervescent personality, and effortlessly chic style. It is no wonder that renowned fashion designers have eagerly sought her collaboration, with her inaugural runway appearance gracing the esteemed Mowalola show, bestowed upon her by a personal invitation from the visionary designer.

From the expanse of



Aliyah Bah (ESSENCE.COM)

TikTok to the grandeur of fashion runways and beyond, this platform possesses an unparalleled alchemy capable of transforming meager beginnings into staggering riches. Indeed, each passing day births a rag-to-riches tale of triumph, directly emanating from the magical world of TikTok.

Bah, with her remarkable talent for embellishment, has gifted the world with the alluring phenomenon aptly known as the "AliyahBah effect." She unreservedly acknowledges that a significant portion of her wardrobe consists of thrifted treasures, meticulously selecting garments and accessories that bear the mark of exclusivity, for there exists an undeniable charm in adorning oneself with pre-loved attire.

Her signature en-

sembles boast not only thrifted mini-skirts, but also a collection of fur headbands and ear muffs, procured from the vast emporium of Amazon. Furthermore, her fishnet stockings, deftly acquired from local beauty supply stores, undergo her creative shears. As for her coveted Moon Boots, they grace her feet after being procured from esteemed purveyors such as SSENSE or Farfetch.

The genesis of Ms. Bah's meteoric rise can be traced back to 2020 when she first showcased her sartorial prowess. A freshman at Georgia State University, she resided under the comforting shelter of her familial abode.

When the world succumbed to the clutches of the pandemic, she generously shared a series of videos on her TikTok account, Aliyahsinterlude, inviting viewers to embark on a shared preparation journey. Her impeccable style effortlessly ignited the flames of fascination.

Denim shorts and a captivating crop top harmonized with radiant red Moon Boots, adorned with a resplendent crown of snowy fur. A white garter belt and whimsical pink furry headphones added the proverbial cherry on top, elevating the spectacle to unprecedented heights.

From the outset, the indomitable Bah's aspiration was never to conform or emulate others. She has been an avid thrifter since

the tender age of six, honing her discerning eye for garments that effortlessly enhance her natural allure. Aliyah Bah defies categorization, a quality that magnificently sets her apart.

The captivating Aliyah Bah has etched her name

into the annals of TikTok folklore, transcending the boundaries of a mere platform to emerge as a true luminary. With each carefully curated outfit, she weaves a tapestry of enchantment that is both mesmerizing and timeless.

Aliyah Bah, the epitome of style and authenticity, continues to grace the world with her unwavering spirit, leaving an indelible mark on the ever-evolving landscape of fashion.

Simon Burris \*Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

www.simonburris700.com

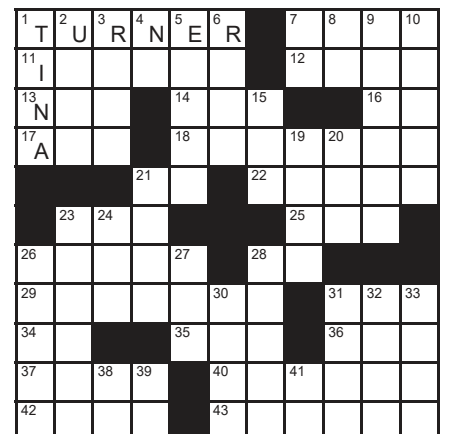
Tina Turner: "Rock & Roll Icon"

Across

- 1. \*\*TINA TURNER [TT] iconic entertainer
7. \*\*Tina's signature song "What's \_\_\_ Got To Do With It" (1984)
11. Cold spike
12. General Mills cereal
13. Bible translation version
14. "\_\_\_", drink and be merry" (Luke 12:19)
16. Nickel symbol
17. Perfect report card
18. \*\* Ms. Turner garnered 12 awards
21. \*\*Her auto-bio "I, Tina My Life Sto \_\_\_"
22. \*\*TT's bank feature, so to speak
23. \*\*Her favorite song? "Ooh Poo Pah \_\_\_"
25. Map streets (abbr.)
26. Tina received the \_\_\_ Image Award (1986)
28. A brief 'yes'
29. Skillful tattoo artist, to some (2 wds.)
31. Suitable
34. \_\_\_ ime \_\_\_ lock
35. First-rate
36. Cheer
37. \*\*TT's home town Brownsville, \_\_\_ (abbr.)
40. \*\*Actress Bassett portrayed Tina Turner (1993 film)
42. Once every 12 months, briefly
43. \*Etta James classic

Down

- 1. \*\*TINA: Superstar
2. \*Arthur Ashe's alma mater
3. Actress Hayworth or Moreno
4. \*Michael Jordan's state of birth (abbr.)
5. \*Maya Angelou's mournful poem
6. Back
7. \*\*"The \_\_\_ earning \_\_\_ rec" (1969 film)
8. If not



- 9. \*\*Some of TT's old 45s. records
10. Is
15. Hebrew letter
19. \*\*Ms. Turner song "Proud \_\_\_"
20. Mississippi \_\_\_ pie
21. \*\*TT: "Queen of \_\_\_ & Roll"
23. \*\*Her solo album "Private \_\_\_" (1984)
24. Shade tree
26. \_\_\_-gritty
27. \_\_\_ no (musical instrument)
28. \*\*TT's deal maker, formally
30. University sports org.
31. Turf
32. \*\*Tina's intimates, James Brown and Lionel Richie, informally
33. \*\*"All \_\_\_ Jazz"
38. Initials for National League
39. \*Denzel Washington's home state (abbr.)
41. Oxford, En \_\_\_ and

{See ANSWERS C-5}

# L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, City Council Observe Africa Day

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Karen Bass joined Los Angeles City Council members on May 30, in observing Africa Day, which commemorates the founding of the African Union, an organization representing the continent and its population of 1.2 billion people.

Councilman Curren Price led Tuesday's presentation and said the objective of the African Union is to highlight the collective "African resistance to colonialism and economic exploitation."

City officials also recognized LA-based entrepreneurs who promote African culture and influence, and make it part

of their mission to give back to Africa and the city.

"As we know, Africans have been displaced throughout the globe, and many of us are descendants who may or may not be able to trace our heritage, but that does not hinder us from honoring the continent and the African diaspora," Price said.

Bass talked about the history of Africa Day, which was first celebrated in 1963. At that time, there were only 30 independent African nations, whereas now there are 54, the mayor noted.

"There was a large movement in the United States, celebrating the independence of nations, but also some fighting

to change U.S. policy," Bass said. "I think, it's most famously known as the anti-apartheid movement."

The mayor explained that South African leaders came to the U.S. south to understand the Jim Crow system -- then went back and set up apartheid.

Bass said the City Council played an important role during that time to divest from doing any business related to South Africa -- led by then-Councilman Robert Farrell, and Rep. Maxine Waters, the Los



L.A. Mayor Karen Bass (FILE PHOTO)

Angeles Democrat who was then an assemblywoman in 1976.

"This movement caught fire around the country and around the world," Bass said. "It actually led to one of the many reasons why the U.S. changed its policy and decided to divest and impose sanctions on the country of South Africa."

Bass expressed her delight in joining the City Council in honoring leaders from the African diaspora. "Los Angeles has so many strong and diverse African communities and our honorees here

today represent their creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit," Bass said.

Councilwoman Heather Hutt added she was happy that "we're at this place, today, where people are fighting for togetherness."

"We're celebrating something I remember as a child because my mom worked for Robert Farrell, and it was a big controversy to wear a dashiki into the chambers and to really bring the diaspora together," Hutt said. "I also remember when (former South Africa President Nelson) Mandela came here, and he really talked about the apartheid. He really talked about the continent and the connectivity."

## U.S. Bank Program Focused on Black Homeownership Plans Expansion to California

Last May, U.S. Bank launched Access Home in an effort to increase Black homeownership and representation in key markets through a \$3 million investment over three years, focused on the Black community first where the disparities are the largest.

Today, Access Home has led to \$1.5 million in funding to 18 community partners, the hiring of a dozen new-to-the industry Black mortgage loan officers and the launch of a trainee program for residential appraisers. Next up, is expanding the initiative's geographic reach to California.

"We focused our initial efforts on five markets where disparities are the largest, with a goal of new



Greg Cunningham, chief diversity officer at U.S. Bank, and Lenny McNeill, head of strategic markets and affordable lending at U.S. Bank, with the newly hired mortgage loan originators that will help bring U.S. Bank Access Home to life. (COURTESY PHOTO)

and different markets as we make progress," said Lenny McNeill, who leads strategic markets and affordable lending for U.S. Bank and resides in Los Angeles. "The next phase in terms of expansion will

be bringing this program to California to create a long-lasting impact for black homeownership and representation. We also want to expand our reach to the Hispanic community." Having worked in

mortgage and home lending for more than 30 years, McNeill recalls how a really bad day at work sprouted the idea for how to roll-out a program like Access Home, before it even existed.

"It was the day Black homeownership rates had gone down," McNeill said. "I just thought, how is this possible?"

Around the time when Access Home was being developed, data from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis showed the rate of Black homeownership was 30% lower than that of white Americans.

McNeill channeled his frustration and the disheartening data to concept programs that could be piloted in markets with the lowest African-American homeownership

rates. They eventually became part of Access Home, a key component of U.S. Bank Access Commitment™, the company's long-term approach to building wealth and redefining how it serves diverse customers and create more opportunities for employees.

"There aren't many things to influence long-term generational wealth but the one that is constant is homeownership," McNeill said. "We are recognizing and rewarding the individuals who are already doing the work to close this gap, because we can't do this without them."

