

Houston Forward Times

REPORTING THE TRUTH | AFFECTING CHANGE | MOVING FORWARD



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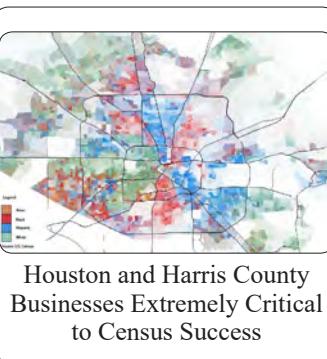
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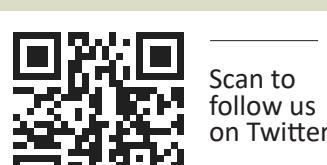


Mu Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Bridge Builder Charity Foundation, Inc. Host 2nd Annual "Mardi Gras with the Ques" Event for Scholarships

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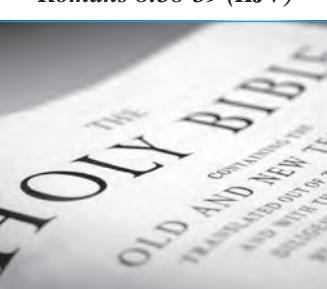
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SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39 (KJV)



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120 YEARS LATER...WE MUST STILL

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY

Associate Editor

*Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;*

Those powerful words, filled with hope and a commitment to having a steadfast faith towards a quest for freedom, come from the beginning of the first verse of one of the most sacred and influential songs in the history of African Americans in the United States – “Lift Ev’ry (Every) Voice and Sing” or as many African Americans refer to it, the Negro or Black National Anthem.

Performed for the first time, approximately 120 years ago, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” was written in 1899 by Mr. James Weldon Johnson, where it was set to music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson.

SEE SING 4A

Gift from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Creates \$301,000 Endowed Scholarship at TSU



The Anna Pearl Barrett Houston Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Memorial Endowed Scholarship became the institution's largest endowment.

TSU Alumna Anna Pearl Barrett's bequest to the Houston Alumnae Chapter matched by Texas Southern University

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY
Associate Editor

More Texas Southern University students will experience the enrichment of studying abroad because of TSU Alumna Anna Pearl Barrett and the Houston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

The sorority presented the university with \$150,500 from Barrett's bequest to the chapter, which was matched by Texas Southern University's Foundation to create one of the institution's largest endowments: the Anna Pearl Barrett Houston Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

The \$301,000 investment will financially assist students who desire to study in other countries and fulfills one of the goals of International Awareness and Involvement, part of the sorority's Five-Point Programmatic Thrust.

The Anna Pearl Barrett Memorial Endowed Scholarship was celebrated with a reception hosted this month at TSU and attended by more than 200 Deltas as well as

Barrett's relatives, Mayor Sylvester Turner, TSU Acting President Ken Huewitt, TSU Vice President of University Advancement Melinda Spaulding, TSU Foundation Trustee Judith Craven, M.D., and a representative from the Office of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

“Our beloved soror, Anna Pearl Barrett, gave back,” Houston Alumnae Chapter President Jona Sargent said at the event before expressing gratitude to the Barrett family. “In grateful remembrance to our beloved soror, we say: Thank you.”

Barrett, who died in 2014, was the first TSU exchange student to study in Spain. She joined Delta Sigma Theta as a member of TSU's Delta Gamma chapter. She also graduated from the University of Madrid and Middlebury College. A career educator, she taught Spanish in the Houston Independent School District and worked as a Bilingual Education Consultant. She traveled extensively in retirement.

SEE GIFT 6A

Houston City Council District B Drama Coming to a Close



Cynthia Bailey



Tarsha Jackson

Special Presiding Judge Upholds November Election Results; Runoff Scheduled for May 2

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY
Associate Editor

As previously reported in the Houston Forward Times, out of all the Houston City Council races that were slated to appear on the December 14th runoff ballot, it was announced that the voters who reside in Houston's District B would not be able to decide who their next representative would be due to a major lawsuit that was filed challenging the original election's outcome.

After causing a huge stir in the District B community of Houston, with people on both sides expressing their views on the matter, a special presiding judge recently ruled that the outcome of the general election that was held on November 5, 2019, was official, and that a runoff between the top two vote-getters should move forward as originally planned.

The ruling allows candidates Tarsha Jackson, who won 21% of the vote, and Cynthia Bailey, who garnered 14% of the vote, to move forward with a runoff that has been scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 2, 2020.

Last December Harris County District Court Judge Cory Don Sepolio ruled that the Harris County District Courts were disqualified from presiding over the case, delaying the District B City Council runoff election and sending the case to a Special Judge.

In the ruling by the Special Judge, it was determined that the City of Houston did not violate its duty, under the Texas Election Code Sec 143.003 (g), when presented with information pertinent to determining the eligibility of candidate Cynthia Bailey.

Additionally, the judge dismissed with prejudice, the claims and causes of third place finisher, Renee Jefferson-Smith, allowing for the runoff election to move forward.

SEE DISTRICT B 4A

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Off the Press

EDITORIAL

Hair Discrimination is Alive and Well



Andrew Johnson, a high school wrestler, was forced to submit to the humiliating act of having his dreadlocks shorn or have his New Jersey team forfeit their match to the opposing team. A gleeful white woman seemed too pleased to invade the young man's person, and his team won, but at what price? When this happened in December of 2018, there was a national outcry, and the referee was suspended.

A year later, DeAndre Arnold, a senior at Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu, Texas, was told that he would not be able to graduate unless he cut his hair. He's been growing his dreads for more than five years, often wearing them in a bun so that they did not violate the school rule that hair could not touch the collar. This is part of a pattern of policing Black hair in our nation's high schools and workplaces. And these dress codes are an attack on Black people, designed by white people and for white people. Hostility toward natural hair, locs and twists is really unvarnished hostility toward Blackness and its manifestation. It is an insistence that Black people conform to Eurocentric norms.

Andrew Johnson and DeAndre Arnold made headlines, but many cases do not. Often, the "code" is subtle, and the backlash painful and undeniable, but never spoken. So many women are told that their hair is "too wild" or "ungroomed," as if bone straight hair is the only way to wear it. And perhaps it is not said so much as hinted. And Black women (and men) have the choice of playing the game or stalling their careers. This doesn't happen so much on the coasts, in California, New York and the District of Columbia, but it happens enough that activists have worked to outlaw hair discrimination.

On July 3, 2019, California became the first in the nation to outlaw discriminating against



Some of them don't even think they are racists. They are, indeed, "nice" people. They speak of neatness, wildness and their own discomfort with "different" hair. They think that folks should go through having their hair fried to make other people comfortable.

I really don't care how people wear their hair. It, truly, is a matter of choice. And hair does not have to be political. But hair choices must be respected and discrimination against natural hair, braids, twists, and locs cannot be tolerated. Intolerance about natural hair is an intolerance against Black people. It is, at best, unacceptable.

Kudos to California State Senator Holly Mitchell for starting the ball rolling. Congratulations to those who worked with her to pass this important legislation. And shout out to the others who have embraced her legislation by introducing it in other states. Hair discrimination is not the most egregious injustice that Black people experience, but it is an injustice nonetheless. Just ask DeAndre Arnold, who won't be able to march with his peer graduates because he wears dreads, or the wrestler, Andrew Johnson, whose locs were shorn because a racist referee had neither intelligence nor tolerance.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianneMalveaux.com.

JULIANNE MALVEAUX
via TriceEdneyWire.com

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Black Voters are the Cornerstone of the Democratic Party and the Most Reliable Voting Block



BY LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE
NNPA Newswire Contributor

During the State of the Union, Trump featured several African Americans from the gallery with long words of praise and detailed introductions. The Republican Party has always struggled with Black voters. But Trump's political team believes that even a small percentage of that vote could mean victory.

Trump is increasingly highlighting his pitch to African Americans as Democrats struggle to decide amongst a crowded field. Political observers understand that Trump is unlikely to win more than ten percent of the Black vote. But it is also understood that any percentage higher than average could be the margin of victory in a close race.

Despite Trump's efforts, polls indicate a huge problem with Black voters. A Washington Post-Ipsos poll last month of 1,088 Black adults found 83 percent of respondents said they believe Trump is a racist. The same percentage said they believe he has made racism a larger problem in America.

A Harvard CAPS/Harris Poll survey released last week found that 22 percent of African American voters approve of Trump's job performance. The relatively high percentage surprised some observers.

"Wake up, folks. The #IowaCaucus was a debacle, followed by a strong #SOTU speech laying out Trump's strat-

egy to win – which includes going for Black voters. This was a warning shot from the Trump campaign to liberals, and we need to take this very seriously in order to win," wrote CNN commentator Van Jones on February 4, after Trump delivered the State of the Union.

"Hey Black America, you see this crap? Trump has himself on a card with Fredrick Douglass. He didn't know who that was last year right? Democrats get your shit together. FAST. Trump ain't playin'! If he gets 12% or more of Black voters it's over," wrote attorney Sophia Nelson over a photo she posted on twitter of Donald Trump and Frederick Douglass proclaiming plans to "Make Black America Great Again."

Because a few of the leading Democrats who may win the nomination to take on Trump are having difficulty courting Black voters, Trump's efforts are not going unnoticed. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg are having issues with Black voters as well.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke.

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Commentary

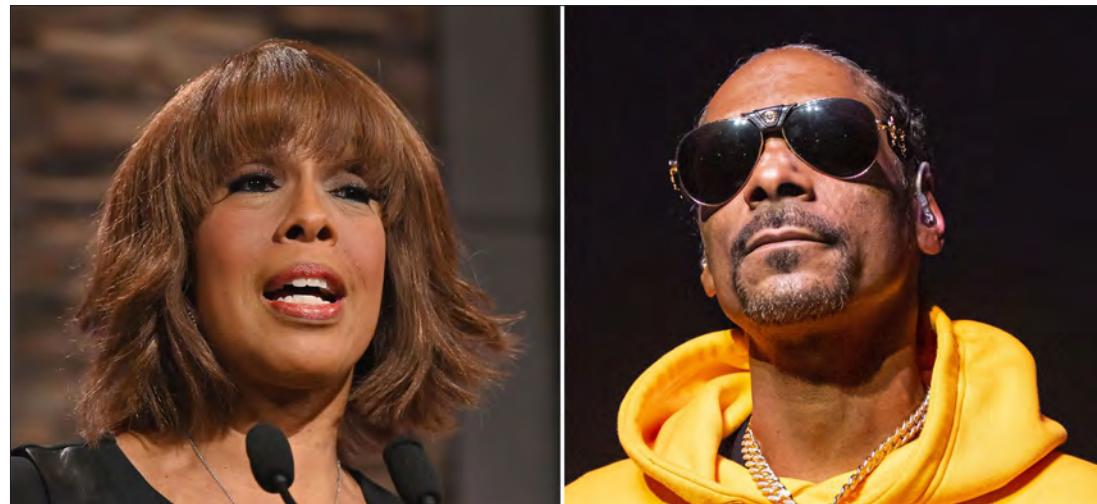
Houston
Forward Times

Julius Carter
Founder and Publisher
1960-1971
Lenora "Doll" Carter
Publisher in Memoriam
1971 - 2010

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Snoop Dogg V. Gayle King and Ambassador Susan Rice

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

Last week, just days after the tragic death of basketball superstar and entrepreneur Kobe Bryant, CBS This Morning co-host, and Friend of Oprah Winfrey, Gayle King, sparked a controversy following her interview with former WNBA star and longtime friend of Bryant, Lisa Leslie.

During an interview that covered a wide range of subjects, King was persistent and insistent as she pressed Leslie to respond to the resurfacing of 17-year-old rape allegations against Bryant. Bryant was not convicted of any wrongdoing in the matter. Prosecutors dismissed all charges against him after the alleged victim failed to appear in court. A civil suit brought by Bryant's accuser was later settled for an undisclosed amount of money.

Many viewers felt that the questioning was insensitive and displayed a lack of simple human decency, given that Bryant's family, along with the families of the other victims lost in the tragic accident, were still grieving.

"It's been said that his (Bryant's) legacy is complicated because of a sexual assault charge that was dismissed in 2003 / 2004," said King to Leslie during the interview. "Is it complicated for you as a woman, as a WNBA player?"

"It's not complicated for me at all," Leslie told King. "I just never see – have ever seen him being the kind of person that would be – do something to violate a woman or be aggressive in that way. That's just not the person that I know."

King continued pressing, telling Leslie, "Lisa, you wouldn't see it, though. As his friend, you wouldn't see it."

Leslie stood firm. "I just don't believe that," she told King, adding that the media should be more respectful at this time.

While both King and CBS assert that it was a wide-ranging interview that covered many topics, she was persistent about the subject of sexual assault in general and its impact on Bryant's legacy, specifically.

After the interview, rapper and actor Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr., took to social media, posting what quickly escalated to an expletive-filled response to King. Some, including King, perceived Snoop's post as a threat.

Snoop, who was a close friend of Bryant, referred to King as a "Funky Dog Head B***h" and told King to pipe down "before we come get you."

On Friday the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, entered into the melee with a warning directed specifically at Snoop, "This is despicable. Gayle King is one of the most principled, fair and tough journalists alive. Snoop, back the **** off. You come for @GayleKing, you come against an army. You will lose, and it won't be pretty."

For his part, Snoop maintains that it's far too early for the media to press the issue of those allegations against Bryant. He argues that the Bryant family and the other families who lost loved ones in the crash are still in the early stages of mourning. And he is not alone.

Snoop later said that he wasn't threatening King. "When I said what I said, I spoke for the people who felt like Gayle was very disrespectful towards Kobe Bryant and his family."

"Now with that being said, what do I look like, wanting some harm to come to a 70-year-old woman? I was raised way better than that," said Snoop, who is 48-years-old about King, who is 65. "I don't want no harm to come to her, and I didn't threaten her. All I did was say, 'Check it out. You out of pocket for what you doing and we watching you. Have a little bit more respect for Vanessa, her babies and Kobe Bryant's legacy.'

The debate over the appropriateness of Snoop's take-down of Gayle King as well as Rice's response, continues to dominate Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, with several noted celebrities and social media influencers joining in.

For her part, Rice has received support from several prominent African Americans, like Senator Corey Booker (D-N.J.), Michael Eric Dyson, and Marc Lamont Hill.

Oprah Winfrey went on the Today Show to complain that King hadn't slept in two days. Others started the hashtag, "#IStandWithGayle."

Those who supported Snoop countered with the hashtags, "#ImwithSnoop" and "#IStandWithSnoop."

White liberals created the hashtag "#IStandWithGayle to try and save their puppet Gayle King, but trying to create a false Black man vs. Black woman narrative," activist and film producer Tariq Nasheed wrote on Twitter. "But it was a Black woman (Lisa Leslie) and other Black women who led the charge against Gayle's disrespect of Kobe."

Eddie S. Glaude Jr., the chair of the Department of African American Studies and the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, said he thought about the King interview and Snoop Dogg's response.

"Misogyny is evil. Period," Glaude stated. "Sometimes, when people grieve, when they are in pain, they hurt others. They cause pain," he said.

Many blasted King and Winfrey, who have both received criticism for going after Black men implicated in sexual assault while standing up for White men who have been accused of the same or similar crimes.

Photos of King and Winfrey posing with Harvey Weinstein, Charlie Rose, Bill Clinton, and other White men who've been accused of being sexual predators littered the Internet.

"Kobe had one accuser, and he was acquitted," Isaac Hayes III wrote on Twitter. His message was accompanied by a video of King supporting Rose. In the video, King appears to lash out at those attacking Rose. "I don't know what more we can do to Charlie Rose except a public flogging. He's gone, he's not coming back to CBS News," King says in the video.

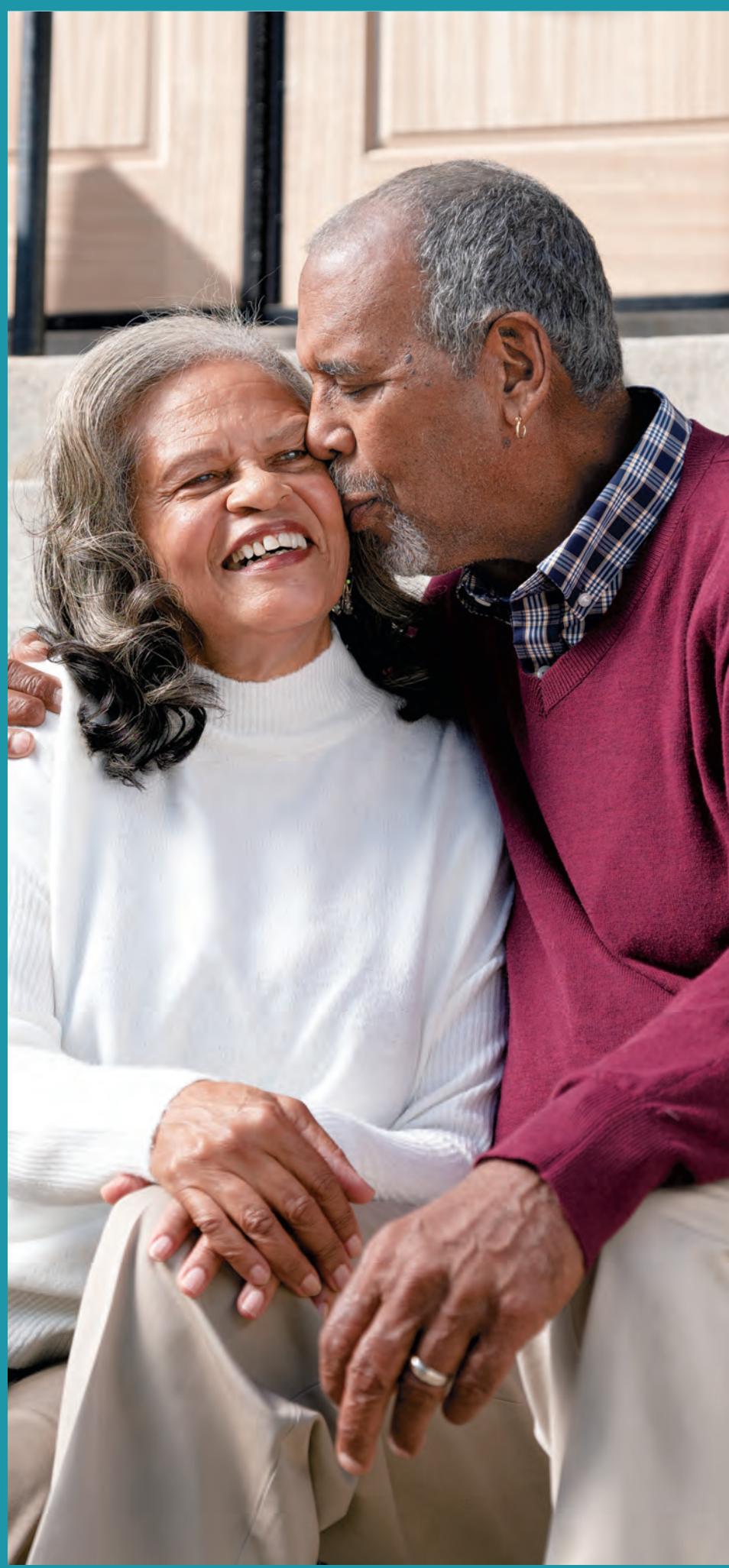
Hayes responded: "Charlie Rose had 27 accusers, and Gayle King stood by him. Kobe is gone and not coming back."

Hip-hop star and tv producer 50 Cent also mentioned his displeasure with King.

"Gayle King, why would you do that to your people? You know what people are going through right now," said 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson III. "I didn't understand what the goal was at that point. She knows what Kobe means to the actual culture at the same time. Like they knew what Michael Jackson meant. I just don't know what you're trying to do when the men are dead."

"The legal system couldn't deal with it," he added. "What are you supposed to do, publicly convict him? Is that the idea? Now is it justice or is it revenge? ... It's all public opinion now."

"Why would you ask a question like that, trying to tarnish somebody's image? You do that to your own Black people. You sad. Black people need to stop trying to hurt Black people for success."



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SING CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Prior to the song being written and composed, James had been asked to speak by the principal of the Stanton School, which was a segregated school in his hometown. The event was to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday and to honor revered abolitionist, orator and educator Booker T. Washington, who was slated to visit the Stanton School in the early part of the following year.

James looked at this as an opportunity to make a statement and impact, so instead of simply delivering a speech as the principal asked of him, he decided to recite a poem.

As James began to write the poem, he felt more compelled to write the poem in song format instead, which is why he reached out to his talented brother, John, to help him compose the music for his soon-to-be instant classic song that African Americans all over the country continue to sing during select major holidays and important social gatherings, to this day.

The song was publicly performed for the first time at the Stanton School on February 12, 1900, by a choir made up of 500 school children as a tribute to Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

James was only 28 years old and John was 26 years old when the song was written and composed. The duo was actively involved in the civil rights struggle and were a major part of advocating for change, as two progressive young Black men seeking to make a major impact during a time of blatant and systematic racism.

James had an early dedication and passion for advocating for the rights of Black people in this country. He was a civil rights activist and an author, while his younger brother John, was a composer and singer during the Harlem Renaissance. In 1895, James became the founder and editor of the *Daily American* newspaper, where he used the newspaper to bring attention to the various segregationist pieces of legislation and laws that the elected representatives in the South were passing that seriously disenfranchised and brought harm to Blacks. John used his talent to bring awareness to political and racial issues during his career in the entertainment space.

Both James and John became extremely active with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). James began working for the organization, and in 1919, the NAACP declared "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as the official "Negro National Anthem" and used the song as a rallying cry for the freedom of Black people in this country and to serve as a unifier to show the collective strength and resilience of Black people.

By 1920, James had become the first African American to be named as executive

secretary of the organization, effectively the operating officer, serving in that capacity from 1920 to 1930.

It is important to understand that the song is filled with a challenge to remain steadfast and diligent on the journey to freedom, while never forgetting the pain and suffering that Black people have had to endure, and finally focusing on the future, understanding that all obstacles and roadblocks along the way must be met with an enduring faith and confidence in God and the perseverance to carry on without wavering.

For those who have never heard the song or known the words, see the lyrics below and do your best to memorize them the next time you are presented with the blessed opportunity to sing it:

Lift Every Voice and Sing

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present
has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our fathers
sighed?

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

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

Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is

cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,

Thou who has brought us thus far on the

way;

Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the

light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,

where we met Thee,

Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the

world, we forget Thee;

Shadowed beneath Thy hand,

May we forever stand.

True to our God,

True to our native land.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

Choice Partners (CP) (a division of Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), is a national cooperative that will be accepting proposals in response to the following Request for Proposals (RFP).

- RFP 20/028MJ for Cleaning of Parking Lots, Exterior Buildings, Environmental Solutions, and Related Services.

All proposals are due Tuesday, February 25, 2020 @ 2:00 pm central time.

- RFP 20/029MJ for Uniforms and Related Services

All proposals are due Thursday, February 27, 2020 @ 2:00pm central time.

Interested proposers may go to www.choicepartners.org and register to download the solicitation or call 713.316.4259. MBE, SBE, and HUB vendor participation is encouraged. It is HCDE policy not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, limited English proficiency or handicapping condition in its programs.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

The Houston Independent School District located in the Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center at 4400 West 18th Street Houston, Texas 77092 will accept proposals, until the stated date and time deadlines, in the Board Services Office, Level C1

- Project 20-01-08 – RFI/Broadline Distribution and Warehousing Services for K-12 Nutrition Program – this is a formal Request for Information with a deadline of 10:00 a.m. on March 31, 2020.
- Project 20-01-14 – RFP/ Grounds Maintenance, Landscaping, Tree Pruning, Removal, and Irrigation Systems– with a deadline of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The Pre-Proposal Conference for this project will be in Conference Room 2E02 at the above stated address on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Project 16-10-53-C – RFP /College and Career Readiness Materials and Services– with a deadline of 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2020. The Pre-Proposal Conference for this project will be in Conference Room 2E06 at the above stated address on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

The solicitation for bids is available on the HISD web-site at www.houstonisd.org. To access, go to **Directory, Purchasing Services, Solicitation of Bids**. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or, to accept the proposal that is most advantageous to the District.

FINANCIAL ANALYST

Tricon Energy, Inc. (Houston, TX) to provide info required for decision-making & financial planning & carry out analis of extrnl & intrnl data by using econ theories & concepts. Specific job duties include: interpret & forecast market trends by utilizing price elasticity & price sensitivity of commodities & by running regression analyses; conduct surveys & collect data by utilizing various econometric & sampling tchnqs, such as stratified, systematic, & simple random sampling; present research results in reports, tables, & charts to explain econ phenomena & forecast market trends; research econ issues to study the socioeconomic impacts of proposed regs & economic & statistical data in chemcl, plastics & commodities trading; prepare adhoc reports & prsnnts, check data integrity of trade system, identify & develop process imprvmnts, & assist on techn or process-related projects; applying knowledge of econ principles & practices by using econ theories & concepts to analyze & explain both current & future market trends to aid the Company's profitability & forecasting/planning. Bachelor's degree in Econ, Finance, Accounting or related. Must know (through academic training or work exp.) financial ratios, valuation modeling, projections, cost of capital, portfolio management, correlation & sensitivity analysis; financial analysis, including the time value of money & the net present value rule; capital budgeting decisions, uncertainty & the tradeoff between risk & return, & corporate financing & dividend policy decisions; Excel (Structured References, Array Formulas, Calculated Fields/Items, Power Pivots, Data Models); structuring data & building logic for formulas, models, & procedures. All applications & resumes must be submitted to Melina Reyes, HR Manager, at reyesm@triconenergy.com.

DISTRICT B CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Front-runner Jackson expressed her gratitude regarding the final judgment ordering for the runoff election to take place in a released statement.

"For the past 2 months our election was put on hold because the 3rd place finisher, Renee Jefferson Smith filed a lawsuit contesting the eligibility of the 2nd place finisher, Cynthia Bailey," said Jackson. "After months of court appearances and appeals, the residents of District B will finally have the opportunity to vote for their City Council representative."

Jefferson Smith still has the ability to appeal the latest ruling, due in part because she does not believe the state law in place that is supposed to prevent individuals with felony convictions from running for office should be ignored. As of this article, there has been no indication as to whether Jefferson Smith will continue on with her lawsuit. The Houston Forward Times will keep you posted on any latest developments.

Trump's 2021 Budget Reflects His Values

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX
via TriceEdneyWire.com

If you tell me how you spend your money, I can tell you what your values are.

You say you are a Christian, but neither tithe nor have a church home. You say support civil rights, but have no connection to a civil rights organization. You love your alma mater, but you never contribute to the place.

Put your money where your mouth is. Budgets are reflections of values. Thus, I was unsurprised with the budget our forty-fifth President (also known as "Forty-five") proposed to Congress on February 10. His budget - cuts domestic programs, maintains defense spending and targets poor people. It cuts education, housing, and environmental protection. It would eliminate our art and cultural agencies, including the National Institute for the Arts, the National Institutes for Humanities, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Forty-five's hostility to poor people is reflected in reductions in Medicaid, food stamps, and the CHIP program, which provides health care for poor children. And while he is starving poor people, he insists on preserving the 2017 tax cuts that mostly benefited the wealthy. I'm not surprised that "forty-five" maintains his hostility to the poor. We've seen this in the previous budgets that he's presented to Congress. He favors cuts in domestic spending, increases in military spending, a wall (which he has directed the Pentagon to fund), and indifference to the environment.

The budget shows contempt for the planet and its survival. 45 would cut the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by more than a quarter, through the EPA budget, and even more with environmental initiatives that are embedded in other budgets.

Read more online at Forwardtimes.com

HGAC Sealed Bid Solicitation #AM10-20
Sealed Bid Solicitation #AM10-20
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Pre-Bid Conference: 03/12/20 @ 9am
Response Deadline: 05/07/20 @ 1pm
Public Opening: 05/07/20 @ 2pm

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713-993-2466 or www.hgacbuy.org info.

LEGAL NOTICE for IFB 20-12

The Houston Housing Authority (HHA), is soliciting sealed bids with the intent to establish a contract for the replacement of the existing roof on the Youth Extension Building, located at 1600 Allen Parkway, Houston, Texas, 77019, in accordance with the requirements and terms and conditions specified in IFB 20-12 APV Youth Extension Roof Replacement Project.

Interested parties are highly encouraged (but not required), to attend a pre-bid conference scheduled for 10 A.M. Central Standard Time (CST) February 20, 2020 at Allen Parkway Village, 1600 Allen Parkway, Houston, Texas 77019.

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 4 P.M. CST, March 12, 2020 to the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) Attn: Austin Y. Crofts, MA, Subject: IFB 20-12 APV Youth Extension Roof Replacement Project - DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

IFB 20-12 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA's website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA's Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com with IFB 20-12 in the subject line.

A Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or 504ADA@housingforhouston.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
City of Houston
Inspections and Public Service Division
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
March 4, 2020 @ 9:00 A.M.
7125 Ardmore Street, 1st Floor
Houston, Texas 77054

The Building and Standards Commission will hear testimony and review evidence for the following properties located in Harris County, Texas (unless otherwise indicated) at 9:00 am:

7800 Romeo St. - [Lot One Hundred Nine (109), in Block Eleven (11) of Carver Terrace, Section Two (2), an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 20, Page 42 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas. Save and Except the East 60 feet thereof conveyed to The Texas Pipeline Company by deed recorded in Volume 2420, Page 214 of the Deed Records of Harris County, Texas.]

6134 Bobby Burns St. - [Lot 3, in Block 7 of Liberty Road Manor, Section 15, an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 1690, Page 148 of the Deed Records of Harris County, Texas.]

7317 Howton St. (Wood Shed and Metal Shed) - [Lot 38, in Block 5, of Homestead Addition, Section 2, an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 25, Page 29 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas.]

3719 S. MacGregor Way - [Lot Seven (7) of Leopold Place, an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 15, Page 2 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas.]

7816 Avenue F - [Lot Thirty-two (32), in Block Thirty-Three (33) of Magnolia Park, an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 4, Page 69 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas.]

1220 Neyland St. - [Lot 8, in Block 19 Whitney Place, Section 1, an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 655, Page 568 of the Deed Records of Harris County, Texas.]

At this hearing, the Neighborhood Protection Official of the Inspection and Public Service Division or the Neighborhood Protection Official designee will present evidence regarding the condition of the structure(s)/premises. Persons may appear before the Hearing Officer only in support of, or in response to, a case being presented by the Neighborhood Protection Official or the Neighborhood Protection Official designee. The owner or anyone having an interest in the property should arrive forty-five (45) minutes prior to the above scheduled hearing time to review his/her/their case file and video with the inspector. The owner, lessor, occupant, lienholder, or anyone having an interest in the property, will be given an opportunity to present evidence and witnesses if so desired. After all evidence and testimony has been presented the Hearing Officer has the full authority to issue orders for abatement of dangerous buildings or substandard buildings, as provided in Section 54.036 of the Local Tex. Govt. Code relating to dangerous, minimum building standards, and nuisance violations.

All notices are recorded in the Real Property Records in the county in which the property is located. Complete copies may be obtained through that office.

Those desiring to make an appearance before the Commission or those having questions must call or write Marita Strawder, City of Houston, Building and Standards Commission, 7125 Ardmore, Houston, Texas 77054, at (832) 394-0617 or Gregory Mackey at (832) 394-0624, no later than 72 hours prior to the start of the Commission meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process-Public Participation in accordance with the FCC's Nationwide Programmatic Agreement. Branch Towers III, intends to construct a communications facility at 3206 Webster Street, Houston, Harris County, TX 77004 (29.737186, -95.352422). The facility will include a monopole telecommunications tower with an approximate overall height of 130 ft. and associated equipment. Branch Towers III, is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal Communications Commission regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We respectfully request that parties interested in commenting on this Federal undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties or with questions on the proposed facility should contact GSS, Inc., 1054 Texan Trail, Suite 300, Grapevine, TX 76051; Ph. (682) 651-0034 within 30 days of the posting of this notice. (GSS #D20072-TX)

Local News



Bo Porter Announces 2020 Future All-Stars Sports Development Academy Summer Camp

The 2020 FASS Summer Camp is set to take place from June 1 through August 14, 2020, where 25 children living in single-parent households will receive scholarships to attend the camp.

Former Houston Astros Manager Bo Porter recently announced that applications are being accepted now for this year's Future All-Stars Sports (FASS) Development Academy Summer Camp. The camp is set to take place at the Imani School, located at 12401 South Post Oak Road, Houston, TX 77045, and is an 11-week program, commencing on June 1st through August 14th from 9 am to 3 pm.

The FASS Development Academy Summer Camp program is designed for beginners, advanced student-athletes or for kids just looking to get into great shape. The camp will challenge campers to improve, enhance and develop the critical baselines needed for long-term athletic success.

The enrollment is open to boys and girls ages 5-14 and will include sports training and development in the following areas: Baseball, Basketball, Dodgeball, Football, Golf, Kickball, Lacrosse, Pickle Ball, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track, and Volleyball.

"We are so excited to bring the Bo Porter's Future All-Stars Sports Development Academy to the children of The Imani School," said Patricia Hogan Williams, Head of School at The Imani School. "Mr. Porter's vast experience as a professional athlete, coach, Manager of the Houston Astros, and his passion for helping young people grow and develop make for a perfect match with our school. The addition of this comprehensive program represents a huge step forward for our sports program and opens up a new world of opportunities for our students."

Growing up, Bo Porter was raised in a single-parent household. Bo has first-hand knowledge of the challenges single parents face through witnessing his mom's efforts to overcome obstacles trying to find Development programs for him as a youth.

For that reason, through his charity, Bo Porter Charities, Porter will provide scholarships to 25 children living in Single Parent households. Qualified Applicants can select an essay topic from the list below and email their essay to bo@boporterfass.com.

Essay Topics:

1. Why is education important?
2. Why is philanthropy important?
3. Why is it important for kids to play sports?

Enrollment is open to the public. The deadline to enroll is June 1, 2020 (if the camp has not reached capacity). Interested applicants who enroll before March 10th will receive a 15% discount. Additionally, discounted pricing is available to families enrolling multiple campers/siblings. For a full list of the camp requirements and to register your child for the camp visit www.boporterfass.com and click the events tab.



Local Boy Scout James A. Williams Restores Healing Garden at S.H.A.P.E. Community Center As An Eagle Scout Service Project

BY FORWARD TIMES STAFF

Local Boy Scout James A. Williams, a member of Troop 426 of The Windsor Village Church Family, along with other Scouts from Troop 426, spent numerous hours restoring the healing garden at S.H.A.P.E. Community Center in Houston's Third Ward as part of an Eagle Scout Service Project.

The young men gutted out the entire garden and planting green vegetation, flowers, herbs and vegetables for families that patronize S.H.A.P.E. Community Center.

The healing garden was rededicated back to S.H.A.P.E. Community Center during a ceremony that was held on Sunday, February 9th at the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center facility, located at 3815 Live Oak Street in Houston's Third Ward community.

"I chose an Eagle Scout Service Project that would be beneficial to human health and have therapeutic and beneficial effects on an entire community of people in the Third Ward area of Houston Texas," said Life Scout James. "The community garden will promote healthy lifestyles for patrons of the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center."

Throughout the long history of the Boy Scouts of America, many young men have participated in service projects that have positively impacted their community. These community service projects were made possible because of the hard work and dedication of countless Boy Scouts. The Eagle Scout Service Project is the opportunity for a Scout to demonstrate leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of his community.

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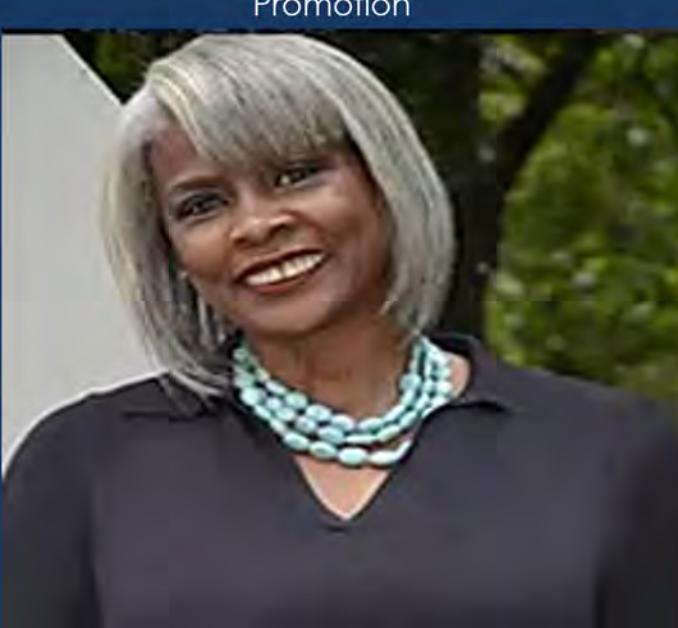


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Linda L. Ragland

Recently promoted to Sales Manager - Residential Division at Womack Development, Linda has been a licensed real estate agent with WDIR for two years and specializes in residential home sales. Linda received her education from Tennessee State University and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Starting 1984, Linda's media career has spanned over 30 years, including marketing and media broadcast sales with Clear Channel Media (now iHeartMedia) and Radio One Inc. This experience has given her the ability to easily interact with real estate clientele who are seeking investment real estate property.

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Cell: 832.443.6272
Fax: 713.522.8315
Email: LindaR@TexasHomeRealtor.com
www.womackdevelopment.com
4412 Almeda Road Houston, Texas 77004

Local News

GIFT CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



Crowd

Texas Southern University's first study abroad group journeyed to Tanzania in 2001. Today, more than 100 TSU students travel abroad every year, according to Gregory Maddox, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School and Director of International Programs. A gift targeted to international travel at a historically Black university has urgency and significance. According to the Institute of International Education, undergraduate students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities participate in study abroad programs at lower rates than students from institutions throughout the United States.

"The Houston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has a strong, decades-long history of providing college scholarships to hundreds of deserving students," said Sargent. "The Anna Pearl Barrett Memorial Endowment Scholarship allows our organization to extend its impact by providing financial aid to enrich the collegiate experience through cultural awareness and international travel."

The Houston Alumnae Chapter (HAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was chartered in 1927 as the first Houston-area chapter of the not-for-profit, public service sisterhood. With a financial membership of more than 500 college-educated women, HAC continues its 93-year legacy of community service, educational scholarships, and social advocacy in Houston.



Lana Edwards and attendees



Mayor Turner and Attendee



Crowd

“CHANGE WILL NOT COME IF WE WAIT FOR SOME OTHER PERSON, OR IF WE WAIT FOR SOME OTHER TIME. WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. WE ARE THE CHANGE THAT WE SEEK.” — BARACK OBAMA

Democratic Primary Early Voting: February 18-28 • Election Day: Tuesday, March 3rd
Vote the Slate! Visit: www.houstonblackdems.org

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District 18



Sheila Jackson Lee
US House of Representatives



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District 147



Alma A. Allen
State Representative
District 131



Ron Reynolds
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District 27



Shawn Nicole Thierry
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District 146



Jarvis D. Johnson
State Representative
District 139



Rodney Ellis
County Commissioner
Precinct 1



Carvana Cloud
District Attorney



Christian Dashawn
Menefee
County Attorney



Ed Gonzalez
Sheriff



Jolanda 'Jo' Jones
County Tax Assessor-Collector
Place 3



Jeremy L. Brown
Justice of the Peace
Precinct 7, Place 1



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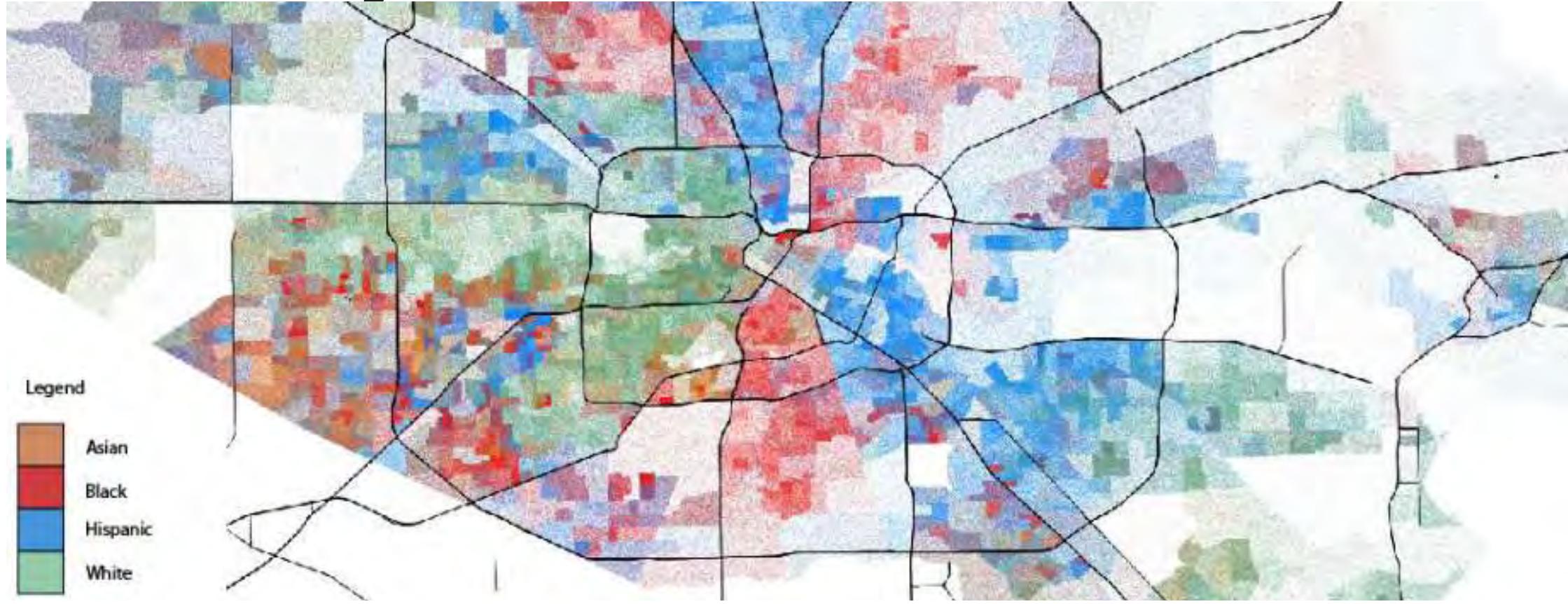
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BUSINESS



Houston and Harris County Businesses Extremely Critical to Census Success



Census subcommittee calls on local businesses to mobilize community for 2020 count

BY: FORWARD TIMES STAFF

The Harris County and City of Houston Complete Count Committee is asking business owners to get involved in making sure every resident is counted in the 2020 Census.

