

Available at your local



# Philadelphia *Observer*

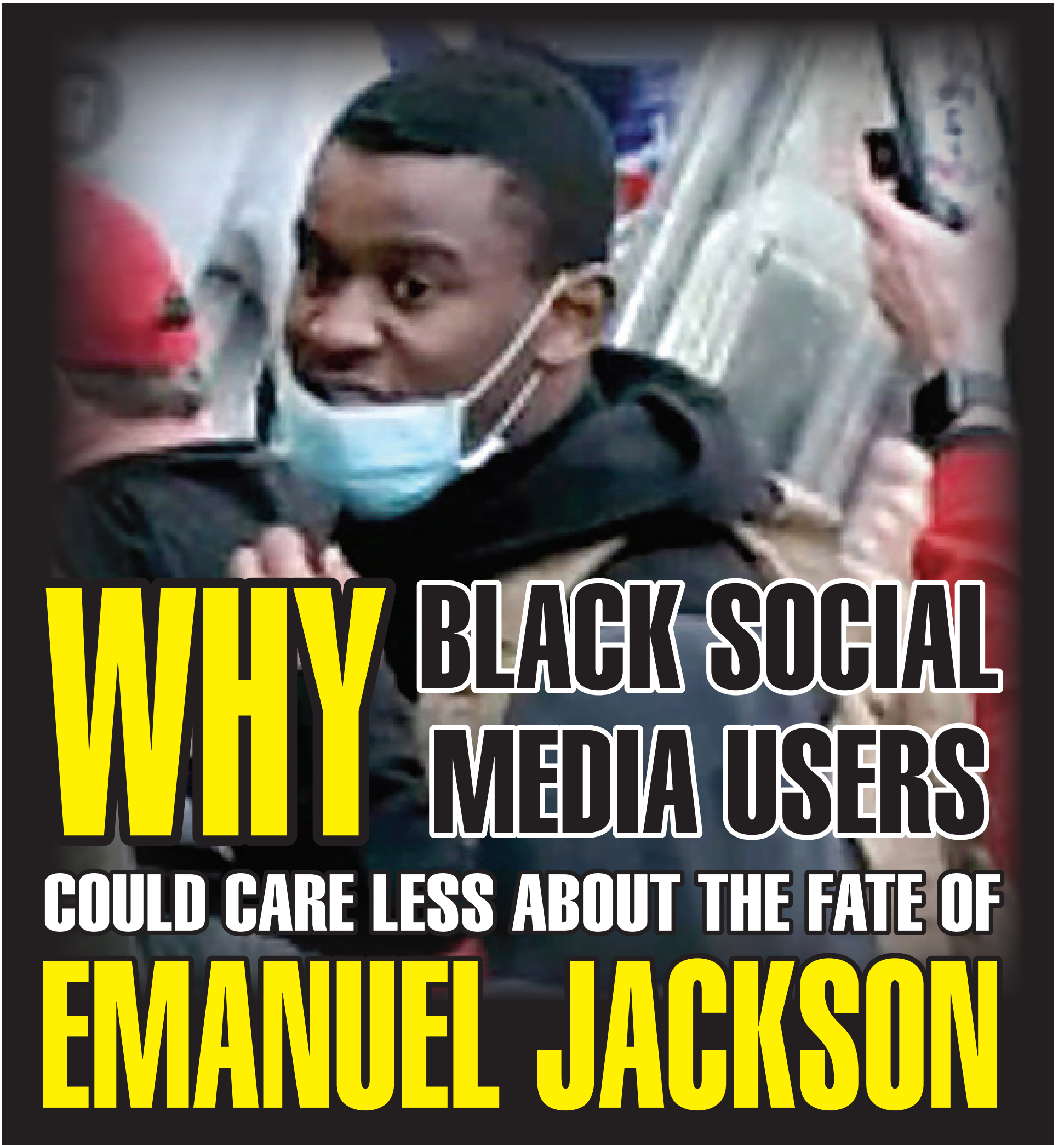
50 Cents

Speaking Truth to Justice

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

Vol. 28 • No. 6

February 11 – February 17, 2021



**WHY** BLACK SOCIAL  
MEDIA USERS  
COULD CARE LESS ABOUT THE FATE OF  
**EMANUEL JACKSON**

News Analysis

# It's time for action on a stimulus package

By Jesse Jackson



In his first 10 days in office, Joe Biden has launched an intense effort to address the “cascading crises” that America faces. In addition to issuing executive orders to reverse several of Trump’s most poisonous acts — ending federal contracting with private prisons, reviving enforcement of discrimination laws, ending the Muslim ban, reentering the Paris Climate Accord, and much more — Biden has put forth a bold rescue plan to deal with the human and economic costs of the pandemic.

He has declared climate change an existential threat and a national security priority and has promised a renewed effort to address systemic racism and other forms of discrimination. The question now is whether he will continue to push forward against the resistance of Republicans in the House and Senate and the timidity of the establishment.

The first test is on the pandemic rescue plan. Biden’s \$1.9 trillion plan is constructed to meet specific needs: a major public health drive to get Americans vaccinated and to ramp up testing and tracking and treatment; aid to Americans to counter the continuing economic distress caused by the pandemic with millions facing the end of federal support for unemployment; and emergency assistance to states and cities now facing devastating service cuts to deal with deficits that have exploded as their economies shut down and their revenues collapsed. Republicans have denounced the Biden plan from the get-go.

Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has promised to filibuster against the plan, forcing it to pass with a super majority of 60 votes, or through budget reconciliation by a majority vote. Republicans warn against using reconciliation, saying that it would torpedo all efforts at bipartisan cooperation. Bipartisan cooperation? Are they totally without memory or shame?

These are the same Republican senators who used reconciliation to pass the Trump tax cuts that larded billions in tax breaks on the richest Americans. These are the same Republicans who went along with Trump’s lies, refusing to recognize that Biden won the election for weeks, and then voted against even holding a trial for Trump in the Senate after he was impeached for instigating the

rioters who broke into the Capitol. Now suddenly, they have the nerve to question Biden’s commitment to working across the aisle. Ten Republicans — only three of whom voted to support a Senate trial on Trump’s impeachment — have put forth what is billed as an alternative plan that would cost \$600 billion. It isn’t designed to address what’s needed; it’s designed only to be less.

It contains no money for states and localities. That would lead to massive layoffs of police, firefighters, teachers, transit workers and drastic cuts in services in the midst of the pandemic. Their plan would reduce the amount of support for Americans and reduce the number of Americans eligible for relief, despite the fact that Trump supported Biden’s \$1,400 stimulus check figure and Democrats won the election campaigning on it. Their plan would lower federal unemployment benefits and limit their extension to June. With a million people a week still filing for unemployment, and the bill unlikely to be passed until March, this will put at risk the millions still unable to find work because of the shutdowns caused by the coronavirus.

Their plan would drastically reduce the funds available for reopening schools safely, and for sustaining public transport in the midst of the crisis. They offer no reason for these cuts other than complaining that the Biden plan is too expensive. Somehow for “moderate Republicans” it costs too much to aid working and poor people but never costs too much to lavish billions in tax benefits to fellow millionaires and billionaires. The country is in crisis. Millions of children go hungry. Tens of millions face eviction or the loss of their homes. A million a week are still filing for unemployment insurance. We are headed toward 500,000 deaths from the coronavirus, with new, more contagious variants now just beginning to spread. This is not a time for timidity or for posturing. It is a time for action.

# The Weeknd gives the internet its newest meme with Super Bowl show

Philadelphiaobserver.com

His handheld camera in a gold, mirrored corridor, which created a dizzying effect, gave Super Bowl viewers lots of fodder for even more fun.

Canadian superstar The Weeknd gave a thrilling performance during the halftime show

at Sunday’s Super Bowl, but one moment has gone viral, gifting the world with a hilarious new meme.

During the performance of his hit 2015 single “Can’t Feel My Face,” The Weeknd, whose real name is Abel Tesfaye, used a handheld camera in a gold, mirrored corridor, which created

a dizzying effect.

The clip quickly went viral on Twitter. “me running to take the chicken out the freezer when i hear my mom pull up #PepsiHalftime #TheWeeknd,” one user wrote.

Another mom reference read “Me when I lose my mom in the grocery store.”



The Weeknd performs during the Pepsi Super Bowl LV halftime show at Raymond James Stadium Sunday in Tampa, Florida. (Photo by Mike Ehrmann/Getty Images)

# The insurrection was a return to Jim Crow-era violent voter suppression

By Alexandria Harris Philadelphiaobserver.com

On January 6, our nation experienced a brazen and violent attack on our democracy by domestic terrorists intent on overturning a fair and legal election. In the aftermath, many have said that “this is not America.” When in fact the rallying cries used by these insurrectionists were recycled from the Ku Klux Klan when they used brutal violence to prevent Black Americans from voting in the 1960s. Make no mistake, these treasonous acts perpetrated by right-wing extremists represent a return to racially motivated violence that we have witnessed throughout American history, especially during the Jim Crow era in response to Black voting and economic power.

As the Executive Director of The Andrew Goodman Foundation, I know all too well the violent backlash that racial progress engenders, particularly when it is gained through the ballot box. My organization’s namesake, Andrew Goodman, and his fellow Freedom Summer volunteers, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, were murdered by the Ku Klux Klan while registering Black Amer-

icans to vote in Mississippi in 1964. Their killers were also domestic terrorists who saw Black enfranchisement as a threat to white supremacy. Sadly, what happened on January 6 follows that very same pattern.

