

POINT OF VIEW

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Our Community News Magazine

october 1, 2014



688 Boston Road

2014-15 BRINGS SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES

“Other exciting news from the state this fall includes their designation of Brunton Elementary as a Level 1 school and Zanetti as a Commendation School for its significant and sustained turnaround achievements.”

By Superintendent Daniel J. Warwick – 6

HCS HEAD START IS TURNING 50

“The story behind the logo is so important to the mission and is a great piece of the Head Start story that powerfully speaks to the overarching goal of the program.”

By Nicole Blais – 7

MOMMY, MAKE ME HEALTHY

“The ability to provide a baby with a healthy start in life is precious.”

By Dr. Anika C. Thrower & Danielle Jurich – 10

WE ARE FERGUSON, MISSOURI

“The stories of unarmed black men being killed across the nation make one thing painfully clear: The killing of Black men in incidents that begin as investigatory police stops are anything but unusual in America.”

By Bishop Talbert W. Swan II – 13

FOR GOVERNOR: MAY THE BEST WO(MAN) WIN

“My big problem, though, is that my editor won’t bend to my wishes. Notice I didn’t say “bend to my will.” We are both strong-willed so if I make it a clash of wills, divorce might follow.”

By Frederick A. Hurst – 26

DR. WILLIAM DAVILA, “DR. PAPI”: DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS – UMASS AT SPRINGFIELD

By Frederick A. Hurst



Sitting down with Dr. William Anthony Davila, the new Director of UMass Center at Springfield (UMass Center) was more an experi-

ence than an interview. A Springfield native who was raised along with his two siblings by his mother in an income-challenged home, Will, as he is

called, absorbed the full benefit (as did his siblings) of the standards set by a mother who placed education at the forefront of her parenting.

It wasn’t easy raising a family by herself in the Liberty Heights and North End neighborhoods with limited means but Will’s mother, a semi-retired Human Services worker, met the challenge as demonstrated by Will’s success and the success of all of her kids. Her approach to raising children is a familiar model that many of us know well. She held high expectations for her kids and instilled standards in them that made their consciousness of higher education as normal as a good night’s sleep.

A product of Springfield public schools, Will graduated from the High

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VOTE NOVEMBER 4TH

Our Choices in Contested Races

Governor: See article on page 26

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Auditor: Suzanne Bump

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FOOL YOU!**

**VOTE
“NO”**

on Question 3!

Vote “NO” on the casino question if you **want** Springfield to have the MGM Grand Casino.

If you vote “YES,” you will be voting **against** having a casino in Springfield or anywhere else in Massachusetts.

SPRINGFIELD DAY AT THE BIG E



Springfield is well represented by Tony Pettaway and two of its finest, along with Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris, School Committee member Rosa Perez, City Councilor Justin Hurst, State Representative Angelo Puppolo, Mayor Domenic Sarno, School Committee Vice Chair Denise Hurst and City Councilor Orlando Ramos.

“After working for President Obama,

Eric Lesser has come home to serve our community and strengthen our schools.”



— Springfield City Councilor Justin Hurst and Springfield School Committee Member Denise Hurst

Parents, What Is Prescription Drug Misuse?

Taking someone else's prescription to self-medicate

Taking a prescription medication in a way other than prescribed

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<i>Black Sports International</i>	Melvin Wm. Bell, Editor	<i>Mama's Boyz</i>	Jerry Craft
<i>Call to the Cause</i>	Kirk Smith	<i>Op Ed</i>	Deb Goldberg
<i>Children's Book Corner</i>	Terri Schlichenmeyer		Mike Heffernan
<i>Community Info-CT</i>	Geneva Williams		Rebecca Willoughby
<i>Community Perspectives</i>	Bishop Talbert W. Swan, II	<i>Parents & Community</i>	Patricia Spradley
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<i>Education & Hope</i>	Gianna Allentuck		Juanita Torrence-Thompson
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<i>Financial Cents</i>	Walter D. Woodgett	<i>School Comm. Happenings</i>	Denise M. Hurst
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❖ **VOTE "NO" ON QUESTION 3!**

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AF-AM NEWS **b i t s**

By Frederick A. Hurst

OTHERS' BITS

A REASONABLE MAN: "If two people agree on everything, one of them is not thinking."

A POLITICIAN: "Sincerity is everything. And once you learn to fake it, everything else comes easy."

AN INDEPENDENT: "What Republicans do is talk a good game and don't do anything. What Democrats do is talk a good game and do the same old thing."

JUSTICE FOR DELANO WALKER, JR.

By the time interest and attorney fees are added to the 1.3 million dollar jury award against the city and police officer Sean Sullivan, who most certainly caused Delano Walker, Jr.'s death, the city of Springfield and officer Sullivan will owe close to \$2 million for violating Walker's civil rights and other charges. It doesn't happen often in Western Massachusetts when the plaintiff is Black and the defendant is a police officer but in this case, justice was done.

HYSTERIA DOES NOT APPEAL TO ME

Watching this media hysteria over Black football players accused of domestic violence and child abuse does not appeal to me. It is over the top and smacks of a "witch hunt." If every man who ever hit his wife or girl friend or whipped his kid were to lose his job, the unemployment rate would soar and many families would suffer. Certainly I don't condone such behavior and I support laws and rules that punish it. The law in the football cases seems to be working pretty well but the NFL rules, which are not working, were undefined, if not non-existent, until the recent media storm compelled the NFL to action. Now, the rules are far more slapstick than uniform and are being made applicable to these young Black athletes

after the fact. Under the Constitution, such ex post facto and vague "laws" would not be allowed. Because the NFL is not government, its officials can be scared into whatever actions the news-driven hysteria demands so we end up with the harshest punishments that even some of the alleged domestic violence victims, for good reason, oppose. Let's get the rules and the punishments straight and on the books and educate the players of the consequences of their actions and apply them going forward. I, for one, am not comfortable with "mob action" supplanting the rule of law especially when all the players subjected to it are Black.

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

The Affordable Care Act, popularly called "Obamacare," is fading as a Republican election issue. The fundamental cause is that Obamacare is working. And it is working in Republican strongholds such as Kentucky and Arkansas where Democratic candidates are touting it and Republicans are beginning to shy away from demonizing it. What a difference a day makes.

RON CHIMELIS IS PUERTO RICAN

The *Republican's* Ron Chimelis is a very good writer and I've always enjoyed reading his articles which cover an appealing and diverse terrain. But there was always something in his writing that puzzled me until I read his article, "Don't forget, Puerto Ricans are Americans too," in which he revealed that he is Puerto Rican. (August 29, 2014) A light went off in my head. It was his sensitivity range that puzzled me. Where did it come from? Whether he was writing on the opinion page or the sports page, something in his writing came through to me that gave the message that "this man is something more than he appears to be." And it was only after I read "Don't forget,

Puerto Ricans are Americans too" that I understood what it was. As his article so clearly messaged, he is both Puerto Rican and American and a Puerto Rican in America. He also has Anglo features. And because he doesn't trumpet his Puerto Rican heritage, he has been privy to a side of the American racial and ethnic experience that is unadulterated, undeniable and unfiltered as White Americans spill their true thoughts on the table before him. I truly don't know which is worse, having White folks tell you the bigoted truth because they don't know you are not White or knowing the bigoted truth and having them hide it from you because they know who you are. Having had a relative on my father's side who deliberately passed for White to overcome the limitations of segregation, I now regret not having been curious enough to probe the effect on him. Ron Chimelis didn't hide like my relative did. He just didn't trumpet his ethnicity like some of us do until his insightful article put down the notion held by so many Americans that Puerto Ricans are immigrants, Puerto Rico is not part of America and Puerto Ricans are not Americans. All are incorrect. And I genuinely hope Chimelis felt some pleasure setting others straight. But more precisely, I now know why I am so attracted to his writings which unabashedly, though so subtly, reflect the depth and diversity of his human experiences.

AT LEAST WE'RE TALKING

"Democrats are significantly more trusted on a variety of middle-class issues. But the public critique of the GOP is not merely: "They don't care enough about the middle class." It is rather: They don't care enough about the whole." The Republican task is not merely to shift an impression of interest-group allegiance away from big business and toward suburban families (though this would be an improvement). It is to demonstrate that conservative ideology is applicable to the common good....In this effort, outreach to African-Americans is actually cen-

tral. A party that does not forthrightly address the single largest source of division in American history and American life – now dramatized in the tear gas haze of Ferguson, Mo. – is not morally or intellectually serious." (*Washington Post's* Michael Gerson as reprinted in *The Republican*, August 20 2014)

FACTS SELDOM SHARED

First term President Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, was expected to lose re-election to General George McClellan, the lackluster Civil War general whom he had replaced because of his reluctance to fight. It was assumed Lincoln would lose. In desperation, Lincoln and the Republicans decided to dump the sitting Vice President, Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, "a staunch abolitionist, and replaced him with Democrat Andrew Johnson, a former slave owner and a deep-dyed racist...For Lincoln, it was pure political calculation: what he most urgently needed was support from wavering war Democrats, and he banked on Johnson delivering enough of their votes to swing the election." The tide of war turned in Lincoln's favor and he was re-elected by a large margin but, "five months later Lincoln would be dead – and the nation would be haunted by his decision to put Johnson on the ticket. Abolitionist Hannibal Hamlin would have protected former slaves and punished those who defied federal laws. The nation would have experienced a genuine Reconstruction and not have had to wait a century for the Civil Rights Movement....Instead, President Johnson pushed forward against the will of Congress the rapid restoration of Southern states toward their prewar status, often with ex-Confederates still in control of the levers of power. He also tolerated horrific reprisals against blacks who attempted to exercise their newly won freedoms." (Read the full article by author Fergus Bordewich writing for *The Wall Street Journal*, August 30, 2014)

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Dr. William Davila, “Dr. Papi”

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School of Commerce in 1991. He attended the University of Massachusetts from where he earned his Bachelor’s of Arts in 1996. At the time he graduated, he could not have guessed that he would return to UMass almost two decades later as head of its Springfield campus. But he took more away from UMass than a degree. UMass is where he met his wife, Jenny. They were married in August of 1997 and just celebrated their 17th anniversary.

Will kept moving. He attended Boston College where, in 1998, he earned his Masters of Social Work after which he tested his metal in the employment arena. He worked in a multitude of professional jobs that kept him in contact with people, exposed him to budgets and grant writing, involved him in diversity, training and educational programs and that provided him with the management level experience and community involvement that will be so important to his success at UMass Center.

Will started with a one year stint as Program Director at *Projecto Esperanza* of Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities after which he joined Lesley University as Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions where he gained his first experience with college recruitment. And then on to Boston University as Coordinator of Personnel & Academic Support Programs where he provided personal and academic support programs for undergraduate students and performed a variety of other duties. And, after two years, he moved on to the Devereux Foundation in 2002 as Metro Boston Regional Manager.

I’m sure you get the idea by now. Will comes to his UMass Center job with an uncommon breadth and depth of experience. In 2005 he worked as a West Roxbury Program Manager for the Mentor Network and thereafter from 2006 to 2011, as Deputy Executive Director of the Children’s Study Home on Sherman Street in Springfield’s Mason Square. And it was while he was employed as Division Director of Out-patient Services for the Gandara Center that the advertisement for the position of UMass Center at Springfield Director came across his desk. His first instinct was to ignore it. He was happy and successful at the Gandara Center and not particularly inclined to leave. But something excited him about the challenge of competing for the Director position for which it seemed he had been preparing all of his work life and his personal life as well.

In the interim years, Will and his wife, Jenny, had two kids, 12-year-old son Ajani, who attends Veritas Prep, and eight-year-old Arianna, who attends Brunton Elementary school. Their expectations of Ajani and Arianna mirror Will’s mother’s expectations of her own kids. They will be moving on from elementary to secondary schools to college and eventually into professional careers, something Will and his wife expect and their two kids naturally take for granted.

In 2012, Will earned his Doctorate of Education from the University of Hartford. It was sort of like a ribbon around an already complete package. He was ready for “the call”



whatever it might be and from wherever. He recalls how meaningful his graduation ceremony was for his kids who watched with awe as he marched down the aisle in full academic regalia to receive his degree. Thereafter, his enthralled daughter Arianna nicknamed him “Dr. Papi.” What was certain by then is that when UMass came knocking at his door, Dr. Papi was uniquely prepared, both personally and professionally, to take the helm of the new UMass at Springfield campus at Tower Square on Main Street in downtown Springfield that opened for business in August 2014.

But Will was not certain he was interested in the position. He was successful and content at Gandara Center. But the more he thought about it, the more the idea appealed to him. He had the education, skills and experience. He was Puerto Rican and bilingual. And he had always been connected to the community as part of his employment and his volunteer work. The diverse demographic that UMass Springfield was targeting was a natural for him. And although Will suspected the competition for the position might be formidable, the challenge was compelling. He finally submitted his resume and waited a surprisingly short time for an interview that was “different.”

It was “different” in that Will was more interested in the interviewers knowing who he was as a person than trying to convince them that he was the best candidate. He recalled that his was a somewhat risky approach but it was real. He believed that anybody could prepare a nice resume and defend it but not just anybody could present their real self convincingly.

As I interacted with Will, it became clear early on why he was the first choice of the hiring committee. I was so taken by him and his history and his enthusiasm, his deep seated commitment to his new job, that for the first time in an interview, I didn’t take a single note! We talked as though we were old friends. By the end of our discussion, I not only understood why the committee selected “Dr. Papi” for the important job of re-introducing UMass to Springfield, I would have been astounded had they not.

Will is a rare catch who understands the importance and the difficulty of his charge. And as reflected in the diversity

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STCC and HCC Launch Classes Downtown at UMass Center

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) and Holyoke Community College (HCC) are collaborating with the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) President’s office to provide workforce training classes at the new UMass Springfield Center at Tower Square.

Through a partnership between STCC, HCC, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 32 students commenced adult basic education and workforce readiness classes. Annually the partnership serves over 300 students.

“Collaboration is the key to creating a qualified workforce that will drive the region’s economic prosperity,” said STCC President Dr. Ira H. Rubenzahl. “It is essential that as a region we continue to scale up programs like our basic education and workforce readiness to provide an access point for those in need of an opportunity to enter a pathway to employment.”

STCC Director of Adult Basic Education/English Speakers of Other Languages George Kohout said the classes are geared toward those who need academic remediation in order to obtain a high school diploma and transition to post-secondary education or the workforce.

“The new campus setting, in the heart of downtown, provides a perfect location in terms of instructional technology and professional expectations for these students with goals of marketable skills and industry related certificates,” said Kohout.

HCC President William Messner said this collaboration continues to build on HCC and STCC’s expertise in workforce training.

“Providing individuals with basic education and workforce skills is essential in order to secure a job and begin a career,” said Messner. “It also lays the foundation for further education and career advancement, and contributes to the economic development of the region.”

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EDUCATION

SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

Know Your School Committee Members

By Denise M. Hurst



Denise M. Hurst,
Vice Chair
Springfield School
Committee
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School Committee Statement of Purpose:

As instruments of the Massachusetts Legislature, local School Committees function primarily as a legislative body to formulate and adopt policy, by selecting an executive officer to implement policy, and by evaluating the

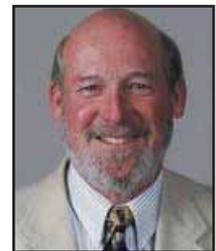
results. They must carry out their functions openly, while seeking comments of the public, students and staff in its decision-making processes.

The Springfield School Committee consists of the Mayor, who is chairman; two members who are elected at-large; and four members who are elected by ward representation. The School Committee operates in accordance with the MGL Ch. 71 and 41, which delegate its authority.

Springfield School Committee Members



Mayor Domenic J. Sarno,
Chair



Christopher Collins
Wards 6 & 7



Barbara Gresham
Wards 4 & 5



Denise M. Hurst,
Vice Chair, At Large



Calvin McFadden,
At Large



Peter Murphy
Wards 2 & 8



Rosa Perez
Wards 1 & 3

Springfield School Committee Subcommittees 2014

Budget & Finance

Christopher Collins - *Chair*
Dr. Calvin McFadden
Peter Murphy

Buildings & Maintenance

Christopher Collins - *Chair*
Barbara Gresham
Rosa Perez

Curriculum & Programs

Denise Hurst - *Chair*
Barbara Gresham
Peter Murphy

Legislative & Contracts

Dr. Calvin McFadden - *Chair*
Christopher Collins
Peter Murphy

School Safety

Barbara Gresham, *Chair*
Peter Murphy
Rosa Perez

Student, Parent Concerns

Barbara Gresham - *Chair*
Dr. Calvin McFadden
Rosa Perez

Technology

Peter Murphy - *Chair*
Denise Hurst
Dr. Calvin McFadden

Vocational Education

Rosa Perez - *Chair*
Barbara Gresham
Denise Hurst

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

2014-15 Brings Success and Challenges

By Daniel J. Warwick, Superintendent
Springfield Public Schools



Daniel J. Warwick

The 2014-15 school year is well underway and with it are some very exciting developments that are taking place in the district. For starters, we opened a brand new, first-of-its-kind school in the district. The Springfield Conservatory of the Arts opened with 60 students in grades 6 and 9, and will expand by 60 students per grade.

Students have already begun music, vocal, drama, dance and visual arts classes that are taught by licensed Springfield art teachers, artists in residence and special consultants. Just as importantly, the school's academics are based on the Common Core standards.

I am also excited about the district's technology plan, which aims to provide every student with a computer, every day in every class by 2016. With the delivery of hundreds of new computers to schools since doors opened in August, we are already approaching a ratio of one computer for every three students.

Recently we received the great news that Brookings and Brightwood elementary schools had exited Level 4 status based on the tremendous improvements in student MCAS performance over the past several years. Principals Terry Powe and John Doty have been outstanding leaders in that work and I congratulate them and their hardworking staffs. And as a community, we should all recognize the great work of students in those schools and their families.

Other exciting news from the state this fall includes their designation of Brunton Elementary as a Level 1 school and Zanetti as Commendation School for its significant and sustained turnaround achievements.

Also, we recently learned that for the second year in a row, Springfield Public Schools (SPS) students' academic improve-

ments in English Language Arts and math have exceeded their peers throughout the state. From 2012 to 2014, SPS students' Composite Performance Index (CPI), which measures academic progress toward proficiency, has increased by 0.7 points in English Language Arts (ELA), 3.1 points in math, and 1.8 points in science while the state increases were 0, 0.4 and 1.0 points respectively.

Also since 2012, the percentage of SPS students who are proficient in math has increased by five percentage points, compared to a one percentage point increase for the state during the same time period. And over the last two years, middle schools in Springfield have made greater CPI gains in ELA and math than middle schools statewide.

