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Biden's Racial Equity Initiative: Moving marginalized communities toward America's bounty

By Charlene Crowell

On January 26, President Joe Biden took steps to bring the nation towards the long-promised, but never realized, pledge of racial justice. Four executive orders signed that day make clear that the new Administration will take meaningful and corrective actions.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was directed to take steps necessary to redress racially discriminatory federal housing policies that have contributed to wealth inequality for generations. Similarly, the Department of Justice (DOJ) was ordered to end its use of private prisons. The whole of federal government also recommitted to respect Tribal sovereignty and strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations. Finally, President Biden committed to combatting xenophobia against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

"We have never fully lived up to the founding principles of this nation, to state the obvious, that all people are created equal and have a right to be treated equally throughout their lives," said Biden. "And it's time to act now, not only because it's the right thing to do, but



A series of executive orders signed by President Joe Biden last week are aimed at offering future generations of minorities relief from a past of discriminatory regulations in a wide range of areas. (Photo: Wayne-Lee Sing / Unsplash)

because if we do, we'll all be better off for it."

"Yes, we need criminal justice reform," he continued, "but that isn't nearly enough. We need to open the promise of America to every American. And that means we need to make the issue of racial equity not just an issue for any one department of government; it has to be the business of the whole of government."

Responsibility for implementation and oversight will rest with the White House's Domestic Policy Council, led by Director Susan Rice, a former Obama Administration appointee who served as Na-

tional Security Advisor and U.S. Representative to the United Nations and a Black woman..

Millions of marginalized people -- many who are Black and Latino -- face imminent financial disaster. When people are poor, they face compounding struggles -- ranging from food insecurity, to the threat of losing utilities, and the risk of homelessness -- and hardships seemingly multiply each day. During this still-raging pandemic, a new kind of poor -- those who were formerly gainfully employed -- are

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Race and data discrimination

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Some good news during cancer awareness month

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The NAACP marks 112 years on Feb. 12

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Cat owners offered a fix in Plano

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Black talent shines at Sundance

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Mary Wilson

People In The News ...



Shab



Kalia Love Jones

NDG Quote of the Week: "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." ~Harriet Tubman

Mary Wilson

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Mary Wilson was a friend to the Black Press of America, a neighbor to the world, and the radiance she exuded never seem to fade. At 76, the Supremes legend is gone too soon.

Wilson died suddenly late Monday, Feb. 8, at her home just outside of Las Vegas.

"I was extremely shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of a major member of the Motown family, Mary Wilson of the Su-



premes," Motown founder Berry Gordy wrote in a statement emailed to NNPA Newswire shortly after 2 a.m. Tuesday."

Gordy emphasized, "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 number one hits, television and nightclub bookings, they opened doors for themselves, the other Motown acts, and many, many others."

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

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO, affirmed, "On behalf of NNPA Chair Karen Cater Richards and all of the 230 African American NNPA member publishers across the United States and the Caribbean, we pause solemnly today to pay tribute and our profound respects to the living memory, legacy and cultural genius of our beloved Mary Wilson. She loved and supported the Black Press of America, and we will always love and keep Mary Wilson's transformative spirit in our hearts as the NNPA contin-

ues to publish truth to power in America and throughout the world."

In a 2020 interview on the Black Press of America's "Fiyah!" livestream program, Wilson talked about her life and career and her long pursuit of having Florence Ballard memorialized with a United States Postal Service stamp.

"People forget that Florence Ballard not only gave us our name, but she formed the group," Wilson revealed on "Fiyah!"

"It was really Flo who formed us, and I want people to know that. I am putting together a program to get Florence Ballard a

U.S. stamp, hopefully, so I want people to send their request and say something about Florence. All those hits were Florence, so when you listening to [The Supremes], it's about Flo, so I want people who listen to those songs that bring back memories, think about Flo."

A singer, best-selling author, motivational speaker, businesswoman, former U.S. Cultural Ambassador, mother, and grandmother, the legendary Mary Wilson made great strides on her inevitable journey to greatness.

As an original/founding

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Shab

Dallas resident, mother, and refugee Shab has been making some noise that echoes around the planet as her single "What I Do" climbs the American & UK charts. She came out of nowhere during the pandemic with the post-apocalyptic video for her first single, "Spell On Me," which has been streamed millions of times. Last month, the song peaked at No. 2 on the Commercial Pop Club Chart in the United Kingdom.

SHAB made the trans-Atlantic trip by herself at age 14 with only a single small suitcase and Ameri-



Screen Capture / Youtube

can high school awaiting. She immediately hit the books hard to learn English, all while working three jobs including at the family business — a pizza shop — as a waitress and host. Following high

school and after graduating college, SHAB attended law school in Florida, but soon left to pursue writing and performing music full time. She was inspired to perform by her brother Shahab, whose own career as a Persian-American entertainer has made him an international singing sensation.

For her English debut album to be released later in 2020, SHAB has opted for a combination of urban tilting songs, pop ballads and dance inducing knockouts. She combines an eclectic mix of sonic effects and catchy dance-pop hooks to make energizing music that is effortless and ringingly

memorable. With huge choruses as well as distinct yet unpredictable vocals in the purest of pop sense, SHAB delivers a kaleidoscope of sound that goes hand-in-hand with her introspective and powerful lyrics.

Through rhapsodic lyrics and dance beats, this Iranian refugee and mother of two children living in Dallas, Texas has captured the attention of girls around the world. At 41, she's been a breakout star of the pandemic, please see the stunning video here: "What I Do" Music Video Link

The mystical pop-leaning "What I Do" single and music video was helmed by Grammy-winning producer

Damon Sharpe, who is known for his work producing Ariana Grande, Jennifer Lopez and more. Featuring a steady stream of feel-good hooks, Shab draws on her own romantic torment, crafting raw lyrics to her lover and heartfelt reflections on surrendering herself to intimacy. Through power ballads and dance floor anthems with the upcoming album, Shab harnesses anguish and devotion, as she traces journeys of femme self-discovery.

This mother of two has spent the last few years gaining a loyal Persian fanbase around the world, establishing herself as a pop goddess with purpose.

Her first "Spell on Me" music video alternates between playful and surreal. An eclectic mix of sounds ring throughout her new album as she opts for a mix of urban tilting songs, pop ballads, and dance inducing knockouts. She combines and energizes familiar dance-pop sounds to make music worth getting lost in. With effortlessly huge choruses and distinct yet unpredictable vocals that's eccentric in the purest of pop sense. Shab delivers a kaleidoscope of sound that goes hand-in-hand with the lyrics.

More information on this breakout artist can be found at Shabofficial.com.

Kalia Love Jones

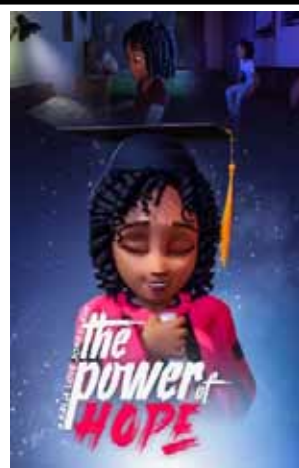
"The Power of Hope" animated short film was recently nominated in the 52nd NAACP Image Award in the Outstanding Short Form (Animated) category.

At age 14, Kalia Love Jones is the youngest ever nominated for this prestigious award. She directed, produced and wrote the animated short and after being inspired by a Michelle Obama speech.

It tells the inspirational



story of a young woman with big dreams. An inspiring architect feels helpless



when her mother falls ill, but moved by the words of

Michelle Obama, she finds the will to persevere and bring her dreams to life. "The Power of Hope" animated short film is qualified for the Academy Awards.

The NAACP Image Awards celebrates outstanding achievement in the areas of film, TV, music and literature - from an African American perspective. The 52nd NAACP Image Awards will be broadcast live on BET on March 27, 2021 at 8:00 PM ET.

"I'm really happy that the film is finally getting out there," Jones said. "That was my goal, what I wanted to do was get the film out there to a lot of people, especially people my age. I'm just really happy that it's getting a lot of attention."

Kalia Love Jones looks up to influential female figures like Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, and Ava DuVernay and spends hours every day drawing, crafting, and studying films to create unique anima-

tions. Kalia Love Jones is a 14-year-old filmmaker that is inspiring young women to pursue their animation and filmmaking dreams.

This may be the beginning of Kalia's career, but she is certainly already showing girls of all color and ages that they can achieve greatness by carrying hope and believing in themselves.

For more details about The Power of Hope Film visit: www.ThePowerofHopeFilm.com



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Race and data discrimination in America

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.,
President and CEO,
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Today there is a welcomed breath of fresh political air in Washington, DC even amidst the unprecedented spread of the global COVID-19 pandemic throughout the United States. According to the Biden-Harris Administration the issues of racial justice and equity are now top priorities in a "whole of government" commitment to all Americans, and in particular to African Americans and other people of color communities.

Most recently the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) had a special on-the-record briefing from the White House Office of Public Engagement directed by The Honorable Cedric Richmond who is also Senior Advisor to President Joe Biden.