Following the 2016 election, The Andrew Goodman Foundation joined forces with several voting, legal, and civil rights groups to combat the alarming rise of voter suppression policies that disenfranchised voters across the country. Throughout 2016 and 2018, we watched as these schemes became bolder and more sophisticated, and as a result, in the lead up to the 2020 election, we embarked on a national strategy that centered on activating, advocating, and litigating. We learned the playbook and developed countermeasures for the tactics that suppressed turnout in the 2016 election. We filed lawsuits and co-hosted a series of virtual summits. We had the distinct goal of empowering young voters, particularly Black students, and other targeted populations with strategies to overcome barriers to voting. We also utilized technology to reach millions, educating them about the pertinent voting requirements and deadlines governing

elections in their states; training them on how to leverage our digital tools to mobilize others on their campuses; and guiding them through fixing their ballots if they were rejected. Voting rights organizations fought back against dozens of capricious policies that intentionally made it harder for students, particularly students of color, to vote.

Our efforts, along with a number of other voting rights organizations, were successful even in the face of a global pandemic and an onslaught of suppression efforts. Over 160 million Americans voted, the highest number in a century. Our collective success in overcoming widespread voter suppression ushered in a new era of racial and gender progress. Our elected Vice President is the first woman, African American, and Asian American to ever hold that office. The state of Georgia, once a hotbed for the confederacy, elected its first Black American and Jewish American senators to the United States Senate, reminiscent of the Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner’s Black-Jewish coalition. More members of the LGBTQ community were elected to Congress. And, it was Black voters that powered much of this progress.

**Subscribe Philadelphia Observer**  
 405 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10174.  
 philadelphiaobserver.com

# Introduction of major aid provision for Black farmers in \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package

**The Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act would provide \$5 billion in direct payments to historically-underserved farmers of color to pay off federal loans, expand land access and opportunities**

By Dr John Boyd, National Black Farmers Association

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA), joined by U.S. Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), introduced new legislation aimed at delivering direct relief to Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic farmers and other agricultural producers of color to help them respond to the devastating consequences of the pandemic and resulting economic downturn, as well as address longstanding inequity in agriculture. The Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act would provide \$5 billion to America's Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and farmers of color who, in addition to being hard-hit by the current public health and economic emergencies, have long struggled to keep their farms and ownership of their land in rural communities due to discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other government agencies. The legislation follows the U.S. Senate's passage of a budget resolution that paves the way for Congress to provide \$1.9 trillion in critical relief and aid to help hardworking American families respond to the COVID-19 crisis, and will be included in the pandemic relief package.

"Rural communities in Georgia and across our nation have been slammed for years, and this once-in-a-century pandemic has put even more pressure on their hardship. Even worse, many Black farmers and other producers of color, like those I've met all over Georgia, have been left even further behind due to historical discrimination and a crippling lack of investment from the federal government for decades," said Sen. Reverend Warnock. "As Congress prepares to send significant assistance to help the American people get through this difficult time, we have to make sure that Black farmers and farmers of color, who for so long have not gotten the kind of support they need, get the debt relief and direct assistance necessary not only to move beyond this crisis, but to grow successfully into the future—building generational wealth within their families, and helping keep our rural communities and economy strong."

"The COVID-19 crisis has cre-

ated new challenges for American farmers, and in particular for farmers of color who for generations have been robbed and shortchanged by discriminatory federal agricultural policy," said Sen. Booker. "I am proud to partner with Senator Warnock on this legislation to get emergency relief to these farmers. Eliminating inequitable and burdensome debt is an important first step toward addressing the history of discrimination at the USDA, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate Agriculture Committee to find every way possible to right these historic wrongs."

"As a small farmer, I know that farming is a tough job on any day and COVID-19 has exacerbated the challenges facing New Mexico's farmers and ranchers. Yet, Hispanic, Native American, and Black farmers in New Mexico did not receive their fair share of COVID-19 relief under the last administration," said Sen. Ben Ray Lujan. "Sadly, this treatment did not come as a surprise to New Mexico's farmers of color, who have experienced discrimination by the USDA for generations. This legislation is an important step toward addressing this historic injustice, and it provides farmers and ranchers of color with the targeted relief needed to survive the pandemic and thrive in the years to come."

Historically, Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and farmers of color have struggled to keep their farms and ownership of land in rural communities due to discrimination by USDA and other government agencies. Black farmers in America alone have lost more than 12 million acres of farmland over the last century, mostly since the 1950s: according to data from USDA, while at its peak in 1920 there were approximately 925,000 Black farmers in the United States, accounting for roughly one-sixth of U.S. farmers, by the year 2017 USDA's Census of Agriculture reported there were only about 35,000 farms with Black producers—just 1.7% of the total number in the U.S. Additionally, hundreds of millions of acres of farmland have been lost across all communities of color due to discriminatory practices at the federal level, and many farmers of color who remain in agriculture struggle with burdensome debt.

To address this discrimination and land loss, the Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act provides \$4 billion in direct relief payments to help farmers of color pay-off outstanding USDA farm loan debts and related taxes, and help them respond to the economic impacts of the pandemic. Additionally, the legislation provides another \$1 billion fund to support activities at USDA that will root out systemic racism, provide technical and legal assistance to agricultural communities of color, and fund under-resourced programs that will shape the future for farmers and communities of color. Specifically, this \$1 billion fund will

include:

- Grants and loans to improve land access & address heirs' property issues;
- Support for one or more legal centers focused on agricultural legal issues of farmers of color;
- Pilot projects that focus on land acquisition, financial planning, technical assistance, and credit;
- A racial equity commission and related activities to address systemic racism across USDA;
- Support for research, education, and extension at HBCUs and other institutions of higher education that historically serve communities of color;
- Scholarships at 1890's land grant universities and for indigenous students attending land grant institutions;
- Outreach, mediation, financial training, capacity building training, cooperative development training and support, and other technical assistance; and
- Assistance to farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners of color that are former farm loan borrowers and suffered related adverse actions, or past discrimination or bias.

"The pandemic has left Black farmers and other farmers of color in financial ruin; many Black farmers are in distress and facing farm foreclosures. The Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act would provide financial assistance to help those farmers who historically have been left out of federal aid, and Senator Reverend Warnock and his colleagues should be commended on this needed legislative effort to help our nation's Black farmers and farmers of color," said John Boyd, Founder and President of the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA).

"Decades of farmer-led organizing combined with our heightened efforts over the last three years laid the groundwork for the Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act. Due to the injustices of the historic Pigford v. Glickman class action racial discrimination lawsuit, the vast majority of Black farmers were left with crushing debts, threat of foreclosures, and no legal recourse to save their family farms. For over twenty years, our farmers have not been able to stand fully in their freedom dreams due to this shackle of unconscionable debt—debt that originated from the racist misdeeds of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)," said Tracy Lloyd McCurtly, Esq. and Dekera Greene Rodriguez, Esq. of the Black Farmers' Appeal: Cancel Pigford Debt Campaign. "Sadly, many of our elder farmers transitioned to ancestorhood without restorative land justice from USDA. We are thankful for the courageous leadership of Sens. Warnock, Booker, Lujan and Stabenow in rectifying this shameful chapter of U.S. history through full debt cancellation for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx farmers. In the words of June Jordan, 'we are the ones we have been waiting for.'"

## Democrats call on Biden to cancel up to \$50K of student loan debt

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Over two-thirds of this nation's \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt is held by women, and the majority of those women are Black.

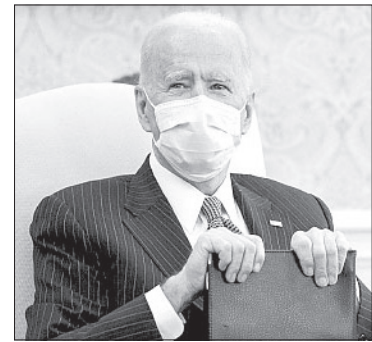
Prominent Democrats are calling on President Joe Biden to authorize the cancellation of up to \$50,000 in student loan debt by executive order.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, alongside Massachusetts Rep. Ayanna Pressley, Rep. Alma Adams of North Carolina, Rep. Mondaire Jones of New York and Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, held a press conference to announce their non-binding resolution.

President Joe Biden is shown meeting with Democratic senators in the Oval Office Wednesday to discuss his \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. He met with Republican senators the day before. (Photo by Stefani Reynolds-Pool/Getty Images)

Pressley urged Biden to "be responsive to the movement that elected him." The group noted that the resolution has support across both chambers of Congress and the support of hundreds of grassroots organizations.

The resolution — which over four dozen Democratic senators and congress members joined Thursday — calls on the president



to eliminate the debt, ensure that borrowers have no tax liability and suspend student loan payments for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic.

The White House has not indicated it plans to move forward with the ambitious proposal. Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Thursday that President Biden's plan is "to support cancelling \$10,000 of federal student loan debt per person as a response to the COVID crisis."

However, later Thursday night, Psaki tweeted: "The President continues to support the cancelling of student debt to bring relief to students and families. Our team is reviewing whether there are any steps he can take through executive action and he would welcome the opportunity to sign a bill sent to him by Congress."

Warren, who has been one of the highest-profile proponents of cancelling student loan debt in America, said Thursday that "cancelling student loan debt is good for you, whether you have student loan debt or not, because it is good for our economy."

## Why Black America could care less about Emanuel Jackson's fate

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

Emanuel Jackson is realizing — perhaps a bit too late — that the grass is never greener on the other side.

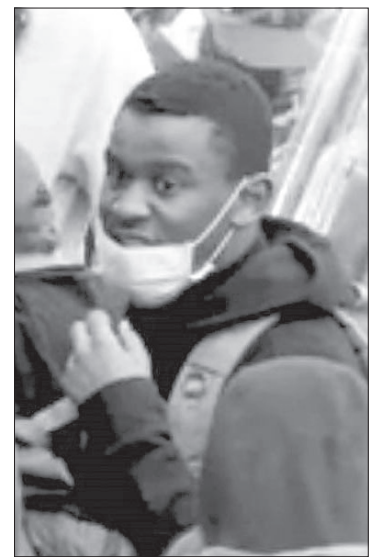
In other words, according to dozens of African American social media users, Jackson is getting a lesson on how different American Justice is for Black people — even if you are a supporter of former President Donald Trump.