When Access Home arrives in California, it will join a number of U.S. Bank investments made in the greater Los Angeles area

within the last year, such as support for Destination Crenshaw. The public/private partnership will create a vibrant corridor of Black culture, mirroring the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Koreatown, Chinatown and Olvera Street, via \$30 million in new market tax credit allocations from U.S. Bank Impact Finance.

In addition, the company has been celebrated recently within the Los Angeles community as an outstanding corporate partner, earning the 2023 Corporate Partner Award from the Los Angeles Urban League and the 2023 Banking and Financial Corporation of the Year from the Los Angeles Black Chamber of Commerce.

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REV. ALVIN TUNSTILL, JR. ~ PASTOR

**Pastor Position Announcement**

The congregation of the Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking candidates to apply for the position of Senior Pastor. FTMBC, located at 10423 S. Wilmington Avenue in Los Angeles, is 48-years old, rich in family connections, community values, and the utmost trust and faith in God.

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To apply, please visit www.ftmbcla.org. All required information must be received by May 19, 2023.

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B-3

## FAME CHURCH CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF SERVING THE L.A. COMMUNITY

BY JACKIE HOUSTON-McNEAL  
Contributing Writer

For the past year, the members of First AME Church LA, also known as FAME, have been honoring their heritage and celebrating 150 years of serving the Los Angeles community.

On Friday, June 30, the congregation will host a black-tie dinner and awards show in Hollywood to commemorate its achievements and the leadership of Pastor J. Edgar Boyd. Hosted by Pat Harvey, CBS2/KCAL9 and Aundrae Russell, KJLH Radio, seven distinguished LA citizens will be recognized for their contributions to the community.

The honorees are the Rev. Dr. Cecil L. "Chip" Murray, Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., Darrell Brown, Areva Martin Esq., Dr. Jerry Abraham, Clifton Albright Esq., and Wilfred Marshall. The honorary chairpersons are Bernard and Shirley Kinsey, Ambassador Eric Garcetti and Ernesto Morales. Award-winning saxophonist Kirk Whalum will provide the entertainment.

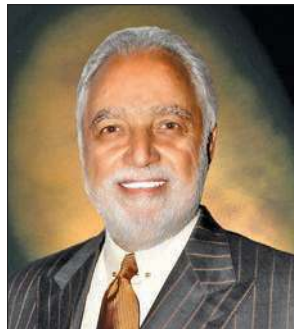
FAME's rich history began on May 17, 1872, with a meeting of several prominent Los Angeles residents in the home of Bridgett "Biddy" Mason on Spring Street. This group established the first Black church in Los Angeles, Stephens AME Church. Little did they know their efforts would lead to one



Dr. Jerry Abraham



Clifton Albright, Esq.



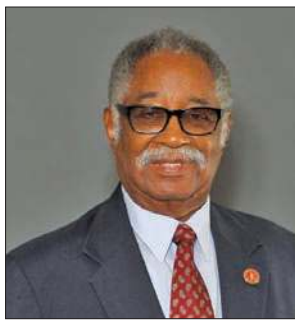
Danny J. Bakewell, Sr.



Rev. Dr. Carieta Cain Grizzell



Areva Martin, Esq.



Wilfred Marshall



Darrell Brown



Rev. Dr. Cecil L. "Chip" Murray

of the most consequential churches of the present age - First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles.

Mason and her family arrived in the San Bernardino area in 1851 from Mississippi as slaves, but eventually gained their freedom in 1856. She used funds saved as a nurse and midwife and purchased many properties throughout downtown Los Angeles. From her home on Spring Street, the church, then known as Stephens AME Church, moved to Azusa Street on land owned by Biddy.

Stephens AME eventually relocated to 801 South Towne Ave and Eighth Street and was officially renamed to First Afri-

can Methodist Episcopal Church on April 6, 1921, where Reverend Jesse Hamilton served as the pastor.

In the early 1900s, Black Americans migrated to Los Angeles from Texas, Louisiana and Georgia to escape the racial violence and bigotry of the South. FAME Church was a place where African Americans could gather to worship, learn, and organize for social change.

The Great Depression, between 1910 and 1941, hit the city hard, and African Americans were disproportionately affected by the economic downturn. However, FAME Church continued to grow with membership increasing, programs and services ex-

panding, and serving as a frequent meeting place for civil rights leaders.

In the 1960s, L.A.'s racist policies in housing, employment, and education, along with police abuse against African Americans, led to the 1965 Watts Riots. FAME's senior minister at that time was the Rev. H. Hartford Brookins. He urged parishioners to become more involved, and through their support, Tom Bradley - a member of FAME - became the first black mayor of Los Angeles in 1973.

Pastor Brookins' spearheaded the construction of the FAME edifice at 2270 S. Harvard Blvd. Paul R. Williams, the first Black member in the American Institute of Architects, de-

signed the building, and in May 1969, Brookins led a procession from 8th and Towne Ave. to its new location.

Arriving from Seattle, Washington, the Rev. Dr. Cecil L. Murray was appointed senior minister at FAME in 1977. Under his leadership, the membership grew to 18,000 and a greater emphasis was put on social welfare. The church established a youth center, a drug rehabilitation program and a job training program, among other initiatives.

During the civil unrest in 1992, FAME served as a sanctuary for many. In the immediate aftermath, Pastor Murray gained funding to establish the FAME Renaissance Center, a seven-million-dollar economic

development and small-business incubator program, which encouraged Black business ownership and provided outreach services to the community.

Murray, the longest serving pastor of the church, retired in 2004. In 2012, the Rev. J. Edgar Boyd was assigned as the new senior minister. Under Pastor Boyd's leadership, FAME has restored 300+ low-income housing units, real estate properties, and many public benefit service programs, including FAME Assistance Corporation. In 2018, he formed the South Los Angeles Community Development Corporation (SLACDEC) with a mission to address social and economic issues impacting a 32-square mile area of South Los Angeles.

First A.M.E. Church continues to play an important role in the city's social, political, and cultural life. It has gained a reputation for being more than just a place for worshipping and praising God. It is a powerful force for good in Los Angeles that reaches beyond the Black community. First A.M.E. Church Los Angeles is a source of strength and inspiration and a testament to the power of faith in God.

Visit [famechurchla.org](http://famechurchla.org) for information about tickets, tables, sponsorship, ads in the program journal and product donations or email [fame150gala@gmail.com](mailto:fame150gala@gmail.com).



Pat Harvey



Aundrae Russell



Kirk Whalum



Bernard & Shirley Kinsey



Ambassador Eric Garcetti



Ernesto Morales

## Community Gospel Concert Tribute Planned for Rev. Gilbert 'Gil' Fears

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

A tribute gospel concert is planned to honor the Rev. Gilbert 'Gil' Fears, host of the Edna Tatum's Gospel Classics radio broadcast on KPFK - 90.7 FM.

The concert will be held on Friday, June 9, at 7 p.m., at The Living Room of Faithful Central Bible Church, 333 West Florence Avenue in Inglewood. According to tribute committee members Quaford Coleman and Natalie and Gamal Smalley, the community is invited to attend the free concert.

"The tribute concert will feature a host of gospel music singers

and choirs including the Los Angeles Chapter - GMWA, Reverend Calvin B. Rhone, Chapter Representative; Dr. Quincy Fielding, Jr. & The Grace Choir; Dr. Henry Jackson, Elaine Gibbs, Maran Elizabeth Pittman, Michael Speaks, Grant Lewis and many more," said Coleman.

"The evening's celebration will

highlight Reverend Gil's commitment and loyalty to ministry that spans more than 25 years. Reverend Gil's record speaks for itself. He is in a class all of his own. We would find it most difficult to imagine where our community would be without him on the radio on Sundays," he noted.

"He has given outstanding service to all of Southern California through the broadcast; that benefits thousands with classic gospel music, inspiration from God's Word and intercessory prayer. With his unique ministry that reaches across religious and racial barriers; the motto of the show, 'where your Sunday mornings begin,' has truly made an impact in our community," added Coleman.

The title sponsor of the free concert is the House of Winston Funeral Services, Inc., led by the Rev. Shane B. Scott, president.

To learn more, call (323) 252-1597.



Rev. Gilbert 'Gil' Fears

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•DR. MAULANA KARENGA•

# Justice, George Floyd and Continuing Struggle: The Moral Imperative of Remembrance and Resistance

For us as a people, remembering and marking this the third anniversary of the public murder of Nana George Floyd under the color and camouflage of law is an especially meaningful cultural practice and moral imperative of enduring relevance, even after the media last week gave it a moment of rushed relevance and moved on to other topics.

Indeed, it is inseparably linked to the interrelated moral imperative of righteous and relentless resistance to end the crushing conditions of oppression which foster and facilitate anti-Black police violence as public policy and socially sanctioned practice.

Culturally, and at our best, we do not heed the advice of society to bury the dead and move on with our lives, leaving the dead behind. For our ancestors are always with us and we move forward with them, remembering them rightfully and trying to honor them as best we can by living the lessons and legacy of their lives.

The moral imperative of remembrance and resistance, then, requires first of all that we remember rightfully, otherwise our remembering is reduced to unreflective ritual devoid of substance and fashionable references borrowed from corporate media's common place diversionary questions of personal feelings, questionable change, self-indictment and inevitable false and perfunctory praise of America the beautiful, blameless and unblemished.

Likewise, it can be reduced to ritualistic social media posts seeking likes and classifications of trending rather than paying homage in more active and meaningful ways. Thus, we must remember in ways that do honor to the dead

and living and reaffirm our obligation to continue the struggle, keep the faith and hold the line until victory is achieved and secured.

A rightful remembrance means we do not remember in isolation or as a passing notice of media interests. Rather, this particular expression, and all others, of police violence must be seen, embraced and engaged as a part of our history of oppression and resistance, linking our rightful remembrance of Nana George Floyd to that of rightful remembrance of Nanas Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Elijah McClain, and more recently Nana Jordan Neely, and all the others not named here from the past and those yet to be named from an unfolding future.