Despite these gains in middle schools, the progress at that level has not been enough. The state recently designated Duggan, Forest Park and Van Sickle middle Schools as Level 4 schools. We must look at middle schools differently and create new opportunities for success. We know there is much opportunity for improvement at our middle schools and throughout our district and we embrace those opportunities.

As the school year carries on, I encourage all SPS students, teachers, staff, and concerned citizens to stay focused and committed. Celebrate our successes as we work diligently to address our challenges. Working together, we can and we will create lasting and significant change for our students' futures. ■



Show up. Every day. It matters.

EDUCATION

EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

HCS Head Start is Turning 50

By Nicole Blais



Nicole Blais is Director of Community Engagement HCS Head Start, Inc. blaisn@headstart.org

October is Head Start Awareness Month and HCS Head Start is ready to celebrate our **50 years of Opportunity**. For the next 31 days and throughout the 2014-2015 school year, HCS Head Start will celebrate and share our history with parents, staff and the communities we serve. This will allow us to take pause and recognize the impact the program has had over the last 50 years.

As part of the War on Poverty, President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 which included programs such as Job Corps, Urban/Rural Community Action, VISTA, and Project Head Start. During this time President Johnson stated, *"We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors."* HCS Head Start heeded that call and since 1965 opened classroom doors to thousands of children and their parents and helped to equip families for success. Recognizing that parents are their



child's first and most influential teachers, Head Start works with families to remove barriers to their success and to deepen their ability to support their children. Children who go through Head Start are less likely to need special education classes or repeat grades when they're older, and are far more likely to graduate high school and help their families escape a cycle of poverty.

One of the many treasures of Head Start is the beloved blocks that embody the heart and soul of the program. Recently, the National Head Start Association told the story of who

designed the logo and what it represents. Peter Masters, the art director at that time, conceptualized the National Head Start logo in 1965. He decided to use toy building blocks as a metaphor for the development and growth of children through Head Start. To reflect the fact that Head Start is a national program funded by the federal government, Mr. Masters added an illustration of the American flag. He chose red and white stripes and an arrow, printed in reverse on a blue background. The arrow is the common denominator of all antipoverty programs and symbol-

izes upward mobility:



- The two squares represent early childhood by suggesting building blocks.
- The arrangement of the blocks represents stairs by which this can be accomplished.
- The vertical stripes represent the child and parent.
- The arrow pointing upward represents the direction out of poverty and on to the future.
- The colors, red, white, and blue represent the United States and the many opportunities it provides for its citizens.

The story behind the logo is so important to the mission and is a great piece of the Head Start story that powerfully speaks to the overarching goal of the program.

HCS Head Start is also launching the Annual Community Read-a-Loud program during the month of October. This program gives us the opportunity to invite the community into the classrooms and read to the children to see first-hand all of the wonderful work being done throughout the program. If you would like to get involved with HCS Head Start or learn more about the program and its history, please give us a call at 413-788-6522. We look forward to turning 50 and celebrating with all of you. ■

EDUCATION & HOPE

A Somebody

By Gianna Allentuck



Gianna Allentuck is an Adjustment Counselor at Elias Brookings School, Volunteer, Wife and Mother. For questions or comments on writing in hope, call (703) 930-0243

If you are standing next to someone, turn to him or her and recite these words: *You are smart. You are special. You are somebody.* If you are alone, recite them to yourself. Even better if you have a mirror nearby to capture the

feeling of support reflected in your eyes, the look of joy reflected in the laugh and smile lines framing your face, and the tone of genuinity and appreciation reflected in your lilting voice.

At Brookings, these are words that we express toward Students, Educators, and each other every morning to emphasize that each of us with our unique quirks and characteristics is a somebody. Is important. Vital. A beat in the rhythm of a whole heart. A complete body. A bountiful soul.

Elsewhere in our lives, many of us practice some form of recognition or

validation of a family member, colleague, friend. We express words of gratitude. Leave notes of love. Offer sentiments of praise.

In a parallel universe, however, there are those among us who have never been honored, cherished, or loved. Never felt special. Who drift in and out of others lives and realities feeling like a nobody. Alone. Hopeless. Helpless...

On Thursday, August 28, 2014, the City of Springfield Mayor's Citywide Violence Prevention Task Force hosted our 4th Annual Peace First: Community Leadership Luncheon to highlight the efforts of the Task Force in preventing and addressing violence; and to promote

networking and sharing of resources among a spectrum of youth, family, and community-serving agencies and organizations.

In addition to welcoming and impassioned comments from leaders such as Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, Principal Terry Powe, and Pastor Calvin McFadden, we were mesmerized by the voices of the youth participants of Task Force programs. One by one, boys and girls from The Officials Club Boxing program shared personal stories of triumph over adversity; turning a life around through school and boxing; living healthy productive lives; and learning

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EDUCATION

PARENTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

These are just Temporary Inconveniences for Permanent Improvements

By Patricia Spradley



Patricia Spradley is Chief Administrator for Parent and Community Engagement, Springfield Public Schools (413) 787-6597

Often in life, things happen that we perceive as being inconvenient or even painful. Sometimes we have plans for our lives that get interrupted and can cause us mental anxiety. We become angry, sometimes act out or blowup, instead of asking Him for help.

A few weeks ago a visiting pastor at our church preached a sermon entitled “This is just a temporary inconvenience, for a permanent improvement.” I slightly modified the title to emphasize that we will actually have *many* inconveniences that will afford us *many* improvements.

What happens in life is not random and meaningless. Therefore, we should recognize that nothing happens to us that He is not aware of. He is interested in every aspect of our lives and has oversight and complete control. So why not handle setbacks accordingly. In other words, just wait on Him. It’s only a temporary condition.

When we stray off the path, stepping outside our lane, He allows or sends inconvenient situations to keep us from doing further harm to ourselves. I’ve come to understand this as a warning that we are treading on dangerous ground. It’s similar to how many of us exercise our parenting skills. Setting parameters and guidelines for our children to follow helps them to understand that boundaries are necessary. It’s also important for them to learn that there are consequences for choosing to ignore warnings!

As adults, we are held to these standards too. Sometimes we veer off

the path and He herds us, like sheep, back into His direction and often leaves us with few choices. All too often we wait until we’re in trouble and then scramble, hoping someone or something will happen to resolve the issue. The minister referenced that He will “make it so tight that there is no room for us to turn either to the right or to the left.”

We often see these situations as curses or punishments, and often they are. But even His curses are a form of His grace. Let me try it this way: When we step on something that’s sharp, we sometimes get irritated from the pain and often don’t think about how that pain is actually a warning to our body that we have been injured or may be in a place that is dangerous. And, although we often see these things as inconveniences, it’s actually His amazing grace and love, much like the love that we have for our children.

These temporary setbacks are part of His plan to get our attention. We have our own plans, expectations, and dreams, but sometimes, they are not the plans that He has for us. So He places inconveniences in our path to slow us down or turn us around. He often sends little tests and things into our lives that are inconvenient, to either teach us something, to test us, or to guide us in His will. They’re only temporary.

Celebrate this, even though for a little while you may have to experience some challenges and obstacles. When we come out on the other side, the permanent improvements will be amazing! ■

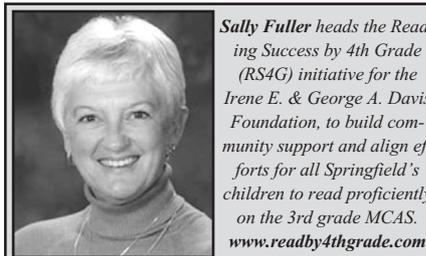
Stay in School

Show up. Every day. It matters.

READING TO SUCCEED

Turn Our Writing Crisis into a Writing Revolution

By Sally Fuller



Sally Fuller heads the Reading Success by 4th Grade (RS4G) initiative for the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation, to build community support and align efforts for all Springfield’s children to read proficiently on the 3rd grade MCAS. www.readby4thgrade.com

Because I love to write, this blog in the Huffington Post had a strong impact on me. Hence, this share! This is Steve Graham’s post and I am giving you a shortened version, but all in his words. I hope you will share these strategies in your interactions with your children at home, in the classroom, in the Sunday school classroom, in the after-school program.

According to Graham, “Our nation faces a writing crisis. And unless we fix it, we risk a generation of Americans ill prepared for work and society.” He then cites the data: “...on the National Assessment of Educational Progress...a mere 27 percent of 8th- and 12th-graders scoring at or above grade level on the written portion of the 2011 assessment.”

Here are his powerful thoughts and recommendations.

“We have transitioned to a knowledge-based economy in which communication skills are more important than ever. It’s how we inform, explain, argue, persuade, and convey actionable information to others. Therefore, the alarming decline in writing proficiency constitutes a true crisis.

So, if we are in the midst of a writing crisis, what’s the solution?

It starts with foundational writing skills — the building blocks of written language. As children learn to write, they develop the knowledge, skills and processes necessary for skilled writing: how to recognize letters and how to shape them, how letters go together to form words, how words are put together to form coherent sentences, how to plan and revise text and how to write for specific purposes and audiences. These processes are developed concurrently

with reading comprehension skills...

Research has borne out that there are at least seven foundational skills required for writing mastery. These include:

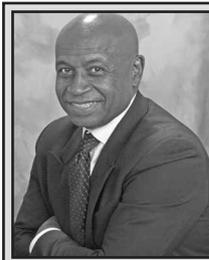
- 1. Handwriting.** Studies have repeatedly shown handwriting instruction and practice to be linked to better letter perception, reading acquisition, word learning, composition and writing fluency.
- 2. Spelling.** In addition to mastering letter formation, students must learn how letters work together to form words.
- 3. Vocabulary development.** A strong vocabulary is critical for both reading comprehension and effective writing. Writers must be able to choose the right words to convey meaning and intention to capture a reader’s interest.
- 4. Sentence construction.** Effectively using a variety of sentences to convey meaning and emphasis helps keep readers engaged and ensures that the intended audience understands the writer’s message.
- 5. Writing process.** Multiple studies have demonstrated the importance of explicit instruction in the writing process.
- 6. Writing strategies.** Students also need specific strategies for each stage of the writing process. These may include brainstorming, outlining, goal setting, and self-evaluation.
- 7. Genre knowledge.** Students must be able to apply writing skills across a variety of genres and to write for a variety of purposes.

Instilling these seven foundational skills requires intentional focus...” Graham states, and goes on to describe the need for children to have ample time to practice, to have frequent feedback and a safe, positive environment where they can try out new skills.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FINANCIAL "CENTS"



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As an investor, what are your goals? You can probably think of quite a few — but over the course of your lifetime, your objectives typically will fall into five key categories. And once you're familiar with these areas, you can start thinking of what they'll mean to you in terms of your financial and investment strategies.

So, let's take a look at each of these areas and see what they might entail for you:

- **Preparing for retirement** — With advances in health care and a greater awareness of healthy living practices, many of us can expect to live two or three decades in an active retirement. To pay for all those years, you'll need to save and invest early and often. So, while you're working, take full advantage of your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, as well as contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA. After un-

derstanding your desired retirement lifestyle, your financial advisor can help you determine how, and how much, to save to provide for your income in retirement.

- **Planning for the unexpected** — You can't see into the future, so you'll need to prepare for anything that comes your way. By building an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, you can possibly avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for things such as a new furnace or a major car repair. And planning for the unexpected also means having sufficient life insurance to provide for your family in case anything happens to you.
- **Educating your children** — College is already expensive — and college expenses have been rising faster than the overall rate of inflation. If you want to help your children, or grandchildren, pay for school, you may want to invest in a college savings vehicle, such as the 529 plan. You can contribute large amounts to a 529 plan, and earnings

have the opportunity to grow tax-free, provided withdrawals are used for higher education. (Withdrawals not used for education are subject to income taxes and a 10 percent penalty.)

- **Living in retirement** — Once you reach retirement, your investment emphasis will shift somewhat, from accumulating resources to making them last. By working with a financial advisor, you can develop a withdrawal strategy that can help make sure you don't outlive the income you receive from your 401(k), IRA and other sources. At the same time, given the possible length of your retirement, you can't ignore the need to invest for growth, so you may need to consider some growth-oriented vehicles in your portfolio to help your income keep pace with inflation.

- **Transferring your wealth** — When you've worked hard your whole life, you want to be able to leave a legacy — one that allows you to provide financial resources to the next generation and to those charitable organizations you may wish to support. So, when it's time to think about transferring your wealth, you'll want to consult with your financial and legal advisors to create an estate plan that's appropriate for your needs. And because these plans can take significant time to create, you won't want to wait too long to start.

So, there you have them: five key financial areas on which to focus as you travel through life. By doing your homework, planning ahead and getting the help you need, you can make the journey a pleasant and productive one.

FINANCIALLY YOURS

There's a Way to Fix Tax Return Errors

By Samuel N. Wilson Jr.



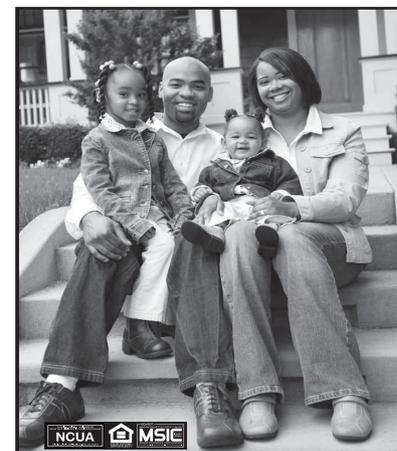
Samuel N. Wilson Jr.,
Certified Public Accountant, owns an accounting firm in Bridgeport, CT and is an investment advisor. He can be reached at samuel_wilson_cpa@sbcglobal.net or 203-368-6086.

FROM BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

Suppose you discover a mistake or omission of an item on the 2013 federal tax return you recently filed. Should you ignore the

error? Although it can depend on the nature and significance of the item, the answer is generally "no." But the matter may be resolved by filing an amended 2013 return.

Certainly, you will need to file "Form 1040X: Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return" if you discover that you made a significant error on your original tax return. But this form is also used to make other changes to your original filing. Perhaps you decide to change your filing status, or you find more deductions and decide to itemize them rather than claiming the standard



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deduction. You may have overlooked the earned income credit, or perhaps even forgot to report a dependent. You could also be unlucky enough to receive a "revised" brokerage statement or Form K-1 from a partnership or LLC long after you filed your original return.

Why bother to file a Form 1040X? If the IRS owes you money, you'll want to file this form in order to receive your additional refund. Even if you owe the IRS, it's wise to file Form 1040X rather than waiting for the IRS to catch the error, which will likely

happen eventually. By being proactive, you'll avoid some potentially stiff penalties and interest charges. However, the timing is critical. You have three years (including extensions) from the original due date of the return to file an amended return. If you didn't pay your taxes in full when you submitted your return, you only have two years from the date you finally paid your tax bill to make the corrections.

If you think you should file an amended return, contact our office or another professional advisor for any assistance you need. ■

HEALTH

HEALTH MATTERS

Mommy, Make Me Healthy

By Dr. Anika C. Thrower and Danielle Jurich



Dr. Anika Thrower,
MPH, CLC
WIC Program
Manager/Cornell Scott
Hill Health Center
New Haven Food
Policy Council
*-Your Health
Is My Wealth-*

The ability to provide a baby with a healthy start in life is precious. For a healthy birth outcome, a pregnant woman has to be willing to sustain health habits and/or make an effort to live a healthier lifestyle daily. Though some pregnancies are planned, many are unplanned. Twenty years ago the unintended pregnancy rate among women within incomes below the federal poverty level was 88 per 1,000 women ages 15–44. This rate increased to 120 per 1,000 women in 2001 and 132 per 1,000 in 2006. In other words, there was a 50% rise over nearly two decades (Finer & Zolna, 2006). This means a woman can go months with poor health habits, including smoking and unhealthy eating habits, before she learns she is pregnant. In 2010 there were 3,999,386 births reported in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011). This meant that there were millions of expectant mothers who faced the need to assess their health habits.

Many studies showed that a mother's health status, in particular her weight, has a direct impact on the health of her infant (Moschonis, Grammatikaki, & Manios, 2008) and even the baby's future weight. In other words, many times a parent's weight/health heavily influences their child's weight/health. Minority women continue to experience the greatest impact of poor birth outcomes such as gestational diabetes (diabetes only while pregnant). Poor health is often directly linked to being overweight. According to the Centers for Disease Control, for the weight categories: underweight, normal weight, overweight, and obese, the corresponding body mass index (BMI)

value ranges are: below 18.4, 18.5–24.9, 25.0–29.9, and 30.0 and above, respectively (CDC, 2011). In other words, **a BMI of 25 and over is considered unhealthy.** During pregnancy, women with unhealthy BMIs are at greater risk for developing preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, fetal loss, stillbirth, preterm delivery, and congenital anomalies.

Sometimes newly pregnant females have a difficult time separating fact from fiction regarding foods to consume and how much. This can be a time of excessive food intake "for the baby's sake." Poor nutrition can potentially affect birth outcomes to include such issues as prematurity or low birth weight, not to mention morbidity (illness) and mortality (death). Together a WIC nutritionist, along with one's medical team, can play a valuable role in assisting expectant women sort out the facts through health-based conversations and offering up-to-date maternal-based literature.

(Please contact author for a citation list)

Dear Robust Reader,

Being pregnant can be a treasured experience as the first bond is established. One discovers quickly that sustaining a new life goes far beyond considering baby names, decorating a space, and buying clothes. It's a time to be optimistic about the prospects of the healthiest birth outcomes possible for the infant and a pivotal time in which a woman has to take preventive steps to ensure a baby has the best start in life.

Next month we will dig deeper into issues around maternal health. Please forward your thoughts, comments, and ideas, as they are important to me, to:

anika.thrower_phd@yahoo.com,
attention: Anika. ■

Are You At Risk For Developing Breast Cancer?

By Crystal Brown, Senior Representative,
Community Engagement, New England Division
American Cancer Society, Inc.



Crystal Senter Brown



Doris Harris, Editor
Prevention Specialist
Caring Health
Center, Inc.
Doris can be
contacted at
dorharris77@hotmail.com

Seven Risk Factors You Need to Know About

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, except for skin cancers. About 1 in 8 (12%) women in the U.S. will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime.

Risk factors for breast cancer include:

- 1. Getting older:** As you age, your risk of developing breast cancer increases. About 1 out of 8 invasive breast cancers are found in women younger than 45, but about 2 of 3 invasive breast cancers are found in women age 55 or older.
- 2. Family history of breast cancer:** Your risk for developing breast cancer is higher if you have a close blood relative with the disease. Having one first-degree relative (mother, sister or daughter) with breast cancer approximately doubles a woman's risk.
- 3. Personal history of breast cancer:** A woman with cancer in one breast has a 3- to 4-fold increased risk of developing a new cancer in the other breast or in another part of the same breast.
- 4. Race and ethnicity:** Overall, white

women are slightly more likely to develop breast cancer than are African-American women, but African-American women are more likely to die of this cancer. However, in women under 45 years of age, breast cancer is more common in African-American women.

- 5. Having children later in life:** Women who have had no children or who had their first child after age 30 have a slightly higher breast cancer risk. Having many pregnancies and becoming pregnant at a young age reduce breast cancer risk. Pregnancy reduces a woman's total number of lifetime menstrual cycles, which may be the reason for this effect.
- 6. Oral contraceptives:** Studies have found that women using oral contraceptives (birth control pills) have a slightly greater risk of breast cancer than women who have never used them. This risk seems to go back to normal over time once the pills are stopped.
- 7. Being overweight or obese:** Being overweight or obese after menopause increases breast cancer risk. Having more fat tissue after menopause can increase your chance of getting breast cancer by raising estrogen levels

You can join in the fight against breast cancer by joining the **2014 American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on Sunday, October 5 at Stanley Park in Westfield.** Teams may register online at <http://www.makingstrideswalk.org/pioneervalleyma>. Call 413-493-2100 for more info! ■



Patient Yvette with
BBWC Supervisor Linda Garvey

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HEALTH

HEALTH MATTERS

Baystate Medical Center

New Information for Those Considering Double Mastectomy

While many women are opting to have a double mastectomy for early stage breast cancer, studies are beginning to show that the procedure is not linked to a lower risk of death than other options, such as breast-conserving therapy in conjunction with radiation.

“This is a trend that we have seen here in Western Massachusetts. Many of the women that we see who have been diagnosed with breast cancer are concerned about the future risk of breast cancer in the other (non-affected) breast and, therefore, are asking about the double mastectomy as a way to improve survival,” said surgical oncologist Holly Mason, who serves as director of Breast Services at Baystate Medical Center.

“As evidenced in this study, as well as in other recent studies, this is not the case. For the individual patient, optimizing treatment of the cancer that we know about now (and not a potential future cancer) is the treatment that will improve survival,” she added.

The study was published in a recent edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. In the study, out of Stanford University School of Medicine, the authors noted that previous research has shown that patients with early-stage breast cancer have similar survival rates whether treated with a combination of breast-conserving therapy and radiation or a mastectomy. Yet, they note in their published study that the number of breast cancer patients undergoing a mastectomy, in particular, a double mastectomy, is increasing.

In an accompanying editorial addressing the study, the point was made that doctors must inform their patients of the surgical risks – especially that there is still a chance of new or recurrent breast cancer.

“This is a very important part of the surgical consultation for breast cancer. It is essential for patients to understand the multidisciplinary approach (surgery, medication, radiation) to breast cancer treatment. A more extensive surgery does not necessarily improve survival,” said Dr. Mason.

The Baystate breast surgeon noted that although the idea of the double mastectomy may be appealing, it is a significantly larger surgery than breast conservation.

“We are seeing data that shows that the complication rate (the risk of bleeding, infection, wound breakdown or need for reoperation) is higher in patients undergoing the double mastectomy than in patients undergoing breast conservation or a unilateral mastectomy. In terms of breast cancer treatment, this can mean a delay in the start of the other treatment that is absolutely necessary to control the breast cancer, such as chemotherapy or radiation,” said Dr. Mason.

However, Dr. Mason implied that arguments over the double mastectomy do not necessarily apply to the BRCA gene mutation carriers



ers or patients with a strong family history for breast cancer.

“For these patients, the question may be whether or not the double mastectomy should occur at the time of breast cancer treatment or at a later date, once breast cancer treatment is completed,” she said. ■

READING TO SUCCEED

Turn Our Writing Crisis into a Writing Revolution

continued from page 8

“Our national transition to a knowledge-based economy is certain to continue, requiring an increasing level of writing proficiency for workers across all industries and job levels. Giving young students a solid foundation, intervening with older students who struggle, and sharing responsibility for writing across the entire education community can help

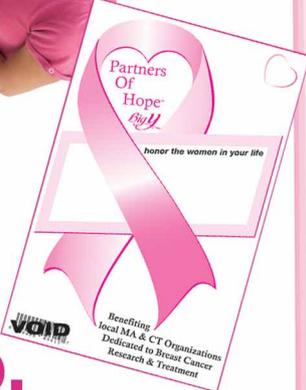
turn our writing crisis into a writing revolution.”

I will support this writing revolution. Will you make it happen in your home and advocate for it to happen in your child’s classroom?

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stev-e-graham/fixing-our-national-writi_b_5708625.html?ncid=fbklnk_ushpmg00000020 ■



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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

We Are Ferguson, Missouri

By Bishop Talbert W. Swan, II



Bishop Talbert W. Swan, II is Pastor of The Spring Of Hope Church Of God In Christ & President of the Greater Springfield NAACP

The violent scenes from Ferguson, Missouri in August are not what most Americans expected to see in 2014. Yet, the simmering tensions in that town, following the shooting of an unarmed teenager, did not come as a big surprise to those of us who have been warning that we were nearing the boiling point of racial tensions.

We don't yet know everything about what's happened, or is happening, in Ferguson, but here's what we do know. Michael Brown was shot and killed by police and protests in the wake of his horrible death were met with a virtual militarized response from law enforcement in the area.

We also know that the myth of a "post-racial" America is contradicted by a criminal justice system in which young African-American men are, by almost any measure, disproportionately more likely to be arrested, sentenced, or even killed when compared to white peers. It's not just the situation in which there's disparity, but also even in the perception of the problem. A recent Pew study showed that when asked the question, "Do police treat blacks less fairly?" 33 percent of whites said "yes" while nearly 80 percent of African-Americans said "yes". Whatever the particulars of the terrible situation in Ferguson, racial division is far from resolved in America.

In today's racially divided nation, we cannot simply advocate for racial justice; we must embody it. We ought to speak to the structures of society about principles of morality and righteousness, but we also ought to model those principles in our homes, congre-

gations and communities. The quest for racial justice comes not just through proclamation but through demonstration. I attempted to get Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno to appoint a commission to study police/community and race relations and make recommendations on how we can avoid a Ferguson-like situation. He responded by noting the city's efforts against gang violence as if that was the root of racial divisions.

I've got news for the mayor and all those who think Springfield is prepared to avoid a Ferguson-like reaction: racial and ethnic division and bigotry are not merely historical vestiges still existing in our city and across the nation, these divisions and hatred are older than America, and are rooted in an evil deception that tells us that God made one race superior to another.

Ferguson reminds us that American society has a long way to go in healing old hatreds. The stories of unarmed black men being killed across the nation make one thing painfully clear: The killing of black men in incidents that begin as investigatory police stops are anything but unusual in America. In this sense, Ferguson is Everywhere, U.S.A. Springfield, Massachusetts is Ferguson, Missouri.

When we examine what happened in Ferguson – at the violence and the anger and sorrow and the repression, at the profound and agonizing questions that swirl concerning integrity and people's rights to live – we understand that we've been through it before in our own beloved city. We must understand that this isn't something new. It isn't a new phenomenon. It is in our nation's fabric. This is who we are. It's who we've been for a very long time. We are Ferguson, Missouri. ■

CALL TO THE CAUSE

Protect The Good Inside Of You At All Cost

By Kirk Smith



Kirk Smith is President & CEO, YMCA of Greater Springfield 413-739-6951 www.springfieldy.org

I believe that every person is born with a high degree of goodness. And, throughout the course of our lives, we have many opportunities to gain more good — our living situations, parents, grandparents, care givers, teachers, friends, neighbors and others all play a role in our goodness. These opportunities shape everything about us — our manners, work ethic, intelligence, athleticism, and many other personality traits.

Although not everyone is brought up in ideal settings, even challenging environments can contribute to our goodness. In fact, difficult situations where our goodness is tested can often inspire personal greatness.

As time goes on, personal goodness grows or goes. As much as you may become a better person, there are threats against your goodness every day. Over time, some people succumb to these threats and lose their goodness.

For as many opportunities as we have to enhance our goodness, there are equal chances for our goodness to diminish.

The goodness in kids gets tested every day. They may have classmates who don't share their values. They may have friends who have different priorities. Certainly, technology and social media provide very easy threats to our goodness.

As adults, the more successful and visible we become in our careers, the more our goodness gets tested. There are people who will attack your character and speak poorly of you, all in an effort to take away your God-given goodness. Call it jealousy or insecurity, but people will try to compromise your goodness and cause you to be consumed by bitterness, anger and distrust.

But if we stop being good, what's the point of living?

Answer the call to the cause: protect your goodness. Stay good by surrounding yourself with good people. No one is good enough to surround themselves with bad people and think they are going to stay good. It's impossible.

(To view this editorial and Smith's past articles, visit www.springfieldy.org/category/news/president-ceo-editorials.) ■

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

STCC and HCC Launch Classes Downtown at UMass Center

continued from page 5

Executive Director of the UMass Donahue Institute and Co-Director of the Springfield start-up Dr. J. Lynn Griesemer applauded the two community colleges for embracing a partnership with UMass.

"Through offering adult basic education classes at the UMass Center we are creating another pathway, making higher education a reality for everyone in our community," said Griesemer.

Classes began September 15 and

will run through December 19 at the UMass Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. All classes and curriculum materials are free for students enrolled in the program.

To sign up for classes in the future or to learn more about the Adult Basic Education classes held at the UMass Center, please contact the STCC Adult Education Center, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at (413) 755-4300.

COMMUNITY

LEADERSHIP PIONEER VALLEY (LPV)

Don't Just Think About It, Run!

By Lora Wondolowski



Lora Wondolowski, Director of Leadership Pioneer Valley, she is passionate about strengthening the Pioneer Valley. Contact her at 413-737-3876 or www.leadershipvp.org

Every fall, geese and other migratory birds get restless and jittery, being pulled by a force outside of themselves to do something. Similar to the birds, every other year I also get restless being pulled by a different force. I spent ten years prior to Leadership Pioneer Valley working for political environmental organizations. During those campaign seasons, my schedule was not my own. There were countless long days and late nights of door-knocking, phone calls, debates, and rallies in support of the candidates my organization had endorsed. It was

exhausting, but also a rush. Although I have not been very active on campaigns since that time, I still feel compelled to get involved and advocate for citizen involvement in elections. Campaigns still have a "pull" on me.

We are now in full swing for this year's mid-term elections. The primaries have been decided and the general election is only a month away with candidates vying for seats from the State House to the Governor's office. Sadly, the primaries drew historically low turnout numbers last month. Each year this number seems to shrink. We can only hope that there will be more excitement around the general election.

Where is everybody? Our governor and state legislators will address important issues such as local funding, domestic violence, jobs, minimum wage, climate change, and the list goes on. With so many complex issues, why

do we stay home?

In the Commonwealth, we are among the least competitive in elections in the nation. Five of our nine members of Congress were unopposed in the primaries, including our U.S. Senator. In the legislature, 52% of state senators were unopposed and roughly 50% of representatives lack challengers this year. With few contested races on the ballot, it's no wonder that few voters got excited about voting.

Now don't get me wrong, I respect and appreciate our incumbent elected officials and their dedication and service. Experience and relationships are important on Capitol Hill and Beacon Hill. But without challengers, how can we ensure new ideas, legislators that mirror our communities, and root out complacency? Our democracy relies on both active voters and candidates.

As leaders, our obligation does not stop at the ballot box. We need to take the next step and get involved in elections. We can foster a culture of competition in state politics, like we saw in the open senate seat for the First Hampden and Hampshire district with five Democratic candidates. We can urge members of our organizations and community groups to start running in primaries. We can support candidates as individuals with our time and treasure. Better yet, we can consider running ourselves. I am proud that two Leadership Pioneer Valley alumni ran for local elected offices last year and one of them won. What would it take for more emerging leaders to consider running (besides money)? Countless potential candidates—thoughtful men and women—could bring a lot to public affairs. Don't just think about it, run!

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Remembering Carole Johnson

By Dale Parker

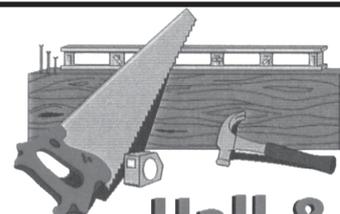


Carole Johnson, the originator of the Buckingham Jr. High School Reunion, was called home on September 6, 2014. She recruited committee members Elaine Scott, Ruth Malone and David Montgomery at the 1991 Stone Soul weekend, and, in a little more than a month,

they held the first Buckingham Reunion in October, 1991. Carole remained the driving force, the head, and the glue for the reunion committee for many years until unfortunate circumstances cause a few postponements. This year Carole said: "We have to do this." Regrettably, her health declined and she succumbed before completing plans for this year's reunion.

Carole was devoted to her mother, her sisters, her children and grandchildren. She believed that education is the key for people of color so that we don't repeat the past or let others determine our future. She exemplified her passion for education by earning her bachelor's and master's degrees at AIC and was currently pursuing a doctorate at the University of Phoenix.

The Buckingham Junior High School Reunion will be held this year in memory of Carole Johnson on October 18, 2014 at the Cedars Banquet



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BUCKINGHAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION WEEKEND

B Saturday October 18, 2014
Cedar's Banquet Hall
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Springfield, MA

Social Hour—6:30 p.m.** Dinner —7:30 p.m.
Dancing —8:30- 11:00 pm

Complimentary Fish Fry on Friday, 10.17.14
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Cozy's Pavilion-666 State. St.

Ticket: \$50.00

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women Hosting Holyoke Public Hearing on Women's Issues

The October 22 hearing at Holyoke Community College provides a forum for the region's stakeholders to discuss issues and concerns important to women, gaps in provision of services



The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women will host a public hearing on **October 22, 2014, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The hearing will be held in room 205 at the Kittredge Center at Holyoke Community College, located at 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040.**

The purpose of the hearing is to give all stakeholders in Holyoke as well as those in the surrounding communities the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns important to women, as well as the gaps or barriers they have experienced in the provision of services

available. Citizens, government officials, and organizations that advocate for women and families in the region are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in the open public hearing by providing testimony/recommendations.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women serves to advance women toward full equality in all areas of life and to provide a permanent, effective voice for women in communities across the Commonwealth. The October 22 public hearing is one way the Commission fulfill its mandate of surveying, reviewing and

reporting on the status of women in Massachusetts.

The testimonies provided will be recorded and discussed by the commissioners to consider the impact of policy on women and families in the region. The findings will be cited in the MCSW Annual Report to the Commission's appointing authorities and to state and local officials. In following up on the recommendations, the commissions will work with regional organizations and elected officials to assess the impact of legislation.

The commissions will accept both written and oral testimony at the Octo-

ber 22 hearing. Those interested in testifying should sign in upon arriving at the event and will be called upon in order of entry. Oral statements should be limited to three minutes per speaker and should include recommendations to the commissions.

For more information about the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women or the October 22 hearing, please contact Jill Ashton, director of MCSW, at MCSW@state.ma.us or 617-626-6520. ■



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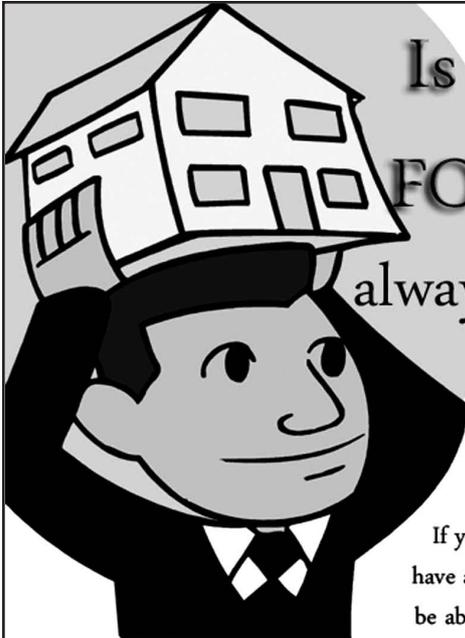
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COMMUNITY

LATIN@ GROOVE

Unity Is An Unlocked Door

By Magdalena Gómez



Magdalena Gómez is the Co-founder and Artistic Director of Springfield's first and only Latin@theater, Teatro V!da. Ms. Gómez has been a teaching artist for over 35 years.

Plantation models have left an enduring and highly effective trademark of divide and conquer between the field and the house. When we rip each other apart, scrambling for the crumbs that fall from the king's banquet, we will find ourselves in the company of rats.

While it is imperative that we provide venue where our individual cultures may gather and organize, it is in forming alliances and trust across ethnicity and class that we activate true and enduring power for social change. The Civil Rights Movement, which is not past tense as we still must tend to civil and human rights violations here in the U.S., was never monochromatic;

it was diverse and intergenerational. It was not hetero-normative; it wasn't/isn't always "civil" in disobedience (nor should it be) and it was nurtured globally by the great heroic actions of many, such as Steven Biko, who in the mainstream, remains in the shadow of Mandela. Yes, we have created iconic representations of great movements, but countless events of human sacrifice preceded and continue to follow Rosa Parks getting on that bus or Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Nelson Mandela didn't do it alone either. What schools, except for one or two, teach stateside Puerto Rican and Cuban children the role of tobacco workers in their shared struggle for independence? Who among us can call *Los Tabaqueros* by their surnames?

Harvard Arts Medal recipient, Fred Ho, my dear friend and comrade who died in April, often reminded his audiences that alliances for what is just can happen among the most disparate



groups. The cause is greater than the individual.

As a self-identified "Matriarchal Socialist," Fred had a staunchly conservative, blue blood Republican benefactor. She respected his art and embraced him, disregarding politics. They were great friends who worked together to heal hearts and open minds with his singularly historic, undefinable and prophetic music.

When ethnocentrism dominates one's worldview, we deprive ourselves of allies in the never-ending struggle against tyranny. Michael Brown's execution in Ferguson, Missouri is not simply the result of "police brutality" but a society that has permitted such human degradation to perpetuate; some do so with intent, others by tacit consent. No tyrant comes to power in a

continues to page 31

FEATURE

Changing Lives through Literature, a Powerful Partnership

By Emurriel Holloway



Emurriel Holloway is a retired Springfield Public Schools Administrator and a freelance writer for Point of View

There are people in places that truly can and do make a difference. They skillfully employ the synergy of partnering and collaboration for the greater impact. Such was the case with the Changing Lives Through Literature (CLTL) Program.

On September 12, 2014, the Hampden County Superior Court Department of the Massachusetts Trial Court,

Western New England University and the Hampden County Superior Court Probation Department honored nine probationers who successfully completed the CLTL program. During a 10-week, nationally recognized program, this group of men read poems, essays, short stories and the always inspirational, "To Kill A Mocking Bird," using literature to change their lives. Professor Brad Sullivan of Western New England University, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Lorraine Samuelson Sigall and the Honorable Judge Tina S. Page spearheaded the program in Western Massachusetts.

The honorees, the first Western Massachusetts CLTL program class, presented handsomely for the occasion.



Nine probationers successfully completed the Changing Lives through Literature program and were honored at a ceremony held in Hampden County Superior Court. The program was headed by Western New England University Professor Brad Sullivan, the Honorable Judge Tina S. Page and Assistant Chief Probation Officer Lorraine Samuelson Sigall

They engaged comfortably in conversations with program supporters and other guests. And why wouldn't they? The literature seminars of the CLTL program give probationers an opportunity to build self-esteem, practice social skills

and behaviors, and rehabilitate through discussions about literature as a condition of their probation. The program helps probationers to integrate into so-

continues to page 33

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

FANNIE LOU

at Carnegie Hall to Benefit Social-Justice Center



Esmeralda Simmons

When it came to the question of how to utilize her life, Esmeralda Simmons had little trouble deciding exactly what to do.

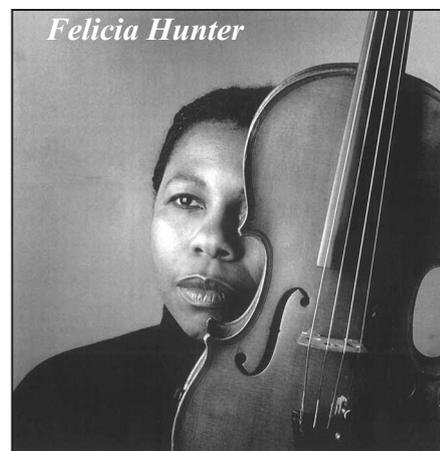
“I cut my teeth as an activist in the student protest movement. So I have been active since then. This is my calling,” said Simmons about her days as a student at Hunter College and the political climate during the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, which sparked her career choice.

As founder and executive director of the Center for Law and Social Justice (CLSJ) at Medgar Evers College (CUNY), Simmons has been an advocate for the disenfranchised in the African American community for the past 28 years. During that time, she’s seen the need for the center’s services intensify.

“I wish I could say we didn’t need to do this work. But there’s so much of it, we can’t handle it all,” she said.

CLSJ is a nonprofit, community-based service organization that provides advocacy, research, training and legal services in a number of areas. Those areas include education, immigration, misuse of police authority and voting rights.

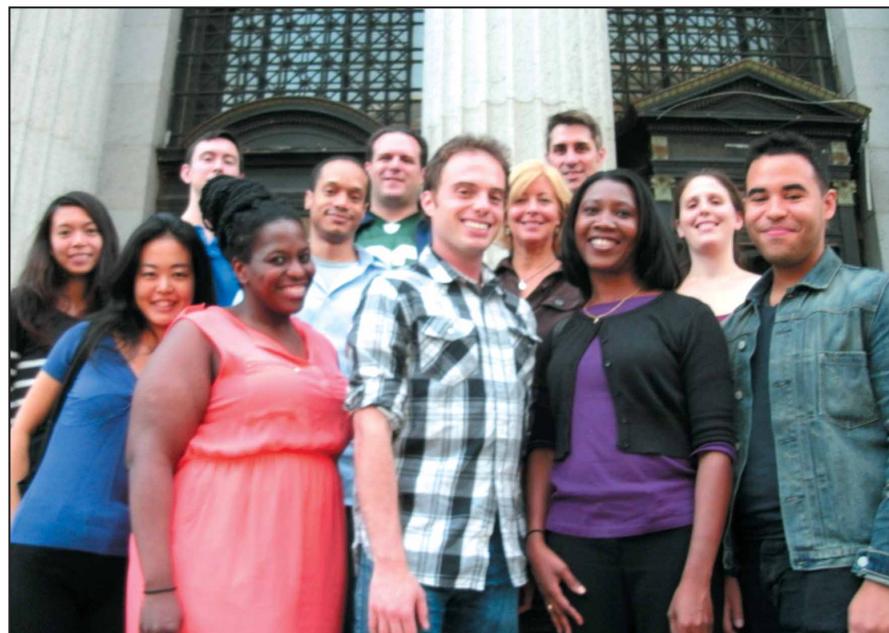
To help Simmons and CLSJ help the often underserved and underrepresented members of its Brooklyn community and beyond, a special production of “Scenes and Songs from *Fannie Lou*” will take place at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall on Oct. 9. Part of the proceeds from the event will benefit the center; a portion of all parterre-level tickets sold will be donated to CLSJ.



Felicia Hunter

Fannie Lou is a new, original musical inspired by the life of grassroots voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer. The work, written by playwright/composer Felicia Hunter, had its world premiere in New York City in 2012. “Scenes and Songs from *Fannie Lou: At Carnegie Hall*” is a sumptuous evening of selected music and dialogue from the musical, presented in concert format. More than a dozen singer-actors, accompanied by a six-piece instrumental ensemble, will bring Fannie Lou Hamer’s struggle for voting rights to the world-renowned Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall stage.

In addition to the performance, the evening will feature per-



Some of the “Scenes and Songs from *Fannie Lou: At Carnegie Hall*” cast members and musicians

spective-setting dialogue about the history, impact and importance of voting rights in the United States. Simmons will be a featured speaker during this portion of the evening, highlighting some of the work CLSJ has conducted and the areas, such as redistricting, where it continues to focus its efforts.

Another issue that will be discussed is the Voting Rights Act, itself. Fannie Lou Hamer and other civil rights pioneers fought long and hard – many giving their lives – so the 1965 legislation ensuring the right to vote for all citizens would see the light of day. Yet, in 2013 the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated a crucial section of the Act, grossly weakening its effectiveness. The development arguably has made the job of CLSJ as a voting-rights watchdog and legal advocate even more difficult.

“Half of my career doing voting rights work was doing volunteer work,” she said, adding, “Nobody has enough money to pay you to fight for your freedom.”

That was something Fannie

Lou Hamer also understood, Simmons noted.

“Fannie Lou Hamer was an inspiration to me because she knew exactly what the consequences were going to be before [she acted],” said Simmons. “She had a ‘good job’ on the plantation, which she lost. Then she organized others, telling them not to be afraid.”

“If Fannie Lou were alive today, she’d be on Twitter, she’d be on Facebook, all those other social media avenues,” said Simmons, “letting people know what they have to do and when.”

Support the work of the Center for Law and Social Justice by coming to see “Scenes and Songs from *Fannie Lou: At Carnegie Hall*,” on Oct. 9. To purchase a ticket or for more information, visit <http://www.carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2014/10/9/0730/PM/Scenes-and-Songs-from-Fannie-Lou/> or www.fannieloumusical.com, or call CarnegieCharge (212) 247-7800, or visit the Box Office at 57th and Seventh. ■

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

St John's Singers among Hundreds to Perform at Springfield Unity Festival Concert Saturday, October 18

When you think about the city of Springfield, you can't help but notice the multiculturalism that gives Springfield its uniqueness. It can be found by simply walking up and down the city streets, visiting the many local restaurants, and listening to conversations people have having amongst themselves. We hear and see this wonderful cultural diversity virtually anywhere. With this melting pot of a city, it can sometimes be hard to find the place where you feel like you fit in.

Lee Hagon, Vocal Music Director at Minnechaug Regional High School, and York Mayo, Community Volunteer, envisioned an event that would promote racial and cultural peace and understanding; an event with no cultural or language barriers, but of acceptance and unity. The idea was the Springfield Unity Choral Festival (SUCF). Together, they sought support for the idea and engaged community leaders Jay Adams of St. John's Congregational Church, Ray Drury of First Baptist of East Longmeadow, and Rafael Osorio of the Apostolic Renewal Church.

Together, this music team would begin to cultivate the idea of the SUCF. A leadership team, made up of outstanding volunteers, was formed to make the idea a reality. One thing each leadership team member has in common is that they see a need for uniting the people of Springfield. "Our city is filled with so much potential and bringing the people together and fostering a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood is key in creating a positive outlook on Springfield," said Kenneth Young, Senior Associate Pastor at St. John's Congregational Church.

What exactly is the SUCF?

It is a unique opportunity for the citizens of the greater Springfield area to celebrate our diversity, and unite in song, with people from all the rich cultures in the Pioneer Valley. This one-of-a-kind choral event will take place at



York Mayo, Community Volunteer (far right) and Lee Hagon, Vocal Music Director at Minnechaug Regional High School, envisioned an event that would promote racial and cultural peace and understanding.

Springfield Symphony Hall on **Saturday, October 18, 2014, at 7:30pm.**

The choral group will be made up of three hundred local singers from diverse backgrounds. Dr. Raymond Wise, Choral Director for the event, is one of the leading gospel choral directors in the world. He is also a renowned singer, dancer, lecturer, teacher, recording artist, and composer and serves on the faculty of Indiana University.

Dr. Wise has been commissioned to write an anthem celebrating greater Springfield's unity and cultural diversity. In addition to the three hundred-voice choir, a small fifty-voice choir, named *Una Voz* (one voice), will be rendering selections promoting unity in various languages such as English, Spanish and Hebrew. "I think it's imperative that we sing in various languages because that's what Springfield is, diverse in culture but unified in spirit," said Brian Bailey, an *Una Voz* participant.

Not only is the SUFC an outlet for citizens but it is also invested in enriching the community. The SUFC will be hosting a "music swap," a nationally-known speaker on unity and diversity,

and an all-day music seminar conducted by Dr. Raymond Wise. **The seminar will be held at the Rebecca Johnson School for Springfield school students on Friday, October 17, 2014.** The seminar will be topped off by a short concert showcasing what the students have learned at 1:30 p.m.

The SUFC is hoping that the impact left on the city from these events will be indelible. "It has been a dream of mine to see all of Springfield's cultural diversity gathered together in song, celebrating our unity and diversity. Springfield Unity Festival will be a unique vocal concert and we encourage all to attend and be inspired." Tickets for the Springfield Unity Choral Concert are \$10.00 and are available for purchase from the City Stage box office or online at www.springfield-unityfestival.com.

Join Singers from
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and Others in Our Community

Springfield
Unity Festival

We Raise Our Voices

October 18, 2014 ■ Springfield Symphony Hall

October 18, 2014 • 7:30 p.m.
Springfield Symphony Hall

Visit www.springfieldunityfestival.com
for more information and to purchase tickets.

Around Town & . . .



2014 Ubor Award recipient Jerald "Jay" Griffin (seated center) with previous award recipients, standing from left: Dr. Albert Garner (2011), Chester Gibbs (1999), Jesse Lanier (2004); seated from left: Bettye Webb (1996), Geraldine Garner (2011), Griffin (2014), Barbara Lanier (2004), and Denise Jordan (2007).



YWCA YouthBuild Springfield and Rebuilding Together Springfield celebrate their completion of a house on Bowles Street with a ribbon cutting and reception.



The Baystate Health contingent at the annual Puerto Rican parade held in Springfield.



Baystate Health again sponsored a Diversity Conference. The morning panel from left: Nathanael Harris, Comcast; Delores Campuzano, MGM; Jennifer Silvestri, Baystate Health; Joelle Murchison, Travelers; Kimberley Williams, Baystate Health; and Phillip Berry, PRISM International.



Martin Luther King Jr., Inc. Family Center Director Ronn Johnson receives the deed to the Center from Atty. James Martin of Pillsbury Doherty and Wallace as board member Trish P. Smith (left) and Atty. Craig Brown also from the law firm (right) look on.



Pastor Angelo Dawson (center), the Bethel AME church family and the Goodman family celebrate the 102nd birthday of Mrs. Viola Goodman (center).

. . . In The Community



The Peter Brace Brigade take part in the Stone Soul Festival parade.



The Stone Soul Festival recognized Mr. Lee Davis who poses with family members during the picnic.



The Stone Soul Festival recognized community members for their outstanding contributions.



Springfield City Councilor Justin Hurst and Springfield School Committee Vice Chair Denise Hurst celebrate their first "100 Days in Office and Counting. . ." with special guest Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Jr.

Brookings School Principal Mrs. Terry Powe with two of her students, who were recognized at the "Peace First" luncheon at the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center on Howard Street.



Progressive Community Baptist Church, Joe C. Long, Jr., Pastor, held their annual Harvest Clothing Drive to benefit the community.



Board members, volunteers and participants gather after the Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover Anti-Bullying Back-to-School 5k Road Race/2k Walk held at Forest Park in Springfield.

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CONGRATULATIONS CORNER



Congratulations to **Kamari Collins** who was recently appointed Dean of Academic Advising & Student Success at Springfield Technical Community College. He previously served as the college's Director of Academic Advising.



Congratulations to **Paul Robbins** of Paul Robbins Associates, Inc. "who won two awards in the 2014 Summit Creative Award® competition for his documentary-style video titled "Wally, Derek, Gladys" produced for HAPHousing. Robbins is now a six-time winner of the Summit Creative Award for video."



Congratulations to former Hampden County District Attorney **Mark G. Mastroianni** who was nominated as a U. S. District Court Judge, District of Massachusetts, by President Barack Obama on September 24, 2013, confirmed by the Senate on June 4, 2014, received his commission on June 5, 2014 and was sworn in on June 9, 2014. Rick and I wish you the very best and know that you will admirably follow Judge Ponsor's legacy.



Congratulations to **Mayor Domenic J. Sarno** who was voted Best Local Official in *The Republican* and MassLive.com's Reader Raves poll. After getting over his initial surprise, he responded in his typical, humble manner by thanking the readers and accepting the award "on behalf of all our dedicated and hardworking city employees." Congratulations, Mayor Sarno, you deserve it!



Congratulations to **Jamina Scippio-McFadden** who was recently appointed Director of Student Services, Academic Support, Marketing and Community Relations of the UMass Center at Springfield. She previously was Assistant Professor of Communications at American International College.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MORROW FAMILY

Two hundred plus Morrow family members from the East coast to the West Coast and North and South—MA, CT, CA, WA, MI, IN, IL, OH, WI, KY, GA, SC, NC & FL—attended the 42nd year of family reunions held this year in Beloit, WI. Family matriarch, Dora Morrow (seated center), who is 92 years of age, and just retired a year ago from the International traveling group "Young At Heart Chorus" of Northampton, MA, is surrounded by 14 of her 15 children. Sally Morrow Arnold passed away in 2010. *Photo taken from www.beloitdailynews.com*

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

10th Annual Through Her Eyes Girls Conference – Girls Can!

**Featuring Keynote Speaker,
MC LYTE!**
October 23, 2014
MassMutual Center

The Center for Human Development (CHD), in partnership with Springfield College School of Human Services (SHS), is excited to welcome MC Lyte as the keynote speaker for the 10th annual Through Her Eyes Girls Conference! The event is held every year to address the issues facing girls and young women at risk of personal and social dangers in our culture. Through inspiring presentations and informative workshops, the conference focuses on the most current methods and practices for working with girls confronting challenges in their lives.

MC Lyte truly embodies the theme of this year's Conference: "Girls Can!" As a pioneer in the hip-hop music industry, MC Lyte was the first solo female rapper to release a full-length album in 1988 with her critically acclaimed *Lyte as a Rock*. Throughout her career, MC Lyte achieved a number of distinctions including the first rap artist ever to perform at New York's historic Carnegie Hall and the first female rapper to ever receive a gold single.

MC Lyte continued promoting positive images of women of ethnic diversity by founding the Hip Hop Sisters Network, a non-profit foundation providing national and international support to women and youth around the globe. The HHSN has presented two \$100,000 scholarships to college students each year since its inception.

The lunchtime presentation entitled #GirlsCan will feature Helen Caulton-Harris, Commissioner of the Division of Community Services for the City of Springfield, Crystal Senter-Brown, Latoya Bosworth (Brenda's Child), and Lynette Johnson. These amazing women who themselves exemplify the conference's theme will inform the audience through a powerful spoken word performance coupled with a

multi-media presentation that will discuss the essence of girls and the many abilities they possess. Participants will leave inspired and reminded that there are no limits to what girls can do!

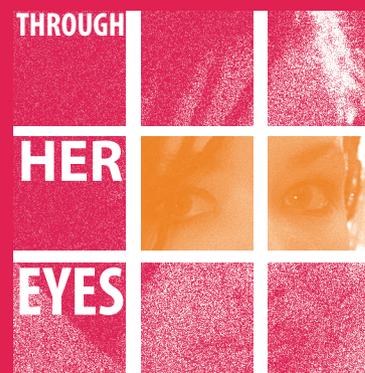
John Roberson, CHD Vice President of Children & Family Services, has been organizing this conference for 10 years: "I'm very proud to be a part of the team that has grown this conference into an indispensable resource for professionals from all over New England to develop practical skills that help girls thrive and become successful adults. Partnering with Springfield College's School of Human Services is a great way to ensure that the workshops and presenters continue to be the best available."

SHS is also proud to partner with CHD for the Through Her Eyes conference in appreciation of the important work that CHD does to improve our communities. The conference's focus on nurturing the extraordinary potential of young women as they navigate societal challenges coincides with the School's goal of providing higher education and leadership development to the adults who work to empower these young women.

For more information or to register, please visit www.chd.org/through-hereyes.

Springfield College's School of Human Services offers weekend programs to experienced adults who care deeply about their communities. It is interesting to note that the SHS awards more bachelor's and master's degrees in social services and public administration to African American and Latino students than most other institutions in the country. It is consistently ranked first or second for awarding bachelor's degrees to minority students in the U.S.

With over 70 programs and services, CHD is Western Massachusetts' largest and most successful social service organization, delivering a broad array of critical services with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Each year, CHD's community based social service and behavioral health programs reach over 18,000 people.



10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"GIRLS CAN!"

Thursday, October 23, 2014

MassMutual Center | Springfield, MA

Hosted by

CHD

In partnership with

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF HUMAN SERVICES
SPRINGFIELD CAMPUS



Speaking & Performing:

M. C. LYTE

Lyricist, hip-hop pioneer, entrepreneur, social activist and an example for people everywhere that Girls Can!

Workshops will focus on current methods and best practices to help today's girls grow into tomorrow's strong women.

For more details or to register, please visit
www.chd.org/throughereyes



OCTOBER 16, 2014 • WILSON AUDITORIUM • 6:30 P.M.

Disrupting the Status Quo: Creating a Youth Empowerment Model for Undocumented Immigrant Youth

Lauren Burke, Esquire

Since graduating from the NYU School of Law in 2009, Attorney Burke has dedicated her career to empowering immigrants and children, focusing on survivors of trauma. Lauren Burke is the Executive Director of Atlas: Developing Immigrant Youth (DIY), a public interest career counselor at NYU School of Law, and a 2014 Echoing Green Global Fellow.

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Strong Schools, Strong City Achieve Hartford!'s New Attitude



HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT (September 18, 2014) – Achieve Hartford! announced today the launch of its new brand that includes the tagline “Strong Schools, Strong City.”

Achieve Hartford! believes that strong schools lead to a strong city. Developing great schools requires not only that the school system operate with excellence, but also the entire community. Paul Diego Holzer, executive director of Achieve Hartford!, said, “It takes a village to educate a child and it is our job to help families, community members, school leaders, philanthropy, businesses, and policy makers to play their unique roles to ensure kids succeed at school, college, career and life.”

Convening each stakeholder group to play its own role has been the organization’s focus since it was founded by business and community leaders in 2008. Throughout the strategic planning process Achieve Hartford!’s vision has become more clear. It was discovered that the organization needed to create more urgency to improve the educational and economic wellbeing of children and families in Hartford.

The next logical step for the organization was to create a brand identity that reflects its new value proposition that includes not only its tag line, “Strong Schools, Strong City,” but a website and multimedia collaterals.

“Achieve Hartford!’s new strategic plan puts the focus of our efforts directly on student outcomes, and pushes us to convene business, university, K-12 education and the community to make significant, measurable progress. We ask the community to hold us accountable,” said Eric Daniels,

Achieve Hartford! Board Chair, Partner of Robinson + Cole.

What is their big idea? Together with the community, Achieve Hartford! envisions Hartford Public Schools graduating all students prepared for college and career, thereby building a viable talent pipeline for local businesses and secure futures for Hartford residents. We maintain high expectations for schools, students, families and the community.

“It is becoming increasingly clear that to address seemingly intractable urban issues, like education, there must be a force that is pushing for collaboration and alignment that cuts across the sectors. That is what I see Achieve Hartford! doing in its new strategic plan, and it’s exciting,” said Ted Carrol, President of Leadership Greater Hartford.

A better education leads to better career opportunities which leads to better lives. If we believe and invest, we can create strong schools and a strong city!

About Achieve Hartford!:

Achieve Hartford! was founded in 2008 by the business community to build a culture of education excellence among families, communities, and schools in Connecticut’s capital city. As an education advocacy organization, Achieve Hartford!, serves more than 23,000 students and families throughout the city. Through conducting independent research, evaluation, and engaging the community, Achieve Hartford! creates urgency and shared responsibility for closing the educational achievement gap in Hartford.

Visit achievehartford.org.

Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AchieveHartford.

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/AchieveHartford.

Ayala and Malloy Announce Increased Resources to Improve Bridgeport Schools



Andres Ayala

HARTFORD, CT – State Senator Andres Ayala and Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced a major state investment in local schools. Alliance School Districts in communities around the state will receive a total of \$132,901,813 in additional funding for the 2014-15 academic year to help implement academic improvement plans. Bridgeport will receive \$14,704,804 of this total.

The Alliance District program is the state’s lead initiative to improve student success in the state’s 30 most chronically struggling school districts and to help close achievement gaps. Since its creation in 2012, the Alliance District program has invested \$259,843,832 in Connecticut’s high-need school districts.

“Bridgeport’s membership in the Alliance District program has helped keep students in school and improve the quality of education available to them,” said Senator Andres Ayala. “This additional support has opened so many doors for students who may have otherwise struggled to complete their educations. I thank Governor Malloy for his continued commitment to improving Bridgeport’s schools.”

“A central part of our effort to improve public education is to make sure that districts that need the most help are getting the extra support they need, and that’s exactly what the Alliance District program does,” Governor Malloy said. “With this additional funding, districts are doing everything from focusing on early literacy to adding full-day kindergarten. It’s a huge step forward, one that is led at local level to the benefit of every child in that district.”

The increased financial investment is tied to greater accountability for how this funding is spent. A true state-district partnership, the Alliance District program requires an annual submission of turnaround plan amendments for approval from the state.

Alliance School District program providing towns with support for full-day Kindergarten, early education, and student services



Dannel P. Malloy

Bridgeport schools have benefited from the additional funding by improving curriculum, offering students in high school more college and career-oriented classwork opportunities. Schools have also improved efforts to improve attendance and help keep students from dropping out of school. Students who are chronically absent, missing ten percent of school days, in the ninth grade are less likely to graduate high school within four years.

Early education opportunities in Bridgeport are also improving thanks to the Alliance District program. Students in Kindergarten through grade three are given additional support by helping educators identify and correct any socio-emotional problems students are having that may inhibit learning.

In addition to improving attendance and early education, Alliance Districts around Connecticut use the support provided by the state to strengthen pre-Kindergarten programs, extend instructional time for students, expand professional development opportunities for educators, and more directly engage families in the children’s education.

The Alliance District program was established in 2012 when Governor Malloy signed [Public Act 12-116, An Act Concerning Educational Reform](#), into law. In total, the Alliance Districts serve over 200,000 students and 410 schools.

Over the course of the year, the state supports the districts’ implementation by providing technical assistance to help problem-solve if challenges arise and by tracking key indicators like chronic absenteeism and disciplinary actions. The department’s Turnaround Office also convenes the 30 Alliance Districts on a quarterly basis to analyze district performance and to provide the opportunity for collaboration with other districts. ■

COMMUNITY

POLITICAL HAPPENINGS - NEW HAVEN

“Colored Women as Voters”

By Arlene Davis-Rudd



Arlene Davis-Rudd

In my continued quest to bring forth our history from “back in the day,” I discovered a most provocative article that should be of great interest to our women of color, and others who make up most of our devoted readership. The article, “Colored Women As Voters,” first appeared in the September 1912 issue of THE CRISIS, the NAACP’S informational news magazine. Here are excerpts chosen from that amazing and profound article written over 100 years ago, before women were given the right to vote.

“More and more colored women are studying public questions and civics. As they gain information and have experience in their daily vocations, and in their efforts for human betterment, they are convinced, as many other women have long ago been convinced, that their efforts would be more telling if women had the right to vote.

The fashion of saying “I do not care to meddle with politics,” is disappearing among the colored woman faster than most people think, for this same woman has learned that politics meddle constantly with her and hers.

Good women try always to do good housekeeping. Building inspectors, sanitary inspectors and food inspectors owe their positions to politics. Who, then, is so well-informed as to how these inspectors perform their duties as the women who live in inspected districts and inspected houses, and who buy food in inspected markets?

Adequate school facilities in city, village, and plantation districts greatly concern the black mother. But without a voice she has no choice in educational legislation, and no power to see that her children secure their share of public school funds.

Negro parents admit that their own children are not all angels, but they know that the environments which they are hopeless to regulate, increase misdemeanor and crime. They know, too, that officers, as a rule, recognize few obligations to voteless citizens.

Not only is the colored woman awake with reforms that may be hastened by good legislation and wise administration, but where she has the ballot she is reported as using it for the uplift of society and for the advancement of the state.

In various states, the colored woman bore her part creditably in the campaign for equal suffrage and also with commendable patriotism in the recent presidential nomination campaign.”

At that time, a number of colored women were active members of the National Women’s Suffrage Association. They were well-informed and diligent in the spread of propaganda. “Women who saw that they needed the vote saw also that the vote needed them.”

History has taught us that, “Passed by Congress on June 4th, 1919, and ratified on August 18th, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America guarantees all American women the right to vote.”

Remember, colored women were included in that right to vote. Let us show the world how much we value that right by getting out to vote on November 4th. This is a must! ■

COMMUNITY INFORMATION - CONNECTICUT

F.T. Simpson-Waverly School and PTO, Farmington Valley Chapter of the Links to Present Community Health Fair

By Geneva Williams



Theme — “Healthy Families Make Healthy Communities”

Hartford, Conn: — The F.T. Simpson-Waverly School, in partnership with the Farmington Valley Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, will present its Fourth Annual Community Health Fair on **Saturday, October 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the F.T. Simpson Waverly School, located at 55 Waverly Street in Hartford.** The theme for the fair is “Healthy Families Make Healthy Communities!”

Kimberly Oliver, director of the Hartford Opportunity Youth Collaborative and radio personality at W.Q.T.Q (89.9-FM), will serve as host at the health fair. The public is invited. Admission is free!

Complimentary healthy snacks and refreshments will be provided. Children will enjoy arts and crafts, storytelling, and face painting, along with ample giveaways; the first 30 children will be presented free bicycle helmets!

“In many urban communities, residents find it easier to enjoy high fructose corn syrup and nicotine than fresh vegetables and whole grains,” said Leonardo Watson, principal at the F.T Simpson-Waverly School. “Children prove vulnerable to poor nutrition, and are often exposed to environmental pollutants that damage their developing bodies. However, armed with healthy lifestyle information, Hartford’s parents, children, and community members can

make meaningful choices about their individual and familial health. This community health fair will demonstrate that young and old embrace good nutrition and home safety. It will show that our community chooses health and wellness over sugar and smoking!”

The fair will provide children and their families information on a wide range of health issues, along with financial information on home ownership, financial planning for college; safety issues such as fire prevention and safety, emergency preparedness, injury prevention; and scouting.

Health issues covered include affordable nutrition; oral and dental screenings; healthy homes; diabetes and diabetes prevention; cancer awareness; skin care; organ donation; eye examinations; prostate screening; clinical breast examinations; blood pressure and glucose level testing; and anti-smoking information; mammograms, which require pre-registration by calling (860) 545-1243; flu shots, (which will be covered by all insurance including Medicaid; if no insurance, flu shots and mammograms are free!); CPR training; medication review by on-site pharmacist; pre-natal care; and family planning, including behavioral health information and referrals.

At noon, the fair will also feature a forum on heart health titled, “Ask The Cardiologist: The Secret to A Healthy Heart.” Dr. Anita M. Kelsey, the renowned director of echocardiograph; medical director of Hoffman Heart School and Cardiac ultrasound; and director of the Phillips Women’s Heart Program at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, will lead the discussion.

For more information on the fair, call (860) 965-3532 or email: elyew01@msn.com. ■

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EDITORIAL

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

FOR GOVERNOR:

MAY THE BEST WO(MAN) WIN

By Frederick A. Hurst



MY POINT
OF VIEW
Frederick A. Hurst

Well, here we go again. It is testimony to the old adage that one should not be in business with family, especially not with one's wife. *Point of View* is committed to endorsing political candidates, especially the top tier candidates. Our rule is to follow candidates in the news, watch what they do, meet with them and decide who to endorse. We try to make decisions as a committee but in the final analysis, if there is no confluence of opinion, the publisher gets the final say.

"We," by the way, is me, the publisher, and Marjorie Hurst, the editor, who also is my wife.

I am for Charlie Baker for Governor. And for good reason. I don't think it will make a lot of a difference, more or less, whether our next governor is Charlie Baker or Martha Coakley. The predominant Democratic legislature will continue to set the Massachusetts government agenda, which will continue to be pretty much left of center but middle of the road. I'm focused on the little stuff. Generally speaking, in my opinion, this all-Democratic line up doesn't work so well. And balance, however small, is desirable. A Republican governor will, at least, be able to challenge the Democratic status quo and might temper some of the excesses and reverse some of the omissions. And even though a Republican governor may never speak to me, I can at least ex-

pect that the "HNIC" concept won't govern his relations with a diverse African-American community as has been the case with Democrats in Massachusetts for the last 50 years. (For a definition of "HNIC," White folks should consult their local "HNIC.")

My big problem, though, is that my editor won't bend to my wishes. Notice I didn't say "bend to my will." We are both strong-willed so if I make it a clash of wills, divorce might follow.

But to get to the point, my editor is fully committed to Martha Coakley. She structures her commitment in logic as witnessed in her recent article (*Point of View*, August 1, 2014). But bottom line her commitment to Martha Coakley is also understandably emotional. Martha Coakley is no more qualified to

be governor than Charlie Baker but she is a woman who is as qualified. And a lot of men in Massachusetts have been elected governor and no women. It's a sad fact, given that women's right to vote is almost a century old. And although it is a morally unacceptable fact, especially in so-called liberal Massachusetts, it is, in my mind, politically irrelevant to current circumstances.

But, right or wrong, my editor is in a "feminine-seize-the-moment" state of mind. And although I support Charlie Baker for governor of Massachusetts, I don't sleep with him and I'm not going to risk my marital rites for a vote. So we are going to split this one. I'm for Charlie Baker and my editor is for Martha Coakley and may the best wo(man) win. ■

AF-AM NEWS bits

By Frederick A. Hurst

WHAT THE GHETTO GURU ALWAYS KNEW

"...my experience has shown me that it is futile, counterproductive, and dangerous to try to arrest our way out of this very real problem (drugs)...Heroin's status as a Schedule I illegal drug has ceded its control and distribution to the most unscrupulous and unregulated players among us with the predictably tragic results. Prohibition has completely failed to curb either supply or demand for opiates. It has not only failed to protect our young and vulnerable, but also cost many of their lives – deaths from heroin overdose alone have increased nine fold since the drug war began. The whole family of opiates is dangerous, seductive, and addictive under the best of circumstances, but when the circumstances are defined by a destabilizing cat-and-mouse game for those in the

thrall of addiction, those dangers intensify." (By Jack Cole, a retired New Jersey State Police narcotics detective, *Boston Sunday Globe*, August 24, 2014)

WE WON ONE

The suburban Detroit White homeowner who shot and killed a 19-year-old Black woman who came to his door seeking help after a car accident was found guilty and sentenced to 17 years for manslaughter. One down but so many more to go.

WE MIGHT WIN ANOTHER ONE

You might not understand the game the Ferguson, Missouri police and prosecutor are playing. It's old school. They're going after the jury pool which will assuredly be predominantly White and, they believe, sufficiently racially biased to be in-

fluenced by the leakage of information that suggests the Black victim, Michael Brown, who was shot six times by a White police officer while his hands were extended in surrender, was a thug with a felony rap sheet. Even though the White cop fired at least 11 shots at the unarmed 18 year old, the officer's protectors know that most White folks are conditioned to condone the murder of Black men by cops if they can raise the slightest insinuation of thuggery by the Black

victim even if the alleged thuggery is unrelated to the shooting. And they are even extending the logic to the Black witnesses to the murder. Of course, they didn't anticipate the recent testimony of two White witnesses who were recorded on camera expressing outrage at the shooting of the unarmed, arm-raised Brown. Sad to say, the discovery of White witnesses has tipped the scales against the White police officer. I guess that's American justice at work. ■

LETTERS TO THE PUBLISHER

Thank you for acknowledging our Program Chairman, J. Jay Griffin as the recipient of the Uboru Award ("Congratulations Corner," POV, August 1st issue). The *Point of View* is very essential in the community and city.

Thanks again and may God bless!

Stone Soul Committee (7/31/2014)

Letters to the Publisher and other content MUST be sent electronically to: mjhurst@afampov.com
(Please reference a subject matter or e-mail is automatically deleted.)

OP - ED

MIKE HEFFERNAN

For Treasurer



Mike Heffernan

I learned to appreciate not only the value of a dollar but the value of education, hard work, faith and compassion for others from my family. My grandfather earned his U.S. citizenship by enlisting in the army during WW I. My grandmother was a maid. My dad, a public school teacher, was the first in his family to go to college. My mom worked nights to make a better life for her four kids.

I worked my way through Georgetown University, studying economics, then through NYU earning an MBA in finance. I would spend the next twenty-five years in banking with leadership roles at Salomon Brothers and Citigroup, doing first hand what the state treasurer does, working with money and investing wisely. In recent years I helped start two small companies, creating jobs here in Massachusetts.

Along the way I never forgot the Jesuit creed "in service to others." I have served on numerous charitable boards both locally and at my college. I have been caregiver to my parents, giving back to them, in small part, the love and sacrifice they unselfishly gave me. Wanting to do more, I went back to school at the age of 50, earning a Masters degree from Harvard's Kennedy School, preparing me for public service.

I am running for Treasurer to realize the tremendous untapped potential we have across the Commonwealth. Through the lens of my business experience, I recognize the significant challenges before us.

State tax revenues are up \$6 bil-

lion in 5 years while state aid to cities and towns is down by 40 percent. We are considered one of the most indebted states in the U.S., making us vulnerable to an economic slowdown. Statewide, job growth is stagnant with 60 communities in Massachusetts still grappling with high unemployment. We rank only 45th in job creation. Beacon Hill has defunded our pension system from 84 cents on the dollar to 60, putting the entire system at risk and rated as failing by the Urban Institute. Our rates of homelessness are climbing. Two thousand Massachusetts families live in motels far from their communities.

This election is not about Democrat or Republican; it is about a change in leadership. Our problems have grown too large to be tackled by government alone. We must marry business sector experience with public sector institutions to meet these challenges. Only then will we deliver the resources of our Commonwealth to those that need it most.

What happens in the greater Springfield area is personal to me. My wife grew up here. Her family is very active in the community. Too many statewide candidates campaign in Western Mass but do not serve Western Mass. I will invest in its future.

I am the only candidate for Treasurer supporting the MGM Springfield casino plan. I am the only candidate promising to bring 1 billion dollars of small business capital into the areas of the state, like the Pioneer Valley, that need it most. State aid to Springfield has been cut dramatically, over 20 million dollars in just the past five years. I will work to bring state money back to Springfield.

My children attend Massachusetts public schools. Public education and financial literacy are the best tools we have for creating lasting opportunity. Every child deserves a great education provided in a modern, connected school building. Let's not just close the education gap, let's close the skills gap, allowing affordable education to translate into job security and economic security.

As Treasurer I will invest the state's resources in all of our people, regardless of zip code. ■

DEB GOLDBERG

For Treasurer



Deb Goldberg

facing women, children and families. I was elected a Selectman in my community and became Chair. I was a Founder and Treasurer of a school for kids with severe cognitive disabilities. I am an Advisor at The Greater Boston Food Bank.

But it is as President of an adoption agency that I have learned the most. My two wonderful children are adopted. Through them I have learned, deep inside of me, that we can change lives forever. Today both my children have chosen paths where they are making a difference too.

I am running for Treasurer to give every woman, man, family the financial power they need to get ahead in today's tough economy. The Treasurer's job is running a large office with many departments. And I can do that job. But I will also be a Treasurer who invests in people.

We will put a laser focus on creating a statewide financial literacy program, insuring people don't fall victim again to a mortgage crisis or go into serious debt to pay for college. We will provide free tax preparation for low-income families, so they don't rely on companies that promise fast cash instead of refunds they have worked so hard for.

We will create a college savings plan for kindergarteners at no cost to taxpayers. Research shows that a kid with college savings is seven times more likely to go to college. And, to make sure we create a level playing field, I know where we must begin. Wage equality. This is not just a women's issue. It is a family issue!

I have the skills to do the job of Treasurer but also the values, passion, and commitment to make a difference in people's lives. Yes, economic empowerment, security, and stability are not just buzzwords, they are my personal mission!

It would be an honor to be your Treasurer. ■

From the time I was a small child I learned that everything in life is opportunity. Economic empowerment, economic security, economic stability are not just buzzwords, but a personal mission for me and my whole family.

I was raised understanding the importance of community, beginning with my mother's great grandmother. Yente came, with her 11 children, to the North End of Boston and opened a small grocery store. Every friend or relative who arrived was given a job and a roof over their heads. Those families worked together growing the food business, which eventually became Stop and Shop.

Stop and Shop was a company where thousands of hardworking families for generations could have good paying union jobs and build careers with excellent benefits. I worked there as a retail clerk in Local 1445 then later on as an executive after college, after getting my law degree from Boston College, and my MBA from Harvard. At the same time every one of us was involved in the community, in politics, at non-profits; we were activists.

Then Stop and Shop went through a takeover and I saw a very different corporate model, not one I could live with. I turned to public service bringing my business and finance skills to issues

OP - ED

CONTINUES TO PAGE 33

RELIGION

RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW

Pastors, Ministers, Professors and Theologians, please submit your articles for this page to Rev. Dr. Atu White at atuwhite@gmail.com



Dr. Atu White, Editor, serves as Pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 368 Bay Street, Springfield, MA and as Second Vice President of the United Baptist Convention of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. atuwhite@gmail.com

Luke 18:1-5 (NLT):

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. (2) "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. (3) A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' (4) The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, (5) but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

Approximately 78% of Americans declare Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We have Jesus. We have the freedom to practice our religion, to organize denominations, and to worship freely any day of the week. We require politicians to announce their faith, their loyalties to Christ, and their devotion to hot button topics. We have Jesus. Ap-



*Dr. Lewis Everett Randall
August 27, 1937
September 12, 2014*

sat and reflected on our special memories of Lew as photographs of his life played on the screen at the front of the sanctuary. My special memory was of the time Lew asked me to dance at a Squire's holiday party. Lew was such a smooth dancer that he made me look good as effortlessly as only my husband can.

Lew was a man of character, firm but quiet, eschewing emotion over facts, caring, never bragging about his many accomplishments. He had a way of smil-

ing whenever he saw you. That smile was so much a part of him that his sister-in-law, Rev. Jacquelyn Randall, commented during his eulogy that if we just remember to smile when we encounter people, we would be honoring Lew's memory. I've been doing just that.

Lew was a man of service who had ties to both Springfield and Connecticut as evidenced by the organizations of which he was a member. He belonged to the Springfield chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi Boulé. He was an Elder in the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation of Connecticut. And the tributes paid to him by these three groups were heartwarming, making it clear that Lew wasn't just a member, he was a contributor, and a significant one at that. And these three were just the tip of the iceberg, as he served on many boards as well.

As Christians, we cannot afford to continue cultural norms, institutional biases, and economic oppression and greed, but we have an imperative to advocate for justice. Christians have been complicit waiting on the sweet bye-and-bye, while the oppressed continues to suffer from the lack of justice. Some have inverted this parable by saying, "Give me Jesus, and later for justice." Christians should unite for the sake of justice.

Jesus tells the story of a persistent widow who refused to hide behind religious platitudes and she challenged the

oppressive system of her day. Perhaps, this widow was not a figment of Jesus' imagination, but a living legend whose story he wanted to highlight.

She sought justice in the dispute with her enemy. She demanded the eyes of the law view her as a human being and not a widow. This bold woman persisted for fair treatment. She was not suggesting that life is fair. She did not seek special privileges. She did not ask the judge to side with her, but she persisted daily for justice.

The widow created her own movement. If she received justice, it might ignite and inspire other widows to not sulk in their predicament, but to demand justice also. Each of us is responsible for challenging oppressive systems, even if we personally do not identify with them. Christians cannot remain silent. We have to be diligent in our persistence.

We have Jesus, but we also need Justice in every region of this country and the world.

[To be continued...] ■

We Need Justice

By Rev. Dr. Atu White

A TRUE RENAISSANCE MAN

By Marjorie J. Hurst

He was a talented musician and composer and excelled as an athlete and a scholar. He belonged to the Hartford Jazz Society and was inducted into the Norwich Free Academy, Thames Athletic and American International College Halls of Fame. He played football, basketball, tennis and baseball, having played minor league baseball for the Cleveland Indians and Washington Senators. The town of Norwich, CT recognized his lifelong achievements by presenting him with their Native Son Award.

But above all, it was abundantly clear that Lew loved his family and they in turn loved him; and although he will be missed, his life was truly the epitome of a life well lived. He was a true Renaissance man. ■

Alden Baptist Church

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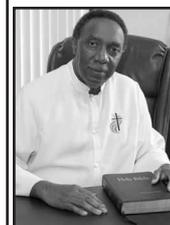
*Rev. J. Willard Cofield, Jr., Pastor
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Bible Study
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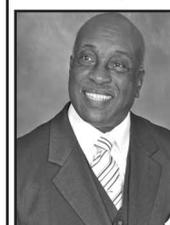
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Rev. Amelia Eddy, Associate Minister
James D. Bullock, Minister of Music*

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Church School
Saturday 11:00 am
Sunday Morning Divine Worship
10:00 am
Bible Study/Prayer & Class Meeting
Wednesday 7:00 pm

New Life Calvary Baptist Church



Rev. Jesse E. Williams Sr., Pastor/Teacher

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RELIGIOUS DIRECTORY



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Pastor Gail L. Hill

Order of Services

Sunday	Christian Education Morning Worship	9:00 am 10:00 am
Tuesday	Prayer Bible Study	6:30 pm 7:00 pm



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Sundays

Rev. Dr. W. C.
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Church Life
Worship, Prayer,
Praise & Study

Sunday School (all ages) -----9:15a.m.
Morning Worship Service ----10:45a.m.

Wednesdays

Mid-day Prayer & Praise--12:00-1:00p.m.
Bible Study -----7:00 p.m.



Join us this month as we journey to wholeness
through our sermon series:

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:45am & 10:45am

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Trinity United Methodist Church

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Acts 5:12b

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God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son; John 3:16



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THE ARTS

CHILDREN'S BOOK CORNER

“Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Reality Shock!”

c.2014, Ripley Publishing \$28.95 / \$32.95 Canada 256 pages
Reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer



The Bookworm is **Terri Schlichenmeyer**. Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 11,000 books.

Raise your fingers high.

That’s what you’ll be doing this school year, because you’ve been practicing. You’ll be the fastest hand-raiser in the entire school, fingers pointed at the ceiling, ready to answer any question the teacher throws your way. You *know things*, and you’re going to prove it with a sky-high hand, fingers pointing up.

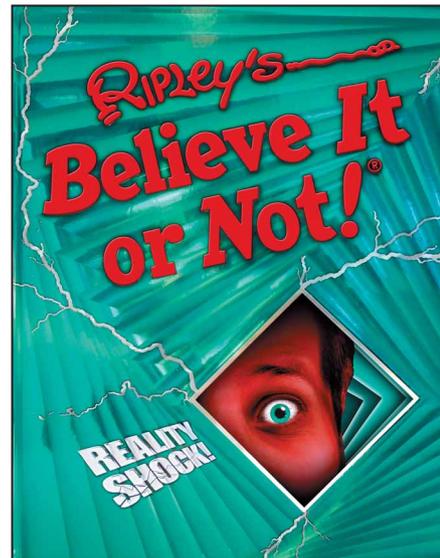
So how do you get to be so smart? You’ve got “**Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Reality Shock!**” and that helps a bunch.

Robert Ripley was one of those people with “true star quality.” Everybody, it seemed, knew who he was, and they all loved him — maybe because he had a “multitude of dazzling achievements” that he enjoyed sharing with the world.

Ripley, you see, liked to travel and he liked weird, unusual things. Nowhere was too remote for him to go, and nothing was too dangerous. The novelties he collected simply astounded people almost a hundred years ago; today, you can see some of the items he might have gathered in this book.

Things, for instance, that are creepy, like spiders and alligators that lurk beneath beds, squirrels that make knots with their tails (accidentally, for sure!), and snakes that curl up in piles with other snakes. Ripley would have liked jeweled skulls, color-changing frogs, monster fish, and a bug that looks like he’s wearing fiber optics.

Ripley liked oddities, too: names that are super-long or made up of silly words; “death zones” on mountains;



rickety wooden sidewalks on the face of a sheer cliff; pictures of sneezes; chewing gum portraits; or South African games that involve spitting antelope poop.

He might have personally seen rainbow trees in Hawaii, rainbow waterfalls in British Columbia, or rainbow mountains in China years ago.

You can see them in this book now.

Ripley also liked things that were outside of normal, like the world’s shortest lady, the tallest man (who also has the biggest hands), the largest waist and hips, the biggest foot, the longest tongue, tattooed people, and the longest fingernails.

And, by the way, how does someone live with long fingernails?

The answer to that is in this book, believe it or not...

In the first few pages of “Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Reality Shock!” the authors promise readers that “everything in this book is definitely true...” For parents and grandparents, that’s really good news: ever since *we* were kids, Ripley’s stories have been based on authenticity and that hasn’t changed — it just gets weirder for the next generation of readers to enjoy.

And enjoy it they will, because

PEN & INK



BRENDA'S CHILD has made it her life’s mission to inspire people through poetry and stories and through leading by example with courage, confidence, and integrity. In April 2007, she self-published her first book of poetry, “*A Piece of My Mind...Poetic Confessions of a Self-Proclaimed Diva.*” Since then she has published four more titles. For more information, email: brendaschild@brendaschild.com

Why “Truth Tastes Better with a Side of Rhyme” May be My Definitive Work

By Brenda’s Child

When I self-published my first book, *A Piece of My Mind*, back in 2007, I was afraid to offend so I carefully chose which poems to include. I wanted my material to be appropriate for both teenagers and adults, so I avoided taboo topics and what might be seen as offensive language. Two years later, with plenty of poems still in my head, and a bit more experience in spoken word performance, I held nothing back with the release, *Outspoken...Poetry for the Bold*. I had grown gutsy and I needed to vent. I had fallen in love and wanted to share. I had become comfortable with being a woman, and I wanted to flaunt it. I took off the filter, and to this day, I still get a little abashed when an elder flips through the book and opens to the last chapter.

After a five years, seven publications and a thousand more moments of inspiration, I felt the time had come to create another anthology. *Truth Tastes Better with a Side of Rhyme* is still written with the same rawness and vulnerability expected from any Brenda’s Child poetry collection, but this time around, maturity, empathy, and a whole new consciousness are apparent from the

this book is filled with everything a kid could want: disgustingly fascinating full-color pictures, quick anecdotes to share with friends, entries to astound, and superlatives that could spark creativity.

Packed as it is with that kind of

Truth Tastes Better with a Side of Rhyme



Brenda's Child

very first page. Each thematic chapter starts with a quote by those who’ve been influential in my life, from Mary McLeod Bethune to Tupac Shakur. With *Black Pride* and *Femininity* at its core, this book is the artistic expression of my desire to be a voice for those who are often unheard. *Truth...* is official announcement that I am ready to take my place as a word warrior, championing change though rhythmic flow.

Truth Tastes Better with a Side of Rhyme and all titles by Brenda’s Child are available on Amazon.com and www.brendaschild.com

greatness, I can’t imagine any kid age 12-and-up who wouldn’t like to page through this book. Leave “Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Reality Shock!” lying around the house, and I think even reluctant readers will want to get their fingers on it. ■

THE ARTS

PEN & INK



JUANITA TORRENCE-THOMPSON: Pushcart nominee. Published fiction, children's stories, feature articles, hundreds of her award-winning poems in dozens of U.S. and international journals, 12 anthologies, 7 books including her *Talking With Stanley Kunitz* (2012). Writes print & online newspaper poetry columns; produces poetry salons and reads internationally. Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of acclaimed 30-year-old *Mobius*, *The Poetry Magazine*. Her poetry is translated into 15 foreign languages. *Talking With Stanley Kunitz* and *New York and African Tapestries* were best pick by *Small Press Review*. *Mobius*, *The Poetry Magazine*, best pick 2007 thru 2012 www.poetry-town.com

About My Friend, Yala Korwin

By Juanita Torrence-Thompson

I met Yala through the Fresh Meadows Poets in Queens, New York, and soon learned she was a holocaust survivor from Lvov, Poland with an incredible *story. Besides being a talented writer and poet, she was also a gifted painter, sculptor and teacher. In fact, I purchased a few of her paintings and one day when I visited her, she presented me with her small, beautiful sculpture of a woman in a flowing blue gown. I was touched.

Since we lived in the same neighborhood, we exchanged names of electricians, plumbers, snow shovelers. Whenever I visited Yala, she told me about the latest book she was reading. I used to think, "Oh to be that free to have time to read novels or more non-fiction books." I only had time to read poetry books due to the length.

Yala and I talked about many things including world affairs, politics, literature, poetry. I took her to an Italian restaurant for dinner one summer night and she said, a bit misty eyed, "I told my son I was having dinner with a famous editor." Then it was I who became misty eyed to know she held me in such high esteem.

Knowing Yala loved literature, I told her my husband and I attended the annual Queens College Reading series of famous poets and writers. She was interested so the next season we ordered three season tickets and I picked Yala up and drove her home after the program. Well, she was so elated, it was as if she had won the lottery!

Moreover, I had great respect for Yala. This woman had overcome great odds in Poland and eventually married and found her way to the United States via Paris, France. Still, Yala had a wonderful perceptive view of life and was a gold mine of knowledge. Incidentally, she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a master's degree from Queens College.

Now when I drive near her block, I look to my left and realize I will not have afternoon tea anymore with Yala. I will not read my latest poem to her and we will not discuss the joys of life and the problems of the world again.

**(To Tell the Story: Poems of the Holocaust)* by Yala Korwin)*

LATIN@ GROOVE

Unity Is An Unlocked Door

continued from page 17

vacuum; they evolve from an insidious corruption that begins in our most thoughtless daily actions, to the most vile exploitations of all that lives by those who value profit over life itself. The term "Police Brutality" implies an expected behavior; "The Brutality of Police" allows the possibility that not every officer is a hater. In creating "us" and "them" we contribute to our loss of empathy and obviate possibilities for

mutually beneficial partnerships, even in the most unexpected places.

Yes, we must nurture the mind and spirit among the people and culture with which we are most familiar. We must adamantly protect cultural memory and be intractable sentinels of truth in history as we fight for justice. If we are consumed by the arrogance and weakness of "I am not you," we are depleted of the power and dignity of the simplest "I am." ■

LIVING

LIFE'S CHALLENGES

Narcissism vs. Humility

By Dr. Sweets H. Wilson



Dr. Sweets S. Wilson is a Christian life purpose coach, motivational speaker and CEO of Inspire ME, LLC. wilson.sweets@gmail.com or 860-869-8067

FROM HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

There are many books, articles and studies that warn us of the dangers of not exercising humility. Humility is not hospitality, courtesy or a kind and friendly demeanor. Humility has nothing to do with being meek, weak or indecisive. Perhaps more surprising, it does not entail shunning publicity. Humility or humbleness is a quality of being courteously respectful of others. It is the opposite of aggressiveness, arrogance, boastfulness and vanity. Narcissism, on the other hand, is an exaggerated sense of one's own abilities and achievements with a constant need for attention, affirmation and praise.

Fame is equated with success and being self-referential has become the norm. We are encouraged to pump ourselves full of alarming self-confidence. A serious problem can emerge when forceful individuals intermingle narcissistic tendencies, resulting in persons behaving in a self-absorbed way; psychologists have known narcissism to be a formal personality disorder for some and a real impediment to their forming healthy relationships.

Friendships and marriages are dissolved over angry words. Resentments divide families and co-workers. Prejudices separate race from race and religion from religion. Reputations are destroyed by malicious gossip. Greed puts enmity between rich and poor. Wars are fought over arrogant assertions. The narcissist lacks self-awareness and empathy and is often hypersensitive to criticism or perceived insults. The individual frequently exaggerates contributions and claims to be

an expert at many different things. If you are part of an organization with a leader exhibiting such characteristics, you have a problem. However, narcissism is not a fair label to apply to any person who thinks differently and has the courage to assert or act on their convictions.

Humility, on the other hand, is the quality that lets us go more than halfway to meet the needs and demand of others. Resolve to work on your own humility and you will begin to notice and appreciate its power all around you. Humility as a virtue is a major theme of both the Old and New Testaments. Why do qualities such as courtesy, patience and deference have such a prominent place in the Bible? It is because a demeanor of humility is exactly what is needed to live in peace and harmony with all persons. Humility dissipates anger and heals old wounds. Humility allows us to see the dignity and worth of all God's people. Humility distinguishes the wise leader from the arrogant power seeker. Here are some suggestions for identifying if you are humble:

- Embrace and promote a spirit of service
- Are passionately curious
- Resist falling for your own publicity
- Know what you do not know
- Listen, even to the weird ideas
- Never underestimate the competition

Acting with humility does not in any way deny our own self-worth. Rather, it affirms the inherent worth of all persons. Some would consider humility to be a psychological malady that interferes with success. However, wealth, power or status gained at the expense of others brings only anxiety, never peace and love. ■

FOOD TALK

URBAN GARDENING

I Love New England!

By Zaida Govan



Zaida Govan is a native of Springfield via Puerto Rico with a passion for improving the community she serves. She can be reached at 413.301.2533 or zaida.govan@yahoo.com

We are fully into a great New England autumn. I love the seasons here in the northeast. As a novice gardener, I always thought that you put your gardens to rest during these times; however, I am learning that you can plant cold weather crops in late July and even September and eat fresh lettuce, spinach and other cold weather crops right now and sometimes into November. Many crops that grow well in cold weather are low-growing, leafy green vegetables. These vegetables, which include members of the cabbage and lettuce families, are slow to freeze because of their low-growing habit. They also absorb more energy from the sun due to their green color. Crops like cabbage, collard greens, kale and Brussels sprouts are hearty down to 20 degrees Fahrenheit, according to Oregon State University. These types of greens are not what I am used to eating because if you know me, you know I don't eat vegetables! I know that sounds funny coming from a gardener, but that is part of the reason I started gardening. I wanted to eat more veggies, in addition to getting more of a sense of community—thus I started working on community gardens.

October is a month in New England that still has farmers markets open.

The leaves are turning to create an amazing work of art in nature this time of year. Everyone is getting ready to begin their winter semi-hibernation. But don't forget the amazing things you can still do in the fall in New England. The Mason Square Health Task Force will continue doing its work to improve the overall health of the community; Just Food will continue to work to bring a full line grocery store to Mason Square; and, of course, our children are into their full schedule of school. This is a great time to get involved in school PTO's, maybe plan a spring garden at the school or join in whatever fundraiser they may have. There are many good things to do this time of year in New England. Leaf watching is a favorite of mine. For me as a gardener, I will be planting flower bulbs in my flower garden with the expectation of seeing the many different colors of flowers in the spring.

In the spring, the Bay Street community garden group will re-convene and look for another location for our community garden. With the city's help, we will find an empty lot to garden in. We have about eight avid gardeners who are eager to have our community garden back. This year we did find a small piece of land where only two of our gardeners were able to garden. Next year we hope to be able to accommodate all of us and more. I am looking forward to a great fall and winter here in the city of Springfield. In New England we tell newcomers that if you don't like the weather, don't worry, wait a minute; it will change. I love New England! ■

THE URBAN COOK

Excuse Me

By Rhonda Jones



Rhonda Jones is a Personal Caterer and a Food Consultant rjcooks@aol.com

As an experienced cook, I pride myself in learning new techniques and different ethnic cuisine. There's a story coming behind this.

Last month I was hired to cater a small, intimate gathering for 25 people. The menu consisted of fried chicken, tilapia, green beans, baked beans, rice and peas and salad. Now this is an easy menu, all except one dish that I wasn't comfortable making. You guessed it—the rice and peas. Many people say they grew up eating rice but I grew up on potatoes and maybe had rice once every other month. We never had gravy on our rice; it was eaten with sugar and butter and we always had rice left over for rice pudding.

Since I wasn't comfortable with my rice and peas skills, I decided to go to a reputable Caribbean restaurant and order some for my event. Let's face it, Caribbean people have a soft spot for rice and bean dishes. I went to the restaurant the night before and ordered rice and peas for 25 people and I even gave them the aluminum pan and top to put the rice in for my pick up the next day. My party was at 1pm so I arrived to pick up the rice at 12:30. The owner comes out with my rice. I inspected it and it was good. I asked him, "How much do I owe you?" It was loud in the

establishment since the music was blaring and his accent was strong. I thought I heard him say \$60.00 but my mind said he said \$16.00. I said, "Excuse me. How much did you say?" And he repeated himself and I said, "You mean \$16.00?" My heart dropped. I replied to him by saying, "You charge \$60.00 for rice for 25 people!"

What was I to do at this last minute? I wanted to leave the rice but I didn't have time to make my own or go elsewhere. I was stuck and bewildered because he not only cheated me but dug into my profit. As I drove away from this place, I told myself this will never happen again! I went home and called my Caribbean friend to teach me how to make proper rice and peas. Now, my family is sick of eating rice and peas every week but practice makes perfect.

Rice and Peas

1 pound red kidney beans
24 ounces vegetable stock
2 lbs white rice
8 ounces coconut cream (already made in can)
1 onion finely diced
1 clove garlic chopped
Thyme
1 scallion
1 scotch bonnet pepper
Salt to taste

Soak kidney beans. Place beans and stock in pot. Boil over medium heat until done. Add rice to bean pot. Add coconut cream, onion, garlic and thyme and the other ingredients. Reduce heat, cover and allow to cook about another 15 minutes.

EDUCATION & HOPE

A Somebody

continued from page 7

how to release anger and embrace hope. Deeply profound concepts from ever-emerging spirits.

One young man in particular spoke to the draws of gangs because they *make you feel like a part of something. Like you belong.* In his own words, he painted a picture of a *broken, tired fam-*

ily without much to offer. Without any hope of competing with the big shiny promises of a gangster's life.

This would have been his life, he emphasized, had it not been for the boxing program, and especially for the love and care of his Counselors at The High School of Commerce who encouraged and supported his participation in the program.

With poise and grace, this young man described the prescribed fate of so

many of our youth and families to turn to gangs and violence and crime to belong. To control. To survive. To live. His salvation came in the form of 20 peers and a handful of adults gathering once a week to exercise bodies, but, more especially, to open hearts. To let others in. To belong. *To walk through a crowd and no longer feel like a nobody. But realize you are a somebody. You are a somebody.*

This young man is just one somebody. But he is the face and essence of

thousands of somebodies who have yet to be discovered...

Join us in reaching out, connecting, and supporting their journey to belonging...

Author's Note: For more information regarding the Task Force meetings, programs, initiatives, and how you can get involved, please contact Gianna Allentuck at 703.930.0243.

OP - ED

A Few Thoughts on your Workforce Development Issue

By Rebecca Willoughby

I truly appreciate the issue you recently published on Workforce Development. (*POV*, August 15, 2014 Education Special issue.) I have been in this largely overlooked field for over 25 years and hold several credentials and certifications, including training with Richard Knowdell, one of the pioneers. You have provided excellent definitions for many of the positions found in Workforce Development.

Workforce Development has evolved and diversified over time. It now encompasses job seeker services, career coaching, employment counseling, workforce policy and forecasting, programming, training, and employer services.

There are resources available to your readers interested in this field. Accessing resources can assist in making better decisions in order to innovate. Your readers can greatly benefit from

several organizations.

The first of which is the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. This organization provides valuable information and resources. Their monthly newsletter *The Advantage* is invaluable. Articles on the many uses of labor market information; rules of job reference etiquette from both sides of the desk; and solving human resource dilemmas are just some of the useful articles. They list the latest federal publications, reports, and information on grants and other funding sources. In addition to their website, they have a presence on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter, host webinars, youth and adult conferences, and partner with other workforce entities nationwide. Since 1999, they have offered the Certified Workforce Development Professional credential with specialty endorsements in national

competency standards. Their website for further information is: www.nawdp.org. I currently hold a Certified Workforce Development Professional credential with an endorsement in Job Seeker Services. I have been a member since 1990.

Another great resource for those in Workforce Development is holding the Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) credential offered through the Center for Credentialing and Education, cce-global.org. This is an international organization. Many states now require their middle and high school teachers and guidance counselors to hold a GCDF. The good news is that this credential can now be obtained locally at Holyoke Community College. I currently hold a GCDF. I was the 18th person in Massachusetts to achieve it.

There is a lot said about there

being a 'skills gap' especially here in Western Massachusetts. There is a book by Dani Moore called *Untapped Talent* that suggests that there is more employers can do to tap the talent within an organization. Just a thought to consider: The age to impact our future workforce may be younger than previously realized. I personally do not think third grade is too early to institute workforce development. In today's global village, do we really want to wait until eighth grade to get the competition started?

Lastly, your readers should not overlook the value of Workforce Development associations such as the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources and others. ■

FEATURED ARTICLE

Dr. William Davila

continued from page 5

of his qualitative staff, he understands the importance of putting familiar faces on those who will be interfacing with and outreaching to a diverse community. But most important, Will is only 41 years old. He represents not just the present but also the future. Even though it may be an additional burden for him, like his mother who was the first to have high expectations of him and of his twin brother, Anthony, who has a bachelor's in Psychology and an M.Ed in education and his 38-year-old younger brother, Malwin, who has a bachelor's in Sociology from UMass Amherst and his 34-year-old sister, Julisa, who holds a bachelor's in Education from Westfield State University, so do we have the highest expectations that Will is going to make UMass Center at Springfield a successful educational oasis.

I intentionally omitted details about the educational programs offered at UMass Center at Springfield. They have been well publicized and for those who missed the publicity, the 26,000 square foot UMass Center at Springfield is open for business and welcomes visitors who are interested in their amazingly diverse offerings. Most

impressive is their class scheduling which is so sensitive to the needs of the population the school is targeting. It ranges from weekend classes to night classes to university without walls classes and, most exciting, *avante garde*, on-line classes. And the best part of it all is that UMass is not in competition with local colleges. To the contrary, UMass is collaborating with local colleges to provide an even greater diversity of educational opportunity to Greater Springfield residents. All you have to do to avail yourself of this new opportunity is to take the time to visit UMass Center at Springfield at 1500 Main Street, Suite 260 at Tower Square and learn.

Dr. William A. Davila (Dr. Papi), Director of Operations at UMass Center at Springfield is one of our own who ran the streets of our neighborhoods and was educated in our elementary and secondary schools and at UMass and Boston College and just across the state line in Hartford. And he returned to us after a long, though compact, and fruitful career. Let's hope that he is a beacon for the many other young people from our community who might consider bringing their resources home. ■

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Changing Lives through Literature

continued from page 17

ciety and provides them with the chance to change their lives.

During interviews, the probation participants shared how they enjoyed the experiences and were grateful for the opportunities provided through the program. Paul Young was particularly impacted by the college campus atmosphere and he now believes he can accomplish anything he sets his mind to. Gabriel Cartagena said it got him back to reading. Edward Cisero, who kind of emerged as spokesman for the group, said he couldn't thank Judge Page, Professor Sullivan and Assistant Chief Probation Officer Samuelson Sigall enough for their encouragement and support during the program. One probationer (I think he was the oldest in the group) said, "Everyone needs someone to believe in them and to care. These people care."

The CLTL program is not new. It was founded in 1991 by UMASS Professor Robert Waxler and Judge Robert Kane as an alternative sentencing program, using literature as a way of reaching criminal offenders on probation. It now exists in more than 20 courts in Massachusetts and operates in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Maine, Texas, Arkansas and Kansas. Over

3,500 offenders have participated in the program. The impact on these individuals and their families has been dramatic—studies indicate a reduction in recidivism rates and decreased violent behavior.

The caring described by the participants was evident. Assistant Chief Probation Officer Lorraine Samuelson Sigall in her remarks during the program shared that a quote by James Baldwin: "For these are all our children... We will all profit by or pay for whatever they become," is in her mind daily in whatever issue she has to address. The participants and Judge Page referenced repeatedly how Lorraine gave so much of herself to the CLTL program. Judge Page, court officers and Western New England University staff all appeared to be proud of the accomplishments of the participants. It was also apparent that they had enjoyed the experience of giving of themselves in support of and with the hope of "changing lives through literature."

What a wonderful partnership! What a great story! People helping people. I was helped by this program, too. I reread "To Kill A Mocking Bird," and I will be more vigilant about caring. ■

BLACK SPORTS

BLACK SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

Shoni Schimmel 1st Native-American Player in the WNBA



Shoni Schimmel is a Native-American basketball player. She was an All-American college player at the University of Louisville and a first round draft pick of the WNBA's Atlanta Dream.

Schimmel, a 5'9" point guard, first received notoriety as a high school player in Oregon.

Born May 4, 1992, and raised on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Mission, Oregon, she was the subject of a documentary by filmmaker Jonathan Hock called *Off the Rez*, which chronicled her journey to earn an NCAA scholarship with her basketball ability.

She transferred from Hermiston High School in eastern Oregon to the larger Franklin High School in Portland, Oregon, to increase her chances of being recruited to a Division I school. After her senior year at Franklin, Schimmel was named a First-Team All-American by *Parade* magazine.

Schimmel was selected to the 2010 Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) High School Coaches' All-America Team. The top twenty high school players in the country are named as WBCA All-Americans, and eligible to play in the all-star game. She participated in the 2010 WBCA High School All-America Game, scoring six points.

Schimmel chose the University of Louisville for college, and became a four-year starter for the Cardinals. As a junior in 2012–13, she led the team to the championship game of the 2013 Tournament.

In her senior season, Schimmel averaged 17.1 points per game to lead the team in scoring. She was named an All-American by the USBWA and Associated Press.

For her career, she finished second on the Louisville career scoring list, finishing with 2,174 points.

Schimmel was selected to be a member of the team representing the U.S.A. at the 2013 World University Games held in Kazan, Russia. The team, coached by Sherri Coale, won the opening four games easily, scoring in triple digits in each game, and winning by 30 or more points in each case.

After winning the quarter-final game against Sweden, they faced Australia in the semi-final. The U.S.A. Team opened up as much as a 17 point lead in the fourth quarter of the game, but the Australian Team fought back, and took a one point lead in the final minute. Crystal Bradford scored a basket with 14 seconds left in the game to secure a 79–78 victory.

The Gold Medal opponent was Russia, but the U.S.A. Team never trailed, and won 90–71 to win the Gold Medal and the World University Games Championship.

Schimmel averaged 4.6 points per game.

On April 14, 2014, Schimmel was selected in the first round of the 2014 WNBA Draft (eighth pick overall) by the Atlanta Dream.

She also earned recognition as the 2014 WNBA All-Star Game Most Valuable Player on July 19, 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Shoni Schimmel's Bio

- WNBA's Atlanta Dream: No. 23
- Point guard
- Born: May 4, 1992
- Nationality: FIRST NATIONS (Native-American)
- Height: 5 feet 9 inches
- High school: Hermiston (Hermiston, Oregon)
Franklin (Portland, Oregon)
- College: Louisville (2010–2014)
- WNBA Draft: 8th overall, 2014
Atlanta Dream
- WNBA career: 2014–present
- WNBA Teams: Atlanta Dream (2014–present)
- Awards and Honors
 - o WNBA All-Star (2014)
 - o WNBA All-Star Game MVP (2014)
 - o All-American – USBWA (2014)
 - o Second-Team All-American – AP (2014)
 - o First-Team All-AAC (2014)
 - o 2x First-Team All-Big East Conference (2012–2013)
- Medal Record-Women's Basketball
 - o World University Games
 - Gold
 - 2013 Kazan, Russia
 - Team Competition

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BOBO BRAZIL First African-American Male Professional Wrestler to Win a World Heavyweight Championship



Houston Harris was an American professional wrestler, better known by his ring name, Bobo Brazil. Credited with breaking down barriers of racial segregation in professional wrestling, Harris is considered one of the first successful African-American professional wrestlers.

He was born July 10, 1924, in Little Rock, Arkansas, but later lived in East St. Louis, Illinois, and Benton Harbor, Michigan. He played baseball and worked in a steel mill.

Harris was trained by Joe Savoldi, after meeting him at matches at the Naval Armory. Originally, he was to be known as "Boo-Boo Brazil," but a promoter misprinted his first name as "Bobo" in an advertisement, and it stuck.

Early in his career, some wrestling promoters would match Brazil against fellow African-American wrestlers, including Ernie Ladd and Abdullah the Butcher. Fans clamored to see Brazil face opponents of any type, and he would have many matches with competitors such as Killer Kowalski, Dick the Bruiser, Johnny Valentine and The Sheik, who feuded with Brazil over the course of several decades.

These and other rivals would all fall victim to Brazil's finishing maneuver, the Coco Butt. Brazil also once wrestled Bill Miller to a draw, and challenged Bruno Sammartino for the WWF Championship in a battle of two top babyface competitors.

continues to page 36

BLACK SPORTS

BLACK SPORTS INTERNATIONAL



Augustus Cornelius “Gus” Johnson, Jr., is an American sportscaster. Formerly employed by CBS Sports, he currently calls play-by-play for Fox Sports, Showtime, the Big Ten Network and the San Jose Earthquakes of Major League Soccer.

Johnson was born August 10, 1967. He attended the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy. He graduated in 1985. That same year, according to the winter 1997 edition of University of Detroit Jesuit’s alumni magazine, *Highlights*, Johnson was all-league quarterback for the school’s football team, an all-league shooting guard on the basketball team and first baseman and catcher on the baseball team.

The 1984-1985 University of Detroit Jesuit yearbook also notes that Johnson was a co-captain of both the football and basketball teams and most valuable player on the latter.

Johnson attended and subsequently graduated from Howard University with a degree in Political Science in 1990. He was a four-year letter winner on Howard’s baseball team. Born in Detroit, Michigan, he is a resident of New York City.

Johnson called play-by-play for the NBA’s Minnesota Timberwolves (1996–97), Big East Basketball on the Big East Network, college hockey and college basketball on ESPN and Canadian Football League games for ESPN2. He also did some NFL games for CBS.

He hosted ESPN’s *Black College Sports Today* in 1991. After brief stints as an on-air personality with KXXV-TV in Waco, Texas, WAAY-TV in Huntsville, Alabama, and WXII-TV in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, he served as the weekend anchor for WTTG-TV in Washington, D.C., from 1991 to 1992. Johnson

“Gus” Johnson Sportscaster Extraordinaire

also had a small cameo as an announcer in the 1998 film *He Got Game*.

Johnson is known primarily for his enthusiasm and excitement that he shares with the game. He often uses signature phrases “Oh my goodness!” - “Rise and fire... Count it!” - “Here comes the pain!” - “From the parking lot!” - “And the Runner...Bang!” - “Pure!” - “BAM!” - “Hot Sauce!” - “Cold-Blooded!” - “What a game!” and “HA-HAAA.” ESPN’s Bill Simmons frequently cites Johnson to be the “cause” of the many exciting finishes to the games he calls, calling it “the Law

of Gus.” “He’s got ‘get away from the cops’ speed!” is also a famous quote from Johnson.

He called numerous sports for CBS Sports, with his most recognized role as a play-by-play announcer for CBS’ March Madness, which he worked each year from 1996 to 2011. Johnson is particularly known for his calls at the end of several close NCAA Tournament games, including the double-overtime Xavier vs Kansas State game on March 25, 2010.

He worked for the Madison Square Garden Network (MSG) from 1994–2010, where he was the radio play-by-play and backup television play-by-play announcer of the NBA’s New York Knicks, in addition to providing television play-by-play for MSG’s coverage of the WNBA’s New York Liberty. With the Knicks, he was well known for some of his calls. For example, one famous Gus line occurs after Knicks forward Al Harrington scores: “My name is Al Harrington... And I get Buckets!”

Perhaps Johnson’s most famous Knicks call was his yelling and screaming during Allan Houston’s last second shot to knock off the top-seeded Miami Heat in the first round of the 1999 playoffs, en route to an unlikely NBA Finals appearance.

Johnson has also provided commentary for MSG’s coverage of the Golden Gloves Tournament, and served as host of the “Yankees ScoreCard” and “SportsDesk,” as well as the New York Rangers and Knicks “GameNight.”

Beginning in 2006, Johnson served as the pre-season TV voice for the Buffalo Bills and Philadelphia Eagles. He also provided play-by-play commentary for the Arena Football League’s defunct New York Dragons.

In 2008, Johnson handled play-by-play duties for the Detroit Lions pre-season games on The Detroit

Lions Television Network.

Johnson became lead blow-by-blow caller for *Showtime Championship Boxing* on CBS-owned Showtime, replacing longtime voice Steve Albert.

He was also a mixed martial arts commentator for both EliteXC and Strikeforce through mid-2011. Johnson was widely derided for his commentary during the Kimbo Slice vs Seth Petruzelli fight, where he announced that the fight was “the most incredible victory in the history of mixed martial arts.”

He was also the play-by-play man alongside Bill Raftery in EA Sports *NCAA Basketball 10*.

In May 2010, it was announced that Johnson would be the play-by-play announcer in EA Sports *Madden NFL 11*. He is also the play-by-play announcer in *Madden NFL 12*.

Johnson is also the play-by-play announcer for the fictional football games seen in commercials for Buffalo Wild Wings, in which games are rigged and sent into overtime to allow patrons to stay longer and enjoy the experience.

He has also been an announcer for the Big Ten Network’s Sunday Night basketball games since the 2008-2009 season, and was slated to announce 23 games for the network in the 2010-2011 season.

Before the 2010–11 NBA season, it was announced that Johnson was let go by MSG Network, the television flagship station for the New York Knicks. Johnson explained on February 16, 2012, on the Scott Ferrall Show, that he wanted to leave the Network in order to spend more time with his son.

CBS released Johnson on May 5, 2011 following a contract dispute. He was still scheduled to call a boxing match between Shane Mosley and Manny Pacquiao for Showtime two days later. On May 9, 2011, Johnson finalized a deal to call college football and NFL telecasts for Fox Sports.

In 2012, Johnson served as a radio play-by-play announcer of Major League Soccer’s San Jose Earthquakes, working a few of the team’s away games on radio. He is currently being groomed by Fox Sports to be its lead soccer announcer, and called his first UEFA Champions League match on February 13, 2013.

It has been anticipated that Johnson will be Fox Sports’ lead announcer for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. He is also the lead play-by-play announcer for Fox College Hoops, reuniting with Bill Raftery, who works for CBS and formally with ESPN.

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BLACK SPORTS

BLACK SPORTS INTERNATIONAL

BOBO BRAZIL

continued from page 34

On October 18, 1962, Brazil made history by becoming the first African-American to win the NWA World Heavyweight Title by defeating "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers (this distinction is usually given to Ron Simmons, the first recognized African-American World Champion after winning the WCW World Heavyweight Championship). Although Brazil initially refused the title (because of an "injury" that Rogers had claimed to have), he was awarded the title the next day after doctors had found nothing wrong with Rogers. However, this title change is not recognized by the NWA.

On October 9, 1970, Brazil and El Mongol defeated Mr. Ito and The Great Ota in the first racially mixed match in Atlanta history.

He served as a mentor to wrestler

"Soulman" Rocky Johnson.

Brazil's manager was James Dudley, the first African-American to be in charge of a major arena in the United States. Dudley would run to the ring waving a towel, as Brazil followed behind.

Brazil retired in 1993 after a four decades career. His last official match was in Chicago, Illinois, against Kelly Kiniski, son of his rival, Gene Kiniski.

He was inducted into the WWF Hall of Fame in 1994, by Ernie Ladd. The following year, Brazil inducted Ladd into the WWF Hall of Fame.

After retiring from wrestling, he managed a restaurant.

Harris died on January 20, 1998, at the Lakeland Medical Center in St. Joseph, Michigan. He had been admitted to the hospital on January 14th, after suffering a series of strokes.

Championships and Accomplishments

Championship Wrestling from Florida

- o NWA Florida Tag Team Championship (2 times) – with Sweet Brown Sugar and Dusty Rhodes

Eastern Sports Association

- o ESA North American Heavyweight Championship (1 time) Japan Wrestling Association
- o NWA International Heavyweight Championship (2 times) Maple Leaf Wrestling
- o NWA Canadian Open Tag Team Championship (1 time) – with Whipper Billy Watson
- o NWA United States Heavyweight Championship (*Toronto version* - 1 time)

Mid-Atlantic Championship Wrestling

- o NWA United States Heavyweight Championship (*Mid-Atlantic version* - 1 time)

Midwest Wrestling Association (Ohio)

- o MWA Ohio Heavyweight Championship (1 time)
- o MWA Ohio Tag Team Championship (3 times) – with Frankie Talaber

National Wrestling Alliance

- o NWA Hall of Fame (Class of 2013)

NWA Detroit

- o NWA United States Heavyweight Championship (*Detroit version* - 9 times)
- o NWA World Tag Team Championship (*Detroit version* - 8 times) – with Art Thomas, Bill Miller, Athol Layton, The Stomper, Tony Marino (3 times) and Fred Curry
- NWA Hollywood Wrestling
- o NWA Americas Heavyweight Championship (3 times) NWA Los Angeles
- o NWA "Beat the Champ" Television Championship (1 time)
- o NWA International Television Tag Team Championship (4 times) – with Wilbur Snyder (2 times), Sandor Szabo, and Primo Carnera
- o NWA Pacific Coast Heavyweight Championship (*Los Angeles version* - 1 time)

NWA San Francisco

- o NWA United States Heavyweight Championship (*San Francisco version* - 1 time)

Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum

- o Television Era (Class of 2008)

Pro Wrestling Illustrated

- o PWI Editor's Award (1998)

Superstars of Wrestling

- o SoW United States Heavyweight Championship (1 time)

World Wrestling Association (Indianapolis)

- o WWA World Heavyweight Championship (2 times)
- o WWA World Tag Team Championship (1 time) – with Chris Carter

World Wrestling Association (Los Angeles)

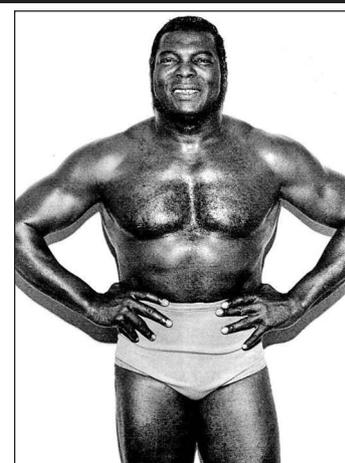
- o WWA World Heavyweight Championship (2 times)

World Wide Wrestling Federation / World Wrestling Federation

- o WWF United States Championship (7 times)
- o WWF Hall of Fame (Class of 1994)

Wrestling Observer Newsletter Awards

- o Wrestling Observer Newsletter Hall of Fame (Class of 1996)



Bobo Brazil Bio

Birth name: Houston Harris

Born: July 10, 1924
Little Rock, Arkansas

Died: January 20, 1998
St. Joseph, Michigan

Professional wrestling career

Ring name(s):
Bobo Brazil, Boo-Boo Brazil,
BuBu Brasil, Houston Harris

In wrestling Finishing moves:
Coco Butt (Headbutt)

Signature moves: Piledriver -- Elbow smash to the back of the head

Billed height: 6 feet 6 inches
Billed weight: 270 lbs.
Billed from: Benton Harbor, Michigan

Trained by: Joe Savoldi
Debut: 1951
Retired: 1993

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www.blackSPORTSthemagazine.com.*

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OCTOBER 2014 EVENTS

For more events, go to:
www.afampointofview.com

WEDNESDAY—1

Springfield Technical Community College Diversity Series features Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winning author, musician, and screenwriter, James McBride

When: 11am

Where: STCC, One Armory Square, Scibelli Hall Gymnasium, Springfield, MA

Info: FREE and Open to the Public; 413.755.4414; www.stcc.edu/diversity

SATURDAY—4

Dr. Bethune & Dr. Height Recognition Award Luncheon presents Honoring Women of Color in the Military Armed Forces with Guest Speaker, Major General Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris

When: 12noon—2pm

Where: Hartford-Windsor Marriott Hotel, 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT

Info: \$50; 203.777.8775

SUNDAY—12

Behavioral Health Network, Inc. 2nd Annual 5k Run/2m Walk, "Better Health Now!"

When: 10am start

Where: Forest Park, Springfield, MA

Info: 413.301.9542; 413.301.9538; www.bhninc.org

THURSDAY—16

Westfield State University presents "Disrupting the Status Quo: Creating a Youth Empowerment Model for Undocumented Immigrant Youth" with Lauren Burke, Esquire

When: 6:30 pm

Where: Westfield State University, Wilson Auditorium, 577 Western Avenue, Westfield, MA

Info: FREE and Open to the public:

westfield.ma.edu/events; See Ad on page 23

SATURDAY—18

Springfield Unity Festival, "We Raise Our Voices"

When: 7:30pm

Where: Springfield Symphony Hall, Court Square, Springfield, MA

Info: \$16.50; 413.788.7033;

www.springfieldunityfestival.com; See Ad and Article on page 19

Buckingham Junior High School Reunion Weekend

When: 6:30pm Social Hour; 7:30pm Dinner; 8:30—11pm

Where: Cedars Banquet Hall, 375 Island Pond Road, Springfield, MA

MAMA'S BOYZ

www.jerrycraft.net

JERRY CRAFT

Info: \$50 with Complimentary Fish Fry on Friday, 10/17, 6—8pm at Cozy's Pavilion, 666 State Street; See Ad and Article on page 14

WEDNESDAY—23

Center for Human Development 10th Annual Conference "Girls Can!" featuring M. C. Lyte

When: 9am—4pm

Where: MassMutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, MA

Info: \$125; www.chd.org/throughhereyes; See Ad and Article on page 23

VOTE!



Tuesday
November 4, 2014



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Thursday, October 9 at:
www.stcc.edu/101614

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www.stcc.edu

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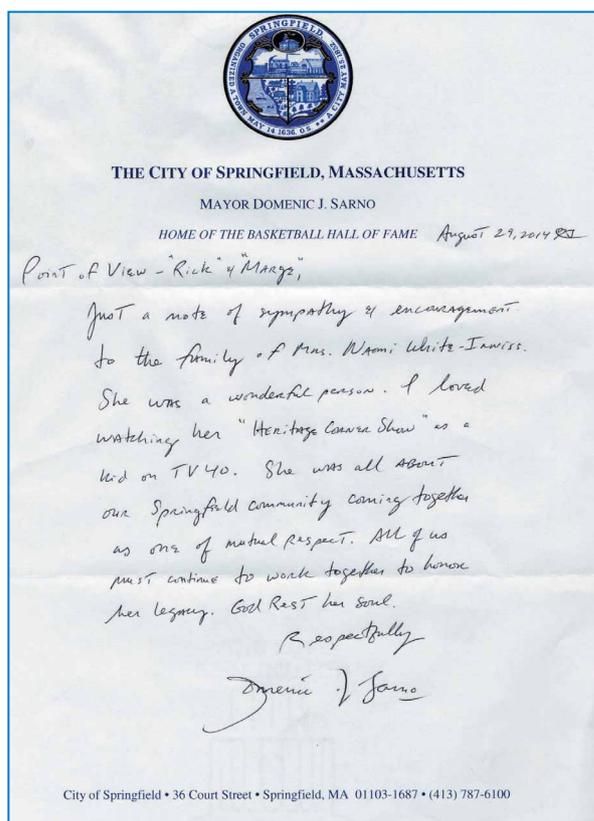
(413) 755-3333



Springfield Technical Community College

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS



Naomi White-Inniss

July 10, 1937

August 22, 2014

August 29, 2014

Point of View — "Rick" & "Marge,"

Just a note of sympathy and encouragement to the family of Mrs. Naomi White-Inniss. She was a wonderful person. I loved watching her "Heritage Corner Show" as a kid on TV40. She was all about our Springfield community coming together as one of mutual respect. All of us must continue to work together to honor her legacy. God rest her soul.

Respectfully,
Domenic J. Sarno



File Photo by Mark M. Murray
Naomi White-Inniss, who did a TV show in the 1970s called "Heritage Corner," holds one of her favorite dolls from her collection in this file photo from 2004. White-Inniss uses the dolls to help teach about diversity.



Republican photo/DAVE ROBACK

Suzi Swain, a staff member at Project AIM in Holyoke, lights a candle during a Kwanzaa ceremony Tuesday at St. Paul's Church while Naomi White-Inniss, director of multicultural affairs at American International College in Springfield, watches.

Photos and captions were taken from masslive.com

FOOD DAY

& the Springfield Food Policy Council's Annual Meeting

Springfield Food Policy Council presents its Annual Meeting and Celebration of National Food Day

This community event calls attention to food access issues in Springfield and celebrates the national movement for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food.

SPRINGFIELD, MA – On **October 22, 2014** at **St. Michael's Cathedral, Bishop Marshall Center, Elliot St. entrance, 260 State St. Springfield MA 01109** from **5:30-7:30 p.m.**, the Springfield Food Policy Council will conduct its 5th Annual meeting along with Food Day—the nationwide celebration and movement toward more healthy, affordable, sustainable food and a better food system. This event, which is open to the public, will help residents to be a part of an undertaking to improve the availability and safety of local food for all residents. This event will include a free

healthy meal, and the annual election for the Springfield Food Policy Council will also take place.

Food Day is a nationwide celebration and a movement toward more healthy, affordable and sustainable food. Food Day is a chance to celebrate what our food system does right and take action to bring us closer to a food system with "real food" that is produced with care for the environment, animals, and the women and men who grow, harvest and serve it. Food Day's priorities are to:

- Promote safer, healthier diets

- Support sustainable and organic farms
- Reduce hunger
- Reform factory farms to protect the environment
- Support fair working conditions for food and farm workers

Locally, the Springfield Food Policy Council aims to:

- Improve the nutritional content of foods served in the Springfield Public School System by incorporating more local food and by creating school gardens where students can learn how to grow, harvest and prepare their own fruits and vegetables.
- Increase the amount of urban agriculture in Springfield, which will help local communities gain access to fresh produce.
- Work with the City of Spring-

field to accomplish the goal of increasing accessibility to healthy, affordable food in Springfield.

Many people from Springfield and surrounding communities are expected to attend the event. The Springfield Food Policy Council looks forward to working with new membership, as well as increasing its presence in Springfield and accomplishing some of its major goals in the upcoming year.

Please RSVP to Johnetta Baymon at johnnettab@springfieldpartnersinc.com or at 413-263-6500 x6539.

JOIN US!!!

for
**Springfield Food Policy Council's
5th Annual Meeting and Celebration!**

FREE to the public - dinner provided!

Learn about local
food initiatives!



GET INVOLVED!

Celebrate National
Food Day!



When: Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Where: St. Michael's Cathedral, Bishop Marshall Center, Elliot Street Entrance
260 State Street, Springfield 

For more details and to reserve your seat, please call
Johnetta Baymon: 413-263-6500 Ext. 6539

www.springfieldfoodpolicycouncil.org Like us on Facebook! 

COMMUNITY

CELEBRATIONS



Ribbon is cut by U.S. Representative Richard E. Neal, Carling Health Center President and CEO Tania Barber, and Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno at Carling Health Care Center Richard E. Neal Complex



Springfield Superintendent of Schools Daniel Warwick, Mayor Domenic Sarno and Freedom Credit Union President & CEO Barry F. Crosby celebrate the opening of Freedom Credit Union's newest branch at Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy



1st Annual Patricia Brown Scholarship Banquet honors recipients Joy Snowden and Natasha Mitchell. The award will be given annually to adult women who are returning to school.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



Renée Flowers is Point of View's Artist in Residence. More of her original art pieces can be viewed at our office at 688 Boston Road, Springfield. You can also contact her directly at (413) 209-9882 to arrange a private viewing of her work. (See May 1, 2014 POV Community Focus article on Renée by Emurriel Holloway for more information on the artist @ www.afampointofview.com.)



Every month different paintings created by Renée Flowers are displayed at Point of View 688 Boston Road Springfield, MA

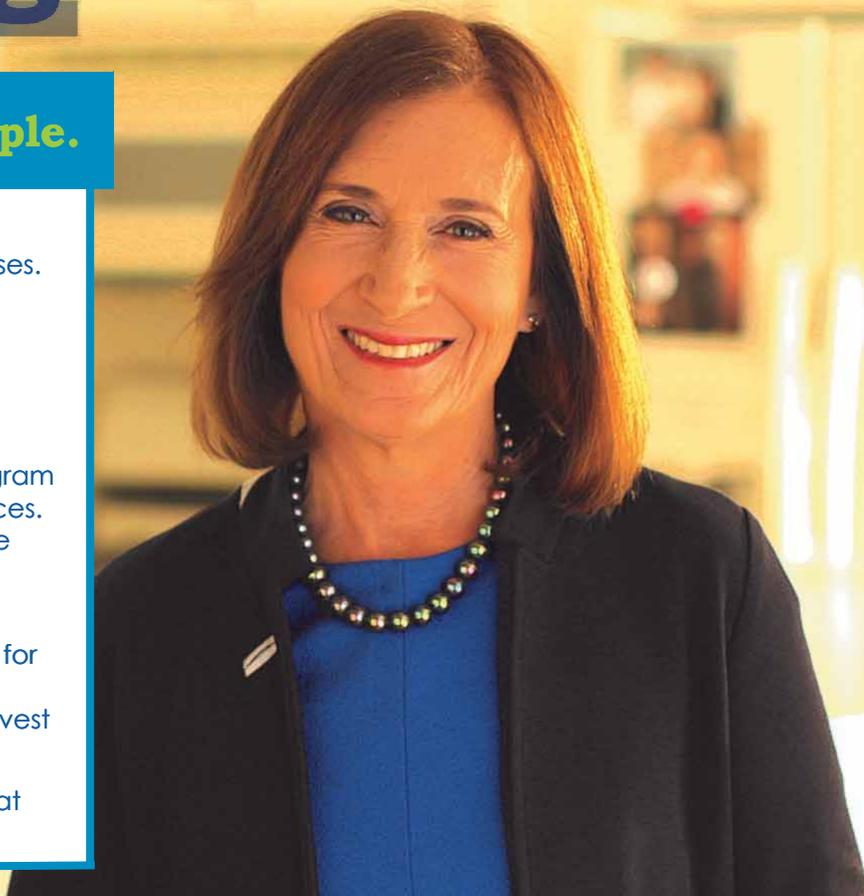


Deb Goldberg

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- ✔ Establishing a comprehensive financial literacy program to reach those most susceptible to predatory practices. Including free tax preparation to protect low-income families from losing a portion of their hard earned refunds.
- ✔ Utilizing the leverage of the treasurer's office to fight for more women, more minorities and true diversity on corporate boards; investing in companies that will invest in Massachusetts.
- ✔ Creating a college savings plan for kindergarteners at no cost to taxpayers.



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From left to right, Back Row: City Councilor Justin Hurst, Former City Councilor Bill Foley, City Councilor Bud Williams, Jeff Williams.

Front row: State Committeewoman Marygail Cokkinias, State Committeewoman Candy Glazer, Candidate for Treasurer Deb Goldberg, School Committee Member Denise Hurst, and School Committee Member Barbara Gresham

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