Jackson turned himself into the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, admitting his role in the Jan. 6 Trump-inspired insurrection that resulted in the death of a Capitol Police officer, disrupted an act of Congress, and much destruction.

Unlike the more than 100 people arrested, Jackson is one of the few held without bail. A trial may not come for at least another year.

"It's his fault," Twitter user Lola (@Defenses009) wrote. "This was white people's business, and he decided to attend knowing the dangers it poses to black folk."

Offered Tia H (@tiaa345): "He was here for the racist version of America. Well, I hope they show him what the justice system is like for folks like him on that side."



Many others tweeted similar sentiments, while Instagram was flooded with comments expressing why Black America could care less about Jackson's jailing, and his fate.

Authorities claim that Jackson was one of the first to enter the U.S. Capitol during the riot.

At one point, video taken during the insurrection shows him repeatedly hitting a police officer as law enforcement tried to prevent the mob from breaking into the building.

Continued on page 10



## Dianne Durham, first Black national gymnastics champion, dead at 52

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Renowned for her elegance and strength, Durham was coached by the legendary Bela and Martha Karolyi, then worked for them.

Trailblazing athlete Dianne Durham, the first African American senior national gymnastics champion in the nation, died Thursday at the age of 52 after a short illness.

She died at a Chicago hospital with her husband, Tom Drahozal, and sister Alice Durham by her side.

Drahozal told ESPN his wife's transition was peaceful.

"She was the love of my life and everything I could have asked

for," he said. "She was as beautiful a person away from gymnastics as she was within the sport."

Durham was a teammate of legendary gymnastic Olympian Mary Lou Retton. She was actually the last gymnast to defeat Retton in an all-around competition before the 1984 Olympics, which was held in Los Angeles. However, Durham was denied a place on the U.S. Olympic Team — a decision made, according to ESPN, "due to a combination of injuries and politics."

Renowned for her elegance, flair and strength, Durham was coached by Bela and Martha Karolyi, who would later become synonymous with the sport.

## Rev. Jesse Jackson leaves the hospital for rehab center after surgery

(CNN)

Civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson has left the hospital for a rehabilitation center in Chicago after surgery, according to the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

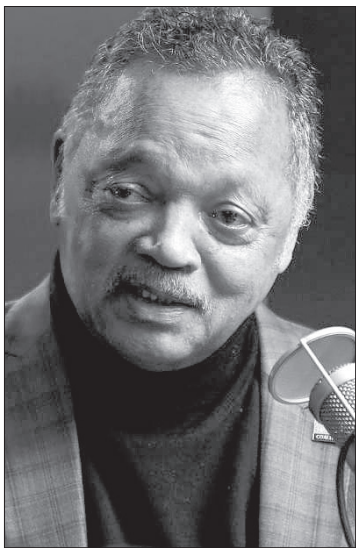
Jackson, the 79-year-old civil rights leader, was admitted to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for abdominal discomfort on January 29, according to a statement from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, the Chicago-based organization that Jackson heads.

"After medical observation, diagnosis and successful surgery, Rev. Jackson continued with a normal recovery," the organization said.

Because of his Parkinson's disease, medical staff at Northwestern transferred him to the Shirley Ryan Rehabilitation Center for a short period of exercise and therapy, Rainbow PUSH Coalition said.

"Rev. Jackson is continuing his civil rights and organizational work and is in high spirits. He's expected to be home with his family shortly," the statement added.

The statement also said Jackson wanted to thank "President Joe Biden who called and Vice President Kamala Harris who got through for a good



conversation."

Jackson, a two-time Democratic presidential candidate, is an icon of the civil rights movement and worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr.

His son Jesse Jr. is a former US congressman who represented Illinois 2nd District.

Jackson was diagnosed in 2017 with Parkinson's disease, a neurological disorder with no cure. At the time, Jackson said his diagnosis was "a signal that I must make lifestyle changes and dedicate myself to physical therapy in hopes of slowing the disease's progression."

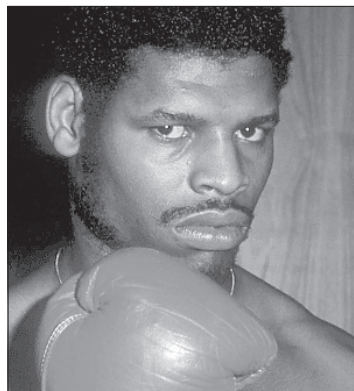
## Leon Spinks, former undisputed heavyweight boxing champion dead at 67

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Leon Spinks (pictured) was an American professional boxer who competed from 1977 to 1995. He was born on July 11, 1953, in St. Louis, Missouri.

In only his eighth professional fight, Spinks won the undisputed heavyweight championship in 1978. He earned his title after defeating Muhammad Ali in a split decision. This was considered one of the biggest upsets in boxing history. Spinks was later stripped of the WBC title for facing Ali in an unapproved rematch seven months later. In this fight, Spinks lost by unanimous decision.

Besides being a heavyweight champion with a characteristic gap-toothed grin (due to losing two and later all four of his front teeth), Spinks gained notoriety



for disaster. This befell his career following the loss to Ali. However, he did challenge once more for the WBC heavyweight title in 1981. In this bout, he lost to Larry Holmes by TKO in the third round. After contending for the WBA cruiserweight title in 1986, he lost to Dwight Muhammad Qawi by TKO in the sixth

round.

As an amateur, Spinks won numerous medals in the light heavyweight division. The first was bronze at the inaugural 1974 World Championships. Spinks won a silver medal at the 1975 Pan American Games. He finally won gold at the 1976 Summer Olympics. He won this top medal alongside his brother Michael Spinks, who won middleweight gold. Leon served in the United States Marine Corps from 1973 to 1976 (Campbell, 2021).

Spinks also had a brief career as a professional wrestler in the 1990s. He worked for the Frontier Martial-Arts Wrestling association (FMW). He held the FMW Brass Knuckles Heavyweight Championship in 1992. Spinks died on February 5, 2021, in Henderson, Nevada at the age of 67 after a long battle with prostate cancer.

## Top White House Official Cedric Richmond affirms to African Americans: "You've got a friend in President Biden"

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are not only talking the talk when it comes to racial equity. The new administration is walking that walk.

In the first of what is expected to become subsequent White House briefings with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), White House Senior Advisor to President Biden and Director of the Office of Public Engagement Cedric Richmond detailed what the administration has recently done and what it plans to do in the future to ensure racial justice, accessibility, and equity for Black America.

The on-the-record briefing revealed that the strategic priority of the Biden-Harris Administration is now to push for the immediate enactment of the \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan that the Administration has put before the Congress of the United States. Given the disproportionately deadly impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Black America, the anticipated passage of the American Rescue Plan will bring much needed relief to African American families, businesses and communities across the nation.

"Let past actions give you an inference on how serious the President is on racial equity," stated Senior Advisor and Director Richmond, the former Congressional Black Caucus Chair. "On the first day in office, the President signed an executive order holding every department accountable. We are absolutely dead serious about racial equity. He said he would make it a priority through the whole of government, and we will monitor and move the ball."

More than 100,000 people have viewed the livestreamed briefing, which is available on the Black Press of America's primary Facebook page at Facebook.com/BlackPressUSA.

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., moderated the discussion.

Those in attendance included NNPA Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher Karen Carter Richards, NNPA Chair Emeritus and Los Angeles Sentinel Publisher Danny Bakewell, Sr., members of the NNPA Board, NNPA Foundation, and NNPA Regional Presidents including Atlanta Voice Publisher Janis Ware, Mississippi Link Publisher Jackie Hampton, Charlotte, N.C. County News Publisher Fran Farrer, New Journal and Guide Publisher Brenda Andrews, Houston Defender Publisher Sonny "Messiah" Jiles, Texas Metro News Publisher Cheryl Smith, New Tri-State Defender Publisher Calvin Anderson, Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones, Los Angeles Wave Publisher Pluria Marshall who is also Chair of



the NNPA Fund, Westside Gazette Publisher Bobby Henry, and Washington Informer Publisher Denise Rolark Barnes. The NNPA's executive administrator Claudette Perry also joined the meeting.

During the White House video conference, an emphasis was also placed on how the Biden-Harris Administration is responding to the issues concerning a national Black Agenda supporting the HR 40 Reparations Bill, DC Statehood, healthcare, economic development opportunities and Black-owned businesses, homeownership, completing a more accurate count of the U.S. Census, public education, and support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

"The Black Press of America via the NNPA appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from the Honorable Cedric Richmond, the Senior Advisor to President Biden and the Director of the White Office of Public Engagement," Dr. Chavis remarked.

"This was another extraordinary day in the 194-year history of the Black Press of America. I am personally grateful that Director Richmond was candid, honest, and authentic in his responses to questions that NNPA member publishers had submitted from across the nation. We look forward to these type of White House briefings. Quite frankly, we are proud of the important position that Cedric Richmond now serves in the inner-circle of the Biden-Harris administration.

Director Richmond promised NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards and to all of the NNPA member publishers who were on the video conference that the White House would seek opportunities to partner with the Black Press as the Biden-Harris administration attempts to get important messaging out

Continued on page 10

Our  
*Shero*

“I want my daughter to see how strong women create their own future in retirement.”

