



Rickie Byars Promotes Love of God Through Music (See page B-3)



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL



Earl Bakewell "Uncle Earl" (See page B-2)

VOL. LXXXVII NO. 37, \$1.00 +CA. Sales Tax "For Over Eighty Years, the Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself." THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

America's Inhumane treatment of Haitians



U.S. border patrol officers attempt to contain mostly migrants as they cross the Rio Grande from Ciudad AcuOla into Del Rio, Texas, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021. AP PHOTO/FELIX MARQUEZ

Thousands of Haitian migrants have been arriving to Del Rio, Texas, as authorities attempt to close the border to stop the flow of migrants. AP PHOTO/FELIX MARQUEZ

The U.S. is flying Haitians camped in a Texas border town back to their homeland and blocking others from crossing the border from Mexico in a massive show of force that signals the beginning of what could be one of America's swiftest, large-scale expulsions of migrants or refugees in decades. AP PHOTO/FELIX MARQUEZ

BY BETTI HALSELL
Contributing Writer

Haitian immigrants were "expelled" from American soil over the weekend; the forced movement is bleed-

ing into the current week. A lot of footwork took place on Monday, according to U.S. officials, as over 6,000 people of the Haitian community were removed from Texas. Horse patrol and

other actions taken from Homeland Security are under scrutiny, highlighting the 'Inhumane' force being practiced to revert Haitian families to their starting point.

Multiple sources reported that this large population of the Haitian community did not legitimize their citizenship within the U.S., therefore, they are not recognized as American citi-

zens. Speaking on behalf of Homeland Security, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was captured stating, "If you come to the United States illegally, you will be returned. Your journey [See HAITIAN A-11]

The California Legislative Black Caucus Endorses Cecil Rhambo for Los Angeles County Sheriff

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) endorses Mr. Cecil Rhambo for Los Angeles County Sheriff.

CLBC recognizes Mr. Rhambo as a respected community leader with a wealth of experience in law enforcement, protecting Los Angeles County citizens for more than 33 years. Mr. Rhambo is currently the Chief of LAX Airport. He has a strong track record of community policing and successfully reducing crime in Compton and South L.A.

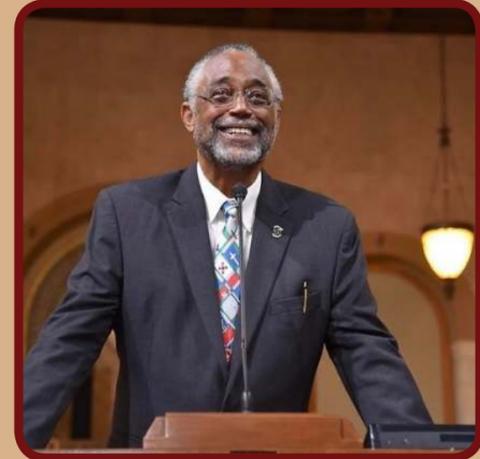


Cecil Rhambo COURTESY PHOTO

He's organized youth boxing and developed the Community Oriented Policing Bureau, which focused on suppressing violent crime, combatting homelessness, parking enforcement, quality of life programs, youth programs, and the mental health response teams that partnered with psych clinicians county-wide.

"I've known Cecil for many years and as chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee, I am confident he would [See RHAMBO C-2]

City Council Approves Curren Price Motion for \$5 Million to Help South LA Recover from Bomb Squad Blast



Councilmember Curren Price COURTESY PHOTO

{SEE FULL STORY A-6}

2021 NNPA Leadership Awards Delights Viewers, Insiders

Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Congresswoman Cori Bush (D-Missouri), Dr. James Hildreth, Dr. Ebony Hilton, and Olympic

record-setter Allyson Felix, each received recognition for their excellence and commitment to the Black community and the world at-large.

Hilton, and Olympic record-setter Allyson Felix, each received recognition for their excellence and commitment to the Black community and the world at-large.

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

In perhaps the best produced National Leadership Awards – or any virtual conference – since the pandemic forced most to move away from in-person gatherings, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) celebrated its annual soiree in style.

Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Congresswoman Cori Bush (D-Missouri), Dr. James Hildreth, Dr. Ebony

"Thank you to Black Press of America and the National Newspaper Publishers Association for this gracious award and, to my brother Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Chair Karen Richards, National Correspondent Stacy Brown, and the countless others who do the important work to keep our communities informed, engaged, and motivated through these unprecedented times," Sen. Warnock stated.

"This award is not about me, but the millions of Black Americans in Georgia and across the country who continuously display their



In perhaps the best produced National Leadership Awards – or any virtual conference – since the pandemic forced most to move away from in-person gatherings, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) celebrated its annual soiree in style. FILE PHOTO

courage, perseverance, and fortitude as we navigate increasingly challenging times in our communities and throughout our world. Know that I will continue to do my part in the Unit-

ed States Senate to uplift Georgia voices in the continual march towards what Dr. King called the beloved community," the senator concluded.

Dr. Hilton, who has led

the fight against misinformation and who has become a leading advocate for transparency surrounding COVID-19, said there's still [See NNPA C-2]

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The World Health Organization is Calling for Equitable Access to Vaccines and More



AP PHOTO

The World Health Organization is urging world leaders to guarantee equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and other life-saving tools to be prepared for future pandemics.

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed the lives of nearly 5 million people around the globe and is still active. The World Health Organization (WHO) urged leaders attending the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly

The WHO wants improved responses to health crises and universal health coverage.

(UNGA) to guarantee equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and other life-saving tools to be prepared for future pandemics.

More than 5.7 billion vaccine doses have been administered globally, but 73% of all doses have been administered in just 10 countries. High-income countries have administered 61 times more doses per person than low-income countries. WHO's objective is to vaccinate at least 40% of the population of every country by the end of the year and 70% by the middle of next year. WHO believes if countries and manufacturers make a genuine commitment towards vaccine equity, these objectives are achievable.

WHO is calling on countries to fulfil their dose-sharing pledges and to swap their near-term

vaccine deliveries with COVAX and AVAT (African COVID-19 Vaccine Acquisition Task Team). WHO is also tasking manufacturers to prioritize supplies to COVAX and partners, and for countries and manufacturers to facilitate sharing of technology, know-how and intellectual property to support regional vaccine manufacturing.

COVID-19 hit vulnerable populations particularly hard and exacerbated inequalities. WHO is urging all countries to end "panic and neglect" response seen after previous health emergencies, and commit to adequate financial resources, as well as political engagement to strengthen health emergency preparedness across the globe. Universal health coverage (UHC) is key to

global health security. Recently, 90% of countries have reported disruptions in essential health services due to the pandemic. Serious investment in UHC and pandemic preparedness is critical for global health security.

Earlier this week, Public Health reported 5 new deaths and stated 1,322 new cases of COVID-19. There were 1,070 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 with 16% of nearly 8,450,000 individuals testing positive with symptoms.

Public Health identified 1,444,127 positive cases of COVID-19 across all areas of L.A. County and a total of 25,832 deaths. Cases across the Southland: Los Angeles County shows 1,368,038 cases, Long Beach with 63,059 cases and Pasadena with 13,030

cases. According to race and ethnicity, COVID-19 statistics show: American Indian/Alaska Native with 2,310; Asian with 65,137; Black with 64,787; Hispanic/Latino with 708,366; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander with 5,010; White with 165,484; those of other race and ethnicity with 116,107 and 240,837

under investigation. For more detailed information on COVID-19 vaccination plans in L.A. County and to sign up for a vaccination newsletter, visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com

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

Always check with trusted sources for the latest accurate information about novel coronavirus:
 *Los Angeles County Department of Public Health <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
 *California Department of Public Health <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>
 *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> Spanish <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index-sp.html>
 *World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
 *LA County residents can also call 2-1-1

Pfizer Vaccine for Children 5 to 11 is Safe with Robust Antibody Response

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

A Phase 2/3 trial conducted by Pfizer and BioNTech revealed that the Covid-19 vaccine was safe and generated a "robust antibody response" in children ages 5 to 11.

These are the first such results released for this age group for a US Covid-19 vaccine. Pfizer said it plans to submit to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for emergency use authorization soon.

The company said it hopes to have approval by the end of the calendar year.

"Over the past nine

months, hundreds of millions of people ages 12 and older from around the world have received our COVID-19 vaccine," said Albert Bourla, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Pfizer.

"We are eager to extend the protection afforded by the vaccine to this younger population, subject to regulatory authorization, especially as we track the spread of the Delta variant and the substantial threat it poses to children," Bourla continued.

"Since July, pediatric cases of COVID-19 have risen by about 240 percent in the U.S. – underscoring the public health need for vaccination. These trial

results provide a strong foundation for seeking authorization of our vac-



STOCK

The Phase 1/2/3 trial initially enrolled up to 4,500 children ages 6 months to 11 years of age in the United States, Finland, Poland, and Spain from more than 90 clinical trial sites.

cine for children 5 to 11 years old, and we plan to submit them to the FDA and other regulators with urgency."

The trial included 2,268 participants ages 5 to 11 and used a two-dose regi-

dose that has been used for those 12 and older. The Phase 1/2/3 trial initially enrolled up to 4,500 children ages 6 months to 11 years of age in the United States, Finland, Poland, and Spain from more than 90 clinical trial sites. It was designed to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on a two-dose schedule (approximately 21 days apart) in three age groups: ages 5 to 11 years; ages 2 to 5 years; and ages 6 months to 2 years. Based on the Phase 1 dose-escalation portion of the trial, children ages 5 to 11 years received two-dose schedule of 10 µg

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each while children under age 5 received a lower 3 µg dose for each injection in the Phase 2/3 study.

The trial enrolled children with or without prior evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection

"We are pleased to be able to submit data to regulatory authorities for this group of school-aged children before the start of the winter season," said Dr. Ugur Sahin, CEO and co-founder of BioNTech.

"The safety profile and immunogenicity data in children aged 5 to 11 years vaccinated at a lower dose are consistent with those we have observed with our vaccine in other older populations at a higher dose."

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Today, over 3.5 million kids regularly use these products, risking an addiction to nicotine. Thankfully, our L.A. City Council is taking action to end this epidemic.

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AND PROTECTING OUR KIDS.**



Nonprofit Groups and Health Agencies Partner to Increase Vaccine Access

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
STAFF WRITER

The campaign to increase vaccine access in minority communities has stepped up a notch as churches and community organizations join with agencies such as Kaiser Permanente and Watts Healthcare Foundation to inoculate more Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC).

The COVID-19 African American Education and Outreach Initiative, co-sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute, is part of a strategy to fight COVID-19 disinformation, persuade more BIPOC groups to get vaccinations and ultimately, end racism in public health.

To provide an update on the effort, the East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF), held a virtual briefing on September 16 featuring top executives from nonprofits and health groups that partnered to work directly with populations registering the lowest vaccination rates.

Lee and U.S. Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) shared greetings prior to the panel discussion as well as stressed their commitment to educating African Americans and minorities about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccines. Following their comments, Dr. Paulette Brown-Hinds moderated the panel discussion. Brown-Hinds is the publisher of Black Voice News and owner of

Voice Media Ventures, a strategic media and creation firm based in Riverside, California.

Stephanie Ledesma, Kaiser's interim senior vice president of community



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL

Congresswoman Barbara Lee and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute co-sponsored the COVID-19 African American Education and Outreach Initiative.

health programs; the Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson, senior pastor of the Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California; Dr. Oliver Brooks, chief medical officer at Watts Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles; Gloria Warner, chief operations officer at Buford Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Centers in South Carolina; Dr. Gary Puckrein, founder of the National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF); James Head, EBCF president/CEO; and Keshee Dozier-Smith, CEO of the Rural Health MediCal program in Selma, Alabama, comprised the expert panel.

The panelists not only underscored the various challenges that groups — both grassroots and professionals — encounter in trying to reach vaccine hesitant

individuals, but also highlighted the significant successes made possible by the



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn stressed his commitment to educating African Americans and minorities about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccines.

partnership between the agencies.

"We believe very strongly that increasing vaccinations will end this pandemic. We also believe that our standing in our communities and our strong partnership with community-based organizations will help prevent the further spread of COVID-19 that has disproportionately impacted communities of color," said Ledesma, who added that Kaiser has invested \$35 million to assist nonprofits across the U.S. in promoting vaccinations and distributing accurate information about the virus.

Thompson, who heads a mega-ministry in the Bay area, noted that the partnership allowed Allen Temple work that the church was already doing. The relationship with the other agencies led to access to additional data and tracking tools.

"Because of this key connection with East Bay Community Foundation on

this particular project right on our little church campus, we've been able to vaccinate 30,000 people and test over 50,000," Thompson said. "And so we hope that's an example to faith-based communities across the nation about the power of partnership, about the power of being forced outside of your doors, and to help do the things that enhance the holistic health of all of those that we are trying to benefit."

A major roadblock to benefitting vaccine reluctant individuals is overcoming their lack of faith in getting inoculated, noted Brooks. Although well-known supporters like U.S. Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Karen Bass publicized testing offered by his agency, Watts Healthcare Foundation, new COVID-19 cases still continued to rise in L.A.'s Black community.

"We knew that the community needed to hear relevant accurate information and they needed to have their concerns voiced to someone like us. There are those that did not trust the vaccine, did not trust getting tested," he recalled.

"As opposed to dismissing them, this partnership allowed us to address their concerns [through] focus groups that we did. Also, we got data and now we have information that we can use to better our community," said Brooks, the immediate past president of

the National Medical Association and the past president of the California Immunization Coalition.

Comparable success was cited by Dozier-Smith, who used the funding provided by Kaiser to implement a COVID-19 testing and vaccination program along with hiring additional community health workers.

"This allowed us to see

we would [offer] testing," said Dozier-Smith, who also serves on her congressional district's COVID-19 Advisory Board.

As for future steps, Puckrein recommended exploring ways to maintain and build upon the partnership, which aligns with his organization's mission of strengthening national and local efforts to use evi-



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL
Top executives discuss the results of their partnership to fight COVID-19 disinformation and persuade more Blacks to get vaccinated.

how important the patient engagement, the community partnerships and also the importance of establishing a workforce that is going to be very beneficial to sustain the work that we were able to do with this particular grant," she explained.

"We see how beneficial it was relationship-building with those patients that are chronically ill, making sure that their primary care did not take a backseat because of COVID. We found ways, through using this funding, [to create] pop up clinics in their neighborhoods. We also partnered with local churches and when they were doing food programs,

dence-based and data driven projects to eliminate preventable illnesses and deaths of racial and ethnic minorities.

To that end, NMQF reached out to Twitter for support and connected with its program, Twitter For Good. The platform contains many components to aid nonprofits including promo advertising credits, skills training on content and engagement, and assistance in promoting specific online campaigns.

With Twitter For Good, Puckrein said, "You'll have some resources to support [See VACCINE ACCESS on C-2]"

Moderna Vaccine Appears to Offer Strongest Protection Against COVID

CDC Says All Vaccines Offer Strong Resistance to the Virus

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

According to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two-dose regimens of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccines provided a high level of protection against COVID-19 hospitalizations in a real-world evaluation at 21 U.S. hospitals during the period between March 11 and August 15.

Vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 hospitalization for Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech doses were 93 percent and 88 percent, respectively, whereas the single-dose Janssen [Johnson & Johnson] vaccine had a lower effectiveness rate at 71 percent.

Protection for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine declined four months after vaccination.

Released Friday, September 17, the report revealed that individuals vaccinated with the Janssen vaccine also had lower post-vaccination anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibody levels than did recipients of mRNA vaccines.

In addition, although an immunologic correlate of protection has not been established for COVID-19 vaccines, the researchers found that antibody titers after infection and vaccination have been associated with protection.

"These real-world data suggest that the 2-dose Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine regimens provide more protection than does the 1-dose Janssen viral vector vaccine regimen," the researchers wrote.

"Although the Janssen

vaccine had lower observed vaccine effectiveness, one dose of Janssen vaccine still

antibody analysis included 100 healthy volunteers, 32 fully vaccinated with Mod-



NNPA/STOCK

Two-dose regimens of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccines provided a high level of protection against COVID-19 hospitalizations in a real-world evaluation at 21 U.S. hospitals during the period between March 11 and August 15.

reduced risk for COVID-19-associated hospitalization by 71 percent."

The study included 3,689 patients.

Overall, 2,362 (64 percent) were unvaccinated; 476 (12.9 percent) were fully vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine; 738 (20 percent) were fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and 113 (3.1 percent) were fully vaccinated with the Janssen vaccine.

Among all participants, the median age was 58 years, 48 percent female, 23 percent non-Hispanic Black, and 18 percent Hispanic.

Efficacy for the Moderna vaccine was 93 percent at 14 to 120 days (the median equaled 66 days) after receiving the second vaccine dose and 92 percent after 120 days (with the median equaled 141 days).

For Pfizer-BioNTech, efficacy stood at 91 percent at 14 to 120 days (the median equaled 69 days) after receiving the second vaccine dose but declined significantly to 77 percent at more than 120 days (the median equaled 143 days).

The postvaccination

erna, 51 fully vaccinated with Pfizer-BioNTech, and 17 with Janssen.

Antibody levels were higher in participants vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine than those who received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or the Janssen vaccine.

The report revealed that anti-spike levels in participants vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine did not significantly differ from those in recipients of the Pfizer-BioNTech but were considerably higher than levels in participants who received the Janssen.

The report arrives as a U.S. Food and Drug Administration panel reviewed the need for booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine.

The panel also expected to vote on whether the agency should approve additional doses for people 16 and older.

"We will evaluate and see," said Dr. James Hildreth, the president and CEO of Meharry Medical College and an FDA panelist deciding on the booster shots.



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Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Highlights African American Issues at 50th Legislative Conference

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

Health equity, wealth creation, environmental justice and wrongful convictions were among the topics highlighted at the 50th Annual Legislative Conference sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

The virtual symposium, held September 12-17, featured dozens of sessions with expert speakers dissecting the challenges and opportunities minorities face in fields such as science and technology, civic engagement, financial wellness and professional development. Other topics emphasized national security, lifestyle and culture, voting rights and Black women's leadership.

A lively discussion emanated during the session on "Building Sustainable Communities in Our Underrepresented Communities - Creating Change in our Social Systems." The program, hosted by the Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, was opened by Azizza Davis Goines, Chamber president/CEO, and moderated by Larry Lee, publisher/CEO of The Sacramento Observer.



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL
Azizza Davis Goines

According to Goines and Lee, the goal of the conversation was to offer tactics to enhance equity for Blacks in the areas of health, economic development, education, housing and energy.

"Equity means you looked at each individual and said what do you need to succeed? We need that in

the community because sustainability is people, planet and prosperity. You have to have all three," insisted Leonard Robinson, partner and chief strategist at consultant firm SEMCO and sustainability strategist for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia.



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL
Leonard Robinson

Robinson, who has more than 45 years of experience in environmental management and sustainability, recommended three activities that municipalities must implement to achieve sustainability - good policy, education and activism. Elaborating further, he said, "We have to help our politicians make good policy by telling them what the needs are and the best strategic advantages. What we have to do with education is not only educate, but put our children in the best environment to succeed. The last thing is we have to get involved. We need activism and protest. Voting is activism."

Dr. Torence Powell, associate vice chancellor at Los Rios Community College District, echoed the importance of education to build equity and improve underrepresented commu-



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL
Dr. Torence Powell

nities. His institution, Powell said, focuses on increasing an area's economic development by preparing a workforce for craft or skilled professions as well as white collar jobs along with ensuring that students have access to the same level of instruction that more affluent colleges offer.

"As the education sector, it's our role to ensure that we're creating the opportunities for students to prosper in the economy and then also improve the outcomes in our communities. We are essentially preparing these students by equipping them with information and knowledge that they're going to need to be responsible leaders moving forward and we have the responsibility to prepare them to be better stewards of the environment. It's our responsibility to essentially equip them so they can push on our civic leaders to really advocate for improvements that are going to help



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL
Dr. Mario San Bartolome

approached "from a whole person type of perspective" and as an "investment into the community," which will help to determine a person's "real health."

"When you think of healthcare, I would say maybe the most important thing to really consider is that movement toward equity around those social determinants of health and invest in it. We're past the days of being reductionistic. We really need to look at health from the context of all of our environment. We should be holding all of ourselves accountable to the invest-

ability is the collaboration between public and private sectors in advancing a better community. Louis Stewart, who heads strategic initiatives for Developer Ecosystem at NVIDIA, said his company advocates "training Black and Brown folks in the community" to prepare them to contribute to the local economy. NVIDIA is a multinational technology company that creates interactive graphics for comput-



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL
Louis Stewart

ers and similar hardware.

"Everything is connected. It's going to take government, academia and

equity. Now it's time to have people make them do equity, not just in dollars



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL
Larry Lee

and cents, but programmatic and relational. There's a lot of folks out there that the [people] can reach out to and actually help make a change," he said, adding that NVIDIA tapped him to help the firm nurture relationships with minority partners and develop a more inclusive tech community.

Sharing closing remarks, Robinson concluded, "A whole bunch of things are tied up into [sustainability] and a society



CORA J. FOSSETT/L.A. SENTINEL
Several experts participated in the session, "Building Sustainable Communities in Our Underrepresented Communities." From left, top, are Larry Lee, Louis Stewart, Dr. Mario San Bartolome, (bottom) Azizza Davis Goines, Leonard Robinson and Dr. Torence Powell.

us all," noted Powell.

And one of the more pressing improvements needed is in the area of healthcare, which is often reported as sorely lacking in minority neighborhoods. To upgrade the quality of medical care, Dr. Mario San Bartolome, suggested that healthcare should be

ment, particularly among those healthcare [factors], which is such a large part of our economy and our lives. Let's keep everyone accountable around those social determinants," advised Bartolome.

In addition to accountability, another critical element in building sustain-

industry and all three of those sectors have to be super-intentional about how sustainable they're making the world," said Stewart, the former chief innovation officer for the city of Sacramento.

"From the private sector side, there're a whole lot of companies speaking

can't go forward unless the underserved are brought along. We have to communicate the idea of sustainability. It's about embracing social opportunities. We have to communicate things better."

To learn more about the legislative conference, visit cbcfinc.org.

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City Council Approves Current Price Motion for \$5 Million to Help South L.A. Recover from Bomb Squad Blast

By CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles City Council passed a motion introduced by Councilman Curren Price to identify \$5

million in funding — some of which would come from the Los Angeles Police Department's budget — to help a South Los Angeles neighborhood recover from a massive explosion set off

by an LAPD bomb squad error that injured 17 people and forced many residents from their homes.

The June 30 detonation of a large cache of fireworks

Emergency Management Department General Manager Carol Parks told the Los Angeles Police Commission on Tuesday that 88 people are still displaced from their homes awaiting repairs.

"Our neighbors face an uphill battle and a tough road ahead for years to come," Price said when he introduced the motion on Sept. 1.

"Long before this disaster, they faced systemic inequality, structural barriers and racial disparities that have been exacerbated in the wake of this disgraceful LAPD action. We need our own version of a Marshall Plan that is going to bring stability to the lives of those affected, revitalize and uplift our neighborhood once and for all."

The motion, which was seconded by Councilmen Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Mark Ridley-Thomas, instructed the chief legislative analyst and the city administrative officer to

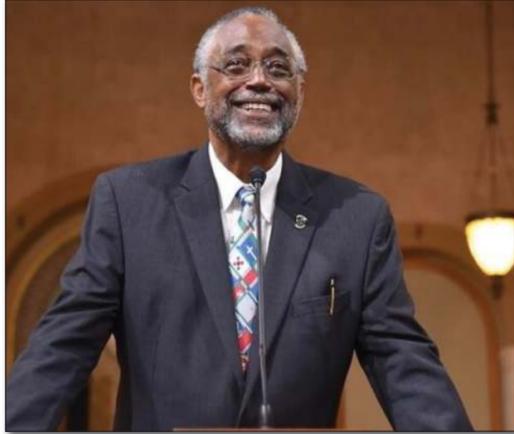
identify \$5 million to the recovery effort and establish a Neighborhood Recovery Center with additional services to support residents' needs, including infrastructure improvements, mental health services, job and workforce development, access to children's services and business grants.

Price's motion requests that some of the funding for the relief effort come from the LAPD's \$1.76 billion budget. According to Michael Hoffman, special agent in charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Los Angeles office, the LAPD's containment vessel was designed to handle repeated detonations of 19 pounds of TNT equivalent at a time or a single detonation of 33 pounds of explosives before being returned to its manufacturer for analysis.

But the LAPD bomb squad miscalculated the amount of fireworks placed into a containment vessel, resulting in a massive explo-

sion that damaged several residences in South Los Angeles. Officers had loaded the truck with 39.85

claims for damages from community members, Parks told the Police Commission on Tuesday.



FILE PHOTO

"Our neighbors face an uphill battle and a tough road ahead for years to come," Price said when he introduced the motion on Sept. 1.

million in funding — some of which would come from the Los Angeles Police Department's budget — to help a South Los Angeles neighborhood recover from a massive explosion set off

on East 27th Street, near San Pedro Street, sent 17 residents and first responders to hospitals, destroyed a bomb squad truck and damaged 22 residences, 13 businesses and 37 vehicles.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police officers walk past the remains of an armored Los Angeles Police Department tractor-trailer on July 1, 2021, the morning after illegal fireworks seized at a South Los Angeles home exploded.

pounds of explosives, Hoffman said. LAPD personnel visually estimated the weight of the explosives to be about 16 pounds.

Following the blast, Price provided relief to displaced and impacted residents through a \$1 million emergency relief fund using dollars from his council office. The City has received about 200

26 claims have been paid, and about 25 are pending payment. The City Attorney's Office is waiting for more information before processing 128 of the claims. Last Thursday residents protested in front of their boarded-up homes, which remained unrepaired by the City, to demand the City accelerate the timeline for the repairs.

Illegal Cannabis Warrant Service Turns Out 26 People in Illegal Housing

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

On Tuesday, September 21, the Fire Prevention Bureau Legal Unit / Illegal Cannabis Section served a warrant with LAPD 77th Division Narcotics Enforcement Detail at 5710 S. Western Avenue. Discovered during the warrant service on an illegal cannabis business were six residential units of illegal

housing.

At this location, a one-story commercial building had been converted into a two-story building with six residential units housing a total of 26 people --15 adults, 12 children, and four dogs -- according to the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Council District Eight staff was on the scene to assist with housing serv-

ices partner, Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS) team. Thanks to HOPICS, all families were provided with temporary housing, and all pets are being cared for by family friends.

"This is a city in crisis with families seeking out dwellings with tenement conditions because they cannot find housing any-

where else," said Eighth District Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. "It is essential to continue to address the need for adequate funding for affordable housing, inclusive planning, and the continued funding of crisis services. Thank you to LAFD, LAPD, Los Angeles Building and Safety, and of course, our service providers."



FILE PHOTO

Marqueece Harris-Dawson



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President Biden Calls for End to Systemic Racism During CBCF Conference

Chaka Khan, who headlined the NNPA Summer Conference in June, closed out the CBCF's Phoenix Awards with "I'm Every Woman"

STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

President Joe Biden applauded the work of the Congressional Black Caucus and called for ending systemic racism during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Phoenix Awards.

this nation and to ensure that Black Americans are fully dealt into the economy, and to this society, they have built and shaped for centuries."

Hosted by actress, Angela Bassett, the Phoenix Awards recognizes extraordinary contributions to the Black community and featured Stacey

The conference featured thought leaders, legislators, and concerned citizens who engage in economic development, civil and social justice, public health, and education.

CBC Chair Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio) opened the conference with honorary co-chairs Rep. Anthony Brown (D-Mary-

nesses: One Year Later," where panelists discussed the racial wealth divide.

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the significant impact both environ-

Additionally, the conference featured a panel discussion on the impor-



President Joe Biden

The awards closed out the week-long Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference.

"I got here just a year after the Black Caucus started, 50 years, and the Black Caucus has gotten stronger every year with a powerhouse of ideas and a training ground for a lot of great leaders," President Biden remarked.

"The CBC has made a difference, and as we emerge from this pandemic, the time is right to root out systemic racism. The time is now for a moral response to heal the soul of

Abrams, Ledisi, and others. Singer, Chaka Khan closed out the awards with her hit song, "I'm Every Woman."

The conference also acknowledged the largest Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) class to date.

"The conference programming reflect[ed] our charge for 2021 and beyond to a continued commitment to uplifting, empowering and mobilizing Black communities through the theme of 'Black Excellence Unparalleled: Pressing Onward in Power,'" CBCF officials noted.

land) and Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Delaware), CBCF Chair Lori George Billingsley, and CBCF President Tonya Veasey.

Sessions included "Re-envisioning Liberation for the Global Black Diaspora" and "Real Talk: Conversations about Family Caregiving in the Black Community," featuring Melanie Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and convener of the Black Women's Roundtable.

The conference also tackled "The Impact of COVID-19 on Black Busi-

"Black businesses continue to experience the downside of navigating a pandemic and dramatically reduced access to resources especially customers and contracts," conference officials stated.

"The lack of equitable access to capital and shrinking reserves continues to hinder sustainability. Clearly, COVID-19 has impacted our society in more ways than one, and Black entrepreneurs are fighting a pandemic within a pandemic."

Sessions also included an "Environmental Justice Braintrust," which focused on the connection between environmental justice and health disparities.

mental and health disparities have on communities of color.

This year's program delivered discussions on the intersections of these two areas and what must occur to address these disparities.

Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.) led a voting rights brain trust titled, "Winning the Fight for Voting Rights," where panelists will discuss the urgency of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, Alabama Congresswoman Terri Sewell's legislation to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and address modern-day barriers to the ballot box.

tance of mental health in the Black Community.

Panels also took on the narrowing of the wealth gap and the state of housing in Black America, Sustaining Fathers, Black Men and Boys through the Impact of COVID Pandemic and Racial Justice, and a discussion on the impact of the late boxing great Muhammad Ali.

The 13th annual Black Women's Roundtable Policy Forum: The Power of Black Women's Leadership in the Voting Rights Movement also occurred during the weeklong event.

The conference concluded with the annual Phoenix Awards and the "Black Block Party."



Chaka Khan, who headlined the NNPA Summer Conference in June, closed out the CBCF's Phoenix Awards with "I'm Every Woman."

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Councilmember Ridley-Thomas Celebrates 30 Years of Public Service and Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony For The Avis & Mark Ridley-Thomas Wellness Center

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In celebration of Councilmember Ridley-Thomas' 30 years of public service in elected office and the

ing the development of thousands of affordable housing units to investing in both the physical and intellectual infrastructure needed to elevate under-

Drew University, exemplifying a profound commitment to community empowerment - we have focused on mental health, recovery, trauma prevention, rehabil-



Ms. Avis Ridley-Thomas and Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas

ribbon cutting of the Avis & Mark Ridley-Thomas Wellness Center, a luncheon was hosted at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) campus on September 16. The event included remarks from CDU leadership, Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, and Reverend James M. Lawson Jr, in addition to a dialogue among long time colleagues Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Ms. Avis Ridley-Thomas, Congresswoman Karen Bass, and Professor Cornel West, which was moderated by ABC7 Eyewitness News co-anchor Marc Brown.

Over his three decades of public service Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas has made an indelible mark on countless issues that have impacted our region - from leading efforts to address the homelessness crisis and support-

served communities. "When I embarked on this journey three decades ago, I could never have imagined the enormity and dynamism of the challenges we would face, nor did I anticipate the resilience and ingenuity of the countless friends and colleagues with whom I have collaborated," said Councilmember Ridley-Thomas. "After all these years, one thing is clear - it's easy to focus on deficits and deficiencies in our public systems and within our broader communities. My personal commitment, and my governing philosophy, has always been to be asset-based. And there is no better example of what can be accomplished than the transformation of the Willowbrook community over the past decade. The new facilities, both on the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Campus, and at Charles

Dr. Drew University, exemplifying a profound commitment to community empowerment - we have focused on mental health, recovery, trauma prevention, rehabilitation, and the other essential wrap-around services that promote long-term wellness. Avis and I could not be more proud that our names will accompany the new Wellness Center on the CDU campus - a location focused on ensuring that CDU students will be properly cared for, just as they prepare to care for others."

CDU is a private, non-profit, community-founded, student-centered University committed to cultivating diverse health professions leaders who are dedicated to social justice and health equity for underserved populations through outstanding education, clinical service, and community engagement. Over 80 percent of students and 71 percent of faculty are from communities of color. In 2017, CDU was credited by The Chronicle of Higher Education as the second



Community partners cut the ribbon at Avis and Mark Ridley-Thomas Wellness Center

most diverse four-year private nonprofit college in the nation.

The Wellness Center will provide urgent care, mental health counseling, and wellness programs to CDU students, faculty, and staff within the 10,000 square foot building, with an emphasis on counseling services that promote student success and emotional well-being.

"Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science have been change agents for Willowbrook and the surrounding communities for decades," noted Dr. David M. Carlisle, President and CEO of CDU. "It is very fitting that a building on our campus dedicated to improving health outcomes for students and underserved populations for decades to come will

bear the Ridley-Thomas name."

APLA Health's newest Health Center will be co-located with the Avis and Mark Ridley-Thomas Wellness Center. A non-profit organization, APLA Health aims to achieve health care equity and promote well-being for the LGBTQ+ community, particularly in underserved communities, and people living with and affected by HIV. Since 2005, they have served Black and Latinx communities on the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Campus, focusing on removing the many health disparities that disproportionately affect communities of color, including higher rates of HIV infection and chronic diseases, and serving LGBTQ+ individuals who may not seek medical care due to the crushing stigma around sexual orientation

and gender identity.

"Our goal with this new health center is to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the Willowbrook, Watts, Compton and Lynwood communities by providing culturally competent, convenient and accessible sexual health services, along with LGBTQ+ focused primary medical care, dental and behavioral health services," said Craig E. Thompson, CEO of APLA Health. "We know that the most effective way to end the epidemic is by offering these services in communities that have the greatest need and addressing disparate health outcomes head on."

The new facility, set to open this Fall, will provide low-cost health services to more than 5,000 local-area residents annually when fully operationalized.

LA Seeks Proposals to Operate Vision Theatre in Leimert Park

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas announced that the city is seeking applications from performance arts groups and venue operators to manage, operate and program the Vision Theatre and the Manchester Junior Arts Center in

ter," Ridley-Thomas said. "While there are still many steps ahead, this solicitation for an operator with the skill and capacity to program to the caliber that the community deserves and expects, gets us even closer to a long-awaited opening night."

The next phases of reno-

at as the premiere venue in South Los Angeles serving the community," said Danielle Brazell, general manager of the city's Department of Cultural Affairs. "We will accomplish this goal by completing a \$40 million adaptive reuse and modernization project and by identifying the most experienced and qualified partner to successfully program, operate, manage, and maintain the Vision MJAC."

"Partners with a proven track record of administering a year-round, multidisciplinary performing arts center/theater with a training program focused on the creative development of young people in the performing arts, technical production, and leadership will be considered through this process," she continued.

Venue operators and performance arts groups seeking to submit a proposal can ask questions about the process by emailing dca.contractsunit@lacity.org by Dec. 10. The submitted questions and the answers will be made available to all on <https://labavin.org>.

The DCA will provide two in-person, mandatory pre-proposal conferences and site walks for applicants at noon on Oct. 5 and Nov. 3. Applicants must RSVP by Oct. 1 and Oct. 29, respectively, to yvonne.farrow@lacity.org.

The request for proposals is available at culturela.org.



FILE PHOTO

Leimert Park, which officials hope will become the premiere arts venue in South Los Angeles.

The Vision Theatre was built as a movie palace in 1931, and the city took control of the property in 1997 to turn it into a performance and junior arts center. The Spanish-style Art Deco building was renovated, with the front portico, lobbies, upstairs offices and event spaces restored to become the Manchester Junior Arts Center.

"The Vision Theatre sits as the crown jewel of performance and artistic expression in Leimert Park. Its rebirth represents a grand opportunity to honor a long and storied cultural legacy as well as write a new chap-

ter. The city has invested more than \$36 million in infrastructure upgrades, preservation and interior improvements.

"The Department's goal is to reopen the Vision The-

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Bill Capping the Use of Rubber Bullets, Tear Gas Awaits Gov's Signature

ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

A police reform bill calling for stricter standards on how law enforcement officers across the state use rubber bullets and tear gas for crowd control has been approved by both the California Senate and Assembly.

The legislation, Assembly Bill (AB) 48 introduced by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), is awaiting Gov. Gavin Newsom's signature. He has until Oct. 10 to sign or veto it.

"During the nationwide protests in 2020, many reports showed peaceful protesters and bystanders being seriously injured, even permanently maimed, by dangerous projectiles," said Gonzalez, who represents California's 80th Assembly District located in southern San Diego County.

"This bill will protect Californians' right to safely protest by establishing statewide standards that help minimize the overuse

of these dangerous weapons, while directly law enforcement on how and when they can deploy projectiles in truly life-threatening situations," she continued.

AB 48 prohibits the use of kinetic impact projectiles – i.e., rubber bullets and plastic bullets – as well as chemical agents like tear gas by any law enforcement officer or agency "to disperse any assembly, protest, or demonstration." It also prohibits their use solely "due to a violation of an imposed curfew, verbal threat, or non-compliance with a law enforcement directive."

Under current law, a peace officer is allowed to use reasonable force to arrest or to prevent the escape of a suspect -- or to subdue that person if there is resistance. Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to provide instructional courses and training to law enforcement officers on the use of force.

POST is the state agency responsible for set-



AP PHOTO
Bill prohibits law enforcement officers from using rubber bullets and tear gas for crowd control.

ting basic standards for hiring, training for police officers in all 58 counties.

In addition, AB 48 requires officers to be trained on the safe use of kinetic projectiles and chemical agents for situations where any person's life is threatened or instances where a person faces serious risk of injury.

In these situations, according to the bill, officers would be required to employ other de-escalation techniques before using projectile weapons. Also, the officer must provide prompt medical assistance to any person injured. The bill prohibits aiming these weapons at the head, neck,

or other vital organs.

Across the country, on average, officers receive about 50 hours of firearm training during the police academy. They receive less than 10 hours of de-escalation training, the Brookings Institution reported in April 2021.

The California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA), which represents over 16,000 members employed by municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, has publicly registered disagreement with parts of AB 48.

"This bill is a near-exact replica of last year's failed AB 66, which CPOA

opposed," said Shaun Rundle, CPOA Deputy Director. AB 66 was also authored by Gonzalez.

CPOA is in favor of limiting the use of less-than-lethal force but has safety concerns about officers being struck by -- or targeted with -- life-threatening items such as frozen water bottles, bricks, and laser pointers.

"Restricting the use of less-lethal options limits the tools that are at an officer's disposal to protect public safety," the California State Sheriffs' Association said in a statement opposing AB 48.

"However, by restricting when an officer may use those tools, their response to a particular situation may end up being guided by choices about practices that may be acceptable or unacceptable to some instead of what measure is most appropriate in the context of the event," the statement continued.

Last year, Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Gardena), chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus,

introduced another police reform bill, Senate Bill (SB) 731. Although that bill did not make it to the Senate floor for a full vote, SB 731, which proposed a statewide process to disqualify bad officers and block them from being hired by other agencies, resurfaced as SB 2 last December. The updated version of the legislation passed in the Senate with a 28-9 vote last week. It has been sent to Governor's desk for signature or veto.

According to the State Sheriffs' Association SB2 could be an obstacle in hiring, recruiting, and maintaining employees.

Bradford, on the other hand, says the legislation is timely and necessary.

"We want to be intentional about what we are doing here in California when it comes to police reform," Bradford told the Senate Judiciary Committee about SB 2 last April. That's what this bill does. It's intentional in what we are trying to achieve. This is a fair measure and far better than any that exist today."

Rep. Beatty Introduces Legislation to Establish National Rosa Parks Day



Rosa Parks

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In coordination with Reps. Jim Cooper (TN-05) and Terri Sewell (AL-07),

U.S. Congresswoman and Congressional Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty (OH-03) introduced legislation to establish Rosa

Parks Day as a Federal Holiday.

"Through her willingness to sit, Rosa Parks stood up for what she believed in," Beatty said.

"As a state legislator, I was proud to lead the push to make the Buckeye State the first state to officially recognize Rosa Parks Day. It's now time for us to come together as a nation to honor this American hero through a new national holiday."

In 2005, Beatty, then-Member of the Ohio General Assembly, spearheaded legislation to designate

December 1st as "Rosa Parks Day" in the State of Ohio -- making the Buckeye State the first in the nation to formally recognize the Civil Rights icon.

Ohio's annual Rosa Park tribute has engaged thousands of children and community leaders across the state to celebrate Mrs. Parks' legacy and example.

"Rosa Parks is a hero to countless Americans and to me," Beatty said.

"Her life and actions on that historic December day more than 50 years ago have inspired people across

the country and around the world to stand up against discrimination and work peacefully to create a more just and fair society." Beatty continued,

"I was honored to have led the charge in the State of Ohio to recognize Rosa Parks, and I'm proud to push to get her the national recognition she deserves."

Gov. Newsom Directs Nearly \$138 Million to Local Fire Prevention

BY ALDON THOMAS STILES
California Black Media

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration, through the California

destroyed 3,050 structures and caused one confirmed fatality.

Newsom and others have claimed that climate change is contributing to



FILE PHOTO

Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (Cal Fire), has directed nearly \$137 million in funding to local fire prevention.

Newsom approved \$123 million of that funding in April for the Fire Prevention Grant Program, while the additional \$14.8 million is being repurposed from grants from Cal Fire's budget last year.

These funds have been allocated to 105 local fire prevention programs in communities across California.

"California and the western U.S. are facing an unparalleled risk of catastrophic wildfire in this new climate reality. That's why @CAL_FIRE is directing nearly \$138 million in grants to protect and build resilience in local communities," Newsom tweeted.

Last year, Newsom cut roughly \$150 million from Cal Fire's budget.

According to Cal Fire, California's wildfire crisis has burned about 1,968,326 acres, damaged or

the wildfires.

"These grants will further our work to tackle California's forest health and wildfire crisis, funding community-based projects that build resilience to protect lives and property," Newsom said in a statement last week.

Newsom also claimed that California is a leader on the national stage in the global fight against climate change. He made that statement last weekend when President Biden visited California to support him before the recall election Tuesday.

"California is leading the nation with bold solutions to protect people and the environment, and the Biden-Harris Administration is proposing transformative investments to take on this existential crisis. With their dedicated partnership, we will continue to scale up our forest health and wildfire resilience efforts and ensure our communities recovering from wildfires have the support they need," he said.

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| One Bedroom | 1 | \$576 | from \$19,200 - \$28,250 | \$1,197 | from \$37,830 - \$47,100 | \$1,449 | from \$45,390 - \$56,250 | | |
| One Bedroom | 2 | \$576 | from \$19,200 - \$32,280 | \$1,197 | from \$37,830 - \$53,800 | \$1,449 | from \$45,390 - \$64,560 | | |
| One Bedroom | 3 | \$576 | from \$19,200 - \$36,330 | \$1,197 | from \$37,830 - \$60,550 | \$1,449 | from \$45,390 - \$72,660 | | |
| Two Bedroom | 2 | \$634 | from \$21,600 - \$32,280 | \$1,342 | from \$42,840 - \$53,800 | \$1,730 | from \$54,480 - \$64,560 | | |
| Two Bedroom | 3 | \$634 | from \$21,600 - \$36,330 | \$1,342 | from \$42,840 - \$60,550 | \$1,730 | from \$54,480 - \$72,660 | | |
| Two Bedroom | 4 | \$634 | from \$21,600 - \$40,350 | \$1,342 | from \$42,840 - \$67,250 | \$1,730 | from \$54,480 - \$80,700 | | |
| Two Bedroom | 5 | \$634 | from \$21,600 - \$43,590 | \$1,342 | from \$42,840 - \$72,650 | \$1,730 | from \$54,480 - \$87,180 | | |
| Three Bedroom | 3 | \$690 | from \$24,000 - \$36,330 | \$1,477 | from \$47,610 - \$60,550 | \$1,988 | from \$62,940 - \$72,660 | | |
| Three Bedroom | 4 | \$690 | from \$24,000 - \$40,350 | \$1,477 | from \$47,610 - \$67,250 | \$1,988 | from \$62,940 - \$80,700 | | |
| Three Bedroom | 5 | \$690 | from \$24,000 - \$43,590 | \$1,477 | from \$47,610 - \$72,650 | \$1,988 | from \$62,940 - \$87,180 | | |
| Three Bedroom | 6 | \$690 | from \$24,000 - \$46,830 | \$1,477 | from \$47,610 - \$78,050 | \$1,988 | from \$62,940 - \$93,660 | | |
| Three Bedroom | 7 | \$690 | from \$24,000 - \$50,040 | \$1,477 | from \$47,610 - \$83,400 | \$1,988 | from \$62,940 - \$100,080 | | |

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Applications will be accepted between September 9th, 2021 through October 11th, 2021

For more information, visit <http://www.liveatprado.com> or call 714-274-7011

Completed applications must be mailed to the address noted above. Mailed applications must be postmarked by October 11, 2021 to be included in the lottery. Eligibility for Prado is determined by household size, income, and age restrictions. If a sufficient pool of applications is not received as a part of the lottery then Prado will accept new applications on a first come, first served basis. Maximum and minimum income limits apply.

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America's Inhumane treatment of Haitians

{continued from Pg. A-1}

will not succeed, and you will be endangering your life and your family's life."

Traveling across Mexico, Haitian men, women, and children reached encampments found within Texas. Some people traveling from Haiti have taken refuge in Mexico, Associated Press recorded Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico's foreign minister, stating "Mexico does not have any problem with them being in our country as long as they respect Mexico's laws."

There have been multiple flights issued by the U.S., transferring hundreds of recently deported people back to Haiti this past Sunday. The Haitian government has shown concern in the abrupt arrival of the unsheltered population.

New York Times recorded the head of Haiti's national migration office, Jean Negot Bonheur Delva, stating, "We are here to say welcome; they can come

the country without an opportunity to seek asylum." according to recent reports from Politico.

Different reactions have erupted from Capitol Hill on the matter. The following elected officials and academic experts weighed in on the heaviness of the current events.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of the Department of Africana Studies, CSULB, and executive director of the African American Cultural Center (US), stated, "The chasing down and charging with horses, herding like cattle and whipping Haitian immigrants for simply seeking asylum in the U.S. as a human right and urgent need is cruel, inhumane, savage and unsupportable. It is also a reflection of a racist approach to immigration policy in which the dark peoples of the world, especially Black people, are seen as dirty, diseased, dangerous and deficient in human dignity and social worth, and therefore, unworthy of acceptance in



U.S. Customs and Border Protection mounted officers attempt to contain migrants as they cross the Rio Grande from Ciudad Acunpa, Mexico, into Del Rio, Texas, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021. Thousands of Haitian migrants have been arriving to Del Rio, Texas, as authorities attempt to close the border to stop the flow of migrants. AP PHOTO/FELIX MARQUEZ

perspective of the Haitian people, "Haitians are facing widespread gang violence that has paralyzed entire communities. The situation in Haiti is devastating, and Haitians are at

Providing her final thoughts, Waters said, "Not only am I outraged by the reprehensible behavior of these border agents who seem to lack humanity, I am extremely disappointed

tweeted Saturday the following statement, "This is completely inhumane, Haitians are experiencing a crisis after crisis and deserve compassion. Instead of stepping up deportation,

call on DHS Secretary Mayorkas to ensure that mistreatment and violence like this never happen again. The Congressional Black Caucus is actively monitoring developments and we are prepared to travel to the border to observe this situation ourselves. Treatment like this cannot be tolerated."

Congresswoman Karen Bass stressed her distaste, by stating, "Seeking asylum in this country is a legal process. What's happening is unconscionable. Border patrol agents on horseback whipping Black immigrants is reminiscent of the 1800s. They must be held accountable. It's unacceptable and must stop immediately. We have to get to the root of this issue which starts with international engagement and addressing why people are leaving their homes, their families, and their communities to make this perilous journey."



Haitian migrants use a dam to cross into and from the United States from Mexico, Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, in Del Rio, Texas. AP PHOTO/ERIC GAY



A Haitian migrant bathes in the Rio Grande along a dam where migrants cross into and from the United States from Mexico, Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, in Del Rio, Texas. AP PHOTO/ERIC GAY

back and stay in Haiti — but they are very agitated," said Delva. "They don't accept the forced return."

Agents on horseback engaged with the weary Haitian families, preventing further movement across the border. Major concerns expressed by the Haitians that are currently being moved include food and security.

Reporters on the frontlines have captured the fol-

lowing statement from a Haitian man, "We need food for every day. I can go without, but my kids can't."

Karenga continued, "Clearly, this savage and abusive treatment calls for immediate and vigorous disciplinary punishments and policy correctives that not only address and end this particular form of brutality, but also ends similar policies and practices and instead offer an immigration policy that is dignity affirming, rights respecting, and a firm expres-

tempting to seek refuge in the United States for the possibility of a better, safer life for themselves and their families."

"Fueled by the ongoing strife in Haiti, Haitians are making long and dangerous journeys to reach the United States — a country they believe is fueled by compassion and justice — only to be met by the brutality of cowboys on horseback

in the Biden Administration for its willingness to continue the racist application of immigration policies and tactics utilized by Donald Trump, the most xenophobic and dangerous president in our nation's history."

"I am calling on the United States to allow the Haitian migrants to file for the refugee or migra-

we should be halting it. It's shameful that from administration to administration our cruel immigration policies remain."

Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) stated, "The images that we've seen over the last 24 hours are horrific and I share the outrage being expressed by Americans across the country. This sort of mis-

When Vice President Harris was prompted to speak on the current action taken against Haitian people crossing the border in refuge, she stated, "What I saw depicted about those individuals on horseback treating human beings the way they were is horrible." She continued, "And I fully support what is happening right



Thousands of Haitian migrants have been arriving to Del Rio, Texas, as authorities attempt to close the border to stop the flow of migrants. AP PHOTO/FELIX MARQUEZ



The Biden administration plans the widescale expulsion of Haitian migrants from a small Texas border city by putting them on flights to Haiti starting Sunday, an official said Friday, representing a swift and dramatic response to thousands who suddenly crossed the border from Mexico and gathered under and around a bridge. AP PHOTO/ERIC GAY

lowing statement from a Haitian man, "We need food for every day. I can go without, but my kids can't."

Many Haitian families shared their fear of returning to their homeland, due to gang-controlled areas and the extremely low levels of resources. A number of Haitian people are returning to no direct place to live.

Since Friday, approximately 3,300 people from the Del Rio camp have been removed, with zealous goals to expel thousands more before the week is over. This type of rapid expulsion came from initiatives put in place by former U.S. president, Donald Trump, in March of 2020. It allowed for people who have not been recognized by the U.S., "to be immediately removed from

sion of equity and justice for Haitians and all peoples of the world."

Congresswoman Maxine Waters shared her response. In her recent press release, Waters "condemned" the current behavior observed in the rapid expulsion of the Haitian people from the borders.

She stated, "In every sense of the word — I am absolutely outraged by the United States Border Patrol agents' incomprehensible treatment and abuse of Haitian migrants seeking refuge in the United States."

Congresswoman Waters continued, "Right now, Haitians are trying to pick up the pieces of their lives after a devastating earthquake in August — the second catastrophic earthquake to hit the island nation in less than twelve years. Haitians are reeling from the aftermath of the assassination of Prime Minister Jovenel Moise and the lack of a credible, functioning government that has followed."

Waters shared within her press release, an overlooked

with whips. The images of this unconscionable attack by United States border agents on helpless Haitian migrants have an uncanny resemblance to the photos in our history books that show the truth of how Black people were treated in this country in centuries past. I demand that this detestable treatment of Haitians be stopped immediately!" Congresswoman Waters said.

tion status they are seeking as allowed by the United States Constitution and urge the Department of Homeland Security to conduct its investigation into the matter comprehensively and credibly." Waters declared.

Actions practiced by Homeland Security have been flagged as "inhumane," Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar

treatment is an affront to the very conscience of this nation, and it is absolutely unacceptable."

Beatty continued, "The Congressional Black Caucus has a long history of supporting our brothers and sisters across the Diaspora and we have pledged our support for the people of Haiti. To that end, I have called for an investigation into the actions of CBP and

now, which is a thorough investigation into exactly what is going on there. But human beings should never be treated that way, and I'm deeply troubled about it. And I'll also be talking with Secretary Mayorkas today about it."

Labeled as "America's swiftest large-scale expulsions of migrants or refugees in decades," over 320 Deported Haitians arrived in Port-au-Prince on three flights on Sunday.

According to National Public Radio (NPR) on Monday, there were more than 10,000 people, many of them originally from Haiti, camped out in neglected conditions under the International Bridge.

The source confirmed flights made back to Haiti was a directive under the Biden administration. The general request from those fleeing their homeland in Haiti is to have a better life.



Men lift a baby over the waters of the Rio Grande river as migrants, many from Haiti, wade across from Del Rio, Texas, to return to Ciudad Acunpa, Mexico, Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, to avoid deportation from the U.S. AP PHOTO/FELIX MARQUEZ

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FALL READ: Anita Kopacz's debut novel SHALLOW WATER was part of her deep ancestral healing

BY LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Hello fall, 2021 the long, hot summer is behind us and as we cast our eyes towards the fall, winter, with a new year just a few months away, The idea of moving forward swirls around our collective consciousness.

I've read a few books that I feel strongly will provide your mind with a kind of comfort while still engaging your mind in deep exploration and the first on my fall reading is Anita Kopacz's gripping debut novel SHALLOW WATERS.

What immediately caught my imagination was that the main character was not only a mermaid but a reimagining of Yemaya, an Orisha (deity) from the Yoruba religion. This beloved deity has been kept alive with respect through an oral tradition brought to the new world by enslaved Africans in the early 16th century. You see, compelling, right?

Here, Kopacz crafted and breathed life into Yemaya, giving her a body who makes the journey to the U.S., not as a captive African slave who survived the brutal, inhumane trans-



Anita Kopacz COURTESY PHOTO

atlantic slave trade. Instead, she followed the ship filled with stolen Africans in her true form — as a mermaid.

Let's rewind for those readers who don't know much about this ancient religion. Yemaya, also known as Yemoja, is considered the mother of all Orishas and is the Yoruba powerful divinity of the waters, specifically, Nigeria's Ogun River.

In this story, Yemaya is released from a fishermen's net by a young boy, Obata-

la, who, while in awe of her presence. Many years later, when Obatala is taken by the slavers' ships, she follows them with the hope of returning the favor.

Knowing that her mermaid form would not terrify humans, she transforms into a human with great effort to continue her search for the now-grown man, Obatala. When she awakes, she finds herself in a community of Indigenous people who are aware of her spiritual

Significance. In taking care of her, she's informed that she's just at the beginning with Obatala's capture, it's just the inciting incident that gets Yemaya moving.

Kopacz's novel is swift as it chronicles a path dotted with important destinations and historical figures that are woven into the story.

By using traditional folktale techniques, Kopacz's builds a vibrant world for Yemaya as she moves through the United States experiencing the tense, secret world of the Underground Railroad and the pain experienced on the Trail of Tears and meeting icons like

Fredrick Douglass, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

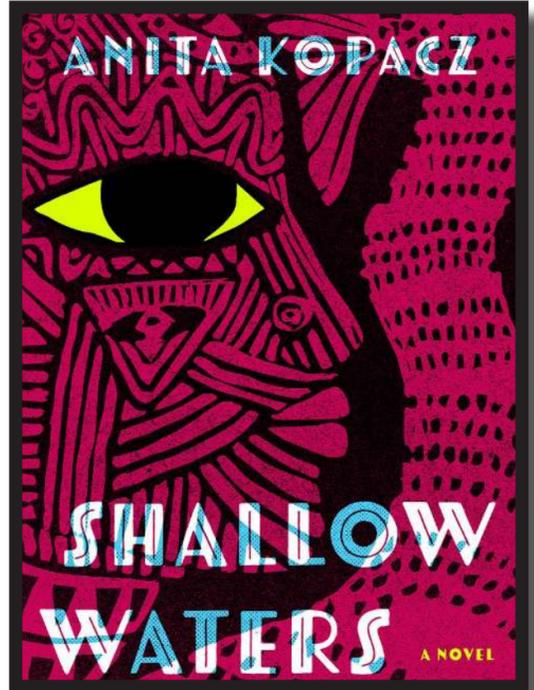
There is great intelligence at work with Kopacz centering on an African woman within the context of important markers of our shared past.

Yemaya (here, in this story) is the key to why some significant points in history happened and why they were successful making her presence just as memorable.

At first glance, many contemporary audiences might be reminded of Disney's "Little Mermaid,"

which is yet another example of cultural reappropriation of which White people are known for. It's important to know that Yemaya and the existence of mermaids [merpeople]

Emerson and sending him into the world with a new point-of-view. In his literary piece, she steps into the shoes of the "villain" — the plantation owner who healed the whipped and



predate all popular culture. What this Orisha represents is the healing of a life-long trauma, both physical and cultural.

Yemaya can heal her own injuries and those of others, removing an illness from Ralph Waldo

beaten slaves, never losing any of his "property."

And what is Yemaya's source of power? Water just as the Earth's sun powers up Superman. Kopacz

{See READ C-2}

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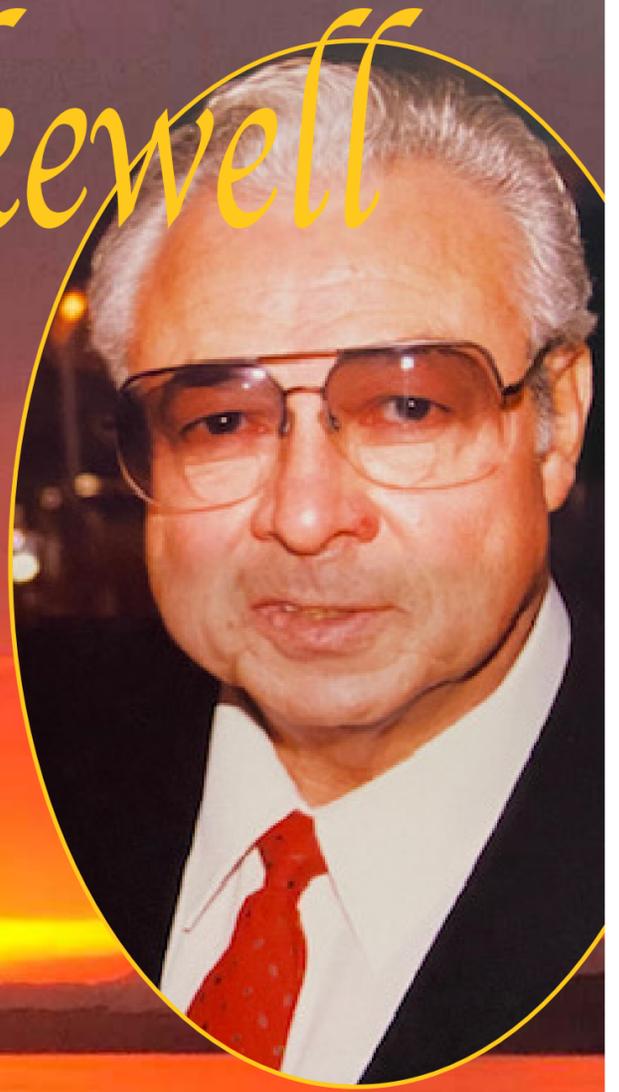
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Earl L. Bakewell

“Uncle Earl”

July 26, 1930 - September 22, 2020



Earl L. Bakewell was welcomed to the world and his family July 26, 1930 at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana. He passed away of natural causes on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. Earl unfortunately contracted COVID 19 while being a long term resident of an Orange County nursing home, and was never able to fully return to normal health.

Earl was a proud native son of New Orleans, Louisiana. The community known as the ‘Treme’ within the 6th Ward was where his family was from, and St. Peter Claver Catholic Church was where they practiced their faith and formed true friendships. Family was Earl’s was core, followed by friends, food, music, and faith. The French Quarters was his playground and where he had expressed a many of fun times. It also was where learned his first hustle in life, to shine shoes. Yes, Earl built himself a small wooden shoeshine boxes and proceed to market his services.... Nickle a shine Nickle a shine, would you like a shine?

Earl attended Xavier University Preparatory for high school.

The Nunes, Teaching Staff, and student body would connect fondly with Earl until his passing. After graduating from his beloved Xavier Prep, he enlisted in U.S. Army. He was off to serve his country and see other parts of the U.S. and the world. While in the Army, he discovered that he was gifted with leadership and administration skills which opened the door for rapid promotions. During his tenure in the Army, he found himself in New Jersey “Fort Dix”, New York City, Japan, then Korea. During the Korean war, he was stationed towards the frontlines where he witnessed the war first-hand. During the conflict, he and other members of his division would pull monies and materials to support the local orphanage and assist where they could; he survived the Korean War. After serving six years in the Army, it was time return to the U.S. notably New Orleans, and then college.

Earl resettled with his family and enrolled in Xavier University with a focus on business administration. During this time, he began a business venture with his brother Frank. The business was a small neighborhood tavern, “The Cozy Corner”, which connected the local

community and enabled him to apply the business principles which he learned at Xavier.

In the winter of 1956, Earl left his beloved New Orleans for new opportunities in Los Angeles, California. Earl was among many from the Crescent City to relocate to Los Angeles. Southern California was new, exciting, and full of promise. Earl settled in the Crenshaw district among his fellow New Orleanians. Earl worked in aerospace, hospitality & spirits, retail, automotive, legal, and real estate industries. The lessons that he learned as an entrepreneur back in his beloved New Orleans, he used in his new hometown of Los Angeles by starting several businesses - The Cazbar Cocktail/Jazz club, a convenience market & Liquor store, Petroleum Transport, and Real Estate. Let history note that Earl Bakewell was driven and was always seeking success. His ambitious drive rewarded him all of the comforts of success. He prided himself as a well-dressed man, enjoyed having the best cars and owning homes. Earl enjoyed sharing his success with his family. He was a giving man. Earl loved music and those who performed. As a child in New Orleans, he was surrounded by music and this began his love af-

fair with music and song. While stationed in New York with the Army, he began to study the art of Opera. From that instruction, he used that as a platform to sing, and sing often. Singing was his hobby and passion which he shared with friends and family. When he would hear a few notes from either Nat King Cole, or Frank Sinatra, don’t be surprised if you would hear his baritone voice riding the notes of the song.

In the later part of his life, he left his beloved Los Angeles for the warmth of Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, he and his beloved June would enjoy all that Vegas had to offer. Visiting with friends would lead into dinner and drinks at a casino. Maybe taking in a show, where maybe he would be asked to sing a song or two, or just enjoying the warm desert nights under the neon lights of the Vegas strip. Earl liked Vegas.

Earl was a son, brother, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He was the youngest son of Lawrence and Wilamina Bakewell. His siblings: Marion Bakewell Carter, and Frank J. Bakewell. Earl’s two sons: Michael Lance and Vernel. From Lance, he was gifted with three granddaughters: Consuelo Morgan, Angela Moore, and

Jackie Honaker. Earl was also the loving stepfather to Valencia Blanks Burner. In-addition, he was the cherished uncle of Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., Pamela Bakewell (Pam’s Godfather) and Lawrence G. Carter. In addition to the younger generations of the Bakewell family. For the past forty years (1980 to 2020), Earl has shared this life and love with his beloved Ms. June Gaines of Las Vegas NV. If anyone knew Earl Bakewell, it was truly June. From the time they met at the perfume counter at Sears’s department store in Inglewood California in 1980, It was one adventure after another. Earl being the Don Juan that he was, said to himself, this one is a keeper. And forty years later, the love affair continued. A true blessing!

As our family reflects on the loss of beloved Earl and his many accomplishments, everyone is confident to say that they are all blessed to be able to call him a Life Companion, Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa, Uncle, and friend. We will always love you and we’ll always miss you. Rest in peace Earl L. Bakewell



We will always love you. Rest in peace Earl L. Bakewell



RELIGION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

www.lasentinel.net

B-3

Byars Promotes Love & Joy of God Through Music

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

More than 30 years ago, God anointed the creative talents of Rickie Byars, empowering her to write as directed by the Holy Spirit.

Since that time, she's only soared higher and higher while proclaiming the love, joy and power of the Lord.

Such is the uplifting ministry of Byars, who has introduced countless people to Christ through her musical skills. Many people became acquainted with her gifts during her tenure as the founder and director of the Agape International Choir, but not everyone realized that she has also composed more than 200 songs.

Byars' dynamic abilities will be displayed on Friday, September 24, at

7:30 p.m., when she appears on "The Inner View" series with Dr. James Mellon, host of the show and spiritual director of Global Truth Center Los Angeles. Admirers can join the studio audience or live stream the program.

"To have a conversation with James Mellon for 'The Inner View' is a celebration of life, in-and-of-itself. He is a great teacher who considers my works to be great and will ask questions of one who for many years was considered only a musician," Byars said. "I am thankful for the opportunity to be honest and to share my joy in both music and philosophy."

Joy of music and joy in the Lord are two defining characteristics of Byars, who attributes her creativity to God. Once filled with the Holy Spirit, she said, her

point of view changed.

"The world became more expansive when I discovered that God was so much more than the emaciated White man on the cross that was the central focus in the Catholic Church of my youth and way more colorful than the White Madonna with the beautiful White baby," she recalled.

"I would learn that Santa Monica was actually an African saint from Ethiopia and the mother of St. Augustine, an African from Carthage.

"I would

learn that the first Madonna images were Black and that these particular paintings and sculptures were to be found in museums all

over Europe.

and even now, in the bedroom of the Pope," remembered Byars.

Through her spiritual awakening, she grew closer to God, learned more about the teachings of Jesus and committed to the principles of love. These beliefs guide her in the production of "The B-Hood Sunday Devotionals," a live streaming program where she imparts inspiring messages and music.

This confidence will also empower Byars in her newest project of compiling an archive to make her songs easily available to public.

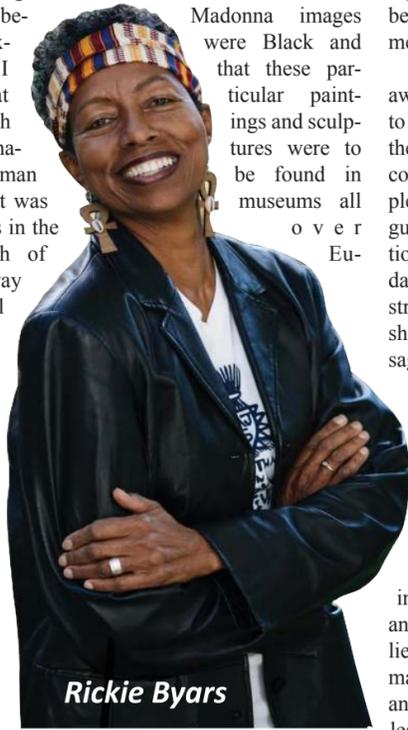
"I believe in life, I believe in God, I believe in the teachings of Jesus and the ways of love. I believe that this universe is magnificent and intelligent and I intend to align in it by learning to love who I truly

am and deliver my gifts to the world for the liberation of all people," declared Byars.

And if she ever feels hesitant in her determination, Byars will be comforted by her favorite scripture, which she said is, "The 23rd Psalm – the whole thing" starting with, "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want."

Her mantra is, "Use Me O God. I stand for You and here I'll abide as You show me all that I must do."

Rickie Byars will appear at the Global Truth Center Los Angeles, located at 880 Hampshire Road, Suite W, in Westlake Village. The in-person ticket donation is \$50 and live stream is \$25. To learn more, visit globaltruthcenter.org/rickiebyarsevent or call (818) 508-7171.



Rickie Byars

COURTESY PHOTO

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church Marks 100th Anniversary

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

Celebrating a history of worship and community service, the members of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church gathered for the parish's 100th anniversary on September 10-12.

The three-day celebration was designed to spotlight the tremendous impact that the ministry has made upon L.A.'s Jefferson Park district. The festivities featured a school alumni mixer, a Thanksgiving Mass and an anniversary reception.

Bishop John Ricard, superior general of the Order of the Josephites, was the chief celebrant for the Mass and Father Greg Chisholm, a former pastor of Holy Name of Jesus, delivered the homily.

Family and Friends Fun



Father Kenneth Ugwu, Holy Name pastor, enjoys the festivities at Family & Friends Day.

parking lot, attracted nearly 200 people of all ethnicities.

"It's been a really wonderful celebration. I'm very glad to be a part of this history," said Father Kenneth Ugwu, Holy Name

pastor who was appointed to the church in February 2020.

"When I came, it was only one month before the shutdown because of the

pandemic, but I was able to make it because of the people, who are really beautiful. I love them. It's really a blessing to be here!"

Holy Name has proved a blessing to the greater

community as well through its operation of a K-8 school and various outreach programs. The church's ministries emphasize religious education, assistance to the infirm, intercessory prayer and feeding the homeless.

"One of the things I am passionate about is working with the Young Adult Ministry," said Deacon Douglas Johnson. "I work with Deacon Jose Penete and his daughter, Rosa Penete. It's an African American and Latino ministry."

As Rosa Penete explained, "Every Thursday, we have a revival, which includes an altar call and people come from everywhere – Montebello, San Pedro, other parts of Los Angeles – to experience this. It's a good way for us to spread the message of God."

Every since its found-



Deacon Douglas Johnson with his wife, Sheree, a Holy Name member since childhood and HNOJ School alumni.

ing in 1921, Holy Name has shared God's word through a robust evangelism program. While the congregation was originally White, a significant influx of African Americans united with the parish during the Great Migration from southern states in the 1940s and 50s.

Today, the membership is comprised of mostly Black Americans, but there are also Latino, Belizean and Nigerian congregants. The diverse groups come together for Mass, available in both English and Spanish, and other programs sponsored by the church.

Acknowledging that Holy Name is one of the few majority-Black Catholic parishes in L.A., member Monica Lewis credited the church's forerunners with setting the stage for future generations.

"All of parishioners before us laid the foundation. They instilled in us the importance of supporting your church and that really has helped to keep Holy Name going as well as the spiritual vibrancy of the pastors that we've had," noted Lewis.

She added that those ancestors also stressed civic involvement, which continues today through Holy Name's ongoing collaborations with elected officials and neighbor-based organizations.

Looking forward to another century of worship and service, the congregation invites Angelenos to join them for the journey.

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church is located at 1955 W. Jefferson Blvd. in Los Angeles. To learn more, call (323) 734-8888.



Rosa Penete, left, and Deacon Jose Penete, far right, direct the Holy Name of Jesus Young Adult Ministry. Looking on are two young adult members of the church.

Day was another highpoint as local residents joined church members for food, games, entertainment and fellowship. The outdoor event, held on the church's

pastor who was appointed to the church in February 2020.

"When I came, it was only one month before the shutdown because of the

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Gospel International

•DR. MAULANA KARENGA•

The Radical Emergence of Kawaida Philosophy: A Critical Time of Turning

Again, in our continuing celebration and assessment of our 56 years and 224 seasons of work, service, struggle and institution-building as the organization Us, we are ultimately and unavoidably led to Kawaida philosophy. For indeed, it is Kawaida philosophy that is not only the central source from which I created the Nguzo Saba (1965) and Kwanzaa (1966), but also it is the indispensable foundation and framework on and within which we live our lives, do our work and wage our struggles for African and human good and the well-being of the world. What follows below is again an excerpt from my book, *Kawaida: A Communitarian African Philosophy*, with additional commentary.

Kawaida philosophy evolved in the 1960s, forged in the crucible of the struggle for freedom. It, of necessity, bears the tone and texture of an organization, Us, and a movement, the Black Liberation Movement, both engaged in intense ideological and practical struggle to change society and the way we think about it and thus, the way we think about ourselves in it. The Sixties was a time of critical social struggles and sustained ideological discourse about the good and just society, the role of culture, the meaning of Black, the relevance of Africa, and the road to revolution or radical and progressive societal change. And the organization Us, the organizational context for the development of Kawaida, played a significant role in these ideological and social struggles in this critical time of turning. In spite of reductive translations by a host of interpreters of various political and academic orientations, the Sixties marks one of the most definitive decades,

perhaps the most definitive decade in African American history. In fact, as a result of its achievements and often exaggerated “failures,” it has become an unavoidable historical referent for understanding our immediate past and making critical assumptions about the future.

Its weight as a critical period in African American history is established by several factors. First, it was a time in which African Americans through sustained and costly struggle expanded the realm of freedom in the U.S. in a most definitive way. In other words, they, along with their allies, liberalized the established order, breaking through racist barriers, opening up closed doors of opportunity, raising critical questions about the unequal distribution of wealth and power, and pointing the way toward a free, equal and just society. Thus, Africans launched, fought and won struggles which not only benefitted them, but also expanded the realm of human freedom, improved the quality of life, and inspired struggles of other oppressed and politically marginalized peoples and social groups, i.e., other peoples of color, women, seniors, the disabled and others.

Secondly, the 60s marked a period of massive organization, mobilization and political education of Black people. Among the most prominent organizations were: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Nation of Islam (NOI); Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); The Organization Us; Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); Black Panther Party (BPP); Urban League (UL); and the Revo-



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

lutionary Action Movement (RAM) reached their height in the 60s and have not duplicated such strengths since. Thirdly, it is in the context of this flowering of organizations that a second flowering took place, i.e., the flowering of ideological discourse and struggles. In fact, the processes of organization, mobilization and political education all involved ideological discourse, discussion of issues from differing vantage points and worldviews, reflecting a heightened interest of African Americans in social issues, reinforcing political involvement in both community discourse and action, and providing a context necessary for the raising and engaging of issues.

Fourthly, the 60s also was a time of armed struggle through revolts in hundreds of cities as essentially an act of self-defense as argued by Robert Williams, Haji Malcolm X and Frantz Fanon. The Movement was not yet aware of Ida B. Wells' argument for self-defense which preceded Williams', Malcolm's and Fanon's. Fifthly, it is during the 60s that African Ameri-

cans challenged the structure and functioning of academia, redefined “relevant education,” established Black Studies as a necessary and legitimate discipline, and mobilized and organized Black Students into politically conscious student unions. Moreover, the 60s marked a heightened internationalization of the African American struggle with men and women like Haji Malcolm X, Martin L. King, Robert Williams, Fannie Lou Hamer and members of SNCC travelling around the world, speaking our special truth as a people and winning for us moral and political allies we did not formerly have. In addition, the 60s was a time of alternative institution-building with many rooted in the Nguzo Saba and Kawaida philosophy, i.e., independent schools, co-ops, businesses, cultural centers, theaters, art galleries, alternative churches, Black caucuses within integrated institutions, alternative media, political parties and as mentioned above, Black Studies programs, departments and research centers. The thrust for structural self-determination was clearly seen as indispensable to the actual control and direction of one's destiny and daily life.

Finally, the 60s was, especially in its latter half, the Black Power period, defined by its thrust to “return to the source,” to go “back to Black.” It stressed the rescue and reconstruction of African history and culture, redefinition of ourselves and our culture, and a restructuring of the goals and purpose of our struggle

for liberation and a higher level of human life. Moreover, there was stress on returning to the Continent of Africa permanently or temporarily, physically and/or spiritually and philosophically for cultural revitalization, to reestablish links and build mutually beneficial relationships as Haji Malcolm X taught. Likewise, there was a stress on living and practicing African culture as an indispensable part of the liberation struggle and process. The call was for a break with all things European and oppressive and to reassert Africanness, Blackness in its awesomeness and beauty, in its reaffirmed history and humanity.

In all these ideological and political struggles, Us played a pivotal role on the local and national level, especially through numerous organizations building their work, value systems and projects of struggle and institution-building around the Nguzo Saba, Kwanzaa and other aspects of Kawaida philosophy. Definitive of these organizations are: Uhuru Sasa Independent School and the East in New York; Ahidiana Independent School in New Orleans; Institute of Positive Education in Chicago; the Committee for a United Newark; Ujamaa Shule in Washington, D.C.; and the national Council of Independent Black Institutions.

Kawaida also had and continues to have an international impact through both the Nguzo Saba and Kwanzaa, as well as other dimensions of the philosophy selected for application and study by those who

embrace it as a result of Us' pan-Africanist teaching and practice. This intellectual, ideological and programmatic impact of Us does not include its direct work as an organization in these cities as well as in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Akron and Dayton Ohio, building united fronts and self-defense formations modelled on the Simba Wachanga (The Young Lions of Us).

In spite of reductive translations about our work and struggle, we have always maintained a focus on the revolutionary character of culture, seeing culture as the fundamental grounds for the practice of liberation as a wholistic project, i.e., on every level of life. Indeed, we agreed with Haji Sekou Toure, Amilcar Cabral and Haji Malcolm X that the liberation struggle, itself, is an expression of culture and we accepted the revolutionary obligation to wage a relentless cultural revolution within and a political revolution without, resulting in a radical transformation in self, society and ultimately the world. And we have not ceased since!

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

•JOHN E. WARREN•

The Haitian Dilemma

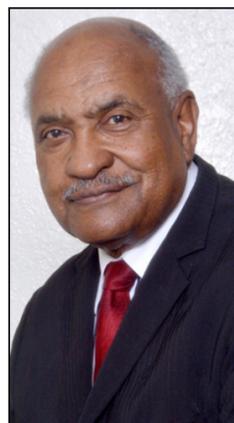
This is a painful commentary. Humanity demands that we all be treated with fairness.

This country has boasted the guarantee to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

Those who live in a world without such assurances hear what we say and see the quality of life that even our poorest of citizens appear to enjoy. So we don't blame the Haitians for doing what each of us would do if we were in their shoes.

This matter is made even more painful when we consider that the politics of color appears to have entered this picture. The recent surge of migrants from South America was not met with exportation but detentions. It appears that, for now, only single individuals are being deported and not families or children. They are allegedly being processed.

Then we have the his-



JOHN E. WARREN

tory of how we have dealt with Haitians and the matter of political asylum. Let's not forget that in 1992 when the U.S. Coast Guard was intercepting Haitian refugees at sea, some on inner tubes and small life rafts; these people were quickly returned to Haiti even though they claimed political asylum while, during the same period, refugees from Cuba also claiming political asylum were taken

in and placed in detention camps in Florida.

The massive number of more than 100,000 Afghans recently airlifted by the U.S. government and expecting to find homes in America, and at the same time we have over 3 million DACA residents also seeking to be recognized and given citizenship, all adds up to numbers that frighten Americans with the question of when do we close the door? The big question is, are we going to treat everyone fairly and, if so, what constitutes “fair”? The same rules must apply to all without the appearance of favoritism.

There has to be a limit on the number of people permitted in the boat or the boat itself will sink.

The problems in all the countries in this hemisphere are closely related to corruption in the governments of those countries along with their crime problems.

The storms and earthquakes that have hit Haiti compound a problem that already existed, not to mention the recent assassination of the Haitian president.

We can control the humanity with which people are being expelled. No more images of border agents on horseback riding people down because they are still coming across the river. There has to be a better way. But to the Haitians and others gathering to illegally enter this country, that can not be permitted.

You create your own humanitarian crisis by making the choice to follow the rumour that all you have to do is show up and come in.

To Americans of all colors, the issue has to be one of more than race. Let's deal with this issue as we can and should.

Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher, The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint

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Local Kappa Alpha Psi Chapter Donates PPE to Pasadena Seniors

By DANNY J. BAKEWELL, JR.
Executive Editor

As part of their efforts to help battle the COVID-19 pandemic and help protect local seniors within their community, the Men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Pasadena Alumni Chapter, took time out of their busy schedules to donate much-needed personal protection equipment (PPE) to the residents of The Terraces at Park Marino Assisted Living Facility in Altadena, California.

The local chapter, which collected items from members within their local chapter and with the assistance of a grant provided by the



COURTESY

fraternity's national office, donated face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer, along

with mask extenders to help the mask fit more comfortably for the seniors who re-

side within the facility.

"We wanted to make sure we did our part to

make sure that the seniors and staff residing and working within the facility had all of the equipment they needed to create a safe working and living environment," stated Brother P.J. Rice, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi and the chair of the Senior Services Committee.

"While most, if not all of the staff and residents of this facility have been vaccinated, we know that our seniors and those essential workers within this facility are the most vulnerable. This is just one way the members of our chapter thought we could provide assistance to those within

our community who needed it the most. This is only the beginning and we certainly intend to do more," stated Christopher Nolan - Polemarch, Kappa Alpha Psi, Pasadena Alumni Chapter.

In order to maintain as much social distance and keep everyone as safe as possible, the staff at The Terraces passed out the items as a "grab-and-go" event.

The members of the fraternity did spend additional time at the facility visiting with Coach Lou Underwood who is a resident of the facility and also a member of the fraternity.

FALL READ: Anita Kopacz's debut novel SHALLOW WATER was part of her deep ancestral healing

{continued from Pg. B-1}

any of his "property." And what is Yemaya's source of power? Water just as the Earth's sun powers up Superman. Kopacz strives to visually replace chains that were placed on the African and Indigenous bodies with them wearing bright colored beads around their ankles, wrists, and neck, and elaborate headdresses adorned with feathers and beads. And in the air, there is joy.

Our tradition is important to remember and to demand that it not be diluted by the very people who enslaved us and tried to destroy our culture.

Mermaids have always been a part of our cultural heritage as passed down by a rich oral tradition. It's no coincidence that our people have been searching for information to fill in the gaps.

It's not by happenstance that our people use strong words like [family] tree and roots and the need that water plays in helping them grow.

The reviews have been strong.

- "A riveting and heart-breaking story strengthened by Kopacz's superb ability to create a sense of place. Fans of Ta-Nehisi Coates's The Water Dancer will want to take a look" — Publishers Weekly

- "A fairy tale for American adults, Anita Kopacz's spellbinding first novel imagines the Yoruban mermaid deity Yemaya as she follows a fleet of slave ships across the ocean in the mid-1800s... A captivating debut." — Harper's Bazaar

- "We transcend time and space as Yemaya herself grows from a tentative young woman into the powerful deity she's destined to

become ... this novel crosses genre as easily as it does time."

— BuzzFeed
- "Kopacz's commitment to a vision of healing even while detailing tragedies shapes this tale's themes of redemption and the universal soul. Most remarkable is Kopacz's ability to maintain a brisk narrative pace as she delves into the weighty issues and complex experiences that shaped Yemaya's quest." — Booklist

Anita Kopacz is an award-winning writer and spiritual advisor. She is the former Editor-in-Chief of Heart & Soul Magazine and Managing Editor of BeautyCents Magazine. When she is not writing, you can find her on the dance floor or traveling the world with her children. Anita lives in New York City with her family

I only had one question for author Anita Kopacz about her debut novel SHALLOW WATER. Just One.

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL: Ms. Kopacz with great respect, I only have one question. Were you guided by an Orisha to share this story, and if so, which one?

ANITA KOPACZ: I was deeply guided by Yemaya throughout the entire journey. It felt as if she was sitting on the side of the bed telling me what to write. I actually had a reading from a Babalowo (Priest) in the Ifá tradition who told me I would be sharing this story with the world. I asked how he knew that, and he

said that Yemaya told him. It has been a journey of deep ancestral healing in order to birth this medicine story. Thank you so much for asking this question.

SHALLOW WATERS is the first work of fiction from Charlamagne Tha God's imprint, Black Privilege Publishing.

2021 NNPA Leadership Awards Delights Viewers, Insiders

{continued from Pg. A-1}

much work to do.

"I cannot begin to tell you how honored I am to be considered. But, I have to be honest, it's difficult to think of my efforts as worthy when there is so much left to do," Dr. Hilton asserted.

"One thing I can promise is to continue trying my best and showing up in hopes of truly deserving this prestigious recognition."

While Felix, who won a record-setting 11 gold medals during the Olympic Games, couldn't attend, other awardees proudly acknowledged the well-deserved recognition.

"I am humbled to receive a National Leadership Award from the NNPA/Black Press of America. As we know, Black journalists have been denied a platform in this country for far too long," Congresswoman Bush stated.

"The excellence of Black journalism should never be taken for granted. From the incredible writers in St. Louis to the journalists pushing for equality abroad, I am deeply honored to be in the company of such dedicated individuals who lead our campaign for a better future for every

human being, starting with those who have the least."

Sen. Booker remarked that he also felt humbled by the honor.

"I'm humbled and honored to be honored by the National Newspaper Publishers Association. The members of the NNPA provide an invaluable service to their communities, shining a light on issues that affect Black Americans and our families," the New Jersey senator proclaimed.

"I stand with the NNPA and its membership in their efforts to inform, educate, and advance their mission of promoting a more just, equal society."

Dr. Hildreth, the president and CEO of Meharry Medical College, also expressed appreciation.

"I am honored to be recognized by the National Newspaper Publishers Association and Black Press USA as one of this year's National Leadership Award recipients," stated Dr. Hildreth, a member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Board that approve the COVID-19 vaccines.

"I am humbled to be named among such a prestigious group of honorees who have impacted so many lives through their

work," Dr. Hildreth remarked.

"I am grateful to NNPA, its member newspapers, and the Black Press USA for their efforts to serve as trusted sources of information for people all across the country."

NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards, NNPA President Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., and New Orleans Data News Publisher Terry Jones hosted the awards reception.

The reception included conversations with singer Regina Belle, actress Gabrielle Union, and actor Louis Gossett, Jr.

Produced by NNPA News Director Norman Rich, the program garnered praise from viewers and the NNPA's executive board.

"Amazing production," Carter Richards wrote in a text message.

"It was an awesome reception," added NNPA National Secretary Jackie Hampton, publisher of the Mississippi Link.

NNPA 2nd Vice Chair and Publisher of the County News in Charlotte, N.C., concluded, "awesome teamwork."

Click here to view the NNPA National Leadership Awards Reception.

The California Legislative Black Caucus Endorses Cecil Rhambo for Los Angeles County Sheriff

{continued from Pg. A-1}

be the Sheriff all of LA could be proud of," said Senator Steven Bradford (D-

Gardena), Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus. "I know he is the right person to lead the LA County Sheriff Department during this state and national demand for police reform

and accountability, and I

trust his commitment to bringing desperately-needed transparency, equity, and integrity to the Department."

This past year the Black Caucus has authored police reform legislation to include changes in use of force, banning chokeholds, age requirements of officers, and ac-

countability among other improvements to law enforcement - many of which are shared strategies of Mr. Rhambo as a veteran officer in LA County. If elected, the Black Caucus is confident Mr. Rhambo will enforce these changes and provide solutions to crime both outside and inside the department.

Nonprofit Groups and Health Agencies Partner to Increase Vaccine Access

{continued from Pg. A-4}

your social media activities and we're going to do the same thing with Google because if we've learned anything here, we have to also bring in social media and drown out some of the disinformation and unfiltered content that that's coming out. From the National Minority Quality Forum standpoint, we want to help you."

Offering the resources of his organization, the executive related, "We have a lot of data [that] we spent the last 20 years building a database of over five bil-

lion patient records. We know what's happening in your zip code, we know how many people have diabetes and heart disease and cancer. We have all of that data. We want to share it with you and the way we want to share it is by empowering the relationship that started here."

The advice from EBCF President Head contained a reminder that since the pandemic will likely continue for the foreseeable future, ongoing health resources will be needed to rectify the disparities in BIPOC communities. Fortunately, said Head, the

partnership model can be tailored to mold community-based organizations into trusted messengers.

"These organizations are doing this work on a daily basis. They are aware community residents look for assistance for advice to be able to give input and these organizations listen," said Head.

"So my hope is that we in philanthropy especially, but also in the government sector, that we will understand how the importance of community-based organizations has revealed itself."

Wendy's

WINDOW

Forgiving for Living

For Every Problem There is a Solution

Once we are born, there are two things we all are going to experience no matter how hard we try to avoid them, no matter how much money or fame we have. One of those things is death. The Bible is very clear that all of us will experience a single, permanent death, no one gets out alive. The second thing is problems. A problem is any matter or situation regarded as unwelcomed or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome. Problems can be personal or unique, but there are problems most of us will encounter in some form or fashion like, health, relationship, friendship, money, or workplace. In my lifetime I have learned that it is not just the problem that causes the pain, hurt, misery, defeat, and disappointment, but rather how we handle the problem. Sometimes problems do not require a solution to solve them, instead they require maturity to outgrow and overcome them.

James Baldwin said, "not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced." We cannot avoid facing our problems. Truth is, when we avoid our problems, they usually come back as an even bigger problem. Running away from a problem only increases the distance from the solution. In my profes-

sional career I have been known as a problem solver. I believe I have earned this reputation because I have a Ph.D from the School of Hard Knocks and I minored in "tough times." This education taught me that, every problem has a solution. A problem may not last forever, but if you want it to go away sooner than later you must define and diagnose it so that you focus on the real problem and not just on its symptoms. Albert Einstein once said that given an hour to save the world, he would spend 55 minutes defining the problem and only 5 minutes thinking of a solution.

I once had a mentor who would say "do not bring me a problem without a solution." I am now going to give you a solution on how you can solve some of the problems who will face during your lifetime. First, identify what the real situation is and why it is troubling you. You should ask yourself what do you want to change or achieve right now, also remember there is no problem outside of you that is superior to the power within you. Secondly, understand what you can and cannot control, also remember the serenity prayer that says, God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to

know the difference. Third, take action with a positive attitude. Problems are a fact of life, you cannot control when or how they occur, but you can control your attitude, also remember problems are opportunities dressed in work clothes and finally, have faith that there is no problem that you and God cannot handle together. Remember faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. When we have to accept certain things that we face in life it does not mean we have to do it alone.

When a solution is found for your problem, it is your job to accept responsibility to do what you can to fix it. Owing your solution does not always mean you have to be the one to execute it. There may be someone else that is available and, in a position, to help, but you may have to humble yourself to ask for help. Either way remember, for every problem there is a solution.

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'The Assayer'

From Dr. Jeanette's "Purging Series"
 {"Purging The World With His Winnowing Fork" Part 1}
 {"The Fuller's Fire" Part 2}
 {"The Refiner's Fire" Part 3}
 {"The Assayer" Jeremiah} Part 4

In ancient times, the LORD sent prophets to announce prophetic oracles to kings, elders, scribes, priests and the people as a whole. These prophetic messages were awesome, difficult to hear and sometimes the hearers could not imagine them coming to pass. More than that the people oftentimes did not believe the oracles, because the people were so set in their ungodly ways of doing things, it was unimaginable for them to make changes. Their terrible, destructive ways were engrained in their hearts, minds and habits. But, the prophets were undaunted with no fear of delivery and did not falter or change the message. The oracles from the prophets were rooted in God's commissions and they were speaking only what God had told them to speak, the truth and were written to be heard then and for the long term future. In introduction to the Book of Jeremiah 1-3 we find Jeremiah has been called by the LORD. He does not readily accept the calling and responds to the LORD that he is "just a boy." The LORD corrects him and reenforces that whatever he may be thinking or being doubtful about, Jer-

emiah 1:6-8, "wherever I send you and whatever I say for you to say, you must do that. Have no fear of those who want to frighten you and threaten you to give up. In essence the LORD says, fear not. I will be with you and I will deliver you." Jeremiah is a divine messenger "an assayer, a tower and a fortress among my people and you may try their ways." He was sent by the LORD, who tells him in Jeremiah 6:27-30, "You are made an assayer—a refiner to my people. You are to test them because their actions have caused me to reject them. (They do not listen.) They are stubborn and defiant. Even the smelter smelts in vain and to no purpose. And the dross is no good." Isaiah says it a little more clearly, "Isaiah 1:25 "I will smelt out the dross as with lye and remove all slag. I will purely purge (refine) away the dross—take away the tin (slag). This means there will be a complete purging due to the disobedience of the people. Although this message is immediately addressed to Jerusalem, the message is relevant to us today. In Jeremiah's Temple Sermon (Jeremiah 7:1-10:25) The LORD spells it (the pu-

rification process) out so clearly there would hopefully be a turning back to Him and stop worshipping false gods. He says if you listen to me I will let you dwell in the land. Mend your ways. What were some of the things they were doing that got the LORD so upset? ---He told them: execute justice between each other; do not oppress the stranger, the orphans and the widows; do not shed the blood of the innocent; do not follow other gods. This is to your own devastation. He says, "I will do the same as in Shiloh. He will cast them out of His presence just as I did with Ephraim. In Jeremiah 7:17, He says you are making cakes to the Queen of Heaven; the children gather sticks, the fathers build the fires. The children were being sacrificed in the fire. And they set up their horrific acts in the House called by His name! How bad is that? Remarkably, the LORD would warn and give another opportunity to mend their ways. But God would no longer tolerate their wickedness and has to show His hand as a loving God because He did not want their souls to go the Hell. Through these sacri-

(See PARKER C-5)

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Supporters, Opponents Clash Over Bill That Would Decriminalize Loitering for Prostitution

BY ANTONIO RAY HARVEY
California Black Media

Stephany Powell, an advocate for sex crime victims and survivors, hopes Gov. Newsom will veto Senate Bill (SB) 357.

The legislation proposes ending punishment for people “loitering in a public place with the intent to commit prostitution.”

Powell, who is Director of Law Enforcement Training and Survivor Services for the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), and other advocates say, if the bill is signed into law, it would provide increased “open-air” activities in disadvantaged communities.

“I’m just thinking about the people living in the communities that would have to deal with (prostitution),” said Dr. Powell, a former city of Los Angeles law enforcement officer. “They (the lawmakers) need to come up with something else because it’s a band-aid approach to the issue. People who don’t have a full understanding of how this can be problematic. I hope it’s vetoed.”

The Washington DC-based NCOSE is dedicated to creating an environment free from sexual abuse and exploitation, through policy, legal, corporate advocacy, education, and public mobilization. Dr. Powell joined the organization in 2020.

The author of SB 357, Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) presents a counterargument. Wiener says the bill protects sex-trafficked women from the police who use loitering laws to discriminate against minorities, including Black, Latino, Trans, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual people.

Existing law prohibits soliciting or engaging in an act of prostitution. It also prohibits loitering in a public place “with the intent to commit prostitution, as defined, or directing, supervising, recruiting, or aiding a person who is loitering with the intent to commit prostitution.”

Under the existing law, a violation of any of these provisions is a misdemeanor. SB 357 would decriminalize them.

California Penal Code 653.22 allows police to arrest someone for intending



Stephany Powell, Director of Law Enforcement Training and Survivor Services for the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) COURTESY PHOTO

to solicit or engage in prostitution even if the person never actually engages in the act. The offense is commonly referred to as “loitering to commit prostitution” or “loitering for prostitution.”

Powell said this law is effective. Police officers do not actually have to catch someone engaged in prostitution before apprehending them she says, adding that the police “can arrest the sex buyer and the person selling the service.”

Although Powell says it is easy for innocent people to find themselves under suspicion because of the latitude police officers have under current law, she insists, based on knowledge from prosecutors and D.A. offices’ investigations of sex trafficking and underage prostitution, it would not be a significant problem.

“Say if I am the vice cop out there. I see a girl but don’t know if she’s 16 or 19. But remember: if she is under the age of 18, she is automatically considered to be a victim of human trafficking,” Powell said. “The only reason why I would be able to stop her is because of P.C. 653.22. So, let’s say SB 357 becomes legal. Well then, what am I stopping her for? Because, God help me, if she’s 21. I’m going to have some legal problems?”

The governor is getting increased pressure from individuals for and against SB 357, including sex worker advocates across California.

Sex-trafficking survivors and anti-trafficking ad-

vocates held a news conference at the California State Capitol to protest SB 357.

Vanessa Russell, founder of the Bay Area’s Love Never Fails, a non-profit dedicated to the restoration, education, and protection of those involved or at risk of becoming involved in domestic human trafficking, said SB 357, the Safer Streets for All Act, is “deeply disturbing.”

“As a direct service provider, I think it’s important to call out a few things, unfortunately. The false narrative that is present and embodied in SB 357,” said Russell. “This is a bill that is preying on the current anti-sentiment of communities of color. This is not a partisan issue. This is a humanitarian issue. It is an issue that all of us need to engage on to show (sex trafficking) survivors they can be safe.”

Four survivors of sex trafficking spoke outside the state capitol to express their displeasure with the bill. They said police officers use loitering laws to nab solicitors and traffickers -- as well as to save trafficked women and men from their brutal traffickers.

The survivors believe that without a loitering law, exploitation of these vulnerable women is only going to increase.

“This piece of legislation only protects the buyer and the trafficker,” said survivor Marjorie Saylor, who also runs a nonprofit for former sex-trafficked women exiting prostitution. “And these are traffickers that send his girls into your high schools to recruit your

sons and daughters.”

Saylor, a Black woman, said that it was a police officer that helped her escape a sex trafficker.

“I was rescued by law enforcement, and I feel that it is necessary that we work and partner with law enforcement to engage these men, women, boys, and girls on the streets. They need a reason to go in and say someone is being exploited.”

The bill also authorizes a person convicted of a violation of loitering with the

New York City is currently dealing with an open-air sex market that vice authorities are turning a blind eye to due to the Brooklyn District Attorney shifting from prosecuting prostitution cases. Brooklyn’s D.A. has moved to vacate 262 warrants related to the sex trade.

Powell said actions such as these empower pimps and sex traffickers.

“This is what it looks like if prostitution is legal,” Powell said of New York City’s approach to the

Fatima Speaks, and co-lead of the Policy Committee for the DecrimSexWorkCA Coalition stated, “this is the first step in repealing a Jim Crow law that criminalizes Black and trans people in public spaces.”

“Sex workers are workers like anyone else, and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect,” said Wiener, presenting his case for repealing what he views as a discriminatory law.

“Our criminal justice system criminalizes people



COURTESY PHOTO

intent to commit prostitution to petition the court for the dismissal and sealing of their case, and resentencing.

The U.S. Department of State has estimated that 14,500 to 17,500 victims are trafficked into the country each year. The figure does not include victims who are trafficked within the United States each year.

world’s oldest profession.

California – a populous border state with a significant immigrant population, the State’s Department of Justice stated – is one of the nation’s top destination states for trafficking human beings.

After SB 357 passed the Senate Public Safety Committee in March by a vote of 4-1, Fatima Shabazz of

– particularly Black, Brown and LGTBQ people – for simply existing and going about their lives. Laws like this one do nothing to make people safer, or stop sex trafficking. Instead, they criminalize members of our community who are simply going about their lives. We need to support sex workers instead of criminalizing them.”

‘The Assayer’

From Dr. Jeanette’s “Purging Series”
{“Purging The World With His Winnowing Fork” Part 1}
{“The Fuller’s Fire” Part 2}
{“The Refiner’s Fire” Part 3}
{“The Assayer” Jeremiah} Part 4

{continued from Pg. C-3}

ances they filled His House built for His Name with the blood of the innocent. He tells Jeremiah to “smash the jug” (Jeremiah 19:10) in their presence which signifies their ultimate ruin. Listen my friends, acquaintances and all those who have the courage to change things for the better. It is time to turn around. Things can change so drastically, so suddenly and so very devastatingly, that it will be different suddenly. One says, “What shall we do?” Re-

member that THE LORD is really in charge. He has allowed these terrible things to come upon us: diseases, murders, hatred between each other, sacrificing the lives of the helpless, babies, old people, denying children their education, serving gods. You can think, “How am I serving other gods?” When we put anything over and above The God Almighty, it is against Him and he will hold us all accountable for our own actions. Thanks for reading. Jeanette Grattan Parker is Founder-Superintendent of

Today’s Fresh Start Charter School: 4514 Crenshaw BL, LA 90043 323-293-9826 www.todayfreshstart.org

Dr. Jeanette’s Articles are copyright. All rights reserved. Inquiring Minds Want To Know” © Ask Dr. Jeanette (TM) www.AskDr.Jeanetteparker.com. Askdrjeanette.successor-the-way@gmail.com References: Jewish Study Bible, “My Notebook,” “Biblical, Theological Ecclesiastical Encyclopedia,” “Interpretation of Prophecy”

Public Notices

exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). S/ JUANESTA C. HOLMES, OWNER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/11/2021. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Original Filing 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/21 CNS-3506619# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

GOVERNMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING PROJECT NO. 2020-000606- (All Districts) PLAN AMENDMENT NO. RPPL2020004333-(All Districts) ADVANCED PLANNING NO. RPPL2020001008--(All Districts) ENVIRONMENTAL

Public Notices

ASSESSMENT NO. RPPL2020001009--(All Districts) Notice is hereby given that the Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the matter referenced above on **Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.**, in Room 381B of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. Interested persons will be given an opportunity to testify. **Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual public hearing may be held. The Los Angeles County facilities may still be closed to the public at this time.** Please visit <http://bos.lacounty.gov/Board-Meeting/Board-Agendas> for details on how to listen to the virtual meeting and/or address the Board. Written comments may be submitted to the address above, attention: Public Hearing Section or e-mailed to PublicHearing@bos.lacounty.gov with the Project No. in the “Subject”. Project status can be obtained online at: <http://bos.lacounty.gov/Board-Meeting/Public-Hearings> or you may also call (213) 974-1426. Location: Unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. General Description of Proposal: To update the Housing Element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan for the 2021-2029 planning period pursuant to California Government Code section 65583, et seq. and to amend the General Plan Land Use Element to add a minimum allowable residential density to certain land use designations, establish that the allowable residential density specified by the General Commercial land use designation in the General Plan will also apply to the commercial land use designations in certain community-based plans, where such land use designations do not

Public Notices

currently specify the allowable residential density and to amend County Code Title 22 - Planning and Zoning to add development standards pertaining to floor area dedicated to residential use in mixed use projects in the Mixed Use Development Zone (MXD). Contact the Department of Regional Planning, **Tina Fung at (213) 974-6417** between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday (office is closed Fridays) or tfung@planning.lacounty.gov directly for questions or additional information. Project materials, including the Final EIR, are or will be available at <https://planning.lacounty.gov/housing/rpc>. Si necesita más información en Español, por favor llame al (213) 974-6427. If you need reasonable accommodations, such as assistive listening devices, agenda in Braille, interpreters, disability-related accommodations or other auxiliary aids, please contact the Executive Office of the Board at (213) 974-1411 or (213) 974-1107 (TTY), Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at least three business days prior to the Board meeting. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible. Máquinas de traducción están disponibles o si necesita intérprete para las juntas del Condado de Los Angeles, por favor llame al (213) 974-1426, de lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m., con tres días de anticipación. CELIA ZAVALA EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 9/23/21 CNS-3511690# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

PROBATE

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 10/25/21 at 8:30AM

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LUADA RHODES CASE NO. 21STPB08943 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of LUADA RHODES. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by DARLENE SWAIN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DARLENE SWAIN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent’s WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 10/25/21 at 8:30AM

Public Notices

in Dept. 4, RM 217 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner DARLENE SWAIN 57 ROLLING RIDGE DRIVE POMONA CA 91766 9/23, 9/30, 10/7/21 CNS-3513073# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DOROTHY BELLOWES CASE NO. 21STPB00259 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of DOROTHY BELLOWES. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by VAN AUGUSTINE BELLOWES JR. in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that VAN AUGUSTINE BELLOWES JR. be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent’s WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 10/22/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner VAN A. BELLOWES JR. 909 W. 70TH STREET LOS ANGELES CA 90044 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/21 CNS-3509249# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

follows: 10/22/21 at 8:30AM in Dept. 2D located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner VAN A. BELLOWES JR. 909 W. 70TH STREET LOS ANGELES CA 90044 9/9, 9/16, 9/23/21 CNS-3509249# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Celebration of Life

Maple Jackson

Maple Jackson was an only child born on July 13, 1935, to her parents Leodis and LaVada in Rosston, Arkansas.

Her parents reveled in hard work. Leodis was a farmer and "man of the house" since the age of 14 and LaVada worked at a

an Associates Degree from Compton College, Bachelor of Arts and Master Degree from Pepperdine University. Maple enjoyed her time at Pepperdine and particularly the sisterhood formed by pledging Delta Sigma Theta.

Upon graduation from

School, Ralph Bunche Elementary and at the school district in the following positions: teacher, vice-prin-

Pastor Raymond R. Cornwell.

Pastor Cornwell and his first lady dedicated their



men. Her commitment San Francisco and Craig is paid off. Eric is the Chief an attorney specializing in Medical Officer for Adven- estate planning (previously



construction site despite her petite size. Later in life, Leodis owned a gas station in Los Angeles and worked for McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company while LaVada kept the house and gas station in meticulous order.

Growing up, Maple had a bossy "old soul" demeanor and the nickname "grandma" was given to her by her cousins ("sisters") Cleo, Orene, Rubye, Claudine, Lorene, Josie, Irene and Olive, stuck through her early years. As with a majority of Black families of the time, the Jacksons moved from the South out West for safety and to pursue an opportunity for advancement. At the age of 5, she now resided in Los Angeles County, California and attended schools in the City of Compton from elementary to high school.

Throughout her childhood, education was prioritized in her home and Maple received high marks in school culminating in

Pepperdine, Maple initially considered a career in the law. After a subtle nudge from her father, she adjusted her sights to the teaching profession.

In 1954, still looking like a high school student herself, Maple was hired by Compton Unified School District as a teacher for Centennial High School. She created the first Black history course curriculum, sponsored/coached debate teams and also tutored students on speech patterns. Her influence on the student body is immeasurable and left lifelong impressions on students who would later become doctors, nurses, judges, attorneys, actors, professors, journalists, teachers, politicians, mothers, fathers, ... the list is endless and spans multiple generations.

During her 43 year career with the Compton Unified School District, she served at Centennial High School, Compton High

school, principal and district supervisor.

Maple's schooling and career didn't take all of her attention. While attending Pepperdine there was a dashing new minister that joined her church (Southside Bethel). She got his attention by being the best student in his Sunday School class and answering ALL the questions. On August 28, 1955, she married

lives to the ministry at Faith Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. The next 51 years the couple devoted themselves to teaching, ministering and loving their church members and the surrounding community.

At home, the couple directed all of their energies toward their three boys, Eric, Mark and Craig. Maple was committed to raising educated, professional



ist Health Lodi Memorial and Dameron Hospital in Stockton, California. Mark is a Managing Director for KPMG (Global Accounting and Consulting Firm) in

erving as City Attorney and City Manager for the City of Compton).

Maple enjoyed a full life, filled with church, parent-teacher conferences, debating, school board meetings, homecoming games, college and graduate school tuitions, community activism, ice hockey games, LEAD meetings, 1st generation student scholarships, basketball games, directing, mentoring, teaching and most of all... giving.

On August 13, 2021, Maple was called to glory.

Maple is survived by her husband, and three sons, Dr. Eric Cornwell (Valerie), Mark V. Cornwell (Gwendolyn) and Craig J. Cornwell (Margarette). Her grandchildren Ryan Cornwell, Taylor Cornwell, Jordan Cornwell, Courtney Cornwell (Adam), Forrest Cornwell and Clarke Cornwell.

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(323) 735-1251 (www.firstamechurchla.org)

Crenshaw United Methodist Church
3740 Don Felipe Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90008 (323) 292-0141

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 a.m.

Virtual Worship Service Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live

Rev. Royce Porter, Senior Pastor

Truth and Love Christian Church
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LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Los Angeles Businesses Find Mentorship Through Jrue and Lauren Holiday Fund

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the uptick of Black Lives Matter protests, NBA guard

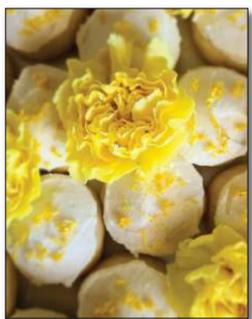


Reigning NBA champion, Jrue Holiday (left) and his wife, Lauren (right) created a fund to help minority-owned businesses in four different cities.

Jrue Holiday and his wife Lauren wanted to help people of color. They decided to use the remainder of Jrue's 2020 salary to help Black and Brown businesses in Los Angeles, Indianapolis, New Orleans, and Milwaukee. This was the inception of the Jrue and Lauren Holiday Fund (JLHF).

"I feel like that's what 2020 started was this big dialogue and conversation about what's best for our country and our people and we can all better each other," Jrue said.

Along with giving the businesses funding, JLHF provides business owners with a 16-week training along with mentorship from the organizations Fund-BlackFounders and The



Maddy creates cookies with a variety of flavors, including s'more, lemon zest, and earl grey lavender.

Kinship Advisors.

The fund has helped several businesses in the Los Angeles area, including Maddy Bear Bakes, Cross-Fitness and Boys2Gentlemen.

she was thinking how could we make that into a cookie," Mariah said. "We're always trying to find new ways to make delicious cookies."

This year, they became a Black Plate Award finalist. Maddy Bear Bakes also began to lease an industrial kitchen space. Maddy has a passion for baking; as a sports fan, the JLHF gives her confidence.

"I like it a lot because it helped my dreams come true," Maddy said.

Cross Fitness

Physical and spiritual wellness are the main priorities of Cross Fitness. The brand offers physical training, athletic apparel, and prayer to their customers. The founders, husband-and-wife duo Darnell and Dominique Gant, both have strong athletic backgrounds and intersect their Christian beliefs with their athleticism.

"I was always taught to see the light in anything that I do and anything that we do is supposed to exemplify

Maddy Bear Bakes

Maddy Bear Bakes is a business that specializes in creating cookies that are



Maddy Williams (left) her sister and Mariah ran Maddy Bear Bakes.

dairy-free, vegan, and gluten-free. The business is run by Mariah and Maddy Williams, with Mariah managing the finances and website while Maddy handles the baking. At the age of nine, Maddy was diagnosed with a milk allergy; she wants to make cookies that people with allergic or dietary restrictions could enjoy.

Maddy Bear Bakes has a myriad of unique cookie flavors, including s'mores and Earl Grey Lavender. They even have cookies that are the flavor of different types of cereal.

"She loves the Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal, so

God ... it was always trying to find a balance," Darnell said. "And for my wife, especially when she brought up this idea, I thought it was great because this is an even bigger and better way to keep that balance."

Creating Cross Fitness required faith and hard work. Dominique worked ardently to create the company website women's apparel while Darnell focused on unisex apparel. Along with selling affordable exercise wear, customers can also submit prayer request on their website.

After enduring the challenges of creating the busi-



Darnell Gant (left) his wife, Dominique (right) created the company Crossfit.

ness, Darnell and Dominique appreciates all the amenities that the JLHF provides.

"That's why we're so grateful for the JLH is because not just the funding, but it's what they represent," Dominique said. "They actually want to get to know your business, what it's about, how to make it better and get you connected to the right people to make your business flourish."

Boys 2 Gentleman

After working for the Los Angeles Police Department for 13 years, Keith Linton quit his job to further help young male students in the Watts area with Boys 2 Gentleman. The organization offers a variety of programming to 26 schools. Programming includes, reading comprehension, leadership, and social-emotional learning. Linton also enjoys



Crossfitness sells women's and unisex exercise apparel that intersects Christianity with fitness.

teaching youth how to tie a tie and how to be financially responsible.

"I'm teaching fourth, fifth, [and] sixth graders how to invest in fake stocks and bonds, but by the end of the curriculum, they really know what it is to lose money," Linton said. "That's important to me because I did not start investing in stocks until my late 30s."

During the pandemic,

Linton published the books "Little Relentless Ones" and "Determined Survivors" which features the written work of students. Linton has been working 20 hours daily to keep the organization afloat, the JLHF helps him with the marketing and finances of Boys 2 Gentleman.

"For us to get free branding, and marketing, free accounting help, free software, free internet design for our websites ... that's priceless," Linton said. "I've never dealt with two people with you and his wife that are going beyond to invest in each non-profit and for-profit."

The JLHF has helped several other Los Angeles businesses, including Pucker Up Lemonade, Prosperity Market, the Mentership, and the Confess Project. To learn more about JLHF, visit <https://www.jlhfund.org/>



Keith Linton created Boys 2 Gentlemen to help the youth in Watts.



The boys involved with Boys 2 Gentlemen partake in different activities, including how to tie a tie.

Student Athlete of the Week: Dorian Thompson-Robinson

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

UCLA senior quarterback, Dorian Thompson-Robinson led the Bruins into national ranking after defeating LSU on September 4. He has made at least 50 percent of his passes in their first three games this season and has seven passing touchdowns as of September 21.

Bruins head coach, Chip Kelly has watched him develop during the past four years and has witnessed his determination, strong work ethic, and commitment to the game. What Kelly likes the most about Thompson-Robinson is his "thirst for knowledge."

"He constantly is work-

ing on his game, whether it's the physical stuff, whether it be weight room, speed work, film watching, decision making, how to become a better leader," Kelly said. "He always wants to get better, [he] knows if he can be a little bit better tomorrow than he was today, he's on the right track."

Thompson-Robinson made the Athletic Director's Honor Roll during the Winter 2019 and Spring 2020 quarters. The resources at UCLA help him excel in his academics.

"When you go to the number one public school in the country, and as well as being coached by Chip Kelly, you tie everything together and it makes it all go around," Thompson-

Robinson said. "It really helps you out in the long run."



UCLA senior quarterback, Dorian Thompson-Robinson was on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll Winter 2019 and Spring 2020.

He also works hard in the weight room and with the wide receivers. Kelly observed his development through the years and mentioned how toughness is

another one of his greater qualities. He recalled Thompson-Robinson's per-

formance against Oklahoma in 2018. "We went into Oklahoma, he was getting knocked around a little bit," Kelly said. "Just kept getting up

and threw an unbelievable touchdown pass to (former wide receiver) Theo Howard ... I think that's a quality in a quarterback that people don't spend enough time talking about."

During the LSU game, Thompson-Robinson endured four sacks to accumulate 260 passing yards and three touchdowns. He has reached the top 10 in career passing yards at UCLA.

After going 3-4 last season, he wanted to do whatever he could to avoid the close losses that haunted the Bruins.

"When you know you're that close, it will only eat you alive at night," Thompson-Robinson said. "So, it's definitely a lot of

self-reflecting, going back and watching film and seeing what you did wrong because when you know you're that close you know that you have to fix a few things here and there."

During the 2020 season, Thompson-Robinson earned a spot on the All-Pac-12 second team for his efforts. Against USC, he made 83 percent of his passes, the most out of any Bruin since 2005.

"In my opinion at least that's the best rivalry there is in college sports, just being able to be a part of that, taking in the atmosphere," Thompson-Robinson said. "I know this year, we're going to be in the [Coliseum] and they're gonna pack that out, so you know it's gonna be fun."



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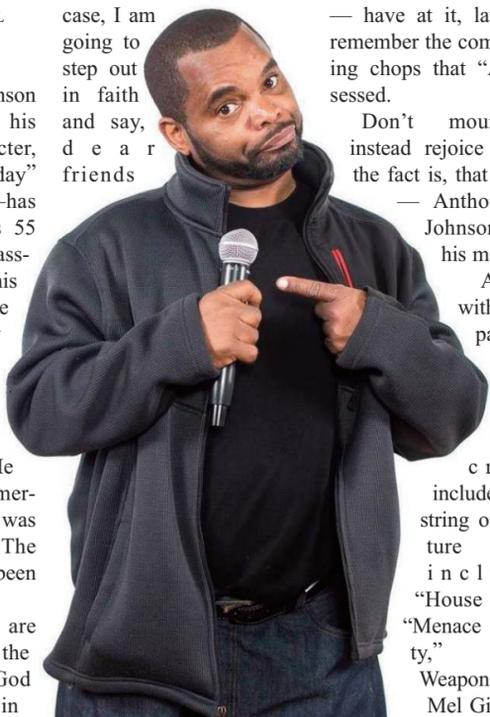
Anthony 'AJ' Johnson (February 1, 1966 – September 6, 2021) – rest in hilarious power

By LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Anthony "AJ" Johnson — best known for his scene-stealing character, Ezal in the hit "Friday" comedy franchise—has passed away. He was 55 and the news of his passing was confirmed by his rep, LyNea Bell with the performer's nephew telling TMZ (TMZ) that his uncle was found unconscious in a Los Angeles store earlier in September. He was rushed to an emergency room where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death has not been disclosed at press time.

It isn't often we are encouraged to laugh at the dearly departed (God Bless the Dead) but in Anthony "AJ" Johnson's

case, I am going to step out in faith and say, dear friends



Anthony "AJ" Johnson

— have at it, laugh, and remember the comedic acting chops that "AJ" possessed.

Don't mourn but instead rejoice because, the fact is, that this soul — Anthony "AJ" Johnson— left his mark.

A long with being a part of the "Friday" franchise, his other credits include a long string of hit feature films, including "House Party," "Menace II Society," "Lethal Weapon 3" with Mel Gibson and Danny Glover,

"The Players Club," "I Got The Hook Up" and "B.A.P.S." with Halle Berry. His television credits include many national commercials and guest spots on "Martin" with Martin Lawrence, "Moesha," and "The Jamie Foxx Show" to name just a few of his hilarious contributions.

The Compton, California native made a name for himself in the stand-up comedy world where the loss is deeply felt.

The condolences are flooding in on social media and it was rumored that he was part of the cast in the upcoming sequel, "Last Friday," reprising his iconic character, Ezal, according to on his official IMDb page.

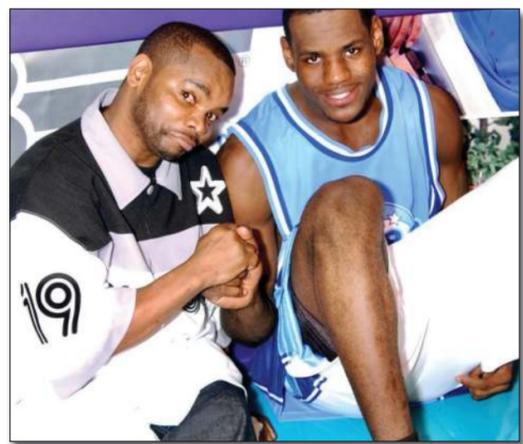
On Ice Cube's official Instagram account, he shared this: "Sad to wake

up to the news about AJ Johnson passing away. Naturally funny dude who was straight outta Compton at the same time. Sorry, I couldn't bring your character Ezal back to the big screen in Last Friday ..."

Johnson is survived by his wife, Lexis, his three

children, brother, Edward 'Peanut' Smith, sister, Sheila, and lifetime manager and friend, Mike D.

To view links showcasing some of Johnson's comedic work, check out the online version of this story at www.lasentinel.net.



Anthony "AJ" Johnson with LeBron James

Gabrielle Union on using 'radical honesty' to tell her story

By HILARY FOX
Associated Press

Gabrielle Union's using "radical honesty" in her new book, which combines lively lighthearted stories

surprised by the reaction to last week's release of the book's first chapter in Time magazine. In "The Truth About My Surrogacy Journey," Union writes openly about the physical barriers

stepdaughter.

"It was so important to write about a bit of Zaya's journey and the fact that we didn't have all the answers. We had no answers at all, but we had to figure it out because not supporting her and not being there to the best of our ability and creating the largest village, the most beautiful, peaceful sanctuary for her was just not an option."

Lighter sections include adventures with friends and family, like riding on a "Bring It On"-themed Pride float or having a dance off with Bruno Mars at a party. Others are tales she never thought she'd share publicly, like "taking ex-lax and drinking dark liquor and going to a strip club. ... It's just a funny story."

Those are mixed in with chapters on more serious topics, like Union's experiences with getting older, the age difference between her husband Dwayne Wade, fertility and her descriptions of the perimenopause "dark depression" that brought her suicidal thoughts.

Her therapist and doctor helped her realize the harmful thoughts were due to a "massive hormonal shift," she says.

"There is a physiological reason," says Union. "It's not a character defect. There is no blame laid at your feet."

Union says she hopes to help others by sharing these intimacies with readers.

"When people can hear you speak or read your truth and they can see themselves or pieces of themselves in what you're saying, it breeds community because they know they're not alone."

Toward the end of the book, Union writes about the treatment and portrayal of Black people in show-business, her character in "Bring It On," the use of blackface in comedy, violence against Black people in news coverage and cultural appropriation of Black beauty.

Her dispute with NBC over allegations of racism on the show "America's Got Talent" was legally settled in 2020 and isn't addressed in "You Got Anything Stronger?"

As for the title, Union wanted to keep the same casual vibe of chatting with friends as "We're Going to Need More Wine."

"We're still here, having a cocktail, you might

need something a little stronger, for what we're going to cover in this one," she says.

"Also to remind us that you are the thing that is stronger."



PHOTO BY EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION/AP

Gabrielle Union attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the "In America: A Lexicon of Fashion" exhibition on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, in New York.

with chapters dealing with her recovery from sexual assault, racist encounters and mental health struggles.

The actor says she "left nothing out on the table" for the already released "You Got Anything Stronger?," which adopts the same casual tone of her 2017 New York Times best-seller, "We're Going To Need More Wine," but also tackle tough issues directly.

"I am a big proponent of putting forth your vulnerability because that is truly your salvation and absolutely your superpower," Union said during a recent interview.

She's been pleasantly

and emotional pressures on her to give birth, the heartbreaks and pain of IVF and her experiences with a surrogate.

Union says she was initially afraid to look at the response online.

Then the texts from her friends started arriving. She started reading comments.

"I think we want something from certain folks in the spotlight. And honesty is the barest of minimums. And I wanted to be able to offer that."

That includes offering advice on a topic she's frequently asked about: her experiences of loving and living with her transgender

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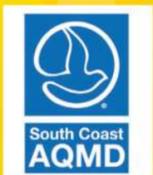
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