As we heard Richmond strongly reaffirm the Administration's urgent push to have the U.S. Congress to enact the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan that promises to respond to the nation's pandemic and economic crisis respecting the principles of equity, I thought reflectively about all the various racial disparities, discriminations, and inequities that daily have a negative impact on Black America.

Yet, in 2021 we live in the age of data where the aggregation, control, and ownership of data continues to have enormous social and economic consequences for those who are poor and marginalized. One preexisting condition that has not gotten enough public attention and debate is the issue of the intersection of race, data discrimination, and inequity in America.

Data discrimination is a covert form of racism that is having a devastating overt impact on the quality of life of African Americans and others who continue to face systemic inequity.

It is relevant to note that the largest credit reporting agency in the U.S. is Equifax. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Equifax actually has become more profitable at the expense of millions of Americans who are struggling to survive to make ends meet. As a consequence, we must begin to raise questions about the apparent linkage of the expanding credit reporting industry to the growing financial inequities especially in African American communities.

As credit reporting booms while most Americans are experiencing financial hardship, Equifax's "Work Number" workforce division is turning in record profits by raising costs on consumers. The Work Number is a user-paid verification of employment database that was acquired and now owned by Equifax. This database allows credentialed verifiers to receive instantaneous electronic confirmation of an individual's employment data and income for verification purposes.

Today Equifax's Work Number is charging \$49.95 for the cost of an Income and Employment Report that is nearly three times what the cost of the report was six years ago at (\$18).

The U.S. credit reporting industry generated over \$12 billion in revenue last year, according to research from IBISWorld, and the market size is expected to grow another 3.7% next year. The three largest agencies—Equifax (SEFX), Experian (SEXP) and TransUnion (STRU) —accounted for

more than 50% of the total revenue.

The industry's growth is driven by a unique business model, which provides a dual revenue stream from consumer data. Businesses pay credit bureaus to collect employee information and manage verification requests, like those generated when an individual seeks to obtain a loan from a bank.

Agencies then charge requesting parties for the personal information, generally on a per-request basis, which is frequently passed onto the consumer.

Equifax, despite its 2017 data breach that impacted 147 million people, continues to be the largest player in the space. The company claims to have records on over 222 million U.S. consumers and receives weekly payroll data on a third of the U.S. population.

Equifax's Work Number has benefited from the spike in unemployment caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. With millions of Americans out of work, demand for verification services has surged as creditors seek to determine employment status of loan holders and potential loan candidates.

We all know that African Americans have the largest increase in unemployment before — and even more after the beginning of — the pandemic. African American-owned businesses have had the greatest financial losses amidst COVID-19. The more unemployment in Black America, the more Equifax's Work Number data is purchased by a wide range of financial status verifiers. But who is monitoring or challenging the accuracy of the Equifax Work Number data especially when it is about African Americans?

According to Equifax's

quarterly financial reports, The Work Number generated nearly \$377 million in revenue during the third quarter of last year, a 57% increase year-over-year and the second consecutive quarter of more than 50% growth. Between 2012 and 2020, The Work Numbers' verification services revenue jumped nearly 400%.

Largely driving The Work Number's growth is its dominance in the mortgage lending market, which accounted for 31% of the division's revenue mix throughout last year.

The Work Number controls over 380 million current and historic consumer data records, including 100 million added between 2019 and 2020. That scale provides immense leverage over the mortgage lending industry.

"We have real scale in the business, which provides a competitive advantage," Equifax CEO Mark Begor said on the company's earnings call last October. "We're now having a billion companies deliver data to us on a period basis. That makes this data set very, very valuable and tough to replicate. And if you're one company, then you're likely not going to give the data to two companies. You're going to give it to the company that's been in it for long time."

I ask Mark Begor a simple but serious question: "What verifiable safeguards are in place at Equifax Inc. that prevent racial and data discrimination with respect to African Americans and other people of color?"

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles, PBS TV Network.

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February is Cancer Prevention Month; thankfully there's some good news

By Brandon Ross
Men's Health Network

February is Cancer Prevention Month, and with that comes the need to express how important it is to visit your doctor and get screened for this disease should you feel ill or are in pain.

While most people associate cancer for all the hard realities that come with it: chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, transplants, etc., there's some hope that can be offered to those who are (understandably) nervous from getting screened, as well as survivors, from the disease.

Cancer death rates continue to decline, and according to the American Cancer Society (ACS) (<https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/facts-and-figures-2021.html>), the rate in death from this disease



Benjamin Lehman / Unsplash

has dropped 31% from 1991-2018. Men's Health Network (MHN), a national non-profit based in Washington D.C., will continue to advocate for early cancer detection, as well as educating men to learn and

protect themselves from typical male cancers such as testicular and prostate cancer and how to protect their loved ones and families from cancer, according to Dr. Salvatore Giorgianni, Jr., a senior science advisor

for MHN.

"The continuing decline in deaths due to cancers in the US is very important and encouraging," Dr. Giorgianni said. "These declines are for the most part due to two very important reasons – increases in early detection of cancer and investments from pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies in advanced treatments and more accurate testing technologies."

People will still unfortunately get this disease in 2021 and beyond. ACS researchers estimate 1.9 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer this year, and roughly 600,000 of them will die. However, progress continues to be seen in recent years, with cancer rates dropping an additional 2.4% from 2017 to 2018, which is the single biggest one-year drop in death rates (<https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/facts-and-figures-2021.html>).

The year 2020 (and the start of 2021) provided enough uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and with that ACS does not and will not know the effect the COVID-19 pandemic will have on cancer diagnosis in general, but researchers say those with active cancer cases are more susceptible to being infected due to a weakened immune system.

MHN will continue to advocate for early cancer detection, as well as educating men to learn and protect themselves from typical male cancers such as testicular and prostate cancer and how to protect their loved ones and families from cancer, according to Dr. Giorgianni.

"Early detection, which means regular medical

checkups, is THE key," Dr. Giorgianni said. "[Men's Health Network] urges all men to become more knowledgeable about cancer and then 'man-up' by doing all you can to take responsibility for the health of yourself and those you care about."

The biggest takeaway hopefully taken from this is very simple, and that's to visit your doctor on a regular basis to encourage early detection. The worst thing we can all do is take our foot off the gas and neglect our own bodies.

As a survivor of Acute Myeloid Leukemia of 19 years and counting, let the author reiterate the importance of staying on top of your doctor's visits. This article would not have ever been written if early cancer detection wasn't a part of the equation.

WILSON, from Page 2

member of The Supremes, she changed the face of popular music to become a trendsetter who broke down social, racial, and gender barriers, which all started with the wild success of their first number one song.

Formed in Detroit as The Primettes in 1959, The Supremes were Motown's most successful act of the 1960s, scoring 12 No. 1 singles.

They also continue to reign as America's most successful vocal group to date. Their influence not only carries on in contemporary R&B, soul, and pop, but they also helped pave the way for Black artists' mainstream success across all genres.

Mary achieved an unprecedented 12 No.1 hits, with 5 of them being consecutive from 1964-1965. Those songs are "Where Did Our Love Go," "Baby Love," "Come See About Me," "Stop! In the Name of Love," and "Back in My Arms Again," according to Billboard Magazine.

In 2018, Billboard celebrated the 60th anniversary of Motown with a list of "The Hot 100's Top Artists of All Time", where The Supremes ranked at No. 16 and remain the No. 1 female recording group of all time.

Jan. 21, 2021, marked the 60th anniversary of the day The Supremes signed with Motown in 1961. This year, Mary kicked off the celebration of the 60th anniversary of The Supremes.

"With the same passion as she did singing with the original Supremes as well as with her solo career, the world-renowned performer was an advocate for social and economic challenges in the United States and abroad," Wilson's longtime publicist and friend, Jay Schwartz, said.

"Ms. Wilson used her fame and flair to promote a diversity of humanitarian efforts, including ending hunger, raising HIV/AIDS awareness, and encouraging world peace. Mary was working on getting a U.S.

postage stamp of her fellow bandmate and original Supreme Florence Ballard who passed away in 1976," Schwartz said.

In 2019, Wilson stretched her dancing muscles when she joined the cast of the 28th season of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars," Schwartz recalled.

He noted that in 2019 she also published her fourth book, "Supreme Glamour."

"The coffee-table book showcased the gowns The Supremes were known for over the decades and delved into more history of the most successful female recording group of all time," Schwartz wrote in an email.

He provided the following extensive recent bio of Wilson:

She was honored at the Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills, celebrating her work in music and her influence on young African Americans and entertainment.

Her conversation with Janice Littlejohn left the audience laughing with her unmatched humor and

standing with applause displaying her graceful composure throughout the night. Showing the same love she has always demonstrated to all her fans, Wilson gladly met and personally thanked every attendee that night for their support throughout her career.

Wilson's influence reached beyond music.

In 2018, Mary's longtime fight for the passage of the Music Modernization Act (MMA) came to fruition when it was signed into law on Oct. 11.

The law modernized copyright-related issues for new music and audio recordings due to new forms of technology like digital streaming, which did not protect music recorded before Feb. 15, 1972, according to Schwartz.