Visit **[AceYourRetirement.org/Shero](https://www.aceyourretirement.org/Shero)** for:

- 3-minute online chat with a digital retirement coach
- Free personalized roadmap based on your retirement goals
- Free tips to start boosting your retirement savings now



# Editorial - Opinion



By Julianne Malveaux

I got my first COVID vaccination last week. No big deal, an achy arm, but otherwise, just like a flu shot. The young lady who administered the shot smiled and said, “after you get your second shot, you can get back to normal.” I wanted to ask her what was normal, but the man in line behind me seemed impatient, so I smiled and made my way out of the store. I thought about it all the way home, though. What’s normal? I don’t think crowding thirty or forty young people into a classroom is normal. I don’t believe that food lines snaking for blocks is normal. I don’t think that high Black unem-

ployment rates are normal. I don’t think the wealth gap is normal. I don’t think that more than 400,000 people dead is normal. The inability to formally mourn our departed loved ones isn’t normal. Crazy white people storming the Capitol surely isn’t normal. And conspiracy theorist, Marjorie Taylor Green, is so far away from normal that she is on the insanity spectrum. In the ten months since the pandemic hit, we have seen changes in our communications, our employment, our economy, and more. Many of us, reasonably, yearn for the “normal” days when we could sit at a restaurant and have a meal, go to a play or a concert, invite a

## Back to normal? What’s normal?

bunch of folks over to gather. But we should ask ourselves what was normal about our normal. In other words, were we so comfortable in our world that we didn’t look outside our world? We can’t miss the food lines now, but there were food lines, too, a year ago. We are focused on disparities now, but those disparities aren’t new. Does back to normal mean accepting the inequities and absurdities of life as it was? Somebody tweeted that “Rona was a disruption, and she is an opportunity.” I embrace that sentiment (though I had to do a double-take at “Rona” and pray that nobody chooses to name their child after this virus). This virus is an opportunity for us to scrutinize what we consider normal and how we need to change it. Let’s start with education and the achievement gap. Students who come from low-income families don’t have the same academic support that others do. They often don’t have the

technology to do virtual learning or the support to work through their assignments. Too often, their parents are essential workers—nurses, bus drivers, grocery store workers. Do we ever take a look at the people who serve us and notice that they are disproportionately Black and Brown? When we see them do we wonder about their facts of life, about their challenges, or do we know the status quo as “normal”? Is it normal for teachers’ unions and mayors to be so far apart? If we want students back in their classrooms, why can’t we vaccinate every teacher and school worker? But the conflict between teachers and elected officials, especially in Chicago, calls for a national conversation with educators, students, and parents. We’ve heard from everyone but students in this conversation. What are they thinking and feeling? Is any of this normal? We never saw mask-wearing as standard, and even now, with more than 400,000 dead, some

fools refuse to wear them. But here’s the real deal—vaccine or not, I’ll likely be wearing double masks until the end of the year, and so should you. People who have had the vaccine have still tested positive. They still need to wear masks and wash their hands frequently. But too many have made mask wearing a political statement. Our non-mask-wearing former president contracted COVID and got priority treatment and had access to the drug Regeneron, which is not available to the general public. And he still won’t wear a mask, emboldening his sycophants. I really don’t know what is normal anymore, but I am sure that if 2019 was normal, we must embrace the abnormal. Or we need to define the new normal as safe, fair, and equitable. As my anonymous tweeter said, “Rona” is an opportunity for us to check ourselves and maybe get it right. Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author. She can be reached at [julianne@malveaux.com](mailto:julianne@malveaux.com)

# I asked what kind of family

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN  
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG

# Black woman will be the world's top trade official for the first time

London (CNN Business)

The path has been cleared for Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala to become the first woman and the first African to lead the World Trade Organization after South Korea's candidate pulled out of the race for the job.

Yoo Myung-hee, the South Korean trade minister, announced her decision to withdraw in a televised briefing on Friday.

Okonjo-Iweala, an economist and former finance minister of Nigeria, already enjoyed broad support from WTO members, including the European Union, China, Japan and Australia.

However, the United States, under the Trump administration, had favored Yoo, complicating the decision-making process since the selection of a new leader requires all WTO members to agree. Okonjo-Iweala's formal selection may have to wait until after the United States appoints a new trade representative.



representative.

Yoo said that her decision had been reached after "close consultation" with the United States. The WTO had been without a leader for too long, she added.

The Geneva-based body, tasked with promoting free trade, has been without a permanent director general since Roberto

Azevêdo stepped down a year earlier than planned at the end of August after the WTO was caught in the middle of an escalating trade fight between the United States and China.

The Trump administration was highly critical of the WTO and undermined its standing by imposing tariffs on Canada, Mexico, China and the European Union. Okonjo-Iweala will thus assume control of an organization that has struggled to prevent trade spats between its members.

While US President Joe Biden has already taken steps to restore support for multilateral institutions, he is expected to proceed with caution when it comes to signing any new trade deals.

In a speech to the State Department Thursday, Biden pledged to put diplomacy back at the center of US foreign policy, but was also careful to emphasize that foreign policy should benefit middle-class Americans.



## Daniel Obasi: rising Instagram sensation, aspiring stylist

By Joséphine Li  
Philadelphiaobserver.com

Daniel Obasi is Nigeria's fast-rising Instagram fashion sensation.

The multi-talented young creative, at merely 25, has already shot portraits for Billboard and the New York Times, and styled fashion editorials for Dazed and Vogue Portugal.

Through Instagram, Obasi has established relationships with kindred spirits from the worlds of art and fashion. Last year, Instagram helped take Obasi's career to the next level — he received a direct message from Beyoncé's creative director, Kwasi Fordjour, saying that he was interested in involving Obasi in Beyoncé's upcoming project, which, Obasi later recounted and described as "Unbelievable."

The undisclosed Beyoncé project would turn out to be the "Black Is King", pitched by the singer as a celebration of "the breadth

and beauty of Black ancestry," the star-studded visual album features a mix of African creators and performers, and those from the diaspora, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

Looking at this young talent's previous personal projects, "Black Is King" — an Afrofuturist vision of a world where African traditions are foregrounded and celebrated — was a fitting commission.

In Obasi's work, he combines the traditional, the contemporary and the imaginary to create a Nigeria freed from the social and political limitations of reality. Afro hair, brown eyes, dark skin, and beautiful local garments abound, the diversity of sexuality and gender is embraced.

Obasi sees many aesthetic and thematic similarities between "Black Is King" and his current project. According to him, "Black Is King" is a contemporary piece talking about changing the African narrative. It is a story of Africa, and it is best told by Africans.

# Black History: Shepard v. Education Board of Englewood, NJ Lawsuit Filed Today in 1962

By Victor Trammell

Just eight years after a landmark case based the race-based segregation of public schools was finalized in the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS), a U.S. District Court lawsuit was filed against a local East Coast public education authority, which had gotten away with continually segregating its schools.

The 1954 Brown v. Board of Education SCOTUS case (based in the U.S. state of Kansas) ultimately ended with the High Court siding with the plaintiff. This led to the American federal government's inevitable ban that outlawed public school segregation along racial lines. This applied to U.S.-based education authorities in every state, county, and city.

However, in defiance of federal law, the city of Englewood, New Jersey's public education board

continued to practice school segregation based on race in a specified fraction of the district's schools. This led to the filing of another groundbreaking education-centered segregation case, which was filed on February 5, 1962, in a U.S. district court.

The plaintiffs in the Shepard v. Board of Education of Englewood, New Jersey case claimed the school district systemically practiced segregation based on race in its primary schools. The plaintiffs in the case were Joseph and Louise Shepard, as well as their daughter Ellen Shepard. George D. Jeter and Paul B. Zuber were the attorneys who represented the Shepard family, in this case.

"Plaintiffs allege that in making assignments of children to the public schools of Englewood, defendant Board of Education and defendant Superintendent

of Schools, with the consent and condonation, and under the direction of defendant State Commissioner of Education, pursue what is commonly known as the 'neighborhood school policy'; that the utilization of this policy has resulted in racially segregated schools in Englewood," reads a summation of this case, which was published by Justia.

Unfortunately, the Shepard family lost its federal case against Englewood's school board.

"The State Commissioner of Education has no power or authority to give plaintiffs the relief they seek; and that the doctrine of exhaustion of state administrative remedies, even in cases where it has been held to apply, has no application where, as is claimed here, the administrative remedy is inadequate," the summation also reads.



## What to do if kids say they don't want to be their race anymore

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Indeed, delays in important conversations about racial identity could make it more difficult to change children's misperceptions about themselves or racist beliefs, according to the 2020 study.

"Children are capable of thinking about all sorts of complex topics at a very young age," said Jessica Sullivan, the study's co-author and associate professor of psychology at Skidmore College. "Even if adults don't talk to kids about race, children will work to make sense of their world and will come up with their own ideas, which may be

inaccurate or detrimental."

In a society that elevates white culture over others and encourages assimilation at all costs, it's easy to see how a young child of color may come to believe that their own culture is inferior, which could develop into internalized racism.

Growing up Black in Liberty County, Georgia, Kwanzaa Wallace never told his parents "I wish I wasn't Black" but he "definitely thought it a lot," he told HuffPost.

If your child is uncomfortable with their race, here's how to have a conversation about self-love and the value in diversity.

Please Visit [newyorkbeacon.com](http://newyorkbeacon.com) for more information



Photo credits: The Northern Valley Press

# On the scene

## National CARES Mentoring Movement celebrates 6<sup>th</sup> gala in virtual elegance

By Audrey J. Bernard  
Society Editor

Black elegance prevailed at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual National CARES Mentoring Movement “For the Love of Our Children” virtual gala celebration of hope and transformation which simultaneously celebrated its Founder Susan L. Taylor’s 75<sup>th</sup> turn around the sun on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 7:30 P.M. The event took place in Taylor’s opulent home which opened up into a spacious vestibule where she was greeted with a kiss from her husband Khephra Burns who served as executive producer and writer of the evening’s elegant program.

Taylor, who looked ethereal in designer and educator Terrence Eldridge’s dazzling ice silver robe ensemble then sat in a plush blue tufted chair befitting royalty while Gary Taylor’s soulful song “Lovin’ My People” permeated the place. After welcoming everyone in her inimitable style with grace and purpose the program started with a snap of her finger which transitioned her into a sleek dress with purple hues. Just like that move, the event was magical!

Attendance was free but pre-registration was required. Following a stunning salutation from Rose Jackson Flenorl, Manager, FedEx Global Citizenship, who praised Taylor for her exemplary work and “power of love mandate,” the virtual gathering continued.

