



Dr. Thomas Parham – see page A-9



Telma Hopkins – see page B-1

SENTINEL EXCLUSIVE

Despite the Rumors, First AME Church is Still Standing & Moving Forward!

Pastor Robert Shaw reassures the community that FAME continues to fulfill its motto, “First to Serve.”

BY DANNY J. BAKWELL, JR. Executive Editor and CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT Managing Editor

Ominous rumors and tales of decline surrounded First AME Church of Los Angeles when the public learned last week of the bankruptcy protection filing for three FAME corporations.

But in an exclusive interview with Pastor Robert Shaw, along with a

review of pertinent documents, the Sentinel learned critical facts about the situation. Most importantly, the senior minister, who was assigned to FAME in November, is adamant about continuing to fulfill the church’s mission.

“God kept us, even in spite of tabloid’s gossip and misinformation, we’re still here, we’re still standing, and we still believe in God,” insisted Shaw, who emphasized that the historic edifice, Allen House

or the church’s property on Hobart Street are not impacted by the filing.

“We recognize the importance of still keeping our mantra, ‘first to serve.’ There will not be an interruption of services as far as we can help and manage it. We’re going to continue to help those who are in need or less fortunate or who call upon the church,” he vowed.

Yet, there’s no denying that church’s history of service has been shaken by

the bankruptcy filing on May 1, of the three nonprofits - FAME Assistance Corporation, FAME Housing Corporation, and FAME Good Shepherd. The entities, established during the pastoral leadership of the Rev. Dr. Cecil L. “Chip” Murray, improved the standard of living of thousands of people in South L.A. through a myriad of outreach programs.

{See FIRST AME CHURCH on A-11}



Pastor Robert Shaw

COURTESY PHOTO

410,000+ Signatures Submitted to Qualify Affordable Housing Initiative for November Ballot

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

A coalition of housing affordability and mental health experts, community advocates, firefighters, business and union leaders, and front-line service providers submitted more than 410,000 signatures on to Los Angeles County officials on May 7, to place the Affordable Housing, Homelessness Solutions and Prevention Now initiative on the November 2024 ballot. 238,922 valid signatures



Yvonne Wheeler, president of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, addresses the crowd of outside the offices of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

COURTESY PHOTO

are required to qualify.

Recognizing the need to change the status quo, this coalition came together to draft, qualify, and now pass this bold new approach to addressing housing affordability and homelessness in L.A. County with a focus on making housing more affordable, increasing access to mental health and substance abuse treatment, and accountability measures including a legal requirement to deliver results.

The initiative would repeal and replace the previous voter-approved measure and prevent nearly 30,000 people from losing the housing or services they currently receive. It would expand programs that address the root causes of homelessness and work to prevent homelessness from happening in the first place – a missing component of previous efforts.

{See AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE on A-11}

Rep. James Clyburn Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

President Joe Biden awarded U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Friday, May 3.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the nation’s highest civilian honor presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or other significant societal, public, or private endeavors.



Rep. James Clyburn

FILE PHOTO

“Words cannot express the profound honor and gratitude I feel upon receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This recognition is not only a testament to my work, but also to the countless individuals who have supported my journey; the giants who fought alongside me for justice, equity, and the pursuit of progress; and the support of my loving family,” said Clyburn.

“I am immensely grateful to President Biden for this incredible honor and take seriously the responsibility it carries. While it serves as a recognition of one’s accomplishments, it is also an astute reminder of the challenges that lie ahead. It speaks to the duty each and

{See CLYBURN MEDAL OF FREEDOM on A-10}

Jackie Lacey Endorses Nathan Hochman for L.A. County D.A.

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT Managing Editor

Former District Attorney Jackie Lacey is backing Nathan Hochman for Los Angeles County District Attorney.

As the first woman and African American elected as D.A., Lacey served two terms in the position and possesses intimate knowledge about the skills and talents needed to succeed in the role. She recently announced her endorsement of Hochman, stating that he possesses the qualities needed to serve.

“Nathan Hochman is a fair-minded individual. [He has] integrity, honesty, effectiveness, preparedness, compassion, empathy - all the different things that weigh into being a good district attorney,” said Lacey in an interview with the Sentinel.

Also in Hochman’s favor is his approach to the criminal justice system, added Lacey. She cited his



Jackie Lacey announces her support for Nathan Hochman for District Attorney.

COURTESY PHOTO

holistic view of public safety based on his decades of experience as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney.

In addition, Lacey noted that Hochman understands the mission of the

Office of the D.A., which is “to seek justice by, among other things, sending a message that criminal behavior is unacceptable in our county.” In contrast, she said D.A. George Gascón has emboldened

criminals and caused an increase in crime by failing to properly enforce the law.

“Criminals are more brazen because they know they have allies embedded

{See JACKIE LACEY ENDORSEMENT on A-10}



# L.A. County Department of Economic Opportunity Announces \$25 Million Investment to Help Small Businesses

*The investment will help entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and businesses of color start and grow their business.*

By BRIAN W. CARTER  
Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, May 1, the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) held a Virtual Briefing announcing a partnership with 15 local community-based organizations to launch the Economic Mobility Initiative (EMI), a \$25 million investment to support the startup and growth of local entrepreneurs, businesses, and nonprofits.

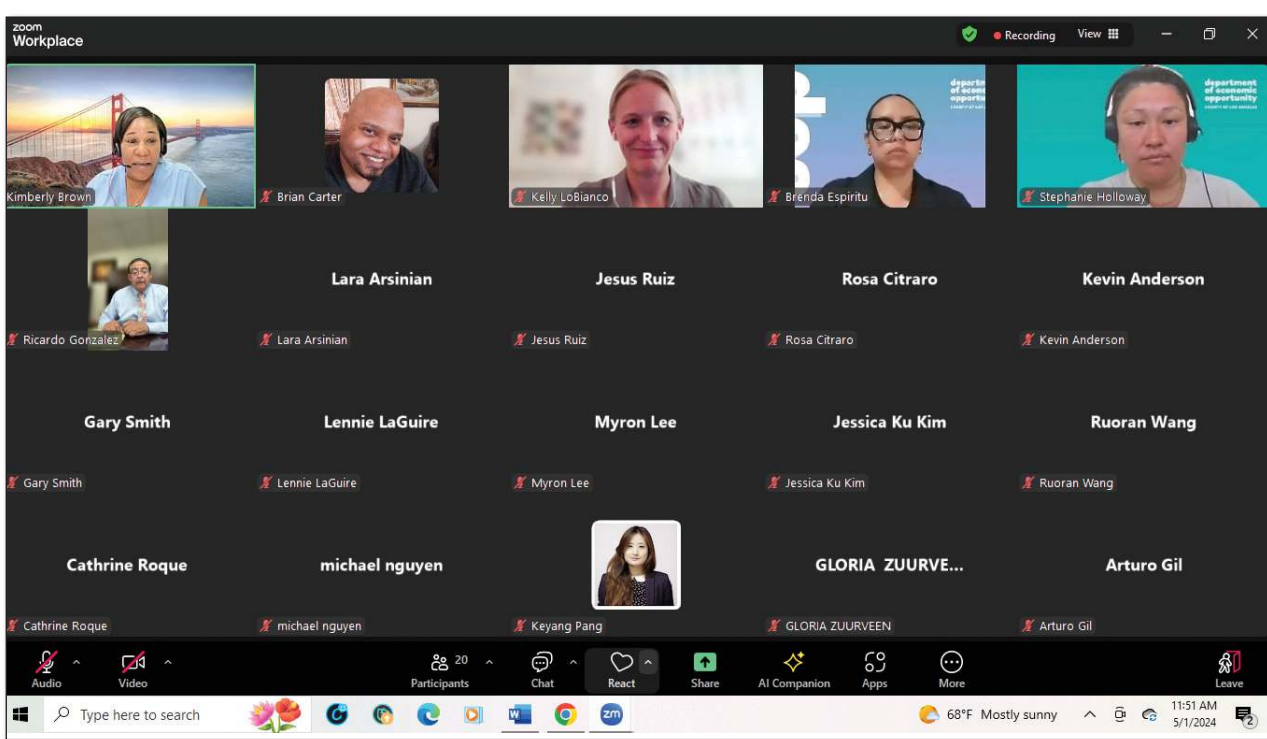
“This initiative kick started thanks to Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell across 3 motions in the past two years,” said Kelly LoBianco, director the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity. “She launched an economic mobility motion as well as subsequent commercial acquisition fund motion and a worker ownership motion.”

especially to help them recover in the wake of the pandemic, we know folks have not recovered in total yet.

“It builds the capacity of our office of small business to reach scale in the region. This initiative is seeking to reach scale through our office of small businesses and doing that in a collaborative effort with 15 plus partners.”

The DEO is working with trusted community-based organizations, who will help bring programs and services that directly help small businesses overcome barriers to their own startup and success. The EMI will focus on serving women-led and Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC)-owned small businesses and connecting them to wealth-building opportunities.

“Ultimately our goal is to make sure that BIPOC



The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity Virtual Briefing announced the launch of the Economic Mobility Initiative, which will see a \$25 million investment towards the startup and growth of local entrepreneurs, businesses, and nonprofits.



The EMI will focus on serving women-led and Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC)-owned small businesses and connecting them to wealth-building opportunities.

LoBianco continued, “The economic mobility initiative has a couple of things in addition to leveraging American Rescue Plan dollars and making sure they get into the hands of those that need it most,

women and other historically underinvested businesses in our region have access to education to technical assistance, training and capital that not only allow them to start up and grow, but really help their

businesses thrive and help build generational wealth in our own communities,” said LoBianco.

EMI is built to be a coordinated and collaborative support system that centralizes services for entrepreneurs, small business owners, and nonprofits in three areas, including: Technical Assistance and Training, Access to Capital and Commercial Space, and Entrepreneurship Academies.

The centralized hub, managed by the DEO and its Office of Small Business, aims to reach 10,000 entrepreneurs and small businesses. This includes helping approximately 320 entrepreneurs, small business owners, and nonprofits build skills, providing grants or loans to approxi-

mately 250 businesses and entrepreneurs, enroll approximately 500 county residents seeking to start or grow a business in entrepreneurship academies that build early-stage entrepreneurship knowledge plus provide access to mentorship by local business owners and need-based stipends.

“We’re really, really excited that in our second year of our department we’re going bigger for our small businesses during small business month and hosting 5 small business summits,” said LoBianco.

LoBianco continued, “We’re hoping to have

thousands of folks join us. What folks can find there in addition to the 50 plus booths, we also have a bunch of great speakers and panelists talking about everything from capital to contracting and procurement and we know how important that is every single day for our small businesses community, but also as we’re thinking about the major investments that are coming into the region, whether it’s the Olympics and the other sports events leading up to it like the World Cup or because there are major federal investments.”

The DEO held their

first small business summit on April 29, kicking off Small Business Month at the L.A. Coliseum with over 50 partners and over 500 small business owners in attendance. According to LoBianco, there will be more Small Business Summits happening in each of the supervisorial districts including at Mission College on May 9 and at Cal State L.A. on May 15 with L.A. Mayor Karen Bass and L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis.

You can visit [lacountyem.com](http://lacountyem.com) and [opportunity.lacounty.gov](http://opportunity.lacounty.gov) for more information.

## Foster Care Youth Non-Profit Celebrates 15th Anniversary with New Studio

By LILA BROWN  
Contributing Writer

Upon relocating to Hollywood, casting director and producer Tige Charity was deeply impacted after she visited a foster youth girls’ home where her husband was teaching acting classes.

Two years later, in May 2009, she founded Kids in the Spotlight, Inc. (KITS), a nonprofit that empowers youth in foster care through filmmaking.

In honor of National Foster Care Awareness Month and to mark its 15th anniversary, the non-profit announced the acquisition of its new production studio in Van Nuys on May 6. This milestone achievement was made possible by generous donations from supporters worldwide, including social media influencer, Zach King, and in-kind support from Warner Bros. Discovery, 20th Century Studios, NBCUniversal and The MBS Group.

“We’re incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support we’ve received from donors near and far,” said Charity.

“We now have a place to call our own where youth in foster care can dream, create, learn, grow and gain paid work experience. We also thank Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) for facilitating the purchase.”

The support of LISC LA’s Asset Building for Communities of Color (ABC) program has allowed KITS to reach this significant milestone with a bold statement against historical inequities. The original deed to the property contained a discriminatory



Tige Charity of KITS

clause that barred people of color from using, leasing, or purchasing it. Racially restrictive covenants that go back as far as 1850 are still on real property records throughout Los Angeles County today.

Now, KITS not only owns this property but is transforming it into a hub of creativity and empowerment for foster youth. LISC LA with support from Wells Fargo played a pivotal role in this acquisition.

The ABC program provided 0% interest and flexible capital that enabled KITS to secure this studio. The ABC program is investing in small businesses and nonprofits across Los Angeles County to grow, create jobs, and build generational wealth.

“LISC LA is honored to have contributed to Kids in the Spotlight’s incredible journey through our Asset Building for Communities of Color program,” said LISC LA Executive Director Nicole Williams.

“We applaud KITS’ dedication to change lives through storytelling and look forward to the impact this new studio will have on our youth.”

Other valued partners

who support KITS’ mission include actors Ty Burrell (“Modern Family”), Dawnn Lewis (“A Different World”) and local news reporters Robin Winston (NBC4 News) and Christine Devine (Fox 11 News).

The new studio, equipped with state-of-the-art sets designed by Shelley Wallace, a KITS board member and set designer for “SEAL Team,” provides filmmakers with a premier rental facility and enables them to help train young creators.

KITS’ Production Studio with Purpose is a permanent workforce development studio that equips over 1,000 youth with skills, leading them on a foster care-to-career pathway. The studio is expected to generate over 500 paid work opportunities annually.

“We also recognize the historical significance of this acquisition,” said Charity, referencing an excerpt of the original legal property agreement that stated people of non-white backgrounds were denied access, including purchasing or leasing.

“Our new studio stands as a testament to progress and inclusivity, underscoring the importance of our mission to provide opportunities for all youth, regardless of background or circumstance.

“Every youth deserves to be heard and to tell their own story,” Charity added.

“With this new studio space, we aim to foster creativity, build confidence, enhance capabilities and provide connections to jobs in the entertainment industry for our youth.”

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

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# Transforming lives: the impact of HireLAX.

HireLAX is a core pillar of LAWA's commitment to fostering community growth and economic opportunities through its multi-billion dollar, campus-wide transformation.

Since 2017, the program has created life-changing opportunities for Angelenos through a free, 8-week training that teaches participants how to become union construction workers. Following graduation, HireLAX alumni are introduced to contractors and unions to start their careers, receiving ongoing mentorship and professional development to ensure their success.

## Of those who have graduated from the HireLAX Program:

**92% identify as a person of color**

**19% are women**

**70% entered union construction careers**

**100% of participants come from LA City  
and communities near LAX**

**Collective earnings exceed \$17.5 million**

## HireLAX Success Story: Janay Wilson

Before HireLAX, Janay Wilson provided in-home supportive care for people in need, a meaningful but low-paying job with almost no benefits. At 28, she no longer qualified for her parents' insurance and lived with the anxiety of being uninsured.

In the spring of 2022, Janay decided to take a chance on herself and her future by enrolling in and graduating from LAWA's HireLAX Apprenticeship Readiness Program.

Today, Janay is preparing to move out of her family's home into her own place. She has insurance and is excited to grow her financial success and independence.

Additionally, Janay is being recognized within the industry for her dedication to her trade and recently received the North American Building Trades Union (NABTU) Tradeswomen Heroes Award. Janay's well-earned recognition demonstrates that HireLAX graduates are making important contributions to LAWA's Capital Improvement Program and tradeswomen are helping to change the face of the construction industry.



Janay Wilson, HireLAX Graduate



To learn more about the program, view more testimonials from graduates, and see upcoming session dates including the next one starting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, visit [flyLAX.com/HireLAX](https://flyLAX.com/HireLAX).



# KUTULA by Africana Highlights Culture, Fashion, and Education

BY SHELBY STEPHENS  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KUTULA by Africana is a second-generation fashion boutique that celebrates, and educates the rich history of the African diaspora. For over 50 years, KUTULA has been Los Angeles' premiere

ing, KUTULA also houses products from local artisans who share the same vision of uniting cultures through fashion. Customers become a part of the KUTULA Tribe after their first purchase. The perfectly crafted pieces are easily recognizable amongst their supporters.

for outstanding achievement in the field of fashion, and for supporting and promoting opportunities and rewards of doing business in Africa. Their retail store has served as the backdrop for several major motion pictures and television shows, as well as a showroom for costume designs.

Bo's mother, (Zambian) and father, (Nigerian), met in Los Angeles. They both migrated to the U.S. for their careers and started KUTULA to provide a service to their community that has surpassed their generation and will continue through their children.

When asked about her family's convection for community, Bo shared, "your business in the community is an extension of the global village, all our clients are from the area. If they're not, then they get the opportunity to learn Windsor Hills' history of businesses like ours. Black businesses in this area are second, third generation."

"My father immigrated in 1965, from Nigeria and in 1971, KUTULA was the response to the Watts riots because there was a need for expression in the community after such a tragic experience. We've maintained a strong presence through other life-changing events like the 92 riots and the pandemic. Our business has also been supported by Black families; a couple comes in for a wedding, then we're dressing their newborn, then that child has now graduated. We're adding more people to the tribe, to the family."

KUTULA assists families with celebrating large and life-changing moments with pride, confidence, and fortitude. The clothes are made and sourced in Africa with the use of only



Bo Anuluoha

SHELBY STEPHENS/L.A. SENTINEL



KUTULA By Africana

SHELBY STEPHENS

retailer for African fashion and styling. Children of the soil, Bo and Kay Anuluoha, took over the boutique after their mother Francesca retired in 2017. The sisters have now dedicated their careers to uplifting African culture. In a recent interview with the Los Angeles Sentinel, Bo Anuluoha discusses the current fashion trends in each area, Africa's impact, and how Black residents can get involved and connected with their roots.

Since 1971, KUTULA has fostered a beautiful and extensive community in L.A. In addition to authentic and sustainable cloth-

KUTULA has been most sighted for their designs in the iconic "Black Panther" film, Kendrick Lamar's "All the Stars" music video for the movie soundtrack, and styled numerous red-carpet ensembles for several of the cast, including Lupita Nyong'o, Michael B. Jordan, and Angela Bassett. KUTULA means to 'leap forward' in Zambia. KUTULA designs have graced the cover of People Magazine, within the pages of In Style, Essence, and Vogue. In May 2018, the brand received Special Congressional Recognition

authentic fabrics. The Ankara and Baule prints are sold at their flagship store on Slauson. KUTULA's healthy and breathable cotton fabrics make for sustainable and long-lasting pieces. They ensure all the hems are finished, double reinforce the fabric, and provide free style with every purchase. Outside of their neighborhood patrons, KUTULA's customer base includes executives and entrepreneurs. Black excellence is the overall theme.

African fashion has begun to transition from classic dashiki designs to more contemporary apparel for everyday wear. Fabric education is a big part of KUTULA's brand management; teaching customers about where the fabrics originate, how to care for them, and what tribe/country they're sourced from.

While explaining the changing trends in fashion as it relates to KUTULA, Bo emphasizes the importance of sharing information with customers, "the average American doesn't understand the validity and

origin of certain fabrics. The more we learn and get familiar, it stays special and formal because these are pieces you can wear every day. On the continent they have an understanding that these items are handmade or handwoven and worn casually, so why can't we? We earned the right; we're Black, we're all from Africa and if we retrace our roots, we should feel pride to wear them."

"Understanding the garment, the fabric, and workmanship is important. If you put a t shirt against a dashiki, after 100 washes a dashiki will still maintain itself, a t-shirt is going to fray, tear, rip, loosen, but they're both cotton fabrics. We try to educate everyone, and it's reflected in the price point. We import these luxury fabrics with high quality and pass it on to our clients."

KUTULA is bridging education, culture, and pride. Their respect for the continent is infectious and inspiring. In the future, Bo and Kay plan to continue to connect Black L.A. natives with their African ancestry;

emphasizing what it means to truly be African American. Surrounded by other Black-owned businesses, the Slauson community has kept them motivated in their mission to foster a healthy and abundant relationship. Within the next 10-15 years KUTULA plans to remain in Historic Windsor Hills, increase their online presence, and maintain fellowship with annual trips to Africa.

"The more we travel, the more we come back and educate our brothers and sisters. It's important for us to think about visiting more often, there's a lot to see and do. Many of our clients have packed up and left. Visiting Africa is life changing. I encourage everyone to go and experience it for themselves and come back and talk about it."

Shop KUTULA By Africana online at shopkutula.com, in-person at 4438 W Slauson Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90043, or stay up to date with the brand on Instagram at KUTULA by Africana™ (@kutula). For custom inquiries, please contact 323-294-8151.

## LAFD Empowers Inglewood Residents With Free Disaster Training Course

BY RODD A. AMOS  
Contributing Writer

The Los Angeles County Fire Department hosted its Community Emergency Response Team training on Sunday, May 5, at Inglewood Fire Station 171, located at 141 W Regent Street. CERT training empowers community members with hands-on basic training in disaster and life-saving techniques if 9-1-1 is not immediately available.

"We had over 55 students registered for this training," stated Dr. Crystal McGlover, program coordinator at the City of Inglewood Office of Emergency Preparedness.

"In CERT, we talk about 'The greatest good for the greatest number of people,'



Dr. Crystal McGlover

helping your family and neighbors during these situations because if you're not familiar with your neighbors, and your family's not aware, then how are we going to be successful surviving a disaster?" she queried.

Inglewood OEP coordi-



CERT students and fire officials pose for elevated shot.

RODD AMOS/L.A. SENTINEL

nates with LACoFD to provide CERT for the communities it serves.

"This is something the [L.A. County] Board of

Supervisors want in place, and our fire chief and his executive staff want implemented," said Fire Captain Chiyoshi Hasegawa.

"In the times we live in, we want our communities to have awareness that they can handle emergencies at a certain level.

"Because this is a federal class, it's FEMA-approved. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is the guiding agency we work underneath. Earthquakes are predominant in southern California, so we try to taper the class specifically to our areas, namely Inglewood, Windsor Hills, and Baldwin Hills," he added.

Twenty-four program participants drilled in Disaster Medical Operations (triage and treatment strategies), Light Search and Rescue (safety, lifting, and victim removal), Disaster Psychology and Team Organization (mental health support), Terrorism (risk and threat analysis), and Disaster Fire Suppression, all under the watchful eyes of firefighters, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, and

CERT volunteers.

"Everyone loves the fire suppression demo," added Hasegawa.

"They get the opportunity to extinguish a small, controlled fire. In a 'MacGyver' approach, we show individuals how to do 'lifts and carries' using things that they have around their house to help someone until first responders arrive," he said.

The CERT program is also available county-wide.

"Our participants come from all over," said Eugenia Chan, LACoFD community services liaison.

"It's a free training session and we invited our local residents and those from surrounding cities to participate in the course and to get to know their neighbors. We will not all be together in a time of disaster. But if we are prepared, then we can help our families first, and then our neighbors," she said.

Participants who successfully complete the three-day, 20-hour course are awarded certificates of achievement and backpacks stuffed with safety gear like hardhats, safety vests, face

masks, goggles, bandages, flashlights with batteries, and bottled water to assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

"I would definitely do this again," noted program graduate Leonard Redway of Inglewood, "because it is important for our community to be prepared in case of any kind of natural disaster when first responders can't get to you. It's great when community members can fill those gaps."

"Stay ready so you don't have to get ready," Hasegawa continued.

"We have Super Bowls, Summer Olympics, and a new NBA arena. That'll tie up some resources. But we still want to have that love for our neighbor. And sometimes, your neighbor is the person right next to you."

"It's not a matter of if," added McGlover, "but when the next disaster will happen. Preparedness begins with you."

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3Wt88h0>.

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# Political Playback: News You Might Have Missed - May 9

By BO TEFU  
California Black Media

## Legislative Republicans Condemn 'Antisemitic Campus Disruptions;' Call for Reduced Funding

On May 1, California Republican lawmakers held a press conference at the State Capitol in Sacramento to denounce protests organized against the Israel-Palestine conflict that have been occurring at universities around California.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Senate Minority Leader  
Brian Jones



COURTESY PHOTO  
Assembly Republican  
Leader James Gallagher

The lawmakers, led by Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) and Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones (R-San Diego), called the demonstrations "Antisemitic campus disruptions" that have interrupted the finals weeks of the semester at college campuses statewide.

The Republicans called on university administrators to "restore order" on campus for students to continue with their classes. Gallagher and Jones also floated the idea of cutting state-funded grants for students found guilty of engaging in unlawful activities and reducing funding to universities whose leaders fail to take decisive action.

"Their failure to control the illegal protests is unacceptable, particularly considering the substantial taxpayer funding allocated to our public universities," said Jones. "If the Administrations continue to allow this lawlessness, we must take action to reduce or rescind their state funding. Taxpayers should not be bankrolling administrations that falter in upholding law and order on campus."

Gallagher said that university administrators and Gov. Gavin Newsom have allowed the protests to escalate and have not taken action to prevent violence and unlawful behavior.

"Enough is enough. It's time to stop enabling the radicals who think they are entitled to take over public spaces and stop people from getting an education," Gallagher said.

"It's time to end the lawlessness," he said.

LAPD officers arrested demonstrators at the University of California Los Angeles campus. The police also cleared an encampment set up by the demonstrators at the UCLA campus.

Gov. Newsom condemned the violence that erupted between law enforcement and UCLA students.

"The right to free speech does not extend to inciting violence, vandalism, or lawlessness on campus," he

said.

The Republicans stated that Jewish students have been intimidated on campus and prevented from going to class. They called on university administrators to stop canceling classes and suspend demonstrators with real consequences or prosecution.

"The First Amendment guarantees your right to petition your government, it does not guarantee you the right to interfere with the free expression or freedom of assembly of others," Jones said.

"College campuses must ensure a safe environment for all, regardless of their beliefs," he said.

## PPIC Report Gives Update on California's 'Capacity to House Its Homeless'

California's permanent housing and emergency shelter capacity programs are struggling to meet the homeless population's growing housing needs, a Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) report stated.

California has launched several programs to mitigate its homelessness crisis – the worst in the nation – which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the report, federal funding helped the state increase emergency shelter beds by 34% during the pandemic. However, the shelters only provided temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness.

The PPIC stated that the increase in homelessness indicates that California needs to expand housing programs to accommodate the growing population.

The "programs that can prevent and mitigate homelessness and housing insta-

bility are more urgently needed than ever," the PPIC stated.

Across California, there remains a shortage of beds in shelters for unhoused people. The report estimates that the state has more than 180,000 homeless people but only about 70,000 beds, accounting for an overall shortage of nearly 110,000 beds.

The state's struggle to provide permanent housing persists despite establishing partnerships with community-based organizations to tackle the problem.

California's government has spent billions to increase capacity, but the rising cost of living and limited progress has made it difficult to get rid of homelessness. Local governments have also struggled to track city spending and provide accurate audits of housing programs.

## California Sees Population Increase for First Time in Three Years

California, the country's most populous state, saw an increase of state residents in 2023, reversing a declining trend over the past three years.

The state's population grew by over 67,000 people, according to the California Department of Finance (DOF). Currently, the state has a population of 39.1 million people.

The most notable population increases happened in 31 counties, with the most significant growth occurring in the Bay Area, Central Valley, and the Inland Empire.

Gov. Gavin Newsom attributed the population growth to an increase in immigrants relocating to California and a slower mortality rate following the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With the improvement of federal legal immigration processing backlogs, rebounding legal immigration levels – not including people seeking asylum at the border – and mortality rates returning to long-term trends, a stable foundation for continued growth has returned," the governor's office stated.

"From the Inland Empire to the Bay Area, regions throughout California are growing – strengthening local communities and boosting our state's future," Newsom's statement continued.

Recent state data indicated that the number of people moving out of state decreased since 2021 when many people migrated to other states during the pandemic.

The Department of Finance showed that housing production in cities such as Emeryville in the Bay Area helped drive population growth.

Before the recent surge in population, California experienced a recordlow growth rate caused by the pandemic and deadly wildfires, the report states.

Thousands of people lost their homes, jobs, and in worse cases their lives. As the nation's fifth-largest economy, The Department of Finance estimates that California will continue to experience positive population growth.

## State Ed Chief Tony Thurmond Honored for Leadership in Holocaust, Genocide Education

The California Legislative Jewish Caucus honored state Superintendent of Public Information (SSPI) Tony Thurmond for his leadership in Holocaust and genocide education.

Thurmond was honored, along with leaders and educators from the Jewish Family and Children's Services

Holocaust Center, who shared Holocaust survival stories and contributed to the community's educational initiatives.

"Through education, we not only honor the memory of the victims but also strive to ensure that such atrocities never happen again," Thurmond said.

"By understanding the horrors of the past, we empower ourselves to build



FILE PHOTO  
State Supt.  
Tony Thurmond

a future rooted in empathy, tolerance, and justice," he said.

As the co-chair of the Governor's Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education, Thurmond launched an oral history speaker series that shared the impactful stories of Holocaust survivors and their descendants. This initiative was created to counter claims that California's education system provided limited information on the history of the Holocaust during World War II.

A national survey by the Claims Conference revealed that Millennials and Gen Z Americans lacked knowledge of the Holocaust.

According to the survey, nearly half of Millennial and Gen Z Americans failed to name one of the 40,000 ghettos and concentration camps created for the mass murder of Jews during World War II. The survey indicated that 63% of young Americans were ignorant of the fact that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

Various multicultural nonprofits and coalitions supported Senate Concurrent Resolution 135 proposed by Senator Scott Wiener to commemorate California Holocaust Memorial Day. The organizations that supported the resolution include the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, The California Latino Legislative Caucus, The California Legislative Women's Caucus, and the California Legislative Black Caucus.

## Gov Newsom Declares May 2024 Small Business Month

On May 1, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring May 2024 Small Business Month.

"California's more than 4.1 million small businesses – the most of any state – embody the entrepreneurial spirit that drives the economy of the Golden State," stated the proclamation released by Newsom's office. "Small businesses and entrepreneurs accelerate economic growth and mobility in California, creating two-thirds of net new jobs, building wealth, innovating to solve global problems, launching future growth industries, and defining main streets across our local communities," proclamation continued.

For Black Californians, business ownership remains low in the state, according to the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Across the Golden State, "14% of firms were owned by Latinos and about 2% were Black owned in 2021; these groups comprise 39% and 5% of the state workforce. Asian Californians are overrepresented, making up 23% of business owners and about 16% of the work-



FILE PHOTO  
Gov. Gavin Newsom

force," the PPIC report states.

On X, Gov. Newsom posted an upbeat message celebrating Small Business Month, hailing small businesses for contribution the economy, across the and highlighting the importance of equity.

"California is the #1 state for new business starts and during Small Business Month, we recognize their tremendous contributions and the importance of supporting their success. We must ensure that the dream to start, manage, and grow resilient businesses in California remains accessible to all," he posted.

California's small businesses account for more than 98 percent of total businesses in the state and employ more than 7 million people – nearly half of the state's private sector workforce. Our state leads the nation in business startups, and our businesses receive more than 50 percent of the nation's venture capital with more than \$104 billion invested in California in 2022, according to the Governor's office.

## California Offers \$28.5 Million in Grants to Prevent Illegal Sale of Tobacco Products to Youth

The California Department of Justice announced on April 19 that it is accepting applications for its 2024-2025 Tobacco Grant Program.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said the program aims to reduce the illegal sale of tobacco products. The state will provide approximately \$28.5 million in grants to eligible local agencies.

Grant recipients are required to use the funding to help enforce state and local laws related to the illegal sale and marketing of tobacco products such as selling e-cigarettes to minors.

The 2016 California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act, Proposition 56, has helped fund the program. The state has allotted approximately \$285 million in grant funds to 406 local agencies through the program.

The grant program is committed to reducing childhood addiction to tobacco products by supporting local partners who:

1. Enforce the statewide retail flavor ban and similar local retail flavor ordinances.
2. Prosecute and penalize retailers who sell or market tobacco products to youth under the age of 21, including over the internet.
3. Educate and inform tobacco retailers on state and local tobacco laws.
4. Investigate and inspect retailer licensing compliance.

A 2023 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, indicated that nearly 90% of youth who used e-cigarettes preferred flavored products. National data showed that companies produced and marketed tobacco products with various flavors to appeal to young people.

To submit an application, visit the Office of the Attorney General's website.

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# University Leaders Grapple with Balancing Safety and Free Speech Amid Pro-Palestine Protests on Campuses

By JOE W. BOWERS JR.  
California Black Media

In recent weeks, California's mostly tranquil college quads have erupted into epicenters of pro-Palestine and anti-Israel activism. At Stanford's White Plaza, dozens of tents have sprung up, while UCLA's Royce Hall was tagged with the graffiti message "Free Gaza". Students are demanding divestment from companies linked to Israel and calling for a U.S. government-brokered ceasefire in the ongoing Israeli-Hamas conflict.

## A Groundswell of Support, But Tensions Rise

This wave of protests and student encampments reflects a surge of support for Palestinian civilians in Gaza, which has ignited tensions on campuses. As the protesters try to stand their ground, daily disruptions to campus routines including affecting graduation ceremonies, clashes involving students with and against non-student agitators, trespassing, and acts of vandalism underscore the issue's complexity and its profound impact on university communities.

## Balancing Act for University Leaders

The student protests have posed a formidable challenge for administrators who must balance respecting free speech and the right to protest with maintaining safe and stable conditions on campus for students to pursue their studies, while also ensuring staff can perform their jobs effectively.

These challenges require university leaders to tread carefully to navigate

the tensions and uphold core university values. Their decisions shape not only campus life but also the broader discourse on democracy and civil rights.

## A New Era of Activism

While echoing the spirit of past student movements, today's student protests differ from those of the 1960s and 1970s, which focused on broader social and political affairs, encompassing issues like civil rights, the Vietnam War, and campus culture. These protests align more with the 1980s' anti-apartheid protests, sharing a focus on specific global issues, collective action for institutional change, and campus-based activism.

A key difference is today's use of social media as an organizing tool.

## The Rise of Social Media

Social media platforms like X, TikTok, and Instagram enable rapid mobilization but can inadvertently create echo chambers, where students encounter information that reinforces their existing beliefs. This fosters a more polarized environment compared to the reliance on traditional campus newspapers, mainstream media coverage and political pamphlets and leaflets of the past.

## The Challenge of Antisemitism

The current wave of protests risk tipping into intolerance by conflating criticism of Israel with prejudice against Jewish students. Universities face a delicate challenge: creating an environment where pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli voices can be heard, while maintaining respect and ensuring that rising anti-

semitism does not take hold.

Historically, Jewish students have been at the forefront of social justice movements, marching alongside

ated civil disobedience. Universities today seem quicker to call in police to disperse encampments or quell disruptions, raising concerns about the poten-

## Examples Across California Campuses: From Peaceful to Disruptive

UC Berkeley reflects the broader nationwide

convergence of pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli groups, leading to confrontations that escalated to violence. Following a night of clashes prolonged due to delayed police intervention, classes were cancelled, and ultimately police were called in to dismantle the pro-Palestinian protesters' unlawful encampment.

## A Call for Open Discussion and Understanding

These student protests highlight growing activism on campuses and underscore the complex challenges university leaders face when managing passionate student demonstrations and navigating pressure from lawmakers and alumni.

Universities have a unique opportunity and a responsibility to their students to create forums for open discussion, foster empathy, understanding, and peaceful protest in a world brimming with conflict.

## About the Author

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

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the Stop the Hate program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to CA vs Hate.



This wave of protests and student encampments reflects a surge of support for Palestinian civilians in Gaza, which has ignited tensions on campuses.

Black students for civil rights and LGBTQ+ students for equal rights. However, today some Jewish students feel a lack of similar support from student groups advocating for the Palestinian cause. As a result, some report feeling intimidated and unsafe on campus.

Universities must cultivate an atmosphere of inclusivity and intersectionality, ensuring students from all backgrounds can advocate for their beliefs. Open dialogue and mutual respect are essential to avoid marginalizing any group or cause.

## From Civil Disobedience to Increased Police Presence

The increased reliance on law enforcement to manage student protests today is a stark contrast to the 60s and 70s, when administrators often toler-

ated for police using excessive force on students and the chilling effect it may have on free speech.

History reminds us of tragedies like the Kent State shootings in 1970, where National Guard troops opened fire on unarmed students protesting the Vietnam War, leaving four dead and nine wounded. Days later, at Jackson State, police shot two dead and injured twelve during a racial injustice protest by Black students exercising their First Amendment right to assemble. These tragedies highlight the dangers of using excessive force against student protestors.

Police force should be a last resort against student protestors. Universities must prioritize de-escalation, while ensuring that police maintain peace when necessary.

movement, with students camped out in Sproul Plaza demanding divestment from Israel and creation of a Palestinian studies program.

Similar protests have sprung up at Stanford, San Francisco State University, Occidental, UC Irvine, and UC Riverside with varying degrees of disruption and administrative responses. At Sonoma State University, protests have been relatively subdued, with campus police taking a hands-off approach.

The situation at the University of Southern California (USC) reached a boiling point, with arrests, the cancellation of a pro-Palestinian valedictorian's speech, and ultimately, the university cancelling its main commencement ceremony.

UCLA witnessed a

# At Capitol Rally, Former Inmates Share Memories of Forced Labor

By ANTONIO RAY HARVEY  
California Black Media

Assemblymember Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) addressed a group of advocates and activists, including formerly incarcerated men and women at the State Capitol last week. She promised them that she is determined to advance Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 8 "across the finish line" for voters' to decide in a November General Election referendum.

Wilson, Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), was speaking at an April 29 rally at the State Capitol organized to promote "The End Slavery in California Act," a measure that Wilson authored to amend the California Constitution, abolishing involuntary servitude in prisons across the state.

"For me, it's a priority to reassert our unwavering commitment to ACA 8 but not just myself as the author but also the entire legislative Black caucus," Wilson said at the rally



John Cannon, a member of All of Us or None of Us, performs his song, "No Exception: All of Us or None of Us" at the rally.

held on the southeast end of the State Capitol's grounds.

"This is not just legisla-



Asm. Lori Wilson (D-Suisun City) attended a rally on April 29, 2024, to discuss the progress of her bill ACA 8, a measure that would end involuntary servitude in California prisons.

tion. It is a declaration of our value and resolve to end all forms of slavery and involuntary servitude in our state. ACA is vital because it proposes to remove the 'exception' for involuntary servitude from the state's constitution, declaring unequivocally that all forms of slavery are prohibited," she added.

The "Quest for Democracy (Q4D)" rally was hosted by All of Us or None of Us (AOUNOU), a grassroots civil and human rights organization focused on supporting formerly and currently incarcerated people and their families.

AOUNOU members, advocates, justice-impacted leaders, and supporters from all over the state of California attended the rally and other activities organized around the event in Sacramento. Their goal

was to educate lawmakers and participants about prison reform and the importance of ACA 8.

In addition to the morning-to-mid-afternoon rally, an exhibit of 400 black-and-white photos was on display. AOUNOU collected images from family members of individuals who allegedly died "at the hands of law enforcement," one of the markers at the exhibit stated.

During the rally, many former incarcerated individuals, along with organizers, and supporters took turns performing songs, reading poems, and sharing their experiences working in California's penal institutions. They also shared stories detailing the repercussions they suffered in prisons when they refused to work.

The 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution was ratified in 1865. It prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude with one exception: if involuntary servitude was imposed as punishment for a crime.

John Cannon, a member of AOUNOU, performed his hip-hop song, "No Exception: All of Us or None of Us" at the rally. He revealed that he served time in prison and was forced to work in various roles without the ability to object. He worked in warehouses, as a firefighter, and in other jobs. Understanding that the "prison industrial complex is a well-oiled machine," he said, his mission is to see that forced labor is no longer an option.

"Sometimes I don't think my voice is heard but since I've become a member of (AOUNOU) my voice has been heard. Especially for Quest for Democracy, for people like me who have been incarcerated before," Cannon said. "I am able to go to the State Capitol and get our voices heard in a collective fashion. The issue that is really important to me right now is ending and removing involuntary servitude from the State's Constitution."

Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude, "except as



Dorsey Nunn, left, was presented honorary gifts at the All of Us or None of Us rally for his advocacy to improve conditions for incarcerated individuals in California prisons.

punishment for a crime." Former state Sen. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-Los Angeles) originally proposed ACA 3 in 2020, when she served in the Assembly, to remove this exception.

The Senate failed to pass ACA 3, the California

Abolition Act in July 2022, preventing the measure from being placed on the November General Election ballot for voters to approve or reject.

Following Kamlager-Dove's election to the U.S.

{See CAPITOL RALLY on A-9}

## Notice to Owners of Unclaimed Property

The California State Controller is safeguarding cash, securities, and valuables for millions of individuals and businesses. Could any belong to you?



By law, businesses and institutions must hand over property such as bank accounts, uncashed checks, insurance benefits, stocks, savings bonds, and safe deposit box contents when there has been no account activity or owner contact, generally for three years. The State Controller's Office has unclaimed property for more than 76 million individuals and organizations.

→ Search [claimit.ca.gov](http://claimit.ca.gov) or call 1-800-992-4647 ←

Many claims for property can be filed electronically. There is no deadline for claiming your property. Contact the State Controller's Office to get information concerning the amount or description of a property belonging to you.



State Controller's Office, Unclaimed Property Division  
P.O. Box 942850, Sacramento, CA 94250-5873

California Relay (telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing impaired from TDD phones: 1-800-735-2929 and ask for 1-800-992-4647

# VP Kamala Harris Announces Nationwide Economic Opportunity Tour

BY STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Vice President Kamala Harris has announced a nationwide Economic Opportunity Tour to spotlight the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to foster economic growth, build wealth, and ensure American prosperity.

The tour, which began with a moderated conversation in Atlanta on April 29, will see the Vice President visiting several states to emphasize the administration's commitment to creating an economy where every person can thrive. A subsequent event is scheduled for Detroit, with more dates and locations to be announced soon.

"President Biden and I are committed to creating an economy in which every person has the freedom to thrive," Harris stated. "Our economic approach has delivered great progress, and we will continue to invest in you, your family, and your future."

During the tour, Harris plans to highlight the administration's historic

investments that have supported communities and individuals. According to a White House Fact Sheet,

ties, and significant health-care reforms such as cutting insulin prices and erasing medical debt.

Biden-Harris Administration takes to build on this work.

The White House said

nationwide. Since the beginning of 2024, she has made more than 35 trips to 16 states, engaging with

ically underserved entrepreneurs during a visit to Black Wall Street in Durham, NC. She also announced an SBA rule in Las Vegas that ensures individuals who have served time are eligible for SBA loan programs to start and run small businesses.

Officials said Harris has always supported minority, rural, and low-income communities. Last year, she announced over \$1.73 billion in grants to 603 Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) through Treasury's CDFI Fund. In 2022, she launched the Economic Opportunity Coalition (EOC), a public-private partnership investing tens of billions of dollars to create opportunity and wealth in historically underserved communities.

As a senator, Harris secured a transformative \$12 billion investment for CDFIs and MDIs in December 2020 and has since worked to ensure the success of these programs. "Since that time, she has worked to ensure these programs are as successful as possible," administration officials stated.



PHOTO: @WHITEHOUSE ON INSTAGRAM

This National Small Business Week, Vice President Kamala Harris met with small business owners and entrepreneurs in Atlanta who are taking advantage of the Administration's resources to help launch and scale their businesses. We're committed to making sure small businesses have the support they need to thrive.

these include unprecedented investments in small businesses, the fastest creation of Black-owned small businesses in over 30 years, record job creation, increased access to capital for underserved communi-

The vice president will also discuss the administration's efforts in education, affordable housing, childcare, and boosting the wealth of American families. She will describe additional measures the

administration officials, members of Congress, local leaders, and others will join Harris on the tour.

Officials said the tour builds on Harris' extensive travel to communities

small business owners and entrepreneurs in underserved communities to discuss challenges and opportunities.

Earlier this year, Harris announced \$32 million in funds to support histor-

## Sen. Butler Introduces Bill to Honor Rep. Shirley Chisholm with Congressional Gold Medal

BY BO TEFU  
California Black Media

U.S. Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.) announced last week she is cosponsoring a bipartisan bill to honor Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to the United States Congress.

Butler, the only Black woman currently serving in the U.S. Senate, and Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA.)

proposed the legislation to posthumously endow Chisholm with Congress's highest award in commemoration of her accomplishments, activism, and legacy.

If the bill passes, Congress will present Chisholm, who was elected in 1968 to represent New York's 12th District in the United States Congress, with the Congressional Gold Medal. A statue of Chisholm will also be erected in the U.S. Capitol

in her memory.

"Shirley Chisholm left a mark on our nation's history that demands its own recognition," Butler said.

"She was a trailblazer – the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the first to run for President – who opened doors for generations of Black women," Butler added.

Chisholm, a lifelong public servant, worked in

education and social services before being elected as the second African American to the New York State Assembly in 1964. She is remembered as a passionate leader who advocated for women and minorities through legislation she introduced and supported.

Warnock said Chisholm's legacy inspired him to fight for the rights and well-being of Black Americans.

"Shirley Chisholm broke barriers for Black women, Black Americans, and any American who refuses to be confined by injustice," Warnock said.

"As an educator, and a trailblazing Congresswoman and presidential candidate, she fought for an inclusive democracy, one that lives up to our nation's highest ideals of equity and justice under law," he added.



LAPHAMQUARTERLY.COM  
Rep. Shirley Chisholm

## Medi-Cal Expands Services to Provide More Help to Unhoused Californians

BY EDWARD HENDERSON  
California Black Media

Medi-Cal, California's version of Medicaid, is currently transforming to expand coverage for unhoused and at-risk individuals across the state.

The rollout for these changes began on Jan. 1, 2022.

New programs include rental and deposit aid, recuperative housing, rehabilitation and sobering centers during the day and the provision of street medicine: mobile units that bring care to unhoused individuals.

To be eligible, individuals must be enrolled in the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan and are currently experiencing or deemed at risk of homelessness.

Medi-Cal covers the cost of clinical care and other approved healthcare expenses for people with limited income and resources.

"Our unhoused population have inadequate access to shelters, lack of food and care," said Glenn Tsang, Policy Advisor to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). "They tend to have extensive medical and behavioral health needs that are difficult to address

in an unstable living environment. To help address this, enhanced care management tends to build consistent connections to medical care, behavioral health

members and direct them to the services they need most. There are 14 housing services under the community support program with 6 of them directly focused

maintain their new residence with landlord mediation, budgeting assistance and connections to other community services.

• Short term post hospi-

application is available to access this program. It will potentially cover up to 6 months of rent for people transitioning from hospitals and jails to help prevent common pathways to homelessness.

• Street medicine programs will provide direct medical assistance to individuals living on the street. This alleviates barriers to care associated with transportation to hospitals and healthcare providers by bringing care directly to members.

One key element of the new initiative is that the care provided to members will come from community-based organizations. Amber Middleton, Director of the Hope Program at the Shasta Community Health Center, spoke at the EMS virtual news briefing about how organizations like hers plan to integrate those services to the unhoused community.

"Our goal is to make sure there are access points in all areas where there might be someone who needs care. The whole focus is going to the population and not waiting for things to get so bad that they're having to seek out services. This is a great example of how breaking down barriers can prevent

future issues. We have enhanced care management case managers who go out to build relationships and engagement with the community."

Middleton also spoke about some of the trust barriers that can form within the unhoused community when accepting health services in her county and beyond. Police raids on encampments create constant movement and fear among individuals who feel law enforcement and may not understand them or have their best interests at heart.

"Many folks who live in the unsheltered community have suffered microaggressions, racism and outright discrimination. Because of this, there is a lack of trust of systems across the board. One of the ways we work on that is engagement and working with them at the place they will meet us at," Middleton added.

As of Jan. 1, 2024, adults aged 26-40 qualify for full-scope medical care regardless of their immigration status. As Medi-Cal continues to expand their services visit the DHCS Website to learn more about what is provided and how individuals can get involved.



COURTESY PHOTO

Medi-Cal's expansion of services will help homeless individuals in Los Angeles and across California.

care and housing stabilization services."

Tsang was speaking at a news briefing focused on Medi-Cal expansion hosted by Ethnic Media Services.

According to the DHCS, new services Medi-Cal is offering to unhoused Californians and other state residents experiencing housing instability are:

• Lead Care Managers will assist members to build relationships with

on the unhoused population, according to the DHCS.

• Housing transition navigation services guide individuals through the process of identifying stable housing. It aids with housing searches, applications, contacting landlords, and housing deposits for security deposits and other upfront costs,

• Housing sustaining services help members

talization and recuperative care offers housing options for individuals who have just been discharged from the hospital without a home to go to to recover.

• Day habilitation programs assist with daily living activities like using transit systems to help unhoused individuals get to where they need to go.

• Transitional rent is currently not covered by Medi-Cal. However, an



# Teachers College of Columbia University Honors Dr. Thomas Parham

Sentinel News Service

Dr. Thomas Parham, president of California State University – Dominguez Hills, will receive the Medal of Distinguished Service from the Teachers College at Columbia University on Tuesday, May 14.

The honor recognizes Parham for being a pioneer of multicultural psychology and dedicated to the betterment of society throughout his 35+-years career as a scholar and practitioner. Parham also served as president of the National Association of Black Psychologists and led the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development.

In a letter to Parham about the honor, Thomas Bailey, president of Teach-



Dr. Thomas Parham

FILE PHOTO

ers College, wrote, “Thanks to your substantial academic contributions and active involvement in scholarly journals and service on editorial boards, you have consistently influenced the discourse in psychology and education, leaving a lasting imprint. Your exceptional contributions to racial-cultural studies in psychology have been instrumental in establishing the multicultural competence standards for ethical practice, and now, as the 11th president of California State University, Dominguez Hills, you have made an indelible mark on the academic community, driven by your unwavering dedication to human rights, community engagement, and social justice. All of this aligns so well with the mission and

history of Teachers College, and we would be honored to recognize you in this way.”

Among the many honors bestowed by institutions of higher education, the Teachers College Medal for Distinguished Service carries special significance. Each year, the College awards the Medal to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to education and human development. Recipients of the TC Medal for Distinguished Service are honored at the May convocation ceremonies, where they also serve as graduation speakers.

Previous TC Medalists have included:

- the human rights activists Coretta Scott King, Desmond Tutu, Marian Wright Edelman, Morris Dees, and the Brown family

- of Topeka, Kansas;
  - the political leaders John Lewis, Shirley Chisholm and Donna Shalala;
  - the journalists Bob Herbert, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, and Jonathan Kozol;
  - the psychologists Kenneth Clark, Carl Rogers, James Comer, Edmund Gordon, Bruno Bettelheim and Jerome Bruner;
  - the education scholars Paulo Friere, Henry Louis Gates, David Levering Lewis, Margaret Mead, Claude Steele, Luis Moll, Gloria Ladsen Billings, Ted Sizer, Linda Darling Hammond and Maxine Greene;
  - and, from the arts, Maya Angelou, Pete Seeger, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Spike Lee and Judy Collins.
- To learn more, visit [tc.edu](http://tc.edu).

## Malone Scholarship Fund Accepting Applications From Graduating L.A. High School Seniors

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Award winning producer and businesswoman Ericka Nicole Malone has announced the open submission period of the 2nd Annual Ericka Nicole Malone Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was created to positively affect the lives of college bound minority students living in Los Angeles or Las Vegas.

The scholarship will provide financial support to future collegiates with a one-time payment of \$2,000, and can be used to assist with books, living expenses, lab fees, or tuition. The application submission period is April

30 – June 30, 2024. Scholarship winners will be announced on Aug. 1, 2024.

In addition to funds, scholarship winners will receive direct access to Ericka Nicole Malone to discuss future career plans, internship opportunities, and current scholastic goals.

“Contributing to the success of young people is something I am passionate about. I truly believe our youth are our future and they have the potential to change the world if given the opportunity,” said Malone.

“I want young people to dream beyond what they see and hope larger than

their circumstances. I’m looking for visionaries and leaders that I can pour into and assist with the achievement of their goals through the Ericka Nicole Malone Scholarship Fund.”

Recipients of the scholarships will be visionaries, exhibit leadership skills, and have strong character. According to Malone, the goal is to positively impact the lives of minority students and help them succeed in their pursuit of higher learning by stressing the importance of education and striving for excellence.

In addition to the scholarship program in California and Nevada, Malone is

also supporting the dreams and aspirations of young creatives in her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. The Ericka Nicole Malone Essay Writing Mentorship Program awards four (4) scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$5000 to high school seniors and current college students majoring in the arts at an accredited academic institution in the state including college, trade/vocational, or performing arts school.

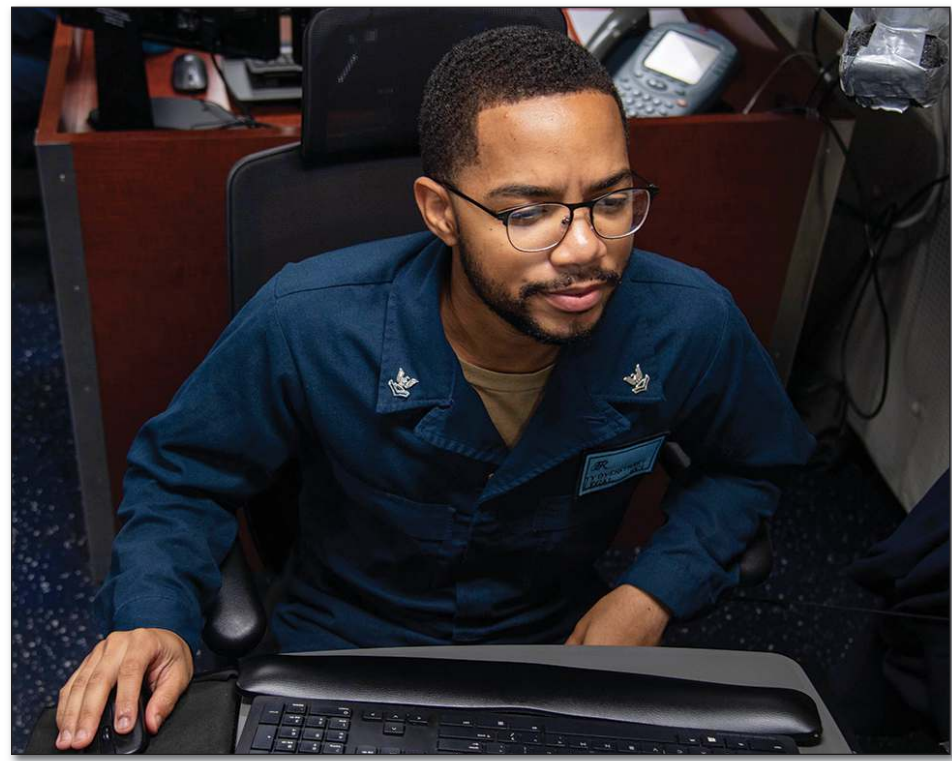
Students interested in receiving an application should send an email to, [amy@enmeindie.com](mailto:amy@enmeindie.com), with the subject line: Ericka Nicole Malone Scholarship Application.



Ericka Nicole Malone

COURTESY PHOTO

## L.A. Native Ty Overstreet Serves Aboard U.S. Navy Floating Airport



COURTESY PHOTO

Overstreet serves as a legalman responsible for performing paralegal duties and legal services.

BY RICK BURKE  
Navy Office of Community Outreach

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ty Overstreet, a native of San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, is one of more than 5,000 sailors serving aboard the self-contained mobile airport, USS Theodore Roo-

sevelt. Equipped with a full flight deck and more than 60 aircraft including attack fighter jets and helicopters, aircraft carriers are one of the largest warships in the world.

Overstreet, a 2010 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, joined the

Navy four years ago. “I joined the Navy because my two best friends are currently serving in the Navy,” said Overstreet. “Boastwain’s Mate 2nd Class Dustin, who is currently in Basic Underwater Demolition/ SEAL (BUD/S) school, and Hospitalman James, who is in the

reserves.”

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in San Fernando Valley.

“My hometown is very diverse and accepting,” said Overstreet. “Learning other people’s cultures has not only made me better at my job but as a person as well.”

Today, Overstreet serves as a legalman responsible for performing paralegal duties and legal services under the direction and supervision of Judge Advocates in support of military justice matters.

“My current goal is working towards law school and commissioning as a Judge Advocate General’s Corps officer,” said Overstreet.

USS Theodore Roosevelt is the fourth Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and is named in honor of the 26th President of the United States.

Aircraft carriers are the centerpiece of America’s Naval forces. For more than 100 years, they have pro-

jected power, sustained sea control, bolstered deterrence, provided humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and maintained enduring commitments worldwide.

According to Navy officials, aircraft carriers are versatile and have unique mission capabilities that make them a more strategic asset for the Navy than fixed-site bases. They are often the first response in a global crisis because of their ability to operate freely in international waters anywhere on the world’s oceans. In addition, no other weapon system can deploy and operate forward with a full-sized aircraft carrier’s speed, endurance, agility and combat capability of its air wing.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented peo-

ple from across the rich fabric of America.

Overstreet serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation’s prosperity and security.

“We will earn and reinforce the trust and confidence of the American people every day,” said Adm. Lisa Franchetti, chief of naval operations. “Together we will deliver the Navy the nation needs.”

Overstreet has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

“My proudest moment in the Navy was being selected for the Legalman rating,” said Overstreet. “It’s a long process to be accepted, so when I found out, I was very excited.”

Overstreet can take pride in serving America through military service.

“Serving in the Navy means I’m able to be a part of something bigger than myself, serving for those who don’t,” added Overstreet.

### CAPITOL RALLY {Continued from A-7}

House of Representatives in November 2022 to replace Rep. Karen Bass, who is now the mayor of Los Angeles, Wilson took up the cause when she was elected to the Assembly. The Assembly approved ACA 8 last September. It will be heard next in the Senate.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union: California Action, over 65% of the people in prisons reportedly being

forced to work are performing essential jobs like firefighting and paving roads.

In 2022, incarcerated workers made up 43% of the state’s firefighters, ACLU revealed. After serving time and being released from prison the formerly incarcerated are often denied public safety jobs such as firefighters.

“Incarcerated individuals can have severe inhumane punishment for not

working, including physical violence and solitary confinement,” Wilson said. “This is not justice. This is exploitation. Period. These punishments can be imposed for absences caused by injury or illness. The relations incarcerated individuals and work should not be one of exploitation but one of rehabilitation and preparation for reintegration in our society.”

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# JACKIE LACEY ENDORSEMENT {Continued from A-1}

in that office. They know the office policies better than we do. It is time to elect someone who will be proactive at making us safer," she stated.

Lacey also clarified that her support of Hochman was not influenced by Gascón defeating her for the office in 2020. In hindsight, she considers the loss as "God's intervention in my life" because He "had something more important" for her to do.

During the past four years, her husband was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and passed away in 2022. Cancer was also detected in her mother, but she survived and is doing well at 80+ years of age. Not being an elected official allowed Lacey to spend time with her husband in the last year of his life as well as take care of her mom.

"Had I been the elected official at the time, I would have had to quit because my family is all I have. They are all I know, and my husband stood by me. For 42 years, he put up with a lot of mess," Lacey said.

"So, I say that to say I have no bitterness. You

haven't even heard a peep from me in four years. People wonder, 'Where is she?'

"And now, as I sit here in my own home where I've got to lock things up, I

killed. I think to myself, 'I gotta be careful,'" explained Lacey.

excuse the current district attorney and elect someone with a conscience. Please

election. Recalling how tenuous the act is becoming with many state legislatures attacking voter's rights, she urged the Black community to stay involved.

"So many people have fought and are continuing to fight for the right of Black people to vote. We can't take that for granted. A lot of times we get busy, and we think we don't need to vote, it doesn't matter, and then we have to live with the consequences," said Lacey.

"I'm encouraging people to vote in this election because most people probably won't come into contact directly with the D.A., but the consequences, you'll feel them because you'll go to your local CVS and things will be all under lock and key or your insurance company tells you I'm going to raise your rates because you're in a high crime area or you got to pay extra for security or whatever. These are the intangible things that affect all of us," she insisted.

"When we don't vote, when we don't get involved, we have to live with the consequences."



Jackie Lacey announces her support for Nathan Hochman for District Attorney.

COURTESY PHOTO

And I have told people, 'Look, I have served my time in office.'

I know there was criticism, but I'm proud every decision I made.

got a dog now in case somebody tries to break in on me, [upgrade] my alarm system, and I keep hearing about people getting randomly shot and

"I am endorsing Nathan Hochman for District Attorney because I feel a lot less safe than I did four years ago," Lacey said.

"It's time to thank and

join me and vote for Nathan Hochman for District Attorney."

Lacey also stressed the importance of Black Americans voting in the 2024

# CLYBURN MEDAL OF FREEDOM {Continued from A-1}

every one of us has to further the founding fathers' dream of a 'more perfect union.' I accept this award with deep humility and the promise to uphold this vision," he continued.

"I reflect upon the moment I was elected president of my NAACP Youth

Council in Sumter, South Carolina, at the age of 12. From leading student protests in Orangeburg, South Carolina, to marshaling majorities to pass consequential legislation in Congress, I have learned that we all have roles to play in making the great-

ness of this democracy accessible for everyone," he explained. "I look forward to continuing my efforts to bend the arc of history towards justice and proving myself worthy of this incredible honor."

The other honorees receiving the Presidential

Medal of Freedom were former New York mayor and philanthropist Michael R. Bloomberg, Homeboy Industries founder Father Gregory J. Boyle, former U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole, journalist and former talk show host Phil Donahue, former Vice President Al

Gore, civil rights Attorney Clarence B. Jones, former Sen. John Kerry, champion swimmer Kathleen Ledecy, activist Opal Lee, Johnson Space Center Director Ellen Ochoa, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Astronomer Jane Rigby, United Farmworkers President Teresa

Romero, Matthew Shepard Foundation co-founder Judy Shepard, and actress Michelle Yeoh.

Posthumous medals were awarded to civil rights icon Medgar Evers, Native American Olympian James Thorpe, former U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg.

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A coalition of housing affordability and mental health experts, community advocates, firefighters, business and union leaders, and front-line service providers participated in the rally.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE {Continued from A-1}

More than 80 organizations support the measure including L.A. County Federation of Labor, California Community Foundation, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, Habitat for Humanity L.A., SEIU 721, Western States Regional Council of Carpenters, Angeleno Project, Active San Gabriel Valley, United Teachers Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 1014, Integrated Recovery Network, and Women and Children's Crisis Center.

Hundreds of supporters rallied outside of the offices of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk as the signatures were submitted.

"I'm excited because today is the day that we are bucking the status quo and addressing housing affordability," said Dr. Ryan Smith, president & CEO of St. Joseph's Center.

"This measure will increase mental health support, and we are going to make sure our government agencies are held

accountable."

"This measure is new, bold, and critically important. It will make sure that nearly 30,000 people currently receiving housing and services are not cut off from that critical support and pushed back into homelessness, while at the same time scaling up homelessness prevention and new strategies to make housing more affordable across L.A. County," said Elise Buik, president & CEO, United Way of Greater L.A.

"The United Way of Greater L.A. is proud to support this new approach because it holds our elected leaders accountable to delivering real results and reflects the many lessons learned from past work."

"Today, we stand at a critical crossroads in our County's history," said Yvonne Wheeler, president of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

"We have one of two options. Either we go about business as usual, or we can do something about it. Together, we can enact solutions to tackle the crisis head on, starting

with the Affordable Housing, Homelessness Solutions and Prevention Now measure."

"On behalf of our 150,000 skilled men and women, we're here to give her strong support to this measure," said Ernesto Medrano, Executive Secretary, LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council.

"Today I stand before you as a living example of the impact that initiatives like these could have," said James Morgan, an Army veteran who used to be unhoused and is now a union laborer. "We want all Angelenos to have a

place that they can call home, and that's why we need to support this measure."

"I take this really personally and I take this to heart because I grew up in the system. I grew up as a ward of the court. I know where the system has failed," said Patrick Del Conte, a mental health professional who works for a County agency.

"We're coming here to make change. This will expand mental health care. This will really have safeguards to follow where things are going and how people are getting served." "The rent is too damn

high," said Pete White, a representative of the Angeleno Project and Executive Director of the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN).

"Core to this measure is accountability. It will feature a transparent accountability framework with regular reporting, annual audits and performance evaluations. It also has a groundbreaking legal requirement for results."

"This measure was written by experts," said Jessica Melendez, director of Policy, T.R.U.S.T. South LA.

"Homelessness is the

most extreme manifestation of poverty and community displacement. We won't be able to address homelessness unless we do a much better job of helping keep those homes that folks already have. We believe this measure goes much further than any previous attempt to do exactly that – prevent homelessness before it happens."

"Those 400,000 signatures for this ballot measure represent 400,000 people in this community that have said 'enough is enough,'" said Sean Hartranft, president of the Western States Regional Council of Carpenters.



Hundreds of supporters representing more than 80 organizations support the measure and attended the rally.

## FIRST AME CHURCH {Continued from A-1}

Those good works were soon undone during the tenure of Murray's successor, the Rev. John Hunter and his then-wife, Denise Brown Hunter. According to the press release issued by FAME, the Hunters "created an untenable financial situation for the church. The perceived mismanagement and unfair business practices in the administration that came after Rev Murray sparked a chain of events that led the three involved FAME entities to where they are now."

In addition to financial mismanagement, the Hunters illegally transferred some of the properties from the church's non-profits to their control. When the Rev. J. Edgar Boyd was appointed FAME pastor in 2012, he mounted a years-long effort to regain the assets and restore the finances.

"Despite the valiant efforts of former Pastor Boyd...his predecessor's mismanagement was so grave that his efforts delayed, but could not stop, the financial crisis that Pastor Shaw received upon his recent arrival," according to the news release.

As Shaw explained, "The last thing I wanted these entities to do was file for bankruptcy protection, but the three involved FAME corporations had assets that were encumbered or otherwise trans-

ferred to other parties under questionable circumstances. That status forced us to move quickly to avoid additional damage."

Pastor Shaw also expressed concern about people who utilized the services offered by FAME corporations.

"The real victims in this financial crisis are

community members who may be affected by receiving transportation, housing assistance and other services provided by FAME Assistance Corporation and FAME Housing Corporation. Our aim is to ensure that services remain uninterrupted throughout this process," said the pastor.

In the midst of the bankruptcy process, Shaw remains optimistic, totally trusting in God, and many in the FAME congregation share his outlook. Naomi Robinson, a member for many years, admitted disappointment in the turn of events, but not defeat.

"We're going to be okay. We're going to sur-

vive this and we're going to continue to grow the church. So, we shouldn't lose faith and we shouldn't lose hope," said Robinson.

Having a similar viewpoint, Shaw said, "The church is continuing to press on. As within any church, we always got our doors open for more membership and we'd like to

increase our activities of ministry.

"Our determination is to move forward. Fueled by faith, we embrace and include the community as our own to serve," noted the pastor.

"Our mentality for ministry is still, 'First to serve,' and our magnification for ministry is #FAMEUS."



First AME Church of Los Angeles

# What it will take to strengthen Southern California



Darlene Goins



By: Darlene Goins

Building stronger and more resilient communities in Southern California starts with every family and individual having equitable pathways to economic advancement and generational wealth. Whether it's owning a house, starting a business, investing in education, or saving for retirement—we all want – and deserve—an opportunity to build a better life for ourselves and future generations.

Too often, persistent inequities shut people out of the economy and hold them back from this chance to chart their own future. To bring more people in, society must take an inclusive approach to community development. This means more intentional collaboration with communities to break down systemic barriers, being responsive to local needs and investing in solutions that leverage the strengths of the local community.

Local leaders, nonprofit organizations and public institutions work tirelessly on these efforts. But they cannot address the complexities of societal challenges alone. I see an opportunity to accelerate progress toward an inclusive, sustainable economy that works for everyone when the business and philanthropy sectors play a role too.

My passion for financial inclusion developed after I graduated from Stanford University and began a career in business. I had an opportunity to create FICO® Score Open Access, a credit score program that empowered millions of consumers through regular, free access to their FICO scores and credit education. It's a simple, but powerful idea—the public and private sectors can increase the capacity of people to improve their quality of life by eliminating gaps in access to financial education, tools and services.

Today, I carry this knowledge with me as I lead philanthropy and community impact efforts at Wells Fargo. I believe that our greatest value in supporting communities lies at the intersection of business and philanthropy. Wells Fargo can apply its business expertise in collaboration with communities to address pressing issues.

In Southern California, where the housing supply crisis has reached unprecedented levels, we're addressing gaps in homeownership access and affordability in underserved communities.

Together with The West Los Angeles Veterans Collective, Wells Fargo is providing financing that supports an anticipated 365 units for veterans currently and formerly experiencing homelessness.

By financing \$140 million in construction loans and \$110 million in low-income housing tax credits, the company is working with West Los Angeles Veterans Collective to restore dignity and financial stability for hundreds of veterans and families.

Philanthropic support from the Wells Fargo Foundation is empowering on-campus space for career support and financial coaching. Each added home and supportive service helps transform this housing development into a thriving community for military veterans and their families, complete with comfortable spaces for living, cooking and play, and on-campus connections to counseling and case management services to help them plan their futures.

Strengthening small businesses in underserved communities is also important for unlocking economic opportunity and job creation. This is why Wells Fargo has donated more than \$30 million in the last 5 years in community development financial institutions in the Greater Los Angeles area including Vermont Slason Economic Development Center which will open the Wells Fargo Women and Veterans Business Center to serve women and veteran entrepreneurs business owners in South LA/Watts and the surrounding communities. Additionally, Wells Fargo is helping Pacific Coast Regional launch the 'first of its kind' loan fund to help employees to acquire the businesses where they work in Los Angeles County to increase both the number of employee owners in the marketplace.

I believe transformational change happens when the business and philanthropy sectors join forces to support communities. Philanthropy can be a catalyst, driving innovation and testing new ideas and solutions. When the business community steps in and invests in proven solutions, the private sector can achieve scale and speed, which in turn, accelerates economic stability and mobility for more people and communities.

Right here in the Los Angeles area, where I grew up, it is clear that when more people are intentionally included in the economy, communities thrive. And when more communities thrive, it's one step closer to building an economy that works for all.





Telma Hopkins and Her Son Remember Single-Mothering in Showbiz!



BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Telma Hopkins is an actress and vocalist who began performing as a Motown session singer with many musical greats in her hometown of Detroit, Michigan.

Then she gained worldwide recognition as one of the founding members of the musical group, Tony Orlando and Dawn. She also starred in the trio's television variety show of the same name.

Soon after her early years with Dawn, Hopkins shined in various television sitcoms, including "Bosom Buddies," "The New Odd Couple," "Gimme A Break," "Family Matters," "Getting By," and "Half & Half."

More recently, she appeared in two Netflix projects, which included "Dead To Me" and "Family Reunion." Hopkins also appeared as Freya in the science fiction feature, "The Matrix Resurrections."

Upcoming for Hopkins is the holiday film, "Brewster's Millions Christmas," and she also filmed the

Norman Lear television production, "Clean Slate." However Hopkins says her



Telma Hopkins

greatest work to date is her son, Jerald.

Jerald Hopkins remembers growing up for him with a celebrity parent was surprisingly normal.

He said, "I got to experience some unique things, but it never really felt like some unusual situation. It really felt like this is what my mom does. This is what her career is, and this is what it entails."

But Jerald Hopkins says there were some occasions when he was younger in which he didn't always understand or appreciate his mother's fans interrupting family outings.

"When people walked away, she could tell I was really grumpy and she

would say, 'I just want to remind you those shoes that you're wearing, those nice Nikes that you begged me for and then we went out and bought? Those people are why we can do those things,'" said Jerald Hopkins.



Telma with Jerald Hopkins as a youngster.

He says that lesson from his mother helped to keep him grounded in the future and gave him the clarity that they were blessed because of her admirers.

"But it doesn't make us special," said Jerald Hopkins. "It makes it very real, and it kept us down to earth."

Telma Hopkins says the hardest part about raising her son was balancing work and home, but she thankfully had the support

of family and close friends.

"I had family who kind of slid into place whenever I would leave town, but still, it messed with me," said Telma.

She says because she grew up without her mom, she never wanted Jerald to feel like he was growing up without her.

"I had a lot of mom guilt. I just had to realize to give him the life that I

hard for her.

Telma added that she would also be remiss not to mention the support of her



Telma and Jerald Hopkins at the BET Comedy Awards.

live-in housekeeper, who became like a second mom to her son.

"That made it easier, too, because I knew he was always taken care of, even if I was not able to do it," said Telma.

"Obviously, when she goes out of town, you miss her," chimed in Jerald.

"I don't carry around now as an adult - I literally have friends whose parents weren't there, who still as an adult are still talking about how their parents weren't there."

He resumed, "I never felt that. She was always able to create a life where even when she wasn't there, it didn't feel like she wasn't there."



Telma and Jerald Hopkins at a Hollywood function.

Jerald also commends their above-mentioned housekeeper, who was with him and his mom from the time he was five years old until he was sixteen.

Telma added that her son also accompanied her on the road many times before he started school, and sometimes appeared with her on stage.

They both fondly recall Jerald because he was with his mom touring so often in those early days, developing his own rapport with many iconic celebrities like Hopkins' former "Bosom Buddies" castmate Tom Hanks and the late-great Michael Jackson.

He says although he was a fan of many of the famous people in his mother's circle, Telma Hopkins was still just mom to him.



Naomi Osaka's introduced Kinlò skin care line.

BY MAGRIRA
Contributing Writer

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. New beauty drops come from HourGlass and Fenty. When choosing the right SPF sunscreen look to companies that understand melanated skin.

And for discovering new and old fragrances that are long-lasting for spring and summer, here is a round up for your review.

Ôrebella has rolled out WINDOW2SOUL Parfum promising a faceted rose and jasmine bouquet with accents of fresh lemon, contrasted with addictive tonka bean.



Makeup Forever Foundation Brush

REPLICA From the Garden Eau de Toilette promises a citrusy and earthy perfume that transports you to the joyful memory of a sunny afternoon spent in the garden. The fresh notes of tomato leaf and juicy green-mandarin essence blend with woody patchouli to create a

light and balanced scent.

Urban Decay, the go-to brand has a new setting spray packed with a waterproof formula, nourishing hyaluronic acid, and a fresh watermelon scent.

Fenty Beauty has rolled out their new Soft'Lit Foundation with an expanded shade range and a brand-new hydrating formula with waterproof properties.

Pat McGrath Labs has introduced new shades of her beloved Divine Blush, glide-on cream stick which is cherished because its packed with color.

Neuraé is a new skincare brand from Sisley Paris. The Harmonie serum is formulated with alpine skullcap to boost skin's well-being, red indigo to reduce redness, and eperua extract, which promises a soothing sensation.

EightDay Skin Company is developed by a skin cancer surgeon. Described as a skillful, zinc-only SPF formula that perfects the make-up while protecting your skin with the help of EpiZ-



Orebella Window2Soul Parfum

Radiant May - Beauty Drops from Black-Owned Brands

inc, which is a sheer mineral sunscreen with natural pigments that do not leave behind a white cast.

HourGlass has introduced pressed powder that promises to deliver shine with an airbrush finish that lasts all day. There are only five shade ranges so hopefully, they will provide more options in the future.

Haus Labs has introduced a hybridization oil balm gloss plumper which is packed with skincare ingredients that restore lips and promises to give a plumping effect with two weeks of continual use.

Merit has introduced a new line of lipsticks for those that love the look of matte but not the feeling. The formula has hyaluronic acid and sesame seed extract that promises to provide saturated color that is comfortable to wear.

MakeUp Forever offers some of the best brushes on the market. The Foundation Brush (Large, 108) Artisan brush is a large, rounded foundation brush perfect for the novice and the professional. Designed for the whole face. Straight fibers and recommended for cream and liquid foundations and loose and compact powders.

Sunscreen is important for melanated people. Not only does SPF protect our skin from the UV rays that can cause skin cancer, but from a purely aesthetic POV, it also protects your makeup when you're layering on serums to address skin concerns like hyperpigmentation, fine lines, and skin discoloration.

Black Girl Sunscreen

This brand was created to fight against sun damage, hyperpigmentation, and fine lines. BGS protects the skin from sun rays without leaving behind a white cast and also doubles as a moisturizing lotion.

Bolden USA Bolden is the brainchild

and passion of Chinelo and Ndidi, two dynamic women on a mission to embolden women around the world by celebrating their natural beauty.

Kinlò Skin

Created by Naomi Osaka and a dermatological team, this brand is designed for Black and Brown skin tones and formulated with natural ingredients like jojoba seed oil, hemp seed, and green tea to address common melanated skin concerns.

Buttah Skin

Buttah Skin offers the best skincare products for women and men with melanin-rich skin tones.

Cay Skin

Founded by Winnie Harlow in 2022. After getting severe sunburn and sun damage that permanently changed her vitiligo during an all-day outdoor photoshoot, the supermodel founded Cay Skin. Cay Skin products are silicone-free, vegan, cruelty-free, reef-friendly,

and dermatologist-tested, formulated with sustainable, skin-loving ingredients.

Human Race

Founded by Pharrell Williams in 2020. Founded with a mission to empower all people in their pursuit of wellbeing, the brand launched a three-step routine—including a Rice Powder Cleanser, Lotus Enzyme Exfoliator, and Humidifying Cream—with the consultation of Pharrell's dermatologist, Elena Jones, MD.

Simon Burris: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

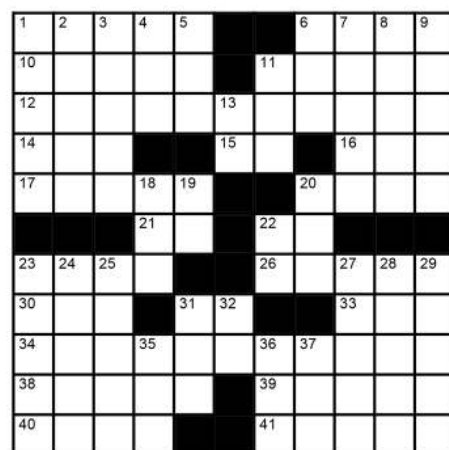
HEROES AND CHAMPIONS: PAST & PRESENT www.simonburris700.com

Across

- 1. \*U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Jackson (2022)
6. \*Tennis champion Arthur
10. \*Baseball legend Hank
11. Leaves in a hurry
12. \*Artistic gymnast won 32 Olympic & World Championship medals
14. An Old Testament book: abbr.
15. Green Bay, \_\_
16. Manual Data Entry: abbr.
17. \_\_, meenie, miney, mo
20. \*Baseball Hall of Famer Willie
21. \*Famed actor Boseman's monogram
22. Yes, in Tijuana
23. \*The "Unforgettable" singer
26. \* African traveler who carried the cross of Jesus (Mark 15:21)
30. Orlando Post Office: initials
31. \*Owens of the 1936 Olympic: monogram
33. Oklahoma city
34. \*Akron-born basketball superstar
38. \*Singer Cara of "Fame"
39. \*Jackie Robinson's chance to hit (2 wds.)
40. Tennessee's capital; \_\_\_ ville
41. \*Denzel Washington Oscar-winning movie

Down

- 1. \*The Count of jazz
2. Jesus: "I will \_\_\_ him up..." (John 6:39)
3. TV financial advisor Suze
4. \*Golf great Tiger \_\_\_ ds
5. Letters between eee & ttt
6. \*"The Greatest" champ boxer
7. \*MLK, Jr 1965 march site
8. Attentive: (Old English)
9. Twisty turns
11. G-Men



- 13. \*Initials for actress Waters
18. \*"Straight Outta Compton" actor/rapper Cube
19. Easter bunny: initials
20. 1002 in ancient Rome
22. \*Afro-Roman emperor Septimius Severas; 193-211: monogram
23. \*Four-star general and statesman Powell
24. \*Porgy and Bess, for example
25. Ear parts
27. \*Afro-Cuban dance
28. Sweetie pie (2 wds.)
29. Spiteful
31. \*Louis, Walcott or Frazier
32. Atop
35. Royal Navy Hospital: initials
36. Sharp point
37. \*Andrew Young was mayor of this city, 1982-89: initials

(ANSWERS ON D-2)

  
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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

## Community Celebrates as Thompson is Installed as Pastor of Glory Church

By MALIK MORRIS-PERRY  
Contributing Writer

On Sunday, May 5, the California Southwest Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., celebrated the installation of Elder Cecil Thompson as the lead pastor of the Glory Church Los Angeles.

Glory Church is under the jurisdictional leadership of Bishop Hillrie Murphy. The service was held at the 88th Street Temple Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Superintendent Anthony Williams.

Notable guests included Dr. Judith McAllister, Dr. Iris Stevenson McCullough, Dr. Myron Williams, Dr. Melvin V. Wade, Dr. Calvin B. Rhone, Bishop Cynthia Turner, Bishop Ulysses Henderson, and Pastor Gary Sprewell.

Pastor Cecil's has been a staple in the ecumenical and civic community since his teens.

He served as minister of music at countless churches as well as worked with youth and young adults in the Crenshaw Elite Choir, Gospel Musical Workshop of America L.A. Chapter, Celestial Voices Chorale, and the International Youth



Above, Supt. Anthony Williams, left, and Bishop Hillrie Murphy, perform the rite of consecration on Pastor Cecil Thompson. At right, parishioners filled the sanctuary of 88th Street Temple Church of God in Chirsit in South Los Angeles for the installation service.

Choir of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

As a preacher, he has been sought after in this region for countless revivals and conferences pouring into young people. His preaching gift was simultaneously cultivated while serving with his father, the late Bishop Miquail Broadous, at the Grace Temple Baptist Church.

After his father's passing, he was ordained by both the late Dr. E.V. Hill II and Pastor Anthony Williams where he also served as the youth pastor of 88th Street Temple COGIC.

Pastor Cecil works for



Above, from left are Professor Iris Stevenson McCullough, Dr. Judith McAlliste, Dr. Myron Williams, and Pastor Thompson. At right, Rev. Dr. Melvin Von Wade, pastor emeritus of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, and Pastor Thompson.

the Los Angeles Mission as a chaplain advocating for the homeless community. In 2019, he founded Ce-

cil Thompson Ministries, which has evolved into Glory Church of Los Angeles.

Pastor Cecil continues to keep the principles of servanthood alive in his efforts to move the kingdom

forward. He is the young age of 35 and is the father of one daughter, Kennedy Grace.

## WORDS OF THE WEEK - MORE IN 2024, MORE RESOURCES

By REV. DR. KELVIN T. CALLOWAY  
Contributing Writer

Scripture: Psalm 23:1-6

### Part 3

This is the concluding sermon in the God Has More in 2024 sermon series. Part 1 of the series, "New Mercies For A New Year: God Has More Mercy," addressed the challenges were faced in 2023.

Regardless of them, we are still here. We are still here only because of the unfailing compassion of God towards us and the mercy of God for us, which is new every morning. God has more mercy than life has challenges.

Part 2 of the series, "More Grace," addressed the junk that clutters life. Junk mail, junk food, and junk yards are all part of life. Grace is God's answer to the junk of life and God has more grace than life has junk.

This sermon addresses our need for more resources in life. No matter what we have, we all could use a little more. No matter how great or small the need may be, God has more resources than we have need. There can be no greater advocate for making this case than David in this familiar passage of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

In this metaphorical poem of faith, David characterizes his relationship with God in language familiar to the people of the ancient Near East. The Lord is my shepherd is a manifestation of the character of God described in the name of God as Jehovah-Rophi (v.1a). Because God is our Jehovah Rophi, we have everything we need.

David says he shall not want (v.1b). In God and with God there is nothing for us to want for because it is the primary responsibility of the shepherd to provide for his sheep. The Lord as Jehovah Rophi is the one and only one David entrusts for support, guidance, and protection.

Not only is God David's shepherd, but God is also his provider. God is his Jehovah- Jireh (Genesis 22:1-14). That's what Abraham called God in Genesis 22:14 after he had taken his son Issac up the mountain to sacrifice him as he was being tested by God. When he had taken the knife back to sacrifice him on the altar, an angel of the Lord called him from heaven, and told him not to lay a hand on his son, and that now he knew that Abraham truly feared God by not withholding his

son from God.

And when Abraham looked and saw a ram caught by his horns in the thicket, he called the name of that place, Jehovah-Jireh which means, the Lord will provide



Rev. Dr. Kelvin T. Calloway

COURTESY PHOTO

(Genesis 22:14). And even to this day, somebody needs to know that the Lord will provide.

Then David says in verse 2 that God makes him to lay down in green pastures because God is his comforter and God is his peace. God is Jehovah Shalom (Judges 6:24). That's what Gideon called the Lord in Judges 6:24 after he built an altar there.

The Midianites had encamped against Israel and destroyed the increase of the earth till there was no sustenance left for them, their sheep, their ox, or their donkeys and Israel verse 6 of Judges 6 was

greatly impoverished. As the children of Israel cried to the unto the Lord, an angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and told him that the Lord

was with him, and the Lord would smite the Midianites, and save Israel through him.

God, David says in verse 3, restores his soul. God leads him in the path of righteousness for his name's sake. For David, God is his salvation and God is his Jehovah-Tsidkenu [tsid-kay-noo] (Jeremiah 23:6).

That's how the prophet Jeremiah characterized God in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chapter, verse 1 of his prophesy. The Lord will set up shepherds over Judah and Israel and they will feed them, and there will be no more fear, no more dismay, or

no more lack because the Lord will raise unto David a righteous branch. And his name shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6). God has more resources than we have physical and our spiritual needs.

While it may be a far-fetched notion for the post pandemic church, David's words are reminiscent of a prayer (ban) meeting at a testifying service in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Black Church. His words are his testimony of what the Lord has done for him.

David goes on to testify that God is his present help. And even though he walks through the valley of the shadow of death, he will fear no evil because God is with him. Shadows are always larger than the objects they reflect.

David fears no evil because God is larger than any shadow he may face, even the shadow of death. God's rod and His staff comforts David because God is his Jehovah-Shammad. God is ever present with him.

That's what Ezekiel told his ancient believers in the 48<sup>th</sup> Chapter and the 35<sup>th</sup> Verse of his prophesy as the land was being allotted to them. God is there with them (Ezekiel 48:35). God is there help in time of trouble. If you had any trouble in 2023, I've got some good news for you, God has more help than life has trouble.

If that wasn't enough, David says that God prepares a table before him in the present of his enemies. I like the way one of my colleagues put it sometime ago, he said that if you get hungry, don't call your friends rather, call your enemies. Call your enemies because David said that the Lord prepared a table for him in the present of his enemies and not his friends.

David says that God anoints his head with so much oil, that his cup ran

over (v.5). What David is really saying is that God is his healer and God is his Jehovah-Rapha (Ex. 15:26). God is still in the healing business. You might have received a bad prognosis from the doctor in 2023, but God is still a healer. God is still our Jehovah-Rapha. God is still given out saucer blessing; filling our cup until they run over into our saucers. God has more healing than life his sickness and disease.

David concludes his testimony, in this poem of faith, during this prayer service, by surely saying goodness and mercy shall follow him all the days of his life. It his firm belief, to the fullest degree, with a clear and certain revelation that what he is saying is true.

He has the utmost confidence that the goodness and mercy of the Lord, will follow him all the days of his life because God is his banner (Exodus 15:26). In other words what David is saying is that God is his Jehovah-Nissi. God is his banner. The Lord is covering, and the Lord is his refuge.




I'm as sure about it, as David is sure about it. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Surely, He is my banner. Surely, He is my covering. Surely, He is my refuge.

God has more resources in 2024. The cattle on a thousand hills are His. every beast in the forest is His, Every bird of the mountain is His (Psalm 50:10-12). The silver and the gold is all His (Haggai 2:8). He's got more medicine in the hem of His garment than life has diseases (Matt.9:21).

I'm sure about that today. Surely, He is real. Surely, He is my banner. Surely, He is my covering. Surely, He is my refuge. Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

# Revival

## Awe and Expectancy

Exodus 15:11  
 "Who is like You among the gods, O Lord?  
 Who is like You, majestic in holiness,  
 Awesome in praises, working wonders?"

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# Amazing Grace Conservatory Presents 'Aladdin' at Crenshaw High School Performing Arts Center

STAFF REPORT

Amazing Grace Conservatory (AGC), led by actress Wendy Raquel Robinson, presents "Aladdin" on Saturday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 26, at 7 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center on the campus of Crenshaw High School, 5010 11th Avenue in Los Angeles.

The production, directed by AGC alum Alfred Jackson, features more than 60 youth performing songs, dance, spoken word and more. Also, the dramatic set design will captivate viewers of all ages.

Tickets are nominally

priced at \$40 premium, \$30 general, and \$20 group rate for 20 people or more. Tickets are available at itsmyseat.com.

Robinson has helmed AGC for more than 30 years. The institution offers training in acting, voice, dance, media arts, spoken word and yoga for youth from ages 8 to 18. Each year, AGC puts on 3 stage productions in various genres. Previous shows include: "The Wiz," "The Lion King," and "Wicked."

"With our Spring production of 'Aladdin,' AGC will put their unique spin on the classic Disney tale. It's a Whole New World

For Real," said Robinson. "We invite the public to witness this incredible presentation. This is guaranteed to be a performance for all ages to enjoy!"

An Emmy-winning actress, Robinson is an industry veteran best known for her work on the hit series, "The Game." While her entertainment career spans decades, she readily admits that her heart is with the AGC, the nonprofit she founded that has transformed the lives of thousands of young people.

To learn more, visit [amazinggraceconservatory.org](http://amazinggraceconservatory.org) or call (323) 732-4283.



Wendy Raquel Robinson

COURTESY PHOTO

# Dr. José Luis Benavides Speaks at OASC Webinar on May 15

*Renowned Journalism Professor discusses critical African American history collection and how to access and create self-curated exhibitions.*

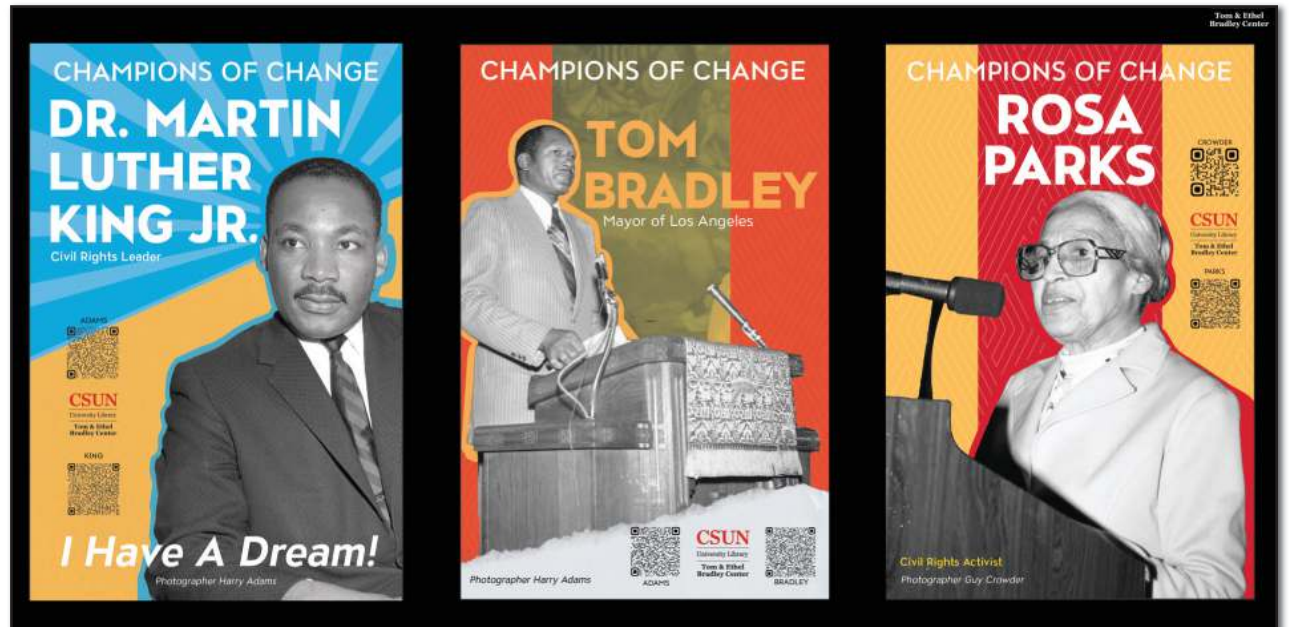
SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Our Authors Study Club welcomes Dr. José Luis Benavides, journalism professor and director of the Tom and Ethel Bradley Center at California State University Northridge, as the guest speaker for the monthly Online Member and Community Webinar on Wednesday, May 15, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Dr. José Luis Benavides brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in preserving the visual history of

ethnic minority communities. At this event, attendees have the opportunity to learn firsthand about the Tom and Ethel Bradley Center, the collection and how to use them in their research and programs or for self-curated exhibitions.

According to Lura Daniels-Ball, OASC president, "We are thrilled to have Dr. José Luis Benavides join us for our upcoming webinar. His expertise in journalism and visual history aligns perfectly with our mission to celebrate and preserve and



Images from the Bradley Center Collection are featured in the current exhibit at CSUN.

COURTESY PHOTO

make accessible the heritage of African Americans and the African diaspora."

In the future, Our

Authors Study Club plans to continue hosting engaging webinars, events, and initiatives that further pro-

mote Black history and culture. OASC aims to create lasting connections and inspire a deeper apprecia-

tion for African American contributions to the world.

RSVP for the webinar at [www.oascla.org/events](http://www.oascla.org/events).

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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

# Haji Malcolm's Grounding and Growth in Garveyism: Loving, Uplifting and Liberating Our People

Continuing our conversation with Haji Malcolm in his birth month of May, I want to also pay homage to a central source of his grounding and growth, the Hon. Marcus Garvey.

Haji Malcolm's introduction to nationalism and pan-Africanism began at an early age with an introduction to Garveyism, the paradigmatic and foundational urban nationalism from which all nationalists draw in various ways. In explaining his embrace of Black nationalism as a philosophy of liberation and struggle he states: "If you remember, in my childhood I had been exposed to the Black nationalist teachings of Marcus Garvey - which, in fact I had been told had led to my father's murder.

"Even when I was a follower of Elijah Muhammad, I had been strongly aware of how the Black nationalist political, economic and social philosophies had the ability to instill within Black men (and women) the racial dignity, the incentive, and the confidence that the Black race needs today to get up off its knees and to get on its feet and to get rid of its scars and take a stand for itself."

It is from his father, Nana Earl Little, who took him to U.N.I.A. meetings, he tells us that he learned of Nana Garvey. And although Nana Malcolm does not discuss it, he also learned much about Nana Garvey and Garveyism from his mother, Nana Louise Little. As Malcolm was growing up, his mother, reaffirmed these concepts, and together with his father, read to Malcolm and his siblings news and stories from the UNIA paper, taught them to sing the UNIA's national anthem, and instilled in them a respect for their identity, history and heritage, and a pan-Africanist and global consciousness which were key to Garveyism.

She also worked with her husband to organize a UNIA meeting place or Liberty Hall, as they were

called by Garvey, assisted her husband with general UNIA work, served as branch reporter and "was responsible for sending news of chapter activities to Garvey's international newspaper, the Negro World." Malcolm would later emulate both these organizing and journalist initiatives within his work in the NOI and afterwards, as well as use Garvey's thought and practice as models to teach and emulate.

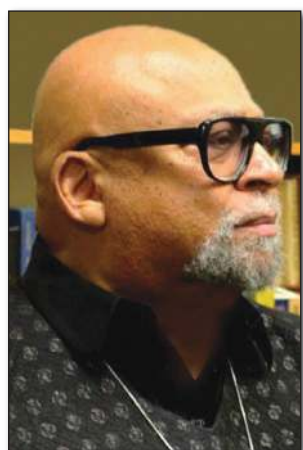
Within the context of Haji Malcolm's embrace of Nana Garvey and lessons learned from him about nation-building, his stress on "waking up, cleaning up and standing up" are clear and essential. Certainly, the lessons of self-determination and self-reliance stand out. Haji Malcolm praises Nana Garvey as a militant leader who was able to be militant because he didn't seek funds and favors from the oppressor, but instead relied on the people. Indeed, Malcolm says that instead of Garvey's seeking help elsewhere, "He asked our people for help. And this is what we're going to do. We're going to try and follow his books."

Moreover, he offers Garvey as an instructive model of a leader who develops deep roots among the people and was "a real leader who appealed to the masses," who "had mass appeal . . . and frightened the government and power structure to death," so much so they framed him, put him in captivity and deported him. The lessons here for Malcolm are courageous leadership based in the masses and by implication, a leadership that loves, lifts, serves and struggles to liberate the masses.

Also, Malcolm saw his pan-African initiatives as a continuation of Garvey's work for global pan-African unity and struggle. In addition, Malcolm at a forum at Harvard defends Garvey's initiatives against contentions that he failed and poses his work as seed planting for those who came

afterwards.

Thus, Malcolm reinterprets Garvey's project and achievements and honors Garvey's stress on a peo-



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

ple's responsibility to write and interpret its own history in dignity-affirming, critical, correct, and accurate ways, which was a continuing concern of Malcolm also. This meant to Malcolm that Black history should not be left to the oppressor or to those taught and molded by the falsification of history conducted by their oppressor.

Thus, reinterpreting Garvey's work and stressing Garvey's agency, Malcolm asserts that "Marcus Garvey . . . gave a sense of dignity to the Black people . . . organized one of the largest mass movements that ever existed in this country," built this movement on mass appeal and the call to return to Africa, and developed a Black nationalist philosophy that "inspired President Nkrumah of Ghana," a philosophy "that has been spreading throughout Africa and that has brought about

the emergence of the present independent African states." Reaffirming agency rather than deficiency, Malcolm concludes saying, "Garvey planted the seed which has popped up in Africa - everywhere you look."

From Garveyism, then, Malcolm had available an expansive corpus of teachings and concepts from which to borrow and on which to build. In addition to those noted above, these include the quest for African redemption; the indispensable need for unity and organization; the necessity of self-knowledge and self-respect; the priority of Black; the importance of a God understood and engaged from a people's own experience; religious, political, cultural, and economic nationalism; nationhood; self-reliance and self-determination, pan-Africanism; internationalism; anti-imperialism; and the value and meaning of history.

It is this stress on history which forms the foundation and focus of Malcolm's educational thrust and his ethical concerns about knowledge and respect of oneself and one's people. Malcolm's concept of liberation, then, is both a spiritual and political promise and practice and evolves first from the teachings of Marcus Garvey and his Garveyite parents with their stress on African redemption, a spiritual and political concept.

Here Nana Garvey posed a fundamental principle of nationalism, the liber-

ation of the nation, the people, and its culmination in independent statehood. It is for him the essential means of defense, development, and flourishing. Thus, he states, "Nationhood is the highest ideal of all peoples." As the highest ideal, independent nationhood is also articulated as the inalienable right and responsibility of self-determination for persons and peoples. Haji Malcolm would find this central concept in various philosophical forms in the teachings of the Nation of Islam and join it with his concept of revolution as put forth in his "Message to the Grassroots" speech.

Malcolm's conception of the redemption/liberation of Black people is also reflective of the world-encompassing reach of Garvey's project and concerns. Indeed, Garvey had declared in affirming the world-encompassing character of his project and concerns, "I know no national boundary where the (Black people) is concerned. The whole world is my province until Africa is free."

Garvey consistently challenged Black leaders and Black people to think and act globally, not only in the interest of the liberation struggle, but also to engage in cooperative projects of progress and a just and sustainable peace with other nations and peoples of the world.

It is this global conception of Black people's presence and interests that Malcolm finds again in Messen-

ger Muhammad's concept of the Black man's presence in and concern for "the whole planet," and is also reflected in his later pan-Africanism, pan-Islamic unity, and Third World interests and engagement.

This stress on the rootedness of Malcolm's internationalist consciousness and commitment in Garvey's and Muhammad's teachings is important and offers a necessary and accurate corrective and alternative to assumptions and contentions that such a global and internationalist orientation is post-NOI and post-nationalism.

Indeed, it is in the teachings of Nana Marcus Garvey and Messenger Elijah Muhammad, as well as other nationalist and pan-Africanist thought, that a world-encompassing conception of African interests, of African peoples' actual and potential allies and of the nature and needs of the liberation struggle in Haji Malcolm's liberalational thought finds its first footing and foundation.

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

• BOBBY R. HENRY, SR. •

## Remembering Our Purpose – A Tribute to James Alfred Washington

While in Dallas to memorialize our dear friend James Washington, my visit routinely found me engaged in stimulating conversations as I saw old friends and met new ones.

The common thread in all these conversations was the future or the plight of America's Black Press. While I said the common "thread," it would be more appropriate to label it the common "lament."

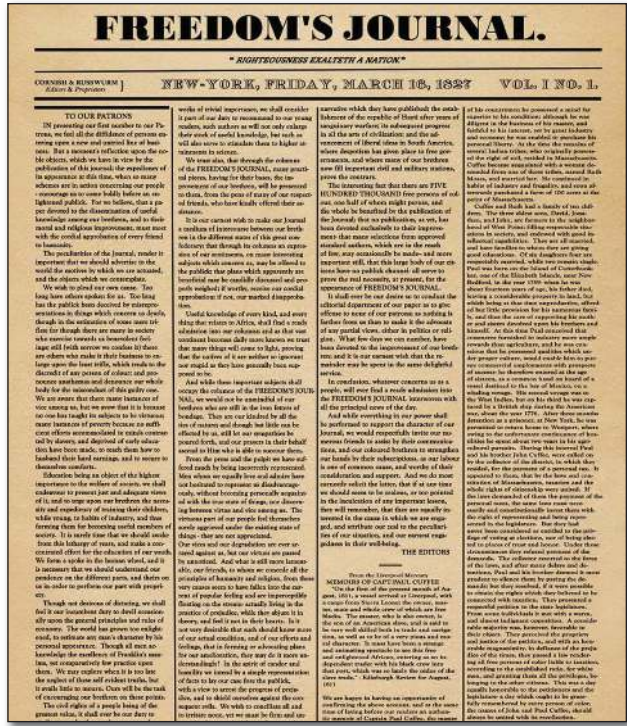
EVERYBODY I spoke to agreed that the "old liberating voice" of the Black Press is needed now – more than ever! For too long others believe they can speak for us.

There was unanimous support for the need to rekindle the Spirit evident in our documentary, "Soldiers Without Swords," to report the news "without fear or favor" and use the pages of our newspapers to "Light the Road to Freedom." We cannot afford—literally—to fail heeding Frederick Douglass' admonition that, "Power concedes NOTHING without a DEMAND!"

So, I start my "demand" brothers and sisters of the NNPA-the Black Press of America, with US. We must invigorate the content in our pages. As the one true, trusted source of news and information expressly for the benefit of Black People, we have no choice but to draw on the giant historical reservoir filled with the ink (and blood) of those publishers whose memories we laud and cherish.

Succinctly put, we must get out of our comfort zones and "get about Our Father's business!" What do we have to lose, you ask? EVERYTHING!

Why should Black America—jostled and pushed about DAILY, flim-flammed, and bewildered by the propaganda mills of some mainstream and social media—not have the benefit



action, DEI, CRT, while thumbing its nose at the constitutional protections paid for in blood—in a nation that our ancestors—stripped of their humanity, dignity, and the right to pursue happiness—DO WE SIT SILENT?

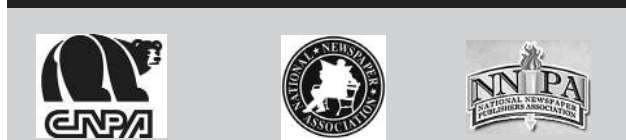
I say NO! I say that the NNPA-the Black Press of America MUST reclaim its rightful place in the hearts and minds of those who once relied on us for Truth and Justice. Our recent Lifetime Achievement awardees, the Zipperts, affirmed what we know to be true — "...our readers depend on their weekly paper for its news and are upset with any disruption in its delivery."

It won't be easy. It wasn't easy in 1827 when FREEDOM'S JOURNAL exploded into the American conscience. But fear never moved a mountain. And we've got mountains that need moving.

Thank you, Dallas. Thank you for the spirit evident in the life of James Alfred Washington. Thank you for rekindling the Spirit that has guided us for 197 years.

Long live the Black Press ... we've got work to do!

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of our rebuttals? Why are our voices silent when the perspectives available online and over the air DO NOT reflect the lives lived in the communities we serve?

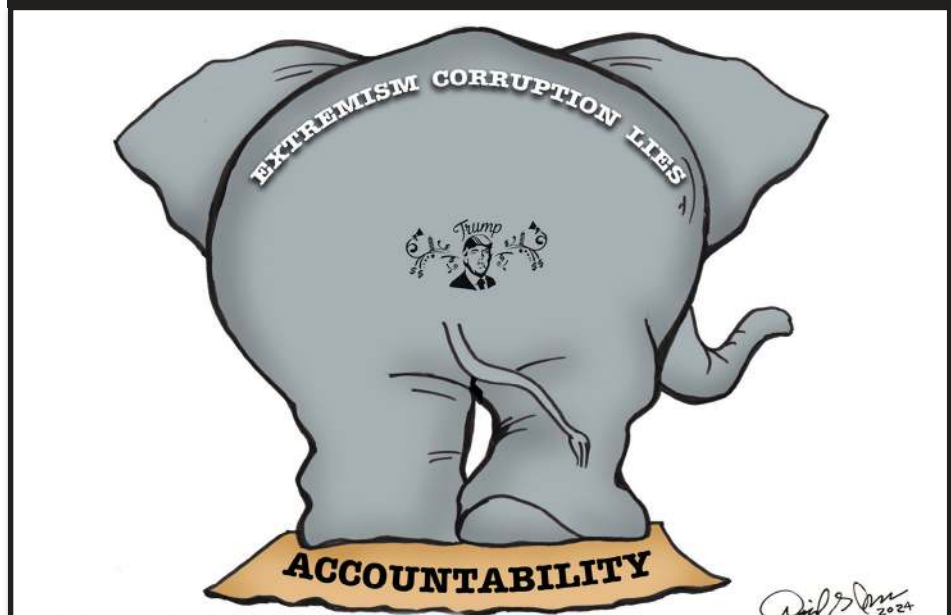
The reflections of those who spoke on the life of our dear, departed brother, Jim, convinced me that we—the NNPA—must do something different than what we've grown accustomed to doing. Our RESPONSIBILITY to Black America, bequeathed to us by Russwurm & Cornish, by Douglass, Wells,

Rolark, Sengstacke, Murphy, Reeves, Goodlett and all those nameless, faceless SOLDIERS whose labors - today – go unrewarded, is to speak clearly, coherently, and incessantly on behalf of Black America.

Please don't misunderstand me. I am one hundred percent convinced that we are up to the job. I'm simply saying that WE MUST DO IT!

In a nation hell-bent on rolling back the hard-fought gains chronicled in our pages—in a nation that has stigmatized affirmative

## CARTOON: BY DAVID G. BROWN





# Coach Wendy

Life Strategist / Consultant  
Author / Speaker

## Good Mentorship Causes a Mental Shift

Over the years I have coached and mentored many people. I have also had the opportunity to be coached and mentored. I have grown immensely from the wisdom and guidance of those who have sown into me. I believe it is a good practice to have a coach and a mentor in your life. Together they can offer you a whole new way

of looking at things in a way you may have never imagined. A good mentor can play a crucial role in helping you develop a shift in your thinking by challenging the way you think, offering a different perspective, sharing their personal experiences, helping you set personal and professional goals, as well as provide



feedback and reflection on where you are in life. As my grandmother used to say, "Why do you have to hit your head on a glass door that someone else has already opened for you?" We can learn from the growth and experience of others. Oftentimes we put various roles and titles in the same bucket, but there is a difference between a mentor, a coach, a sponsor, and even an encourager. It would be great if we could

have all four in our life, as well as try to pour the same into other people that cross our path. Usually, a mentor has more experience and expertise in a particular field or industry than the mentee. Mentors provide guidance, advice, and support based on their own knowledge. They can oftentimes serve as role models to help direct their mentee's careers and/or personal lives. Most of the time, the relationship between a mentor and mentee is informal. Also, a mentor does not have to necessarily be older than you, they just need to know a little more about the subject matter they are helping you with along your journey. Coaches however, play a slightly different role. As a coach, when I work with someone, I try to help them identify what goals they desire to achieve so we can focus on those specific

areas. Coaches practice trained techniques such as asking the right questions, and actively listening to their clients' answers so we can provide the right feedback to help them gain clarity. Together we develop action plans. Coaches focus on facilitating the client's growth and development through a structured process. While both mentors and coaches can provide guidance and support, remember, mentors tend to offer broader guidance based on their personal experiences, while coaches focus on helping individuals achieve specific goals through a structured process. Having a good mentor serves as a catalyst for your growth and development. Oftentimes we get in our own way. We can be hard-headed and get stuck in our old ways. If you want

something new, then you must be willing to try new things. As the saying goes, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly but expecting different results. Is it time for you to have a mental shift? Then I would recommend seeking out the right mentor for you. Bob Proctor said, "A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you." Stop looking in the mirror and open the door to let the right person help you become your best self. Healing Without Hate: It's a choice. It's a lifestyle. Pass it on. Visit [www.WendyGladney.com](http://www.WendyGladney.com) and [www.forgivingforliving.org](http://www.forgivingforliving.org) to learn more. Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker.

# Success On "The Way"

Ask Dr. Jeanette Parker™

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## "Hold On!" "I'm Coming!"

I had the pleasure of participating in "The National Day of Prayer" Teleconference on Thursday, May 2. My subject was built around last week's title: "Not by the Hair of My Chinny Chin Chin," using the rhyme as a parable focusing on the families of single mothers and fathers with the scriptural base of Luke 9:38-43. Many much-needed prayers for all walks of life were offered to Almighty God in the name of Jesus Christ. We know when we call on the name of Yeshua, our prayers are heard and answered. We don't have to

be bothered with doubtful thoughts and equivocating wondering "if" He hears us. For we know that if he hears us, we have the petitions we have asked of Him. He said heretofore you have not asked my name, but now, ask anything in my name and he will give it to us. He tells us to enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Know that the Lord, He is God. It is He who has made us and we did not create or make ourselves. We further proclaim in His name, and He witnesses for us that we are His peo-



ple, and we are the sheep of His pasture. When we even begin to think that we have accomplished everything on our own, Ha! Big mistake! There are those who hold hate, disappointment and allow their minds to become clogged like a sewer with unhealthy memories (sifting them around in our minds; playing them like a tape recorder) Stop it! Jesus Christ has already done the work. It's all done. You ask, "What is done?" Everything! Someone says, "If everything is already done, then why are things the way they are?" I'll tell you why. It is no secret.

A first pivotal error called sin was committed by Adam and Eve. "What?" Eve got herself all confused, thinking about herself and her impatience and greed and curiosity. She decided to exercise the great gift Almighty God had given - choice. Choice gives us the opportunity to consider things, think things through, wait and be patient. She was deceived into thinking and acting on her impulsive behavior by disrespecting her husband, Adam. Now, don't get me wrong, not everything a husband thinks may be correct. The thought is to talk things over. Respect yourself and your husband's opinion. Think together. She went over his head thinking her thoughts and actions were better than his. She listened to the Satanic voice of the adversary. Adam knew better. He was the federal head of mankind (Romans 5), but he apparently could not or would not distinguish between her deceit and his disobedience. This deci-

sion which they made together cost us dearly. However, it was an eternal lesson in that we can go back and recall how detrimental one bad decision can throw off the whole of mankind or humankind if you want to say that. We can see quite visibly how the adversary wants to steal the lives of our children from us. Listen, my friends, it doesn't just start today or in college and universities. No. This plot of destruction of all mankind has been cooking all along. A.I. is headed in that direction. If not but for Jesus Christ, all would be lost. Remember some of the words of Mordecai to Esther, "Don't think if Haman's plot goes through you are going to survive the genocide. No, you are vulnerable and at risk too. You're going to be destroyed like everybody else." However, Mordecai also said, "If you don't speak to the king, Jehovah will send another to deliver us from genocide." I love

Mordecai for that. He was irrevocable in holding on to his faith. Esther caught on too. His faith was changeless. He would not give up. Just think about it. In critical times of risk of loss of material wealth or goods or health, what do we do? Stand steadfast and immovable, unshakable all in the name of Jesus Christ. 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](http://www.todaysfreshstart.org). (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) "Inquiring Minds Want to Know." All articles are copyright. All rights reserved © Errors? Or Questions? Please let me know. Join Sundays for music and message at 11:30 a.m. by calling (712) 775-8971, code 266751. Don't stop praying and hoping. References: The Holy Bible, Matthew Henry Commentary, StudyLight.org, Revelation Made Clear by Tim LaHaye & Timothy E. Parker.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

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## 2024 Black Entertainment Summit Fills a Void in Corporate America

BY MYKO LYRIC  
Contributing Writer

Los Angeles is often referred to as the entertainment capital of the world, and for good reason: the city boasts ample opportunities in the radio, television, music, film, and sports industries. However, diversity and equity inclusion within these fields is an ongoing task, even in large and progressive cities.

Jaia Thomas, a sports and entertainment lawyer in L.A., founded a company named Diverse Representation dedicated to the exposure and hiring of Black agents, attorneys, managers, publicists, and financial advisors. This year, Diverse Representation hosted the 3rd annual Black Entertainment Summit at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

This summit is necessary because it provides networking & job opportunities to Black corporate creatives looking to enter and/or dive deeper within the entertainment industry.

Explaining why she conceptualized this event, Jaia said, “For two reasons: on one side, I was hearing a lot of studios and networks saying they were having a hard time finding Black talent, Black employees, Black execu-



Panel discussion on career building in studios and streaming.

tives...but on the flip side, I heard a lot of Black professionals saying it's hard for [them] to get in the door. The Black Entertainment Summit provides a solution for that gap.”

This year's event was packed with Black panelists from world-renown organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), United Talent Agency (UTA), Lionsgate/STARZ, Creative Artists Agency (CAA), William Morris Endeavor (WME), and Wasserman Music. These are companies that people work for years, even decades, to be able to get their foot in the door, and being in the room with those representatives was a

substantial benefit of the summit.

Particularly captivating was the advice given throughout different panels, including a “What I Wish I Knew Then” panel with UTA, “Building a Career Within Studios and Streaming” with various attorneys from streaming companies including Amazon and Netflix, and an “Early Career Pathways to CAA” discussion.

There were five consistent messages throughout each panel that any corporate and/or creative person can find of value: act in accordance with your desired reputation, create and maintain relationships, advocate for yourself, stay ready so you don't have to get ready,

and be patiently diligent. Doing everything possible to move with integrity, respect, kindness, and honesty will protect your reputation and could be the deciding factor in your upward mobility within a company. Panelist and corporate counsel for Amazon MGM Studios, Brittani Ojogho-Fields, said, “Even negotiating, I have to be in the midst of [it] thinking, I want this person to enjoy being in a conversation with me.”

Multiple panelists echoed the necessary skills of building relationships, which include advocating for yourself, intermittently checking in on those you previously connected with, and focusing on vertical and horizontal movement. The last one is pertinent because it's not only about who can get you up the lad-

scramble to quickly put together a resume, pitch deck, script, or any other material that could position you as a committed force in the industry.

Staying diligent in your networking and ready in your preparation is your job, and the rest falls into place. As panelist Trisha Ananiades opined, “cream rises to the top”.

Make sure to stay connected with Diverse Representation, which will be hosting more events this year including National Black Women in Sports Day on July 7, activations



The audience at the Skirball Cultural Center listening to a panel.

der; it's also about looking to your left and right toward your peers, knowing that you can build together.

Finally, you have to stay ready. Don't wait for the moment the ‘right person’ is in front of you and

at film festivals including the Tribeca Film Festival, and Diverse Representation Week for Black creatives.

Follow on Instagram: @diverserepresentation or visit www.diverserepresentation.com.

## Mario Headlines I Love Myself Festival at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza

The festival raising mental health awareness will also honor Jhene Aiko, Angela White aka Blac Chyna, Pretty Vee, Kayla Nicole, Stephanie Ike Okafor, Derek Ali, Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Scottie, Ali Hasan, Blavity, and The Drew League

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Project Pit, an innovative partnership platform uniting artists, brands, and organizations to deliver events that intersect entertainment with social impact, announced the lineup for the 2nd annual I Love Myself Festival taking place at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza in Los Angeles on Sunday, May 19.

The line-up for the mental health awareness event includes a performance by Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter Mario and a guided meditation led by chart-topping multiplatinum-selling artist Omarion.

Project Pit also announced that it will honor Jhene Aiko (singer-songwriter), Angela White aka Blac Chyna (entrepreneur and TV personality), Pretty Vee (comedian and actress), Kayla Nicole (fitness influencer and Founder of Tribe Therepe), Stephanie Ike Okafor (pastor and podcast host), Derek Ali (Grammy Award-winning and multi-RIAA certified mixing engineer), Holly J. Mitchell (Los Angeles County Supervisor), Scottie (Founder and CEO of SBRBN Media), Ali Hasan (wellness entrepreneur), Blavity, and The Drew League for inspiring and invoking change.

“Excited for our Second Annual I Love Myself Festival in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month,” said Carlton Roberts, founder of Project Pit.

“The festival is a celebration of healing, culture, community, and a reminder that people are not alone.



Mario

We are happy that we're able to bring the community together in this capacity and provide entertainment, access to wellness resources, and honor those making an impact.”

I Love Myself Festival is both a physical and digital event aimed at breaking down negative stereotypes associated with mental health by celebrating healing, community, freedom of expression, support, and resource sharing. Last year's inaugural festival attracted over 3,000 attendees.

The I Love Myself Festival will feature a full day of free programming for all ages from 10 AM to 5 PM PT. Onsite activations including:

• **Garden Stage** – A sanctuary of tranquility and learning! Immerse yourself in the harmonious blend of a

boost your focus and relaxation. For more activity, try the I Love Myself Sparks Zone, an extension of the Kids Zone that focuses on movement through basketball. Explore our collection of stress balls and more to help you unwind and find peace within yourself. Remember, you are strong, you are capable, and you are deserving of happiness and inner peace!

• **Mental Health Resource Village** – A holistic haven for nurturing your mind, body, and soul! Take charge of your well-being with hypertension screenings, dental check-ups, and access to essential mental health resources. Engage with our onsite licensed therapists for personalized support and guidance while participating in rejuvenating movement activities to uplift your spirit. Remember, your mental health is just as important as your physical health - prioritize self-care and embrace a journey toward holistic wellness!

• **Vendor Village** – A vibrant hub dedicated to nurturing the mind, body, and soul! Explore a diverse array of community vendors offering natural and organic shea butters, unique clothing, handmade jewelry, inspiring art, and nourishing vegan and vegetarian food options. Dive into a holistic experience as you discover products that promote well-being and self-care. Engage with like-minded individuals, sup-

• **Kid Zone + Sparks Zone** – Where positivity and fun go hand in hand! Engage in mindful games like air hockey, ping pong, jumbo Jenga, and Connect Four to

port local artisans, and treat yourself to items that uplift and nourish every aspect of your being!

The I Love Myself Festival was created by Project Pit, whose mission is to weave together the thrill of entertainment with the power of social impact. Project Pit strives to create immersive entertainment experiences that not only entertain but also inspire, educate, and catalyze positive change. Other Project Pit initiatives include the I Love

Myself School Tour, an initiative centered around mental wellness for elementary, middle, and high school students. This tour mobilizes, informs, educates, and uplifts students in a safe space to achieve new levels of student engagement and reduce the negative stigmas associated with mental health.

Follow @projectpit on Instagram for additional information about I Love Myself Festival and Project Pit.

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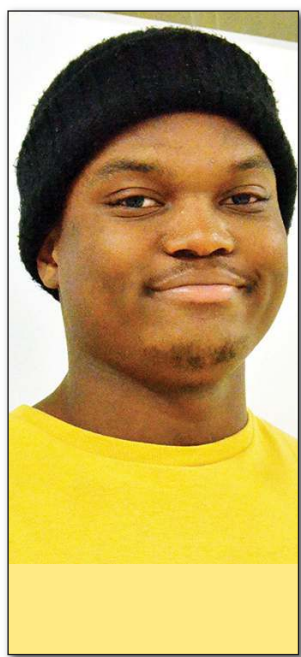
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AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL  
Crenshaw senior Jeremiah Blackmon competes on the boys' basketball and football team.

## Student Athlete of the Week: Jeremiah Blackmon

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editor

Crenshaw senior Jeremiah Blackmon plays basketball and football for the Cougars. He helped the football team win a Division III City Section championship in 2022. This season, the Cougars had a 11-3 overall record and led the Coliseum League with a 4-1 record.

The Cougars went on a deep run in the Division I playoffs, reaching the championship game where they fell 28-35 against the Banning Pilots. Blackmon noted how naysayers berated their Division III cham-

pionship and how the 2023 season was a "revenge tour."

"Everybody we lost to last year, we beat them," Blackmon said. "We came up short in the championship but that was my proudest moment. Every game with my teammates."

Blackmon began playing football as a junior in high school but he began playing basketball during his middle school years. Last season, he helped the Cougars boys' basketball team reach the Open Division semifinals where they lost to Fairfax 74-71. However, the team would suffer a greater loss when fellow

teammate Quincy Reese Jr. was murdered in June 2023. These things motivated Blackmon during this past basketball season.

"Life gives you challenges, you got to overcome them. You get stronger from it, your mental gets stronger as well," Blackmon said. "You got to keep pushing forward, you got to learn to enjoy yourself being alone, you got to learn to adapt to different things."

Competing on both teams taught Blackmon leadership skills. Learning how to be coachable helped improve his game.

"You have people that is not as motivated as you are

in the sport and sometimes that can affect your person or how you play on the field," Blackmon said. "I started learning that sometimes you got to keep on telling them."

Blackmon knows that being a student athlete means that academics are the top priority.

"You have to stay on task because it's a lot of distractions, especially in certain areas and environments," he said. "Sometimes you're gonna succumb to those distractions but you got to hop right back on track."

Balancing academics and athletics is a hard task.

Being a student athlete requires mental toughness and time management, according to Blackmon.

"You have to get up early, go home late, workout and you got to listen to your coaches talk to you," he said. "Sometimes the stuff they say is gonna hurt."

While competing at a high level this school year, Blackmon was taking two college courses. His favorite class was his sociology college course.

"My professor, he's a real down to earth type of dude," Blackmon said. "He's from this area so he's not scared to tell you the truth."

## New-Look Sparks Aim to Lead as a Team

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Sparks enter the 2024 season with a young group and plenty of new faces. The squad includes six players who were Sparks last season and five players with over five years of WNBA experience.

Head coach Curt Miller mentioned how he wanted to implement a "shared leadership approach."

"We're not going to play with as much through one person," Miller said. "Our offense will be the same way. I think we will be best with equal opportunity."

With 16 healthy players, the Sparks have one of the larger training camp rosters this season. The larger roster encourages healthy competition. Guard Aari McDonald noted how she was impressed by how the rookies approached training camp.

"They're doing a great



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
Sparks guard Kia Nurse (10).



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
Sparks guard Layshia Clarendon (25).



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
Sparks forward Monique Billings (55).



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
Sparks guard Aari McDonald (15).



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
Sparks guard Zia Cooke (1) and forward Azurá Stevens (23) pose at Sparks media day.

job of catching on and they're not afraid to ask questions," McDonald said. "They're always having that approach to learn and they want to learn."

During her time playing in the WNBL in Australia, McDonald was averaging 18.8 points, 5.9 assists and 1.8 steals per game. She aspires to bring her confidence and skills to the Sparks. Riverside native Monique Billings is

soaking in the full-circle moment of playing for the Sparks while executing her role.

"Communication with the intangibles, high energy, work ethic, I think those are the things that you start with at a baseline," Billings said. "And then from there, just making your shots, doing things that you worked on during the offseason, being a great teammate."

Guards Lexie Brown, Rae Burrell, and Zia Cooke spent their offseason competing in Athletes Unlimited (AU). Cooke averaged 15.75 points per game. She hopes to improve her pace and shooting consistency.

"AU was great for me, it was definitely something that I needed," Cooke said. "I was training so many months before I played so I was able to get some good runs in ... I was very con-

fidant, and I saw the ball go in a lot more."

Brown averaged 12.61 points and Burrell scored 11.08 points per game in AU. After being sidelined due to illness last season, Brown is excited to return to the hardwood.

"To come into this season feeling really healthy, mentally, I'm good, spiritually, I'm good," Brown said. "I think this whole team is very much

aligned."

The Sparks will begin their season on May 15 when they host the Atlanta Dream at 7:00P.M. at the Walter Pyramid at Long Beach State. On Tuesday, the franchise announced that their May 26 game against the Dallas Wings, May 28 game against the Indiana Fever and their June 5 game against the Minnesota Lynx will take place at Crypto.com Arena.

## Dodgers Blue Diamond Gala Leaves a Legacy on Los Angeles

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) raised \$54 million during its annual Blue Diamond Gala. LADF desires to use their funds to cultivate a lasting legacy in Los Angeles.

"I'm tremendously proud that we have raised \$100 million over the last 11 years," LADF CEO Nichol Whiteman said. "The fact that we have been able to pull together so many resources to be able to tackle L.A.'s most pressing problems, that is homelessness, education, health care, and social justice, I think that's really special."

While the eighth annual Gala is a fundraiser to thwart causes like homelessness and enrich education, it is a star-studded night of fun for the ball club. Players get a

chance to build bonds with one another outside of baseball.

"Our fans can see us dressed up, not in our uniforms and see us as regular people," said Dodgers general manager Dave Roberts. "To be able to interface with the fans in the community, it's everything."

The Gala featured a dinner party, eight-time GRAMMY Award-winning artist Anderson .Paak DJ'ed the party as DJ Pee .Wee.

"The Dodger Foundation does great work, they do great work with the youth," Cookie Johnson, wife of Dodgers co-owner Magic Johnson, said.

After the dinner party, guests were entertained by the Compton Kidz Club, Little Tokyo Traditional Drum Group, KIPP Sol Mariachi Folklorico, and the Banning High Marching Band as they

walked into Dodgers Stadium. The headliner of the evening was four-time GRAMMY winner Ed Sheeran. Dodgers team reporter Kirsten Watson hosted the event.

"Having been part of all the work that they've done in the community ... I've been able to go to the events, witnessing it firsthand," Watson said. "For a night like this, when we get to celebrate it, we also get to continue to raise money for those efforts, it's really special."

Players like Mookie Betts have partnered with LADF through the years. In 2022, Acts Inspired by Mookie partnered with LADF and the Brotherhood Crusade to host a Thanksgiving dinner giveaway.

"Charity work is something me and my family, we love doing," Betts said. "It's a night away from work so we get to turn our brains off and enjoy each other's company."



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
Cookie Johnson

Last season, outfielder Jason Heyward supported LADF by visiting Dodgers Dream Team players at Jesse Owens Park. He founded the Jason Heyward Baseball Academy.

"It's nice to partner with the Dodgers Foundation," Heyward said. "I can't say enough about how much they support us throughout the year as individuals that make us look good on the field as players."

Prior to the start of the concert, the Dodgers ownership group pledged to donate



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
Dodgers star Mookie Betts (right) and wife Brianna pose at Blue Diamond Gala.

\$50 million to LADF and promised to double their donation if the Dodgers reach the World Series this season.

"Any chance we can get to support a local team we're all for it," USC freshman guard JuJu Watkins said. "We love Dodgers, we love our Lakers. The Trojans will always show up to something like this."



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
LADF CEO Nichol Whiteman

Along with USC, representatives from the L.A. Sparks, Lakers, and Chargers were in attendance at the Blue Diamond Gala.

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM B-1



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
(L to R) Tricia and Dave Roberts, Jason and Vedrana Heyward.



JEVONE MOORE/L.A. SENTINEL  
(L to R) Tricia and Dave Roberts, Jason and Vedrana Heyward.