Her tireless advocacy for this legislation included trips to Washington D.C. to personally meet with Congress members to advocate for legacy artists gaining fair compensation when their songs are played on digital radio stations, Schwartz continued.

Mary Wilson's last solo recording, the song, "Time to Move On," reached No. 23 on the Billboard Dance charts, which marked her first time on the charts with a solo recording since The Supremes.

She was working on new projects for 2021, including an album she recently teased on her YouTube channel. Her primary love

of preserving the legacy of The Supremes and introducing her music to new generations.

"I think that The Supremes had a lot to do with the awakening of the world in terms of what blackness was," Wilson said in her 2020 NNPA interview. "The whole world was watching Black people in a way they'd never seen."

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NAACP marks 112 years of serving the minority community

As Black History Month rolls by, it is important to remember that this Friday, Feb. 12, marks 112 years since the foundation of a bedrock organization for African American advocacy in the U.S.

In 1909 W.E.B. DuBois and a multi-racial coalition established the NAACP as an organization for the Black community and their allies from across the political spectrum to fight for human rights and equality. They recognized something that rings true to this very day: none of us are free until all of us are free!

Today there are many organizations which seek to better the lives of African Americans and other minorities, but for more than a century now, The NAACP has stood as one



of the bedrock entities in this area. Through the era of lynchings across the Jim Crow South, to the Civil Rights Movement, *Brown v. The Board of Education*, and now the fight to end

police brutality, expand voting rights, and address the exacerbating economic and health realities facing our Black communities due to the Coronavirus pandemic; the NAACP has

weighed in on, and in many cases changed the course of, American political discourse as it relates to the minority experience.

Most recently, NAACP President and CEO Der-

rick Johnson lauded moves made by the new president in regards to systemic racism in the U.S.

"The NAACP is very encouraged by the executive actions taken by President Biden today," Johnson said in a statement. "It is refreshing to finally hear a President acknowledge white supremacy in their inaugural speech, and follow that with concrete actions less than a week later. President Biden's whole-of-government approach for racial equity, embedded within the Domestic Policy Council lead by Susan Rice, is a very good first step. However, Executive Orders are only as strong as the current President and can be reversed by future administrations. So we must continue to urge

Congress to pass laws that ensure racial equity for all people in this country and codify it to prevent future Presidents from reversing these critical measures. We look forward to working with the Biden-Harris administration as we continue to address the systemic racism that has plagued our communities for centuries."

As always, the NAACP is looking for new members to support its continued mission. While supplies last, the organization is offering a commemorative 112-year shirt with donations and new memberships. A \$30 monthly contribution is rewarded with a collector's edition mug. More information can be found on the organization's official website (www.naacp.org).

Global virtual event planned for 56th Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee

SELMA, AL -- Two civil rights legends are set to make the historic 56th Annual Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee scheduled for March 5-7, 2021, even more special. Andrew Young, former ambassador to the United Nations and a close confidant of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dolores Huerta, who co-founded the National Farmworkers Association (now United Farmworkers) with Cesar Chavez, are both scheduled to appear at the event, themed "Beyond the Bridge: People Power, Political Power, Economic Power."

"We are honored to have Andrew Young and Dolores Huerta sharing their prolific voices with us. As we continue the work of the movement 'Beyond the Bridge,' we don't do so alone," said Drew Glover, principal coordinator of the Jubilee. "We are standing on the shoulders of the elders and ancestors. The presence

of these civil rights icons makes our first foray into the virtual space even more powerful."

Young and Huerta headline a group of distinguished guests and activities for the Jubilee, which is moving online in light of COVID concerns and to extend its reach globally. The star-studded lineup is a fitting way to share the commemoration of equity and justice with the world.

"We're expecting a bigger audience than ever before, so we've taken various approaches in our efforts to educate, celebrate and commemorate the occasion. We'll have music, speakers, photography, workshops, performances, films, and of course, the virtual bridge crossing. No matter who you are, there will be enjoyable activities that help drive home the important history behind Selma and the voting rights movement."

The portal for free reg-

istration is now open at selmajubilee.com/register. Early-bird registrants will get exclusive access to a pre-Jubilee Symposium for Social Change February 13th, featuring interactive workshops and live Q&A with activist Nina Turner, Dr. Sekou Franklin, a lineup of incredible educators and a special celebrity guest. The theme is This Is Your Grandparent's Movement: The Significance of Intergenerational Understanding and Shared Action.

The event begins on Friday, March 5 with a Children's Sojourn program at 10 a.m. The weekend wraps up at 5 p.m. on Sunday after a special gospel concert.

In between are a host of events, workshops and celebrations to mark this historic place in the journey of African Americans in the U.S.

Complete information can be found at SelmaJubilee.com.



Courtesy photo

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
2268	Royal Winnings - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.94	\$10	2/5/21	8/4/21
2145	Multiplier Spectacular - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.48	\$20	2/11/21	8/10/21
2227	\$1,000,000 Golden Riches - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.52	\$50	2/11/21	8/10/21
2177	Bonus Break the Bank - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.29	\$5	2/19/21	8/18/21
2264	Merry Magic - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.85	\$10	2/22/21	8/21/21
2226	\$250,000 50X Cashword - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.55	\$10	3/1/21	8/28/21
2215	Route 66™ Road to \$1,000,000! - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.12	\$5	3/24/21	9/20/21
2128	Wild Cash Multiplier - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.75	\$5	3/24/21	9/20/21
2231	50X Fast Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.25	\$5	3/24/21	9/20/21
2237	Super Loteria - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.77	\$5	3/24/21	9/20/21

TexasLottery.org is the official source for all pertinent game information. Game closing procedures may be initiated for documented business reasons. These games may have prizes unclaimed, including top prizes. In addition, game closing procedures will be initiated when all top prizes have been claimed. During closing, games may be sold even after all top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. For help with a gambling problem, ncpgambling.org. © 2021 Texas Lottery Commission. PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

TEXAS LOTTERY

Let us hear from you!

If there are any news, events or anything else we need to know about, give us an e-mail at: editor@northdallasgazette.com

Upcoming African American Heritage celebrations in Dallas ISD



Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD
District 6

Dallas ISD's 2021 Black History Month theme is "Celebrate Blackness," and the district's Racial Equity Office invites everyone to join in the celebration.

The activities include presentations featuring Black professionals sharing their journeys to success, a Black history month trivia challenge with prizes, videos reflecting the contributions of Black heroes and heroines, and graphics you can use to show your pride in the celebration.

For details, please visit www.dallasisd.org/blackhistorymonth.

District 6 Student Athletes Sign Up for College Teams

David W. Carter and Justin Kimball high schools have always been blessed with outstanding student athletes, and this year is no exception. On Feb. 3, 17 students from these two schools signed letters of intent to receive scholarships and participate in college or university sports. Congratulations, all!

SCHOOL	STUDENT	SPORT	INTENDED COLLEGE
Carter	Dartagnan Walker	Football	Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Carter	Jacoby Cartman	Football	Howard Payne University
Carter	Jy'Qyavion Vinson	Football	Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Carter	Raylon Jones	Football	Texas College
Carter	Kristopher Johnson	Football	Florida Central Tech
Carter	Kace Williams	Football	East Central University
Carter	Octavius Robertson	Track & Field	University of North Texas Dallas
Carter	Redd Mumian-Walker	Football	Western New England
Kimball	Brandon Epton Jr.	Football	Southern Methodist University
Kimball	Cameron Nelson	Football	Illinois State University
Kimball	Damon Pittman	Football	Concordia University of Chicago
Kimball	Ishmael Ibraheem	Football	University of Texas
Kimball	Ki'Aundra Green	Wrestling	Texas Wesleyan University
Kimball	Deonte Davis	Football	Hardin Simmons University
Kimball	Tyriq Sullivan	Football	Missouri Valley College
Kimball	Keith Hargraves	Football	Southwestern Assemblies of God University
Kimball	Kairee Wheeler	Football	Southwestern Assemblies of God University

Young STEM champions claim prizes at annual expo

District 6 students showed up and showed out at the recent 2021 Dallas ISD STEM EXPO. Thanks to all who participated, and

congratulations to the following top prize winners:

Science & Engineering Fair Competition

Samantha Zamago, Justin F. Kimball High School, 1st place in Physics and Astronomy

Jaydon Johnson, Ronald E. McNair Elementary School, 1st place in Adaptive category

Megan Rodriguez, Zan Wesley Holmes Jr. Middle School, 3rd place in Chemistry

• Bridge Building Competition

Daijah Brown and Xavier Mathis, Charmaine & Robert Price Career Institute, 2nd Place Olympic Silver

• Math Olympiad Competition

Helen Cuadros, T.W. Browne Middle School, 1st Place Olympic Gold

Cindy Arias, T.W. Browne Middle School, 1st Place Olympic Gold

Makayla Simon, T.W. Browne Middle School, 2nd Place Olympic Silver

Randy Lugo, Thomas L. Marsalis STEAM Academy, 3rd Place Olympic Bronze

• Robotics Competition

Elena Merciers, Tanay Martinez, Daniel Mondragon, Angel Mora, and Azucena Pineda, D.A. Hulcy STEAM Middle School,

Cyberborg Coderizers Award in Virtual Coding

Operation Comeback Aims to Re-engage Students

School absences have risen as parents and students cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, and Dallas ISD has launched an all-out effort to help students get re-engaged in learning. Throughout the month of February, district staff will be reaching out to students and parents by phone, text, email and contact-free home visits as a part of "Operation Comeback," an effort to provide whatever support is needed to get students back in school, either virtually or in person. Parents are urged to call their child's campus counselor about challenges that may be keeping students from attending classes.

Black History in Science: Remembering Dr. George Carruthers

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

He built his first telescope at the age of 10, and by age 25, George Carruthers earned a Ph.D. in aeronautical and astronautical engineering.

Upon graduating from the University of Illinois, Dr. Carruthers started work at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

His telescope and image converter identified molecular hydrogen in space, and his ultraviolet spectrograph was used by the Apollo 16 crew in their flight to the moon.

"In March 1610, Galileo Galilei reported the first use of a telescope to view mountains and maria on the moon," Dr. Carruthers wrote in 1972. Many reported that his project collaborator, Thornton Page, a White man, acknowledged Carruthers' brilliance and allowed him to lead on the

project.

After all, just three years earlier, Dr. Carruthers was awarded a patent for his groundbreaking "Image Converter for Detecting Electromagnetic Radiation Especially in Short Wave Lengths."

Following that, the scientist's UV telescope and image converter provided the first proof of molecular hydrogen in interstellar space.

His invention was used on Apr. 21, 1972, during the first lunar walk of the Apollo 16 mission.

It marked the first-time scientists examined the Earth's atmosphere for concentrations of pollutants and see UV images of more than 550 stars, nebulae, and galaxies.

Dr. Carruthers earned NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal for his work on the project.

"On Apr. 21, 1972, the Apollo 16 commander positioned a somewhat more complex optical instru-

ment at the Earth from the moon and obtained several remarkable photographs showing atmospheric rather than surface features," Dr. Carruthers wrote.

One of the first and few Black scientists of his time, Dr. Carruthers died on Dec. 26, 2020, in Washington. He was 81.

Born Oct. 1, 1939, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Carruthers had three siblings. His father, George Sr., was a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Air Corps. and reportedly encouraged his son's interest in science.

According to his biography, the elder Carruthers died when Dr. Carruthers was just 12. After his death, the family moved to Chicago, where Dr. Carruthers' mother, Sophia, went to work for the U.S. Postal Service.

But Dr. Carruthers continued pursuing his interest in science.

"As one of only a handful of African-Americans com-

peting in Chicago's high school science fairs, he won three awards, including first prize for a telescope that he designed and built," his biographers wrote.

In 1957, Carruthers graduated from Chicago's Englewood High School

and entered the engineering program at the University of Illinois' Champaign-Urbana campus.

While an undergraduate, Carruthers focused on aerospace engineering and astronomy.

After earning a bach-

elor's degree in physics in 1961, Carruthers remained at the University of Illinois, where he earned a master's in nuclear engineering in 1962.

In 1964, he earned a Ph.D. in aeronautical and astronautical engineering.

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City of Plano offering 'Neuter for a Nickel' to cat owners

Plano is offering its residents and others the opportunity to have male cats neutered for 5 cents during Nickel Neutering. Owners do not have to live in Plano to participate, but do need to make an appointment. The limit for this event is 100 cats.

Nickel Neutering will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Plano Animal Shelter (4028 W. Plano Pkwy.).

There are several steps



Manja Vitolic / Unsplash

to take before the appointment.

Make sure the cat is

at least 8 weeks old and weighs at least 2 1/2 pounds prior to the procedure.

Bring your cat in a pet carrier marked with your name and phone number.

Due to COVID-19, the number of people allowed in the shelter for drop off and pick up is limited. Please be prepared to wait outside or in your car. During drop off and pick up, you must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

Provide written proof of your cat's current rabies and FVRCP vaccinations. Vaccines can be adminis-

tered for \$9.95 one vaccine or \$19.95 for both.

Have a microchip implanted for \$10 during the appointment.

Register your cat if you live in Plano. City registration for each cat is only \$10. Reduced registration of \$5 is available if the owner is a senior citizen or has proof of being low-income. Visit plano.gov/RegisterPet for details to register online.

Why should you neuter your cat:

- Your cat will have less urge to spray urine and the scent is less intense.

- The instinct to defend his territory is reduced so he's less likely to fight and get injured.

- The risk of your cat getting feline leukemia and feline AIDS is lowered.

- Neutering prevents testicular cancer and some prostate problems in cats.

Call 972-769-4360 to reserve your appointment or to ask additional questions.

EQUITY, from Page 1

learning the harsh realities of how hard life becomes when adequate income and decent health insurance are no longer available.

Regardless of income – or the lack thereof – every family still needs a home, one that provides shelter and sustenance. As much as America needs vaccinations from the pandemic, its people need and have a right to housing.

In 2020, to address this newly urgent need, a focused and collaborative national policy endeavor began, called the Housing Playbook Project. The effort was led by Community Change, a nonprofit with the mission of changing the policies and institutions that impact the lives of low-income people – particularly those of color – with support from the Ford Foundation. The sum of the project's insights and recommendations specific to housing challenges were contained in its report released on January 25th.

Entitled A New Deal for Housing for Housing Justice: A Playbook for the Biden Administration,

the t is a road map to achieving housing justice that details bold federal actions that can effectively respond to the housing crisis and charts a path for leveraging policymaking to build power in the nation's most neglected communities.

"We face a housing affordability crisis, an evic-

tions crisis, and a homelessness crisis like this nation has never seen," noted Julian Castro, project co-chair and former HUD Secretary and San Antonio Mayor. "The Housing Playbook outlines a bold and ambitious blueprint to tackle these crises head-on, with housing justice and racial equity at the forefront. This is how we ensure housing is not just a commodity, but a basic need and a human right granted to every single American."

"Regardless of where we come from, what we do for work, how we identify or whether we've been caught up in our unjust criminal system, everyone deserves a roof over their head," added Community Change President Dorian Warren. "The Biden-Harris Administration has signaled that they would make racial justice and equity in COVID-19 relief and long-term economic policy a priority. Safe and reliable housing is the cornerstone to economic security. This proposal is a blueprint for how to help move the country toward that vision."

The report's seven specific policy recommendations include:

- Provide COVID-19 federal relief financial assistance to renters on the verge of eviction and homeowners in danger of foreclosure. Additionally, the report calls for the relief package to award community control of foreclosed

and abandoned properties – a nagging blight in neighborhoods of color since the foreclosure crisis;

- Create a renter's tax credit for consumers who pay more than 30% of their income on housing, thereby affording renters a comparable tax break to that of homeowners;

- Enact a Presidential Commission on Reparations comprised of lawmakers and diverse perspectives of community organizations and advocates who would together formulate 10-year goals to undo the legacy of anti-Black federal housing policy, establish long-term household, community, regional, and national metrics to track success in achieving the goals; and

- Guarantee all low-income families a home by passing legislation to make housing choice vouchers an entitlement for eligible families and create 500,000 new vouchers for families with children under age six.

The urgency of America's housing needs during the pandemic are poignantly analyzed in the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies' (JCHS) State of the Nation's Housing 2020, an annual report that analyzes the changes and challenges in American housing.

As of last September, the Black-White homeowner-ship gap stood at 31%, according to the annual report. Additionally, 49% of renters and 36% of homeowners experienced employment income loss between March and September of last year.

Those marketplace dynamics contributed to late rental payments that also reflected racial disparities affecting 10% of Whites, but 23% of Blacks and 20% of Latinos.

The JCHS report also found that from 2019 to 2020, the total number of homeless people grew in part because 17,000 more people needed shelter. In all, America's homeless that could be measured came in at 568,000 people.

"Widespread calls for racial justice have pointed out the high degree of residential segregation and economic inequality that still exists in the US," says Daniel McCue, a JCHS Senior Research Associate. "In fact, the sharp racial disparities in housing are both a cause and a consequence of other social in-

equalities."

For people of color, the combination of concentrated poverty and underrepresentation in higher income areas leads to nearly two-thirds of poor Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans living in communities with poverty rates above 20% -- nearly twice that of the share of poor Whites. They also have far higher cost-burden housing rates and a disproportionately large share of the nation's homeless.

For Nikitra Bailey, Executive Vice President of the Center for Responsible Lending, President Biden's Racial Equity Initiative is "a critical first step by his Administration to address injustices that are holding our country back" and "will help to move the na-

tion closer to its ideals and center solutions to discrimination that hinder opportunity, allowing marginalized communities to move closer to equal justice under law."

"Prioritizing racial equity is needed at the outset, and fully implementing the Fair Housing Act of 1968 as part of a comprehensive racial equity agenda is essential to expanding opportunity for all Americans," she added. "These actions give Black and Brown families an opportunity to live free of discrimination and participate fully in the economy."

Charlene Crowell is a Senior Fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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ESSENCE appoints executive team to lead company's strategic realignment, innovation focus and community impact

ESSENCE, the leading and only 100% Black-owned media, technology and commerce company at scale dedicated to Black women and communities, today announced updates to its executive leadership team. These appointments are part of the final phases of the restructuring process aimed at positioning the company for continued growth and maximum impact following its acquisition from Time Inc.

To date, this transformation has included, among other focus areas, building critical operational infrastructure across finance, human resources and technology; making significant investments across ESSENCE Magazine, digital, e-commerce and experiential platforms – resulting in the brand almost doubling its reach over three years; expanding platforms for other culturally-rooted entrepreneurs and businesses that create economic opportunities for Black communities; introducing heightened capabilities, technology, products and touch points that super-serve the interests of Black women locally and globally – including the launch of ESSENCE Studios streaming platform; refining organizational culture and accountability; and developing a new strategic framework and targeted partner engagement approach – with more to come.

To continue the critical work that they have been leading, Essence Communications, Inc. (ESSENCE) has appointed the following to its C-suite and senior leadership team, effective immediately:

Caroline Wanga, Chief Executive Officer, ESSENCE (& Chief Growth Officer, Essence Ventures) – Wanga, who has served as Interim CEO of ESSENCE for seven months, has been officially appointed as Chief Executive Of-

ficer. She joined Essence Ventures, parent company of ESSENCE, as Chief Growth Officer in 2020 from Target Corporation, where she served as Chief Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Officer.

Wanga began her Target career in supply chain, serving in a variety of transformational leadership roles, including modernizing Supply Chain, Business Intelligence, Digital and Strategy capabilities.

Prior to that, she held several non-profit roles. Among other accolades, Wanga has been named Top Executive in Corporate Diversity by Black Enterprise and recognized at Savoy Most Powerful Women in Corporate America, as well as is a member of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC), the Talladega College Board of Trustees and the American Airlines Community Council. She previously served on the Intersectionality, Culture, and Diversity Advisory Board for Twitter and as co-chair of the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. Wanga, who was born in Kenya, is an innovative and inspirational thought leader and public speaker and earned her bachelor's degree from HBCU Texas College.

Latraviette D. Smith-Wilson, Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer – Smith-Wilson, who also serves as Chief Strategy Officer for Essence Ventures (parent company of ESSENCE), has joined ESSENCE as Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer. In this

newly-created role, the following teams will report to her: Business Development/Sales, Marketing, Content, Creative, Experiential, Video, and Stakeholder Engagement (PR, talent, and strategic partnerships).

With 20-plus years of global experience building brands through a lens of purpose, social impact and inclusion and a career spanning journalism, marketing & communications, DEI and business strategy, Smith-Wilson has worked and held senior leadership roles across newsrooms, agencies, Fortune 100 companies, and entrepreneurial ecosystems, including Sundial Brands/Unilever, American Express, Edelman, Deloitte and National Urban League.

She has been recognized by Black Enterprise – Next Generation Women of Power, Café Mocha – Powerhouse Award/Outstanding Business Leadership, Ebony – Women Up, and Forbes – Black Women Leaders to Follow, among others. Smith-Wilson is a board member and the immediate past Chair of the Board of Harlem United and has previously served on the board of the PRSA Foundation and as the Diversity & Inclusion columnist for PRWeek.

She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and received her double-major bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University and her Master's Degree from New York University.

Avani Patel, Chief Operating Officer – Patel, who previously served as Chief of Staff & Vice President in the Office of the CEO, has been promoted to Chief Operating Officer.

In this role, she will lead the Technology, Finance,

and Human Resources functions. A veteran of the technology industry, her career spans product launch, management / operations and consulting across Fortune 500 companies and start-ups.

Patel previously led technology at Sundial Brands/Unilever, as well as professional services at Verizon / Totality Corp. She has PMP and Six Sigma Black Belt certifications and received her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.

Cori Murray, Deputy Editor – Murray, who joined ESSENCE in 1999 and has held various editor roles across the organization, has been promoted to Deputy Editor. In this role, she will lead the brand's editorial content team across print and digital, as well as magazine operations. Murray led the team

behind the Jan/Feb 2021 Rihanna + Lorna Simpson cover, and most recently served as Entertainment and Talent Director, curating and editing the celebrity and culture content for ESSENCE's editorial and digital platforms.

She also cohosts the brand's leading podcast – Yes, Girl! – which is a two-time Webby Award-nominated podcast and has received 5+ million downloads.

Murray has served as a cultural critic for numerous outlets, including CNN, MSNBC, and Access Hollywood, had articles published in outlets including the Associated Press and Vibe, and been featured on Stoop Talks (Luminary) and Going Through It with Tracy Clayton (Mailchimp) podcasts.

She was also featured in the OWN documentary, Light Girls, and contributed to the anthology, He Never Came Home: Interviews, Stories, and Essays from Daughters on

Life Without Their Fathers (Agate Bolden). Murray received her bachelor's degree from HBCU Hampton University.

Stephanie Hodges-Dunivan – Vice President, Experiential, Branded Content & Video – Hodges-Dunivan (aka NöNe), who most recently served as Executive Producer, has been promoted to Vice President, Experiential, Branded Content & Video. With nearly 20 years'

experience in television and digital production, she joined ESSENCE in 2017 to lead video production for ESSENCE Festival and events and took over ESSENCE Video in 2018, leading the team to develop programming that has since catapulted video performance to record-breaking

See ESSENCE, Page 11



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Award-winning filmmaker, genealogist reveals intimate truth and personal histories of Upper 9th Ward Desire Community

By Eddie Ponds
THE Drum publisher

MAURICE, La. — Genealogist Leonard Smith III has been bridging the gap between Louisiana's past and present.

Smith is a prolific film producer from New Orleans who has created an immense body of work reflecting the misrepresented and forgotten history of Black Americans, including the history the Desire Housing Complex and the New Orleans Upper Ninth Ward community where he grew up.

Smith refers to himself as a renaissance man who spends time with the people who live the stories. He said he has a deep and abiding love to educate, entertain, and inspire others to tell their story.

Since 1975, he has been involved in every aspect of historical research from genealogy, photography, technology, storytelling, filmmaking, and music. He has also authored "A Beginner's Guide to Searching Family History" which is available on Amazon.

"I share with the reader the benefit of the many years I have spent interviewing relatives, digging through courthouse records, traveling to historic sites, searching websites, and rediscovering the stories of those who came before us," he wrote.

Through his cinematography company, LS3 Studios, he has produced award-winning documentaries of musicians, institutions, and family histories.

His most recently acclaimed project, "A Place Called Desire," was a finalist for Best Documentary in the San Diego Black Film Festival and a semifinalist in the Rootstech 1st Film Fest. It won a Silver Telly Award and a Gold Digital AVA Award. It was also nominated for the 2020 LEH Humanities Documentary Film of the Year



"This story of trials and tribulations teaches us, as only a few stories can, about the essential wisdom of pushing through when times get tough, learning to fight against all odds. (It tells) how many people in Desire preserved with grit and courage," said Leonard Smith III, genealogist and award-winning filmmaker. (Photo: via NNPA)

and made an official selection for the New Orleans and the San Francisco Black Film Festival.

"A Place Called Desire" tells a powerful story with narration that incorporates photographs and 8mm home movies of the Desire Community.

More than 60 individuals were interviewed about their lives in "a place that is not the same one that is often portrayed," Smith said. New Orleans librarian Valencia Hawkins assisted with the research for the documentary and with its production.

"There were struggles, many struggles, but there were also strengths and positives in this tight-knit community of thousands," said Smith.

"This story of trials and tribulations teaches us, as only a few stories can, about the essential wisdom of pushing through when times get tough, learning to fight against all odds. (It tells) how many people in Desire preserved with grit and courage."

Smith said he continues to research the Desire Community even though the documentary is complete.

"One thing I've always said is 'Don't ever give someone else the pen to write your story,'" Smith said during an interview on Nurturing Our Roots with Antoinette Harrell.

Smith's creative team of producers and writers at LS3 Studios are dedicated to educating, entertaining,

and inspiring audiences through innovative storytelling. The projects reveal Smith's compelling storytelling and intuitive access to archives and information.

LS3 Studio offers a variety of services that include image and audio editing, production of broadcast quality video and multimedia presentations, custom photography, and web development.

The independent studio which is based in Maurice, La. has produced "From Shanghai to Harlem," winner of the Gold AVA Award and Bronze Telly; "The 100th Anniversary of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church," winner of two Bronze Telly Awards; and "A Legend in the Classroom-The Life Story of Ms. Yvonne Busch" winner of the AVA Platinum Award, Hermes Gold Award, and Bronze Telly Award.

LS3Studios has produced projects for Xavier University of Louisiana, Black and Indian Mission Office of Washington DC, Treme Charter School Association, Dillard University, The Iberia African American Historical Society, The Josephites, Terrebonne Genealogical Society, OW Dillion Preservation Organization, the Louisiana Recovery School District, and many others.

The studio brings the benefits of the internet and digital video technology to small businesses, individual, schools, and not for profit institutions.