“For the Love of Our Children” was filled with anecdotal stories about the important work of CARES. While ELC’s pulsating music by John Blake, Jr. filled the air, viewers were treated to a beautiful montage of CARES’ past events, its children and teachers. The elaborate footage celebrated the power of love and filled our hearts with promise of better days to come as Taylor spoke eloquently about the “inequities that have derailed the journey of people of color.” The event featured Taylor’s staunch supporters Oprah Winfrey, Alicia Keys, Maxwell, and Danny Glover, who honored her for the invaluable work CARES is doing in our Black communities by helping to raise money for the CARES’ program and support the invaluable work CARES is doing in our Black communities.

During the poignant program Winfrey read Maya Angelou’s “The Pledge to Our Youth” poem — which was inspired by Taylor — before empowering the crowd to get involved in mentoring.

“I’m here tonight celebrating [Susan’s] 75th birthday and the honor that she’s brought to those 75 years as a full woman and crusading warrior for our children,” Winfrey said. The fact that you, Susan, understood the roots of trauma and adversity embedded in the culture, preventing our children from moving forward. And then you set out to build on resilience and healing in our community is



National CARES Mentoring Movement invitation



National CARES Mentoring Movement Logo

you offering yourself to service to God’s calling, and I know there’s no higher offering that you can give.”

The evening came to a magnificent end as Keys performed her new single “Underdog,” and later joined Maxwell and performed Stevie Wonder’s “Happy Birthday” song to the delight of the audience. Taylor shared her birthday wish for everyone to “Live your life with courage and faith!”

This extraordinary first-time virtual celebration was hosted by CARES exemplary Board of Directors headed by Reginald Van Lee, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Susan L. Taylor, Founder, and Board of Directors: Stuart Archibald, Geoffrey Canada, Vivian Pickard and Michael Walker. Members: Donna Briggs, Byna Elliott, Rodney Ballard, Megan Turner, Corey McDougale, Rose Jackson Flenorl, and Dawna Fields

Taylor acknowledged and thanked CARES’ esteemed host committee members headed by Reginald Van Lee, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Susan L. Taylor, Founder, and Board of Directors: Stuart Archibald, Geoffrey Canada, Vivian Pickard and Michael Walker. Members: Donna Briggs, Byna Elliott, Rodney Ballard, Megan Turner, Corey McDougale, Rose Jackson Flenorl, and Dawna Fields.

She also beseeched viewers to “Be a conscious consumer by

investing in those who invest in our communities.” Many of CARES’ sponsors returned in support of this wonderful non-profit organization: FedEx, Robert f. Smith and Galaxy Gives were the presenting sponsor. Other high-end sponsors included: Coca-Cola (platinum sponsor). Casey Family Programs, Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures (silver sponsors). Moody’s, ViacomCBS, AURN (silver sponsors). Bloomberg LLP, Bank of America, Comcast NBCUniversal, Nationwide, M Financial Group, The Gomer Group Foundation, Dr. Alvin Adell, Marshalling Resources LLC, Stephen Hightower-Hightower Petroleum, Larry Satterfield & Sabir Ward, Overland Tandberg (bronze sponsors).

The event was a successful gathering and inspiring look at what life promises and makes possible with intention, commitment and love!

### About National CARES

National CARES Mentoring Movement is a non-profit organization with a mission to recruit and train masses of caring adults to mentor children by connecting them to both local youth-serving programs and its own transformational initiatives that focus on their academic, emotional and social development.



Khephra Burns greets his wife, Susan L. Taylor



Susan L. Taylor welcomes ZOOM guests



Susan L. Taylor hosts virtual gala in style!



## Access guide to Black comic books

By Ade Williams  
Contributing Scribe

Comic books have generated billions for dollars for video games and movies, but not for comic books themselves. A store owner, an editor and a journalist have come together to release the first of a series of guidebooks that introduces people to the world of comics which is rich in storytelling, ideas, and creators of color.

The Access Guide to the Black Comic Book Community 2020-2021 is the book from Anyone Comics owner Dimitrios Fragiskatos, Heavy Metal's Executive Editor Joseph Illidge, and *Comics Beat/Black Sci-fi.com* journalist and contributor George Carmona 3rd.

The purpose of the book is to showcase Black creators who have comics or graphic novels that have come out in 2020, as well as showcase publishers themselves and the ideas and goals they are setting in the new year.

Additionally, the book will highlight stores and conventions that are Black owned or run. The book will be a vehicle for casual readers, who feel overwhelmed by the options the comic book industry provides, or from store regulars who may want to expand their horizons.

"Our goal, and what everyone in the industry's goal should be, is to get more people into comics," Dimitrios emphasized. "Comics books are a medium that benefits from more perspectives contributing to them, and of course, with more people reading them. To us the Access Guide is something that is needed."

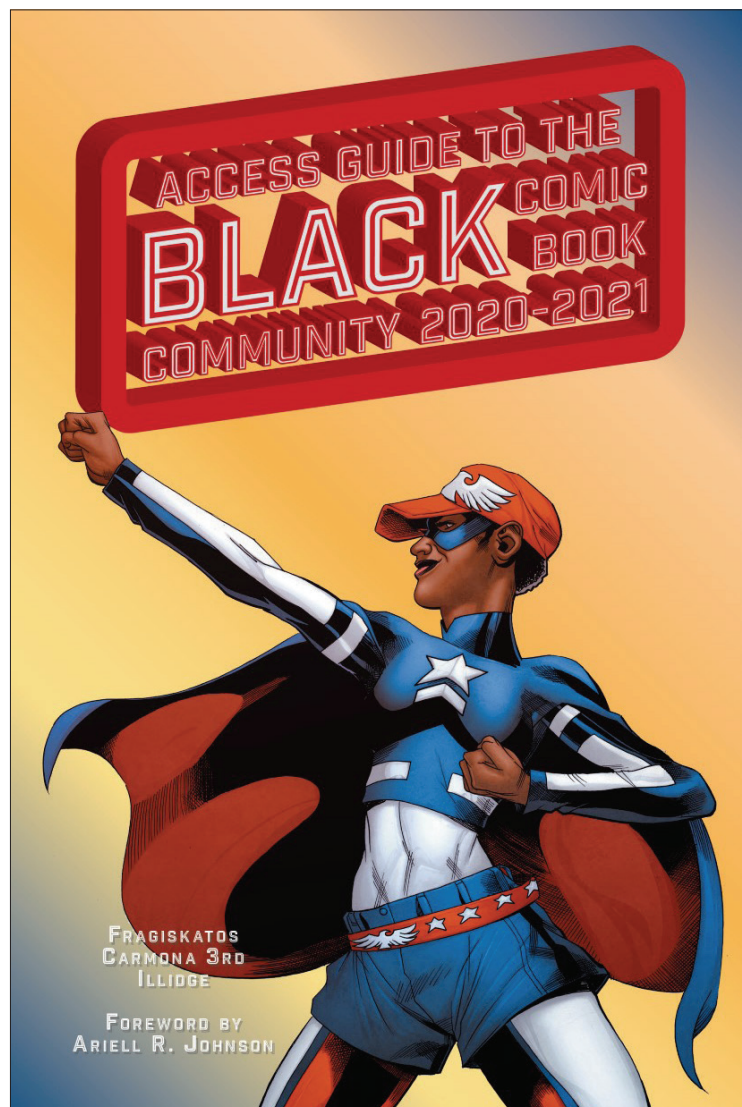
For those people in the global Black community who want to get into comics but are afraid they may not see themselves represented in their favorite genres, this book will open a door to show them a variety of comic books and graphic novels, along with the stores and conventions where they can be found.

"Working on this project could have been just a job for

me, but it's become a new source for comics that even in the age of optimized search engines, without the proper algorithm driving your request, you might not discover some of the people and places in this guide," said Carmona. "The research we've done has helped me as a reader find new talent and quality books to support."

"Black creators and executives have been movers and shakers in the comic book industry for the last fifty years," said Illidge. "Now that their voices and contributions have become more prominent, it's our honor to spotlight Black creativity in what we hope is the yellow brick road to today's imaginative and courageous Black comic book entrepreneurs."

Look for The Access Guide to the Black Comic Book Community in comic book stores on February 17th. Proceeds from the publisher will be donated to the Dwayne McDuffie fund. You can presently order your copy at [Anyonecomics.com.comicbook-access.org](http://Anyonecomics.com.comicbook-access.org)



### Throughout Black History Month and beyond, we celebrate Black Joy.

Its beauty. Its brilliance. Its variety. Its tenacity. Its resilience. Its ability to thrive despite everything.

The power of Black Joy truly knows no bounds...it's a Joy Supreme.

Celebrate a Joy Supreme with us at [aarp.org/blackcommunity](http://aarp.org/blackcommunity)

# Health

## COVID-19: Have you figured out face masks yet?



By Glenn Ellis

**W**ill the vaccine slow down the rate of transmission of Covid-19?

This is one of the key questions that scientists will be seeking to answer over coming weeks. The vaccines now being administered are designed to protect people from severe side-effects of the disease. They were not developed to block transmission of the virus. They are meant for you to be protected against serious illness but still carry the virus and spread it to others. However, scientists believe (and are hoping) that the vaccines should reduce viral load in those inoculated and there should then be a reduction in transmission. In the meantime, face masks will continue to be the order of the day.

Getting use to everybody wearing masks is certainly a new experience for us grownups, and one that we probably never imagined. It looks like wearing face masks will be a way of life for us for the near future. But can you imagine how confusing, scary, and even traumatizing face mask wearing is for kids and young people? I honestly don't know how I would have handled it when I was a kid. Adults and parents in the lives of our young people must be vigilant about providing the information and support they will need.