Again, this is one of the reasons remembrance is unavoidably and inseparably linked to resistance, for the list will inevitably be longer if we do not continue and intensify the struggle.

To remember rightfully is also to remember respectfully, that is to remember with an appropriate awareness and appreciation of the worthiness of the persons and the issues under consideration. It is also to be thoughtful in our remembering, that is to say, both reflective and caring, to think and care deeply about the persons and issues that demand rightful attentiveness.

Moreover, to remember rightfully is to remember in self-determined ways, neither letting our oppressor be our teacher nor even our allies be our tutor. Here it is good to remember Nana Frantz Fanon's teaching that to think and act in new liberated ways we must leave Europe "where they are never done talking of (abstract) man, yet murder



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

(real) men and (women) everywhere they find them, at the corner of every one of their own streets and in all the corners of the globe."

Nana George Floyd and Nana Breonna Taylor are the major Black male and female faces of victims of police violence, but the list is long and constantly lengthens even as we right-

ly continue to resist and struggle to end the violence and radically transform the system that produces, sanctions and supports it. Indeed, in a real and constantly threatening way, all of us, Black male and female, adult and child, are potential victims of this radically evil practice of police violence which is symptomatic of a racist system that continuously seeks to deny our full humanity and human rights.

Nana Fannie Lou Ham-

er's timeless and ever-relevant teaching that we are to care deeply about those who made us possible, carried us over troubled and treacherous waters, and gave us solid and sacred ground to stand, build and do righteous battle on is applicable to Nana George Floyd and Nana Breonna Taylor and all the martyrs and victims of police violence as well as of the general and pervasive systemic violence of society. For their brutal, premature and undeserved deaths are sacrifices, even unintended, that must be honored by our making sure their deaths have heavy historical weight, not only in our memory, but also in deepening our commitment to the struggle to end the conditions and system that so savagely destroyed their lives and those of others.

They and all like them did not choose to die the undeserved and horrific deaths the murderers imposed on them. They were on their way home, sometimes only a few blocks away; in their cars hanging out or just driving to some place of life and living or in their homes rightfully expecting a security they were savagely denied. They were children playing in a park or joyriding with no thought of or reason for not returning home, or living out their full lives and looking to-

ward tomorrow.

But the ice man cometh, and the ice man kills without human concern or moral conscience, cultivating the ordinariness of evil and the negation of our lives and rights as normal. And we have no morally compelling choice, as Nana Henry Highland Garnet urged us, except to let our motto and movement be "Resist! Resist! Resist!"

The summer soldiers that mobilized and amassed in such great numbers under the initiative of BLM have come and gone. And the brief summer has turned into a long winter of struggle, sacrifice and self-giving service to our people and only the serious and sincere remain. Thus, we, for whom the struggle for justice and liberation on a larger scale is a matter of life and death, cannot leave the battlefield except in our gravely mistaken minds.

For the society brings the battlefield and their war against us to the streets, schools, supermarkets, churches, mosques, temples, and even our homes. This is the meaning of Nana Haji Malcolm's teaching that "you and I are living in a country that is a battleline for all of us."

And thus, we must be all-seasons soldiers, for until this wanton killing of Black people is decisively

stopped, Nana Ella Baker teaches us, "We who believe in freedom cannot rest." Thus, our struggle was and remains not only to secure justice for Nana George Floyd and our people as a whole, but also to secure our liberation.

For again, as Haji Malcolm teaches, without freedom we cannot achieve real justice. Indeed, freedom from an oppressive system is our larger and ongoing aim and struggle, regardless of the particular battlefield, we are compelled to fight on in our awesome march and movement towards full and final liberation.

And this realization and reaffirmation in righteous and relentless struggle is at the heart of the moral imperative of remembrance and resistance deeply rooted in the lives, history and culture of our people.

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

•GENE HALE•

## \$2 Trillion for America's Energy Transition Must Deliver Energy Equity

Throughout American history, investments in energy and transportation infrastructure have greatly improved our quality of life. However, these advancements often came at the expense of marginalized communities.

For example, during the construction of the Hoover Dam in the 1930s, only 1% of the workforce was Black, and Black men were relegated to work in the hottest areas of the site, such as the gravel pits. Similarly, in the 1950s, the Interstate Highway System, while expanding mobility, was intentionally routed through Black and brown communities instead of white areas.

This time, we must ensure things are different. As we build the clean energy infrastructure necessary for achieving a net-zero greenhouse gas future, energy equity cannot be an afterthought. Energy equity encompasses two key elements: 1) the inclusion of diverse workers and suppliers in the construction of new clean energy infrastructure, and 2) the consideration of the effects of new infrastructure on people and places, safeguarding the environmental and economic



GENE HALE

interests of all communities.

To make progress towards energy equity, top U.S. utility industry regulators and executives are convening in Southern California this week at the National Utility Diversity Council's (NUDC) 10th anniversary summit hosted at the SoCalGas Hydrogen Innovation Experience in Downey, California. Utility commissioners from states such as California, New Jersey, Illinois, Connecticut, Nevada, and top leadership from companies like Duke Energy, the New York Power Authority, and SoCalGas will all be in attendance.

The summit's roundtable discussions, plenary sessions, and panels aim to ensure the inclusion of di-

verse suppliers from across the country in the construction of America's new generation of clean energy infrastructure. There are reasons for optimism in this regard. California, a long-time leader in clean energy, has maintained a commitment to working with diverse suppliers for many decades.

At the federal level, there has been a marked change from the previous administration with the introduction of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which will fund various infrastructure initiatives, including clean energy, employing diverse suppliers. Additionally, the Department of Energy has been tasked with implementing the new Justice 40 Initiative, aiming to allocate 40% of the nation's expected \$2 trillion clean energy investment to diverse suppliers.

Promoting supplier diversity in building clean energy infrastructure will bring prosperity to business owners who were previously overlooked. However, there is more work to be done. It is essential to consider the impact of new energy infrastructure on

all communities. The challenge lies in building in a manner that is mindful of human and environmental impacts while remaining cost-effective and ensuring timely project completion. In this regard, the proposed reforms to the California Environmental Quality Act, put forth by Governor Newsom, present a sensible approach that could serve as a model nationwide.

Climate change demands rapid and collaborative action. We must act swiftly and build with unity. If the NUDC's vision of energy equity becomes a reality, investments in the energy transition could be a significant stride toward achieving broader equity in the U.S. If companies like SoCalGas, who spent over a billion dollars with diverse suppliers last year, continue to prioritize these considerations as the nation moves through this transition, then the U.S. energy market stands to become one of the most efficient and equitably balanced economies in the world.

*Gene Hale is the chairman of the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce.*

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## CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN

Republican concerns about our classrooms



What they could care less about...



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WINDOW

*Forgiving for Living*

# Are You a Value to Others?

One of my favorite restaurants is Harold and Belles, I love their New Orleans Cajun cuisine. They have been a visible and viable part of the Los Angeles community for over half a century.

I have had the pleasure of working with two generations of the Legaux family, which have owned the restaurant for three generations. Not only do they provide spicy

seafood gumbo, shrimp etouffee, and my favorite the charbroiled oysters, but they also serve a healthy and hearty portion of hospitality and customer service.

One of the ambassadors of warmth and kindness was their Director of Operations Andrew Alvarado. Andrew was a pleasure to work with and would make you feel welcomed, and always let you know how much he



appreciated your support and patronage of the restaurant.

I was deeply saddened when I recently received the news that Andrew had passed away. He was a committed husband, son, brother, and friend. I will always remember his thoughtfulness, gentle spirit, and wonderful smile.

After being with the restaurant for just a few years he instantly became

a favorite to both the customers and employees. He came in every day with an infectious positive attitude that was felt by everyone he encountered. His legacy will always be how he showed value, added value, and brought value to the Harold and Belles' team. Andrew will be sorely missed.

When we lose someone, it makes us reflect and think about our own life and the contributions we are making to our family, our community, and our workplace. After this kind of internal reflection, do you know where and to whom you are of value to?

You become a value when you are honest, trustworthy, respectful, and considerate of others. When others can count on you to be reliable, responsible, and reputable this adds value to the relationship. Wanting to be a person who is a value to

others does not mean you have to be perfect; it means you are striving to be the best version of yourself and wanting to make a positive impact on the world around you.

To be a person of value, you must be able to earn people's confidence and trust. To add value to others you should have personal values you live by that uphold sound moral principles. Albert Einstein said, "Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value." I believe the more valuable you are, the more successful you will be.

Before you can be a value to others you must first value yourself and know your worth. Valuing yourself gives you the confidence and integrity to dream big, to not be afraid of failure and not have to rely upon someone else to determine your value.

One thing I have learned in my season of greatness journey is to be of value to someone else, I must prioritize myself. I must make sure my needs are being met and I do not neglect my well-being. For many years, I pushed my priorities aside for others, no longer will I make someone a priority if they treat me as an option.

The more you value yourself the more valuable you can be to others. Andrew, thank you for touching so many lives through your service of hospitality.

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# The Divine Evaluator Comes Down

The Tower of Babel is in itself a fascinating structure. Speaking of artificial intelligence, we see in Nimrod's power, strength knowledge, the ability to think, act and build a structure so unusual and powerful, God made him to become a part of ancient biblical history.

Why would God do this? Overseeing him as one who may have been worthy of mentioning in history, God sees him as a mighty one before God, a mighty warrior, an architect and one with great imagination. His major problem, which cannot be overlooked, is that he wanted to do things too fast and he wanted to do them "his way."

