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QUEEN B GETS BET's HUMANITARIAN AWARD FROM FORMER FIRST LADY



Together we must "continue to take action to change and dismantle racist and unequal systems."



She lights the stage with "her love of her community"

At BET's first virtual award show amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Michelle Obama presents the decorated artist with the Humanitarian Award.



Mayor de Blasio to install Black Lives Matter mural in front of Trump Tower

Newyorkbeacon.com

De Blasio intends to drive this point by installing a massive mural dedicated to the movement outside Trump Tower next month, New York Post reports.

“Obviously he is doing it to antagonize the president,” a source told the publication. “This is what he is concerned about while the city burns. What an amateur politician.”

From New York, to D.C. and Stockholm, artists are honoring the BLM movement and urban communities with street murals that are helping activists channel their voices positively.

Most recently a Black Lives Matter mural was reportedly painted in large yellow letters on the floor of Fulton Street in Brooklyn. A similar mural is expected to be painted outside of Trump Tower, along Fifth Avenue between 56th and 57th streets. It is set to appear before the July 4 weekend.

“We see a lot of people slowing down when they drive over it because it is something different and a

message we are carrying forward,” said Oklahoma City Councilwoman Nikki Nice. She worked with the local chapter of Black Lives Matter to paint murals downtown, which she said “turned into a real community effort.”

De Blasio’s mural project is expected to receive similar community support amid the ongoing protests over police brutality and racial injustice. Some critics, however, are not convinced that the mayor genuinely cares about the movement or its message.

“There’s no evidence that Black lives actually do matter to Mayor De Blasio,” former Rep. Nan Hayworth tweeted. “He’s made schools, housing, and the economy worse. Black lives are being lost in despair and violence. A mural changes nothing.”

The move to install the mural comes as De Blasio and Trump’s contentious relationship continues to escalate over the president’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as his response to the protests that erupted following the police killing of George Floyd.

Study finds Black Lives Matter protests didn’t lead to growth in coronavirus cases

Newyorkbeacon.com

When the massive Black Lives Matter demonstrations began in May, it was unclear how they might impact the country’s ongoing coronavirus pandemic. According to a new study published earlier this month by the National Bureau of Economic Research, the nationwide demonstrations don’t appear to be linked to spikes in coronavirus cases. In fact, there’s some evidence suggesting the last month of protests may have led to a slight decline in the cities they occurred in.

“We find no evidence that urban protests reignited COVID-19 case growth during the more than three weeks following protest onset,” the researchers wrote in the re-



port (h/t CNN).

The study used anonymous cell phone tracking data from Safegraph, Inc. combined with data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to

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Lebron James, Patrick Mahomes form alliance to empower ‘More than a vote’ initiative

By Victor Trammell

Photo credits: Clutch Points

The longtime face of the NBA and the newly-primed face of the NFL have formed an alliance, which will be centered on eradicating voter suppression in African-American communities.

Pro Football Talk reported that on Tuesday (June 22), Los Angeles Lakers forward Lebron James (pictured right) made an important announcement on his Twitter page. The 35-year-old NBA superstar and business mogul announced a new, strategic partnership with Patrick Mahomes (picture left), the NFL’s reigning Super Bowl MVP.

Mahomes, 24, has formed an alliance with James to help the future NBA Hall of Famer with his “More Than a Vote” organization. In addition to registering African-Americans to vote, this well-funded initiative was formulated to battle voter suppression. The young Kansas City Chiefs starting quarterback joins forces with James as he is increasing his



involvement in social justice issues.

“And...everyone welcome this game-changer (on and off the field) @PatrickMahomes to the family. Means a lot my Brother to have your voice in this with us. #MoreThanAVote #BlackLivesMatter,” James tweeted,

Mahomes recently made a powerful appearance in a recent video, which featured multiple star NFL players. The players were calling on their league’s leadership to be more involved with today’s social justice advocacy efforts on behalf of Black America. Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliot and Cleveland Browns

wideout O’Dell Beckham were also in the video.

“Change isn’t made by watching from the sidelines. Let’s do this @KingJames. @morethanavote http://morethanavote.org.”,” Mahomes replied to James in a tweet of his own.

James’ “More Than a Vote” organization is also backed by several other professional athletes. Andrew Hawkins, Jeffrey Okudah, Caron Butler, Arike Ogunbowale, Sloane Stephens, Jason Heyward, and Jozy Altidore are other big names in the sports world who are affiliated with James on this fantastic political action initiative.

Oakland School Board votes to eliminate its police department

Newyorkbeacon.com

The school board in Oakland, California, unanimously voted on Wednesday to dismantle the school district’s police department — making the district the latest to cut ties with law enforcement amid nationwide anti-racism protests.

At a school board meeting on Wednesday night, all seven board members voted in favor of the “George Floyd Resolution to Eliminate the Oakland School Police Department.” The resolution needed a simple majority to pass.

Oakland Unified School District has its own police department, with over 120 officers and other personnel working in

the district, which serves over 35,000 students, most of whom are Black and brown. Nineteen California school districts have their own police forces, including in Los Angeles.

Since nationwide protests against racism and police brutality began in late May after the police killing of George Floyd, several school systems have cut ties with police, including in Portland, Oregon, and in Minneapolis, where Floyd was killed. In San Francisco, across the bay from Oakland, the school board unanimously voted to remove police from its schools on Tuesday.

However, the campaign to remove police from Oakland schools started long before

the recent protests. Organizers, parents and students have been pushing for years for police-free schools. The Black Organizing Project started its campaign in 2011 after an Oakland school police officer fatally shot 20-year-old Raheim Brown outside a school dance.

“What happens in terms of policing in schools is interconnected to the same issues we see in policing in our cities,” Black Organizing Project’s executive director, Jackie Byers, told HuffPost on Monday ahead of the school board vote. “There is a different approach a lot of law enforcement have in dealing with Black and brown children, and even seeing them as children.”



Georgia (finally) passes a hate crime bill

Newyorkbeacon.com

Georgia's lack of any kind of law to prosecute hate crimes came under renewed scrutiny following the killing of Ahmaud Arbery in March. After years of failed legislation, the state has finally passed a bill that will allow the prosecution of hate crimes.

CBS News reports that on Tuesday afternoon the Georgia state legislature passed HB426 by a 47-6 vote in the state Senate and 127-38 in the state House. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) said he intends to sign the bill pending legal review. The bill will require harsher sentencing for crimes committed due to a person's "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability, or physical disability." This could mean longer prison sentences or added fines in addition to the sentencing that would normally result from the crime committed.

From CBS News:

Previous efforts to pass a hate crimes bill in the state have faltered. The Georgia general assembly in 2000 passed a hate crimes bill that called for enhanced sentencing for crimes motivated by "bias or prejudice," but in 2004, the bill was struck down by the Georgia Supreme Court as unconstitutionally vague. HB 426, crafted with more specific language, gained bipartisan support and narrowly passed the Georgia House last year. But it stalled in a Senate com-



mittee before the legislature adjourned over coronavirus concerns in March.

Since Arbery's killing there's been a "newfound resurgence of interest in making sure Georgia gets this on the books," Georgia Representative Karen Bennett, chairwoman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, told CBS News last month. When the legislature resumed this month, advocates backing the bill gathered at the state capitol, holding up signs showing Arbery and George Floyd, the black man whose death in police custody in Minnesota sparked national outrage and protests.

Multiple state senators took the floor to describe their experiences with racial discrimination. Democratic Sen. Donzella Jones, a Black woman, detailed her childhood experiences of white students calling her racial slurs and an instance where a bottle was

thrown at her while she waited for a bus. "It's time for Georgia to rise up and show that we will not stand for crimes done out of hate. Yes, we cannot legislate love, but we can put stronger penalties in place that may deter those who are committing these crimes from doing it," Jones said.

While this is a positive development, it's one that took entirely too long—it shouldn't have taken so much Black death for Republican legislators to finally take action. "We are thrilled that this [hate crimes] law has finally passed after years of advocacy, but let's be clear — we will not forget that this bill only came to light after 14 years of delays under Republican leadership, the murder of black men before our eyes, and the pain of marginalized communities across our state," the Democratic Party of Georgia echoed in a statement.

Trump boasts about his wall, repeats unfounded predictions of voter fraud

By Michael D. Shear and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

President Trump traveled to the southwestern border on Tuesday to lift his flagging re-election campaign with a renewed anti-immigrant appeal, bragging about the progress his administration has made in constructing a "big, beautiful wall" before predicting to a group of students at a Phoenix mega church that the election could be stolen in a huge fraud.

In a visit with handpicked border officials and Republican allies in Yuma, Ariz., Mr. Trump sought to revive the issue at the heart of his 2016 victory: his portrayal of immigrants as a threat to the economic and personal security of Americans, and his promise to close the United States off from much of the world.

"My administration has done more than any administration in history to secure our southern border," Mr. Trump boasted, citing the completion of about 220 miles of what he called a "powerful new" wall on the border. "It's the most powerful and comprehensive



border wall structure anywhere in the world."

Mr. Trump followed his border visit with a rambling 90-minute speech to a mostly maskless gathering of Students for Trump in Phoenix in which he vented about the removal of Confederate monuments, China's handling of the coronavirus outbreak and one of his newer themes, voter fraud by mail.

He ratcheted up his usual predictions of fraud in the November election, made without any supporting evidence, by suggesting that mail-in ballots — which will be in more widespread use as Americans face limits on their movements because of the virus — were "a disaster for our country."

He suggested at one point that mail carriers could be held up as they delivered ballots, which could then be counter-

feited by enemies foreign and domestic.

"This will be, in my opinion, the most corrupt election in the history of our country," the president said to the crowd, which booed at the mere mention of mailed ballots.

His speech also targeted demonstrators who have in recent weeks tried to tear down monuments of slaveholding Americans, many of them former leaders of the Confederacy.

"Lock 'em up. Lock 'em up," he said of the demonstrators, repeating the signature phrase of his 2016 campaign when he threatened to jail his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

"You don't burn buildings. You don't punish dissenters. And you don't erase the people with whom you disagree," Mr. Trump fumed. "It's called civilized people."



These political candidates are embracing their criminal records

Newyorkbeacon.com

One of the first things Tara Simmons tells voters when asking for their support isn't the prestigious fellowships she's won or the legislation she's helped write. It's about the years she spent behind bars.

It's a story Simmons, a candidate for state representative in Kitsap County, Washington, has shared at countless campaign events, which these days are entirely online: How she lost her car, her house, her nursing license, her voting rights. How after coming home in 2013, most of her minimum-wage paychecks from Burger King were taken to pay the \$7,600 she owed in court fees. How she managed to climb out of that life, get a law degree and begin a civil rights nonprofit. And how all of it made her realize that only those who have lived through the system can fully understand how to fix it.

This story was published in partnership with Mother Jones.

"I went to prison. It's not something I'm proud of, but I understand how people end up there," Simmons said at a May campaign fundraiser via Zoom, her digital background set to a generic corporate lobby. "Our criminal justice system is just a Band-Aid; I want to prevent [incarceration] from happening to begin with."

Simmons is one of a new crop of political candidates in 2020 for whom being formerly incarcerated isn't a disqualifier or a political liability. It's an identity—one they say is vital to represent in state capitals and the hallways of Congress, as lawmakers try to overhaul a system

that spends billions to lock up mostly Black and brown people.

The ongoing protests against racism and police violence, sparked by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, have highlighted the distance between two Americas: one that has lived under the pressure, surveillance and control of the justice system, and one that has not. It's unacceptable, candidates say, for only people who have never been on the other side of law enforcement to write the laws that affect those who have.

Simmons, who identifies as White and Hispanic, speaks often of the disproportionate impact the criminal justice system has on people of color. "I am a mother of two Black sons and have been working on racial equity for nearly two decades," Simmons wrote in a recent campaign email, "and I will be the first formerly incarcerated individual in our state legislature if we succeed in this election." She has called for demilitarizing the police and reinvesting police funding into community programs.

Kevin Harris is running for state representative in Detroit, Michigan, where he recently served as the departing representative's legislative director. He came home from a 14-year sentence in 2006 and soon got involved in community organizing. He was 18 when he went to prison. "It was the height of the crack epidemic. I had a little bit of a political awakening in understanding how the Department of Corrections treated people," he said. "It's not a coincidence that so many people from the Black community have criminal records. We've been targeted—we've always been targeted."

Mississippi's state legislature passes bill to remove Confederate emblem from flag

Newyorkbeacon.com

The Mississippi state legislature — both House and Senate — passed a bill today to remove the Confederate battle emblem from its state flag.

According to cnn.com, the bill will now go to Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves, who has said he would sign legislation that state lawmakers send him to remove the Confederate insignia.

To quote the cnn.com article: "The legislation — which cleared the state House in a 91-23 vote and the state Senate with a 37-14 vote — comes as Mississippi lawmakers in recent weeks have been weighing a change to their flag amid the continued racial justice protests across the country. Mississippi is the last state



in the country whose flag features the Confederate emblem. The flag, first adopted in 1894, has red, white and blue stripes with the Confederate battle emblem in the corner.

The bill establishes a commission to develop a new flag design without the Confederate emblem that includes the phrase "In God, We Trust." Mississippi state voters would then vote on the new design this November."



Injuries at protests draw scrutiny to use of police weaponry

Newyorkbeacon.com

NEW YORK (AP) — In law enforcement, they're referred to as "nonlethal" tools for dealing with demonstrations that turn unruly: rubber bullets, pepper spray, batons, flash-bangs.

But the now-familiar scenes of U.S. police officers in riot gear clashing with protesters at Lafayette Park across from the White House and in other cities have police critics charging that the weaponry too often escalates tensions and hurts innocent people.

"When you see riot gear, it absolutely changes the mood," said Ron Moten, a longtime community organizer in the nation's capital who was out demonstrating this weekend. He said it takes away any perception the officers could be empathetic.

"If I went up to speak with

a police officer and I'm covered in armor and holding a shield and a stick, don't you think they would regard me as a threat?"

"When we see riot gear, as black people it takes us back 400 years," he said.

Protesters in Denver arrived at the hospital with injuries from police projectiles that caused one person to lose an eye and left three other people with permanent eye damage, said Prem Subramanian, a physician who operated on some victims following demonstrations late last month.

"They weren't accused of any crime, and they came in with devastating eye injuries," Subramanian said, adding that he was so upset about it that he complained to city officials, who promised to investigate any abuses. "We're learning the consequences of using these weapons."

Seattle mayor to dismantle protest zone after weekend shootings

Newyorkbeacon.com

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan announced Monday the city will begin to wind down the blocks-long span of city streets taken over by residents.

According to CBS News, the Capitol Hill Occupied Protest zone, also known as CHOP, had two shootings in less than 48 hours last weekend. The two shootings left one teen injured, killed another, and severely injured a third person. Volunteer medics in the area brought the victims out rather than wait for emergency medical services to enter the area.

Durkan said the city is working with the protesters to bring the zone to an end.

"The cumulative impacts of the gatherings and protests and the nighttime atmosphere and violence has led to increasingly difficult circumstances for our businesses and residents,"

Durkan told reporters. "The impacts have increased and the safety has decreased."

Protesters took over the area in early June, cordoned off several blocks after clashing with police during protests for George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Riot police fired tear gas, pepper spray, and flash-bangs at mostly peaceful protesters. The move drew strong condemnations from city leaders and a federal court banned the use of the weapons on demonstrators.

During one of the protests, a man tried to hit protesters with his car and fired several shots from a gun as he fled the scene.

After police abandoned the city's East Precinct building, protesters blocked off the area and declared it a police free zone. Demonstrators painted a large "Black Lives Matter" mural on the street, handed out free food, played music, and started a community garden.



Mocha Moms, nation's oldest support group for mothers of color, takes practical steps to end police violence

Upper Marlboro, MD —

As the life was being choked out of George Floyd, he called out, "Mama!" Our sons and daughters are calling for us and Mocha Moms, Inc. will answer. The cancer of racism is killing our sons and daughters, and it needs to be eradicated.

In response, Mocha Moms across the country are calling for:

- a national ban on chokeholds,
- mandatory comprehensive reporting of use of force,
- mandatory de-escalation policies, and
- the criminalization of race-based false reporting.

Mocha Moms, Inc. also is engaging local and national police in Mom-to-Cop discussions about the reality of racialized violence.

For more than 20 years, Mocha Moms, Inc. has been

engaging and supporting mothers of color and our communities through sisterhood, support, and service. Through local chapters and online, Mocha Moms, Inc. provides support, inspiration, and encouragement to mothers of color while advocating for them and their communities nationally.

"The United States is simply not a safe place to be Black," says Cheli English-Figaro, Esq., co-founder and President Emerita of the organization. "I am Black. I have three Black children and a Black husband. There is not one day that I am not acutely aware that the color of our skin puts a target on each of our backs."

In addition to calling for meetings with law enforcement agencies and organizations, Mocha Moms across the country are engaged in at-home efforts to combat ra-

cialized violence and systemic racism as they raise Black children. This is happening through a series of local chapters, special interest networks, and national discussions. Some of those online discussions have included special guests like Trina Greene Brown, Founder of Parenting for Liberation, and author of a book by the same name. She discusses best practices for raising Black children in a world of police brutality, racialized violence, and disenfranchisement. They have also welcomed Dr. Tracie Keese, Co-founder and Senior Vice President of Justice Initiatives for the Center for Policing Equity, a research and action think tank that produces analyses identifying and reducing the causes of racial disparities in law enforcement.

For more information about Mocha Moms, Inc. visit www.mochamoms.org.



Study finds Black Lives Matter protests didn't lead to growth in coronavirus cases

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reach their conclusions.

"Our findings suggest that any direct decrease in social distancing among the subset of the population participating in the protests is more than offset by increasing social distancing behavior among others who may choose to shelter-at-home and circumvent public places while the protests are underway," the report reads.

"Cities which had protests saw an increase in social distancing behavior for the overall population relative to cities that did not," the report

notes. "In addition, we find no evidence that net COVID-19 case growth differentially rose following the onset of Black Lives Matter protests, and even modest evidence of a small longer-run case growth decline."

Basically, during the massive protests, enough people stayed home to avoid running into the massive demonstrations that it could have actually helped limit the spread of the virus.

"These results make an important contribution not only to the current discussion around policies for con-

trolling the spread of disease, but also to the understanding of human behavior of the general population during periods of civil unrest," the report continued.

Recent research has shown that the virus is harder to transmit in open-air scenarios, particularly if people are maintaining distance (at least six feet), wearing facemasks properly, and sanitizing or not touching common surfaces.

The researchers point out that this may change as protests lessen or possibly become less "intense"—as CNN writes.

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Editorial



By Daniel Jay Cameron,
Attorney General,
Kentucky

In December, I was honored to be sworn in as Kentucky's 51st Attorney General, the first Black man to hold the position, the first to be named chief law enforcement officer of the Commonwealth, and the first to be independently elected to a statewide constitutional office.

In my inaugural remarks, I chose to address these "firsts" by speaking to my vision for the Attorney General's office, namely, the application of our system of laws, which despite an imperfect history is rooted in an enduring maxim—equal justice under the law.

This maxim must be punctuated by the equally important truth that justice cannot be truly equal unless it is applied the same to everyone. As I noted in my remarks, "your politics, your upbringing, your station in life, your heritage, your finances, your color, your gender, your geography... these things do not determine how you will be treated under the law."

This truth of the law is why Lady Justice, the physical depiction of our justice system, is most often portrayed wearing a blindfold. Justice should be blind to the very things our own eyes, mind, and heart are so quick to use to judge others.

Recent protests in communities across the country,

Time to work together to strengthen relationships between law enforcement, Black communities

including in my home city of Louisville, suggest that many see the blindfold worn by Lady Justice not as an indication of blind justice, but as blinders to the many issues facing our society. Chief among these issues is the current distrust and tension between law enforcement and Black communities.

It is incumbent upon elected leaders, at every level, to tackle these issues head on by having an open, honest conversation about how we can move forward together.

I've appreciated President Trump's willingness to do just that. Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to attend a law enforcement roundtable at the White House led by the President along with Vice President Pence, Attorney General Barr, and other stakeholders. This roundtable provided a unique opportunity for a productive and necessary conversation about healing the fabric of

our country by not only improving, but strengthening, the relationship between law enforcement and Black communities.

The roundtable discussion centered around the responsibility, which we all share, to look for ways to do things better, to become better citizens, and to become better neighbors. It is my belief from the time spent both with my law enforcement colleagues at the roundtable and in my home state, that the law enforcement community recognizes the sincerity of that need and is committed to not only protecting and serving, but also to demonstrating understanding.

It is this understanding and recognition that has led to images of peaceful protestors and law enforcement officers locking arms in solidarity at protests around the country. And, it is this understanding that will propel our country forward.

As we move forward, however, we cannot sacrifice the rule of law in the name of reform. The rule of law is the necessary foundation in this country for building lasting change. Abandoning law and order for violence and looting is not the answer. And, a radical dismantling of our law enforcement community with calls to "defund the police" only invite further fear and uncertainty at a time when we need understanding and stability.

This is not a moment to weaponize or politicize. It is a moment that calls for us to come together and to find common ground.

Daniel Jay Cameron is the 51st Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He is the first African American independently elected to statewide office in Kentucky's history and the first Republican elected to the Attorney General's office since 1948.

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Assemblyman Walter Mosley wins preliminary primary race



Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley

BROOKLYN, NY —

Assemblyman Walter Mosley (D-57), who has the backing of the Democratic Party and the Working Families Party, nar-

rowly won his seat after a tight race against nurse and tenant activist Phara Souffrant Forrest, a Democratic Socialist of America member who was endorsed by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-Queens).

Incumbent Mosley (57th Assembly District — Fort Green, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights, Crown Heights) won over Forrest winning about 50 percent of the vote to Forrest's 45 percent. According to the unofficial results Mosley received 7,301 votes (52.36%) to Forrest's 6,606 (47.37%).

"I'm honored to win and have both the Democratic Party and Working Families Party line in the general election. We've accomplished a lot in strengthening tenant laws and dealing with the issue of police misconduct and we have more to do," said Mosley. "I look forward to continuing the dialogue with those who voted for me, but more importantly with the people who didn't vote for me as I represent everybody in the 57th district."

Preliminary primary results released on election night showed mixed results for incumbents and insurgent candidates vying for nearly three dozen seats in the state Legislature. Final tallies could take weeks as thousands of absentee ballots will need to be counted before winners are declared, but several upsets seemed possible based upon early numbers. More than 700,000 absentee ballots were requested citywide after Gov. Cuomo expanded the mail-in voting system due to the coronavirus pandemic.

NASA will name headquarters after its first African American female engineer

(CNN)

NASA is renaming its headquarters after Mary W. Jackson, the agency's first African American female engineer who helped inspire the story behind the book and film "Hidden Figures."

"Mary W. Jackson was part of a group of very important women who helped NASA succeed in getting American astronauts into space," NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said in the agency's announcement Wednesday.

"Mary never accepted the status quo, she helped break barriers and open opportunities for African Americans and women in the field of engineering and technology."

Barack Obama to Address the LGBTQ Community for Pride Live's Stonewall Day

Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters building in Washington, D.C.

The news comes amid renewed calls for equality following the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man who died at the hands of Minneapolis police in late May. His death, along with that of Breonna Tay-



lor in Louisville, Kentucky, sparked nationwide demonstrations calling for justice and an end to police brutality.

Jackson began her career with NASA at the segregated West Area Computing Unit of the agency's Langley Research

Center in Hampton, Virginia, NASA said.

A mathematician and an aerospace engineer, Jackson led programs aimed at uplifting women within NASA.

She retired from NASA in 1985 and passed away in 2005, at the age of 83.



'Black, Asian people not seen as readers'

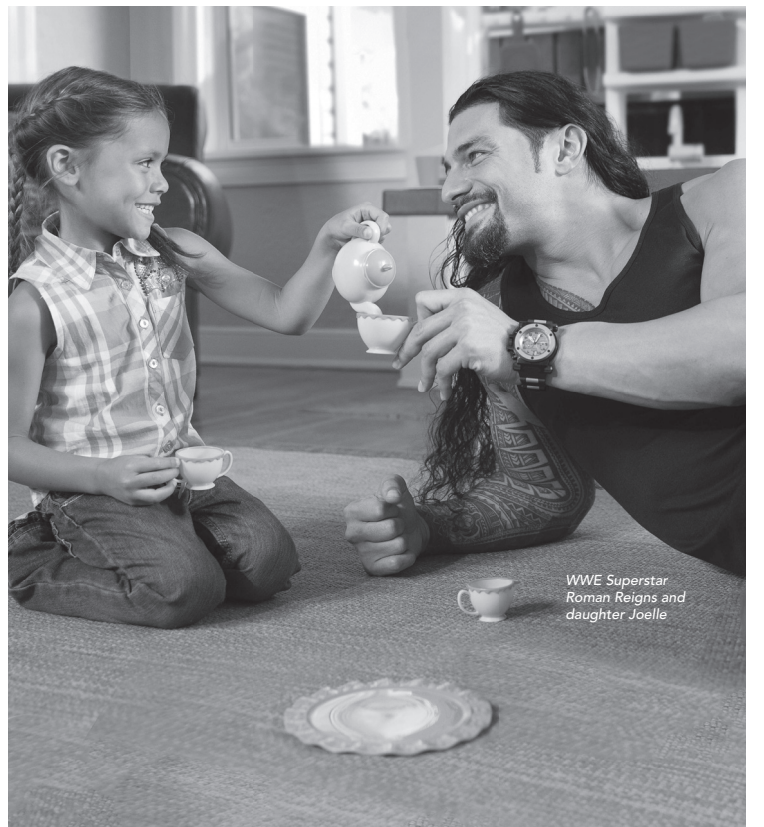
Newyorkbeacon.com

Bernardine Evaristo condemns books industry Bernardine Evaristo, the first black woman to win the Booker prize, has hit out at "ridiculous" and "misguided" beliefs in the publishing industry, where "black and Asian people are not considered to be a substantial readership, or to even be readers".

Evaristo, writing the foreword for the UK's first academic study into diversity in trade fiction and publishing, released on Tuesday, said the report showed that the UK books industry "hasn't changed fast enough to become more inclusive". A key finding of the study was that writers of colour and their books are "either whitewashed or exoticised" to appeal to what UK publishing sees as its core audience of white, middle-class readers.

The report, Rethinking "Diversity" in Publishing, found that writers of colour are disadvantaged during each key stage of the publishing process, from finding an agent, to having to "fulfil certain expectations of what white, middle-class editors want" with their writing in order to land a book deal.

The study is based on more than 100 interviews with authors, agents and publishing staff across editorial, design, publicity, marketing and sales, about their practices and their experience publishing writers of colour. Researchers found the majority of publishing continues to cater for what it sees as a "core audience" of white, middle-class readers — "a sort of 50-something middle-class to upper-middle-class white woman who reads a lot because she has time, and she has resources to spend on books," according to one respondent.



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Health

Black people suffer disproportionately from dementia crisis

By Dr. Lucille Ridgill

Alzheimer's disease (the most common type of dementia) is the 6th leading cause of death among White people, but the 4th leading cause of death for Black people like me. The Black population age 65+ is projected to more than double in size in the next 10 years, which means dementia diagnoses in our community also could more than double in number. Dementia is called a "silent epidemic" among Black people because many of us refuse to acknowledge or discuss this horrific disease. As a physician who has a close family member who was recently diagnosed with dementia, I feel the great loss of the ever-decreasing communication with my loved one and that is very painful.

Its increasing toll is also due to untreated or inadequately treated hypertension and diabetes causing vascular dementia. This occurrence is due to the progressive destruction of the vascular supply. The disease progresses slowly so that family members and physicians are shocked when it becomes apparent.

Unfortunately, there's not much you can do to prevent Alzheimer's at this time, but you can check your glucose and blood pressure regularly and take anti-hypertensive and diabetes medications as prescribed to delay or prevent

vascular dementia. It is important to make sure family members understand their susceptibility and take action as necessary. Failure to do so can lead to delayed medical care and caregiver burnout of family members.

That's why it is important for Black people to use "Alzheimer's And Brain Awareness Month" as inspiration to remedy this situation.

One major reason Black people suffer disproportionately from Alzheimer's is we are underrepresented in dementia research, in part because many of us are unwilling to donate our brains to research or participate in brain studies due to distrust of the medical system. The good news is that this problem is dissipating as more physicians and health care workers of color enter the healthcare system.

Another reason is Black people suffer disproportionately from diseases linked to a higher risk of dementia, including high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes. It is no coincidence that two-thirds of my Medicare patients (67%) suffer from vascular and Alzheimer's disease, 71 percent have diabetes and 75 percent have high blood pressure.

The Black community must demand that lawmakers significantly increase financial resources to reduce dementia among people of color, but we also must take personal respon-



sibility for improving our eating habits and lifestyle to reduce our susceptibility to it. If fresh fruits and vegetables are not available where you live, you can buy them at the increasingly available farmers market or

grow them in your own garden, increasing your exercise activity, while providing you with good, healthy food.

However, since dementia is incurable, we also must do advance planning for the care we would want in case we get dementia, so we don't have to suffer needlessly by involuntarily receiving treatments we don't want to artificially extend our life during the last, most debilitating stages of dementia. For example, when we have lost everything that matters to us: the memory of loved ones, of our life, our identity, and the ability to speak.

In fact, people with dementia may endure implanted defibrillators, mechanical ventilation, feeding tubes, and other invasive interventions—all given with the intention to extend life—but often at a cost of diminished quality of life and prolonged suffering.

Even seemingly simple treatments like chest x-rays, urine samples (which often require bladder catheterizations), blood draws, and hospital transfers may become uncomfortable and invasive for cognitive impairment.

The healthcare needs of people with dementia at the end of life are unique and require special consideration. It is also important to discuss important life challenges caused by dementia of any sort earlier in the disease process so you can address important end-of-life care decisions and family

business. Request an appointment with your physician and attorney.

In addition, a national profit organization, Compassion & Choices, has created a Dementia Values & Priorities Tool to facilitate this care planning process. This free, fully customizable tool walks you through 15 common symptoms of dementia and helps you to identify if and when your goal for care may change from "do everything possible" to "allow for my natural death." Creating a dementia-specific advance care plan relieves the burden from loved ones and/or the healthcare proxy to make difficult decisions when you can no longer speak for yourself. A complementary tool, the Dementia Decoder allows you or a healthcare proxy to indicate the current status of your dementia diagnosis, specify what you or your healthcare proxy hope to learn and accomplish from an upcoming clinical appointment and customize that experience from a list of helpful questions.

Take it from a physician of color repeatedly heartbroken from watching many patients suffer needlessly from dementia: it is infinitely better to plan for your care for dementia and not get it than it is to not plan for your care for dementia and get it.

Dr. Lucille Ridgill is an internist and primary care provider for adults in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

Statues honoring the racist past are coming down from the US to Europe

(GIN) –

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Congo's independence from Belgium, the Congolese diaspora is looking for the removal of racist statues but not only that.

"Many think that our political conscience has just sparked now, but we have been here for decades," says Mireille-Thèse Robert, president of the feminist and anti-racism committee, Bamko-Cran.

Statues are the tip of the iceberg, observes the author of a story in DW, the German news service, and part of a broad anti-racism struggle which the Congolese community and other African descendants have been highlighting for decades.

"In West Flanders there is a lot of racism, but it's underneath," Antoine Itoko told DW. "We cannot get the same job opportunities even if we have equal diplomas." He joined the Black Lives Matter demonstration in Brussels on June 7 to commemorate Congolese victims as well as one of his friends, Moïse "Lamine" Bangoura, a victim of police violence in 2018.

Education Minister Caroline Désir wants to make



Statue at Middelheim Museum in Antwerp, Belgium

courses on the history of the DR Congo and colonialism compulsory, however the modification of school curricula can take up to two years.

Meanwhile, the organization Reparons L'Histoire (Let's repair history) has launched a petition to remove all the statues of Belgian King Leopold in Brussels by June 30. The online petition aimed to collect 25,000 signatures, but now counts over 80,000 names.

Many question the sincerity of the Belgian authorities. It took over 13 years of repeated requests by several organizations to select a location for the

only square in Belgium dedicated to Patrice Lumumba, the first prime minister of the independent Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was finally inaugurated in 2018 to coincide with the 58th anniversary of Congolese independence.

"We do not think it was a victory at all, but just peanuts done for electoral campaigning," says Cafe Congo's Gia Abrassart. She describes the square as a "small and invisible square close to a taxi station," just a few hundred meters from one of the big statues of King Leopold II.

This month, a mayoral press release announced that plans for a statue have been abandoned.

"There will be no statue," said Wafaa Hammich, spokesperson for Mayor Philippe Close. "There was no agreement about that, it was only a lead [to explore] — we will keep to the square and the memorial plaque."

"We understand that we need to put continuous pressure on the Belgian government," commented Abrassart. "Taking down statues is just the first metaphor for this long process of rewriting the shared history of Belgium and Congo."

Massive red dust cloud from the Sahara reaches America's south

(GIN) –

A brilliant red sky at dusk can be seen in states along the Atlantic but the eye-popping show should be watched with some caveats.

Things to consider when it comes to the dust cloud include the size of the particles, the concentration and the composition of the particles.

When it comes to size, approximately 30% of the dust coming from the Sahara is considered to be "fine." "Typically, the smaller particles can penetrate deeper into the lungs and the health impacts become more [serious]," says Dr. K. Max Zhang from Cornell University's School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

"Particles cause respiratory health effects and irritation and the smaller particles can cause cardiovascular issues and a whole sweep of other health impacts."

The dust comes from the Sahara Desert in Northern Africa. Each year, hundreds of millions of tons of soil is lifted from the Sahara into the air, according to NASA from late spring to early fall.

Dust from Africa can affect

air quality as far away as North and South America if it is mixed down to ground level. But dust can also play an important ecological role, such as, fertilizing soils in the Amazon and building beaches in the Caribbean. The dry, warm, and windy conditions associated with Saharan Air Layer outbreaks from Africa can also suppress the formation and intensification of tropical cyclones.

"While Saharan dust transport across the ocean to the Americas is not uncommon, the size and strength of this particular event is quite unusual," Colin Seftor, an atmospheric scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center said. "Also, if you look off the coast of Africa you can see yet another large cloud coming off the continent, continuing to feed the long chain of dust traveling across the Atlantic."

Satellite images from the past few days show the thick dust as a brown mass moving off the west coast of Africa, crawling across the Atlantic and then drifting over the eastern Caribbean on Sunday. The mass is expected to arrive in the Gulf Coast states, including Texas and Louisiana, on Wednesday and Thursday.



Sahara plume heading to U.S.

Election rerun in Malawi scores upset victory for opposition

(GIN) –

In a landmark presidential rerun, Malawi's sitting President has been ousted from power after a sweeping victory by a popular Pentecostal preacher and former theology lecturer who promised to unite and serve all Malawians.

"I want to provide leadership that makes everybody prosper, that deals decisively with corruption and theft of public funds and a leadership what will follow the rule of law," declared Lazarus Chakwera, who chalked up more votes than the former incumbent, Peter Mutharika, in the election rerun.

Mutharika was President of Malawi from 2014 till May 2019, when he ran for re-election and beat Mr. Chakwera by a hair. There followed a flood of challenges, citing widespread irregularities including the use of correction fluid on ballots. The election was annulled in court.

In essence, the Constitutional Court judges argued that Malawians deserve, and should expect, an A- grade election—not perfect, perhaps (who can boast that?) but free of systemic abuse. They should not have to make do with the more familiar C+ election that some nations and institutions still seem to tolerate or encourage.

They also implied that a slap on the wrist was not enough, and that Malawi's precious democratic institutions needed to be properly defended.

This was an important blow against a widespread culture of impunity. It was just the second time in African history to have presidential poll results set aside, after Kenya in 2017.

"We have had a very credible election compared to the 2019 presidential election," Malawian human rights activist Luke Tembo told the AFP news agency.



L. Chakwera and family at swearing-in

"The fact that people came out in large numbers to vote ... has to be taken as a very strong message, moving forward, that Malawians will never allow their vote to be stolen."

"I do feel like Lazarus, I've come back from the dead," Mr. Chakwera said, vowing to unite the country and fight poverty.

"Of what use is freedom from oppression if you and I are slaves to starvation? Or freedom from colonialism if you are a slave to tribalism?"

Mr. Chakwera, 65, who heads the opposition Malawi Congress Party, was born in a tiny village outside of the capital city, Lilongwe, to a subsistence farmer. He studied theology at the University of the North in South Africa and at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois and wrote several books on religion.

The philosophy and theology graduate has pledged to raise the national minimum wage and revamp industries that would add value to the crops of Malawian farmers

Boris Johnson wants Britain to go to the pub – and forget about the 65,700 dead

[By Owen Jones

The government is hoping a summer of sunshine and beer will erase the avoidable loss of tens of thousands to coronavirus

The Luftwaffe did not chalk up such a gruesome death toll. During the blitz, 43,000 civilians died, an average of 175 each day, a national trauma that is seared in Britain's collective memory. In the past 100 days, the number of reported excess deaths linked to Covid-19 – which England's chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, declares "the key metric" – has reached 65,700, a daily mortality rate far deadlier than the Nazi onslaught on British towns and cities between September 1940 and May 1941.

Inevitable is a word that can be used to describe the



tragic fact that families were always going to "lose loved ones before their time", as the prime minister put it 11 days before he belatedly ordered a national lockdown. It is not a word that can be used to describe one in every 1,000 members of the British public being killed by the virus in a three-month period, or what was at one point the second-worst death rate on earth. Scandalous? Yes. Criminal? Certainly. But inevitable? No.

RESPECT – Jennifer Hudson Stars as Aretha Franklin

Newyorkbeacon.com

Director Liesl Tommy makes her feature film debut with *Respect* starring Jennifer Hudson. Tommy is the first Black woman ever nominated for a Tony award for Best Direction of a Play in 2016 for *Eclipsed*, and is an Associate Artist at the Berkeley Rep and

With a story by Callie Khouri (Oscar® winner for *Thelma & Louise*) and Tracey Scott Wilson, and screenplay written by Tracey Scott Wilson. Wilson and Tommy have worked together creatively since the 2009 play *The Good Negro* written by Wilson, directed by Tommy at The Public Theatre. Wilson was a writer on FX's *The Americans* which garnered her a Peabody Award as well as Emmy and WGA Award nominations.

Following the rise of Aretha



Franklin's career from a child singing in her father's church's choir to her international superstardom, *RESPECT* is the remarkable true story of the music icon's journey to find her voice. an Artist Trustee with the Sundance Institute's Board of Trustees.

Beyoncé receives Humanitarian Award at 2020 BET Awards

Newyorkbeacon.com

At the network's first virtual award show amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Michelle Obama presented the decorated artist with the award, stating that Bey "has been lighting up the stages and gracing the world with her talent, with her generosity of spirit and with her love for her community." She continued, "You can see it in everything she does from her music that gives voice to Black joy and Black pain to her activism that demands justice for Black lives."

Beyoncé dedicated the award to the protesters "marching and fighting for change" in a prerecorded video statement, saying they inspired her.

"Your voices are being heard and you're proving to our ancestors that their struggles were not in vain," she said.



The "Lemonade" artist then implored them to vote in this year's elections.

"I'm encouraging you to continue to take action, continue to change and dismantle racist and unequal systems. We have to continue to do this together," she said. "Continue

to fight for each other and lift each other up because there are people banking on us staying at home during local elections and primaries happening in states across the country. We have to vote like our life depended on it because it does."

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Harper's Bazaar names Samira Nasr its first-ever Black Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, June 9, 2020, Hearst Magazines made history with the announcement that **Samira Nasr** has been appointed editor-in-chief of the U.S. edition of *Harper's BAZAAR*, overseeing content strategy and development across the brand's print and digital platforms. The announcement was made by Hearst President and CEO Steven R. Swartz and Hearst Magazines President Troy Young. Nasr will report to Hearst Magazines Chief Content Officer Kate Lewis and begins her new role July 6.

"*Harper's BAZAAR* is a leading American fashion brand with a point of view that is hugely influential in the U.S. and around the world," Young said. "Samira's important voice will continue to evolve the brand's distinct position as a style touchstone for fashion's most discerning."

The announcement comes amidst the Black Lives Movement which has shaken many industries to the core, including fashion and media.

Anna Wintour, the longtime Editor-in-Chief of *Vogue* magazine, put out an internal statement at Conde Nast on the same day of Samira's appointment. "I want to say plainly that I know *Vogue* has not found enough ways to elevate and give space to Black editors, writers, photographers, designers and other creators. We have made mistakes too, publishing images or stories that have been hurtful or intolerant. I take full responsibility for those mistakes," Anna said in the email to *Vogue* staffers.

Nasr was most recently executive fashion director at *Vanity Fair*, where she managed and directed the magazine's fashion department and all fashion content, including styling iconic covers such as the 25th annual Hollywood

issue, the spring style issue featuring cover star Lupita Nyong'o, the May 2019 issue with Nicole Kidman and more.

This role marks a homecoming to Hearst Magazines for Nasr, who was fashion director at *ELLE* for five years. Prior to that, she was style director for *InStyle*. In addition to working with top fashion magazines in publishing, Nasr has also styled campaigns for fashion and beauty brands, including Laura Mercier, Tiffany & Co., Tory Burch, Estée Lauder, L'Oréal, Clarins and more. She began her career in fashion working as an assistant to Grace Coddington, former creative director of *Vogue*, after earning a graduate degree in Journalism at New York University.

"*BAZAAR* has always presented the world of fashion through a unique lens — smart, vibrant, adoring. Those words could not better describe Samira, who understands and delights in the world of fashion, but has a thoroughly modern and distinctive take," Lewis said. "She innately understands the *BAZAAR* woman because she is the *BAZAAR* woman: passionate about fashion, culture and the issues that matter today. I know she will make something magical here."

"Fashion and *BAZAAR* are synonymous," Nasr said. "It is a tremendous privilege to be entrusted with moving this legacy brand into a new era — one that is colorful, inclusive and celebrates the beauty of fashion on every platform — while carrying on the tradition of innovative art direction and great style that the *BAZAAR* audience loves so much. The most beautiful part of working in magazines is the teamwork and creating a community. I can't wait to get started."



Samira Nasr (Photo by Getty Images)

About Samira Nasr

Nasr was born in Montreal, Canada and resides in Brooklyn, New York with her son. She started her career as an assistant to *Vogue*'s creative director at large Grace Coddington.

In a video recorded for her Instagram feed, Nasr noted her background.

"As the proud daughter of a Lebanese father and Trinidadian mother, my world view is expansive and is anchored in the belief that representation matters."

"My lens by nature is colorful and so it is important to me to begin a new chapter in *Bazaar*'s history by shining a light on all individuals who I believe are the inspiring voices of our time. I will work to give all voices a platform to tell stories that would never have been told."

"To all the protestors, community organizers, activists and those currently fighting to be safe, to

be seen and heard through our own narratives — I see you, I thank you and I hope we can join forces to amplify the message of equality because black lives matter."

"At this particular moment in our nation's history, I am honored to be at the helm of such an iconic brand."

"My heart bursts!"

About Harper's BAZAAR

Sophisticated, elegant and provocative, *Harper's BAZAAR* (www.harpersbazaar.com) is the style resource for women who are the first to buy the best, from casual to couture. With authority and insider insight, *Harper's BAZAAR* showcases the work of visionary stylists, expressive photographers and talented designers, covering what's new to what's next. Celebrating 153 years as America's first fashion magazine, *BAZAAR* reaches an audience

of more than 35 million across print, digital, social and ShopBAZAAR.com, and has 29 editions around the world. *Harper's BAZAAR* is published by Hearst Magazines, a unit of Hearst, a leading global, diversified media, information and services company. Follow *Harper's BAZAAR* on Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr, Instagram and Twitter.

About Hearst Magazines

Hearst Magazines' portfolio of more than 25 powerful brands in the U.S. inspire and entertain audiences across all media platforms. Hearst Magazines' print and digital assets reach nearly 165 million readers and site visitors each month — 70% of all millennials and 69% of all Gen Z over the age of 18 (source: comScore/MRI 1-20/S19). The company publishes over 300 editions and 245 websites around the world and attracts more readers of monthly magazines than any other publisher.



"MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE"
SUN. AUG. 16TH THRU SUN. AUG 23RD

THIS YEAR, HARLEM WEEK WILL GO ONLINE TO SHARE ITS MAGIC WITH THE WORLD!

Now more than ever HARLEM WEEK'S mission must be to embrace, inform, educate, to give hope and direction to Harlem and the Harlem's of the world. Unity, guided by our principals to uplift, "Movement of the People" is our pledge for forward-advancement.

HARLEM WEEK 2020 has been RE-ENVISIONED as a VIRTUAL FESTIVAL celebrating the resilience of Harlem with the world and offers a number of major community-building initiatives that provide an unfiltered examination of pressing issues:

ENTERTAINMENT

- A GREAT DAY IN HARLEM
- THE HARLEM MUSIC FESTIVAL
- HARLEM DAY
- FROM HIT MAKERS TO STARS
- ON THE RISE

CHILDREN & YOUTH

- SPELLING BEE
- PREPAREDNESS
- BACK TO SCHOOL
- HEALTH SERVICES
- TECHNOLOGY
- MENTORSHIP
- SCHOLARSHIPS

BUSINESS & FINANCE

- WEBINARS
- INSURANCE
- CYBER SECURITY
- TECHNOLOGY
- ECONOMIC HEALTH
- RECRUITMENT

TECHNOLOGY

- DATA
- TELE-HEALTH
- DIGITAL LITERACY
- HACK-A-THON
- BRIDGING THE DIGITAL CHASM
- DEMYSTIFYING TECHNOLOGY

SENIOR CITIZENS

- HEALTH & WELLNESS
- DEMYSTIFYING TECHNOLOGY
- ORAL HISTORY
- EMPLOYMENT
- HEALTH INSURANCE
- MENTAL HEALTH
- EXERCISE
- CYBER SECURITY
- SOCIAL SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES

- COVID-19 NATIONAL SUMMIT
- TELE-HEALTH
- HEALTH INSURANCE
- SENIOR CITIZENS
- BACK TO SCHOOL
- MENTAL HEALTH
- HMO'S
- EXERCISE
- FAMILY HEALTH
- NEW MODALITIES
- NUTRITION
- ECONOMIC HEALTH

JOBS & CAREERS

- ESSENTIAL WORKERS
- HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY
- TRAVEL & TOURISM
- BANKING AND FINANCE
- GOV'T AGENCIES
- EDUCATION
- THE SERVICE INDUSTRY
- SOCIAL SERVICES

"MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE"

- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/ACTIVISM
- ANTI-RACISM REGIONAL SUMMIT
- CENSUS 2020
- HARLEM 5K RUN & HEALTH WALK
- VOTER EDUCATION/REGISTRATION
- CORPORATE & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

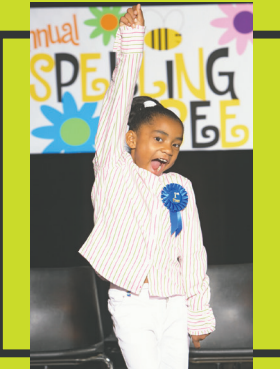
VIRTUAL EXHIBITORS & VENDORS

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- RECRUITMENT
- TRAINING FOR "THE NEW NORMAL"

LET US KNOW YOUR KEY AREA(S) OF INTEREST

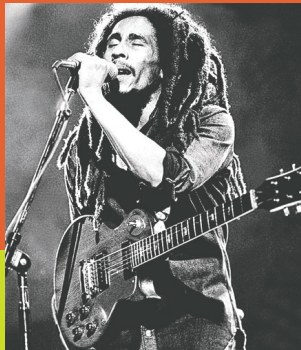
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Beacon on the scene

Macy's 4th of July spectacular fireworks display will be explosive!

By Audrey J. Bernard

New York City's annual Macy's Fourth of July spectacular fireworks display will be different from past shows! Instead of a single event, there will be a reimagined series of five-minute shows done across the city's five boroughs in small brief but mighty bursts. "This year is going to be different. It will not be like the past, where there's one big giant show, we do not want a lot of people out watching," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "There's not going to be a single focal point."

The weeklong show got an early start on Monday, June 29, and will end on Saturday, July 4, 2020. The show will be spread out in smaller displays over select evenings in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. "The idea is very brief bursts, brief but mighty," stated Mayor de Blasio. "The plan is very powerful, very moving — but also very safe." The smaller displays are designed to keep large crowds at bay in an effort to prevent the spread of coronavirus.



Macy's 2019 Fourth of July Fireworks show light up behind the Empire State Building

"We want to get the shows around the five boroughs so people can see them from their own homes, from their own rooftops, from nearby parks." The five-minute shows will take place at locations to be

announced prior to the event to prevent crowds from gathering.

The individual light shows will run five minutes apiece in each borough with a grand finale that will air July 4th on

NBC. That broadcast will feature a conglomeration of the smaller shows but also a live fireworks display along with musical acts.

"New York City is our hometown. Macy's believes in

giving back to the communities where we live and work, and this year, we are taking our Fireworks show on a trip across the city. In reimagining this year's show, the idea of bringing elements to many parts of our hometown resonated with our team and partners in the City of New York," Susan Tercero, executive producer Macy's 4th of July Fireworks, said in a statement last week.

"These five-minute surprise displays will showcase Macy's signature pyrotechnic design and scale, while encouraging spectators to continue following safety and social distancing measures. The multiple location spectacle will culminate with a full-scale television presentation of Macy's 4th of July Fireworks, capturing the spirit of the city for all New Yorkers and the nation to enjoy, choreographed to a rousing score, and featuring the nation's best musical performances," she added.

NBC has enlisted a roster of star power to perform at the 2020 "Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular" to make this an exhilarating star-studded celebration. Some of the stars appearing will be John Legend, Tim McGraw and Brad Paisley, to name a few. (Photos courtesy NBCUNIVERSAL)



John Legend, Tim McGraw and Brad Paisley will perform at the 2020 "Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular"

Celebrate Independence Day at New-York Historical Society

Celebrate Independence Day from home with the New-York Historical Society, the oldest museum in New York City, and reflect on the many meanings of the holiday. Our free, virtual offerings will include historical interpreter Joel Cook reenacting Frederick Douglass' speech "What to the slave is the Fourth of July?" and a program in collaboration with the Jackie Robinson Museum that explores Robinson's

legacy of activism. Families will also be invited to curate their own museum and participate in singalongs, crafts, and storytelling throughout the day. To register for live events, visit nyhistory.org. The New-York Historical Society has a whole day's worth of programming planned, including a speech by Frederick Douglass delivered by historical interpreter Joel Cook, a deep dive into Jackie Robinson's legacy of activ-

ism with the Jackie Robinson Museum, and sing-alongs that give voice to struggles and hopes throughout American history. Come together as a family and think about what the July 4th holiday means to you or your community! The New-York Historical Society is located at 170 Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way (77th Street), New York, NY 10024. Information: (212) 873-3400. Website: nyhistory.org. Follow the museum on

social media at @nyhistory on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Tumblr.

Join New-York Historical live throughout the day for July 4th activities at home —all ages free:

• **10 am— Hablemos @ Casa: Celebrating our community by sharing our stories! / ¡Celebremos nuestra comunidad compartiendo nuestras historias!**

• **11 am — Sing-Along: Red, White, and Tunes!**

• **12 pm— History Deep Dive: Justice and Fair Play: Jackie Robinson—Activist, Athlete, Patriot**

• **1 pm — Living History @ Home: "What to the slave is the Fourth of July?"**

• **2 pm — Family Collaboration: Curate Your Own Museum @ Home**

In the community

“DuSable Day,” July 4th March/Rally in Chicago



Bust of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable

Posted By Don Thomas

Martin's International Foundation, in conjunction with several organizations, including the DuSable Heritage Association, the Universal Negro Improvement Association, African Global Chamber of Commerce and the more than 20 organizations and community leaders, will host a peaceful march/rally calling for a new holiday for the City of Chicago called, “DuSable Day,” a Street and a major Monument in DuSable's honor.

The rally will take place on Independence Day, Sat., July 4, 2020, at 12noon with marchers gathering at the bust of Jean Baptiste Pointe

DuSable/DuSable Bridge, on North Michigan Avenue near Tribune Plaza.

Marchers will walk seven blocks south on Michigan Avenue to Monroe Street, then one block east of Monroe to Columbus Drive and hear from speakers, including elected representatives, addressing DuSable, Systemic Racism and Police Abuse. All participants/protesters will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing protocols.

Martin's International and the other organizations will publicly propose the renaming of Columbus Drive to “DuSable Drive” during a July 4th Independence march in the honor of the city's first permanent resident and settler,



(L-R) Haitian Ambassador Dr. Pierre, Ephraim Martin, president of International Foundation, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and Dr. Serge JC Pierre-Louis at the DuSable Heritage Association dinner in 2019 talking about the Founding Father Jean Baptiste DuSable

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, a Black man from Haiti who founded Chicago in 1779.

The drive which was originally named for Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus runs north-south along the lake shore and through the territory where DuSable first arrived and set-up a prosperous fur trading post and farm, which was later to become Chicago.

“As the late author and noted historian Dr. Lerone Bennett once said, the story and legacy of Jean Baptiste Point DuSable is Chicago's best kept secret. Bennett and leaders such as the late Dr. Margaret Taylor Burroughs, who founded the DuSable Museum advocated for prop-

er recognition for DuSable's many achievements.

As a result, we now have DuSable Harbor and the DuSable Bridge which were dedicated only within the last 10 years, but we cannot stop there. We must bring this long-awaited issue to the attention of Mayor Lightfoot and our city alderman to correct a historic wrong against the legacy of DuSable and members of the Black immigrant community who equally contributed their talents and hard work to Chicago's rich history and culture.

“Columbus Drive is an inaccurate appropriation of the city's landmarks because the territory is precisely where DuSable first set foot. It simply must be renamed,” said Ephraim Martin.

Although it is well known that DuSable, a Black man from Haiti was the first settler to discover and set up a trading post in Chicago, by the virtue of his color and nationality, he has not been given full credit and recognition while at the same time a white man, John Kinzie, who ended up acquiring DuSable's properties has been given more notoriety.

“There are massive monuments, major streets, holidays in honor of those who oppressed Blacks in America on display throughout the Chicago and region. Meaningful public recognition for this outstanding Black man who established this great city must also be recognized without question!”

In early Chicago history, there have been some efforts to recognize DuSable. DuSable High School opened its doors in February of 1935. The late Leslie Benodin a Haitian businessman, who sponsored a three feet bust/statue, which was designed by Erik Blome

an American-born designer. The Statue is located on Michigan Avenue Bridge, which we now call DuSable Bridge, where the protesters will gather before the march.

The event calls for Mayor Lightfoot and the entire city council to move swiftly, within the next three months to set aside a day in the year for a “city holiday” in observance of DuSable and to rename Columbus Drive which runs through the land discovered by DuSable as the Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable Drive.

Organizers also want the mayor and city council to support a 25 feet Monument of DuSable to be installed by 2021. Corporations will be able to support the project through sponsorships and donations.

Since 1982, using reggae music as an art form and a vehicle of expression of the voiceless peoples of the world, for an end to apartheid, the freedom of Nelson Mandela and for freedom and democracy in the world, to the fight to end systemic racism.

Ephraim Martin president of Martin International Foundation and former photojournalist has been working in the forefront of the movement for more than 38 years to bring forth meaningful and equitable change to the Black and other minority communities.

During the July 4th weekend 2019 Martin dedicated the 27th annual African/Caribbean International Festival of Life (IFOL) in Chicago to celebrate the 400 years of Africans arrival in America during the year of 1619 and to recognize Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable's 200th birthday. To support the major Monument for DuSable, sign the petition and support our GoFund Me page.



Community Leaders at July 4th 2019 African/Caribbean International Festival in recognition of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable's 200th birthday

Art

New-York Historical Society announces reopening plans; Kevin Powell to curate 'Hope Wanted: New York City Under Quarantine' featuring more than 50 photographs



Author, political activist and poet, Kevin Powell (Photo by Mark Von Holden/WireImage) Photographer Kay Hickman



Posted by Audrey J. Bernard

The New-York Historical Society, the city's oldest museum, is pleased to announce that it plans to reopen in stages starting **August 14, 2020**, pending approval from local and state officials. The Museum will first open a special free outdoor exhibition, *Hope Wanted: New York City Under Quarantine*, which documents the experiences of New Yorkers across the five boroughs during the height of the pandemic. Then on **September 11, 2020**, the Museum will reopen indoors, with safety protocols in place for visitors and staff.

Curated by writer and humanitarian **Kevin Powell** and photographer **Kay Hickman**, *Hope Wanted: New York City Under Quarantine* features more than 50 photographs taken by Hickman along with 12 audio interviews with the photographs' subjects conducted by Powell during the team's intensive two-day odyssey across the city on **April 8-9, 2020**; the audio will be accessible to visitors through their cell phones.

Hickman's empathetic photographs of people and their neighborhoods in all five boroughs and Powell's searching interviews of New Yorkers

impacted by the crisis capture both tragedy and remarkable resilience at a moment in time during the pandemic. The exhibition text and audio will be offered in both English and Spanish.

Hope Wanted will take place outdoors in New-York Historical's rear courtyard (located at West 76th Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue), providing an open-air environment for visitors to view the exhibition and contemplate the impact of COVID-19 on New York City. Admission is free; access will be limited and face coverings will be required for entry, with social distancing enforced through timed-entry tickets and on-site safety measures.

The exhibition also includes a quiet seating area, surrounded by plantings and conducive to reflection, where visitors can record their own experiences of the pandemic in an open-sided story booth. These oral histories will be archived by New-York Historical.

Powell is a poet, journalist, public speaker, civil and human rights activist, and the author of 14 books, including his new title, *When We Free the World* (Apple Books), about the present and future of America, which is exclusively excerpted in the *New York*

Times ("A Letter From Father to Child").

Hickman is a documentary photographer and visual artist. Her passion is highlighting the human experience as it relates to identity, human rights, and health issues. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Time*, *Vogue*, *Ms.*, *Vibe*, *Utne*, and MFON Women Photographers of the African Diaspora. Dr. Marilyn Kushner, curator and head, Department of Prints, Photographs,

and Architectural Collections, is New-York Historical's curatorial coordinator for the exhibition.

"We are eager to welcome visitors back to the New-York Historical Society," said Dr. **Louise Mirrer**, president and CEO of the New-York Historical Society. "While so much has changed over the past several months, our mission of 'Making History Matter' remains vital, now more than ever before."

Major support for this exhibition is provided by the Ford Foundation. Exhibitions at New-York Historical are made possible by Dr. Agnes Hsu-Tang and Oscar Tang, the Saunders Trust for American History, the Seymour Neuman Endowed Fund, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. WNET is the media sponsor.

Museum Reopening

Details of the Museum's indoor reopening protocols and visitor safety measures will be announced soon. Since the New-York Historical Society closed to the public on

March 13 to help contain the spread of COVID-19, it has been actively collecting during these unprecedented times through its History Responds initiative, documenting the pandemic and the

Black Lives Matter protests in New York City. For more details on what New-York Historical is currently collecting and how to donate objects, visit nyhistory.org/history-responds.

About New-York Historical Society

The New-York Historical Society, one of America's preeminent cultural institutions, is dedicated to fostering research and presenting history and art exhibitions and public programs that reveal the dynamism of history and its influence on the world of today. Founded in 1804, New-York Historical has a mission to explore the richly layered history of New York City and State and the country, and to serve as a national

forum for the discussion of issues surrounding the making and meaning of history. New-York Historical is also home to the Patricia D. Klingenstein Library, one of the oldest, most distinguished libraries in the nation—and one of only 20 in the United States qualified to be a member of the Independent Research Libraries Association—which contains more than three million books, pamphlets, maps, newspa-

pers, manuscripts, prints, photographs, and architectural drawings.

The New-York Historical Society is located at 170 Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way (77th Street), New York, NY 10024. Information: (212) 873-3400. Website: nyhistory.org. Follow the Museum on social media at @nyhistory on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Tumblr.

Music

By Audrey J. Bernard

Reggae icon Buju Banton releases new music after 10-year hiatus

BEACON, July 3 – July 9, 2020 newyorkbeacon.com



Buju Banton

On Friday, June 26, 2020, Grammy winner, multiple Billboard Hot 100 chart-topping artist and international reggae icon, **Buju Banton** released his much-anticipated album, *Upside Down 2020*, his first full-length studio album in a decade. The album is available now to stream everywhere [HERE](#).

His music has always been enriching, resolute, and way ahead of its time and now just perfect for the current state of affairs. After having been away for 10 years, he effortlessly picked up where he left off with *Upside Down 2020*. "As we approach this shift in time, in ages, in the consciousness

of man, many things can be said but who is really listening? So much trouble in our world, yet are we aware? The battle lines have been drawn and it's simple. Good versus evil," Banton says about his music. "I am not here to tell you the side you should be on, rather my offering of music is meant to guide, inspire, uplift, educate and eradicate negativity from the minds of the masses. We, who have been the political football of many, the economic underdog nations, say no! No more to this upside-down system. This one-sided view of justice and all the other issues affecting us as a people."

Banton continues: "While I seek to highlight the systemic problems around the world, I am aware of the need of preserving dancehall culture along with the real essence that reggae music offers but these are not normal times so things cannot continue as normal. We are the change we seek and it's our time to cement this thought in the minds of our youth. To open their eyes, thus enabling future generations to continue on a firm path and solid foundation with music doing its job as the great healer, teacher, comforter and above all, the restorative force that propels human beings to higher heights."

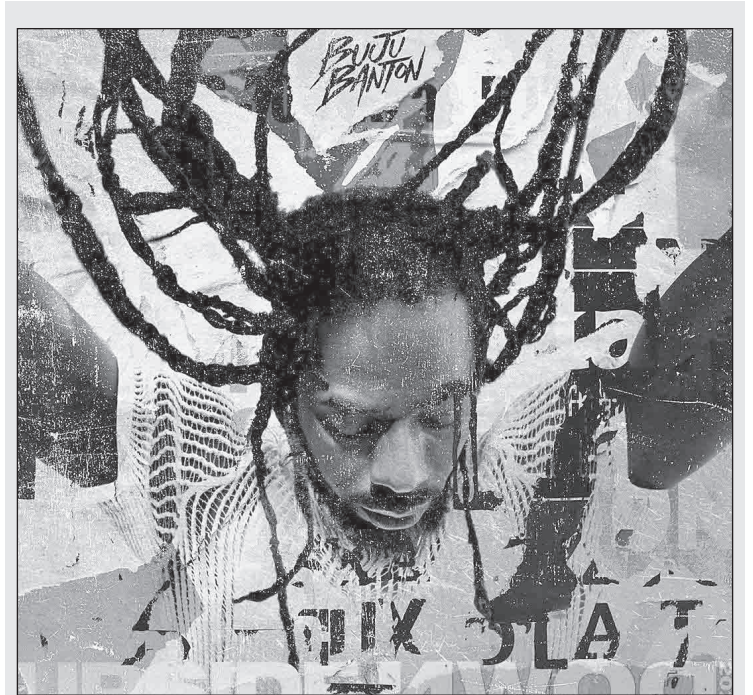
Banton celebrated his return to the worldwide stage following his electrifying performance at Kingston's Famed National Stadium during the "Long Walk to Freedom Concert" which was one of the biggest music events in Jamaica's history and was the launching pad for the tour of the same name. Relive the monumental moment from the history-making "Long Walk to Freedom Concert" [HERE](#).

Banton's announcement that he had signed with Roc Nation was followed with his release of four brand-new songs, with accompanying music or lyric videos, "Steppa," "Trust," "Memories" featuring the incomparable John Legend and "Blessed" energized his impressive global audience. While "Blessed" is now exploding, "Memories" is a Top 20 record at radio and is #1 on the iTunes reggae chart. Banton's last studio album, *Before the Dawn*, was released in 2010.

Here is the *Upside Down 2020* Tracklist: Lamb Of God; Yes Mi Friend Featuring Stephen Marley; Buried Alive; Blessed; Memories Featuring John Legend; Lovely State

Of Mind; Appreciated; Trust; Cherry Pie Featuring Pharrell; Beat Dem Bad; Good Time Girl; Call Me Featuring Stefflon

Don; Moonlight Love; Cheated; Steppa; The World Is Changing; 400 Years; Rising Up Helping Hang; and Unity.

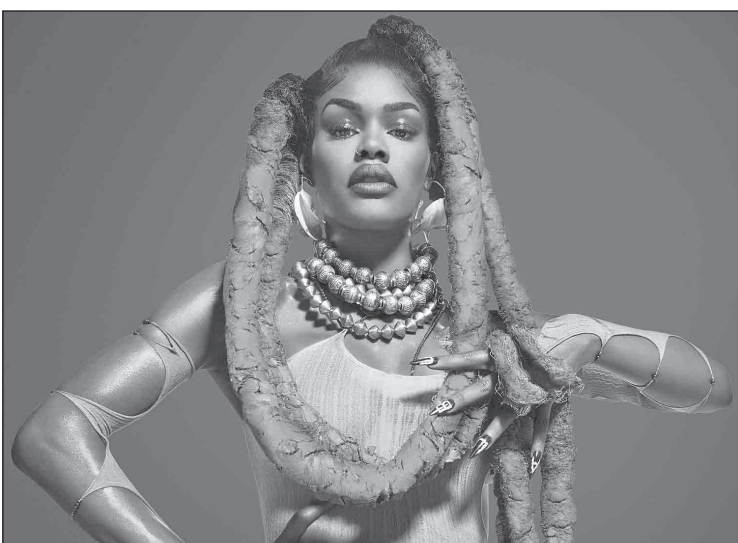


"Upside Down 2020" album art work

About Buju Banton

Buju Banton is a Jamaican reggae dancehall recording artist. He is widely considered one of the most significant and well-regarded artists in Jamaican music. Banton has collaborated with many international artists, including those in the Hip Hop, Latin and punk rock genres, as well as the sons of Bob Marley. Banton has recorded pop and dance songs, as well as songs dealing with sociopolitical topics. He released early dancehall singles in 1988 but came to prominence in 1992 with two albums, *Stamina Daddy* and *Mr. Mention*, which became the best-selling album in Jamaican history upon its release. Banton signed with major label Mercury Records and released *Voice of Jamaica* the following year. By the mid-1990s, Banton had converted to the Rastafari faith, and his music undertook a more spiritual tone. His 2010 album *Before the Dawn* won Best Reggae Album at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards. In 2019 the international reggae superstar signed a new deal to join Jay-Z's record label Roc-Nation which celebrated the new partnership with the release of a video for Buju's new song "Steppa."

Teyana Taylor's 'The Album' lands on top of Billboard Chart



Teyana Taylor

No one was surprised when the culturally eclectic Teyana Taylor released her third emancipated musical project, simply titled *The Album*, on Juneteenth, a day of observing the end of slavery in Texas, the last state to free its slaves. "I personally felt like it was only right," Taylor says, "because it's a celebration for my culture and my people, to show that no matter what we go through, we always pull through." Taylor who won a Best Director nod at the BET Awards got more great news. *The Album* landed in the #1 spot on the Billboard R&B Hip-Hop Albums chart and

entered the Top 10 on the Billboard 200 Albums chart at #8, the highest debut of her career. *The Album* contains 23 tracks from the creative influencer that sends a clear message, "She's done compromising her creative vision." Her third album features guest appearance from a cache of acclaimed artists like Lauryn Hill, Missy Elliott and Erykah Badu – all representing the best of Black elegance. "The same way I got straight to the point with the album being called *The Album* is what I wanted to represent as a woman, as a Black woman that's really doing it. Embracing my features, embracing my strong features,

embracing my roots," she says. From the album cover, Taylor channels legendary model Grace Jones's cheekbones and high top fade. "The same way I got straight to the point with the album being called *The Album* is what I wanted to represent as a woman, as a Black woman that's really doing it. "My mom plays a big part in that, Black woman plays a big part, Black culture played a big part in that. Of course, Grace Jones plays a big part in that, and she's going to always be one of my biggest inspirations because of her strong features and her unique features." (Photo by Daniel Sannwald/ Courtesy of the artist)



By Victoria Horsford

What's going on

NEW YORK UPDATES

Gun violence is the new virus running rampant through the streets of NYC, specifically in East New York, Brooklyn; Mott Haven, the Bronx; Jamaica, Queens; and East Harlem, Manhattan. There were 125 shootings during the first three weeks in June. From mid May to June 15, there were 38 gun-related fatalities. Memorial Day weekend usually signals the onset of gun violence in the Apple.

There was a flareup between some of the 500 Harlem block party revelers and NYPD, along the Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard corridor, between 131 and 133 Streets. Problems began at 3:45 am on June 28, when gun fire was heard and calls were made to 911. The Police arrived and then chaos ensues as the crowd grew hostile, hurling insults and bottles at NYPD, according to Daily News, NY Post and WCBS TV reports. Fortunately there were no close encounters

between NYPD and inebriated partygoers. Arrests were made days later and NYPD has lots of video footage. Would like an official story from a local politico. New York does not need a long hot summer.

Mayor Bill de Blasio is under siege. He is unpopular with New York residents, the business community, NYPD, et. al because of his mismanagement of protesters and his flip flops during the height of the NY leg of George Floyd marches and group venting. A new social equality movement landed and he didn't know how to accommodate it. He has a large budget deficit owing to city's COVID crisis and will be forced to layoff civil servants and cut back allocations to programs which benefit city's marginalized residents. George Floyd protesters have taken up residency at City Hall where they vowed to remain until he presents a new budget reflecting a \$1.5 billion cut



Bill de Blasio

to NYPD. It looks like the Council and the Mayor will agree on cuts and additions like the restoration of the city's summer youth program to the budget. Cynics say that the \$1.5 billion is a sleight of hand maneuver. It looks like an and \$86 billion budget deal with be cut by 6/30. Will Albany legislators assist downstate brethren?

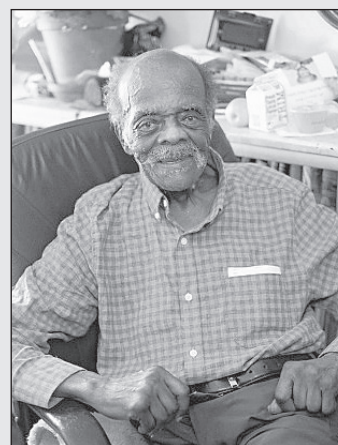
Will feds help?

LAND USE:

The NY Post story "JP Morgan Drops foreclosure against James Been, 100 year old WWII veteran who fought fascism," restores faith in banking. Chase was ready to evict Been over a disputed unpaid \$100,000 loan against his BedStuy home, which originated in 2006. Been says that he never took out a loan and his signature was forged. A NY Post story about his plight attracted donors, advocates and righteous indignation. Last week, Chase dropped the case and forgave the loan. Wonder how many seniors are vulnerable by fraud.

Last week, NYS Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks says no to foreclosures for the time being unless property is empty or abandoned. Landlords in arrears have more time to pay up. Marks' action supersedes Governor Cuomo executive order which deferred foreclosure through June 2020, if borrower could prove financial hardships related to COVID19.

The next round of US economic stimulus must

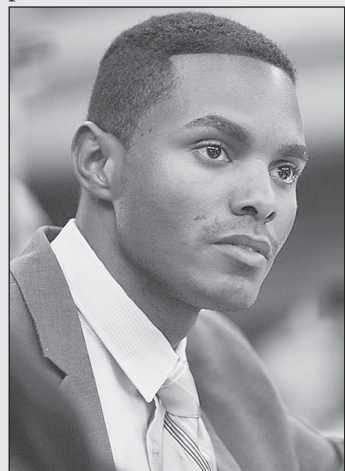


James Been

address rent arrears another national epidemic, a result of COVID lockdowns and job loss. Something akin to rent vouchers must be in the next trillion dollar stimulus. The usual suspects, the Feds and Treasury, speak of a new stimulus which must address aid to states and cities; to rent arrears and another \$1250 stimulus check. Last week, Trump mumbled something about another stimulus.

NY PRIMARIES: JUNE 23

The inconclusive 6/23 NY Democratic Primary results, absent almost 800,000 absentee ballots, follow. The presumed winners are new-



Ritchie Torres

comer, former middle school principal Jamaal Bowman who ran against veteran Rep. Eliot Engels. NYC Councilman Afro-Latino Ritchie Torres won the race for the seat vacated by Rep. Jose Serrano. African American Mondaire Jones is frontrunner for seat vacated by Rep. Nita Lowey. A Working Family Party official enthused. "The primary was a referendum on Black lives." The newcomers are younger, Blacker and Browner than reps whom they presumably succeeded." Rep. Carole Maloney is in a tight race with Indo American lawyer Suraj Patel. Congress members Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, Bronx, Adriano Espaillat, Manhattan; Yvette Clarke, Brooklyn; Gregory



Mondaire Jones

Meeks, Queens handily vanquished opponents and will return to DC, assuming that there are no GOP upsets in November.

COVID19/REOPENINGS

Globally, coronavirus infections exceeded 10 million with surges in regions on many continents. The virus death toll approaches 500,000. Most nations have contained the virus sorta/kinda and are ready to resume international travel next month. The European Union is ready for international business travel with a few exceptions. The EU has announced a ban to its member nations airports from the following countries, the United States, Russia, and Brazil. Why? Because of the COVID19 surge in those regions. US airlines like American, United and Delta plan to fly the friendly skies imminently.

In the USA, where there is not uniform public health policy, more than 22 states including Texas, Florida and Arizona, have uncontrollable coronavirus surges, the result

of May re-openings and a failure to observe virus precaution protocols. Moreover, a Godzilla dust cloud, which originated in the Sahara Desert, hovers over the US gulf states, which complicates virus disorders for those with heart and respiratory conditions. NYC, the erstwhile global coronavirus hotspot has the virus in remission and did so incrementally listening to cautionary tales by scientists, employing the quarantine, face masks, and social distancing when hospitalization was not an option. Looking at surges elsewhere in the USA, NY and NJ are pausing some reopening schedules like interior restaurant dining. The NYC Fall Marathon has been canceled; Broadway theaters will not re-open until early January; and movie theater openings have been put on hold. Better to err on the side of caution!

ARTS/CULTURE

EDUCATION: The NYU Langone Medical Center has scholarships for Blacks interested in medicine. The Langone Medical Center College of Medicine boasts \$600 million of unclaimed money for scholarships. Applicants should email admissions@med.med.nyu.edu or gmesupport@nyulan-gmed.nyu.edu

JULY EVENTS

The Macy's Fourth of July fireworks will titillate from June 29 to July 4.

In lieu of one spectacular July 4 show, the plan is for 6 mini firework dazzlers, in an attempt to interrupt the illegal fireworks displays around town.

Harlem Park to Park coordinates the "Harlem Black Lives Matter Mural" kickoff and mural installation at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building, on ACP Boulevard at 125 Street at Seventh Avenue, Harlem, on July 3, at 10 am. Check Eventbrite.com/black-lives-matter-street-mural.

BROOKLYN: The 49th International African Arts Festival, one of the nation's longest running cultural events with Pan African roots, will be livestreamed this year via www.IAFAFestival.org on Saturday, July 4 and July 11. Vendors, live music, dance classes, family activities are part of the interactive festivities. For more info email info@iaafestival.org or call

gone.org or call 212.263.5290 or 212.263.5506.

MSNBC is keeping it in the family. The Saturday AM JOY host, Joy Reid, is the front runner to replace the coveted Chris Matthews show spot which aired Monday to Friday from 7-8 pm, which is strategic lead in to its big prime time lineup.



Inez Dickens

718.638.6700.

Join Cancerian Inez Dickens for a virtual birthday celebration in support of her campaign for the NYS Assembly, on Wednesday, July 15. The zoom party begins at 6pm. For more info, Email Darren@dynamicrg.com Checks can be made payable to Dickens for NY, Dynamic SRG, 163 Amsterdam Avenue, Suite 1319, New York, New York 10023.

Entertainment



By Don Thomas

DTH and HCAD forge 3-year partnership



Co-founders Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook

Dance Theater of Harlem (DTH) and The Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth (HCAD) forge a 3-year partnership for the creation of new ballet work and the expansion of educational opportunities in dance, theater, African-American studies and related fields.

A landmark collaboration between DTH and (HCAD) kicked off in late June for the first of a three-summer residency. The ballet company joins the Hop 50th-anniversary season, which celebrated the great co-founders Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook and decades of dance contributions by its choreographers and dancers.

The long-term partnership will provide time and space for collaborative, creative projects between the two organizations aimed at expanding learning opportunities in dance, supporting the inter-related practices of choreography and academic scholarship and exploring how the arts can be powerful instigators of social change.

Since its inception, DTH has been a model of inclusivity, and the company's work at Dartmouth each summer will contribute to conversations on race, activism and equity in the arts. The company will use the 2020 summer for the artistic development of The Hazel Scott Project, a newly commissioned work initiated by the Washington, DC-based presenter, Washington Performing Arts, by Choreographer Tiffany Rea-Fisher.

The ballet set to premiere in 2022, will honor the legacy of Hazel Scott, the Black piano virtuoso and Hollywood trailblazer who risked her life and career through outspoken civil rights activism. The project has provided the inspiration for a summer theater course co-taught by Monica

White Ndounou (Associate Professor of Theater) and John Heginbotham (Director of the Dartmouth Dance Ensemble) that examines the interplay between arts and advocacy and challenges students to create dance as a tool for expanding historical understanding and social change.

Following the announcement, Mary Lou Aleskie and Howard Gillman, Directors of HCAD said, "Last year, when we started exploring a collaboration between our institutions, the aim was a mutually supportive partnership that offered opportunities for interdisciplinary research and for our students to observe Dance Theatre of Harlem's creative process."

"This does just that, while opening the door for us all to learn from each other's histories. We are inspired to be a multi-year partner with DTH and to join in the artistic journey of the Hazel Scott Project."

"This summer, the Hop and DTH plan to present **FREE**, public panel discussions on the topics of ballet, activism and the legacy of Hazel Scott. DTH company members will also teach a series of virtual master classes open to the public. Details on these joint events will be announced over the next weeks as part of Hop@Home, said Glass, DTH executive director."

For more than 50 years, DTH has enriched and redefined the field of American ballet. The late founder Arthur Mitchell, was protégé of Russian ballet choreographer George Balanchine. He made history in 1955 as the first Black principal dancer at New York City Ballet. Based in New York City, the multi-ethnic DTH tours nationally and internationally, presenting an inclusive vision for ballet in the 21st century. Its



Pianist/Singer Hazel Scott

forward-thinking repertoire includes treasured classics by George Balanchine and resident choreographer Robert Garland, as well as innovative contemporary commissions that celebrate African American culture by choreographers including Darrell Grand Moultrie, Annabelle

Lopez Ochoa and Claudia Schreier.

Through performances and community engagement and arts education and training in ballet in the DTH School, the organization carries forward its message of empowerment through the arts for all. For more information, visit Anw-ww.DanceTheatreOfHarlem.org

Founded in 1962, the Hop is the hub of performing arts and film for Dartmouth and the region, presenting more than 300 events annually. In addition to hosting over 40 national and international artists each season, the Hop is a laboratory for creative exploration and long-term artist residencies that instigate connections across the Dartmouth curriculum and the wider community.

Through its expansive programming and academic connections, the Hop aims to address issues of race, gender, economic and cultural identity. Since its launch in April 2020, Hop@Home has served as the virtual stage for more than 30 **FREE** events, including live-streamed concerts, artist conversations, watch parties, and crowd-sourced projects. For more information, visit hop.dartmouth.edu



Dance Theater of Harlem (DTH)

5th & final season of 'Greenleaf' delivers 1.9 million viewers; ranks as #1 Cable Telecast for women 25-54

Posted by Audrey J. Bernard

Let the church say A-men! OWN's megachurch drama is still a hit with viewers! Some 1.9 million viewers tuned into the show's fifth and final season premiere on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, making it the #1 cable telecast in OWN's key demographic of women 25-54, up +2% vs. prior season premiere (L+3). In addition, the season premiere of "Greenleaf" ranked as the #1 most social scripted series across all broadcast and cable, including Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter that evening (non-sports). (Source: *The Nielsen Company; Nielsen Social Content Ratings. Ranked by total interactions.*)

The acclaimed drama from Lionsgate, award-winning writer/executive producer **Craig Wright** ("Lost," "Six Feet Under"), and executive producers **Clement Virgo**

("Empire"), **Kriss Turner Towner** ("Black Monday"), and **Oprah Winfrey** was also the night's #1 telecast across all broadcast and cable for African-American women up +5% vs. prior season premiere.

"Greenleaf" takes viewers into the unscrupulous world of the Greenleaf family and their sprawling Memphis megachurch, where scandalous secrets and lies are as numerous as the faithful. In its final season, the Greenleaf family will be trying to save their Memphis megachurch from being taken over by Bob Whitmore and Harmony and Hope Ministries. But secrets past and present threaten to tear the family apart even as they try to unite.

"Greenleaf" stars **Merle Dandridge** as Grace Greenleaf; **Keith David** as Bishop James Greenleaf; **Lynn Whitfield** as Lady Mae Greenleaf;

Kim Hawthorne as Kerissa Greenleaf; **Lamman Rucker** as Jacob Greenleaf; and **Deborah Joy Winans** as Charity Greenleaf-Satterjee.

In season five, the Greenleafs attempt to maintain a united front in the face of losing their church to Bob Whitmore and Harmony and Hope Ministries, but secrets past and present create what could be fatal fractures in the family's fragile foundation. The Bishop continues working to mend his rift with Lady Mae while, day by day, Harmony and Hope's grip on Calvary tightens.

In the second episode of the fifth and final season of "Greenleaf" (Tuesday June 30, at 9:00 p.m.), Noah (Benjamin Patterson) returns to Memphis to help Grace (Merle Dandridge) with A.J (Jacob Gibson), offering her stability in a world that's upside-down and spinning out of her control. Bishop (Keith David) and

Lady Mae (Lynn Whitfield) take a walk through their history when they visit Mavis's club as a potential venue for their future. Jacob (Lamman Rucker) continues to dig into the past and uncovers a shocking revelation about the history of the Greenleaf family home.

Fans who were saddened over the cancellation of their favorite church reality show were happy to hear that OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network and Lionsgate have put in development a spinoff of the critically praised hit. The network revealed the spinoff news with a teaser spot. OWN said the plan for "Greenleaf" was always for the series to span five seasons with a possible spinoff to follow, but "plans accelerated" due to the outpouring of support from the audience when it was announced that the fifth season would, in fact, be the final one.

The hit church drama has garnered many awards including ten NAACP Image Award nominations, with wins for Outstanding Drama Series in 2020, and Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series in 2019 and 2020 (Lynn Whitfield).

The "Greenleaf" Soundtrack Volume Two was named Outstanding Gospel/Christian Album (Traditional or Contemporary) by the NAACP Image Awards in 2018. The series has also been recognized by the Alliance for Women in Media's Gracie Allen Awards and by the Black Reel Awards for Television.

"Greenleaf" is produced for OWN by Lionsgate in association with Harpo Films and Pine City. Executive producers are Oprah Winfrey, Craig Wright ("Lost," "Six Feet Under"), Clement Virgo ("Empire") and Kriss Turner Towner ("Black Monday").



Cast of award-winning "Greenleaf"

(P) Denotes: Premieres
(F) Denotes: Finales

GREENLEAF

Tuesdays (9 p.m. – 10 p.m. ET/PT)

The Greenleafs attempt to maintain a united front in the face of losing their church to Bob Whitmore and Harmony and Hope Ministries, but secrets past and present create what could be fatal fractures in the family's fragile foundation. The

Bishop continues working to mend his rift with Lady Mae while, day by day, Harmony and Hope's grip on Calvary tightens. Greenleaf stars Merle Dandridge as Grace Greenleaf, Keith David as Bishop James Greenleaf, Lynn Whitfield as Lady Mae Greenleaf, Kim Hawthorne as Kerissa Greenleaf, Lamman Rucker as Jacob Greenleaf and Deborah Joy Winans as Charity Greenleaf-Satterjee.

(P) Tuesday, July 7 (9 p.m. – 10 p.m. ET/PT) Episode: *The Third Day*

Stuck in the limbo of waiting, Grace (Merle Dandridge) is torn between pursuing Bob Whitmore's (Beau Bridges) past and being present for family. Starting a new chapter proves challenging as Lady Mae (Lynn Whitfield) and Bishop (Keith David) take steps to grow their seedling dream of a new church. Jacob (Lamman Rucker) meets a new acquaintance to learn

more about the mystery behind the mansion, but what he discovers could unravel the family once and for all.

(P) Tuesday, July 14 (9 p.m. – 10 p.m. ET/PT) Episode: *The Fourth Day*

Grace (Merle Dandridge) pushes forward in her investigation into Bob Whitmore's (Beau Bridges) former company, Edenvale Lending, discovering a key informant who could unlock the answers. At the church, preparations for the

last Sunday at Calvary get contentious when Charity (Deborah Joy Winans) stands her ground against Phil (Sean Blakemore) and Judee (Valerie Jane Parker), but Charity's desire to honor the church's past may threaten her future within it. Meanwhile, Bishop (Keith David) decides to take the issue of the house into his own hands.

(P) Tuesday, July 21 (9 p.m. – 10 p.m. ET/PT) Episode: *The Fifth Day*

In lieu of attending the last Sunday at Calvary, the Greenleaf family gathers together for a small service at home. The shadow of loss looms large as they attempt to imagine their imminent futures and what it might mean for them to start over again. Grace (Merle Dandridge) feels incapable of surmounting the obstacles her family faces, until Noah (Benjamin Patterson) provides an intriguing insight into the house's history. Lady Mae (Lynn Whitfield) goes to see Tara James and returns with a startling revelation.

(P) Tuesday, July 28 (9 p.m. – 10 p.m. ET/PT) Episode: *The Sixth Day*

Bishop (Keith David) reels from the return of an old enemy, pushing Lady Mae (Lynn Whitfield) to unveil a family secret. Jacob (Lamman Rucker) and Kerissa (Kim Hawthorne) navigate the reality of their divorce with Zora (Lovie Simone) and Winkie. Charity (Deborah Joy Winans) makes Phil (Sean Blakemore) face his past, while Grace (Merle Dandridge) and Darius (Rick Fox) learn the shocking truth about Bob Whitmore (Beau Bridges) and Edenvale Lending.

On YouTube and others

Producer Brennan Williams creates playlist



Producer Brennan Williams

Posted By Don Thomas

To celebrate this month's relaunch of Global Communicator, three-publication team has engaged Brennan Williams, producer/founder of Coloan Records to create a playlist for readers' enjoyment. With tunes picked by the magazine's featured communications professionals, the collection of R&B, Urban Contemporary, Gospel, Pop, Hip-Hop and Jazz favorites is

the soundtrack for celebrating the strength of the human spirit, and the power of love. The playlist is available on YouTube, Apple and Spotify.

"Every hero/heroine has a theme song. For this project it was Brennan's idea to develop a playlist around each issue. Brennan is a fantastic music producer and he is excellent at curating and sequencing these theme projects. We asked each interviewee to include five songs that influence their

career journey. As the writer for the premiere issue, I also included five songs. I love this playlist," said Gwendolyn Quinn/CCO. Contributors to the playlist are Staci Hallmon, Candace Sandy, Donna Walker-Kuhne, Bill Carpenter and Deborah Byrd.

Featured on the special sonic journeys are such favorites as Mary J. Blige's "Just Fine," Janet Jackson's "Alright," Stevie Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," Quincy Jones'

"Back on The Block," Kirk Franklin's "Brighter Day," Ashley Dubose's "Be You," the Ohio Players' "Fire," and Bruno Mars' "24K Magic."

The collection continues with old school favorites such as Edwin Hawkins' "Oh Happy Day," Lionel Richie and The Commodores' "Jesus is Love," Sergio Mendes' "One Note Samba," Lee Ann Womack's "I Hope You Dance," Shirley Horn's "Here's To Life," as well as much-loved tunes by Cher, Barbra Streisand, Richard Marx, Tina Turner, Bette Midler and even 50s teen idol Ricky Nelson.

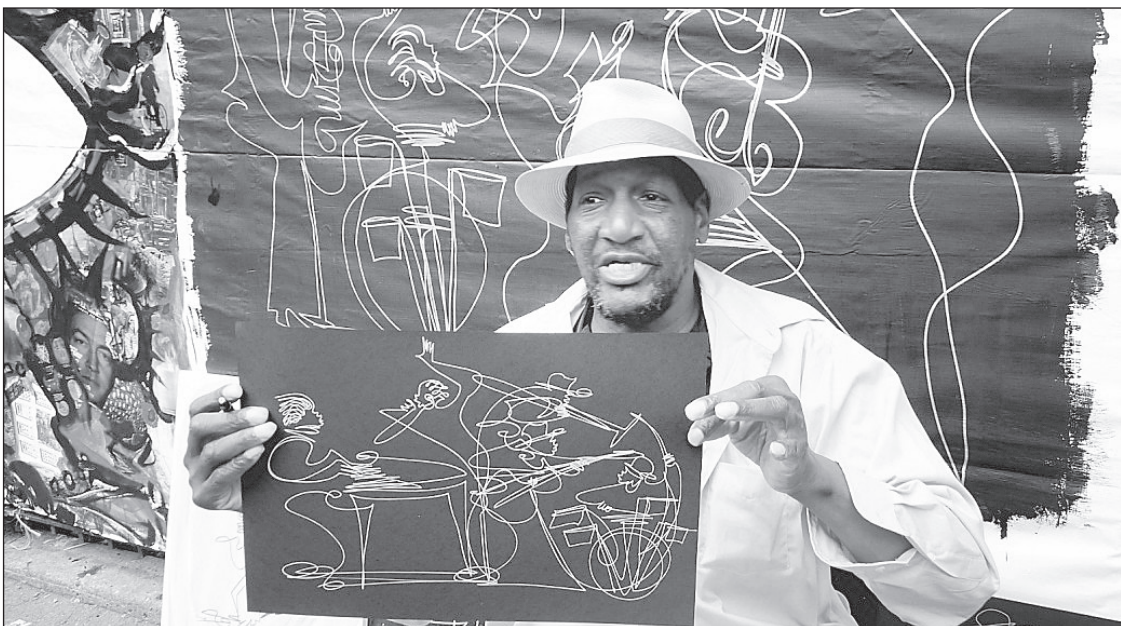
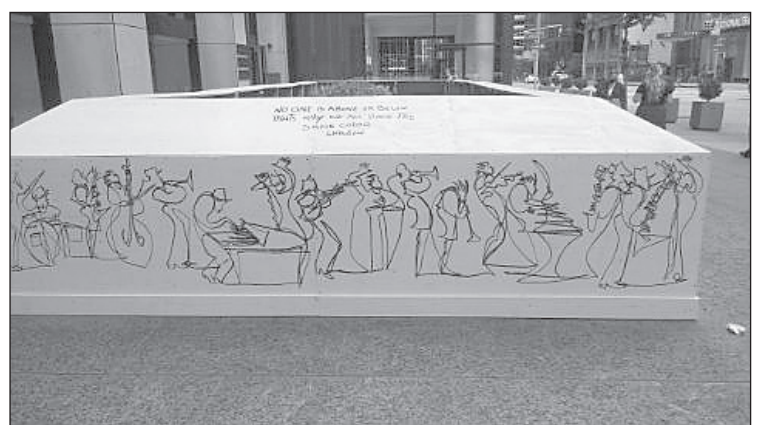
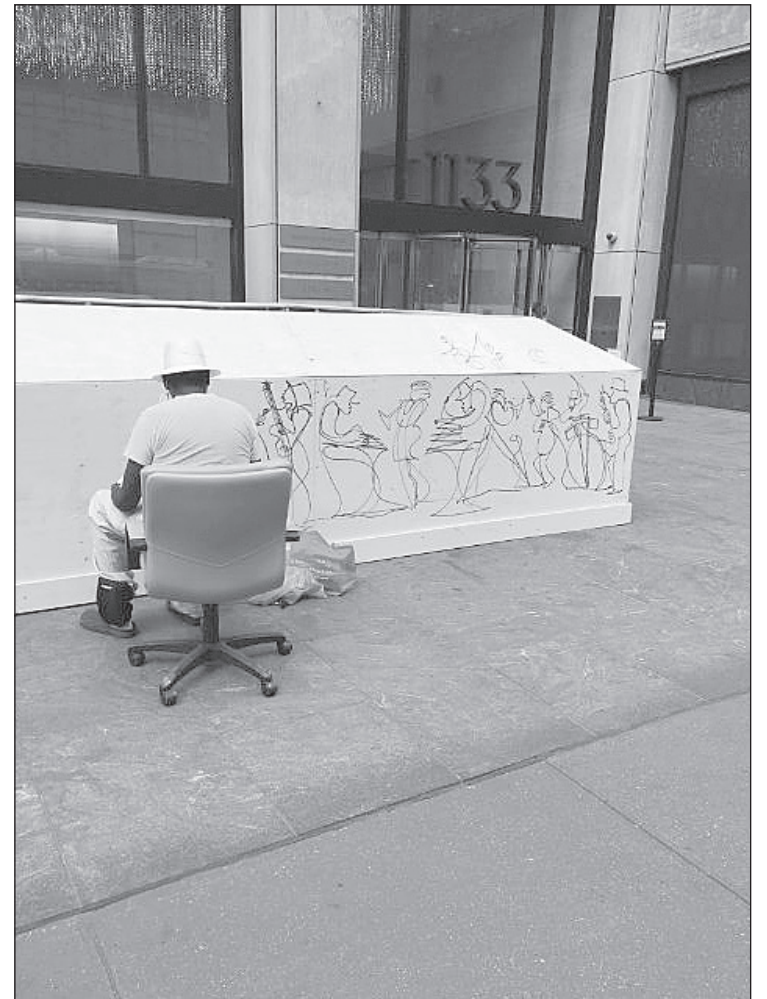
Brennan gave each platform its unique flavor, with the Apple and Spotify lists also including songs by India.Arie, George Benson, Donny Hathaway, Bill Withers, Sam Cooke, and LaBelle. "On the YouTube playlist, Brennan incorporated live performances to give it a unique visual experience," said Quinn.

Coloan previously partnered with Quinn, with Brennan creating a playlist for her

2017 HuffPost series, "The Top 25 African American PR Millennials."

Founded by Williams in 2008, Coloan Records creates theme mixes that combine original and remixed tracks to deliver eclectic and complex music programming. With expertise in sensory branding and cultural programming, Coloan Records delivers unique viewing and listening experiences that captivate and move audiences.

"Coloan Records' mission is to create a legacy in music entertainment and advance the needle on popular culture. Coloan Records has created musical experiences for such clients as The Recording Academy, Harvard University, Toyota, McDonald's, Black Portraiture Conferences, Misty Copeland's Dance Tribute to Wynton Marsalis and the African American Museum of Philadelphia's 40th Anniversary Gala honoring media trailblazers Cathy Hughes and Alfred Liggins," concluded Williams.



Sir Shadow the artist was born Thomas Allen Paxton and grew up in Jamaica, Queens. He was raised in a housing project and wrote poetry about life in his neighborhood. I LOVE YOU represents an intriguing selection of artwork. Over many decades he has been creating beautiful One Line Art and Poetry. He has definitely become a unique 21st century artist. Currently Sir Shadow is engaged in an awesome task of creating beautiful one-line murals on several NYC sites. This one is at 1133 6th Ave. and 43rd Street. "I'm supposed to do a couple of these bringing a little beauty to New York City" he states. (Photos: Ronnie Wright)

Theater talk

By Audrey J. Bernard

Whoopi Goldberg has a *bright* idea for the Broadway district

It was just a matter of time before racism reared its ugly head within the Broadway community which up to now has gone unscathed — that's until the murder of **George Floyd** and the subsequent national movements it ignited protesting society's systemic injustices. That's not because racism did not exist on Broadway before this took place but because dancers wanted to dance, singers wanted to sing, directors wanted to direct and producers wanted to produce so they kept silent — up until now as the curtain has gone up on "The Great White Way" (GWW) amid centuries of unchecked racism.

Now with statues and monuments being toppled, streets and major buildings being renamed, Black Lives Matter being painted in bold yellow letters down major streets, confederate flags being removed from government buildings, and major corporations redefining their diversity programs, members of Black Broadway are calling out instances of racism in the theater world.

That includes the Theatre District's name association — Great White Way — which has

gone unnoticed before **Whoopi Goldberg** suggested on the June 24 taping of *The View* that now might be the perfect time to change "The Great White Way" to "The Great Bright Way" as suggested to her by a friend.

The Theatre district is a section of Broadway in the Midtown section of New York City between 42nd and 53rd Streets, and long referred to as GWW since the early 1990s inspired by the millions of lights on theatre marquees and billboard advertisements that illuminate the area, especially around Times Square.

Since this new awareness of Black inequality and injustices, GWW has lost its meaning as it no longer reflects the diversity audience's demand on Broadway. "We talk about Broadway from time to time [on *The View*], and I have a pitch," Goldberg offered. "Maybe we can stop calling [Broadway] 'The Great White Way' and replace it with 'The Great Bright Way,'" she said. "It's not just the words. It's the way we think about it."

If Aunt Jemima Pancake, Waffle Mixes & Syrup Mix and Uncle Ben's Rice and Mrs. Butterworth's Syrup can make



Whoopi Goldberg (Getty Images)

changes to its visual brand identity and the Dixie Chicks can rename themselves Chicks

and Lady Antebellum can rename themselves Lady A. and so forth and so on, the "bright"

lights of Broadway can also make a meaningful transition. What a bright idea!

The Broadway League opens playbook on racism

Even The Broadway League is seeing the light! The powerful trade association which presides over America's biggest stages and whose members include Broadway theater owners and producers — as well as presenters of touring shows around the country — will now look into diversity in the industry to quell any racial injustice in the Broadway community. The League will hire a company to survey all aspects of the industry including onstage, backstage and in the many offices that power the productions according to **Charlotte St. Martin**, the League president and chief executive officer.

This new awareness comes at a time when racial injustice is rampant. Although the findings cannot force companies and organizations to do the right thing she hopes that it will uncover inequities that should not go unnoticed and unfixed and would "strongly encourage all affected entities, including labor unions and nonprofits that operate on Broadway, to cooperate with the researchers."

"I think we have done a good job onstage, and we've done a good job with the Tony Awards, but in a lot of our backstage areas we haven't done as good a job, and if people are frustrated, they have the right to be," St. Martin said. "We have to change, and we will change."



Charlotte St. Martin, far right, is the president of the Broadway League; the board includes Stephen Byrd, left, and Colleen Jennings-Roggensack, center. (Photo Credit...Left: Broadway World/Shutterstock; right: Joseph Marzullo/WENN Rights Ltd, via Alamy)

The death of George Floyd has rocked this nation and the world and prompted many theater artists to report their own instances on social media resulting in many forming new organizations to deal with the problem of racial unrest and effectuate change.

St. Martin said the League had also decided to change its bylaws to make it easier for industry leaders of color to join its board. In addition, she

said, the League will hire an executive to oversee its equity, diversity and inclusion efforts; undertake an assessment of its 19 existing diversity initiatives; make unconscious bias and anti-racism training mandatory for its staff and leadership; and offer the training to its members. The League currently has a board of about 50, two of whom are Black and ecstatically welcomed the changes.

"I'm very proud that there are actions being taken, and it isn't just talk," said **Colleen Jennings-Roggensack**, the longtime executive director of Arizona State University Gammage, a large performing arts center whose programming includes touring Broadway shows. "It's been a long time coming," she added. "As wonderful as the field is, I often am the only one in the room."

Dashing **Stephen Byrd** who is the other Black producer serving on the League board described similar experiences. "When I walk into a general manager's office, I don't see anyone like me; when I walk into an audition, I don't see anyone at the table that looks like me," he said. "We do need new voices."

The League's existing diversity programs are focused in two areas — work force development, aimed at encouraging and assisting people of color interested in careers in the industry, and audience development, aimed at persuading people of color to become more frequent theater patrons. But St. Martin said the current discussion about injustice has persuaded the League's leadership that it needs to do more. "There's no question that what we all just experienced has educated us all," she said. "We have accepted the responsibility to insure that we change the industry through our members."

Drew Shade, the founder and creative director of , a digital platform highlighting Black theater artists working in the industry, also welcomed the move with discretion. "It sounds like a really great beginning — a first step. "But the Broadway League has all the power, and it will be interesting to hear how they plan to distribute control and power within the industry. Maybe there's a conversation to be had about what else they can do," he cautioned.

Ponder this

Onward better than before

BEACON, July 3 – July 9, 2020 newyorkbeacon.com



By Hazel Rosetta Smith
Contributing Scribe

We have tried not to moan and groan about the past months of laying low, shutting in and down, laying around in the stillness of our homes, because we had to believe

hope is still alive. This present period may not be totally disheartening for everyone; however, it continues to be a disaster for many.

Those who study the Bible know well the book of Ecclesiastes states, there is a time for all things. This is a time when a whole lot of things jumped off at the same time. Unless you have been deep in a tunnel for the last five months, you know it has been one horrific killing after another profoundly witnessed by the world in living color.

Amid trying to sidestep COVID-19, the second go round hearing a Black man gasping “I Can’t Breathe” became the straw that broke the camel’s back. **George Floyd’s** public murder on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 is now among the painful memories of lost military members that are saluted, and graves embraced with floral wreaths and flags. There is much to remember.

It was no surprise that

Americans of all ages and shades would leave the safety of their homes to let it be known, enough is enough, Black Lives Matter. Evil and wickedness in blue uniforms and high places was called out as a demand for change was echoed throughout. Truth began to march courageously in outbursts unannounced in greater numbers each day. Of course, in the mix of what was to be good, a door opened to a wave of destruction to businesses through fires and looting. Unfortunately, there will always be opportunists in a crowd, looking to awaken their own agenda, contrary to the purpose intended by the greater mass of gatherers.

Though the protesting was tainted by such incidences, onward they moved in their determination to bring about long overdue changes in wrong to right, from injustice to justice for people of color. A serious seed of righteousness has begun to break through the

dirt that kept it deeply rooted for generations. The protestors in their insistence and personal sacrifice night after night facing military might became the water that the seed needed to make its head rise through the dirt into the glorious light of change.

It is happening from the ground level to the courts and high echelons of the nation. Flags are being removed, new rules and regulations through laws are coming forth, statues representing those who enforced systemic racism are coming down from their pedestals on high.

Sam Cooke must be singing from heaven’s gate, “...it’s been a long time, a long time coming, but I know a change gonna come, yes it will.” Racism in totality may never make a full turn around in the hearts of people who are hell bent in making it off the backs of Blacks. Reparations may not ever reach a passing grade in Congress. We may have to continue inching along to get

some portion of the assistance we deserve as citizens.

Whatever it is we don’t get, what we can assuredly claim as a people who have already given more than most, sacrificed and served above and beyond, made something out of nothing despite the drawbacks every step of the way – we don’t have to shout it out loud, we can show it by way of our desire to come out of this pandemic, ready to move onward better than before. We must support our businesses, our schools and stay grounded in what **James Brown** told us to keep in mind, “I am Black, and I am Proud.” You must know it in your mind, heart and spirit and freedom will ring for you and yours. [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright and director with Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries, retired former Managing Editor & Woman’s Editor of The New York Beacon and current columnist for Harlem Community News, Inc. Contact: missshazel@twc.com]



George Floyd



Sam Cooke



James Brown

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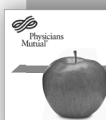
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Andrew
Rosario,
Sports
Editor

Miller faces lifetime ban

By Joshua Garcia

If for nothing else in his depressingly wasted career, Jarrell "Big Baby" Miller gave us the fight of 2019 (in which he didn't participate) and what will go down as one of boxings biggest upsets in history between Andy Ruiz and Anthony Joshua. However, there exists in every sport a group of players or characters the league could most likely do without, and in the sweet science that man is Jarrell Miller.

After failing yet another drug test for performance enhancing substances, Big Baby Miller's fight scheduled for July 9th against Jerry Forrest has officially been cancelled. It's nowhere near a surprise to see yet another significant fight in Miller's career squashed due to a dirty test sample. Only a year removed from his missed opportunity against World Champion Anthony Joshua in his USA debut.

Interviewing former heavy-weight contender and now PBC on Fox analyst Chris Arreola last year with much conviction, Chris told me he would forgive someone for almost any type of cheating in Boxing beside PED's. Arreola explained that you are playing with someone's life if you do that, and unlike many other sports, the sweet science of boxing is just plain and simple not a game.

Many have lost their lives in the ring and most of the time it has nothing to do with steroids, but it could. Last year, in a women's fight that was extremely anticipated between multi-division champ Amanda Serrano and Brooklyn's own Heather "Heat" Hardy, and after Serrano convincingly defeated her opponent, a urine sample came up positive for a type of PED.

Hardy spent much of the next month trying to prove her innocence by pleading her case as her legacy and very bright career would be washed away



Strike 4 For Miller
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

if such a herendous allegation were to be true. Throughout social media many commented that it shouldn't equate to much of a problem because Hardy, the offender in question lost the fight to Serrano.

That is a very dangerous attitude and one that cannot extend to the latest transgression by Miller. What if Hardy had injured Amanda Serrano, or worse? Would it then still not have been seen as a "big deal"?

One of the biggest mistakes

thus far has been even allowing Miller back in contention for any fight. There is no come-back for a man who has failed drug tests twice in the last year and once in kickboxing. What message are the sanctioning bodies sending to the boxing world about these type of blatant disrespects for not only the sport, but his fellow fighters?

A man who has no respect for another competitor trying to feed himself and his family and would risk the life and health

of said counterpart belongs nowhere near a ring. That is not the type of personality and character exhibited in the fight game and I would challenge any promoter to turn down working with anyone of this nature, not just a Jerrell Miller.

Boxing always has its way around suspensions from certain states or countries and I would not be surprised if we see Big Baby in a ring again somewhere remote, but it won't be without a very public out-

cry. Boxing royalty the likes of Andre Ward has called for a lifetime ban from the sport, while his old promoter Eddie Hearn proclaimed Miller's career over after the latest spell. If Big Baby does have a trick up his sleeve he better use it now like draw four, or he's going to reverse back into an abyss.

Editor's Note: Sports Editor Andrew Rosario will share his thoughts on the Miller saga next week.



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