For starters, what kind of masks are best for protection? Sure, any mask will have some effect, but cloth masks are less than half as effective as surgical masks at protecting the person wearing the mask. Surgical masks are two to three times as effective as cloth masks. Remind young people that it is important that teachers, postal workers, delivery people, cashiers, restaurant workers, and anyone they come in contact with whose work involves regular contact with other people should be wearing a mask.

I know we've heard all about N95 face masks. They are tested to show they are 95 percent effective. However, not only are they more

expensive, but the research has also found that there is no evidence that the N95 face masks are better at protection than the simple green or blue surgical masks. There is a reason it is standard, required gear in hospital operating rooms!

By the way, make sure we show young people know how to wear their face mask properly, a mask helps block large-particle droplets, splashes, sprays, or splatter that may contain germs, viruses, or bacteria), keeping it from reaching the mouth and nose and infecting you. The whole point of surgical masks is to help reduce exposure of your saliva and respiratory secretions to others. In medical history, the surgical mask was invented not to protect the surgeon, but to protect the patient from the surgeon; you know, coughing into the open surgical wounds and causing infection in the patient. So, it doesn't protect the doctor from the patient. Keep that in mind when you need motivation to maintain social distancing.

So how good is a good cloth mask? Single- and double-layer cloth masks made from lightweight, low-thread cotton are the least effective. I know they have some very stylish, cute cloth ones out there, but the researchers also

found that gaps at the edges of an ill-fitting, flimsy cloth mask can reduce filtration efficiency by 60 percent. If you walk around any city in the U.S., some people are wearing masks over their noses and other ones are wearing them hanging off one ear. But cloth masks are far from useless; they are the best alternative to the more expensive N95, and they offer almost the same protection. Even the CDC says that when surgical masks are unavailable, cloth masks are a more suitable option for use in the general public.

As parents, we have a lot of impact on the meaning that children attach to their experiences. From about the age of 8 months, children look at others' reactions to see how they should respond. Psychologists call this "social referencing." For example, when kids see a dog for the first time, they look at the dog, then look up at their grown-ups to see, "Should I be scared, here?" If the grown-ups are calm or positive, it makes it easier for the kid to be calm or positive.

The same thing applies to masks: If we are calm and positive about wearing masks, it will be easier for our kids to be calm and positive about them, too. On the other hand, if our words or reac-

tions say, "This is terrible! This is unbearable! You can't possibly tolerate this!" we put an extra burden on our children.

The most important tips to continuously share with children and young people about face masks is: Don't leave your nose or mouth uncovered. Don't remove the mask while around others in public. Don't share your mask with family members or friends. And remember, a mask is not a substitute for social distancing. Let's continue to take care of our young people!

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one! Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. I do not dispense medical advice or prescribe the use of any technique as a replacement form of treatment for physical, mental or medical problems by your doctor either directly or indirectly.

*Glenn Ellis, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Bioethics Fellow. He is author of Which Doctor? and Information is the Best Medicine. Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics.*

## Top White House Official Cedric Richmond affirms to African Americans: "You've got a friend in President Biden"

From page 4

to African American and other minority communities.

"I'd like to thank the NNPA for what you do. You tell the unvarnished truth, unedited, and, in many places, you are the most reliable," Director Richmond stated.

"You reach audiences that others cannot. On the campaign trail, President Biden made himself available to you because it was important. He made investments because it was important."

"Now that we are in the job of governing, that won't change. You take COVID-19, for instance. Our dire need is to get everyone vaccinated. There's skepticism in the Black community, and we know we have work to do to build up trust in the African American community so that they can take the vaccine."

Director Richmond announced that he and his mother had received a vaccination, and the

administration is, in part, counting on the Black Press to help spread the message that getting the vaccine is vital. He also noted the administration's mission to "root out systemic racism."

"This is not a new safari for Cedric Richmond," exclaimed NNPA Chairman Emeritus Danny Bakewell, Sr., in a passionate statement about the responsibility of the federal government departments and agencies to advertise with the Black Press.

Referring to Richmond, Bakewell stated, "He knows the Black Press, he's engaged with the Black Press and always supported the Black Press. So, we are really in good hands, and he knows the pain the Black Press has consistently suffered over the many years despite our good work."

Director Richmond responded: "You have a friend, an advocate, and I know the need and role the Black Press plays in communities, especially in this fragile time. We are going to need your help."

## Why Black America could care less about Emanuel Jackson's fate

From page 3

Jackson allegedly admitted to being the individual captured on video carrying a military-style backpack while wearing a black sweatshirt and blue mask.

The footage purportedly shows Jackson striking out at police with a metal baseball bat.

Authorities have arrested and charged at least 134 people involved in the insurrection that immediately followed a Trump rally near the U.S. Capitol.

More than 200 case files have been opened in connection with the Capitol siege.

During the rally, Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani encouraged thousands of supporters to "stop the steal" about Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen.

The former president and many close to him at the rally suggested violence.

The Black Press learned from

Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett (D-U.S. Virgin Islands) Trump telephoned Senate members while the violent attack was occurring.

She said the former president urged them to overturn President Joe Biden's election victory.

"The senators themselves were victims," Congresswoman Plaskett remarked.

"They received phone calls from Donald Trump in the middle of the riot, not asking about their well-being, but if they would continue to obstruct the election."

Michael Sherwin, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, said officials are looking at "significant felony cases" that include sedition and conspiracy.

While Jackson apparently will linger in jail until trial, bail was granted to most insurrection suspects. Several were released without having to post bail.

Eric Munchel, who was photographed carrying zip-ties into the Senate Chambers, was released to home confinement

despite federal agents finding a cache of high-powered weapons, tactical vests, and more plastic restraints at his Nashville, Tenn., house.

"I found that those actions are dangerous to our system of government and our democracy and our Constitution," Magistrate Chip Frenley stated during Munchel's court appearance. "But the consequences of those actions is for another day."

Jacob Chansley, charged with violent entry and disorderly conduct, refused to eat food provided by the jail and demanded a strictly organic diet.

A judge granted his request. "That Emanuel Jackson didn't understand he'd be immediately reprimanded and not coddled like his white counterparts long before he decided to become an insurrectionist is to his embarrassment," Tweeted JoNell Kennedy (@NoAverageJoJo).

"How did he not know this? All I can give him is the shoulder shrug - he was warned."

# Subscribe Philadelphia Observer

405 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10174.

[philadelphiaobserver.com](http://philadelphiaobserver.com)

# International

## Drug companies scooping super profits from the 'People's Vaccine'

(GIN) –

Protected by undisclosed trade secrets and exclusive patents, a small group of drug companies has ensured that rich countries can lay claim to most of their miracle drugs while limiting the number of companies that can also produce the vital vaccines.

Now, opposition is building to the patent holders who use taxpayer dollars to fund research and development (R&D) but refuse to share their drug formulas with manufacturers in developing countries that could make their vaccines free and available to all.

Moderna, for example, through its COVID-19 vaccine partnership with the U.S. government, scored \$2.48 billion in R&D (research and development) and supply funding from taxpayers for its program, sparking outcry from consumer watchdogs and others.

"This is the people's vaccine," objected consumer advocate

Public Citizen. "It is not merely Moderna's. Federal scientists helped invent it and taxpayers are funding its development. We all have played a role. It should belong to humanity."

"We paid for the drugs," echoed Dean Baker, senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, "and one of the things we would have liked is full transparency on all of the research results."

"There's no good argument for keeping (test) data secret," he said. "But most of the drug companies insist on that. Maybe they want to misrepresent the safety or effectiveness of their drugs," he surmised.

Finally, in an open letter to major drug companies from Doctors without Borders, the group wrote in part: "Clearly neither yours nor any other company can produce all the doses needed to vaccinate the whole world's population.

"Your company faces a choice. Either you can defend business as usual and deny hundreds of mil-



lions rapid access to the vaccine in defense of your monopoly power.

Or you can instead rise to the challenge and commit to a Peoples

Vaccine, by pledging to do what is right for all people in all countries."



### EARLY RETURNS ARE PROMISING.

Introducing Better Futures™—a whole new kind of investment with a greater return than money. When you invest, it helps kids go to college. Because a mind is a terrible thing to waste but a wonderful thing to invest in.™ Invest in Better Futures at [UNCF.ORG/INVEST](https://www.uncf.org/invest)

# 5 trends for Black and Brown people in 2021



"I'm a Forbes/reporter/editorial/lead/The Culture"

By **Brianne Garrett**  
Forbes Staff

"I'm a Forbes reporter and the editorial lead for For(bes) The Culture. Below are five trends from 2020 that we expect will continue to have a positive effect on Black and Brown communities in 2021. This past year posed unprecedented crises, but it also sparked innovation by and for people of color—momentum that hopefully won't be just a passing phase.

"With the help of the For(bes) The Culture community, made up of members whose areas of

expertise run the gamut, we've identified five trends from 2020 that we expect will continue to have a positive effect on Black and Brown communities in 2021."

**Diversity In Venture Capitalism.** While 81% of venture capital funds have no Black investors—and Black founders receive just 1% of all VC funding—more and more people of color are stepping in to narrow the gap.

Those who have include celebrity VCs like Serena Williams and Will Smith, as well as firms including Forbes 30 Under 30 alumni Harlem Capital and Bk VC.

As the venture capital industry

diversifies, we expect founders of color will receive a bigger piece of the pie. Black and Brown Entrepreneurs In Non-Traditional Markets.

## PROMOTED

In April, For(bes) The Culture spoke to Seun Adedeji, the youngest Black man to own a cannabis dispensary in the U.S., as well as Al Harrington, the former NBA player whose post-basketball career found him launching cannabis company Viola Brands in 2011.

As the cannabis market continues to grow—New Frontier Data projects that it will reach \$35 billion by 2025—we anticipate

seeing more Black and Brown entrepreneurs emerging in the space.

## Mental Health Conversations

"Smiling online, fuming offline: The plight of Black professionals in corporate America 8 Under 18: The young trailblazers stepping up during The Pandemic. The HBCU professor racing to develop an antiviral drug for Covid-19.