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Sundance 2021: Black talent and great films shine

In the year of virtual/hybrid film festivals, the annual Sundance Film Festival adapted its programming to reach viewers around the world in the safety of their homes or at socially-distanced indoor and outdoor venues.

Docs, dramatic films, shorts, series and other variations of video programming screened under the tutelage of new festival director Tabitha Jackson. She's the first person of African heritage to take on that role and made sure Black talent and an international array of directors, writers, producers and actors flourished under Sundance's big tent.

BLACK FILMS, FILMMAKERS AND ARTISTS

Ailey (*)** - Gifted artists create a spirit so strong that it lives on after they're gone. That's the case with legendary choreographer/dancer Alvin Ailey. Documentary director Jamila Wignot records the history, evolution and continuation of Ailey's work during the renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 60th anniversary year. Choreographer Rennie Harris is in the midst of creating a dance piece dedicated to Ailey's style and he puts his mission into context: "A dancer is a physical historian. Valued community information is stored in a dancer's body." Former members of AAADT and other admirers reflect and pay tribute to their mentor. Judith Jamison: "Alvin breathed in. We are his breath out. That's what we're living on." Bill T. Jones: "Choreography was his catharsis." Director Jamila Wignot, with photos, footage, performances and vintage interviews with Ailey, displays a genius's life that was also brushed with tragedy.

Faya Dayi (*)** - We know coffee. We know marijuana. But Ethiopian culture centers around a different drug, khat. It's a stimulant bound in the leaves of a flowering plant native to the East African country and contains alkaloid cathinone, which



causes euphoria, appetite suppression and excitement. Khat chewing is a thousands-of-years-old social custom and the harvesting of the plant is more than a ritualistic tradition, it's an industry. Filmmaker Jessica Beshir's contemplative debut documentary captures the lives centered around khat production. Harvesters, sellers buyers. Dads who make their children leave school to help them farm. Offspring who want a better life and consider immigrating to Europe despite the danger: "We shouldn't have to perish in the desert or seas to enrich our lives." Shot in stunningly beautiful black and white, the camera lingers on photogenic faces, arched doorways and shadowy figures against windowpanes. Not an ordinary fact-filled doc. The slow pacing is not for the restless. More a feeling, a meditation and a work of art that makes today's life in Ethiopia look very mid-century.

Homeroom (**)** - "F-k it. I'm a senior!" That's the bravura spirit of the senior class of 2020 at Oakland High School in this profound and revealing documentary by Emmy Award-winning director/cinematographer Peter Nicks. In the beginning, the anticipation of prom and graduation comes across as just a universal rite of passage. Under closer scrutiny, issues surrounding COVID, racism, immigration, gentrification and police presence on campus are affecting academic life. Leading the students through the social, political and educational minefields are student leaders like Denilson Garibo, the La-

tino son of undocumented immigrants. He's fearless: "Our kids will open up history books looking at their parents fighting for history." Equally enlightened is African American student Dewayne Davis: "To make a change in school you have to make a change in environment. Survival comes first. Some kids have no food on the table, no place to sleep." Sit back adults and get schooled by a younger generation of outspoken activists who just may fix adults' biggest mistakes. A joy to watch. Dramatic and uplifting.

Judas and the Black Messiah (*)** - "Prevent the rise of a black messiah," dictates J. Edgar Hoover (Martin Sheen), Director of the FBI. So, in the late '60s, local Chicago con-artist hustler William O'Neal (LaKeith Stansfield) is drafted and coerced into joining the Black Panthers. His job is to inform and set up the charismatic Fred Hampton (Daniel Kaluuya), the 21-year-old chairman of the Black Panther Party's Illinois chapter. Screenwriter/director Shaka King (Newlyweeds) along with cinematographer Sean Bobbitt (12 Years a Slave), production designer Sam Lisenco, art director Jeremy Woolsey and composers Craig Harris and Mark Isham set the time, place and mood perfectly—with a film noir effect.

Courage, deceit and rage are displayed in powerful performances by Stansfield, Kaluuya and Dominique Fishback as Hampton's wife. Wish the camerawork was more kinetic, the intelligent dialogue less dominating and

that the storyline focused more on the leader and less on the rat, a scourge on the black community. Still, it's thoroughly engaging from a historical standpoint. A cautionary tale that should stick with audiences—forever. As Hampton says after a colleague's death: "You can murder a freedom fighter, but you can't murder freedom."

Life in a Day 2020 (*)** - Everyday life around the world has keen differences yet many similarities. This crowdsourced documentary, by award-winning director Kevin Macdonald, is proof. It's been compiled from 324,000 videos

from 192 countries and gives poignant glimpses of the struggles and joys of people coping and flourishing in 2020, during a pandemic. A Black doctor sings opera before surgery. Kids go to sleep cradling their smart phones, while a rooster wakes neighbors in another corner of the globe. Home schooling, living in cars, milking goats—the variance in daily routines reminds us that the world turns regardless and its people live on. What's missing among the scattershot anecdotes are title pages that group clips. Pausing and giving sections specific themes would have

anchored and organized the video feeds. That would put them in a greater context, enhance the kaleidoscopic experience and help viewers focus. A heartwarming collage. An illuminating and humanizing reflection of 21st century life.

Ma Belle My Beauty (*)** - Is three really a crowd? Not in this triad love story. A newlywed French/Spanish husband, Fred (Lucien Guignard), has a plan to help his African American wife Bertie (Idella Johnson) get over her depression. He invites her white ex-lover, Lane

See SUNDANCE, Page 12



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ESSENCE, from Page 8

levels in the company's 50-year history, including a 145% increase in video views in 2020.

Hodges-Dunivan also led the production charge for the first-ever virtual Essence Festival of Culture in 2020, which garnered 70 million views of Festival-related content, with more than 45 million full streams across all platforms. She has previously worked at Inside Edition and BET, where she was Senior Producer at 106 & Park and produced Red Carpet Specials for the BET Awards and Soul Train Awards. While there, she also produced the first-ever live game show in a mobile app. Hodges-Dunivan received her bachelor's degree from Hunter College – The City University of New York.

Wanga said, "Since the beginning of time, Black women have been changing lives, changing com-

munities, and changing the world – and most often have not been recognized for it.

While we may still be fighting for the C-Suite in Corporate America, we have held practically every seat in the C-Suite of our lives – Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Marketing Officer, Chief Communications Officer, Chief Wellness Officer, Chief Strategy Officer and the list goes on. It is what we do, and for the past 50 years, the evolution of Black women's history -- and thus, the evolution of the Black woman – has been captured and curated in one place and one place only – ESSENCE. I could not be more excited for the opportunity to serve this cornerstone of Black culture into its next phase of growth, innovation and impact alongside this incred-

ible team of accomplished women.

ESSENCE has at our disposal some of the most recognized, trusted and treasured assets through which to engage Black women and our communities in service to not just surviving, but thriving, and we are grateful for our broader teams across the organization who demonstrate commitment every day to ensuring that we are building our capabilities in service to that purpose.

Moving forward, we will be bringing this to life through a three-pillar focus – Culture, Equity and Celebration—and are driving each of those through a prioritized set of goals that include engaging the global Black diaspora, leveraging an inclusive and multigenerational approach, optimizing our 360-integrated capability including virtual and live agility, capitalizing on our first-party data and research to uncover key in-

sights and more."

Smith-Wilson added, "When ESSENCE was founded 50 years ago, it had a very clear mandate – to show, empower and celebrate the many facets of Black women and to do so understanding the power of media images and the importance of controlling our own narrative.

Today, in a season where almost everyone professes to care about the needs of Black women and particularly in this time of national and global reckoning on the systemic injustices that we face as Black women and as a Black community, this mandate is ever-more

clear and critical as we put an even deeper stake in the ground that our culture is not a trend or a marketing opportunity. Today, more than 31 million Black women globally call ESSENCE home.

Home is the place where we lay our heads, our hearts, our insecurities, our fears, our aspirations, and

our dreams. It is where we return to be renewed and restored. That is ESSENCE – equipping her with what she needs to lead in all areas of her life. Black women are speaking. Black women are leading. Black women are continuing to change the world as we know it. We always have, and we always will."

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Cellco Partnerships and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless proposes to build a 39-foot Monopole Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 4613 Regent Blvd., Irving, Dallas County, Texas 75063, Lat: 32-55-53.5116, Long: -97-0-39.6. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1153085.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. **HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Trileaf Corp, Hannah, h.jordan@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704 512-519-9388.*



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SUNDANCE, from Page 10

(Hannah Pepper-Cunningham), to their chateau in the South of France. Be careful what you ask for. New writer/director Marion Hill takes her sweet time laying out the story, rivalries, jealousies and flirtations. Initially, the slow pacing may give you pause. But if you endure, the middle of Act II to the end of Act III has great rewards. The low on the melodrama and high on the personal approach works as you invest feelings in the characters and their buried or frayed emotions. Bertie, Fred and Lane seem so familiar it's almost like you're spying on your friends. Johnson and Pepper-Cunningham radiate a sensuality that is captivating and peaks in a well-staged, erotically lit bedroom scene. Bertie: "I'm not gonna lie, I miss having sex with women."