The Business Subcommittee is tasked with attracting, organizing and mobilizing key members of the business community to support the effort of ensuring a complete count for the Census.

The Subcommittee has gathered more than twenty (20) no-cost ways that business owners can assist with a commitment to inform their staff, customers and colleagues about the importance of the Census. From displaying posters and flyers inside brick and mortar business locations, to sending emails and posting to social media, there is something that every business can do to encourage the public to complete the Census.

Companies of all sizes are being asked to complete a survey which challenges them to commit to at least five of the methods.

"Whether you have a boutique or dry cleaner or even an online business, if you're touching Houston residents, you have the ability to help mobilize them to fill out the Census,"

said Denise Hamilton, Business Subcommittee chairperson.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a Census count must take place every ten (10) years. Information from the Census count is used to determine how billions of dollars in federal funding is distributed to support programs such as health care, education, employment, transportation and infrastructure. The Census is also used to determine the number of seats each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"It's important that every member of our community is counted. We can't afford to miss one person," Hamilton said. "If we don't count our residents, we won't have the resources to adequately serve them. There's no business too small to get involved."

The Complete Count Committee is comprised of the City Mayor Sylvester Turner, County Judge Hidalgo, Houston in Action Facilitator and selected community leaders, who have access to the undercounted communities and/or resources to support the work. They are representative of diverse sectors and provide resources to decrease the undercount. The committee will inform and drive the overall strategy to ensure a complete 2020 Census count.

Trump Administration Cuts Food Stamps for at Least 700,000 Americans



BY: LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE, NNPA Newswire Contributor

The Trump Administration has finalized implementation of new work requirement rules that would cut food stamp benefits for 700,000 Americans. The average food stamp payout is \$36 per month. Though the Trump Administration estimates that under 700,000 people will be impacted by their policy changes, the Urban Institute estimates that the new Trump Administration rule changes will cause 3.7 million poor people to lose food stamps.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Brandon Lipps, the deputy undersecretary for the USDA's Food Nutrition and Consumer Services, spoke with reporters for under 20 minutes regarding the changes. The rule changes will take effect on April 1, 2020.

The work requirement rule change will cause hundreds of thousands of people to lose access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP.

There are over 40 million people in the U.S. living in poverty — 1 of every 7 Americans and 12 percent of the total population. In the U.S., 27 percent of African Americans live in poverty and 46 percent of African American children (under age 6) live in poverty, compared to 14.5 percent of white children.

"We're taking action to reform our SNAP program in order to restore the dignity of work to a sizable segment of our population and be respectful of the taxpayers who fund the program. Americans are generous people who believe it is their responsibility to help their fellow citizens when they encounter a difficult stretch. That's the commitment behind SNAP, but, like other welfare programs, it was never intended to be a way of life," Secretary Perdue told reporters.

"Trump has called people liars and maniacs, caged children, and cut food stamps, and tried to take away health insurance and let people die. But Republicans are outraged that a law professor used his son's name in an analogy," wrote Rev. Dr. William Barber referring to an exchange at a Dec. 4th impeachment hearing and food stamp cuts. Barber has been focused on a new age "poor people's campaign" mirrored on the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s.

"This is cruel and disgraceful. Donald Trump will happily give millions of dollars in tax breaks to his billionaire buddies—but he's making it harder for struggling families to be able to eat. I'll reverse this shameful policy," wrote 2020 presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

The rule change would limit states and force them to restrict food stamp use to areas that have a 6 percent unemployment rate or higher. The national unemployment rate in October was 3.6 percent.

Income inequality and cuts to poverty programs are likely to be an issue in the 2020 campaign.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke.



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The health care system has changed a lot over the last decade, and we've heard too many stories about people with diabetes who struggle to afford their insulin. That needs to change. You should not have to ration your treatment, and you should not have to choose between insulin and putting food on the table. Your health is too important.

We're starting to see meaningful answers for people who live with diabetes. Payers, for instance, are finding ways to pass rebates on to patients and lower co-pays for insulin. Across health care, we need to build on these ideas. For people using Lilly insulin, we have several options for those who need help – such as limiting monthly prescription costs on many insulins to less than \$100. We also offer a half-priced authorized generic insulin, some people are eligible for free insulin, and if you have an immediate need and nowhere else to turn, we can help you get insulin right away.

Regardless of your circumstances, **please call the Lilly Diabetes Solution Center if you cannot afford your Lilly insulin.** The phone number is (833) 808-1234, and our U.S.-based health care professionals are available from 9 am to 8 pm (ET) Monday through Friday. The calls are simple, the average time on the phone is about 10 minutes, and there's no paperwork to fill out. We have operators who can take calls in Spanish and we can translate information into about 40 languages.

Millions of people with high deductible insurance plans are facing tough financial choices because their plans re-set in January. If you use Lilly insulin and need support, we have solutions that can make life easier for you. Please call us. We want to help.

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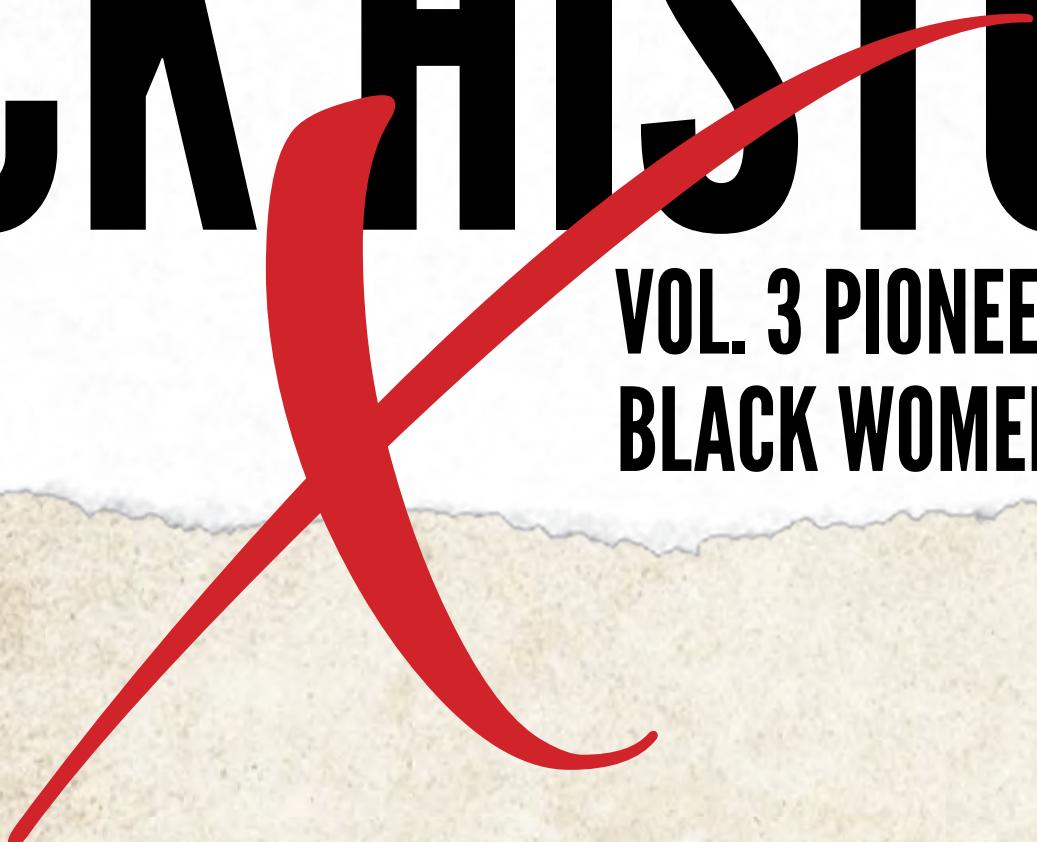
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houston
Forward Times

BLACK [HER] STORY

NORA HOLT

November 8, 1884 — January 25, 1974

Nora Douglas Holt was a singer, composer and music critic. She was the first African American to receive a master's degree in the United States.

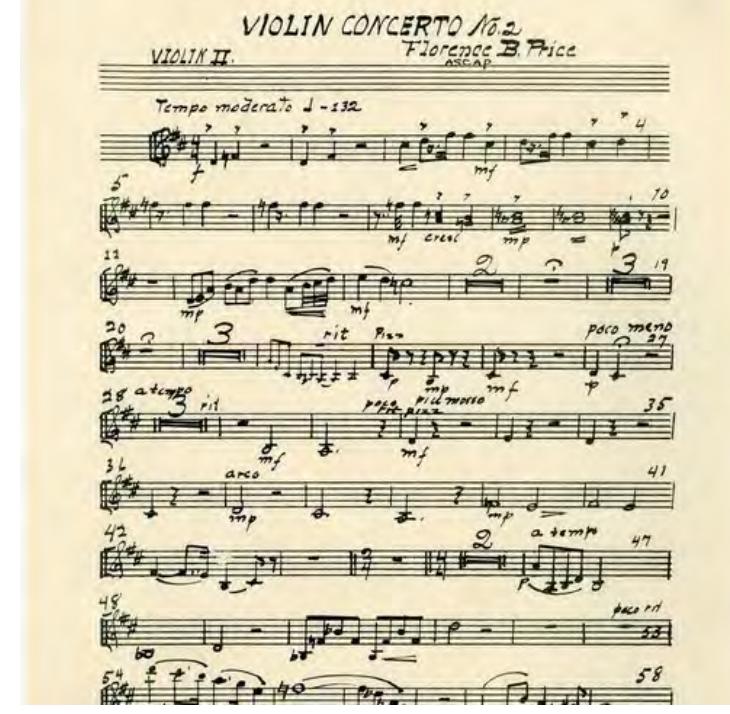


FLORENCE PRICE Rediscovering the First Black Woman That Entered the Canon of Classical Music

BY GRACE BOATENG

Often what comes to mind when one hears the phrase "Classical Music Composer" is the image of an older thin-lipped, messy-haired man of European decent armed with a pretentious scowl and what may, or may not, be a white doily adorned on his neck. Borrowing from the lyrics of the ever-so-eloquent hit song *The Humpty Dance* by Digital Underground, please "Stop what you're doing, cause I'm about to ruin the image and the style that you're used to." Classical composers are not a monolith. Black women who pen/penned classical music masterpieces exist.

Classical music is an art form that was first acknowledged in the 18th and 19th century's that abides by a very strict set of musical guidelines. The lesser known fact is that Black people have made significant contributions to this specific art form even though they are rarely recognized for it. The erasure of Black achievement is a long-standing global tradition. Not only have Black people made contributions to this art form but Black women in particular have made their mark on the craft as well. With that being said, a name that should find its



way on the lips of any musical connoisseur is Florence Price.

Price was born Florence Beatrice Smith, the youngest of three children, on April 9, 1887 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her mother Florence Irene (Gulliver) Smith was an elementary school teacher and was her very first music teacher as none of the white teachers would accept her, a young black girl, as a student. Her mother saw promise and encouraged her to sharpen her musical skills. Her first public performance was at the age of four. Florence's father Dr. James H. Smith was one of twelve black dentists in the country and had established his own dental practice in Little Rock. With her mother serving the community as a teacher and her father as a dentist, the Smith family was affiliated with other influential black members of the community. In 1873 Judge Mifflin W. Gibbs was elected as the very first "black city judge" in Little Rock, Arkansas and the entire country. Years' later Judge Gibbs daughter, Harriet Gibbs Marshall, went on to become the first black woman to graduate from the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio.

Florence graduated in 1903 as the valedictorian of Capitol Hill School in Little Rock. She went on to study music at the New England Conservatory of Music which is located in Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated and received her degrees as a pianist/piano teacher and organist in 1907. She returned to her home state where she taught for a time until eventually relocated to Atlanta where she became the head of the Clark University Music Department.

Florence returned to Arkansas started a family, established her own studio where she taught lessons and continued to compose music. The state of Arkansas refused to grant her membership into the State Music Teachers Association because she was black. That was just a microcosm of how insufferable the racial tensions were at the time. Her home life also became intolerable and she eventually divorced her husband who had become abusive. In 1927, she and her family relocated to Chicago, Illinois. There were more professional opportunities for her there and she continued her musical education at the



Chicago Musical College and The American Conservatory of Music. She continued to teach, perform, and compose. G. Schirmer, a publishing company, published her work *At the Cotton Gin*. Soon after, things began to pick up for Florence and she started getting recognized and winning competitions.

Florence Price made history as the first black woman to have her music performed by a major orchestra. The year was 1933, the day was June 15, and the performers were none other than the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. They performed her dynamic piece *Symphony No. 1 in E minor*. Was she welcomed into the Classical fold with open arms? Not quite. As with most things she, as a black woman, had to be persistent about making the case for why her music deserved to be played. Though she may have been the first to have her music performed she still struggled throughout her career to get the recognition she deserved. This is evident in the letter she penned to Serge Koussevitzky, the musical director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, in 1943 saying, "To begin with I have two handicaps — those of sex and race. I am a woman, and I have some Negro blood in my veins. Knowing the worst, then, would you be good enough to hold in check the possible inclination to regard a woman's composition as long on emotionalism but short on virility and thought content, until you shall have examined some of my work?"

The aforementioned *Symphony in E Minor* was one of her award winning works. Not only did the Chicago Symphony Orchestra perform her music but orchestras from Detroit Pittsburgh, and Brooklyn, all performed other pieces by her. Her music was in demand and popular artists sought out her work including contralto Marian Anderson who famously performed *My Soul's Been Anchored in de Lord* arranged by Florence at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Easter Sunday in 1939.

Florence had a global reach as her pieces were also performed by overseas orchestras. Her catalog includes over 300 compositions that vary in style and instrumentation. It's not only that she accomplished and created all of these works, it's also important that the music she wrote is beautiful. From her use of the hauntingly beautiful bassoon, to the nod to her African heritage with her use of specific percussive rhythms, Florence was gifted.

She passed away suddenly in 1953 but her music and memory live on. During a renovation of an abandoned home in Chicago in 2009, the new home owners found a ton of items that belonged to Florence which included compositions. The items were given to the University of Arkansas where some of her materials had already been archived and eight years later two of the discovered violin concertos were recorded.

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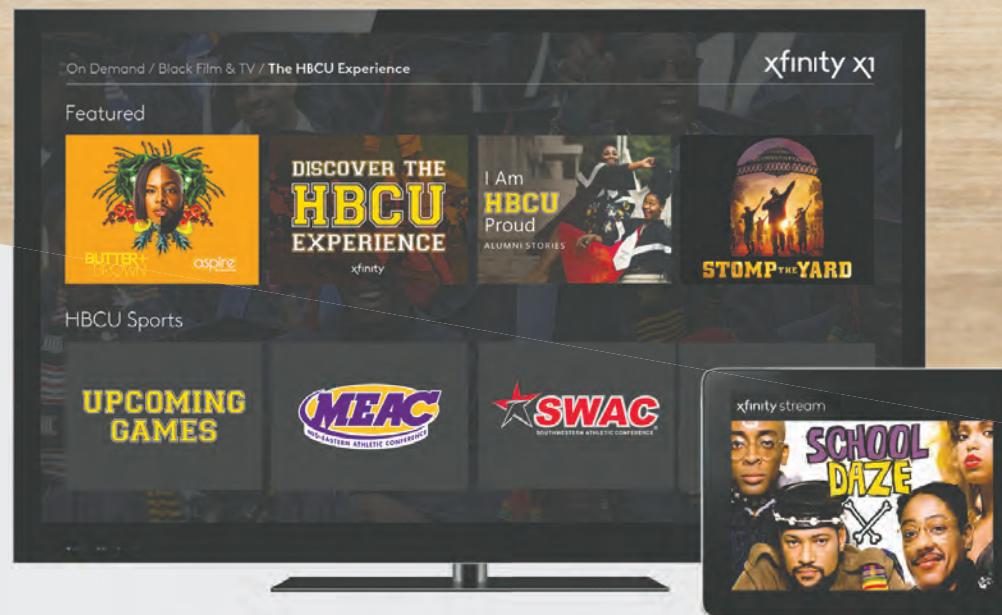
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BLACK [HER] STORY

EVA JESSYE

(January 20, 1895 — February 21, 1992)

Eva Jessye was a pioneering conductor and composer. She was the first black woman to receive international distinction as a professional choral conductor. She is notable as a choral conductor during the Harlem Renaissance. She created her own choral group which featured widely in performance.



SHIRLEY GRAHAM DU BOIS A Pioneering Composer, Playwright and Political Activist

BY CHELSEA LENORA WHITE

Shirley Graham Du Bois was born Lola Shirley Graham Jr. on November 11, 1896 in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was a pioneering and award-winning composer, playwright, author and political activist. The only daughter among six children, Graham's father was Reverend David A. Graham, a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church where her mother, Elizabeth Etta Graham, was also active. The family moved often and it was difficult for Graham to keep up in school, but she graduated from Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Washington, in 1915.

Graham married her first husband, Shadrach T. McCants, in 1921. Their son Robert was born in 1923, followed by David in 1925. They divorced in 1927. In 1926, Graham moved to Paris, France, to study music composition at the Sorbonne. She thought that this education might allow her to achieve better employment and be able to better support her children. Meeting Africans and Afro-Caribbean people in Paris introduced her to new music and cultures.

Graham entered Oberlin College in 1931 to study music, receiving her B.A. degree in 1934 and a master's in music the following year. She also nearly completed her doctorate in English and education at New York University.

While studying at the Sorbonne in 1926, Graham composed the musical score and libretto of *Tom Tom: An Epic of Music and the Negro*. The opera and musical drama premiered at the "Stadium Opera" summer festival in Cleveland, Ohio while she was still a student at Oberlin. The work was hailed as "not only great in conception and splendidly executed, but [as] a new opera, something different from what has preceded it in history." She used music, dance and literature to express the story of Africans' journey to the North American colonies, through slavery and to freedom. The opera attracted 10,000 people to its premiere at the Cleveland Stadium and 15,000 to the second performance.

Following a year of teaching at Tennessee Agricultural in Nashville, she was appointed by the Illinois Federal Theatre Project in 1936 as director-supervisor of Federal Theatre #3, the "Negro Unit" of the Chicago Federal Theatre, where she put on wildly successful productions, such as *Little Black Sambo* and *Swing Mikado*. She wrote musical scores, directed, and did additional associated work. While in Chicago, Graham also founded, with her brother Bill, the Graham Artists Bureau in Chicago with the purpose of securing bookings for African American artists.

According to the *Oxford Companion to African-American Literature*, her theatre works included *Deep Rivers* (1939), a musical; *It's Morning* (1940), a one-act tragedy about a slave mother who contemplates infanticide; *I Gotta Home* (1940), a one-act drama; *Track Thirteen* (1940), a comedy for radio; her only published play; *Elijah's Raven* (1941), a three-act comedy; and *Dust to Earth* (1941), a three-act tragedy.

Graham used theater to tell the black woman's story and perspective, countering white versions of history. Despite her unsuccessful attempts to land a Broadway production, her plays were still produced by Karamu Theatre in Cleveland and other major Black companies. Her work was also seen in many colleges and both *Track Thirteen* and *Tom-Tom* were aired on the radio.

In addition to composition, Graham was also a prolific activist. In 1941 to 1943, Du Bois worked for the USO, directing operations for African American troops at Fort Huachuca in Arizona. Beginning in 1943 she began serving as a field secretary for the N.A.A.C.P. In the late 1940s, Graham became a member of Sojourners for Truth and Justice – an African-American organization working for global women's liberation. Around the same time, she joined the American Communist Party.

Due to the difficulty in getting musicals or plays produced and published, Graham turned to literature. She wrote in a variety of genres, specializing from the 1950s in biographies of leading African-American and world figures for young readers. She wanted to increase the number of books that dealt with notable African Americans in elementary school libraries. Her subjects included Frederick Douglass, Phillis Wheatley,

and Booker T. Washington; as well as Gamal Abdul Nasser, and Julius Nyerere.

In 1951, Graham married noted thinker, writer and activist W. E. B. Du Bois. She was 54 years old; he was 83. Together, the Du Boises worked tirelessly to improve the lot of underrepresented groups in the United States, increasingly through their involvement in left causes and groups, possibly including the Communist Party of the USA. Shortly after their wedding in 1951, W.E.B. Du Bois was indicted for "un-American" activities. Although he was acquitted for insufficient evidence, the Du Boises were frustrated by the harassment and with the lack of progress in the United States. They immigrated to Ghana in 1961.

After her husband's death in 1963, Shirley Graham Du Bois moved to Cairo in 1966 and she lived with her son, David (Graham) Du Bois. She continued to devote herself to causes of liberation, African peoples, women, African Americans, and people of color worldwide. She died of cancer in Beijing in 1977.



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BLACK [HER] STORY

IRENE BRITTON SMITH

(December 22, 1907 — February 15, 1999)

Irene Britton Smith was an accomplished classical composer who also taught Reading in the Chicago Public Schools for over 40 years.



UNDINE SMITH MOORE

The "Dean of Black Women Composers"

BY CHELSEA LENORA WHITE

Undine Eliza Anna Smith Moore, known as the "Dean of Black Women Composers," was a notable and prolific American composer and professor of music in the twentieth century. Moore was originally trained as a classical pianist, but developed a compositional output of mostly vocal music -- her preferred genre. Much of her work was inspired by black spirituals and folk music.

Born on August 25, 1904, Moore was the youngest of three children and the granddaughter of slaves. In 1908, her family moved to Petersburg, Virginia. Her hometown of Jarratt, Virginia consisted of a large African-American population, and Moore would later recall memories of the community singing and praying at the Morningstar Baptist Church. Of her childhood, Moore said that "above all else, music reigned."

At age seven, Undine Smith Moore began taking piano lessons under Lillian Allen Darden, who later encouraged her to attend Fisk University, where she studied piano and organ with Alice M. Grass and theory with Sara Leight Laubenstein. Moore turned down a scholarship to Petersburg's Virginia Normal Institute in order to enroll at Fisk, a historically black college. In 1924, the Juilliard School granted Moore their first ever scholarship to a student at Fisk, allowing her to continue her undergraduate studies. Moore graduated cum laude in 1926.

In 1931, during the Harlem Renaissance, Moore received a Master of Arts and professional diploma in music at Columbia University's Teachers College. From 1952-1953, Moore studied composition with Howard Murphy at the Manhattan School of Music, and would often attend composition workshops at the Eastman School of Music.

Looking back at her years at Fisk University, Undine Smith Moore described her early compositions, especially her piano music, as having a general similarity to the music of Polish-American virtuoso pianist and composer, Leopold Godowsky. Her compositional style did not "include any African American elements," and Moore did not produce much music until 1953, when a "marked change in style took place." Moore would transcribe melodies that her mother sang, which gradually inspired her use of African-American spirituals in her music. Of these melodies and her adaptations of them to her music, Moore said:

...the songs my mother sang while cooking dinner; the melodies my father hummed after work moved me very deeply... In making these arrangements my aim was not to make something 'better' than what was sung. I thought them so beautiful that I wanted to have them experienced in a variety of ways -- by concert choirs, soloists, and by instrumental groups.

Although her teachers encouraged her to continue her studies by enrolling at the Juilliard School, Undine Smith Moore instead took a job as supervisor of music in the public schools in Goldsboro, North Carolina. In 1927, Moore was hired as piano instructor and organist at Virginia State College (now Virginia State University) in Petersburg, where she was also assigned with teaching classes in counterpoint and theory, for which she was "particularly renowned." The college appointed Moore director of the D. Webster Davis Laboratory High School chorus, and due to the school's low budget, Moore would write her own music to cater towards the students' needs.

In 1938, Undine Smith married Dr. James Arthur Moore, the chair of the physical education department at Virginia State College. The couple often performed together in recitals, as James Moore was a trained vocalist. On January 4, 1941 Moore gave birth to their daughter, Marie Hardie.

In 1969, Undine Smith Moore and Altona Trent Johns became co-founders of the Black Music Center at Virginia State College, which aimed to educate members about the "contributions of black people to the music of the United States and the world." Aside from teaching, Moore considered the Center to be her "most significant accomplishment." In 1972, the Black Music Center closed after Undine Smith Moore retired from Virginia State College. Moore traveled widely as a professor and lectured on black composers and also conducted workshops. Moore was a visiting professor at Carleton College and the College of Saint Benedict, and an adjunct professor at Virginia Union University during the 1970s. She continued her teaching career as a distinguished professor at Virginia Union University until 1976, meanwhile teaching at multiple colleges in Minnesota.

In 1973, Undine Smith Moore was presented with the Humanitarian award from Fisk University. In 1975, Moore was labeled music laureate of the state of Virginia, and the National Association of Negro Musicians named her an "outstanding educator". Indiana University awarded her an honorary doctorate the following year. Moore's contributions to music were recognized by the National Black Caucus, and in 1981, Moore was invited to deliver the keynote address at the first National Congress on Women in Music at New York University.

In 1981, Moore's Pulitzer Prize-nominated oratorio *Scenes from the Life of a Martyr* was premiered at Carnegie Hall. The 16-part oratorio is based on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and written for chorus, orchestra, solo voices and narrator. Moore had planned the piece for at least five years, and considered it her "most significant work."

On February 6, 1989, Undine Smith Moore sadly suffered a stroke at the age of 84. At her funeral, several of her spiritual arrangements were performed. She was buried in the Eastview Cemetery in Petersburg, Virginia. A composition by Adolphus Hailstork, "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes," was created in 1989 to honor her memory. A historical marker was approved in 2010 for installation in Petersburg and Moore was named one of the Virginia Women in History for 2017.

The works of Moore range "from arrangements of spirituals, to solo art songs, instrumental chamber music, and multi-movement works for chorus, soloists, and instruments." Although she composed more than one hundred pieces between 1925 and 1987, only twenty-six were published during her lifetime. Moore wrote over 50 choral works, 21 compositions for solo voice and accompaniment, and 18 instrumental pieces. Most of this work occurred after 1950. The 1970s were Moore's "most prolific" years, with twenty-seven works composed.

Undine Smith Moore was also outspoken on her thoughts surrounding the Civil Rights Movement and the impact it had on her music. In her youth, Moore experienced the full effect of the Jim Crow era. On looking back at her life, she later stated:

One of the most evil effects of racism in my time was the limits it placed upon the aspirations of blacks, so that though I have been 'making up' and creating music all my life, in my childhood or even in college I would not have thought of calling myself a composer or aspiring to be one.

...all liberation is connected... as long as any segment of the society is oppressed... the whole society must suffer.

Moore was a strong advocate for the promotion of black music and art. In her opinion, art could be used as "a powerful agent for social change." Moore was careful to point out that because of the social issues surrounding African-Americans, their music and art could be stereotyped:

I use the term black music to describe music created mainly by people who call themselves black, and whose compositions in their large or complete body show a frequent, if not preponderant, use of significant elements derived from the Afro-American heritage. ...black music is, in its simplest and broadest terms, simply music written by a black person.



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BLACK [HER] STORY

MARY LOU WILLIAMS

(May 8, 1910 — May 28, 1981)

Mary Lou Williams was a jazz pianist, arranger, and composer. She wrote hundreds of compositions and arrangements and recorded more than one hundred records.



BY GRACE BOATENG

Julia Amanda Perry was born on March 25, 1924 in Lexington, Kentucky and grew up in Akron, Ohio. Her father, Dr. Abe Perry was not only a doctor but was also a skilled piano player. Amanda Perry, Julia's mother was a proponent of her family's musical interests and encouraged their pursuit of the craft. Julia and her siblings all studied violin at first and after a couple of years she transitioned to piano.

Julia went on to earn both a bachelors and a masters degree in music from Westminster Choir College. Her thesis for her master's degree was a cantata composed for a baritone voice and included narration, an orchestra and additional voices. Julia continued her music education at Juilliard School of Music and Berkshire Music Center. *Stabat Mater*, Julia's very first major composition, was written in 1951. This piece, that she gained the most notoriety for, was composed for solo contralto and was a window into her love of dissonance and unexpected harmonies. She followed that up with an opera in 1954 named *The Cask of Amontillado* that was performed at Columbia University. Her next composition was *Hommage to Vivaldi* which was performed by a number of orchestras. Her early works mainly featured the voice and as she continued to write she ventured into more instrumental works.

Julia received two prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships that granted her the opportunity to study with Licia Dallapiccola in Florence, Italy and also Nadia Boulanger in Paris, France. She spent several years in Europe under the tutelage of esteemed composers and studied conducting at The Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy before returning to the United States in 1959 when she became a faculty member at Florida A&M College. She also took her talents to Atlanta University to teach for a while before returning to Akron, Ohio in 1960.

It was there in Akron, in an apartment that was directly above her father's doctor's office, that Julia penned the famous piece *Homunculus C. F.* that featured an array of unique percussive elements anchored with sounds from the harp and piano.

The sixties were ripe with opportunity for her to compose and conduct and her works continued to gain traction and recognition. Julia was an award winning composer who was recognized with accolades and awards by the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the National Association of Negro Musicians, the Boulanger Grand Prix, and more.

Sadly Perry had two strokes in 1971 that left her partially paralyzed and in turn kept her hospitalized for a great deal of time. Though her physical abilities were limited, the sky was the limit for her musically and she, determined to write, taught herself how to use her left hand and she continued composing.

Over the course of her life Julia composed 3 operas, 12 symphonies, 2 piano concertos and a number of smaller works. Julia passed away at the relatively young age of 55 in her hometown of Akron, Ohio.

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BLACK [HER] STORY

ZENOBIA POWELL PERRY

(October 3, 1908 — January 17, 2004)

Zenobia Powell Perry was a composer, professor and civil rights activist. She taught in a number of historically black colleges and universities and composed "music with clear, classic melodies."



BY GRACE BOATENG

Margaret Allison Majors (Bonds) was born March 3, 1913 in Chicago, Illinois. Her father Monroe Alpheus Majors and mother Estelle C. Bonds divorced in 1917 and it was then that Margaret took on her mother's last name of Bonds. Estelle saw that her daughter Margaret had an ear for music and composition so it was then that she became her first music teacher. At that time, Chicago was a hot bed for talented musicians so Margaret came into contact with black composers and intellectuals' alike. In fact, while still attending school, Margaret had the privilege of studying composition with prominent black composers Florence Price and Williams Dawson. She picked up work around the city of Chicago accompanying other artists and businesses and transposing parts for different composers.

After Margaret graduated from high school she went on to attend Northwestern University where she won an award for her composition "Sea-Ghost." She earned both a bachelors and a master's degree by the age of 21 and went on to open her own school that she named the 'Allied Arts Academy.' She provided lessons in music, ballet, and art. The school didn't last very long but Margaret went on to do even more impressive things. In 1933 she performed Florence Price's piano concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra becoming the first black woman to have a solo performance. In a beautiful twist of fate Margaret performed a work of Florence Price, who was the first Black Woman to have her music performed by a major orchestra. She continued to compose, collaborate and edit music when she wasn't performing and a variation of "Peachtree Street" she worked on was featured in the 1939 film adaptation of Gone with the Wind.

When the 1940's rolled around Margaret married, had a daughter, and she and her family relocated to New York. There she continued studying composition and piano at Juilliard School of Music and privately with Emerson Harper and Roy Harris.

Margaret was very good friends with another artist Langston Hughes. They had a special bond and she often set his writing to her music. She had a number of compositions but eventually ventured into world of dance and theater. She wrote ballets, served as a musical director for various productions, and penned musical theater pieces. A few of the works included "Shakespeare in Harlem" (inspired by the writings of Hughes) and "Montgomery Variations", a piece she dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr..

In her final act she moved west to Los Angeles, California where she taught music at the Los Angeles Inner City Institute. In 1972 what would be her final composition for orchestra and chorus was premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Sadly, she passed away a few months later after celebrating her 59th birthday.



MARGARET BONDS ■ *A Composer, Concert Pianist, and a Performing Arts Collaborator*

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Entertainment

By: Chelsea Lenora White, Entertainment Editor

The Color Purple Returns To the Big Screen



The Color Purple is an undeniable part of Black Hollywood history. And now, thanks to Fathom Events and Turner Classic Movies, you can see this iconic film—which stars Oprah, Whoopi Goldberg, and Margaret Avery—on February 23 in theaters across the country.

Not only was the film adaptation of Alice Walker's influential novel a box office hit when it came out 35 years ago, it was also a critical success. The late Pulitzer Prize winning film critic Roger Ebert wrote in his 1985 review, "This is one of the few movies in a long time that inspires tears of happiness, and earns them. *The Color Purple* is the year's best film."

The Color Purple—which was nominated for 11 Oscars—introduced co-stars Oprah and Goldberg to audiences and became a breakout career moment for both of them.

It also inspired a Broadway musical that led to a Tony-award winning performance by *Harriet* star Cynthia Erivo, as well as a movie musical adaptation that's still in the works.

Although some time has clearly passed since its release, the emotional story of how Celie Johnson (Goldberg) and Sofia (Oprah) faced oppression as Black women in the South carries life lessons that still resonate with viewers today.

In fact, Ebert revisited the film and included it in his 2004 list of great movies, writing, "Returning to *The Color Purple* after almost 20 years, I can see its flaws more easily than when I named it the best film of 1985, but I can also understand why it moved me so deeply, and why the greatness of some films depends not on their perfection or logic, but on their heart."

Michelle Obama Inks an IGTV Series

We all know Michelle Obama as the former first lady of the United States. But since leaving the White House, she's been building up her résumé and branching out beyond politics. Most recently, my forever first lady inked a deal with Instagram TV to host a series that focuses on young people.

Obama and her Reach Higher program have reached a deal with the digital production company ATTN for the series, *A Year of Firsts*, which focuses on first-generation college students.



According to a news release shared with People, "Each episode will highlight the journey and personal stories of students as they take on their freshman year of higher education." It follows students as they "explore issues like the academic stress of college, making new friends, college affordability, and the physical and mental health while in college."

The series will run from January to June. The exact dates are unclear. But details can be found on ATTN's Instagram page.

The series is immensely special and important to Obama, as she is also a first-generation college student.

"As a first-generation college student myself, I know how intimidating it can be to take that leap and pursue your educational dreams," Obama added in the release. "That's why I'm so proud of these students."

"By sharing their stories, they're helping others see that the ups and downs of the first year of college are something everyone goes through—and they're creating a supportive community for others facing similar challenges," she went on.

Obama attended Princeton University in the early 1980s. In an Instagram post shared back in 2018, she described her experience as a first-generation student as "scary."

"I know that being a first-generation college student can be scary, because it was scary for me," she wrote. "I was black and from a working-class neighborhood in Chicago, while Princeton's student body was generally white and well-to-do."

Obama has repeatedly said in the past that she struggled as a black person in a predominately white space. She wrote in her 2018 memoir *Becoming* that her classmates and teachers would sometimes look at her as if she didn't belong—and she even recounted an experience where her white roommate switched rooms after her mother learned of Obama's race.

But she found refuge in friends and a mentor. Obama graduated in 1985 and went on to study at Harvard Law School.

"I was applauded just for getting in, even if the truth was I'd somehow squeaked in off the wait list. But I was in. People looked at me as if already I'd made my mark on the world," she wrote in *Becoming* of her acceptance into Harvard.

Later, Obama scored a position at a law firm in Chicago where she was asked to mentor a man named Barack Obama.

"Because I went to Harvard and he went to Harvard, and the firm thought, 'Oh, we'll hook these two people up,'" the Obama told ABC News in 2008. "So, you know, there was a little intrigue, but I must say after about a month, Barack, about a month in, asked me out, and I thought no way. This is completely tacky."

But Obama did not give up—and she eventually gave in. They got engaged in 1991 and married the following year.

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Mu Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Bridge Builder Charity Foundation, Inc. Host 2nd Annual "Mardi Gras with the Ques" Event for Scholarships



Mardi Gras with the Ques



Mardi Gras with the Ques



Mardi Gras with the Ques

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY
Associate Editor

This past Saturday, February 15, 2020, the Bridge Builder Charity Foundation, Inc. and the Brothers of the Mu Mu Nu Chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted their 2nd Annual "Mardi Gras with the Ques" event at the Greer & Lowdermilk Conference Center in north Houston. Over 500 people came out to celebrate and have an extremely fun time, as the group hosted a festive New Orleans Style party for the primary purpose of helping fund much-needed scholarships for deserving youth and some impactful mentoring programs.

Last year, the Bridge Builder Charity Foundation awarded a total 12 scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to students,

totaling \$6,000. This year, over \$10,000 in scholarships were awarded based off the generous contributions of event sponsors, table sponsors and overall attendees.

This year's event featured New Orleans National Recording Artists, PARTNERS-N-CRIME; the festive sounds of Derrick D; a stunning performance by the Hustler's Brass Band; as well as a New Orleans 2nd Line with Special Mardi Gras characters.

Attendees enjoyed delicious food, dynamic music and libations, especially thanks to Tito's Handmade Vodka for making the event great all night because of their sponsoring "Mardi Gras with the Ques" and providing complimentary Tito's Handmade Vodka all night for guests.



Mardi Gras with the Ques

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Continued from 4C...



Mardi Gras with the Ques



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Mardi Gras with the Ques

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From the desk of
MIKE BLOOMBERG

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America – and that's true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical. That's why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we've dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

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I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won't happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I've included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I'm President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative: will be a top priority.

Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!

Sincerely,


Mike Bloomberg

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SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
Matthew 22:37-39 (KJV)



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MILLION DOLLAR ALLEGATIONS



TSU Board of Regents Leave Taxpayers on the Hook for Over \$1 Million Based on Unproven Allegations Against Former TSU President Dr. Austin Lane

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY
Associate Editor

No wrongdoing, with a confirmation by the TSU Board's attorney that he did nothing wrong.

No termination, but a mutual buyout of his contract.

The cost to mutually settle with Dr. Austin Lane after bringing allegations to the forefront and choosing to continue with narratives that have now turned out to be unfounded – nearly \$900,000 of taxpayer dollars. And, that is just scratching the surface.

Here are several other cost factors that taxpayers should be concerned about:

- Roughly \$500k that the TSU Board of Regents spent for three law firms and a PR firm
- Potential decrease in funding from donors for TSU Maroon & Gray Gala for scholarships
- Potential decrease in student enrollment for the fall semester, which determines the future funding from that the state gives to public institutions based on a formula
- Money spent at Houstonian Hotel when Dr. Lane was placed on paid leave of absence
- The negative impact on the TSU brand
- Potential decrease in alumni participation and financial support of TSU

When added up, as one can see, the financial impact of this situation has cost taxpayers and Texas Southern University well over \$1 million, both directly and indirectly.

According to a Confidential Settlement Agreement between TSU and Dr. Lane, that the Houston Forward Times has received, the settlement agreement reveals that Dr. Lane

SEE LANE 4A



Katherine G. Johnson at NASA

IN MEMORIAM: Katherine Johnson, a Pioneering NASA Mathematician Featured in "Hidden Figures," Dies at 101

BY LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Katherine Johnson, the legendary NASA physicist and mathematician whose work played a key role in the early successes of the U.S. space program, passed away at 101 years old on the morning of February 24 in Newport News, Va. Johnson played a pivotal role in helping the U.S. land men on the moon during the space race in the 1960s and was portrayed by actress Taraji P. Henson in the 2017 film "Hidden Figures." The book based on the film by the same name was written by Margot Lee Shetterly.

With little more than a pencil and a slide rule, Johnson calculated the exact trajectories for Apollo 11 land on the moon in 1969.

The lives of three brilliant African American women were featured in the book and subsequent film. They were Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, who passed in 2008, and Mary Jackson who passed in 2005. Vaughan and Jackson were from Hampton, Va. and Johnson was from West Virginia. Johnson graduated from West Virginia State University and West Virginia University.

Johnson was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 8, 2019, after House Science Committee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's passed legislation to honor her.

"We're saddened by the passing of celebrated #HiddenFigures mathematician Katherine Johnson. Today, we celebrate her 101 years of life and honor her legacy of excellence that broke down racial and social barriers," tweeted NASA after news of Johnson's passing.

In September 1960 mathematician Katherine Johnson published NASA's first scientific paper to name a woman as author. Johnson's trajectory calculations were vital to the US space missions.

"There were no textbooks, so we had to write them," Johnson said.

"It is with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Katherine Johnson, a truly brilliant mathematician and pioneer. She broke down barriers as one of the few

SEE JOHNSON 4A

Vote Your Future: Vote Climate



Former Vice President Al Gore and Jeffrey L. Boney
Former Vice President Al Gore Launches Major Voter Registration Effort Aimed at Mobilizing Young Voters to Address Climate Crisis at the Polls

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY
Associate Editor

This past week, former Vice President Al Gore visited the HBCU campus of Texas Southern University in Houston, where he kicked off a major voter registration initiative focused on climate action and aimed at students across the country.

Vice President Gore and the Climate Reality Action Fund held a rally where they announced the launch of **Vote Your Future: Vote Climate**, a national campaign to drive voter registration and turnout and rally support for climate action in the lead-up to the 2020 elections.

In support of the campaign, Vice President Gore is visiting a series of U.S. college campuses throughout the year to speak with students about the climate crisis and encourage them to prioritize climate action at the ballot box in 2020.

Future campus tour dates and locations will be announced in the coming weeks.

Prior to hosting the rally on campus, Vice President Gore sat down with the Houston Forward Times to answer some critical questions about climate change and the African American vote.

When asked whether people of color, particularly African Americans, have really caught on to the issue of global climate change as an issue important to them, and whether activists have done enough to cater a message to resonate with African American voters, Vice President Gore responded:

SEE CLIMATE 4A

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Off the Press

EDITORIAL

Outgoing Mississippi Governor Says state faces '1,000 years of Darkness' if Black Man Elected



Fifty-two years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and 55 years after Jim Crow, Mississippi is burning again.

Phil Bryant, the now-former governor of Mississippi – a state that was one of the flashpoints of the civil rights movement, and a haven for the Ku Klux Klan – has sparked understandable outrage after tweeting a racist claim that if the Magnolia State elects its first Black senator, there would be 1,000 years of darkness.

"I intend to work for @cindhydesmith as if the fate of America depended on her single election," Gov. Phil Bryant tweeted on January 2. "If Mike Espy and the liberal Democrats gain the Senate, we will take that first step into a thousand years of darkness."

Bryant, a Republican, left office on January 14 after serving two terms.

Espy lost to Hyde-Smith in Mississippi's special U.S. Senate runoff election in 2018. After announcing that he was running again this year, Espy said he could win by building a diverse coalition of voters.

With a victory, Espy would become Mississippi's first Black senator in more than 139 years.

"We're going after everybody — white, black, Democrat, persuadable Republican, persuadable moderates and those in the middle," Espy told the AP in November 2019.

"But I know where they are now. I'm not flying blind." During his first campaign against Hyde-Smith, a video surfaced showing her praising a supporter by saying she'd attend a "public hanging" if he invited her.

Bryant rekindled those sentiments with his tweet, setting social media ablaze with anger.

Many pointed out the state's history of racism and recent and ongoing problems at Parchman Prison, a former plantation that housed hundreds of slaves and whose population includes more than 60 percent Blacks; the state's debtor's prison that punishes mostly African

Americans; and a recent state Supreme Court decision to affirm a 12-year prison sentence for a Black man who turned over a cell phone to a corrections officer.

"Darkness follows Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant around," feminist Paula Cain wrote on Twitter. "Every time that old white man opens his racist, uneducated mouth — darkness flows out."

Sharon Raynor, a retired military officer, agreed with Cain. "The Mississippi governor is still living in the Jim Crow era," Raynor stated.

Alvon Phillips, a medical technician, said the comments are in line with what the state represents.

"Anyone can clearly see how racist and prejudiced this Mississippi governor is and what race of people he truly represents; the only race whose interests he cares to advance," Phillips stated. "Now, you can understand why Mississippi is last in everything. Last in education, wages, and development."

Journalist Joe Jurado analyzed Bryant's comments in a January 9 article for The Root.

"Mississippi has a very long and very violent history of racism: 600 black people were lynched between 1877 to 1950, the most of any state," Jurado recalled.

"Up until 2017, the state still had predominately segregated schools. This makes it all the more surprising that the governor believes Mike Espy being elected to the Senate would open the doors of Guf and bring about the fourth impact," Jurado stated.

"We're talking about the same man who, after Hyde-Smith came under fire for her lynching comments, went on a podium and compared Black women getting abortions to genocide. Hyperbolic racism just seems to be this dude's go-to."

In a June 1964 profile, The New York Times called Mississippi "the most segregated state, and noted that, "Through most of the state's history, the White supremacists have been able to control government at the local and state levels."

A 2019 lawsuit filed by three Black residents challenged Mississippi's requirement that candidates running for statewide office must win both a majority of the popular vote and at least 62 of 122 state House of Representatives districts.

The law, which was put into place in 1890 when White politicians openly sought to suppress the Black vote, states that no candidate fulfills both requirements, the House then decides a statewide election, and representatives aren't required to vote along with their districts.

"This racist electoral scheme achieved, and continues to achieve, the framers' goals by tying the statewide election process to the power structure of the House," the plaintiffs stated in the lawsuit.

"So long as white Mississippians controlled the House, they would also control the elections of statewide officials."

In an op-ed about Mississippi for The Atlantic late last year, Jesmyn Ward, an author who teaches creative writing at Tulane University, said racism makes itself known in very vocal and confrontational ways.

"But perhaps the most tragic manifestation of racist sentiment in Mississippi is silent. Built into the very bones of this place. My state starves its people and, in doing so, actively resists Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy," Ward stated.

"Our Republican lawmakers have made an effort to undercut programs that serve the poor, maybe because so many people of color in Mississippi live in poverty and depend on social programs for help."

STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior Correspondent

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

NORMALCY



BY DR. E. FAYE WILLIAMS, ESQ.
via TriceEdneyWire.com

Normalcy.

Dictionary.com defines "normalcy" as: *the quality or condition of being normal, as the general economic, political, and social conditions of a nation; normality.*

While overly broad, it's easy to believe that most citizens of this nation would accept this definition as accurate. Amazingly, the example given for word usage was: After months of living in a state of tension, all yearned for a return to normalcy.

Not so amazingly, I accept that our loss of normalcy shapes the state of our current national distress. What's worse – under #45 – there is little hope of relief from the state of flux we now endure. Confusion and uncertainty occupy more space in my future concerns than at any other time in my life. What is certain is that I yearn for a time, as those just a few short years ago, where things weren't perfect, but where we weren't subject to the unlawful, perverse whims of a would-be tyrant and those who would support him blindly.

The majority of voters knew better. We voted, and not for him. We knew him to be racist, misogynistic, and lacking in values and character. He was self-described, and described by those closest to him, as a disruptor whose primary goal was to destroy the institutional fabric of the nation. Although not completely successful, in three years we have seen him take giant steps toward his singular rule as we hope, pray and act to prevent his stated goals.

Rather than working for the benefit of the entire nation,

he first, with the support of a Senate and House of Representatives corrupted by the goal of perpetual power, began to pass laws which had no effect other than to enrich the wealthy. When his laws and Executive Orders didn't directly enrich the already rich, they were motivated by a racist and infantile effort to erase the legacy of President Obama.

Many have grown so weary of the on-going litany of breaches of presidential protocols, practices and traditions that they have given up their protests of his conduct for the safer tact of "praying for divine relief." Many more, I believe, have failed to correctly anticipate how the pieces of his strategic jigsaw puzzle fit together.

Our government of three co-equal branches has been coopted by an Executive Branch which has manipulated the judiciary with the lifetime appointments of scores of unqualified judges and enlisted the assistance of a cooperative Senate to maintain the gridlock of legislative inaction. Within the Executive Branch, he has established a revolving door of cabinet and staff that make his judgments and whims the only constants in administration policy.

Most alarmingly, his recent forays into the judicial process – military and civilian – are disturbing to the core. His act of reversing the judgment of a military court released a war criminal with the additional effect of eroding confidence in the military chain-of-command and the standards of conduct service members are bound to uphold.

The recent pardons/commutation of sentences for 11 federally convicted criminals are within his constitutional authority, but were they purposed to uphold justice? To the contrary, I believe they were issued with the desire to condition the public to accept any action he might choose to take. His actions are those of a monarch, not a president. But he's already told us of his intention to remain in office – like a king.

It's not normal to be able to "boil a frog." The key to boiling the frog is to turn the heat up gradually so it won't notice.

Even when our "normal" is disrupted by perverse mismanagement, we have the capacity to access and reject the disruption. We have the capacity and the responsibility.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women. She's also host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-FM 89.3 radio.

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Democracy: Voting Rights

BY BOBBY E. MILLS, PHD, *Forward Times Contributor*

Voting is a sacred-spiritual thought process of the heart of an individual's mind; therefore: "For as he thinketh in his heart: so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee." (Proverbs 23: 7). The political-governing-foundation of democracy is voting rights, because the right to vote for who will represent your God given inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is what democracy is all about. It's not what individuals say or even do in a democracy; but it is all about motive and only God can judge motive. Motives are the immoral foundation of sin, and this is why, only God can judge motive(s). A society judges the deeds: the action. Therefore, societies cannot enact laws to legislate morality. No doubt about it, society or societies can only punish or reward behavior.

Know this, Christian Right Evangelicals and GOP Loyalists voting rights TRUMP everything; except the right to freely worship God, and unfortunately the free exercise of religion is even jeopardized, because so-called Christians are seeking to enact laws that regulate voting rights, as well as to dictate the rights of women to control their own bodies. Therefore, GOP politicians stop obstructing minority voting rights in order to perpetuate white privilege (institutional-racism). Hence, obtaining a quality education is one of the Civil Rights issues of the twenty-first century as well as America's immigration policy, because America is a nation-state of immigrants. America, we cannot forget the overwhelming seriousness of the climate change issue, because the issue of climate change is pushing not just America, but the world too: "no more water, but The Fire Next Time!"

God has warned mankind against: "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be a partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." (Timothy 5: 22). Unfortunately, it appears as though Christian Right Evangelicals in conjunction with their GOP counterparts, and Trump Loyalists have severed their moral conscience pertaining to this specific scripture. Of course, real God-fearing-Christians spiritually understand this question: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). Therefore, the question must be asked of Christian Right Evangelicals: how can you be in agreement with a chronic-habitual-liar, a racist, a womanizer/adulterous/fornicator, religious bigot, and a bold/brazen separator of Americans from Americans? Moreover, all Americans know that this is factually true. Now that we KNOW, the question is: what are we as Americans going to do about it, because we are: ("One nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all"). The answer to this spiritual-moral question is: VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! your spiritual conscience. The Founders implied in establishing our democratic system of governance that democracy required a spiritually educated population, and therefore, they established a mass universal educational system. At that time, most educational institutions were Christian education oriented. The Founders spiritually understood the importance of a Christian education, because they knew that non-spiritually educated individuals were more likely than not to select/elect ungodly-dictatorial-leaders. Behold Donald J. Trump; even though, Trump was not the first. However, we pray that he is the last! The Founders understood this scripture: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." (Revelation 1: 3). America, the time is now, more so than ever before.

The enfranchisement and the disenfranchisement of different minority groups have been contested throughout the history of the USA. Eligibility to vote is established by both the U. S. Constitution and by State laws. Constitutional Amendments (15th, 19th, and 26th) specifically require that the voting rights of U.S. citizens cannot be abridged because of race, color or creed, or conditions of previous servitude, sex, or against any citizen 18 years old. Thus, the historic turning point for Voting Rights was the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act 1965, under the leadership of Chief Justice Earl Warren that solidified the concept of "one man, one vote" in law. Moreover, thank God for President Lyndon B. Johnson, because he was the only U. S. President who publicly declared "we will and must do this"! Later in 1972, The Chief Justice Burger Court ruled that State Legislatures had to redistrict every ten years based upon census results in order to curb White bias (White Privilege). Thus, the power of democracy is vested in an individual's right to freely vote their moral conscience, not Messianic Leadership. Christian Right Evangelicals, Jesus was and still is the Messiah, not Donald J. Trump. God is divinity wrapped in humanity, but Donald J. Trump is unbridled humanity wrapped in division (sin); telling lies, because Trump is the Chief IMP of telling lies. Trump has told over 16,000 public lies and counting. Christian Right Evangelicals sin separates human beings from each other and most of all from God because: "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood." (Proverbs 6: 16-17). America, take heed: "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit." (Proverbs 26: 4-5). America, and especially, Christian Right Evangelicals and GOP Loyalists, know this from time to time, even a fool will speak fairly, but know this it's all about him, not about America, therefore: "When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart." (Proverbs 26: 25). Messianic politics in a democracy is political leadership insanity. This is why the right to vote was very hard fought, and had to be earned/won/achieved through sweat-equity-sacrifice, tears, brutal police beatings, the shedding of innocent blood, and even death! Thus, it is sinfully-immoral for individuals to have the right/privilege of voting for political leaders, and not exercise that inalienable right. That is, it is a sin given the socio-political-economic-sacrifices made by many individuals Black/White, Republicans/Democrats, and Jewish/Gentile! Shame, shame, shame on the Black men who did not vote in the 2016 Presidential election, because not voting was in fact a vote for the most ungodly President in America's stellar history. America when a circumstance is "gone with the wind", it is gone forever, and never to return. Chattel slavery has been caught-up in the whirlwind. The Prophet Habakkuk was the first to ask the question: "How Long O'Lord", because you have pure eyes. God's answer to Habakkuk was simply write the vision on the wall so that all might see: "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." (Habakkuk 2: 3). Habakkuk wrote the vision on the WALL. Simply because: "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29: 18). Moreover, individuals who do not understand the laws of The Lawmaker (God) are unrestrained: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self." (Matt. 22: 37-39). Hence, America, rise-up, and allow God to write his spiritual vision for America on our hearts and spiritual minds that the world might see the glory of God; therefore, vote your spiritual moral conscience. Run, run, run to the polls, and: VOTE, VOTE, VOTE, and replace ungodly-immoral-leadership with godly leadership in the Office of the Presidency. Hence, on November 3rd, let's free ourselves from mass spiritual-societal-confusion, and ungodliness in high places in order that all Americans might have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Finally, these words of inspiration came from the conscience of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." (Psalm 68:11). Selah!



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Donald Trump Will Always Envy President Barack Obama



BY DR. JAMES B. EWERS JR., *Contributing Writer*

What makes a person jealous of someone else?

There are some factors that play into this character flaw. However, first, why can't we be happy for another person or group? Why can't we wish them well and applaud their accomplishments?

I believe that is the American way.

While it is the American way, some of us fall into the jealousy trap. We question someone else's credentials and qualifications. We make unflattering comments about how someone gained a promotion or increase in salary. We spread gossip and innuendo about their heritage and background.

Today, American politics are at an all-time low. The mudslinging has become so commonplace that we think nothing of it. We have simply become immune to it. We have a new ailment that has come onto the political scene and that is presidential jealousy.

I don't ever remember a current president taking constant and ongoing digs at a former president. Now, I can say that I have seen it. Since almost day one, Donald Trump has made disparaging and disrespectful remarks about Barack Obama.

Quite honestly, this verbal assault started well before Donald Trump became president of the United States.

Mr. T, as you recall, questioned President Obama's citizenship. He did so even when it was certified and verified that Barack Obama was an American citizen. This is the type of acrimony and confusion that Mr. T is famous for starting. He says so much vile stuff that he has some people believing his lies.

While not in the White House a week, POTUS assailed he had a larger inauguration than President Obama. Of course, that was untrue. The fact checkers said the same thing. Only those in his camp said otherwise. We now know that those in his administration have been bamboozled and that they swallowed the tainted juice.

Mr. T recently stated that Obama's economic numbers were poor compared to his robust numbers. Again, we know this to be untrue. Donald Trump cannot get President Obama out of his mind, or out of his mouth. Everything that he does wants to compare to the former president. It is always mine is better than Barack Obama's.

The current POTUS is a fan of polls. His warped thinking is that he is more popular than the former president. Those of us who are right thinking know that Barack Obama is one of the most popular presidents in recent history. Mr. T is familiar with only two words. He knows the pronoun "I" and the indirect object "Me".

Wrongly, he thinks he is the king of the world.

Many of us get nauseated when we hear Mr. T and his false narratives. His fixation with President Barack Obama will not stop anytime soon. He is narcissistic. This attitude of superiority has always been a part of his makeup. He's fallen and he can't get up.

The current president is awash in arrogance and conceit. He does not have the presidential competence or compassion to lead with integrity. This makes it impossible for him to be the voice of America. As a result, our country is viewed negatively by the rest of the world.

This POTUS doesn't measure up to his predecessor. His comparisons are baseless, puny and have no merit. There is nothing that Mr. T can say or do to alter this fact. It is a chilling reality that he must live with each day. Thankfully, we had a president in Barack Obama who cared about people.

The current administration falls woefully short in all categories when put up against former President Obama. It is fruitless and futile to compare the two of them. Let Mr. T know that he should stop trying.

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LANE CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

will receive a whopping \$100,000 as "compensation for alleged emotional distress, damage to his reputation and mental anguish."

The settlement agreement was approved by the TSU Board of Regents on Thursday, February 20th, after Dr. Lane and his attorneys met with several members of the TSU Board of Regents to air out their grievances during a 13-hour mediation on Monday, February 17th.

The TSU Board of Regents released a statement after parting ways with Dr. Lane, stating:

The Board of Regents today announced that Dr. Austin Lane has entered into a settlement agreement with the University, officially ending his tenure with TSU. The agreement was reached after a 13-hour mediation session on Monday in which both sides aired their grievances before a former judge. Dr. Lane accepted the mediator's settlement agreement, and the full Board was made aware of the details of that agreement at today's Board meeting and voted unanimously to accept the terms of the settlement. The Board believes that the settlement agreement is in the best interest of moving forward the academic mission of TSU, and in the best interests of the students, faculty and the community at large.

Prior to this blowup, Dr. Lane had a little more than 2 1/2 years left on his recently renewed three-year contract and had become a beloved University President by many in the community.

Dr. Lane and his wife, Loren Lane, also released a statement:

Dear TSU Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alums:

My wife Loren and I would like to thank each of you for allowing us to serve at this indomitable institution, The Texas Southern University! Our last four years have been the best four years of our lives and we can only hope that we lived up to your expectations of making TSU the best HBCU in the country. With your input, recommendations, and support, we were able to do great things in a very short period of time:

- Brought homecoming traditions (parade in 2016; football game in 2019) back to the yard, increasing community and alumni engagement
- Construction of new 100,000-square-foot library learning center, expanding access to research and tools for students, faculty, staff, and alums
- Creation of a capital expenditure plan, reallocating funds to make much-needed campus infrastructure improvements and reduce deferred maintenance
- Safety enhancements, including the hiring of new TSU Department of Public Safety leadership, a new student-focused policing philosophy, overhaul of the policing fleet, and improved campus lighting
- Revival of Greek life, expanding the number of fraternities and sororities and bringing some off of probationary status
- Clearance of NCAA probation for the TSU athletic program, along with record-breaking academic successes and graduation rates for TSU student-athletes
- Acceptance of the largest single gift from an individual (approximately \$3 million) from the estate of alumnus Joan M. Lafleur to the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
- Establishing the Maroon & Gray Affair annual fundraiser for student scholarships and programs, resulting in more than \$3 million raised
- Increase in enrollment over targeted projections, including double digit

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
City of Houston
Inspections and Public Service Division
DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
March 12, 2020 @ 9:00 A.M.
7125 Ardmore Street, 1st Floor
Houston, Texas 77054

The City of Houston Hearing Officer will hear testimony and review evidence for the following properties located in Harris County, Texas (unless otherwise indicated) at 9:00 am:

4602 Oates Rd. - (Main Structure) - [West 205 feet of Lot Four (4), in Block One (1) of L. M. Wilson Acre Subdivision, an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 725, Page 199 of the Deed Records of Harris County, Texas.]

1289 Hopper Rd. - [TR 1A, in Block Two (2) of Melrose Park Townhouses, an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 186, Page 114 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas.]

5602 Lakefield Dr. - [Lot 36, Block 5, of Crestmont Addition, Section 2, an addition in the Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 56, Page 30 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas.]

4434 Davenport St. - [Lot Seventy-eight (78), in Block Seven (7) of Ruberfield Subdivision No. Sixty-six (66), an addition in Harris County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 31, Page 66 of the Map Records of Harris County, Texas.]

3614 Rebecca St. (Main Structure and Detached Garage) - [Lot 4, in Block 7 of South End Sunnyside Addition, an unrecorded subdivision in Harris County, Texas according to the generally recognized plat thereof.]

At this hearing the Neighborhood Protection Official of the Inspection and Public Service Division or the Neighborhood Protection Official designee will present evidence regarding the condition of the structure(s)/premises. Persons may appear before the Hearing Officer only in support of, or in response to, a case being presented by the Neighborhood Protection Official or the Neighborhood Protection Official designee. The owner or anyone having an interest in the property should arrive forty-five (45) minutes prior to the above scheduled hearing time to review his/her/their case file and video with the inspector. The owner, lessor, occupant, lienholder, or anyone having an interest in the property, will be given an opportunity to present evidence and witnesses if so desired. After all evidence and testimony has been presented the Hearing Officer has the full authority to issue orders for abatement of dangerous buildings or substandard buildings, as provided in Section 54.036 of the Local Tex. Govt. Code relating to dangerous, minimum building standards, and nuisance violations.

All notices are recorded in the Real Property Records in the county in which the property is located. Complete copies may be obtained through that office.

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JOHNSON CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

African-American women mathematicians working at the Flight Dynamics and Control Division at NASA Langley," wrote Congressman Bobby Scott who represents Newport News, Va.

"Her work helped put the first Americans in space and send the Apollo 11 astronauts to the moon, thereby helping the United States win the Space Race. While I knew Katherine Johnson and her family personally for many years, like so many Americans I never fully appreciated the work that she, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, Christine Darden and the many other African American women at NASA trailblazed for so many until their untold story was revealed in Hidden Figures. Mrs. Johnson was a true American hero, and we were so proud to have her call Hampton Roads home. I want to send my deepest condolences to her family and friends, and to everyone who was inspired by her remarkable life and work," Rep. Scott added.

"Today we mourn the loss of an American hero and a pioneer for women and African Americans in STEM fields. Katherine Johnson played a pivotal role in the outcome of the space race during her 35-year career at NASA and its predecessor, NACA. Without her accomplishments and those of her fellow Hidden Figures, which went largely unrecognized until the last decade, the outcome of the Space Race may have been quite different. Her achievements and impacts on our country are great, and her loss will be felt by many. I send my heartfelt condolences to her loved ones and colleagues," NASA said in a statement.

"We've lost an icon and brilliant mathematician with the passing of Katherine Johnson. A barrier breaker and inspiration for women of color everywhere, Katherine's legendary work with NASA will forever leave a mark on our history. My heart goes out to her family and loved ones," said Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA).

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LBurke.

CLIMATE CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



Former Vice President Al Gore

"I think that used to be the case, but I think that has begun to change in a very powerful way. I have joined forces with Rev. William Barber II, who is the co-chair of the New Poor People's Campaign. More than 50 years ago, before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had launched the original Poor People's Campaign aimed at three evils: Racism, Poverty and Excessive Militarism. Now, Rev. Barber has revived that campaign and has added a fourth evil, which he labels Ecological Destruction. The United Nations just issued a report that stated every child in the world stands to be a victim of the climate crisis right now. So, I think there is a growing awareness of how these crises are intertwined and connected."

When asked about various local issues that have arisen, such as the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, or the report from the Environmental Protection Agency that revealed that there are cancer clusters in predominately African American communities in the Greater Houston area and whether he felt it is difficult for African Americans to focus on a climate crisis on a global level, when they have to deal with major environmental issues on a local level, Vice President Gore said:

"The overburden of cancer cases concentrated on communities of color, including African Americans, is a pattern. The number one predictor of the location of a hazardous chemical waste site is race. It is the number one predictor to this day and it's no mystery why this is the case. If we had paid more attention in the past to what was being inflicted on low-income communities of color, with these environmental insults, we would have understood earlier what's being inflicted on the human race."

Vice President Gore also applauded the efforts of young people for speaking up more about the issues related to the climate crisis.

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General Manager, Americas, Houston, TX – Resato North America LLC sks Snr Mngr to lead business ops in the Americas, dvlv cmpry infrastrctre, mnge finances, mnge staff. Req'd: MBA & 4 yrs exp as Snr Mngr in Oil&Gas Indstry. Req's 30% int'l & dmstc travel. Send cvr ltr & CV to USA-jobs@resato.com.

LEGAL NOTICE for IFB 20-13

The Houston Housing Authority (HHA), is soliciting sealed bids with the intent to establish a contract for the replacement of existing roofs at Kelly Village Apartments, in accordance with the requirements, and terms and conditions specified in IFB 20-13 Kelly Village Roof Replacement Project.

Interested parties are highly encouraged (but not required), to attend a pre-bid conference scheduled for 10 A.M. Central Standard Time (CST) March 5, 2020 at Kelly Village, 3118 Green Street, Houston, Texas 77020.

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 4 P.M. CST, March 31, 2020 to the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) Attn: Austin Y. Crotts, MA, Subject: IFB 20-13 Kelly Village Roof Replacement Project - DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

IFB 20-13 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA's website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA's Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com with IFB 20-13 in the subject line.

§ A Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or 504ADA@housingforhouston.com

LEGAL NOTICE for RFP 20-14

The Houston Housing Authority (HHA), is soliciting sealed proposals with the intent to establish a contract for a Construction Manager as Advisor, in accordance with the requirements and terms and conditions specified in RFP 20-14 Construction Manager as Advisor.

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 4 P.M. Central Standard Time March 20, 2020 to the Houston Housing Authority Attn: Austin Y. Crotts, MA, Subject: RFP 20-14 Construction Manager as Advisor - DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

RFP 20-14 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA's website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA's Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com with RFP 20-14 in the subject line.

§ A Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or 504ADA@housingforhouston.com

"With Mother Nature speaking out ever more loudly and clearly, more and more Americans are calling for leadership on the climate crisis," said Vice President Gore. "We are at a political tipping point, thanks in large part to Greta Thunberg and millions of other young people speaking truth to power. With the courage and moral clarity they bring to the climate movement, and the power of grassroots organizing behind them, young people will, I'm confident, be a driving force for climate action this November."

The Vote Your Future: Vote Climate tour is being managed by the Climate Reality Action Fund and will focus its voter registration and get out the vote efforts on several key states – Texas, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida, Nevada. Alongside a broad network of allies and supporters, the campaign will organize, educate, and activate voters to support bold, ambitious climate solutions and candidates at every level of government up and down the ballot on Election Day.

The Climate Reality Action Fund is affiliated with The Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit organization founded by Vice President Gore in 2006 to catalyze solutions to the climate crisis. Since its inception in 2007, The Climate Reality Project has trained more than 21,000 Climate Reality Leaders from 152 countries around the world.

To learn more about the Climate Reality Action Fund, please visit: <https://www.climaterealitactionfund.org/>.

Local News



Twin Entrepreneurs Teach Secrets to Business Success with 'Young Millionaires Series'



Twin brothers Stephen Levi Carter and Dr. Sterling Carter speak to the crowd at the Young Millionaires Series.



Speaker Jason Montanez receives an award from Dr. Sterling Carter and Stephen Levi Carter at the Young Millionaires Series.



A father and son take notes at the Young Millionaires Series hosted by Stephen Levi Carter and Sterling Carter.

BY JEFFREY L. BONEY
Associate Editor

This past Saturday, February 22nd, twin entrepreneurs, Dr. Sterling Carter and Stephen Levi Carter, kicked off a four-city tour here in Houston, as they announced the launch of the 'Young Millionaires Series' in an effort to build generational wealth in urban communities.

The successful entrepreneurs and creators of the series plan to visit four major cities throughout 2020, where they will welcome aspiring entrepreneurs to experience an once-in-a-lifetime conference full of great content, strategies, and ways to position themselves for millionaire business status.

The four-city tour kicked off here in Houston and will be followed by Chicago on Saturday, May 9th; Washington, D.C. on Saturday, August 29th; and Atlanta on Saturday, October 24th.

The 'Young Millionaires Series' will include workshops, networking opportunities, panels featuring top professionals from various industries, and one-on-one mentorship with the Carter brothers, who are themselves multi-million dollar business owners, speakers and co-authors of the ForbesBooks best-seller, *Double Your Success: Principles to Build a Multimillion-Dollar Business*.

"My brother and I hope to not only build the next generation of young millionaires through this series, but also to model the necessity of mentorship and giving back, both of which are essential to building wealth in underserved communities," said Dr. Sterling Carter.

"Our goal is to share the secrets to our success, the triumphs, as well as the trials, on our way to the top," Stephen Carter added. "In doing so, we offer our Talented Ten a head start



Kyra Hardwick (left) and Sky Houston (right) pose with Nicole Stewart at the Young Millionaires Series.

into lucrative, sustainable business ventures."

The Carters have a rapidly growing list of awards and recognitions, including a ranking of No. 3954 on the annual Inc. 5000 list, the most prestigious ranking of the nation's fastest-growing private companies; Houston Business Journal's Fast 100 Finalist; the Entrepreneur 360 Award; the American Business Award; and the GHBC Pinnacle Upstart Award, to name a few.

Together, these two progressive African American businessmen founded Sterling Staffing Solutions in 2011, which has grown into an award-winning, multimillion-dollar company that specializes in providing medical staffing services to home health agencies, hospices, hospitals, and rehab facilities.

Collectively, these two twin brothers have founded and currently operate several companies including Sterling Physical Therapy & Wellness, White Orchid Hospice, Carter Brothers Consulting and MyMedCred.com.

Dr. Sterling Carter is a nationally-recognized physical therapist, with over 20 years of experience in his field. He has also made guest appearances on the popular *My 600-lb. Life* television show on The Learning Channel (TLC).

Stephen Levi Carter has an MBA, and has over two decades of experience in managerial and executive-level positions for a variety of industries, including medical insurance and the oil and gas industry.

Both brothers are military veterans and decorated businessmen.

For more information on the Carter Brothers, please visit www.TheCarterBrothers.com.

For information on dates and tickets for the Young Millionaire Series, please visit www.YoungMillionnairesSeries.com.



SIGN UP FOR SPRING YOUTH SPORTS AT THE HOUSTON TEXANS Y!

Regular Registration ends February 17
Wait List Registration ends March 19
Practices begin March 9
Games begin March 28



Regular Registration (Ending Feb. 17)

Tiny Tots Basketball and/or Soccer Clinics (ages 3-5)

Facility Member: \$60
Program Member: \$115

**Soccer (ages 5-7)
Basketball (ages 5-7)**

Facility Member: \$85
Program Member: \$140

**Soccer (ages 8-9)
Basketball (ages 8-17)**

Facility Member: \$100
Program Member: \$155

Wait List Registration (Feb. 18-Mar. 19)

Facility Member: \$60
Program Member: \$115

Facility Member: \$105
Program Member: \$160

Facility Member: \$120
Program Member: \$175

Don't wait, sign up today: ymcahouston.org

Financial assistance is available.

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YMCA Mission: To put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Local News

F2F Music Foundation and HCC Stafford Bringing Unique Partnership to Community with Jazz Improv Summer Camp



First of its kind Jazz Improvisation Camp coming to Fort Bend County

BY FORWARD TIMES STAFF

The sounds of jazz will fill the halls of HCC Stafford campus this summer at the F2F Jazz Improvisation Camp, a collaboration of Houston Community College (HCC) Southwest and the nonprofit F2F Music Foundation.

The jazz improvisation camp – the first of its kind in Fort Bend County, Texas – is geared toward middle and high school students who are intermediate-level musicians.

The camp will run from July 13 – 31 at HCC Southwest Fine Arts Center, 9910 Cash Road in Stafford, Texas. The closing day will feature a student concert and a grand finale where they'll get to perform with the Vel Lewis Band and other professional jazz musicians.

The jazz camp is the brainchild of jazz musician-composer Vel Lewis, who started the music foundation as a way to teach young people about jazz and its various forms.

Lewis has composed music scores for TV shows and toured with vocalist Dionne Warwick and other artists in a career that has spanned five decades.

The seed for F2F Music Foundation was planted in 2017, when Lewis joined forces with the Edison Arts Foundation in Missouri City, Texas, to organize a concert with elementary school pupils in Fort Bend County.

"When the concert ended, three little girls – they are triplets who had played clarinet and flute – came up to me and asked, 'Mr. Lewis, do we have to give back these instruments?' That just broke my heart," said Lewis. "I knew I had to do something to help these kids have their own instruments."

Lewis called on his friend Nellie Doty, a retired Houston Independent School District instructor, to help found the Instrument Fund Program to put musical instruments in the hands of young people. Building on the program's success, they formed F2F Music Foundation in 2018.

Madeline Burillo-Hopkins, Ed.D., president of HCC Southwest, said the new partnership is an example of the college's commitment to helping improve the community by creating innovative opportunities for education and cultural enrichment.

"This collaboration with F2F will provide musically inclined youths of our community two exciting weeks to immerse themselves in the rich tradition of jazz and experience music-making with top-notch jazz musicians," said Burillo-Hopkins.

Colleen Reilly, Ph.D., dean of HCC Visual and Performing Arts Center of Excellence, said the partnership with F2F is a good fit for HCC.

"I'm really excited about bringing students who are passionate about music to our college," she said. "HCC has a strong music program, and our graduates transfer to highly competitive four-year institutions. There is also a vibrant jazz scene in Houston and it is important for our programs to be connected to the community."

By focusing on the medium of jazz, the students will expand their musical horizons, Reilly said.

"Jazz is universal," she said. "The students will be focusing on improvisation and applying a lot of conventional, traditional and classical musical training. This is really an important stage of their development as musicians because it not only deals with arrangement and composition but also authorship and ownership of the music."

To register for the camp, visit f2fmusicfoundation.org/jazz-improvisation-camp, or email info@f2fmusicfoundation.org, or call 281-404-5529.

3rd Ward Chess Park: "Star Bench" Unveiled



Local residents at 3rd Ward Chess Park (Photo by Ed Pettitt)

BY FORWARD TIMES STAFF

This past Saturday, February 22nd, Houston's newest piece of public art was unveiled at the 3rd Ward Chess Park: a wood and metal "Star Bench" by artist Max Syron.

Birthed out of the Parks & Neighborhood Character Work Group of Third Ward Complete Communities, chaired by Ed Pettitt, the 3rd Ward Chess Park is a public-private partnership between Ciara Jarmon, a Third Ward realtor and developer, and The Cinque Project, a local nonprofit directed by Rich Johnson. The Third Ward Complete Communities Action Plan calls for the integration of "public space, history, and culture by creating community art installations."



Local residents at 3rd Ward Chess Park (Photo by Ed Pettitt)

The "Star Bench" is both functional seating and a creative play structure. It uses the typical five pointed star as a model for the possibilities of manipulating and reimagining everyday symbols. Its fragmented surface bears a collection of writings that meander through histories and futures of the star. The project has been funded by the Support for Artists and Creative Individuals Grant from Houston Arts Alliance and was produced during a residency at the studios of Flying Carpet Creative in neighboring East Downtown.

Max Syron is an artist working between sculptures and writing. His practice currently investigates common symbols and the metaphors that emerge from their forms and histories.

Max has received an MFA from California Institute of the Arts and a BFA from Massachusetts Institute of Art and Design.

www.bayoucityartfestival.com

#HouArtFest #BayouCityArtFest



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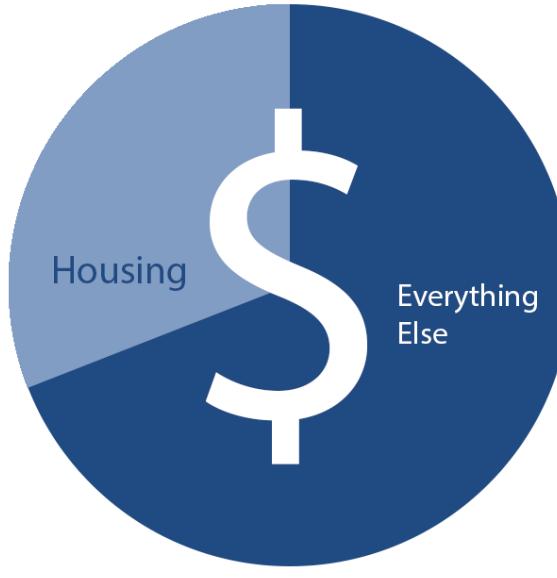
BUSINESS



White House Budget Proposal Cuts \$8.6 Billion from HUD

What is Affordable Housing?

According to the government, housing must be no more than 30% of a family's income to qualify as "affordable."



CRL
Center for Responsible Lending

Programs Serving Low-and-Moderate Income Consumers to End or Suffer Severe Cuts

BY: CHARLENE CROWELL, via TriceEdneyWire.com

Once again, the White House Budget Proposal slashes funding and programs that many low-and-moderate income consumers rely upon.

From higher education to a repeated attack to deny the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau its full funding and financial independence from the annual congressional appropriations process, efforts to increase support to businesses continue while retreats from programs that citizens have come to rely upon is the crux of the proposal's fiscal priorities.

And among federal agencies, one of the most severe budget cuts would occur at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A proposed 15% reduction from current funding levels will mean \$8.6 billion would either eliminate or severely cut programs serving many of the nation's most vulnerable citizens and communities.

"This Budget advances our key priorities, including empowering HUD-assisted families to achieve self-sufficiency," HUD Secretary Ben Carson said. "For generations, the idea of the federal government providing housing assistance meant only one thing—helping to pay the rent so families can have a roof over their heads."

Housing experts have a different perspective.

"With this proposal, President Trump and Secretary Carson make clear their willingness to increase evictions and homelessness – through rent hikes for some of the lowest income people in subsidized housing, and slashing or eliminating funding for programs that keep the

poorest people in our country affordably and safely housed," said Diane Yentel, President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

For example, Public Housing's Capital Improvement Fund that provides revenues for major repairs, would end, while the Public Housing Operating Fund would be slashed 21%. Together, these two cuts would worsen housing conditions for the estimated 1.2 million households living in public housing units, managed by some 3,300 local Housing Authorities across the country.

The biggest portion of the HUD cuts would end the \$3.3 billion Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that uses a formula to support over 1,200 metropolitan city, county and state governments. An additional 214 counties receive direct CDBG grants.

Begun in 1974, CDBG has earned longstanding bipartisan praise for its ability to lure much-needed private investment. According to the National Association of Counties, every CDBG dollar leverages \$4.09 in non-CDBG revenues. Further, it is one of the few federal programs that enable local communities to design community development services that respond to local priorities and needs.

Other HUD programs proposed to end include: Choice Neighborhoods Initiatives, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers, Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

Although HUD would not shutter its Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity efforts, its capacity to pursue equal housing would be cut 7% in FY2020. Tenant-based Rental Assistance would also have 21% fewer renewed contracts.

Even before the February 10 budget proposal's release, Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance sounded an alarm on the heels of HUD's announcement to abandon its rule promulgated during the Obama Administration, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).

"Access to fair housing determines where we live, which in turn determines the quality of education and health services our children have access to, among other resources. That's why HUD's proposed AFFH rule is so troubling," said Rice. "By seeking to dismantle the 2015 requirements put in place specifically to address discrimination and segregation, HUD's plan could negatively impact the lives of millions of children."

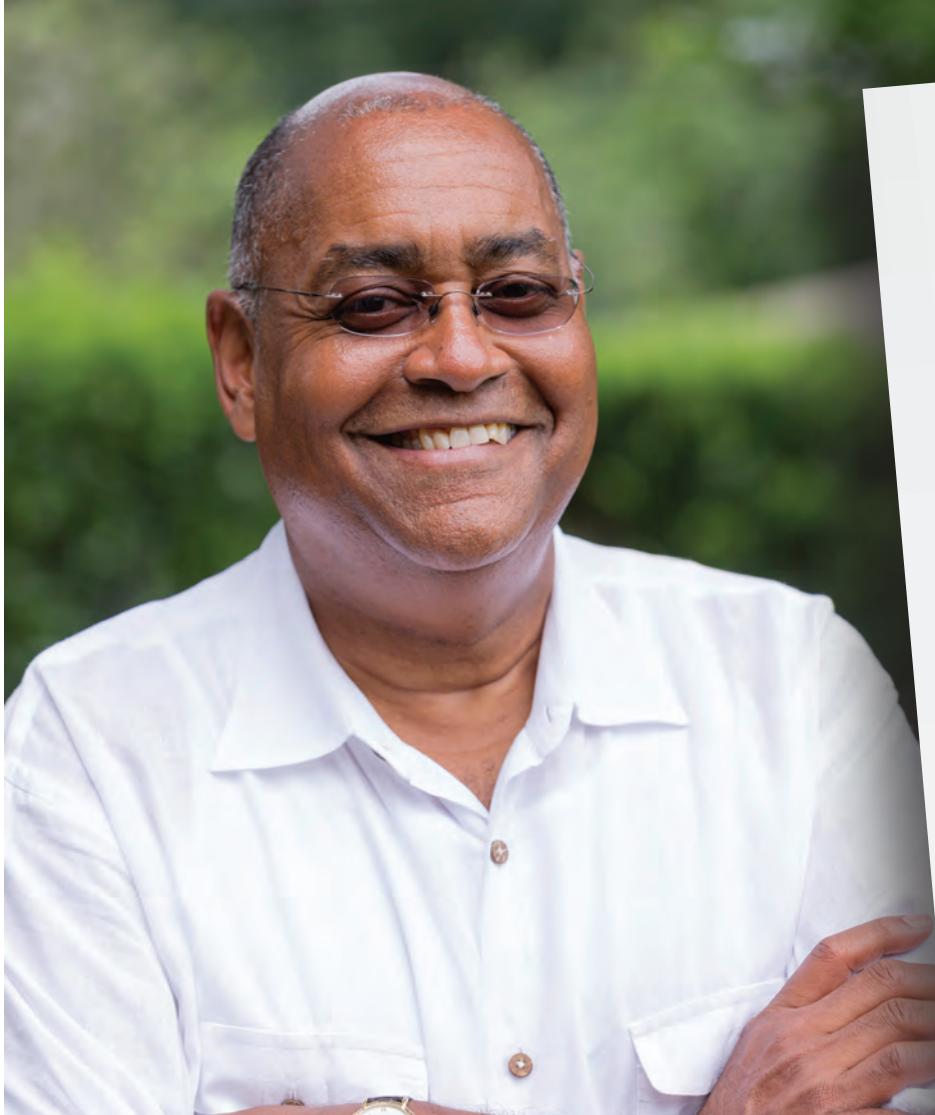
Nikitra Bailey, an EVP with the Center for Responsible Lending also spoke out about HUD's troubling actions against fair housing.

"The 2015 AFFH rule was designed to address the impact of residential segregation and the harmful inequities that result from the discrimination behind it. Discrimination in housing is not a thing of the past, it is ongoing and real," noted Bailey. "[L]ow-income communities and communities of color now more than ever need the government to provide them with critical tools to combat discrimination in housing and the insidious harms that result. Instead we've seen HUD, under the current Administration, do the opposite."

Hannah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director for Policy with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advancing policy solutions for low-income people pointedly summarized the budget proposal.

"The roadmap laid out in the administration's budget proposal is not a viable path forward, said Matthews. "Instead, we need a federal budget that invests in America's future. We need investments that reduce poverty, promote economic opportunity, and reduce racial and ethnic disparities."

Charlene Crowell is the deputy communications director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



**DEMOCRATIC
PRIMARY ELECTION:
Tuesday, March 3.**

You can vote early now through Friday (February 28).

Visit: RodneyEllis.com to find your polling location or call (844) TX-VOTES.

RODNEY ELLIS
HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT ONE

Dear Neighbor,

I grew up in Sunnyside. My first political act was protesting the Sunnyside Dump with my mom.

I knew that dump was put in our neighborhood for a reason. I didn't know the term then, but today, we call it environmental racism.

That injustice has fueled my focus on inequality and social justice ever since — including today's fights for equity in flood recovery and prevention.

I'm proud to have earned the support of Mayor Sylvester Turner, Congressmembers Sheila Jackson Lee, Al Green and Sylvia Garcia, the *Houston Chronicle* and many more who have joined me in the fight for better health care, more economic opportunity, criminal justice reform, and environmental and climate justice.

I hope you will join our movement too, by honoring me with your vote.

Rodney Ellis



From the desk of
MIKE BLOOMBERG

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America – and that's true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical. That's why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we've dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

- Create 1 million new Black homeowners
- Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
- Invest \$70 billion in the country's 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

Fixing the System for Black Families. When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs. We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won't happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I've included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I'm President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative: will be a top priority.

Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!

Sincerely,


Mike Bloomberg

**mike
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2020** | **THE
GREENWOOD
INITIATIVE**

PAID FOR BY MIKE BLOOMBERG 2020



For more information visit
MikeForBlackAmerica.com

Lifestyle

www.ForwardTimes.com

FASHION | ENTERTAINMENT | SPORTS
SOCIETY | RELIGION



BECOMING THE FIRST ARTIST TO CONDUCT AN INTERACTIVE SONGWRITING WORKSHOP AND LIVE CONCERT IN THE MICROSOFT STORE

[AN OPEN LETTER]

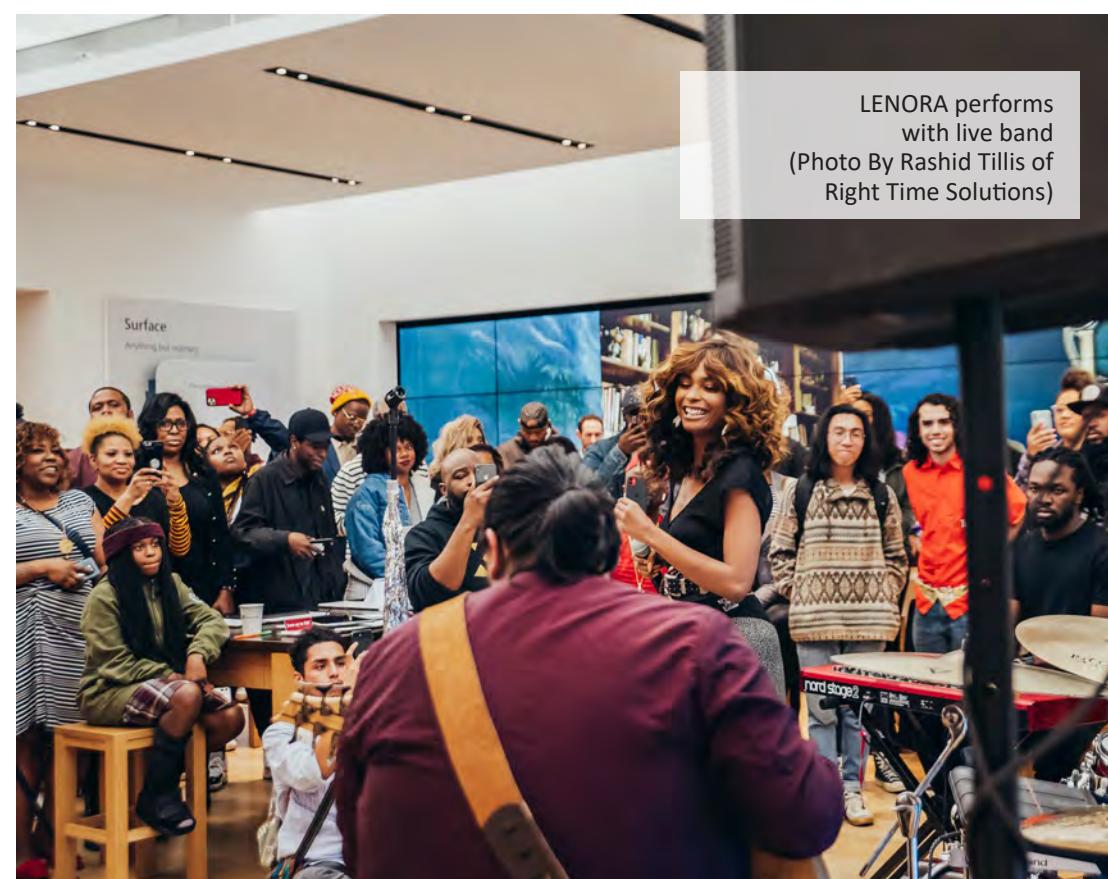
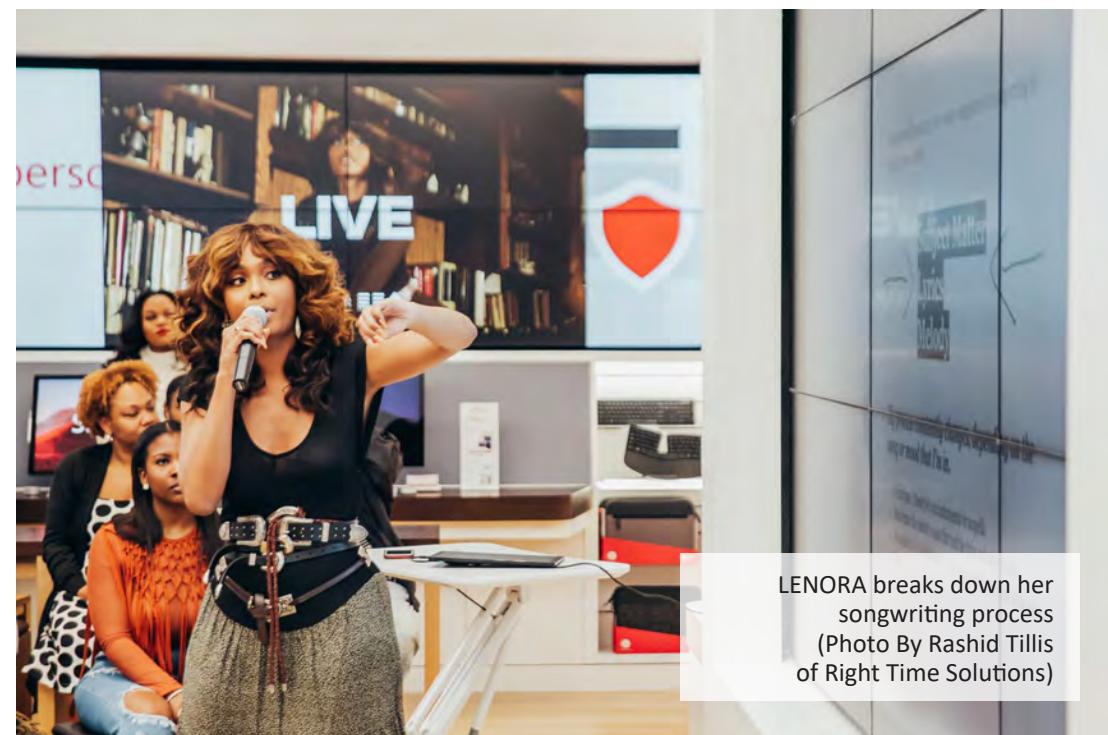
By: Chelsea Lenora White

As I sat in the Microsoft holding room surrounded by computers and keyboards, my heart pounded and my palms began to sweat. For the most part I sat quietly as RIOT MUSE gently applied my makeup. Sometimes I hummed the melody of the songs I anticipated singing to keep my voice warm. I smiled an easy smile at Valerie Madison, the Community Development Specialist at the Houston Galleria, when she entered the room. But the truth was, I was excited, yet very nervous to conduct the first ever Interactive Songwriting Workshop and Live Concert in Microsoft. Over 150 guests RSVP'd a week prior to the event. Yet I still wondered what the turnout would actually be and hoped that those in attendance would have a positive and revelatory experience that they would remember forever.

LENORA and Jarren Small, Co-Founder of Legends Do Live (Photo By Rashid Tillis of Right Time Solutions)



The opportunity was presented to me just a few weeks before the event. Jarren Small, Co-Founder of nonprofit organization, Legends Do Live, approached me about a conversation that he'd had with Valerie Madison. Valerie wanted to organize a creative Black History



Month event at Microsoft that utilized Microsoft OneNote on the Surface Pro and since she'd worked with Jarren in the past with their Reading With A Rapper literacy program, she knew he would be just the one to call. Jarren proposed Microsoft partner with a singer-songwriter, rather than a rapper and the rest was history. Well, not necessarily. Microsoft was impressed with my music but they still weren't completely sold on why their first-ever Black History Month creative venture should be with LENORA, rather than the hundreds, maybe thousands of other talented singer-songwriters in Houston. Jarren quickly quipped, "Not only is she a singer-songwriter, but she is also the Business Manager and Entertainment Editor of one of the most historic Black publications in the country... The Forward Times, which her family also founded and owns." From there, I visited the Microsoft store to get acquainted with the Surface Pro and began working on my presentation.

After we confirmed the date at Microsoft, my manager, Joshua Dada asked if it would be possible for my band and I to set up and treat the attendees to a Live Concert after the workshop, NPR Tiny Desk-style. Although it had never been done, we got the "okay."

Fast-forward to Wednesday, February 19th, just minutes before I was to greet the attendees and conduct the workshop. Once my makeup was done and it was time for RIOT MUSE to style me, we quickly shuffled into the restroom in Microsoft to use the mirror. The only problem was that there are only two restrooms in the store, both of which are in plain sight of the attendees and the goal was for me to remain hidden until the time of the workshop. With the help of three people, we made it to the restroom undetected and I caught a glimpse of the crowd. The store was jam-packed with attendees. Some that I knew and most that I didn't know. I got a rush of excitement and quickly got dressed, as RIOT MUSE layered belt after belt to create a comfortable yet iconic look.

When it was time to come out, I could hear the attendees screaming so loudly you would think that the Microsoft store was a stadium. I walked out and began the workshop, which actually ended up being a songwriting masterclass.

I had 30 minutes to conduct the workshop and I couldn't have asked for a better group and outcome. There was a room full of eager attendees; some standing, some sitting on wooden stools, and some sitting comfortably on pillows that we provided on the floor. I started with an Introduction of myself and my work as both a songwriter and journalist and joked with the

See [HER] Story on 2B

Entertainment

By: Chelsea Lenora White, Entertainment Editor

[HER]STORY

Continued from Lifestyle



LENORA poses with band members; (L-R) John MBK, Halston Luna, LENORA, Hollywood DMac and Jesse Gomez (Photo By Roddie Cooper)



LENORA
(Photo By Roddie Cooper)



audience as I scribbled my name and key points on the Surface Pro with awful handwriting. I addressed three key points in songwriting: Subject Matter, Lyrics and Melody; then broke down the creative process for my single "Relax." Then, the best part of the workshop was an impromptu collaborative writing session, in which I began an up-tempo song idea on the spot

and had the attendees contribute lyrics and melodies to finish out the verse. By the end of the workshop, we finished a funky feel-good song called, "I Do What I Want."

There was a ten-minute intermission before the Live Concert portion. I hurried to the holding room once again to sip some tea and warm up my voice. When I emerged from the back of the store, I could hear the band kicking off a funky groove. I grabbed

the mic and began singing some ad-libs and then motioned for them to stop playing. I explained that we would play the song that we wrote with the audience on the other side of the



Attendees focus during the Interactive Songwriting Workshop (Photo By Rashid Tillis of Right Time Solutions)

In partnership with Microsoft and Legends Do Live, I made HERSTORY on February 19, 2020 as the first artist to ever conduct an Interactive Songwriting Workshop and Live Concert inside of the Microsoft store. As an unsigned artist and writer, it is my hope that this will be observed in Microsoft stores every Black History Month nationwide to highlight local talent and to creatively inspire our communities. I will forever cherish this memory and opportunity.

SINCERELY, LENORA

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KAIROS TIME IN A CRONOS WORLD



Ecclesiastes 12:7-14

The Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful and costly tombs in the world. The colorful legends which surround the building of the Taj Mahal are all fascinating. But, there is one that haunts and disturbs.

Shah-Jahan, the powerful Mogul emperor, was in grief. His favorite wife had died. He loved her deeply and he was devastated by her loss. He decided to honor her in a signal way. He would construct an incredible temple, the likes of which the world had never seen. The temple would serve as her tomb and would be a memorial tribute to her and the dramatic symbol of his love for her.

Her coffin was placed in the center of a large parcel of land and construction of the temple began around it. No expense would be spared. He wanted to make her final resting place magnificent and breathtaking. But as the weeks turned into months, the Shah's grief was eclipsed by his passion for this building project.

--He no longer missed her.

--He hardly thought of her at all any more.

--He no longer mourned her absence.

--He was now totally consumed with the details of the building project.

--He was completely obsessed with the construction of the temple.

It's all he thought about. It was on his mind night and day--the building of this magnificent temple.

Then one day while hurriedly walking from one side of the construction site to the other, he accidentally bumped his leg against a wooden box. The prince was irritated by this. Impatiently, he brushed the dust off his leg and ordered the workers to throw the box out immediately. What was that box doing here in the middle of the building anyway? Get it out of here right now!

Shah-Jahan didn't realize that the box held the remains of his beloved wife. He threw out her coffin. He forgot she was there. (Max Lucado, The Applause of Heaven, pp. 131-132)

The one the temple was built for was cast out. The one who inspired the whole project in the first place was now forgotten. The one the temple was intended to honor was harshly pushed aside, absentmindedly thrown away, blatantly ignored, but the temple was erected anyway. Isn't that amazing?

Could someone build a temple and forget why? Could someone sculpt a tribute and forget the hero? Could someone celebrate an anniversary and forget the guest of honor? Could someone create a memorial and forget who was supposed to be remembered?

This dramatic ancient legend is a painfully relevant parable for the way some people live life today. They get the Cronos measurements of time, get them mixed up with the real meaning of time, and they ignore the Kairos moments of time.

QUESTION: WHY DID KOBE DIE AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 41 ALONG WITH HIS OLDEST DAUGHTER? DID KAIROS MOMENTS OF PRIORITY CHALLENGE KOBE'S CRONOS MINUTES OF TIME? Did the Kairos meaning of time lash out at Kobe's use of his Cronos time without him knowing that his Cronos time had run out or had been used up? Kobe's Life Summary Facts:

- Drafted at 18 years old straight out of high school
- Played pro for 20 years and retired at 38
- Known icon of basketball around the world by all languages
- Made millions of dollars from the game he loved and side endorsements
- His Cronos ended at age 41

The ancient Greek world understood that time was too big for just one word, so they created two words to represent and understand the meaning of time. The Greeks created Cronos time to measure time as it comes and passes in minutes, seconds, hours, days, weeks, months and years. Cronos:

- Cronos time: the day-time and year your child was born
- Cronos time: the day, time, and year one gets married
- Cronos time: the day, time and year one graduates from school

- Cronos time: the day, the time, the month and the year you bought your first car
- Cronos time: the day, the time, the month and the year you had a surgery
- Cronos time: the day, the time, the month and the year you left home to stay in your own place
- Cronos time: the first time you got your first paycheck

But the Greeks had another word for time, Kairos. Kairos time is an expressed action that happens or takes place to give life of special meaning. Kairos time is an action that takes place to give life meaning that cannot exactly be put on a human schedule.

- Kairos time: when will I know that he or she is the right one for me?
- Kairos time: when should I tell her or him that I am in love with them?
- Kairos time: when will I become a man or when will I become a woman?
- Kairos time: when will I heal from a bad experience?
- Kairos time: when will God answer my prayers?
- Kairos time: How many things do I need to go through [experiences] to learn this lesson?

In short, Cronos time is measured in QUANTITY. Kairos time is measured in QUALITY. Some people's QUANTITY of living overrules their QUALITY of life. Someone said it well when they said, "It's not how long you live your life but what you did while you lived."

Christians must constantly make certain they are measuring both times accurately daily. How are you spending your time these days? Jesus talks about the two roads people travel: the narrow road and the broad road. The broad road is the populated road of entertainment and excitement. The narrow road is the less traveled road of truth and trusting God.

Take aways from the message today:

1. Are you living your best life today even if tomorrow does not come?
- A. Are you living according to God's plan for your life? Jeremiah 29:11
2. Is there anything you need to correct that you can correct today knowing that God would be pleased with you if you did;
- A. Do you need to take only a minute to forgive someone or to show someone that you love them.
- B. Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, former president of Morehouse College wrote:

I've only just a minute,
Only sixty seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,
But it's up to me to use it.
I must suffer if I lose it,
Give an account if I abuse it,
Just a tiny little minute,
But eternity is in it.

3. Are you ready to make your exit from this world of evil without any of its earthly attachments that can keep you out of heaven to see God?
- A. Were Kobe and his daughter ready? Had Kobe taught his daughter "The 4-Spiritual Laws" before her short Cronos ended?

- B. Were their priorities in place for eternity?
- They left everything they gained in this world because they had NO MORE CRONOS TIME LEFT.
- Did their Kairos time add up to be MEANINGFUL MOMENTS that counted with God?

4. Conclusion: ONLY WHAT YOU DO FOR CHRIST WILL LAST

You may build great cathedrals large or small, you can build skyscrapers grand and tall, you may conquer all the failures of the past, but only what you do for Christ will last.

Remember only what You do for Christ will last.

Only what you do for Him will be counted at the end;

Only what you do for Christ will last.

You may seek earthly power and fame, the world might be impressed by your great name, soon the glories of this life will all be past, but only what you do for Christ will last.



SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING...

WITH JAMES WASHINGTON



Khalid Albaih

Words Can and Do Kill

Growing up, I was never a student of the Bible even though I grew up surrounded by the best kind of Christians there were; the love-filled family kind. I believe I am now being constantly moved by the Holy Spirit, I hope, to see the simplicity in the scripture I now study. As such, I am finding myself gravitating to ministers, pastors and saints as they dissect in sermon and prayer the incredible power of the tongue; yes, that small but dangerously lethal weapon housed in one's mouth.

Without any biblical perspective, history confirms the ability of deceit-filled eloquence to entice weak men to murder, married women to stray, prideful men to war and so-called peace-loving folk to slaughter. On a daily basis, a reckless tongue can sear forever the spirit of an innocent child, a wanting spouse, a true friend or a caring co-worker. Evil oratory moves men and women to do evil things. How powerful, how wonderful is a well intentioned 'thank you,' a sincere 'I'm sorry' or a genuine 'I believe in you'?

James 3:10 tells us that the tongue wields the power of life and death. Having been the target of ill intended criticism and out of anger or hurt having tried to destroy the souls of many I held dear, I know first hand that James is so right. I have been trying to correct this character flaw by being deliberately uplifting at all times, thinking of myself as a possible vessel of the living God first before I speak, remembering that man was made in God's own image and cursing any man is tantamount to cursing God.

Could it be that James 1:26 holds a key to salvation? "... If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless..."

I submit to you that if you compare the words of Jesus Christ to any demagogue, you will find that Jesus' words repulse with great power all hatred, gossip, rumor and even innuendo. It is impossible to claim to love God without loving Jesus as the living Word of God. Saying so merely confirms the truth in this case that the spoken Word will indeed set one free. "Reckless words pierce like a sword but the tongue of the wise brings healing." -Proverbs 12:14. I'm told God hates a liar and loves the truth. Remember there is no cure for hurt feelings except an honest spoken apology. Hurt feelings fester and infect a person. Think before you speak. And please don't take my word for it. "He who guards his lips, guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin." Proverbs 12:3.

May God bless and keep you always.

James, jaws@dallasweekly.com

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Society

LOOKING BACK...

**National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW)
Houston Metropolitan Area Section Volunteered
at the NCNW Hungry for Education Historically
Black Colleges and Universities Tour**

The Houston Metropolitan Area Section National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (HMAS NCNW) members including Section president and organizer, Regina Dickson volunteered at the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) Hungry for Education Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Tour held at Texas Southern University, as part of a campaign to raise awareness about hunger and increase access to education. Jackie Pope the Houston HBCU/NCNW Tour Coordinator was also in attendance along with members of the Barbara Jordan Houston Section NCNW lead by Georgia Nolan and members of the Elease Knight Houston Section NCNW lead by Dr. Brenda Meloncon. Janice Mathis, executive director of NCNW was here in Houston leading the way across all HBCU campuses a part of the tour.

Denny's partnered with the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW), The Tom Joyner Foundation and PUSH Excel to sponsor the 2019 NCNW Hungry for Education Tour at seven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The HBCU Tour, organized by NCNW, marked the seventh year of Denny's Hungry for Education Scholarship Program. The major initiative kicked off with a press conference at the NCNW headquarters at the Dorothy Irene Height Building in Washington, D.C. Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, NCNW's national president, John Miller, Denny's president and CEO, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, president of Push Excel, Ruben Barrales of Wells Fargo, Dr. Everett B. Ward, General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Janice Mathis, executive director of NCNW, were among the officials participating in the event.

The NCNW 2019 Hungry for Education HBCU Tour visited seven campuses in six cities to encourage college enrollment, academic excellence, and career preparation for students of all backgrounds. Tour stops were **South Carolina State University** and **Clafin University**, Orangeburg, SC; **Florida A&M University**, Tallahassee, FL.; **Clark Atlanta University**, Atlanta, GA; **Howard University**, Washington, DC; **Wilberforce University**, Wilberforce, OH; and **Texas Southern University**, Houston, TX.

As part of its annual Hungry for Education Scholarship Program, Denny's will be awarding more than \$200,000 in scholarships this year to high school and college students who apply this Fall. During each stop along the HBCU Tour, Denny's also will provide \$500 meal scholarships to four high school students and four college students, totaling \$4,000 at each college stop. The meal scholarships will be a direct tie-in to Denny's efforts to address food insecurity on HBCU campuses and an extension of the meal swipe initiative, created by Mary-Pat Hector, winner of the HFE scholarship.

During the tour stop, activities included panel discussions, marching band performances, campus tours, an overview of campus life including admissions, financial aid, and career counseling, information sessions about Denny's Hungry for Education scholarships and the opportunity to explore careers at Denny's. Participating high school students also had the opportunity to meet current college students, professors, and potential employers.

About NCNW

National Council of Negro Women is a Washington, D.C.- based charitable organization making a difference in the lives of women, children, and families through a four-pronged strategy that emphasizes entrepreneurship, health equity, STEAM education and civic engagement. Founded nearly 85 years ago, NCNW has 290 community and campus bases sections and thirty-two national affiliates representing more than two million women and men. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D. is seventh President of NCNW.

About Houston Metropolitan Area Section NCNW

The Houston Metropolitan Area Section NCNW was organized and chartered on October 11, 2001 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston, Texas lead by the Texas State Convenor, Dorothy Allen Chimney and Board of Director Chair, Dr. Barbara L. Shaw. The section organizer is Regina Dickson. The mission of the Houston Metropolitan Area Section NCNW is to continue to support the mission of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. to lead, develop and advocate for women, children and families through a four-pronged strategy that emphasizes entrepreneurship, health equity, STEAM education and civ engagement. You can follow us on Facebook at: ncnwhoustonmetro.



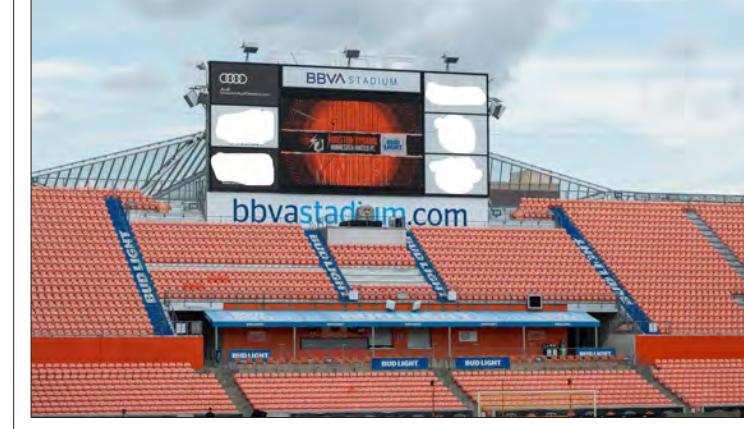
NCNW National Officers, Dr. Lane, former TSU President, and Harry Johnson



Texas Southern Department Of Athletics Secures Largest Single Gift in Department's History

BY FORWARD TIMES STAFF

The Texas Southern University Department of Athletics has secured the largest single gift in athletic history as the department will receive a video board courtesy of the Harris County Sports Authority, BBVA Stadium and the Houston Dynamo.



The video board, which measures 25x40, is an LED high definition screen and was formerly on display at BBVA Stadium in the north end zone. The board will be erected behind the south end zone inside TSU's Durley Stadium and is anticipated to be functional during the 2020-21 athletic campaign. The board, which is manufactured by Panasonic and valued at \$540,000, will instantly enhance the gameday and student-athlete experience inside Durley Stadium as it will offer additional university and team branding content along with fan engagement.

"The Texas Southern Department of Athletics is truly appreciative of this gift as we would like to thank the Harris County Sports Authority, BBVA Stadium and the Houston Dynamo for their efforts," said Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Kevin Granger. "The gameday experience for our student-athletes, alumni and fans will change significantly as a result of this gift as it'll be in use for our soccer and football events in addition to the TSU Relays. The video board will also create additional revenue opportunities for the department as both current and potential sponsors will have another avenue to showcase their products."

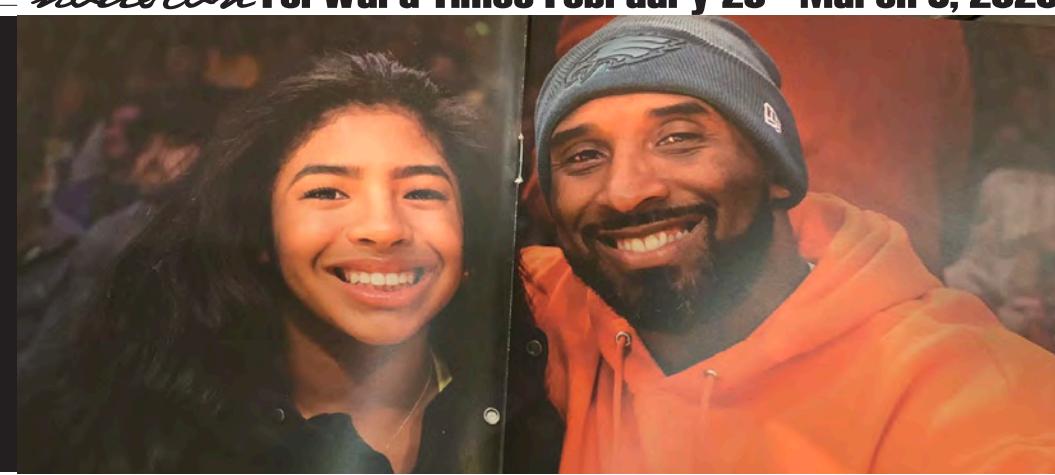
Durley Stadium is the primary home for the TSU soccer team and TSU Relays. This past season, football returned to Durley Stadium for the first time since 2008 as the homecoming contest was back on campus. A new scoreboard, which was erected in the north end zone, made its debut in September along with new fencing which features a branded mesh fence wrap and a ticket booth.

TSU's H&PE Arena, which is home to the volleyball and basketball teams, has added a pair of LED scorer's tables within the past few years along with a video board which made its debut in January of 2020.

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Los

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HONORS KOBE BRYANT AND GIANNA BRYANT WITH AN EMOTIONAL PUBLIC MEMORIAL

By Grace Boateng

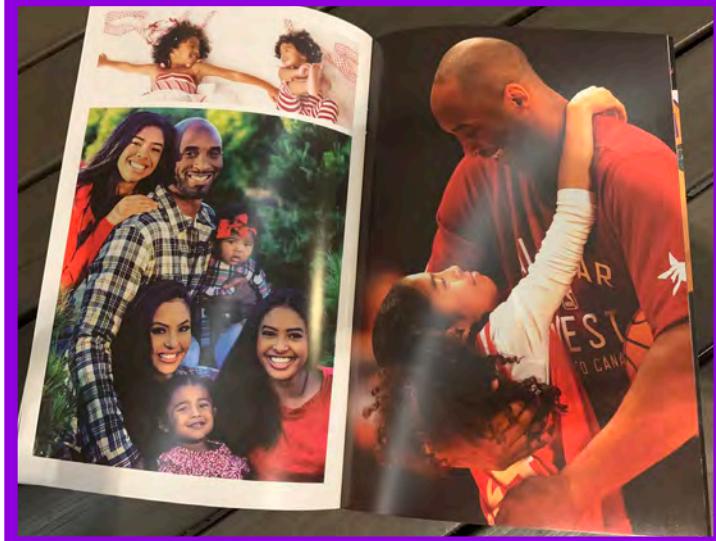
It has been nearly one month and the death of Kobe Bryant still doesn't feel real. Though Kobe and his daughter Gianna "GiGi" Bryant were laid to rest at a private funeral on February 7, 2020, the NBA held a public event at the Staples Center to honor their memory. On Monday 2.24.20 family, friends, and fans had a chance to say their final goodbyes at the 'Celebration of Life Memorial Service' that was held in remembrance of Kobe, his daughter Gianna, and the seven other souls that were tragically lost in the accident that occurred on January 26, 2020. The date held significance because #2 was GiGi's jersey number, #24 was Kobe's jersey number, and as explained by Vanessa Bryant, Kobe's wife, #20 was the "years [Kobe spent] as a Laker and the amount of years Kob and I [Vanessa] were together."

The stage was set with 33,643 beautiful red roses that represented every point that Kobe scored during his 20-year tenure as a Los Angeles Laker. Houston Native, and friend of Kobe, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter opened the service with stirring renditions of her songs "XO" and "Halo." Beyoncé addressed the audience saying, "I'm here, because I love Kobe and ['XO'] was one of his favorite songs. So I want to start that over. And I want us to do it all together.

"And I want you to do it so loud," Beyoncé said as she looked up to the sky, "they hear your love."

Following her performance, Jimmy Kimmel tearfully explained that he would be serving as the guide/MC of the service. Though it was a sober event, Kimmel added a bit of levity at times and even reminded the audience that it was, in fact, a "celebration" of life. Jimmy took a moment early on and said, "I'd like to invite you right now to take a moment to say hello to the people around you, whether you know them or not -- to be grateful for life and for the fact that we are all here together."

There were a number of heartfelt speeches but the most touching and heartbreak moments of all was Vanessa, who bravely fought back tears to talk about her beloved husband Kobe and baby girl Gigi. As Vanessa ascended up the stairs of the stage, the crowd stood on their feet to applaud and support her, knowing how incredibly difficult the next few minutes would be. The intersection of grief that she was experiencing was palpable as she spoke lovingly and



Continued on page 7B

Kobe Bryant

Gianna Bryant

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SPORTS

Continued From 6B

beautifully about her daughter and husband. She was helped off of the stage by NBA legend Michael Jordan.

What followed were several speakers who spoke just as much about Gigi's impact and time here on earth as Kobe's. A source close to the family shared that it was important to Vanessa that her 13-year-old daughter's memory be honored as fiercely as her husband's. WNBA legend Diana Taurasi, Oregon basketball star Sabrina Ionescu, and UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma all spoke about how fiercely Kobe championed women's basketball, which fueled his passion as a coach for his baby girl GiGi who was to be the next generation of the sport. They each talked about how touching it was to meet and work with GiGi whose passion for the game was inspiring in itself. It was reiterated through the event that GiGi was the future of the WNBA. She had dreams of playing at UCONN and dominating in the WNBA. Taurasi talked about the impression that GiGi made on her. "It was the look of excitement, a look of belonging, a look of fierce determination."

Sabrina, Kobe's mentee, said, "If I represented the present of the women's game, Gigi represented the future, and Kobe knew it." Following the memorial service she made history becoming the first NCAA Division I player (male or female) to ever reach 2,000 points, 1,000 assists and 1,000 rebounds in her collegiate basketball career in Oregon's victory over Stanford Monday night.

Kobe's athletic achievements were barely mentioned as this was a time for some of his closest friends and family members to speak about him as a husband, father, and friend. Rob Pelinka, friend, former agent and Godfather to Gianna, spoke about Kobe's dedication to helping as many people as he could. "Kobe lived to make other people's lives better, all the way up to his final text," Pelinka revealed.

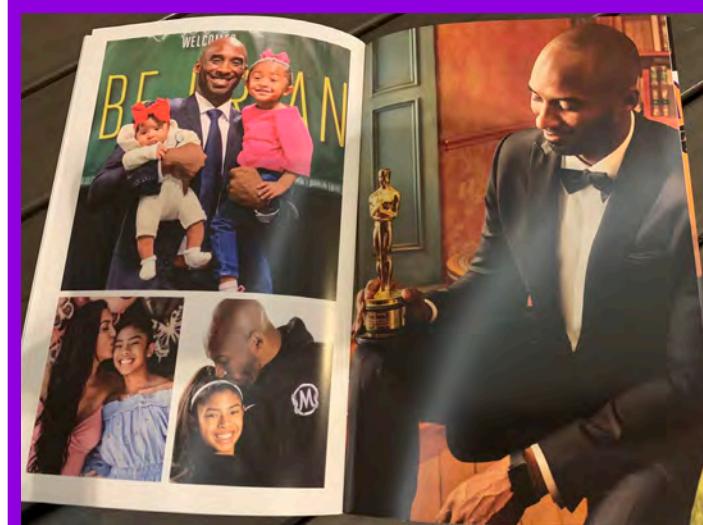
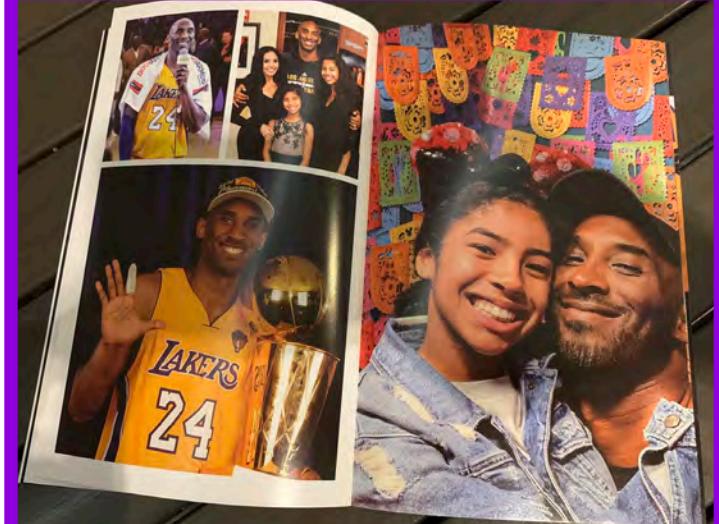
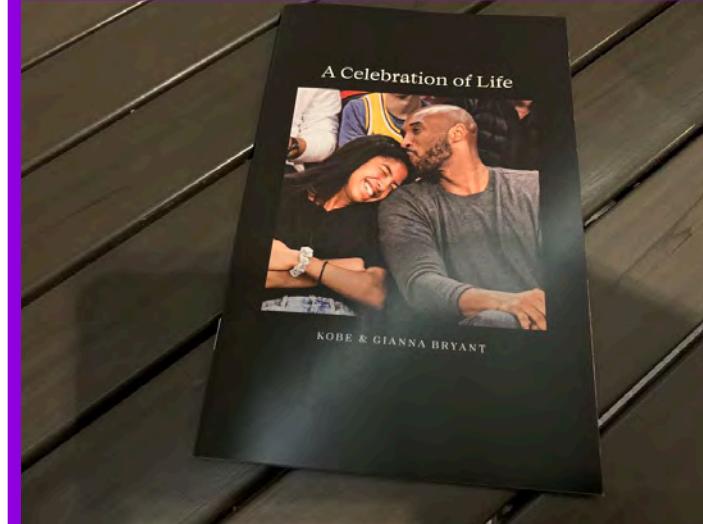
Alicia Keys performed a beautiful rendition of the first movement of Beethoven's 'Piano Sonata No. 14 in C# minor "Quasi una fantasia," Op. 27, No. 2' which is more popularly known as *Moonlight Sonata*.

Michael Jordan then addressed the crowd saying, "I'm grateful to Vanessa and the Bryant family to speak today.

I'm grateful to be here to honor GiGi and celebrate the gift that Kobe gave us all...what he accomplished as a basketball player, as a business man, and a storyteller, and as a father." He talked in detail about how over the years Kobe became one of his dear friends and little brother.

The final speaker was Shaquille O'Neal who was Kobe's teammate and won three consecutive championships with him as a Laker. He talked about how Kobe was "a loyal friend and a true Renaissance man." Shaq explained that though their relationship appeared rocky at times in the public eye, behind the scenes they were focused and "pushed each other to play some of the greatest basketball of all time."

News broke shortly before the service began that Vanessa filed a wrongful-death lawsuit



Images are snapshots from the Program Book that was handed out during the Memorial Service. against the helicopter company. Though the investigation of the crash is ongoing, it is apparent that there were no signs of mechanical failure. The implication of the lawsuit is that the pilot acted carelessly and negligently by failing to take the proper precautionary steps before flying in cloudy conditions.

Perhaps knowing that he touched so many lives and inspired so many people to strive to be their greatest selves, will bring a small amount of comfort for his loved ones.

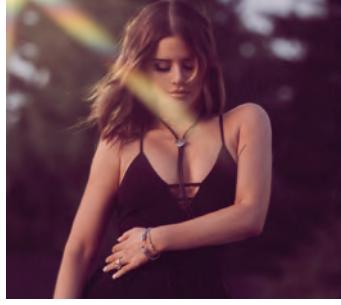
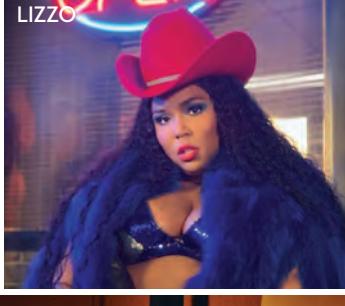
Attendees received a program book and a commemorative T-shirt. All of the proceeds from the sold-out service will be donated to the *Mamba and Mambacita Sports Foundation*. *The Mamba and Mambacita Sports Foundation* is a non-profit foundation that "exists to further Kobe and Gianna Bryant's legacy through charitable endeavors in sports."



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