"A slew of mental health advocates, including Actress Taraji P. Henson, sought to make conversations about mental health issues less taboo in Black and Brown communities in 2020. These

populations are 20% more likely to experience mental health issues than white populations, but are less likely to seek help. The rate at which Black people died by suicide also doubled during Covid-19 lockdowns.

"We hope to see these conversations continue into 2021 and beyond, and to see proper resources and treatments become more accessible and affordable—not to mention more people of color becoming mental health professionals.

"When we covered the new wave of co-working spaces for people of color in February, the model looked a bit different than it does now. Ethel's Club, for example, has pivoted to offer digital memberships with events like virtual wellness sessions and panels, rather than in-person work spaces.

"Even when people are able to gather in person, we expect some, especially those who are overseas, will continue to opt for these digital, culturally minded co-working memberships.

"Funding and visibility for historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were at the forefront of healthcare innovation in 2020. That didn't go unnoticed by funders, including Bloomberg Philanthropies, which pledged to donate \$100 million to four HBCU medical schools over the next four years.

"Meharry Medical College President Dr. James E.K. Hildreth called this "validation" after years of lacking funding. And let's not forget—a proud Howard University alumna, Vice President Kamala Harris, will soon be in the White House, and she's long been determined to increase HBCUs' visibility. Follow me on Twitter or LinkedIn. Check out my website. Send me a secure tip. "I'm a reporter at Forbes covering budding entrepreneurs of color, women and leadership—and, when I can, food. I'm also the editorial lead for Forbes' For(bes) The Culture."

## Ms. Cicely Tyson pens memoir before her death

"In her long and extraordinary career, Cicely Tyson has not only succeeded as an actor, she has shaped the course of history."—President Barack Obama, 2016 Presidential Medal of Honor ceremony

Sadly, Cicely Tyson died a few days before the release of her long-awaited memoir: "Just As I Am." How fortunate for us that she spoke about her tome before her death. In her words: "Just As I Am is my truth. It is me, plain and unvarnished, with the glitter and garland set aside. In these pages, I am indeed Cicely, the actress who has been blessed to grace the stage and screen for six decades. Yet I am also the church girl who once rarely spoke a word. I am the teenager who sought solace in the verses of the old hymn for which this book is named. I am a daughter and mother, a sister, and a friend. I am an observer of human nature and the dreamer of audacious dreams. I am a woman who has hurt as immeasurably as I have loved, a child of God divinely guided by His hand. And here in my ninth decade, I am a woman



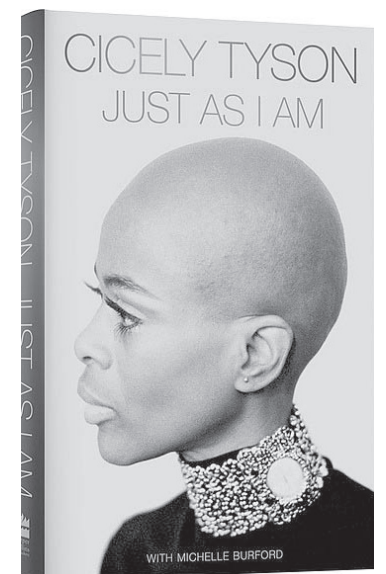
who, at long last, has something meaningful to say."—Cicely Tyson

Ms. Cicely Tyson was a global icon who was admired by all who met her. Her life was steeped in

"good trouble" and the world mourns her passing. Ms. Tyson was an actress, lecturer, activist, and one of the most respected talents in American theater and

film history. From her starring role on Broadway in *The Blacks* (1961), to the Emmy-nominated 1999 HBO film *A Lesson Before Dying*, her work has garnered critical and commercial applause for more than sixty years. Her two Emmys for *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* made her the first African-American woman to win an Emmy for Best Actress. In 2013, she won the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play for her performance as Miss Carrie Watts in "The Trip to Bountiful." A capstone achievement came in 2018, when she became the first Black woman to receive an honorary Oscar. The Board of Governors voted unanimously to honor her with the award, which came 45 years after her Academy Award nominated performance in *Sounder*.

"This book is Ms. Tyson's abundant treasure to each of us: her life, in her words, just as she is. She shares truths usually whispered between close friends in the dim light of a back bedroom, those candid declarations not often spoken aloud. And she tells her story the



A Memoir: "Just As I Am"

way only a black woman can: in all of its dazzling authenticity, heels off and voice undulating, shifting between anguish and exuberance. The art of acting is the art of exposing, an emotional unveiling before others. Ms. Tyson is as revelatory on these pages as she has been on the stage."—Viola Davis, Academy, Tony, and Emmy award-winning actress and producer



By Don Thomas

## Remembering

# Mary Wilson, co-founder of legendary The Supremes

By Rob Bailey-Millado

**M**ary Wilson's longtime publicist Jay Schwartz confirmed in a statement that she passed away suddenly Monday at her home in Las Vegas. Her cause of death has yet to be announced and funeral services will be private because of COVID-19 restrictions, Schwartz said, but a public memorial is planned for later this year.

Wilson launched the iconic pop and soul trio — famed for its silken layered vocals and chic synchronized choreography — with Diana Ross and Florence Ballard after signing with Motown in 1961 when she was just 15, originally as a member of The Primettes. Label founder Berry Gordy soon re-christened them as The Supremes.

"I just woke up to this news, my condolences to you Mary's family, I am reminded that each day is a gift," Ross, with whom Wilson shared an often publicly heated relationship tweeted Tuesday morning. "I have so many wonderful memories of our time together 'The Supremes' will live on in our hearts."

Wilson, a 1988 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, was also legendary for sticking with her groundbreaking group long after breakout lead singer Ross left for a solo career in 1970 — and for fighting a hard-won legal battle for artists' royalty rights, which she detailed in her bombshell 1986 memoir, "Dreamgirl: My Life As a Supreme."

Ballard was replaced by Cindy Birdsong in 1967, and Wilson stayed on until The Supremes were officially disbanded by Motown in 1977. "I was extremely shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of a major member of the Motown family, Mary Wilson of the Supreme," Motown guru Gordy said in a statement Monday night.

"The Supremes were always known as the 'sweethearts of Motown.' Mary, along with Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, came to Motown in the early 1960s. After an unprecedented string of No. 1 hits, television and nightclub bookings, they opened doors for themselves, the other Motown acts, and many, many others."

Gordy continued, "I was always proud of Mary. She was quite a star in her own right and over the years continued to work hard to boost the legacy of the Supremes. Mary Wilson was extremely special to me. She was a trailblazer, a diva and will be deeply missed."

On Saturday, Wilson posted a poignant YouTube video announcing that

a deal to distribute previously unreleased solo recordings was in the works with industry powerhouse Universal Music. She also teased upcoming interviews she had done about her early experiences with segregation in honor of Black History Month.



Mary Wilson

"Hopefully some of that will be out on my birthday, March 6," said Wilson, who appeared in Season 28 of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" and published her fourth book, "Supreme Glamour," in 2019.

Born March 6, 1944, in Greenville, Mississippi, she bounced the country with her parents until she was sent to live with an aunt and uncle at the age of 3. She wrote in her autobiography that she didn't learn the true identity of her parents until she was 6 years old — and she later settled with her mother in Detroit's Brewster-Douglass Housing Project at 12.

It was in those humble surroundings that she would meet her future superstar pals Ross and Ballard, with whom she formed a group that would serve as a "sister act" to the Primes, a male act featuring Paul Williams and Eddie Kendricks, future stars of Motown's the Temptations.

The Supremes' first No. 1, million-selling song, "Where Did Our Love Go," was released June 17, 1964. On tour at the time, Wilson said there was a watershed moment when it hit her that she had a hit record.

"I remember that instead of going home on the bus, we flew," she told the Associated Press in 2014. "That was our first plane ride. We flew home. We had really hit big." It would be the first of five consecutive chart-toppers, with "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In the Name of Love" and "Back in My Arms Again" following in quick succession.

The Supremes also recorded the hit songs "You Can't Hurry Love," "Up the Ladder to the Roof" and "Love Child," all while shattering boundaries for women of color on stage and off.

Wilson married businessman and former Supremes manager Pedro Ferrer in Las Vegas in 1977. The couple had three children — Turkessa, Pedro Antonio Jr. and Rafael — before divorcing in 1981.

Rafael died tragically at 14 when his Jeep flipped on a road trip between Las Vegas and Los Angeles, injuring Wilson and killing her son. Throughout the years, Wilson sparred publicly in the press with Ross — whom she always pointedly referred to by her birth name: Diane.

"I'm sure people will have their own opinions about that, but I really don't care," said Wilson, defending herself in a 1986 interview in Jet magazine. "My main thing is that when I was in the group I maintained my position and I didn't step into Diane's position. I'm no longer in the group now. I have my own position to uphold and it's not in the background."

A 2000 Supremes reunion tour fell spectacularly apart after a long and ugly battle over Wilson's paycheck, which she argued was insulting in comparison to her "The Boss" bandmate. She publicly declared it "a fraction" of the \$15 million Ross was getting.

Still, Wilson kept it moving with regular appearances in Las Vegas and at concert halls around the country. In 2015, she released her last single, "Time to Move On," which reached No. 23 on the Billboard dance chart.

At the time of her death, her publicist said that Wilson had been working on trying to get a US postage stamp designated for the doomed Ballard, her fellow Supreme and the inspiration for Tony winner Jennifer Holiday and Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson's character in the musical and film of "Dreamgirls," respectively.

Wilson's activism efforts included traveling to Washington, D.C. to lobby for the Music Modernization Act, which was passed into law in 2018. She is survived by her two children Turkessa and Pedro Antonio Jr, and her seven grandchildren: Mia, Marcanthony, Marina, Isaiah, Ilah, Alexander and Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, Wilson's family has requested that fans support UNCF.org and the Humpty Dumpty Institute.