He was prideful, arrogant and because of his leadership gifts and talents, others would follow him. and through his leadership power, others would also be led down the wrong path. Being a descendent of Noah, his ancestral heritage played an important role in his behavior.

He was great-grandson born of Cush, who was a son of Noah's son, Ham. Genesis 10:8-9 introduces Nimrod by saying, "Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, 'Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.'"

He is associated with and represents in his building his enmity toward God. It appears that his plan was to overtake God and be so high up, he could look down on everyone else and have everyone speak one language and by doing that he would increase his power and earthly jurisdiction.

God was not pleased. God was so much displeased that he made a radical move. He came down and took Nimrod and his followers and scattered them all over and divided the communication so that they could not understand one another.

This was a drastic move to do this. Nimrod

moved in his ungodly actions to found Babylon, the licentious, idolatrous nation. With his genius intelligence, he founded the cities of Babylon, Babel, Erech, Calneh, Nineveh, Accad, Rehoboth, Calah, and Resen.

We can even see now that the English language is being attempted to be spread as "the language" of the world. It's another attempt to take over the world in the long range.

Do I believe God will stop this egotistical behavior, self-serving work? Yes. I do believe. For God says explicitly there is, nor has there been any god beside Him or before Him nor after Him. He explains Himself by repeatedly saying, "I am the Lord and there is no other god."

He does not like, nor does He appreciate, nor does He tolerate other gods of material things, wood sculptures or stone or others. He identified himself to Abraham and Sarah. What he said is exactly what He meant.

He told Abraham he would have a chosen heir of his own loins. He gave them a time and he adhered to it. He stuck to His word. They laughed at Him. He

said, "Is there anything too hard for me?"

The ancient message hasn't changed. The messenger has come in the person of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. He doesn't change. Changing and being flip-flop is not Jehovah's way.

He created male and female. He says, "I change not." "I AM Alpha and Omega; the first and the last." When He says He spoke the universe into existence and said, "It is good," that's the one. His word is incontrovertible, standing fast in truth.

He is truth. When He heard the groanings of the enslaved Hebrews (enslaved for more than 400 years), He acted with compassion and exactness (read Psalm 18 and read what He did and what He became being responsive to their cries). His divine timing is different than ours.

If you ask the question, "Does God still respond to our cries? The answer is emphatically, "Yes!" Psalm 23-27 says, "He rewarded me by saying with the merciful, He will show Himself merciful and upright to those who are

upright; showing Himself pure to those who are pure." This is who He is.

Psalm 19:3 says, "There is no speech nor language where His voice is not heard." The Lord deals with each one according to their individuality. The Lord is still sending messages and messengers to disseminate His responses.

Call on Him. He is answering you right now. Look around. You will see evidence of His love and caring for everyone.

*Thanks for reading! Jeanette Grattan Parker is the founder-superintendent of Today's Fresh Start Charter School, 4514 Crenshaw Boulevard, L.A. 90043, 323-293-9826, www.todaysfreshstart.org, (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) "Inquiring Minds Want to Know." All articles are copyright. All rights reserved © Any errors? Let me know. Sundays for music & message: 11:30 a.m. {1-712-775-8971—code 266751} References: The Holy Bible New Testament. Don't stop praying and hoping. StudyLight.org. www.compellingtruth.com*

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# Celebration of Life

## Dr. Toni-Mokjaetji Humber

Jan. 6, 1946 – May 11, 2003

Dr. Toni-Mokjaetji C. Humber passed away on May 11, 2023. She was 77 years old. As a native Angeleno, she could trace her family heritage in Los Angeles to the early 1900s.

A celebration of her life will be held at on Thursday, June 1, at 11 a.m., at Holman United Methodist Church, 3425 W. Adams Blvd., in Los Angeles.

Dr. Humber was born on January 6, 1946, the second child of Juanita and Jake R. Humber. She

attended 96th Street Elementary School, Samuel Gompers Junior High School and graduated from Washington Senior High School. Dr. Humber received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from California State University, Los Angeles, Masters in Education from Loyola Marymount University, and her Doctorate in Sociolinguistics from Howard University.

Growing up in a fast-changing world in the 1950s and 1960s imbued her with the belief that education was vital to achieving justice and equality. She was a woman who was extremely proud of her Blackness and expressed it in her research, her lectures, and her presentations to community groups. When you saw Dr. Humber, you saw flowing robes, Afrocentric jewelry, and a woman always energetic and on the move.

Dr. Humber was a consummate educator, with a lifelong commitment to educating people on African culture

and heritage. It was a gift she bestowed on generations of her students, family, and community members. As a Professor Emeritus, she taught in the Ethnic and Women's Studies Department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona for 20 years. Her research interests focused on African and African American culture and history, the African Diaspora in Mexico, and intercultural communication.

Dr. Humber previously taught in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 18 years and served as an educational advisor for eight years in the Proficiency in English Program for the Black Learner Who Is Culturally and Linguistically Different, a nationally recognized program addressing the cultural-linguistic legitimacy and needs of Ebonics/African American Vernacular English (AVE) speakers.

A lifelong adventurer, Dr. Humber traveled extensively throughout Africa, the Caribbean, Brazil, Panama, and Mexico. In 1995 as a Fulbright-Hayes Scholar, she traveled to South Africa to observe the social and political transition after Nelson Mandela became President. While in South Africa, she was named Mokjaetji by a Ndebele community meaning Angel, Spirit of Africa.

Dr. Humber's major research, "Where Black Is Brown:

The African Diaspora in Mexico (WBIB)," was developed from her 2003 sabbatical research and subsequent journeys to Mexico. She designed WBIB to further the understanding of African influence and contributions in the Americas and foster greater understanding among African American, Chicano/Latinx, and Indigenous communities about their historical connections.

Over the years, Dr. Humber was honored for her exemplary community service to others by numerous community and professional organizations, including California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, the Council of African American Parents (CAAP) and Our Authors Study Club, Inc. (OASC), the Los Angeles chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc.

Dr. Humber was preceded in death by her parents, Jake Humber and Juanita Goddard, and her older brother, Richard. She is survived by her sister Janet Humber-Ifekwungwe, nephews Anthony, Justin, Cameron, and niece Simone, extended family, Parker family, friends, and a multitude of colleagues.

She was an integral member of her family, her extended family and her community. She made us laugh and cry, but she always made us feel loved. Her life was a life well lived. Her service to others, optimism



Dr. Toni-Mokjaetji Humber (COURTESY PHOTO)

that tomorrow will be a better day, commitment to education, passion for making a difference, and her smile will be missed and forever remembered within our hearts.

A Celebration of Life for Dr. Humber will be held at Holman United Methodist Church, 3425 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA on June 1, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to:

**Dr. Toni Humber Scholarship**  
Council of African American Parents (CAAP)  
23535 Palomino Drive #243 Diamond Bar, CA 91755  
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# City Attorney Announces \$5 Million Settlement Blocking Ghost Gun Sales in California

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto on May 30, announced a settlement in the lawsuit against Nevada-based Polymer80, permanently prohibiting the company from selling its ghost gun kits in California without first conducting background checks of buyers and without utilizing serial numbers on its products. The company must also pay \$4 million in civil penalties, and its two founders must pay an additional \$1 million in civil penalties.

Polymer80 is the nation's largest producer of ghost gun kits and component parts, which enable buyers to assemble fully functioning untraceable guns at home in an hour or less. From Jan. 2020 through Feb. 2, 2023, LAPD recovered more than 4,200 Polymer80 ghost guns. The national organization Everytown for Gun Safety has called ghost guns the fastest-growing gun safety problem facing our nation.

"This settlement holds Polymer80 and its founders accountable, keeps guns out of the hands of prohibited



City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto (FILE PHOTO)

people, makes L.A. neighborhoods safer and will help law enforcement do their jobs," said Feldstein Soto.

"More than 16,000 people have been killed by gun violence so far in 2023. This is an important step toward preventing unnecessary deaths, especially as Congress repeatedly fails to take action.

"I would like to thank our partners, Everytown Law and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, for their significant and substantial contributions to this case. I appreciate their teamwork and dedication in this action," Feldstein Soto continued.

"Online, no-questions-asked sales of ghost gun-building kits have funneled too many firearms into the hands of felons, minors, and other prohibited people," said Eric Tirschwell, executive director of Everytown Law.

"This settlement sends a loud and clear message that gun sellers that put profit over public safety will be held accountable."

Citing a surge in the number of nonserialized and thus untraceable guns recovered during police investigations, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office filed the lawsuit in February 2021 alleging that Polymer80 was selling its gun kits in violation of federal Gun Control Act requirements and in violation of California gun laws. Without conducting required background checks, the company's products could easily be purchased by people prohibited from owning guns due to their criminal history, age or mental health status.

Polymer80's sale of ghost gun kits into

California have had significant consequences for law enforcement and public safety. The company's ghost guns were the most common ghost guns recovered by LAPD between Jan. 2020 and Feb. 2023.

As part of the settlement, Polymer80 will be permanently enjoined from selling any of its ghost gun kits in California without adhering to federal Gun Control Act requirements, including serialization and background checks of

customers. It will also be enjoined from allowing its dealers and distributors to sell unserialized gun kits into California and will no longer be able to provide customer support to assist individuals attempting to construct its ghost guns in California.

Additionally, Polymer80 must pay \$4 million, and its two founders must pay an additional \$1 million in civil penalties. Pursuant to state law, such funds must be used exclusively for the enforcement of consumer

protection laws.

Polymer80 will also be prohibited from stating in its ads or on its website that unserialized gun kits are legal in California.

Deputy City Attorneys Christopher Munsey and Tiffany Tejada-Rodriguez, and Managing Senior Assistant City Attorney Michael Bostrom, with co-counsel assistance from Everytown Law and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, prosecuted this lawsuit.



### Public Notices

has been filed by TAMLA NICOLE TRAVIS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that TAMLA NICOLE TRAVIS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 08/10/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67, ROOM 614 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or

### Public Notices

file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner TAMLA NICOLE TRAVIS

### Public Notices

3856 WESTSIDE AVENUE LOS ANGELES CA 90008 5/25, 6/1, 6/8/23 CNS-3704004# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ETHEL JEAN RIEVES CASE NO. 23STPB04811**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ETHEL JEAN RIEVES. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JANET M. ANDREWS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JANET M. ANDREWS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or

### Public Notices

consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/07/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You

### Public Notices

may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner JANET M. ANDREWS 5964 WEST BLVD., #7 LOS ANGELES CA 90043 5/18, 5/25, 6/1/23 CNS-3702154# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GARY JACKSON CASE NO. 22STPB09164**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of GARY JACKSON. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by EVA JACKSON in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR

### Public Notices

PROBATE requests that EVA JACKSON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/22/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 9 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR

### Public Notices

or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner EVA JACKSON 1261 WEST 51ST PLACE LOS ANGELES CA 90037 5/18, 5/25, 6/1/23 CNS-3701897# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

# Finding his Calling - Nick Stanley's Journey to Leadership

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

During his childhood summers in Fort Worth, Texas, Nicholas Stanley would regularly get woken up by his grandmother for full days of fishing. She would strap down five long cane poles on top of her minivan and drive them to wherever the fish were biting, and she and Nick would sit along the riverbank for hours until they had caught their limit before heading home to have themselves a delicious fish fry.

He fondly credits his grandmother for inspiring him to fish, chase bugs, and embrace the landscapes and wildlife around him at an early age.

Following these warm memories, Nicholas, who goes by Nick, attended Grambling State University, a historically Black university in Louisiana to pursue a career working with animals.

After learning about the university's wildlife program and being taken under the wings of dedicated mentors, Stanley soared into a wildlife conservation career.

This trajectory would eventually bring him into various leadership roles national wildlife refuges across the U.S. The National Wildlife Refuge System is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and provides habitat for wildlife and public recreation opportunities for visitors far and wide.

Determined to help animals, Stanley was initially enrolled in the pre-med/veterinary program at Grambling.

One day while walking down his school's hallways, he was intrigued by a Department of the Interior logo posted outside of the office where he



**Nick Stanley** (COURTESY PHOTO)

learned about the school's wildlife program. He then attended several speeches given annually by refuge manager, Pon Dixon about working for the Service. Dixon would later become one of Stanley's greatest mentors.

The decision to change his course to pursue a wildlife degree would lead him to work with some of the nation's most spectacular wildlife from bighorn sheep and sandhill cranes to the California condor, meeting his initial goal to assist animal species in ways he never imagined.

While completing his degree, Stanley gained early experience through an internship program (now part of the Pathways Program) at Desert National Wildlife Refuge in Las Vegas. He fell in love with the National Wildlife Refuge System after seeing his first bighorn sheep there many years ago. His decision to intern paved the way toward a career with the federal government.

After graduating, he took a leap of faith and moved his family from Texas to California where he took his first permanent position at the Kern National Wildlife Refuge as a refuge operations specialist and at Pixley as a refuge manager.

At Pixley, he learned everything about natural resource management while managing the refuge's 3,500 acres of grassland and waterfowl habitat.

Nick worked diligently for years at those refuges, taking on more responsibility until he eventually became the project leader at Kern.

Now at Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which manages the California



**Stanley considers himself a birder at heart.** (COURTESY PHOTO)

"My career progression was not traditional. I feel grateful that I was able to stay in the same place for much of my career, but I got a wide variety of experience doing different things at the same location," said Stanley. "I always challenged myself to try to do something different, not just being the status quo at that refuge. That helped me grow as a leader and as a refuge manager."

After more than 20 years of working at Kern, Stanley gained the expertise needed to lead his current team at Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, championing efforts to save North America's largest bird, the California condor, from the brink of extinction.

While studying at Grambling, Stanley participated in weekly bird surveys as part of the wildlife program for more than two years. He studied all types of birds from neotropics and waterfowl to wading birds while living in Louisiana.

"I do consider myself a birder at heart," said Stanley. "When I was at Pixley, I fell in love with the sandhill crane. So much so, that it inspired me to write a children's book called Sandy's First Flight."

Pixley National Wildlife Refuge receives anywhere from 5,000 to 12,000 sandhill cranes, annually and provides significant seasonal marsh wetland habitat other waterfowl.

Condor Recovery Program, Stanley has found a passion for the California condor, a species that had only 22 birds left in the wild in 1982. Today, the Service, and its public and private partners, have grown the total wild free-flying condor population to more than 300 condors through the Recovery Program.

"Their recovery story alone makes you fall in love with them to persevere and make it back from the brink of extinction. Although we still have a long journey ahead to get the California condor population where it needs to be, we are in the fight," Stanley says.

Outside of work, Stanley keeps a list of all the birds he's seen in his life, traveling as far as Costa Rica to see new birds and wildlife. "Getting out into nature and enjoying it helps center me, and it helps reinvigorate the passion I have for wildlife," he said.

In addition to birding, Stanley and his family enjoy the outdoors through hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and simply hanging out in their backyard.

When speaking about

his experiences outdoors, whether professionally or recreationally, Stanley says, "It is not for one particular group over another. Just because you're the only one who looks a certain way, doesn't mean it's not for you, it just means you need to bring more friends with you."

Thinking back on his time at Grambling State University, Stanley fondly remembers the kindness and mentorship offered by Dixon of the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, who ultimately encouraged him and other wildlife program



**Stanley learned about waterfowl habitats at Kern National Wildlife Refuge.** (COURTESY PHOTO)

students to pursue wildlife conservation careers with his monthly visits to the historically Black university. "I am thankful for the energy he put into us...I appreciate him for always coming back to Grambling and recruiting us. He still checks in on me."

He also recalls the influence of Jerome Ford, a national wildlife refuge manager in Louisiana at the time, and now the Assistant Director of the Migratory Birds Program who also regularly visited Grambling to recruit and encourage African American students to take on conservation careers. "He let me know there were other people who looked like me that did

this job, which I was not aware of at the time."

There were other mentors, who were not people of color, who were equally as devoted to helping Stanley develop into the leader he is today. "David Hardt at Kern, who took me under his wing...he didn't look like me, but he treated me like his own son, and I learned everything that I could from him."

Reaching the role of a project leader, where he was often the only person of color within leadership, was not easy, but he is proud of the increased emphasis on hiring diverse staff within his region.

When speaking about being a Black leader in the Service, Stanley says, "I'm still adjusting, for lack of better terms, to often being the only one, professionally. I think we have made huge strides as far as diversifying the workforce within refuges. It used to be that I was the only person of color, and now I'm not and which says a lot about the leadership we have within refuges. Within the Service as a whole I am proud to be one of three refuge project leaders of color in the nation, at least that I know of."

Stanley emphasizes the importance of his mentors in helping him reach the level of leadership he has obtained which now motivates him to foster and help the next generation of diverse leaders. "I think it is my responsibility now, to do what Pon Dixon did for me, which is mentor the new people who are coming in, who aren't so sure of their place in the Service.

"My advice to everyone is, don't be afraid to step out on faith and be the only one." "That gives you the opportunity to help change things from within."

# California Assembly Advances Bill to Address Pediatric Poisonings

By Antonio Ray Harvey  
California Black Media

The Cannabis Candy Child Safety Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 1207, authored by Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks), passed the Assembly with a 61-0 vote on May 25.

The bill aims to tackle the recent surge in pediatric poisonings and hospitalizations caused by the consumption of cannabis products.

AB 1207 -- focused on the packaging and advertising of cannabis products --was introduced on the Senate floor for the first time on May 26 -- a day after it cleared the Assembly.

"When Prop 16 was passed in 2016, there was a distinct promise to California voters that legalization of recreational cannabis would not come at the expense of our children," said Irwin on the Assembly floor before members voted on the bill last week.

"But in reality, the very opposite has occurred. Poison Control Center calls due to pediatric exposures has skyrocketed since 2016, and they will only continue to increase as time passes," Irwin continued her statement to her colleagues. "In 2021, California had 793 cannabis exposure calls to Poison Control Centers for children five years of age and under."

According to Irwin, both illegal and illicit cannabis

products are contributing to the rise in poisoning among children.

Since the passage of Proposition (Prop) 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, companies have marketed hundreds of legal cannabis products in California that resemble candies and foods. These products are known to appeal to children and youth, proponents of the legislation claim. For example, a fruit-flavored, high-potency cannabis e-joint that mimics the now-banned JUUL nicotine e-cigarettes is known to attract teenagers.

Prop. 64 was a voter-led initiative in 2016 that legalized cannabis in the California. The law made possession, cultivation, and sale of cannabis or cannabis products legal for those over 21 years of age.

Supporters of AB 1207 claim the bill upholds the promise and intent of Prop 64 by introducing measures to protect children and youth. The bill more clearly defines and prohibits products, packaging, and marketing that appeal to children or and teenagers, and prohibits flavored cannabis products known to hook kids.

"We must protect our children from the reckless labeling and marketing of cannabis products that are designed to be attractive to them," Irwin posted to her Twitter account on May 22.

Irwin's legislation aligns with other California laws that have made it illegal



**Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin** (D-THOUSANDS OAKS)

to sell flavored and vapor products to anyone under the age of 21.

California Controller Malia Cohen led the movement to eliminate the sale of vapor products, menthol cigarettes, and flavored cigars in the city of San Francisco when she was member of the Board of Supervisors there.

The products were eliminated because of the danger they presented to children. Now Irwin is focused on systemic regulatory failures and widespread cannabis commercialization that has led to Cannabis products within reach of the youth.

Irwin shared the data below to support her argument for increased restrictions:

\* Annual cannabis exposures reported to California Poison Control

emergency department visits in California increased by 75% between 2016 and 2020, mainly involving the consumption of plant material, followed by edibles, concentrates and vaping products, demonstrating that the problem extends beyond just edibles.

\* At Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, children under age 10 testing positive for THC quadrupled since 2016, mostly from edibles, of which three quarters were from candies or gummies. Half led to hospitalization and one in ten to intensive care, costing over \$15 million dollars just at one hospital.

Pediatricians, parents, public health, education, and youth advocacy



**AB 1207 focuses on packaging and advertising of cannabis products.** (COURTESY PHOTO)

were only 16 total reported gummy exposures between 2010 and 2015 vs. 409 in 2020 alone.

\* Cannabis-related

groups joined California Assemblymember Irwin in a virtual press conference in support of AB 1207.

Dr. Natalie Laub,

researcher at Rady Children's Hospital and UC San Diego, has conducted research on accidental cannabis ingestion by children. Dr. Laub states that San Diego County accidental ingestions have increased from fewer than 10 cases in 2019 to 100 in 2022.

The issue can be prevented, Dr. Laub said.

"I have seen hundreds of young children become ill, many critically ill, after accidentally eating cannabis that looks like candy," said Dr. Natalie Laub, Pediatrician and researcher at the University of California, San Diego. "With every child I see, I ask the same question... why does a drug that could kill a child have to look like a gummy bear? The answer

is it doesn't. AB 1207 would help keep cannabis products that look like candy out of the hands and bodies of our young children."



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Janet Jackson's 'Together Again' Tour Celebrates 50 Years in Entertainment

*Jackson Opens the Hollywood Bowl Summer Concert Season with Special Guest Ludacris and YOLA*

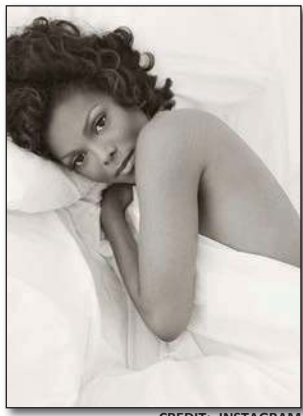
BY DR. VALERIE WARDLAW  
Contributing Writer

It's been six years, but Janet Jackson's "Together Again" tour is set to open the Hollywood Bowl Summer Concert season on Friday, June 10, to kick off the 101st year of the Bowl's summer concert season.

Jackson will appear along with special guest Ludacris and the Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) conducted by Thomas Wilkins. Opening Night at the Bowl will benefit the Los Angeles Philharmonic and its Learning and Community programs.

Jackson kicked off the "Together Again" tour in April and celebrated the pop icon's 50 years in the entertainment business, the 30th Anniversary of her mega-selling 1993 album "Janet," which spawned such hits as "Any Time, Any Place," and the GRAMMY® Award-winning R&B song, "That's the Way Love Goes."

This tour also celebrates the 25th Anniversary of her 1997 album, "The Velvet Rope." This album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart upon its release and launched hits like "Together Again," "Got 'til It's Gone," "I Get Lonely," and the No. 1 funky, bass-driven hit "Go Deep."



CREDIT: INSTAGRAM  
*Janet Jackson Celebrates 30th Anniversary of "Janet" and 25th Anniversary of the "Velvet Rope."*

The "Velvet Rope," Jackson's sixth album, was reissued in October 2022 with two bonus tracks and

13 new remixes. Atypical of Jackson, she shared intimate thoughts about the



CREDIT: JANET JACKSON INSTAGRAM  
*Icon Janet Jackson Celebrates 50 Years in Entertainment*

making of the "Velvet Rope."

"This album is so, so close to me. It was, I would say, out of all the albums that I've created, and especially with Jimmy [Jam] and Terry [Lewis], it was the most difficult...the most difficult album for me to create," Jackson said. "I was going through so

much in my life, and it was so deep in trying to find out and figure out who I am,



FILE PHOTO  
*"Janet" Album Cover*

where I stand."

And Jackson, ever concerned about fans' reactions to her music, raised the concern that fans might not like the new music. Jackson did not need to worry as fans rushed to purchase the album, and she would earn a GRAMMY® Award for Best Short Form Music Video for

"Got 'til It's Gone."

Three-time GRAMMY® Award winner Christopher Brian Bridges, known professionally as Ludacris or Luda to the informed, says it "feels surreal" to be a part of the Jackson tour.

"There are people that come to these shows, and they're bumping Janet's music and bumping my music, and it just brings a smile to your face," he said. A busy artist, Luda is also starring in the latest

famous Jackson family and baby sister of the late mega-star Michael Jackson, and she will share the opening-night stage with a group of 16 talented young musicians, members of the



Ludacris

Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA).

YOLA, the LA Philharmonic's music education program, serves approximately 1,700 young musicians, and one can only imagine the excitement they feel as they prepare to share the stage with one of the biggest stars in the world.

Janet Jackson + Luda + YOLA, the Hollywood Bowl, Saturday, June 10. For more information, visit [www.hollywoodbowl.com](http://www.hollywoodbowl.com).

## 'Saint X' is Sensational *Drake and Future executive produce a thrilling, compelling new series*

BY ZON D'AMOUR  
Contributing Writer

"Saint X" is one of the best limited series that you can binge-watch on Hulu right now. If you're a fan of the "whodunnit" crime genre, "Saint X" will leave you on the edge of your seat with its complex and compelling storytelling.

Adapted from the 2020 book by Alexis Schaitkin, the series follows the Thomas family during their weeklong idyllic vacation that ends in tragedy. The eldest sister, Alison, (played by West Duchovny) is an inquisitive, headstrong college student who's inexplicably found dead after interacting with many of the resort's staff and guests.

Nearly two decades later, the surviving sister, Emily (Alycia Debnam-Carey), crosses paths with someone from the island triggering an insatiable obsession with uncovering the truth about her sister's untimely death.

What makes "Saint X" such a phenomenal series is its many layers. Though it's only eight episodes, the character development is amazing. Upon meeting the various supporting characters through a series of flashbacks, the viewer thinks they're getting a step closer to the nature of the crime when in reality, you're zooming out to see a bigger

picture.

Each episode tackles a multitude of current events such as classism, racism, and feminism. Moreover, the series isn't just hyperper-



FRANK MICELOTTA/HULU  
*From left are "Saint X" cast members, Betsy Brandt, West Duchovny, Josh Bonzie and Michael Park.*

cused on a missing blonde-haired Caucasian teen, there's a bigger story at play about the hardships of the residents of a Caribbean island that has been gentrified for Western tourists.

Through resort staff and best friends Edwin (Jayden Elijah) and Gogo (Josh Bonzie), the show pointedly addresses how homophobia – which dates back to colonial slavery – and the decision to be outwardly gay still carries real-life consequences, particularly for Black men.

"Saint X" challenges the idiom that "there are two sides to every story" when in actuality based on who's telling the story, there are various versions of the truth.

The Sentinel speaks with the stars of "Saint X" who give insight into the show's teachable moments.

**L.A. Sentinel:** Your character "Alison" seems to

be very progressive. From reading Toni Morrison to calling out her father and love interest's various microaggressions. What's something you learned in becoming your character?

**West Duchovny:** I think Alison is progressive by 20 years ago standards but at the same time she's still extremely sheltered, naive, and ignorant in a lot of ways. I think her saving grace is her curiosity. She wants to do better, and she wants to learn more. She wants to understand, but I think she never will because of how she was raised but her desire to learn was really what I grabbed onto and thought was so honorable and wonderful about her. If

you look at the conversations she has with Edwin, Gogo, and Tyler, she's the one driving it because she's asking questions over and over again and I think that's a wonderful quality.

**LAS:** What do you hope people take away from this series in terms of living your truth when society or their environment doesn't allow it?

**Jayden Elijah:** Diving into the Caribbean's laws on homosexuality and how being caught with a man can get you imprisoned and even sentenced to death in a few countries. Oftentimes, these laws aren't enforced but they're still there. Educating myself on when these laws were first introduced into the Caribbean communities, and it was during slavery.

It made me realize this prejudiced attitude isn't even from my culture, it's actually an element of another horrible thing – slavery and colonialism. Two consensual adults coming together whatever the gender, whether it's male, female, or non-binary, I don't think that should be anyone's concern. Maybe this show can help undo some of the prejudices that people in some communities have.

**LAS:** In the show, your character Emily has some dialogue about how the loss of a loved one changes you and you become a new per-

son. How would you have comforted your character amidst her grief?

**Alycia Debnam-Carey:** It's such a unique point of view to lose someone so close and instrumental to your life. So much of what Emily is going through is to fill this void within her fam-



STEWART COOK/HULU  
*Josh Bonzie plays "Clive Gogo" Richardson in "Saint X."*

ily dynamic and that was a big theme that I was curious to understand. In many ways, we see Emily trying to become a version of her sister to try and facilitate this space. Ultimately, we find that Emily needs to come back to herself to try and find out who she is in order to heal.

You need to support people as an individual, make sure they're seen and heard as their own person and not just lumped in with the trauma that they experienced. They still have to exist and have a life. Learning how to move forward is so complex and interesting

in this narrative.

**LAS:** What do you hope Black men get from this series in terms of inclusion and acceptance?

**JB:** In terms of Black men whether heterosexual, homosexual, or trans, there's space for all of us. I would like to see a world where Black men know it's okay to be soft, it's okay to hold flowers in a picture! There are so many ways that Black men can exist and nothing can hold us back whether that be ourselves or other



PALOMA ALEGRIA/HULU  
*Jayden Elijah as "Edwin" in "Saint X."*

people. What's wonderful about a show like this is that you get a whole other side of how black men can be and how expansive and infinite a Black man is.

Visit [LASentinel.net](http://LASentinel.net) to read the full article. "Saint X" Executive Produced by Aubrey "Drake" Graham, Adel "Future" Nur, and Jason Shrier for Dream-Crew Entertainment is streaming now on Hulu.

## 'The Color Purple' Transcends Boundaries with Stellar Cast and Artistic Brilliance

BY MAGRIRA  
Contributing Writer

Prepare to be captivated by the powerful sisterhood of three extraordinary women in the highly anticipated film, "The Color Purple."

With visionary director Blitz Bazawule, renowned for his remarkable work on "Black Is King" and "The Burial of Kojou," at the helm, and a stellar production team including Oprah Win-

frey, Steven Spielberg, Scott Sanders, and Quincy Jones, this bold reinterpretation of the beloved classic is poised to leave a lasting impact.

Leading this exceptional cast is the incomparable Taraji P. Henson, celebrated for her unforgettable performances in "What Men Want" and "Hidden Figures," joined by the talented Danielle Brooks from "Peacemaker" and "Orange Is the New Black," the remarkable Colman Domin-



WARNER BROS.  
*Fantasia Barrino makes her film debut in "The Color Purple."*

go from "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "Fear

the Walking Dead," and Corey Hawkins, whose

stellar roles in "In the Heights" and "BlackKkKlansman" have garnered critical acclaim.

Completing this exceptional ensemble are the multi-talented H.E.R., known for her incredible artistry in "Judas" and "Beauty and the Beast: A 30th Celebration," the gifted Halle Bailey from "The Little Mermaid" and "Grown-ish," Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor from "King Richard" and

"If Beale Street Could Talk," and the sensational Fantasia Barrino, making her debut in a major motion picture.

The screenplay, crafted by Marcus Gardley known for his work on "Maid" and "The Chi," is based on the novel by Alice Walker, as well as the acclaimed musical stage play. The book of the musical stage play is by Marsha Norman, with music

**(See "THE COLOR PURPLE" on D-2**

# Black Music Month: Remembering Singer Joe Hinton

BY LARRY BUFORD  
Contributing Writer

Over the years, there have been many recorded protest songs. Considering the climate of today, these songs are still important.

In 1939, singer Billie Holiday recorded “Strange Fruit” – a song composed by Jewish American Abel Meeropol (under the pseudonym Lewis Allan). The story goes that the lyrics were taken from a poem Meeropol wrote which was published in 1937.

The protest song depicts the lynching of Black Americans hanging on trees like fruit. It makes you wonder why it took until 2022 to pass the Emmitt Till Anti-Lynching Law.

Another song “You Know It Ain’t Right” by Joe Hinton was released in 1963. Many listeners thought Hinton was singing about a lost love (The B-side was “Love Sick Blues”), but a closer listen-

ing of the lyrics reveals a sound more like a protest song – perhaps a precursor to Sam Cooke’s “A Change Is Gonna Come.”

The long version of Cooke’s “Change” has the lyrics: “I go to the movie, and I go downtown, somebody keeps telling me don’t hang around...?” Hinton sang on “It Ain’t Right”: “Walking down the main street, I’m trying to hide my tears, talking about tears I’ve been crying baby, for so, so many years...”

Because of Jim Crow, both artists could have been singing about segregation: the Colored and White water fountains, the so-called “sundown” rule where Blacks could not be in certain areas after sundown; or they could have been singing about the “back of the bus,” the “step aside on the sidewalk,” and the “don’t look White folks in the eye” rules.

The biography of Joe Hinton according to Wikipedia reads, “Though

Clarksdale, Mississippi has been claimed as his birthplace, most sources state that Hinton was born in Evansville, Indiana, where he married LaVerne Flowers and started a family.

“He began as a gospel singer with the Blair Gospel Singers, the Chosen Gospel Quartet and the Spirit of Memphis Quartet.



Producer Don Robey asked the singer to try doing secular tunes, and Hinton began recording for Robey’s record label, Peacock Records, in 1958.

“It was not until 1963, with his fifth single on the label, that he managed to



1964’s ‘Funny How Time Slips Away,’ written by Willie Nelson. The tune (simply credited as “Funny” on the original record label) peaked at #13 on the Billboard Hot 100 that year.

“Cash Box magazine listed ‘Funny How Time Slips Away’ as #1 for four weeks on their R&B chart. The track sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc. ‘I Want a Little Girl,’ the next single, also charted, but it was his last hit.

Hinton died of skin cancer in 1968 in Boston, Massachusetts, at the age of 38, while still in the prime of his recording career.

“You Know It Ain’t Right” is on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GvJy3sTnJ8>

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# Jordan Donica, Tony Award nominee for ‘Camelot,’ is Broadway’s rising star

BY MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

When Jordan Donica was about 9 or 10, his aunt took him to New York City with a mission: Get the notion of making it on Broadway out of his system. Thankfully, that mission failed spectacularly.

“It was raining and I was dancing through the streets of Times Square, loving every second of it. My aunt had to tell me to slow down,” he recalls, now happily a New Yorker. “The thing that I love the most is here, at its height — the core where everything explodes out from.”

With determination and talent, Donica still hasn’t slowed down, earning his first Tony Award nomination for playing the hunky, gallant knight Sir Lancelot in a gorgeous Lincoln Center Theater revival of the classic musical “Camelot.”

“I’m just thankful and it just makes me want to do the work even more. Really. That was the first thought I had was, ‘I’m excited to get back to work,’” he says.

Donica’s story is of a man with a huge voice who moved a lot in his youth but always had Broadway as his North Star. He would tell friends as early as middle school that he knew what he was going to do with his life. His first email address had the words “Broadway Bound” in it.

A 2016 graduate of Otterbein University, Donica sharpened his craft in regional theater, playing Jesus in “Jesus Christ Superstar” at the Weather-vane Playhouse in Ohio

and was in the ensemble in “South Pacific” at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.



This image released by Lincoln Center Theater shows Jordan Donica as Sir Lancelot in a scene from a Lincoln Center Theater revival of the classic musical “Camelot” in New York.

He made his Broadway debut in 2016 as Raoul in “The Phantom of the Opera,” coming full-circle. He had been in the audience as a kid during that New York visit, mesmerized by the skill of the Phantom. “I was like, ‘I need to learn how to use my voice the way that man is using his voice.’ And I set out to do that.”

Donica has had roles on TV’s “Charmed,” “Blue Bloods” and also starred as Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson in the Los Angeles and San Francisco companies of the musical “Hamilton.” He originated the role of Freddy Eynsford-Hill in the 2018 Lincoln Center Theater revival of “My

Fair Lady.”

In the lavish, sweeping “Camelot,” he plays a virtuous, egotistical knight

who is in a love triangle with King Arthur and Guenevere. The story has been updated by Aaron Sorkin to focus on the dream of democracy, but the songs by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe remain. Tony-winning director Bartlett Sher hired Donica for both “My Fair Lady” and “Camelot,” roles that required the actor to be ardent and sweet in the first and a brash, sword-catching hunk in the second. “You have a wonderful artist on your hands who’s capable of immersing themselves in a part and in a world and delivering very different things in both cases,” says Sher.

“There’s that kind of connection in his body, relationship to his voice, deep intelligence and endless

creativity that makes him so special.” Donica in “Camelot” first appears on stage almost like a righteous angel — singing “C’est Moi” with the lyrics “Here I stand as pure as a prayer/Incredibly clean with virtue to spare” — but ends the musical very human, what he describes as a sobering and yet fun journey. “Camelot, to me, is America. And we have to fight every day to tell the stories of what freedom is and what America is. Because if we don’t speak about it and put it into existence, it doesn’t actually exist,” he says. The role is vocally and physically demanding. He

gained 15 pounds beforehand, anticipating he’d sweat much of it away. He recently visited his physical therapist, who instantly knew Donica had lost weight because the settings on the table didn’t fit him anymore.

Born in Minnesota, Donica spent his first birthday in Chicago, then moved to Tennessee for eight years and then on to Indiana. He would watch Kidz Bop and TV commercials with singing kids — Oscar Mayer hot dogs and Welch’s juice ads — and wonder if that was a path.

“I remember being a little kid and just like seeing the kids on those commercials and turning to my mom being like, ‘I could do that. Why don’t I do that?’” he says. “I don’t think she really thought I was being that serious. But, in my mind, I was very serious.”

He joined a community theater in Indianapolis and attended theater camp, where there was once a team-building trust fall activity and Donica was the only one willing to commit and fall backward into a stranger’s arms.

“I remember the teacher going like, ‘You’re going to do well in this because you trust,’” he recalls. “Theater world is a safe place. I’ve been taught to trust, meaning you’re going to be put in a dangerous situation.”

The trip to New York was a test for a boy who loved wide-open fields and wasn’t fond of crowds. His mom didn’t want to dissuade him, just wanted to make sure he really wanted it. Now she’s been invited to see him at the Tony Awards.

On June 11, he faces-off for best performance by an actor in a featured role, in a musical against Kevin Cahoon and Alex Newell of “Shucked,” Justin Cooley from “Kimberly Akimbo” and Kevin Del Aguila of “Some Like It Hot.”

Donica, who used to watch old Tony ceremonies on YouTube, still can’t comprehend he’ll be attending. “I don’t think I still really believe it because I never really set out to win a Tony Award or anything like that. All I ever dreamed about as a kid was performing at the Tonys.”

## {Continued ‘THE COLOR PURPLE’ from D-1}

and lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, and Stephen Bray.

The film boasts an incredible lineup of executive producers, including Alice Walker, Rebecca Walker, Kristie Macosko Krieger, Carla Gardini, Mara Jacobs, Adam Fell, Courtenay Valenti, Sheila Walcott and Michael Beugg.

Working alongside director Bazawule is the talented director of photography Dan Laustsen, known for his stunning visuals in “John Wick: Chapter 4” and “The Shape of Water.” The production design is helmed

by Paul Denham Austerberry, renowned for his work on “The Flash” and “The Twilight Saga: Eclipse,” while the editing is expertly handled by Jon Poll, known for his contributions to “Bombshell” and “The Greatest Showman.”

Adding to the film’s visual tapestry is choreographer Fatima Robinson, acclaimed for her work on “Coming 2 America” and “Dreamgirls,” and costume designer Francine Jamison-Tanchuck, known for her artistry in “Emancipation” and “One Night in Miami...”

Bringing the film’s soul-

stirring music to life are music supervisors Jordan Carroll, known for his work on “The Greatest Showman” and “Godfather of Harlem,” and Morgan Rhodes, celebrated for her contributions to “Space Jam: A New Legacy” and “Selma.”

The evocative score is composed by Kris Bowers, acclaimed for his work on “King Richard” and “Green Book,” while the executive music producers are Nick Baxter, Stephen Bray, and Blitz Bazawule himself.

Presented by Warner Bros. Pictures and featuring

the combined efforts of Harpo Films, Amblin Entertainment, Scott Sanders Productions, and QJP Productions, “The Color Purple” promises to be a cinematic masterpiece. Mark your calendars for its North American theatrical release on December 25, 2023, followed by the international premiere on January 18, 2024.

Get ready to be swept away by the power of sisterhood, resilience, and the indomitable spirit of “The Color Purple.”

View the official trailer at <http://youtu.be/wPwzBU-UI1GA>

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# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL SPORTS

D-3

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL  
Sophomore Roberta Remy competed on the Hawthorne girls' flag football team.

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports editor

From an early age, Roberta Remy played foot-

## Student Athlete of the Week: Roberta Remy

ball with her brothers. Her passion and knowledge for the game was again put to use when Hawthorne high school established a girls' flag football team this year. Hawthorne is a newer member of the League of Champions.

"One thing that I love to do is come to practice, my highlight of the day every day I go to school is practice," Remy said. "If we don't practice, I go home mad."

Remy is thankful the Rams and Chargers started the League of Champions

and hosted a Super Bowl tournament to conclude this past season. The Cougars flag football team always worked to uplift each other, according to Remy.

"We stick together and we talk things out," Remy said. "Say somebody dropped the ball, we say 'keep they head up' and make sure they keep they head up and make sure that they don't put their self down."

Along with playing defense, Remy plays running back and wide receiver.

She enjoyed watching her teammates improve throughout the season.

"We were dropping balls ... we didn't know defense, we didn't know offense," Remy said. "Now we all know defense and we all know offense, so it's great."

A coach once told her to not let other people get under her skin. It is a lesson that Remy kept at the forefront of her mind when she was competing at the Super Bowl tournament.

"When I was playing, I let two girls get to me,"

Remy said. "But then, I had to keep my cool ... I'm still learning."

Remy admitted that balancing academics and athletics can be difficult. She became more dedicated to her schoolwork as a sophomore. Her favorite class is chemistry.

"Now, my grades are better," Remy said. "When I say they are better, they are amazing and it's crazy, I came this far, I took it more serious."

Remy learned an important lesson about keeping focus when

Hawthorne lost a game against Crenshaw high school.

"In my games, I'm focused on the game but with Crenshaw it was like ... my mind just went blank," Remy said. "I won't ever let that happen again."

When she becomes an adult, Remy wants to become an OB-GYN.

"I just wanted to do it ever since I was little," Remy said. "I want to be a doctor, I want to help mothers have babies ... but I want to also do [football]."

## Carson Track Team Stays on Pace in State Finals

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports editor

The Carson Colts track and field team concluded their season with a trip to the CIF State Championship, where they competed in sprints, mid-distance, throws and jumps. The Colts scored 15 points, placing them in 13th place at the State meet.

"These kids have been good, they've been a fun group," said Carson track head coach Armit Lal. "Everybody does what they're supposed to do, they want to be good."

The girls 4x100m relay team became State Champions, running a 45.61s time. Sophomore Kaitlyn Williams ran the third leg of the 4x100 relay.

"It was pretty intense," Williams said. "I just focus on staying calm throughout the race."

Freshman Christina Gray ran the first leg of the 4x100m relay, she mentioned how she felt pressure competing because it is her first year at Carson.

"I just put it on the track," Gray said. "When I get in the set position, I'm not nervous anymore."

Gray came in seventh place in the 100m state final.

Team Captain Reign Redmond is a member of the 4x100m team who also

paced the City Section championships with a 46.16s time. This marks the

light to Carson's name."

After coming in third at the City Section champi-

season," Fann said. "I feel like I'm mostly improved mentally more than physi-

"We work together really well," Evangelista said, "We're all really close

other throughout this season. They have been dedicating their performances to the hurdles coach Joseph Sadlan who passed away earlier this year due to COVID.

"I've been carrying on his legacy ever since," said freshman hurdler Jayden Rendon. "He was really big on technique, not really about how you moved or how quick you finished the race, it's about how you went over the hurdle and got to the next one."

Rendon qualified in the state meet after placing second in the 300m hurdles and third in the 110m hurdles at the City Section Championship. In the state preliminary heat, he came in 15th place with a 38.76s time for the 300m hurdles and came in 17th place in the 110m hurdles with a 15.31s time.

Craig Walker runs anchor for the 4x100m team. He noted how having the right mindset is key to competing on the varsity level.

"I know what my capabilities are," Walker said. "We are really underrated."

Sophomore Tiffany Williams noted how encouraging and talented her teammates are.

"Honestly, we play around a lot, we get along so well," Tiffany said.

"Practice is always fun and happy."



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL  
Ta'Ajhah Fann (left) and Reign Redmond.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL  
Christina Gray (left) and Jerald Evangelista.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL  
Kaitlyn Williams (left) and Craig Walker.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL  
Jayden Rendon (left) and Tiffany Williams.

eighth consecutive time that the Carson girls track and field team became City Section Champions.

"Even though we have been successful, people don't come to our school for track that much," Redmond said. "It's good to be a part of it to bring more

onships, senior Ta'Ajhah Fann shaved off some time for her state final heat. Her 12.08s time put her in eighth place. She is the second leg of the 4x100m relay team.

"We've been number one of the state and our relay basically the whole

cally this season."

The Boys' track team qualified for state in the 4x100m relays and came in 19th in the preliminaries. Sophomore Jerald Evangelista is a member of the relay squad and the current City Section Champion in the long jump.

bonded and we're like family."

He and senior Louis Chukwu competed for the Colts in the state long jump prelims with Chukwu finishing in 30th place and Evangelista in 15th.

The student athletes have been pushing each

## Chargers Building Strong Bonds on Defense

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Chargers began their organized team activities (OTA's) on May 22. Key starters, like quarterback Justin Herbert, linebacker Khalil Mack, and wide receiver Keenan Allen attended. Head coach Bran-



AP PHOTO/MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ  
Los Angeles Chargers linebacker Khalil Mack (52) celebrates defensive tackle Sebastian Joseph-Day (69) during the second half of an NFL football game against the Las Vegas Raiders in Inglewood, Calif., Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022.

don Staley was elated to see linebacker Joey Bosa also be present at practice.

"For [Bosa] to be here, I think that it shows all of these young players what it takes to be successful, that you have to be here with your team to improve," Staley said. "We know that Joey has such a specific routine with his brother in Flori-

da. For him to be here, Day 1, really excited about that."

Bosa normally has a "strict" training routine with his brother, San Francisco 49er's defensive lineman Nick Bosa, that takes place at his gym in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Bosa mentioned that it was "no problem" for him to come to the Chargers' OTA's.

"My dad's manning the helm back in Florida with my brother. He's handling his training for the next few weeks," Bosa said. "I'm actually excited to see how much I can kind of hone my football technique because I'm really feeling good, physically."

The Chargers finished the last season with a 10-7 record but were knocked out of the playoffs in the Wild Card round by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

"It was like a bad dream, like a nightmare," Mack said about the loss.

"Waking up from it and just putting in the work to make sure that it doesn't happen again."

There have not been a lot of changes to the roster

new team," Staley said. "A lot of guys are invested from that game and it's going to mean a lot more when you were at that game."

Mack made 33 solo



AP PHOTO/KYUSUNG GONG, FILE  
Los Angeles Chargers linebacker Joey Bosa (97) looks on before an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sept. 25, 2022, in Inglewood, Calif.

during the offseason, according to Staley.

"This is a hungry group ... There's been that right vibe where there's a lot of familiarity, you're not onboarding like a brand-

tackles, eight sacks, and two forced fumbles last season. Bosa only competed in five games due to a groin injury, he made 10 total tackles and 2.3 sacks. Mack is eager to work with

a healthy Bosa so the public can get a true look at their impact in tandem on the field.

"It's always good when you have [Bosa] out there," Mack said. "A lot of knowledge, a good friend, a good dude to have around in the locker room and the meeting room."

A goal for Staley is to get Mack and Bosa to play together; the two defenders have developed a close relationship. Bosa feels a need to put on his best game to ensure Mack that he can count on him. Staley sees them both as "perennial Defensive Player of the Year candidates" and expects them to play at that level.

"The respect they have for one another, I've really enjoyed watching that grow from afar," Staley said. "It's rare that you can find two players of that caliber that you can get together."