The more "lesbian centric" the film gets, the more enjoyable *Ma Belle...* becomes. The visually stunning South of France countryside deserves second billing.

Passing (*)** - Late 1920s New York. When Irene Redfield (Tessa Thompson, *Sylvie's Love*), a light-skinned African American, lowers her hat people can barely figure out she is Black. Her childhood friend Clare Kendry (Ruth Negga *Loving*), is so light she and her blonde wig have hoodwinked the handsome, rich white racist man John (Alexander Skarsgård) into marriage. One day after re-discovering each other in a restaurant, the two catch up on old times. Claire: "Do you pass?" Irene: "Sometimes." Later, John, thinking his wife is a tan Caucasian, jokes to Irene: "Claire

almost looks like a n---r." That's when Clare's masquerade repulses Irene and she ditches her. Offended, and hurt, Clare stalks her old friend, insinuating herself into Irene's family life up in Harlem.

It's tough to create a story around a dated theme that's been covered before in classics like *Pinky* (1951) and *Imitation of Life* (1959). First-time writer/director Rebecca Hall (actress in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*) uses Nella Larsen's 1929 novel *Passing* as her step-off. She paints her visions like an artist.

Negga and Thompson play their characters so well it's as if they just stepped out of the Turner Classics Movies channel. Their voices, banter, mannerisms and style of walking is so '20s you'd expect Zora Neale Hurston and Josephine Baker to walk around the corner. André

Holland as Irene's doctor husband is debonair. The premise is so repugnant, audiences may flinch at the prospect of watching a social/racial malady that should have never existed. If they do, they will miss an impeccable recreation of the Harlem Renaissance era—warts and all.

Summer of Soul (... Or When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised) (**)** - It was a volatile time. Malcom and Martin had been assassinated in recent years. Civil uprisings and riots had just simmered down. The summer of '69 was a chance for a cultural break. That happened in Harlem's Mt. Morris Park, when program

director Tony Lawrence created the summer long Harlem Cultural Festival. Three-hundred thousand music lovers. Few to no cops in sight. The Black Panthers provided security. It's a mellow celebration. Tonight Show musical director Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson flicked the moth balls off the footage shot by producer/director Hal Tulchin for an unreleased 1969 doc called *Black Woodstock*. It had languished in a basement for 50 years. Among the many stellar performances: R&B artists (BB King, Little Stevie Wonder, Sly and the Family Stone); jazz greats (Abby Lincoln, Nina Simone, Mongo Santamaria)

and gospel singers (The Staple Singers, The Edwin Hawkins Singers, Mahalia Jackson). Mayor John V. Lindsay makes a cameo and activists like Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton share their opinions on music and the state of Black life. Sharpton: "Gospel was more than religion. Gospel was the therapy for the stress and pressure of being Black in America."

For more information about the annual Sundance Film Festival go to: <https://www.sundance.org/festivals/sundance-film-festival/about>.

Visit NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com and BlackPressUSA.com.

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ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. **HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS** – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Thomas Johnston, t.johnston@trileaf.com, 2550 S IH-35, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704 512-519-9388.

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Ongoing City of Dallas

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For more info and to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2NcFvVP>.



Ongoing House of Blues

Want a cool job in live music? House of Blues Dallas is hiring! Spruce up your resume and join us on Monday, August 26th for a Job Fair in our Cambridge Room from 1-5PM. All departments are hiring. View job openings at <http://livenationentertainment.com/careers>.

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NOTICE: *New You, Pastor Woodson serves the community by providing "Professional Therapy and Counseling Services" on a "Sliding Fee" scale. To schedule an appointment call the Pastoral Counseling Center at 972-526-4525 or email the church at www.bethelbiblefellowship.org*

Note: Until further notice, all services at Bethel church will be via Video-

Conferencing and perhaps other churches as well; log on individual churches websites for details. See Bethel's website www.bethelbiblefellowship.org for their details because of the Coronavirus.

February 14, 9:45 am

Please join us in our quiet time, "Prayer and Meditation" followed by Morning Worship. You will be blessed and inspired as we celebrate service to God, our community and all mankind.

February 17, 7 pm

You are invited to join us via video-conferencing for

Prayer and Bible Study from 7 to 8:45 pm as we pray for the world's Coronavirus. In Wednesday's Bible we are studying Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster, Chapter 5.

Senior Pastor
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See CHURCH, Page 14

Dr. Terrance Woodson,



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Bearers of Christian Hope: Connecting others to a better life

By Jacquinet Murphy
NDG Special Contributor

Whether Pastor Vincent and First Lady Bobbie Carrington of Hope Church of Dallas are delivering God-inspired messages in word and song to their multigenerational congregation or connecting families to the home of their dreams, they are giving hope.

The Carringtons, who are both millennials, have led the Hope Church, located at 3822 Boulder Drive in Dallas, Texas, for the last eight years, after serving the church in prior years under its founding leadership, Pastor Bobby and Janice Silmon.

Pastor Carrington recalled working under Pastor Silmon's tutelage and reflected on the genuine love he had for others and his sacrifices for the ministry. "He was a giver. If he had it, it was yours. He was a



Hope Church pastors and real estate entrepreneurs, Vincent and Bobbie Carrington enjoy spending quality time at home with their three children, Vincent II, Evan and BreAnna, playing games, watching movies and creating memorable moments. (Courtesy photo)

faithful, servant leader who sacrificed for the ministry."

Building on this foundation, Pastor Carrington is known for his innovative approach and delivering a sound word of God with clarity that even a child could understand the Scriptures.

"Seeing him grow in his faith as a musician and become a minister to share what God has birthed in him with such clarity and such a simple delivery is amazing and impactful, said Lady Carrington. "It impacts my life as a follower of Christ even now weekly."

The Carringtons were raised in a non-denominational, Pentecostal Holiness family where their parents served as pastors of a congregation. Pastor Carrington, originally from Houston, recalled a high school encounter that personally transformed his life.

"I was raised in the church and my father was a minister, but I remember one of my teachers who asked the question 'What do you find fascinating about the dark side?' A student responded, 'There is no proof that there is a God,' said Pastor Carrington.

He recalled his utter silence because although he knew what he believed and had been in church his entire life, he could not furnish proof to make an unbeliever believe in God.

"Not long after this, I had some conversations with friends about angels and their extraordinary experiences and I began recalling numerous testimonies from church people and even from my parents. I realized that this is the proof."

This experience gave birth to a personal hunger for answers and to know God. He continued studying the Scriptures to under-

stand the infallible proofs of God's existence, ultimately developing a genuine desire to follow Christ.

"I began to realize that my life was not promised. So, instead of waiting until 40 to 50 years of age or older to live right, I said, 'why not do it now?'" said Pastor Carrington.

Pastor Carrington deepened his faith and intently nurtured his relationship with God, which remained strong even as he left home to attend college at the University of North Texas in Denton. He surrounded himself with like-minded friends through the university's gospel choir, bible studies, and worship experiences.

Unbeknownst to him, Lady Carrington also began her college journey at the same school and cam-

See HOPE, Page 15

CHURCH, from Page 13

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH IN ALLEN "THE SHIP" We are Saving You a Seat!

Check "The Ship's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

February 14

You are invited to join us in our Sunday Morning Services as we praise and worship God in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall, followed by our Worship Services; and bring someone with you, you will be blessed. It's for God's glory and honor.

February 17, 7 pm

Join us in our Wednesday's 12 Noon-Day Live, Prayer and Bible Study class and/or our Wednesday Night Live, Prayer and Bible Study at 7 p.m. to learn more about God's Word. Be encouraged by God's plan for your maturity and His glory; and most of all; be prepared to grow.

Dr. W. L. Stafford, Sr., Ed. D.
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"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there will not be room to receive."

- Malachi 3:8-10

Check "IBOC's" website for details of their services until further notice because of the Coronavirus.

February 12, 7 pm

All men are invited to Men's Ministry meeting each Friday night at 8 pm, (IBOC promotes proactive male leadership.)

February 14, 10 a.m.

Join us for our Morning Service; and don't forget to invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

February 15, 7 pm

You are invited to Monday School to see what God has to say to us in His Holy Word.

Pastor Rickie Rush
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February 14, 8 and 11 am

You are invited to our Worship Services as we

honor God for His goodness and faithfulness.

February 15, 7 to 8 pm Every Monday Night

Sister II Sister (Women's Mission) in the Main Fellowship Hall and the Men II Men Bible Study in the

Youth Church Sanctuary (Chapel).

February 17, 7 pm

You're invited to our Wednesday's Bible Study class; you will learn what God has to say to us. Come and be encouraged by

God's plan for your spiritual growth and His glory.

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Black History facts continue



**Sister
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Robert R. Taylor, (June 8, 1868 – December 13, 1942) was an American architect; and by some the most prolific contributor to Tuskegee University's structural design and the namesake of its architecture and construction school will soon be remembered with the launch of a new U.S. postage stamp.

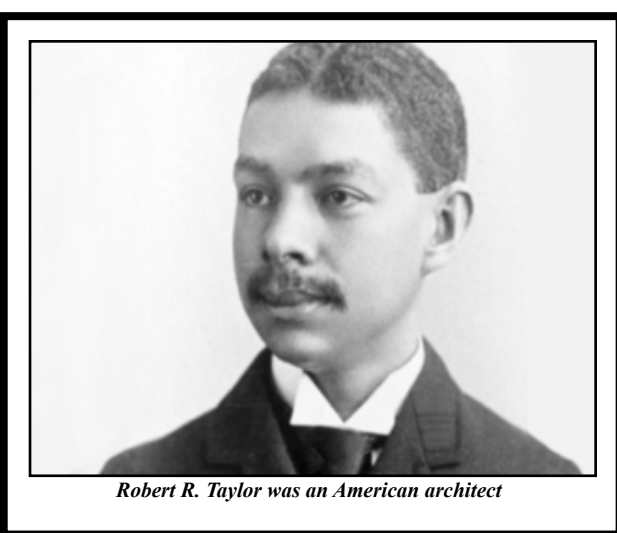
On today, February 12, the United States Postal Service will issue a limited edition of the Forever Stamp of Robert Robinson Taylor. The stamp is the 38th addi-

tion to the service's Black Heritage series.

Taylor is believed to have been both the first Black graduate of MIT, he enrolled at MIT in 1888; and he is the country's first academically trained Black architect.

The Taylor stamp will be officially introduced during a ceremony today at 11 a.m. EST in the atrium of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

Tuskegee University president, Dr. Brian L. Johnson, will bring remarks, along with Valerie Jarrett, Taylor's great granddaughter and senior advisor to President Barack Obama, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) president Rafael Reif.



Robert R. Taylor was an American architect

A celebration of the stamp's launch is also planned at Tuskegee University for later this month.

Recruited by Tuskegee's first president, Booker T. Washington, Taylor came to the university in 1892 and spent nearly his entire

career teaching, developing the architecture and construction trade program, and designing more than 20 campus buildings until his death in 1942.

He was also the architect of The Oaks, Washington's home and modern day his-

toric site. Many of his historic campus buildings still stand and are used today.

Taylor served as second-in-command to its founder and first President, Booker T. Washington.

In 1898, he married Beatrice Rochon Taylor, they had four children. After Beatrice died in 1906, he got remarried in 1912 to Nellie Chestnut Taylor, they had one child.

Taylor died while attending services in the Tuskegee Chapel, the building that he considered his most outstanding achievement as an architect.

The housing project in

Chicago, Robert Taylor Homes, was named after his son, Robert Rochon Taylor, a civic leader, communist and former Chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority.

While attending MIT, in June 1890 and again in September 1891, he was recommended for the Loring Scholarship, which he held for two consecutive academic years: 1890-1891 and 1891-1892.

At the MIT faculty meeting on May 26, 1892, Taylor was one of twelve students in Course IV recommended for the degree in architecture.

See FACTS, Page 16

HOPE, from Page 14

pus. The two eventually met while attending a choir performance. Over time learned of their very similar backgrounds and beliefs. Both were children of church pastors, musicians actively working in the church, the college gospel choir, majoring in business, and earnestly living a God-driven life.

"I have always been a part of the holiness church, and for me to see someone who grew up in the same vein and understood the life of a preacher's child made it so much easier to communicate. I saw that he had a God heart, music heart, and familiarity. It was nice to see that there were young people my age who really loved the Lord and actively participated in their church just as much as I did. We had so much in common, it just made life make sense to me," said Lady Carrington.

Pastor Carrington also began his journey in ministry while in college. He started sharing his faith and the revelations he received from God's word during the nightly bible study sessions hosted by a close friend.

"It was during the bible studies that I felt the call to share with others what God had given me and just to let

God order my steps in ministry."

His steps led him to the HOPE Church, where he leads as God orders, especially during these unprecedented times.

Like many churches during the COVID-19 pandemic, HOPE Church streams worship services online to their social platforms. It was an adjustment, but the Carringtons can see that this gave their small congregation another outreach method to reach the community.

"Watching the followers grow after posting the services, we were amazed when looking at the analytics and algorithms to see how many people were blessed by something that happened in the service," said Lady Carrington. "This was not true in the traditional sense unless you captured it real good and people bought the video. We can utilize our time differently to give the Lord a digital way to reach the people."

While digital services are the primary way most of the congregation engages in worship right n, the shift in method did not change the ministry's message or mission. Whether people click

to worship or walk through the sanctuary doors, Pastor Carrington still desires that people feel the church's name manifestation.

"There are so many things to be down about with the pandemic. Many families and friends are transitioning, we are wearing masks, and people have to be distant from each other, and even the country's climate has so much tension, said Rev. Carrington. "I want people to know that there is hope outside of what we can see, and no matter what is going on, our true hope is in Christ Jesus."

As faithful stewards of the house of God and work of the ministry, the Carringtons are noted for their Christian leadership in their real estate conglomerate, ONE Relocation Group of Keller Williams, an industry advocacy firm for buyers, sellers, or investors.

"I grew up serving with my mom and learned that it has to be done with excellence, and this is at the heart of what we do in our church and our business," said Lady Carrington. "We serve people in business with the same spirit of excellence that we do at the church when we are serving Christ."

The Carringtons are the parents of three young chil-

dren. The oldest of the two are active in the work of the ministry. When they are not serving in the church or working in their company, the family enjoys spending time together watching movies and staying close around the house, the family's safe place.

To experience the word and worship services Sundays at 11 a.m. at Hope Church, you can attend the services virtually online via www.hopechurchdallas.org via Facebook @HOPE-ChurchDallas or on Instagram @hcdallas.

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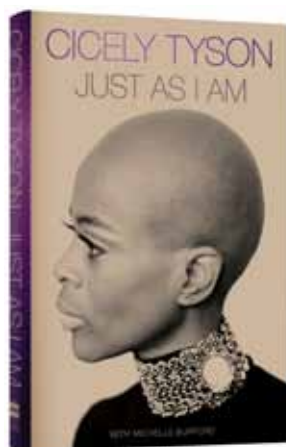
NDG Book Review: 'Just As I Am' is a great pick for fans

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Man, you're picky.

That's not always a bad thing, either. You know what you want so you choose deliberately, carefully, with plenty of thought behind it. What's right for you is right for you and you won't take anything less. As in the new memoir "Just As I Am" by Cicely Tyson (with Michelle Burford), folks'll just have to deal with it.

Born in New York City a few days before Christmas 1924, Cicely Tyson's first real memory was of a place, one where her par-



ents fought, physically and verbally, over her father's infidelities. She was sensitive to everything she heard in the next room as she and her brother and sister slept on a pull-out couch, and

she recalled times when she tried to stop the brawling.

She was a good church-going girl then, and while her mother had ideas for Tyson's future, young Cicely knew she wanted a life that was different than that of her mother. Though she loved "the arts," she decided to become a hairdresser but before she could graduate from high school, Tyson became pregnant and was made to marry the baby's father.

Later divorced, she was working downtown when someone approached her on her lunchtime, asking her if she was a model. When she

said, "no," he told her that she should be one. Almost like in the movies, that led Tyson to a friend of a friend who signed her to an agency and there, she was spotted by someone else who knew of a movie director who hired her for her first role. He instructed Tyson to shave ten years off her age.

"Six decades would go by," she said, "before I let the public in on what was frankly never any of their business."

And that line should give you most of the encouragement you need to want to read "Just As I Am." Nobody could ever accuse the

late actor Cicely Tyson of being shy.

Even so, she wrote (with Michelle Burford) that she was initially a quiet child, and this, framed by a childhood tainted by Jim Crow racism and a stormy relationship with her mother, make up the bulk of the first half of the book. Tyson also wrote of a dangerous innocence that led to early motherhood; on that, she declines to call her daughter by name, which is an interesting aspect that differs from the usual Hollywood memoir.

One other way that "Just As I Am" stands out from

the usual: while Tyson name-drops here, it comes across less showy and more familiar, which is refreshing. Her lengthy – and carefully-managed, award-winning career – makes up the latter half of this book, as do tales of her loves, including the red-hot, on-again/off-again, frustrating romance with musician Miles Davis.

For fans of Cicely Tyson's work on stage and screen, this is a thorough look at more than just that career. Biography lovers will also want to know that if you're ready for your next book, "Just As I Am" is the one to pick.

FACTS, from Page 15

ture. The class of 1892 was the largest on record since MIT's founding.

His first building project on the Tuskegee University campus was the Science Hall (Thrasher Hall) completed in 1893. The new

Science Hall was constructed entirely by students, using bricks made also by students under Taylor's supervision.

The project epitomized Washington's philosophy of instilling in Tuskegee

students, the descendants of former enslaved Blacks, the value and dignity of physical labor and it provided an example to the world of the capabilities of Blacks in the building trades, and it underscored the larger potential of the manual training curricula being developed at

Tuskegee.

Taylor's father, Henry Taylor, worked as a carpenter and businessman, born a slave and freed as a

result of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation shortly after the American Civil War of 1861-1865.

His mother, Emily Still, was the daughter of freedmen even prior to the Civil War and he had four brothers and sisters.

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