The Original Supremes Florence Ballard, Diana Ross, Mary Wilson display the world famous, "Stop, in the Name of Love" hand action

# YOU DON'T NEED TO BE FAMOUS TO BE UNFORGETTABLE.

**MAKE MORE. TEACH.**

Make classrooms exciting and your lessons unforgettable. Become a teacher and make more. [Teach.org](https://www.teach.org)



# Classified

## ATTORNEY

Lung Cancer? And Age 60+? You And Your Family May Be Entitled To Significant Cash Award. No Risk. No Money Out Of Pocket. For Information Call 877-225-4813

## AUCTIONS

NYS SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY PUBLIC AUCTION: 11/8/19, 335 Nashopa Road, Mamakating, NY, 3,767sf colonial, 3.26acs, 5BR, 3.5baths, fin-bsmt, MINBID \$249,000; Open House: 11:00am-1:00pm, 10/15,10/23,11/1; ogs.ny.gov/NYSStore 518-474-2195

## AUTO DONATIONS

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call (917) 336-1254

## FINANCE

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 866-

979-0096 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

## HEALTH

A PLACE FOR MOM has helped over a million families find senior living. Our trusted, local advisors help find solutions to your unique needs at no cost to you. Call 855-977-3677

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION! World Health Link. Price Match Guarantee! Prescriptions Required. CIPA Certified. Over 1500 medications available. CALL Today For A Free Price Quote. 1-866-569-7986 Call Now!

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! 1-855-579-8907

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 888-657-9488.

## MISCELLANEOUS

COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS by GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE, In-home repair/On-line solutions . \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE! 844-892-3990

## TV INTERNET PHONE

DISH TV \$59.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. 1-888-609-9405

Get DIRECTV! ONLY \$35/month! 155 Channels & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/ SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

Spectrum Triple Play! TV, Internet & Voice for \$99.97/mo. Fastest Internet. 100 MB per second speed. Free Primetime on Demand. Unlimited Voice. NO CONTRACTS. Call 1-855-977-7198 or visit <http://tripleplaytoday.com/press>



Discover the world's best walk-in bathtub from *American Standard*

5 Reasons American Standard Walk-In Tubs are Your Best Choice

- 1 Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience
- 2 Ultra low entry for easy entering and exiting
- 3 Patented Quick Drain® fast water removal system
- 4 Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard
- 5 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage

**\$1,500 SAVINGS**

**888-609-0248**

Includes FREE American Standard Right Height Toilet Limited Time Offer! Call Today!

Receive a free American Standard Cadet toilet with full installation of a Liberation Walk-In Bath, Liberation Shower, or Deluxe Shower. Offer valid only while supplies last. Limit one per household. Must be first time purchaser. See [www.walkintubs.americanstandard-us.com](http://www.walkintubs.americanstandard-us.com) for other restrictions and for licensing, warranty, and company information. ©2021 American Standard, a subsidiary of American Standard, LLC. Safety Tubs Co. LLC does not sell in Nassau NY, Westchester NY, Putnam NY, Rockland NY.

MADE IN USA FREE IN-HOME EVALUATION



**Donate A Boat or Car Today!**

Boat Angel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"

**800-700-BOAT** (2628)

[www.boatangel.com](http://www.boatangel.com)

Sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



**Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES**

*I'm never alone*

Life Alert® is always here for me even when away from home.

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

Help at Home

Life Alert®

Batteries Never Need Charging.

Help On-the-Go

**FREE! FIRST AID KIT WHEN YOU ORDER!**

For a FREE brochure call:

**1-800-404-9776**



UNCF  
A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

**IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO INVEST IN A GOOD THING.**

Introducing Better Futures™—a whole new kind of investment with a greater return than money. When you invest, it helps kids go to college. Because a mind is a terrible thing to waste but a wonderful thing to invest in.™ Invest in Better Futures at [UNCF.ORG/INVEST](http://UNCF.ORG/INVEST)



**DENTAL Insurance**

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

A less expensive way to help get the dental care you deserve!

CALL NOW! **1-855-225-1434**

Get help paying dental bills and keep more money in your pocket

This is real dental insurance – NOT just a discount plan

You can get coverage before your next checkup

Don't wait! Call now and we'll rush you a FREE Information Kit with all the details.

FREE Information Kit

Here's the information you requested on Dental Insurance.

Your Name Here

**1-855-225-1434**

Visit us online at [www.dental50plus.com/nypress](http://www.dental50plus.com/nypress)

Insurance Policy P150NY 6129 MB17-NM003Ec

## Subscribe Philadelphia Observer

405 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10174.

[philadelphiaobserver.com](http://philadelphiaobserver.com)

# Sports



Andrew  
Rosario,  
Sports  
Editor



**Gronk Catches 2 TD's Passes**  
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

## A new year, a new team, another Super Bowl for Brady

By: Shara Talia Taylor

Tampa, Fla.—Quarterback Tom Brady of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers lived up to his title as he won his seventh championship ring and earned his 5th Most Valuable Player award at Super Bowl LV last Sunday at Raymond James Stadium.

Commonly known as the Greatest Of All Time (GOAT), Brady demonstrated why many believe he is deserving of this title. He brought the skill and fortitude used throughout his career and this season as he faced off against 2020 Super Bowl champion, 25-year-old Patrick Mahomes and defending Super Bowl Champions, the Kansas City Chiefs.

Brady claimed a Super Bowl victory in only a year of playing with a new team. He left the New England Patriots in 2020 at the end of the season. Now at the age of 43 he won another Super Bowl with after a fresh start as he learned new teammates, plays and different styles.

"It's hands down one of the greatest accomplishments in sports history," said teammate Rob Gronkowski after the game. "I'm not going to say it's the greatest, but I'm going to say that it's up there, for sure."

Brady completed 21 of 29 passes for 201 yards during Sunday's game, which ended in a 31-9 victory for the Buccaneers. He had three touchdowns with no interceptions and according to the NFL he also surpassed his

previous Super Bowl records for the most career completions at 277, passing yards at 3,039 and passing touchdowns at 21.

"I think this was a very, very talented football team last year, but we really didn't know how to win," said Tampa Coach Bruce Arians in a press conference Monday morning after the game. "When you bring a winner, and he's running the ship, it makes a total difference in your locker room every time we step out on the field. We came from behind two times, I think by 17 points down and I think the leadership that Tom brings and his attitude 'hey, let's go play,' it's never over until it's over, and 'we're going to win this thing' somehow some way, it permeated through our entire locker room."

Brady, also at the press conference Monday, said that it was an amazing feeling to see the reactions of players experiencing their first time at the Super Bowl. "For me that's the best part," he said. "Everyone wants to win the Super Bowl. I know. Hey, that's the goal every year, as the commissioner said earlier it's a hard league and these guys are good."

Brady has won seven Super Bowls, the most by a player in NFL history. People recognized his talent and greatness, which was why a panel of 16 media members and fans interactively through the NFL's website voted for him to be winner of the Pete Rozelle Trophy. No other NFL player has achieved the award five times.

## Undeniable: Brady is the G.O.A.T



**Mahomes Hounded By Bucs All Night**  
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

By Andrew Rosario

Tampa Fla.—The boy wonder did it again. At age 43 Tom Brady did something that no quarterback has ever done winning his 7th Super Bowl and 5th MVP in guiding the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a 31-9 Super Bowl win denying the Kansas City Chiefs a chance at winning their second straight championship. As efficient as the Bucs were offensively, the defense was just as suffocating holding last year's Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes to only 270 yards, no touchdowns and 2 interceptions.

It was the first time in NFL history a team played and hosted the Super Bowl in their own stadium. The normal capacity would have been around 66,000. Due to the Coronavirus and Covid19 pandemic, only 22,000 fans were allowed. 7,500 were front line and first responder workers who were vaccinated.

Kansas City won the coin toss and elected to kick off to Tampa. Both teams sputtered out of the gate as the Bucs punted the first two times they had the ball with the Chiefs punting on their first possession. KC would get on the

board first on their second possession. Mahomes drives them down the field 26 yards in 8 plays. Harrison Butker converting the 49-yard field goal. At 3-0 it would be the last time Kansas City would have the lead.

Brady wasted no time the next time they got the ball. Completing 4 passes for 47 yards, the last a 5-yarder to tight end Rob Gronkowski for the go ahead touchdown. The connection was the 13th time the duo would get into the end and first time Brady threw a touchdown pass in the first quarter in a Super Bowl game.

Bucs defensive coordinator Todd Bowles made life miserable for Mahomes forcing them to only run 7-plays the next two times they had the ball. The Bucs extended the lead to 14-3 as Brady found Gronk again this time for a 17-yard touchdown reception. KC reduced the lead to 8 after another Butker field goal (34-yards) but Tampa Bay, with .55 seconds before halftime, wanted more points. 5-plays and 29 yards later, Brady (21-29, 201 yards, 3 it's, no it's) throws his third touchdown of the half, this time a 1-yarder to wide receiver Antonio Brown extending the lead to 21-6 effectively ending

the game. Said Mahomes, "we battled to the very end. We played not very well football today."

Tom Brady decided to leave the New England Patriots after 20 years and 6 Super Bowl rings. He had to learn a new system and new players. At one point head coach Bruce Arians called Brady out after a shaky performance in a blowout loss to the New Orleans Saints. The team went on to make the playoffs having to win 3 road games (Washington, New Orleans and Green Bay) in order to host the Super Bowl. Said Brady after, "It's been an amazing year. We got off to a good start at 7-2 and then had a little rough stretch where we kind of found our identity. I'm just really proud of all the guys, proud of all the coaches and the efforts we put in. We knew we were playing a god football team tonight. We got the job done."

There is no question now as to who the National Football League G.O.A.T is. Tom Brady will be 44 years old next year when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers look to repeat. The last team to win consecutive Super Bowls was the New England Patriots and the quarterback was none other than...Tom Brady.



**7th Heaven For TB12**  
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer