

WELL-BALANCED LIVING

“My advice is for everyone to establish their own process, because having a process makes it easier to get back on track when you go astray.”

By Patricia Spradley – 5

GRADUATION TID-BITS

“The Springfield Renaissance School graduated 90 students. This class had a 100% graduation rate with every student graduating on time. 86% of them will be attending college in the fall, 10% will enter the workforce and 4% will go on to serve in the United States Armed Forces. The graduates secured \$2.5 million dollars in scholarships.”

By Denise M. Hurst – 6

UNsung HEROINE

“Damaris Pérez Pizarro, is, in my opinion, one of the best writers in any of our New England newspapers. She is driven to capture and protect cultural memory and events that mainstream news cameras will ignore if lacking sensationalism or surface shimmer.”

By Magdalena Gómez – 14

THIS BLACK WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE...IN LPV

“When I took our class photo, I purposely tried to stand away from the other three black women, three Latino women, and the one black man, so it'd look a bit more...colorful.”

By Latoya Bosworth – 17

CHECKS AND BALANCES: ... TESTING THE BOUNDARIES...

“A lot of what the Trump administration has been doing since the inauguration can be viewed as testing the boundaries of its power and, in doing so, testing the resilience of our legal order.”

By Sudha Setty – 23

RICHIE, YOU REALLY DID IT!

“It takes a special kind of person to fix their eyes on a distant future goal that most can't even conceive of and to see it through to the end. If anybody could pull it off, Richie Neal was that person.”

By Frederick A. Hurst – 24

JOHN DAVIS NAMED COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD WINNER...

“John Davis, Senior Trustee for the Irene & George Davis Foundation and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for Ventry Industries L.L.C., has been named the Community Champion Award winner by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading at (its) Awards Gathering in Denver Colorado...”

By The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation – 25

DITCHING THE TIGHTROPE

“Accept the fact that you will not have everything at the same time. When we try to make everyone happy or to satisfy every commitment or obligation, in theory, it is a noble idea, however, in practice, it is rarely achieved.”

By Rev. Dr. Atu White – 26

PARTNERSHIP WITH AF-AM POINT OF VIEW FINALIST IN NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

By Sally Fuller



Sally Fuller and Ralph Smith,
Managing Director of the
Campaign for Grade Level Reading

The partnership of Reading Success by 4th Grade with African-American Point of View has been named a finalist in the

first ever Communications Expo of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading (GLR), the national initiative for grade level reading proficiency.

The Communications Expo was designed to serve as a catalyst to encourage deeper collaboration among the 300+ GLR Communities through sharing communities' most effective and innovative communications tools used to tell the GLR story. This Expo “is just the beginning of an exciting journey we're taking together this year to inspire each other and advance our work to mobilize champions for grade-level reading,” reports Ernestine Benedict, Chief Communications Officer for the Campaign for Grade Level Reading.

The Communications Expo takes place at the national GLR meeting of communities and states who are conducting grade-level reading proficiency campaigns.

I described our partnership with AF-Am Point of View this way in our

application for recognition as an exemplar:

“With a significant percentage of Springfield children coming from the African-American community, our partnership with this publication helps us to reach parents, families and caregivers from this important segment of our community. When we reached out to the publishers and explained our community-wide campaign, they immediately offered the opportunity to submit a monthly column. Together we named the column Reading to Succeed and every month since then a column has been printed in the publication. The columns contain original content, sometimes presents research and occasionally will reprint a particularly powerful piece from another publication (with demonstrated permission to reprint) such as an opinion piece by Marian Wright Edelman or a

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My Friend, Mitzi

Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach died peacefully on June 16, 2017. The daughter of Dr. Philip A. Beach and Edna L. (Hodges) Beach, Mitzi was born on May 28, 1949 in New York City. She graduated from Lyndon Institute and earned a B.S. at Lyndon State College and M.Ed. and Ed.D. at the University of Vermont. Dr. Beach began her life-long career in education as a teacher and guidance director in the Northeast Kingdom and Rutland, Vermont. She was the Educational Coordinator at Sojourn, Inc. in Northampton, the Director of the Holyoke Street School, and the Principal of Tri-County High School in Northampton. She worked for the State Departments of Education in Massachusetts, Vermont, Washington, and Washington, DC, as well as for the U.S. Department of Education. She worked in the Springfield Public Schools as the Special Assistant to Superintendent Joseph P. Burke, and she retired as the Superintendent of the Ware Public Schools. She also served on the state Board of Higher Education. Mitzi leaves her daughter Argenia Smith Beach. A Celebration of Mitzi's Life will take place on August 25, 2017 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. at the Log Cabin, 500 Easthampton Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040. Mitzi lived life on her own terms. She worked hard, and she played hard. She enjoyed planning parties and traveling. She leaves a legacy of laughter and love – love for her family, her friends, her colleagues, her work, and most of all for children. She made life interesting and better, and she will be missed. May your memories settle in a special place in your heart; and, wherever you are, may you take a moment to celebrate her life. <http://obits.masslive.com>

Mitzi was so much more than can be captured in the above Obituary so I decided that my tribute to her would be to reprint the article that ran on the front page of our newspaper on December 1, 2008.

... AND YES, SHE CAN AND YES, SHE DOES!

By Marjorie J. Hurst
Reprinted from December 1, 2008

A lot of people can be described as achievers. Usually, those who achieve work really hard to make it happen. But there are a few rare people who are such natural achievers that they don't even give a second thought to the effort they put in and when they succeed, their heads don't swell, their chests don't puff out, their vocabulary isn't all "me, me, me," and they don't even lord it over the rest of us. They just continue to do and expect us to do, also.

Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach ("Mitzi" as she is more commonly known), Superintendent of the Ware Public Schools, fits into that second category. She is an achiever who is a lot like the Energizer Bunny. She just keeps on doing without making a big deal out of her successes.

I first heard Dr. Beach's name mentioned in September of 2001 by then Springfield Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joseph P. Burke, while he, Lydia Blazquez, former Principal of the High School of Science and Technology, and I were attending the annual Black Caucus legislative conference in Washington, D.C., which was focusing on math and science high stakes testing. Dr. Burke informed us that he was going to a bar for a meeting with a prospective employee. From then on, I enjoyed teas-



*Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach
Superintendent of the
Ware Public Schools*

ing Mitzi that Dr. Burke "picked her up" at a bar – not that it phased her any! She would look at me with her deadpan expression and recount the facts of how the meeting happened, why it occurred in the bar, and what they discussed in her no-nonsense manner. And since Dr. Burke doesn't drink anyway, I knew it was on the up-and-up.

Mitzi was hired in February, 2002 as the special assistant to the superintendent for program accountability and evaluation for the Springfield Public Schools. She soon became sought after throughout the entire state when, later that year, she expertly led over 100 educators, school committee members, superintendents, legislators and parents through an intricate question and answer session on the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001" at the inaugural meeting of the newly-formed urban division of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees hosted at the Basketball Hall of Fame. Mitzi had helped to draft the 1100 page legislation in her previous position as a member of the U.S. Department of Education Title I Leadership Team and was uniquely qualified to concisely summarize and explain it to the very anxious group.

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AN AFRICAN AMERICAN *Point of View*
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AF-AM NEWS **bits**

By Frederick A. Hurst

“DON'T IMPEACH DONALD TRUMP”

“Our country’s long-term interest will be best served if Trump remains in office until 2021. That would be a shock treatment like no other for the American people. It will show us, through much pain, how dangerous it is to elect ignorant demagogues. That might allow future historians to see a four-year Trump presidency as a watershed in American politics, the moment when we realized the folly of our ways and began to repent.” (Stephen Kinzer, *Boston Sunday Globe*, June 25, 2017)

“DON'T IMPEACH DONALD TRUMP”

“Those who want to see Trump’s policies made permanent have an interest in easing him aside. The ascension of figures like Pence and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, who exemplify the ethos of robbing the poor to help the rich, would lessen the risk that those policies could be reversed after the next election.” (Stephen Kinzer, *Boston Sunday Globe*, June 25, 2017)

“DON'T IMPEACH DONALD TRUMP”

In the *Boston Sunday Globe* article by Stephen Kinzer titled, “Don’t Impeach Donald Trump,” the author expressed concerns that were raised in *Point of View* long ago. To impeach the bumbling Trump would be to open the door to the dangerous Pence and Ryan. Better to hold on to Trump until his term ends and consider the entire episode a lesson learned.

JUSTIN HURST WAS RIGHT

My son was right about his persistent call for residency for top district chiefs of Springfield’s fire department. His primary point is that residency is the law. His next point is even more powerful. Residency is good for Springfield economically. Much of the taxpayer money that is

paid to district chiefs that now immediately leaves the city on payday will remain under residency in the form of rent, home purchases and all of the little items that are purchased within the city in which individuals reside. But equally as important is Justin’s last point that there is a moral argument for residency as reflected by some of the ugly things that several members of the Springfield fire department had to say about the city’s elected officials and its residents that they passed among themselves on social media. I’m not going to repeat the words because by now most have heard them and those who have not need only search Facebook and the web. Such words can’t be erased from social media any more than they can be erased from the consciousness of those at whom they were directed. And they were hurtful. And the underlying message from the highest levels of Springfield’s fire department is that disrespect for Springfield’s elected officials and the citizens of Springfield is okay and is even the proper subject of racial “jokes” openly bantered around among the social media public. Mayor Domenic Sarno has reacted well by halting the vote that would have led to a majority of councilors – split, to my amazement, almost down the middle on Black/Hispanic vs. White racial lines – approving an ordinance that would have allowed some of the offending officers and others who were already in violation of the existing law that they live in Springfield, to be grandfathered out of the requirement that all future officers reside in the city. I’m proud of my son and other councilors who cast a vote against the newest ordinance and ashamed of all of those White councilors who still don’t seem to get it. I hope, by now, they are honest enough to be ashamed of themselves. Oh! And E. Henry Twiggs in voting for the new ordinance that would protect these proponents of bigotry has lost his civil rights credibility.

JUSTICE IS JUSTICE

Whether one likes it or not, justice is justice. The first thing that occurred to me when I heard a Black Milwaukee cop was going on trial for shooting and killing a Black suspect was that the Black cop was going to jail even though virtually every White cop tried for even more heinous Black killings was routinely acquitted. So when I recently read that he was acquitted, first I was angry and then I thought about the O.J. Simpson murder trial. I never doubted that O.J. committed the murders. But that wasn’t what the trial was about. The trial was about whether O. J. was not guilty or guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Folks kept asking me why I thought he would be acquitted if I thought he was guilty and I responded, “Because he’s rich and when it comes to justice, rich trumps race.” It occurred to me that the same principle applied to the Black cop – his “cop status” trumped race. It’s a nuance that I had missed when I prematurely concluded that he would be convicted because he wasn’t White. That he was subject to the different standard of justice than White cops would have angered me even as I wish for convictions against cops who recklessly kill Black men. It’s what one might call an emotional conundrum. Should I be satisfied that a Black cop got “cop justice” just because he was Black even as I am repulsed by the whole idea of “cop justice.” I don’t think so. But after watching White cop after White cop get off even for murders of Black men we witness on television, it is certainly understandable to question a Black cop being subjected to a different standard and being among the rare few found guilty. What is really at issue here is the very idea of justice. Should it be so flexible as to treat the rich and cops differently? Is there another way? I don’t know the answer but I have two questions. (1) If the person the Black cop killed was White, would he have been acquitted? (2) Would O. J. Simpson have been given what is tantamount to a life sentence for a two bit burglary among thieves if he previously had

not gotten away with murdering two White folks? Should justice be so flexible? It’s a common joke among defense attorneys to say, “My client doesn’t want justice,” the point being that justice will determine innocence or guilt. But it’s not that simple.

POT

I don’t know which way to lean on this marijuana business. The vote to legalize it was fair and square and now the legislature is modifying it which doesn’t bother me. My primary concern, however, is that many folks at the bottom of the employment range depend upon illegal marijuana sales to make ends meet. They don’t sell opioids or other harsh drugs. They simply cater to a market demanding what most agree is a relatively harmless weed. But the new law threatens to put most of them out of business. If for no other reason, the higher 28% tax proposed by the legislature could be a good idea. Traditional street vendors can continue to sell their marijuana on the black market at a lower cost. Of course, they will remain subject to arrest which raises another concern. Those who were arrested and convicted before the new marijuana law have CORI problems. They can’t work in the industry that they have cultivated over the decades. It’s an Alice in Wonderland effect. They did it. They were good at it. Like good business people, they took all of the risk and changed attitudes. And now they are tossed to the curb. I am aware that the law has incorporated minority involvement at the ownership level. My question is, “How do we incorporate these pioneer street level entrepreneurs into the legal marijuana business? It is an important question because if we do not find a way, they will graduate to another illegal level out of necessity.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM’S DEPORTATION

Yep! They came for an Irishman and they may come for you next. So many folks harbor the incorrect notion that President Trump’s hostile immigration policies do not

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EDUCATION

PARENTS & COMMUNITY

Well-Balanced Living

By Patricia Spradley



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

There are many experts who can provide instructions on how to obtain balance in your life. I am by no means an expert, but more than willing to share what works for me. My advice is for everyone to establish their own process, because having a process makes it easier to get back on track when you go astray.

We can't anticipate and plan for everything in our lives, but we can decide where to focus our energies. Thinking that we can do it all is just not smart. Not knowing what you want and trying to do everything at once can be a recipe for disaster. Figuring it out upfront minimizes stress. As the saying goes, "Don't bite off more than you can chew."

Creating balance in my life is out of necessity. I can't accomplish anything if I'm unhealthy. Maturity has taught me that I need plenty of rest, exercise and to eat properly. Burning the candle at both ends no longer works for me. It's easy to let things like exercise and eating properly go by the wayside. But this is the only body I've got and it needs to carry me until the end of my journey. I want to be fit enough so that I don't have to say "no" to anything I want to do, like traveling or spending time with my grandkids.

Consistently having a positive attitude makes my day! I start each day thanking Him for allowing me to see it, with the intention of making the most of it! It may not always go as planned, but it goes more smoothly when I keep things in perspective. If

you practice not letting things get to you, you will learn to live in and savor every moment.

Being organized is something that I learned from my father. I make time at the beginning of each week (with a to-do list) to assess what needs to be done. I put all appointments and obligations in a planner. And I am certain to include recreation and quality time for myself and family.

For those times when achieving balance is hard because of a family or personal crisis, I have learned to accept it. Once I've done everything within my control, I let the rest go. Stuff happens. I do whatever it takes and when things go back to normal, I take time to reset.

Knowing, understanding and controlling my finances is a must. I am on a path to accumulate enough wealth to fully enjoy retirement. Having a solid financial plan allows me options. There seems to be something wrong with working too much, without having the money you need. Work to live, don't live to work. Know how much money you need to live the kind of lifestyle you want. Letting someone else determine this just doesn't make good sense.

My final aspect for living a balanced life is giving back. He commands it! I feel especially good when I am helping others, unconditionally. It's the attitude of gratitude: a real emotional payback! Time, talents and treasures are the real gifts. My spirituality fills up my cup and is how I renew. I take the time to rethink my connection to Him. And when I do, I feel refreshed and ready to tackle the world!

Are you ready for well-balanced living? ■

EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

How Do You Take Care Of Yourself When You Take Care Of Others?

By Nicole Blais



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

The topic of mindful self-care and wellness has been an on-going theme in the world of early childhood education. Caring for and supporting young children and their families is extremely hard work and if you are not careful, you can easily burn yourself out.

I recently sat down with Whitney Fritze, HCS Head Start's Mental Health Coordinator, to talk about the

importance of taking care of ourselves as we take care of others because all too often caregivers tend to put their needs on the back burner. Whitney stressed the importance of recognizing that certain careers may be at risk for compassion fatigue or higher rates of burnout, like teachers, therapists or first responders. In an effort to be preventative, how can we take a step back and prioritize our needs without feeling guilty, which is an important step in living a balanced life. According to the National Wellness Institute, "Wellness is an active process. It requires awareness and directed, thoughtful attention to the choices we make."

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What if you could seize the day?

Taking on the responsibilities of a student-athlete has taught me valuable leadership skills, on and off of the field.

JAMES ENGLISH
CORNERBACK FOR OWLS FOOTBALL
LAMBDA SIGMA NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SCHOLAR

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EDUCATION

SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS



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Committee Member*
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Graduation Tid-Bits

By Denise M. Hurst

Congratulations to all of the graduates of the Class of 2017!

The Springfield Renaissance School graduated 90 students. This class had a 100% graduation rate with every student graduating on time. 86% of them will be attending college in the fall, 10% will enter the workforce and 4% will go on to serve in the United States Armed Forces. The graduates secured \$2.5 million dollars in scholarships.

Roger L. Putnam Vocational Academy High School graduated 328 students. 72% are off to college, 22% are entering the work force and 6%

are headed to the United States Air Force. \$5.5 million dollars in scholarships have been secured by the Putnam Beavers Class of 2017.

The Springfield Academy for Excellence Alternative Schools graduated 50 students. All of these students overcame a number of obstacles to achieve the milestone of obtaining a High School Diploma. 52% of the graduates are going on to college, 46% are entering the work force and 2% will go on to serve in the Armed Forces. This class secured over \$100,000 in scholarships.

Central's graduation was personally memorable for me. It marked my 20 year anniversary from graduating from Springfield Central High School. It was also a special evening

because the Central High School family honored the lives of three young ladies who lost their lives in a tragic accident this past winter. The families of the young ladies, alongside 454 of their peers, received their high school diplomas. 88% will attend college in the fall and 12% will enter the Armed Forces and the work force. The graduates earned over \$3 million in scholarships.

The High School of Science & Technology celebrated 295 graduates!! This was one of the largest graduating classes in its history! And our very own Frederick Hurst, Jr. served as the class advisor for this year's graduating class! 51% of the graduates will be attending college in the fall and 46% will be entering the

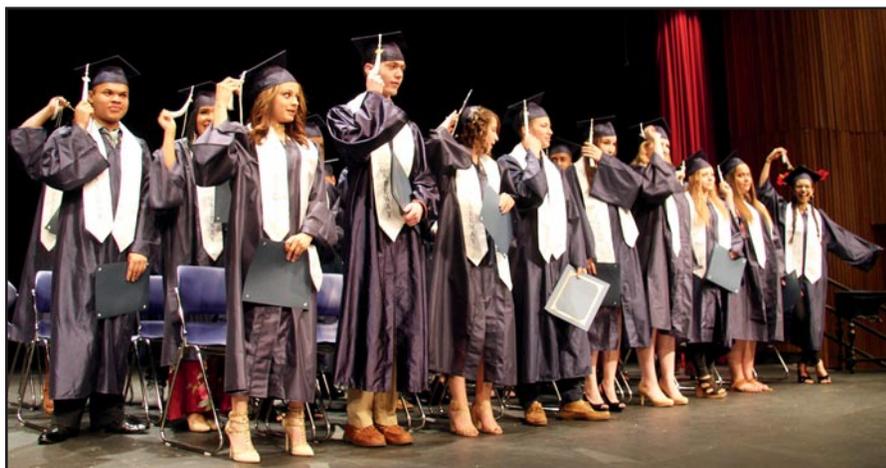
work force and the armed forces. This class secured over \$1 million in scholarships.

The High School of Commerce graduated 259 students. 50% will be going on to college, 6% will enter the Armed Forces and 34% will enter the work force. Commerce's Class of 2017 secured an amazing \$8.8 million dollars in scholarships!

We are so proud of all of you! ■

**Congratulations
to all of the
graduates of the
Class of 2017!**

HCC Gateway to College program graduates largest class ever



HCC Gateway to College students shift their tassels from the right side of their caps to the left signifying that they have completed their graduation requirements.

HOLYOKE, MA — Holyoke Community College's award-winning Gateway to College program graduated the largest class in its nine-year history June 6, presenting certificates to 33 high school students who have been taking college courses at HCC.

Those students will now collect

their diplomas from eight area high schools: Springfield, Holyoke, Westfield, Palmer, Longmeadow, Agawam, Minnechaug, and Belchertown. Between them the students also amassed a total of 372 transferable college credits, or enough to fulfill the requirements for more than six associate degrees. ■

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EXPRESS

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HOLYOKE
COMMUNITY
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EDUCATION

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 2017 GRADUATIONS



EDUCATION

EDUCATION & HOPE

Always

By Gianna Allentuck



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

On a couple of occasions, I have written articles regarding my feelings and questions on race, race relations and racism; and my struggle with understanding the depths of pain and adversity that accompany racism in any form. My struggle is not a result of denial or lack of desire to understand; my struggle is the result of white privilege and not having suffered oppression or adversity – even in the slightest degree – required to understand.

There is a difference.

And because of this difference, I feel I should not be lumped into a category with all white people who deny or resist, but rather acknowledge that racism exists within all white people – on a spectrum. I am not proposing this because I deny racism but because there are different levels just like anything else and there are people like me who want to understand and help make change versus others who do not. My whiteness should not be responsible for those others.

Because again, there is a difference.

Motivational speaker Mamoudou N'Diaye created a video available on YouTube called *Racism as a Spectrum*. If you are like me and struggling to find a voice in discussions regarding race that don't result in you feeling defensive or being perceived as defensive or in denial then I suggest you watch this video. Caution: He uses the "F" word once, but it is not directed toward anyone and is relatively benign. Almost frivolous.

What resonates most for me in this video is that he decries absolutes and superlatives. Reminding us that human nature is to question those who are different; and human nature is to then judge those who question. The questions and the judgments and the fear catalyzing racism. Labeling the racists. Stigmatizing the victims. Dividing both. Stalling progress.

Think about it.

No one likes to be included in an absolute. The irony here being I just used an absolute. But it's true. All cops are bad. All blacks are thugs. All women are entitled. All whites are racist. All homosexuals are whiners. And so on. No matter if you fall into one or more of these categories – do you want to be labeled as bad, thug, entitled, racist, or whiner just because you have a particular profession, skin color, gender, or lifestyle? I am willing to bet your answer is no. There has to be a middle ground. A space allowing for compromise. A well of consideration allowing for the voice in the middle to be not only heard, but received.

Mamoudou's theory paves the way for that middle road, and allows for acceptance of my flaws – our flaws – and promotes understanding and collaborative thinking. No walls built on superlatives. Just forward movement. And on a spectrum whose beginning point is the essence of ignorance, fear, violence, selfishness, distrust, and negativity, forward movement is a good thing. Always.

Author's note: I am trying to bring Mamoudou to Springfield for an open discussion regarding race and racism. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please contact me at gallentuck@aol.com.

READING TO SUCCEED

Af-Am Point of View Finalist in National Campaign



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

continued from page 1

poem "How to Read a Book" by Kwame Alexander or expert advice from read-aloud guru Jim Trelease."

RS4G leadership went to Denver for the All-America City (AAC) Awards in mid-June where the Communications Expo awards took place. RS4G, along with twenty six other

communities, had been named as finalists for the AAC recognition highlighting the progress made toward grade level reading proficiency for their communities. This year's awards recognized the communities who demonstrate progress in the critical focus areas of school readiness, stemming summer learning loss and reducing chronic absenteeism.

Springfield's RS4G community-wide plan for early literacy, Reading Success by 4th Grade: Blueprint for Springfield was recognized with an All-America City Award in 2012.

Stay tuned for our next column for a report of the happenings in Denver! ■

EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

How Do You Take Care Of Yourself When You Take Care Of Others?

continued from page 5

Mindful self-care is being present in that moment; no multi-tasking; and put that cellphone down! Take yourself off of autopilot and feel the breath as you breathe it in, pay attention to your body as you breathe it out. If you are going for a walk, what does the ground feel like beneath your sneaker, what sounds do you hear, and what does the air smell like? Practice quieting your mind and body and become more aware of the everyday things you do.

Whitney continued with questions to consider: "Are you burning the candle at both ends, are you experiencing high stress at work and stress at home, are your moods fluctuating, are you feeling down, or stressed out?" If you answered yes to any of these questions, it is important to incorporate a self-care routine. Whitney was quick to point out that it does not need to cost a lot of money to take care of yourself. "Be resourceful with what you already have at your dis-

posal. Grab a friend and go for a walk, verbalize your concerns or frustrations to someone you can count on, practice deep breathing during a break at work." Exercising, eating a healthy diet and avoiding drinking alcohol and other substances are also critical to self-care.

In the Head Start classrooms, Whitney and her team of clinicians have started to introduce yoga to the children. "The children absolutely love relaxing their bodies," Whitney shared. The clinicians lead the yoga sessions with the teachers participating as well. The Mental Health Team also facilitates wellness workshops for staff and for parents to better understand the relationship between our minds and bodies and the impact of stress on our well-being. There are a number of wellness and mindfulness resources available within the community or on-line. Check them out and remember it is ok to take care of yourself so you can effectively take care of others. ■

EDUCATION

GRADUATION 2017

Phoenix Charter Academy Graduation Charge to Class of 2017

By Jacqueline Adam-Taylor, Head of School (delivered in English and Spanish)

Good afternoon scholars, graduates, (Phoenix families), adult supporters, and staff. Thank you all for being here and for helping to make this day monumental and memorable for our soon-to-be graduates. I am known for being long-winded (pause), so I have worked really hard to make sure I say what I need to say clearly and quickly so we have more time to enjoy and celebrate! Mr. Johnson, let me know if I am pushing it on time, please!

I have known for a rather long time that I would be giving this speech. However, the task of

than in the past – almost TOO big sometimes – and forced you all to adapt. Some of you struggled to avoid non-scholarly activities, and others struggled to find success in your academic coursework. Yet, through all the challenges, you more than rose to the occasion!

You also are no strangers to the fact that the wider world outside of school is also far from perfect. From your personal experiences working through readings like *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, recent debates about who belongs in this country, and the details of events like



Head of School Jacqueline Adam-Taylor delivers words of wisdom and encouragement to the graduating class who have persevered through adversity.



City Councilor Justin Hurst has the honor of bringing greetings to the graduates on behalf of the City of Springfield

creating the perfect speech for this fantastic graduating class has been so, so difficult. Not because I couldn't think of anything great to say about you, because there is so much I could share. I wanted it to be perfect and to hit on ALL the important key memories, to share ALL the triumphs despite ALL the challenges, and to give ALL the right advice as you continue on your journey. However, like Tupac Shakur said, "I'm not perfect, but I'll always be real." I'm going to do my best to acknowledge that in all of us here today.

Like he mentioned, nothing is perfect in life, and this year was full of challenges for you all. You have overcome so much adversity, and you proved again and again the resiliency each and every one of you possesses. We worked through staff transitions early in the year AND we welcomed more scholars than ever before into our building and community.

These together made Phoenix seem bigger



2017 Phoenix Charter Academy Graduates

the Philando Castile case, you know the world can be horrifyingly unjust. As much as I would love to shield you from it all, that is not possible, nor would I want to isolate you from all the wonderful things in store for you as well. With that being said, my hope is that you continue your pursuit of education to help you obtain those wonderful things for you and your families, and never forget that we will be here if you need us.

So we spoke of challenges and struggle, but what about the highlights and joy? Well, let's start at the top: you are all here about to receive your high school diploma, a huge milestone in your lives so far! I say "so far" because this is a stepping stone – not an end point – for you all are college-bound.

You are trailblazers; you are the first class to be accepted into 4-year colleges! Not just one or two scholars, but 60% of the graduating class! You have created relationships with colleges that will benefit rising Phoenix seniors in future years. You

have pushed us as a school to re-think and revamp our policies for scholars, and have truly made a deep impact on our school overall.

I hope that when you visit next year you are partially annoyed by the changes (since you didn't get to experience them), but more importantly, really proud that you had a lasting effect on our school and our community. I thank you all for being part of my initiation into school leadership, and I will cherish all the interactions we had this year. I love your wit and sense of humor,

minus the AT&T jokes. I love your energy and your commitment to each other as friends. I love you all and know you will do great things.

Now, onto the words of wisdom and hopes for you. I know I usually have a million things to tell you in the hall or at dismissal, but I needed trusty ol' Google to help me out here.

Real courage is holding on to a still voice in your head that says, 'I must keep going.' It's that voice that says nothing is a failure if it is not final. That voice that says to you, 'Get out of bed. Keep going. I will not quit.'

Senator Cory Booker

Remember that no one succeeds alone. Never walk alone in your future paths.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor

As I said earlier, we are always here for you, and will continue to believe in you and support you in the future. ■

HEALTH

HEALTH MATTERS



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

Welcome to Skin Cancer Awareness Month. This is the time of year to bring out the sunscreen, floppy hats and sunglasses, no matter the shade of your skin. Make sure that everyone you love is protecting themselves using sunscreen with UVA/UVB SPF 15 or higher. That is the just the first step.

We need to do more than cover up and lotion up to protect the African American community. We need to learn about types of skin cancer that affect people of color in higher numbers. Acral lentiginous melanoma (ALM), an aggressive form of melanoma, is a type of skin cancer found in people of color more often than it is found in whites. According to the CDC, ALM accounts for 70% of malignant melanoma in blacks, 45% in Asians but only 5-10% in whites.

ALM does not look like the typ-

African Americans More Likely to Die of Skin Cancer

By Margot Malachowski



Picture is of the Suez Court #149 and YMCA Diabetes Program at the Diabetes walkathon /Blunt Park on May 27.

ical skin cancer and is not located in places that are exposed to the sun. ALM looks more like a bruise on your skin or a dark streak under a fingernail or toenail. ALM develops on the soles of your feet, the palms of your hands, or inside your mouth and nose. ALM can show up on genitalia. It usually appears when you are in your 60s or 70s.

We need to be skin aware. Warning signs of ALM are:

- Bruise or sore spot that will not heal. Or, it heals and comes back again.
- Dark stripe underneath a fingernail or a toenail, especially when the stripe continues onto the surrounding skin.
- Scar that is changing, especially if



*Margot
Malachowski*

the scar was caused by a burn.

- Flat patch of discolored skin, or a mole that is changing.
- Scaly patch of thickening skin that feels velvety.
- White patch on the tongue or inside of the mouth.
- Blotchy skin, especially on the legs.

To learn more about skin cancer awareness, watch a 3 minute video on YouTube called Minorities and Skin Cancer Awareness <http://youtube/ISBjbVFo1ko>

This video was created by Irene Ekwede, a dermatology nurse at the NIH Clinical Center. It focuses on skin cancer that affects people with darker skin. Nurse Ekwede talks about a free brochure "Anyone Can Get Skin Cancer," available in English and Spanish. Call the Cancer Information Service (1 800-4-Cancer) to get your copy. ■

YOUR HEALTH

Growing Money

By Rebecca Willoughby

Some say that growing your own edibles is like growing money. I have found that to be true during growing season. It's a great feeling to be able to bypass veggies and herbs in the supermarket by having your own fresh and better tasting produce. The number of city dwellers growing food in urban environments nationwide is growing by leaps and bounds.

Many of our young people do not know where our food comes from and cannot identify the plants that our food comes from. There are also adults who are in the same predicament. All is not lost, however.

I belong to the Mason Square Library Gardening Group. The group began with the Bay Street



clip art taken from kitchengardeners.org

Gardeners. When that property became unavailable to us, we found a home at the Mason Square Library which was already engaged in gardening ac-

produced not only food for our families but also for at least one food pantry.

tivities and already was invested in providing gardening opportunities. They have a seed library which allows access to free seeds using only your library card. They have several planter boxes in their courtyard for the youth to plant gardens.

The Mason Square Gardening Group is invested in sharing information on growing plants and crops. We have some container boxes on the library property. We help each other. We are growing again this year and there may be several boxes that are available for interested parties. Last year's boxes

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HEALTH

YOUR HEALTH

Baystate  Medical Center

If You Camp, Hike, Garden or Play in Wooded or Grassy Places, Then You Need To Beware of Ticks

“Summer’s Health Hazards” Focusing on Health and Safety



SPRINGFIELD, MA – June 1, 2017 – It’s one of “Summer’s Health Hazards” – ticks.

It seems as if every year lately is being declared as the “Year of the Tick,” and 2017 is shaping up to be no different.

Scientists are reporting this may be a very bad year for Lyme disease based on several observations – an explosion in the mice population across the northeastern United States and warmer winters which keep ticks from dying off.

Ticks are ugly, blood sucking, little spider-like insects who make their home in wooded or grassy places, where they can attach themselves to your skin. They carry diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and/or the most common tick-borne infection known as Lyme disease. The latter is spread by blacklegged ticks when they bite mice or deer that are infected with the bacteria called B. burgdorferi. The infected tick then passes the disease onto humans with their bite.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Lyme disease infects an estimated 300,000 people a year, with many cases going undiagnosed and unreported.

Dr. Daniel Skiest, chief, Infectious Disease Division, Baystate Medical Center, noted Lyme disease is commonly diagnosed by clinicians during the summer months in western Massachusetts. Blood tests are often helpful in making the diagnosis.

“In most cases, the diagnosis is not challenging, especially if patients are seen in the early stages with the classic red rash. This rash develops several days after the tick bite and is generally not painful. Occasionally, patients are seen with later manifestations of the disease, including Bell’s palsy, heart problems, or nonbacterial meningitis. If undiagnosed and untreated, some patients may develop swelling in a joint – usually the knee – often referred to as Lyme arthritis, which can be treated with antibiotics,” said Dr. Skiest, who is familiar with making the complex diagnosis.

The good news is that if identified in its early stages, Lyme disease is 100 percent curable with a short course of antibiotics. In fact, some people’s

immune systems are strong enough to fight off the bacteria and they will not notice any symptoms, noted the Baystate infectious disease specialist. Of special note, Dr. Skiest said that studies have demonstrated that prolonged courses of antibiotics (2-4 weeks) are no more effective than relatively short courses of treatment.

The best treatment for Lyme disease is prevention.

“If your children are going to be out hiking in the woods or playing in bushy or tall grassy areas, dress them in long-sleeved shirts and long pants, a hat, and use an insect repellent that contains at least 20-30 percent DEET as additional protection,” said Dr. Mike Klatte, an infec-

tious disease specialist at Baystate Children’s Hospital.

“For those concerned with the chemicals found in insect repellents, there are some natural alternatives available including oil of lemon eucalyptus and others made with natural plant oils,” he added.

But, even the best protection isn’t foolproof.

“I remember as a child visiting my grandparent’s farm in rural Ohio, where we would go out hiking in the woods and fishing in ponds surrounded by tall grasses. When returning to the house afterwards, our parents would always perform a thorough check of our entire bodies for ticks

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HEALTH

YOUR HEALTH

Beware of Ticks

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– including looking over our scalps,” Dr. Klatte said.

If you do find a tick on the skin, the CDC offers the following tips on how to remove the pesky bug:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin’s surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don’t twist or jerk the tick, which can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.
4. Dispose a live tick by submersing it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.

What to do if you are not entirely certain that you removed the whole tick?

“Despite attempted removal followed by washing the area, most of the time the site will heal on its own. You should only seek medical attention if the tick bite site develops redness, swelling, or tenderness to the touch, which could be a sign of a secondary bacterial infection,” Dr. Klatte said.

For additional questions following tick exposure, contact your doctor’s office. Calling prior to scheduling an appointment can be helpful.

In addition to safeguarding against ticks and Lyme disease, other Summer Health Hazards include packing a healthy picnic basket safe



from food-borne illnesses, the ill effects of the heat, sunburn, exercise, and water-borne illnesses.

To make an appointment with an adult infectious disease specialist, call 413-794-7394, or for pediatric appointments, call 413-794-KIDS.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystate-health.org.

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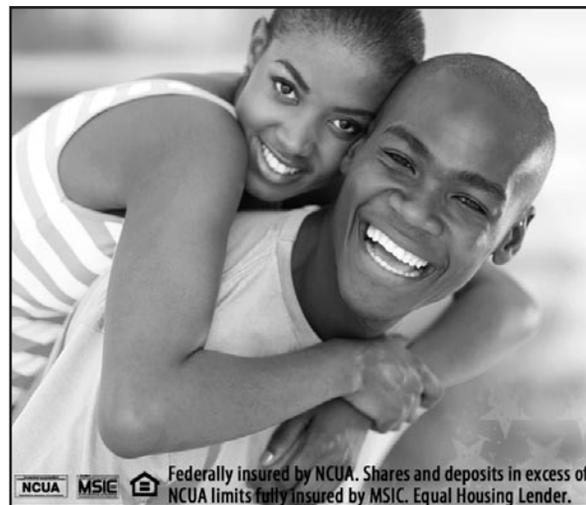
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Growing Money

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We offer workshops throughout the growing season. The Mason Square Library will have all the details. Some of the workshops that we have offered in the past are: Seed Saving, Herbs and Spices-What Are They?, Pruning Your Tomatoes, etc.

Some members are new to the growing game while others are old hands at gardening. Some members have backyard and back porch gardens. Some garden in containers and pots and buckets. We have at least one Master Gardener member of the group. Folks of all abilities are invited to join.

We are interested in bringing this type of wealth to our community. To that end, we cooperate and partner with other groups. Some of the groups include The Springfield Food

Policy Council, Gardening the Community, The Northeast Organic Farming Association and the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association.

On April 27, 2017, The Mason Square Gardening Group was a finalist for an award from the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association. The

group was the only winner in all of Western Massachusetts. Representatives from the group traveled to Newton, MA to make a presentation about the programs we offer and to accept the award. We represented all of Springfield, the Pioneer Valley, and all of Western MA.

In addition, the Mason Square Library and the Gardening Group wrote a grant to fund planting kits for those who would like to get started. The kits consisted of a pot, growing medium, gloves, and a trowel. The seeds were available through the library with a library card.

Going forward, the Mason Square Library will be sponsoring the Fourth Annual Community Festival on **August 17, 2017 from 3pm-7:30pm**. Check with the library for other events. In June, several healthy living events were held.

For those folks who receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Commonwealth and the US department of Agriculture have teamed up this summer for a Healthy Incentives Program. When cardholders utilize their SNAP dollars at farmers markets, farm stands, CSA farm shares or mobile markets, the amount of their purchase will be added back to their card depending on their household size, up to \$80 each month.

Growing your own food and purchasing locally grown foods can truly put money in your pocket and health in your body. It need not be elaborate or costly. From a simple tomato in a pot in a sunny window to herbs growing in the kitchen, gardening can be as simple or as complex as you want it. It can be enormously satisfying no matter the age group. ■



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HEALTH

YOUR HEALTH



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Learn Hands-Only CPR to Save Lives

SPRINGFIELD, MA – What would you do if someone next to you collapsed because their heart stopped beating from sudden cardiac arrest? Cardiac arrest is an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) and disrupts the flow of blood to the brain, lungs and other organs. It is a leading cause of death. Each year, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States.

When a person has a cardiac arrest, survival depends on immediately receiving CPR from someone nearby. According to the American Heart Association, about 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

If you are called on to perform CPR in an emergency, you will most likely be trying to save the life of someone you love: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend because 70 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in homes.

About 46 percent of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest receive the immediate help that they need before professional help arrives. Hands-Only CPR has been shown to be as effective as conventional CPR for cardiac arrest at home, at work or in public spaces.

Hands-Only CPR has just

two easy steps, performed in this order: (1) Call 9-1-1 if you see a teen or adult suddenly collapse; and (2) Push hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of a familiar song that has 100 to 120 beats per minute.

Song examples include “Stayin’ Alive” by the Bee Gees, “Crazy in Love” by Beyoncé featuring Jay-Z, “Hips Don’t Lie” by Shakira” or “Walk the Line” by Johnny Cash. People feel more confident performing Hands-Only CPR and are more likely to remember the correct rate when trained to the beat of a familiar song.

When performing CPR, you should push on the chest at a rate of 100 to 120 compressions per minute, which corresponds to the beat of the song examples above.

Watch the 90-second demo video. Visit heart.org/handsonlycpr to watch the Hands-Only CPR instructional video. Hands-Only CPR is a natural introduction to CPR, and the AHA encourages everyone to learn conventional CPR as a next step. You can find a CPR class near you at heart.org/findacourse and/or purchase a CPR Anytime® Kit at shop-heart.org/cpr-anytime. ■

COMMUNITY

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Merry Christmas in July

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

It's July and this is when I usually start thinking about Christmas. I start my Christmas shopping in July. This year I don't feel the spirit of Christmas in July like I did the last eight years. It's been a rough six months for me in 2017. Emotionally I've been struggling in #Resisting and it's exhausting. I think about the hate and the vitriol that's being spread by the highest office in the land. It seems we've gone back a decade at least when voting rights were relegated to a few privileged men of little or no melanin.

I saw a sign on a ballot on Facebook before the election and it said, “Do you think blacks have too many rights?” It looked like it was a ballot question and whether it was fake or not, it made me think that this is exactly how the alt-right thinks. By the way, alt-right is code for white supremacist for those of you who aren't “woke.” I put as my post the other day that I need a long nap from being “woke” and sometimes I wish I was “sleep” like so many other people are who would rather read posts about how cute puppies are or how good some food looks.

I'm embarrassed by the current POTUS but I know that there is hope. I'm just waiting for it to happen. I feel Springfield is coming together

and I like that. We need to stick together; we need to work together because we are all we have. I look at all the campaigns being run for elected office in the city and I'm excited. It seems like more people are committed to making sure that our democracy works the way it was intended to. I just hope that people will come out to vote in September for the primary and then in November for the general election.

In the national election, a lot of times it is disheartening because of the Electoral College versus the popular vote. The local elections are where your vote really counts. Local elections affect our way of life much more quickly and more directly than the national elections do. That is why we have to participate in local elections much more passionately and intentionally. There are so many people running for office in our city and we need to be vigilant as to whom we will vote for this year. Be on the lookout for candidates' forums so you can hear what each candidate might have planned for our city.

I think our City Council is doing a great job and I also think there should be more diversity on it, especially with women. The School Committee also needs much more diversity on it and I hope to bring some when I get voted in. Voting and running for office in these local elections give me hope. I can start my Christmas shopping with a little more hope and spirit. When I think about our city and all the people who love our community and are working hard to make sure it is good, I have hope. I love my community.

Start shopping now for Christmas and you won't have to be in debt in 2018. Merry Christmas in July. ■

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

Unsung Heroine

By Magdalena Gómez

As a society we have moved further away from human contact to screen time, farther from the word and more enamored of self images. I've witnessed Pérez Pizarro be ignored and dismissed by those who prefer 15 seconds of mainstream on-camera time to in-depth, face-to-face interview coverage. Familiar network cameras can sometimes be a magnet for attention seekers who want to be seen on the evening news.

Damaris Pérez Pizarro, is, in my opinion, one of the best writers in any of our New England newspapers. She is driven to capture and protect cultural memory and events that mainstream news cameras will ignore if lacking sensationalism or surface shimmer. The bullet, the scandal, the deal, the flash, the cheery sycophantic tugs below the belt of people in power—that's what makes the evening news, along with the occasional do-good events of the privileged who are born into money or get paid very well to do them. On occasion, the truly deserving are also honored if the cause is considered non-threatening and appeals to a mainstream sensibility of what constitutes a "worthy" cause.

Damaris Pérez Pizarro was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico and describes her early years living with her grandparents in the countryside of Salinas as the best years of her life. "Papi Aurelio and Mama Paula raised chickens, pigs and had mango, lemon, coconut and quenepa trees. They grew pumpkins, root vegetables and even had sugarcane. For a time they also cared for a goat and some ducks. There was a hammock, and plenty of space for a little girl to play joyously with a neighbor's child." An idyllic

setting to ease the sadness of her single mother's absence due to the need to work to support the family. "When you're a kid, things look huge. I saw it as a big farm. It was really just a modest backyard and they made the most of it; they even had a water well. I climbed trees and got into trouble because I liked to climb my grandfather's ladder and walk to get up on the roof of the house."

Pérez Pizarro seemed to be born with a penchant for taking in the full view and wanting to see what others might miss; a ceaselessly curious mind. From the climb on that precarious ladder to the rooftop where she could survey the beauty of her island, to her years as a divorced, single parent raising two daughters now in their twenties, Pérez Pizarro has maintained a contagious optimism, a generous spirit and an enviable will. You will not find "I can't" in her lexicon. Pérez's moxie is illuminated by her youthfulness, which often finds her mistaken for the sister of her daughters.

MG: To what do you attribute your optimism and persistence in life and work?

DPP: I spent my early years with my grandparents. My grandfather worked the sugarcane fields and my grandmother found creative ways to earn money. My grandmother's character was very strong. She was always active and made sure to make me part of whatever she was doing. She made traditional food and desserts to sell. I remember being five years old when she would send me out with a wooden tray filled with squares of dulce de coco (a savory coconut confection) to sell in the neighborhood. I was happy to call out dulce coco a cinco chavo** as I walked through the neighborhood. (**The tradition of pregonando, or calling out or declaration, of your

wares and comestibles is part of the street vending tradition in Puerto Rico.) Doing this made me very confident. I was glad to be useful and would proudly bring my grandmother all the money I earned. At home, when she washed clothes, my job was to wash my grandfather's church socks by hand in a metal bucket full of soapy water.

MG: How long did you live with your grandparents?

DPP: My grandmother died when I was nine. My grandparents were the ones to whom everyone in the family, along with their nine children, would bring their concerns.

MG: Where did you go after your grandmother's death?

DPP: I went to live with my mother in the urban projects in Hato Rey in Santurce. Even though I loved being able to live with my brother, sister and mother, it was tough to live in what was essentially the projects. My mom was a working single mother and didn't have much time to spend with us. She worked hard to make sure we had everything we needed, especially for school. I left the island at 21 and moved to Allentown, PA, was there a couple of years and when I moved to Springfield, I attended STCC and graduated with a degree in video production and multimedia. I received my B.A. from Westfield State University.

MG: When did you become a writer?

DPP: It was by accident. I didn't know I could write. I used to go to church in Puerto Rico, and at eighteen was helping to organize an event at the church for those who had left. I wrote a poem for them and that was my first one. After that, when my father died years later in 1999, I wrote another as a memorial tribute. It had a big im-



Damaris Pérez Pizarro

Photo by Michael S. Gordon, The Republican

pact. My brother said "Damaris, I didn't know you were a poet." I didn't know either.

MG: Had there been poetry in your life at school or home?

DPP: No.

MG: Was there music?

DPP: Yes. All the time!

MG: Music can inspire poetry.

DPP: From the time I was little, I was always singing in church.

MG: Songs are a kind of poetry.

DPP: You're right. And I always wanted to sing, everywhere. If people were singing, I always asked for a part. I also learned how to play congas. I love it!

MG: How did you end up at El Pueblo Latino?

DPP: I needed a job, sent out ten résumés to different places, including The Republican. The Republican called and I had to compete with other applicants by covering two events. I didn't have a car at the time, so I took buses.

MG: Do you still remember those two events now, four years later?

DPP: Yes! The first was an interview of Dr. Sergio Paez, when he first took the position of Holyoke Public

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COMMUNITY

LATIN@ GROOVE

Unsung Heroine

continued from page 14

Schools Superintendent, and the second one was a Holyoke street fair. I got the job. The timing was perfect. I had just graduated, I needed to start paying my college loans and the paid internship I was working on at STCC was just ending

MG: What is your role at El Pueblo Latino now?

DPP: I cover the majority of the stories, take photos and I edit as well. I write seven to ten articles weekly of different lengths. This is one of the ways El Pueblo Latino can continue to be its own separate edition from The Republican, rather than a supplement.

MG: Is El Pueblo online also in its entirety?

DPP: Yes.

MG: It sounds to me like you do the work of three people.

DPP: Yes.

MG: Given the high level of your skills, and the limitations of a small local paper, do you have plans to go for an advanced degree?

DPP: Yes, I plan to go for my Master's Degree.

MG: Given your trajectory and all you have given to the region, I personally would love to see one of the area colleges offer you a full ride. You're a single mom who against all odds has made your way to become an invaluable asset to the news gathering community of Western Massachusetts.

DPP: Thank you.

MG: What do you hope to accomplish with your Master's degree?

DPP: I want to be a college professor teaching Spanish or creative writing.



Damaris Pérez Pizarro

*Photo by Michael S. Gordon,
The Republican*

MG: If you could do anything for your livelihood, what would you most like to do?

DPP: I would like to have my own on camera show. It would be a dream come true. I know it wouldn't be easy. There's a lot of competition, a lot of young, fresh faces; but what matters really would be the concept of my show, in order to be successful.

MG: I have no doubt that if you put your mind to anything, you will get it done. I don't mean that from a "bootstrap" perspective, but from getting to know who you are and your tenacity for getting the job done, whatever it might be.

DPP: Thank you.

Damaris Pérez Pizarro has encouraged and brought to light the accomplishments of countless people who might otherwise remain unknown in our area. She goes out of her way to learn about events that may be of interest to a wide audience of readers of all ages. She is driven to support people who are doing good things for the community and who might be under-recognized. ■

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Westfield State Administrators Appointed to Governor's Black Advisory Commission

WESTFIELD, MA — Westfield State University administrators Dr. Cheryl Stanley, dean of Education, and Azanda Seymour, director, Urban Education Program, both of Springfield, have been appointed to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's Black Advisory Commission.



Dr. Cheryl Stanley



Azanda Seymour

The Commission will advise the governor on issues relating to the economic prosperity and wellbeing of the black community in Massachusetts.

"Both Dr. Stanley and Ms. Seymour have provided exceptional leadership at Westfield State University and I now look forward to seeing their innovative ideas continue to positively influence the black community at the state level," said Westfield State University President Dr. Ramon S. Torrecilha. Stanley and Seymour are two of only four Western Massachusetts representatives on the 28-member Commission.

Earlier this year, Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito signed an executive order and formally swore in several members of the Black Advisory Commission at a ceremony in the State House. According to the official announcement, the Commission will review and assess the priorities of the black community in the Commonwealth and make recommendations by identifying up to three priority areas to be addressed over the course of the next two years. Commission members will serve four-year terms.

As dean of Education, Stanley is responsible for approximately 20 ed-

ucator preparation licensure programs and ensuring that all programs remain compliant with the state and national accreditation guidelines. In

addition to her leadership with efforts to increase student interaction with faculty of color, Stanley also helped launch Westfield State's Reach to

Teach program. The program recruits students of color from Springfield Public Schools (SPS) to attend Westfield State and earn an education degree with a guaranteed job placement in SPS upon graduation.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, a Master of Arts in Human Development from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and a Doctor of Education in Instructional Leadership from UMASS Amherst.

Seymour serves as the director of the Urban Education Program, an academic success and leadership development program that focuses on the recruitment, graduation, and retention of first-generation students. She previously served as interim executive assistant to the president, assistant director of the Urban Education Program, and as an academic advisor.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Westfield State University, a Master of Education in Educational Policy, Research, and Administration from UMASS Amherst, and is working toward her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from University of Hartford. ■

COMMUNITY

POSITIVELY LIFE CHANGING

Feelings Are Mentionable and Manageable

By Kimberley A. Lee, Vice President Office of Advancement for CHD



Kimberly A. Lee is Vice President Office of Advancement for The Center for Human Development (CHD), 332 Birnie Avenue, Springfield, MA 01107, 413-733-6624

Fred Rogers, famous as TV's *Mister Rogers*, was a gentle, thoughtful man whose unique way of talking about feelings put children at ease. When he testified before Congress in 1969 for public support of intelligent TV programming for children, Rogers told the Senate Commerce Committee chairman that "feelings are mentionable and manageable."

These words came to mind when I read results of a new study on depression in children. Published this week (6/5/2017) in the journal *Translational Psychiatry*, it reveals alarming data about the state of children's mental health in the U.S. Notably, the researchers found that depression in children appears to start as early as age 11, and by the time they reach age 17, 13.6 percent of boys and an astonishing 36.1 percent of girls have been or are depressed.

This was a large study involving in-person interviews with more than 100,000 children who participated in the National Survey of Drug Use and Health from 2009 to 2014. The study's author, Elizabeth Miller, is Director of the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Miller said that until researchers can get a better understanding of why some people can come out of depression without intervention while others need help, parents, teachers and others who work with children should learn to recognize the signs of childhood depression.

What are those signs? According to Nina Slovik, LICSW, Community Based Flexible Supports Clinic Director for CHD, parents should look for warning signs of depression, such as:

- Seeming more withdrawn, reactive, irritable, or sad
- Stomach pain, headaches, etc., without any discernable cause
- Missing school/ cutting classes/ acting out in class
- Changes that might correlate with time spent on social media
- Victim (or potentially perpetrator) of bullying
- Recent significant losses (e.g., death of a close relative, friend, or pet, or divorce of parents)
- Unusual preoccupation with celebrity deaths or current event disasters (e.g., mass killings)

Many children and teens with emotional problems keep their pain secret. Others express their feelings in risky or offensive ways. Due largely to stigma—fear, shame, and misunderstanding about mental health disorders—about half never receive clinical care. In fact, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that only 50.6 percent of children with mental disorders had received treatment for their disorder within the past year.

As parents, how can we help our kids? Take a lesson from Fred Rogers: remember that feelings are mentionable and manageable. Find time to ask your children, "How are you?"—and then listen to what they have to say. With certain emotions, some kids can't simply "shake it off." Talking to someone with the right training and credentials, someone who knows how to listen, can help your child understand what they're feeling. It can make a world of difference. Realize,

continues to page 19

LEADERSHIP PIONEER VALLEY

Ignoring the Warning Lights

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.leadershippv.org

Last month I was driving my car, when the air bag light went off. I wondered what might be going wrong before ignoring the light in favor of not being late to my destination. The next time behind the wheel the light didn't go off, so I set aside my concerns, choosing to believe that it must have been nothing. A few days later my wife was driving the car when the light went off again. She immediately consulted the car manual which indicated that the warning light was serious and required immediate attention. The car dealer fixed the faulty air bag letting us know that the faulty bag was dangerous and it was good that she came in right away.

Leaders are faced with changes and new circumstances all the time. It is seemingly easy to ignore problems hoping that they will go away. I have never known that to work. Often the problem intensifies with inattention and goes from a small issue to a crisis. I have written before about reasonable leadership. Another hallmark of reason is not avoiding reality or new circumstances but adjusting despite the inconvenience.

Last month our country did just that by pulling out of the Paris Treaty on Climate Change. In one quick decision we went from world leaders to world laggards. Our warning lights have been going off for more than a decade now. It doesn't take a climate scientist to notice the changes all around us. More erratic weather, 90° days in April, flowers blooming earlier, more ticks, etc. My mom often comments on how weird the weather

is by her—this is becoming the new normal. After many failed national attempts to heed the warning lights, the Paris Treaty was a major step for a country that has been a leading carbon polluter.

When Congress and previous administrations failed to act, regions, states, cities, and towns stepped up. Massachusetts has been a leader in addressing climate change from reducing emissions and saving energy to encouraging investment in renewables. There are 185 green communities in the Commonwealth, including 2/3 of the towns in the Pioneer Valley including Springfield, Chicopee, and Holyoke. More than a dozen towns in the Valley, predominantly in Franklin County, have participated in Solarize Mass. This program provides incentives and rebates for installing solar. More than 20.6 megawatts of clean energy have been generated, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and people's energy bills.

What does Paris have to do with Springfield? There is no doubt that Pioneer Valley towns and the Commonwealth will continue to lead in the fight to combat climate change. Our efforts are already saving money, creating jobs, and improving public health. The bigger concern is how this will affect investment in research and innovation. Green technology is a growing part of our economy locally and nationally. The signals from our national leaders could drive investment to Europe and China where climate leadership is already happening.

I was struck by the reposting of the photo of former Secretary of State Kerry signing the Paris Treaty with his granddaughter on his lap. By burying our heads in the sand and ignoring the warning lights, we are handing a climate crisis to our children and grandchildren. That is not leadership. ■

FEATURES

LEADERSHIP PIONEER VALLEY

This Black Woman's Experience in Leadership Pioneer Valley

By Latoya Bosworth

This will be a great opportunity to network, I thought, to expose my talents to professionals from a different demographic, i.e. White people. However, after our initial welcoming event, I wondered how I'd force myself to open up to people unlike me. There were so many of them and so little of us (because you know we count in a room sparse with people of color). When we took our class photo, I purposely tried to stand away from the other three black women, three Latino women, and the one black man, so it'd look a bit more ...colorful.



Latoya Bosworth

Still, as we prepared for our weekend retreat and official initiation into Leadership Pioneer Valley, I prepared myself to code switch. It's what we do, change our speech style, volume, body language and vocabulary to mirror mainstream America. We drop the colloquialisms; avoid being our true selves to not offend, intimidate, or perpetuate negative cultural

stereotypes. For some of us code switching is fluid and easy, and we never had to be taught; it was learned by watching. I was ready for it.

To my surprise, the way our differences were brought to the forefront right from the beginning by executive director Lora Wondolowski made me feel comfortable with just being me (in all my Black girl magic), without fear of making others uncomfortable or feeling like what I said or did represented all of us. This was just the beginning of the many lessons I learned throughout the 10-month program for emerging leaders in Western Massachusetts.

Without giving away all the details (because you should totally check it out yourself), I learned to listen more and react less. Through constant internal evaluation I learned that everything wasn't crucial or warranted my input. I didn't have to take over or take charge, but that I could be "happy enough" with the consensus. My strengths were validated and there



Leadership Pioneer Valley class of 2017

were strategies I could immediately implement on the day job as well as in my entrepreneurial work.

In the end, it was way more than a list of new contacts, it was realizing how we all benefit from honest, uncomfortable discussions and the value of effectively using your voice. It was

building collaborative relationships, friendships, and a new perspective of myself as well as the Pioneer Valley.

For more information about applying to be a part of the Leadership Pioneer Valley class of 2018, visit www.leadershippv.org ■



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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Putnam Seniors Score SHA Farris Mitchell Scholarships

By Mary Ellen Lowney, SHA Communications and Community Relations Manager

SPRINGFIELD, MA — June 2, 2017 — Two stellar graduating seniors at the Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy have each won a \$1,000 Farris Mitchell Scholarship to help them launch the next phase in their lives — college.

Jaleace Lindsay and Azariah Mabry, both 18, have been selected for their hard work and top grades for the scholarship, which began in 1995 by the children of a man who brought up his family in public housing, but instilled in them a desire for education and a better life. The scholarships are funded by the Springfield Housing Authority and given to public housing residents in the city.

This year's two young women, friends since seventh grade, expressed gratitude, both planning to use the needed funds to offset tuition.

"This scholarship will help a lot and I am so thankful for it," said Mabry, who will head to Hampton University in Virginia in September to study psychology, with an eye towards eventual law school.

"This is such a great opportunity for me. College has always been an important goal for me, and I am almost there now," she added, clearly excited for her future.

Mabry, who lives in the Indian Orchard section of the city, is graduating from Putnam with a straight-A average for this year, and last. She majored in Allied Health and has worked during summers to save up for what is to come.

"College will give me opportunities and a career that will help me to provide for myself, and eventually a family," said Mabry, who is the daughter of James Mabry and Trina Steed.

Lindsay will head off to Fitchburg State University at the end of the summer. She also majored in Allied Health at Putnam, and will study either psychology or criminal justice in college. She is aiming for a career where she can help people.

"I like working with people, and I like helping people," she explained. "I feel like I want something interesting and where I interact with people a lot."

Lindsay is the daughter of Mason Davis and Belinda Plamondon, both of whom are also graduates of Putnam.



Jaleace Lindsay and Azariah Mabry, winners of the 2017 Farris Mitchell Scholarships, stand with Jimmie Mitchell, who is Youth Engagement Coordinator at Springfield Housing Authority.

"I guess you could say Putnam runs in our family," said Lindsay, who lives at SHA's Robinson Gardens Apartments in the Pine Point neighborhood.

Two Farris Mitchell Scholarships are awarded each spring, to honor the legacy of a man who had a third-grade education, raised 10 children in public housing, and saw that they all completed high school. Five of the children of Farris and Julia Mitchell went on to complete college.

Jimmie Mitchell is the eldest of the 10 children, and helps administer the scholarship as part of an SHA committee. He is the authority's Youth Engagement Coordinator, and a retired counselor from Putnam, making this year's crop of winners extra special to him.

"This means so much to me, and to all of my family," said Mitchell, whose father died in 1994.

"It means so much to me, my brothers and my sisters, that the memory of our dad lives on in a way that helps young people who are growing up like we grew up," he added. The Mitchells lived in Riverview Apartments, an SHA development in the Brightwood section of the city.

The family started the scholarship the year after their patriarch died, privately raising funds for awards for the first 15 years. The SHA now funds it, and generally gives one or two \$1,000 awards away each spring to a high school senior who lives

in public housing or has a SHA-administered rental assistance voucher, and has been accepted to college.

SHA Executive Director William H. Abrashkin said he is happy to fund the program, which fits perfectly with the authority's goal of fostering family literacy and independence.

"On its twenty-second anniversary, the Farris Mitchell Scholarship Program of the Springfield Housing Authority has truly come of age. The Board of Commissioners and staff of the SHA are thrilled to be able to help out two outstanding young people as they head off to college," Abrashkin said.

Both of the young women have been active members of the Robinson Gardens Youth Group, which meets weekdays after school with Jimmie Mitchell offering programs, support, and mentorship. There are also summer jobs for some members. Lindsay was a natural for the group because she

lives at the family development, and early on she brought Mabry in as an enthusiastic neighbor.

"The group made a big difference for me," Mabry said. "There have been so many great opportunities thanks to that."

Lindsay added, "The group keeps you focused on what's important in your life."

Springfield Housing Authority is Massachusetts' second largest housing authority, with 2,397 traditional public housing units located at twenty-seven sites throughout the city, 240 Massachusetts Rental Vouchers, and 2,893 Housing Choice Vouchers.

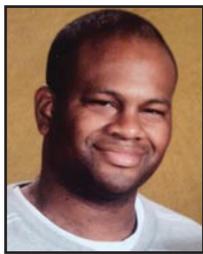
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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BEAT



Kenneth Harris is a graduate of the High School of Commerce and STCC. He has served as a Special Police Officer, Atlanta Corrections Officer and Courthouse Officer.

A Need for Community Collaboration Here and Now

By Ken Harris

Members of our communities and representatives of the Springfield Police Department must embrace the practice of sustaining a healthy collaboration in an effort to improve standards of living city wide.

For nearly a year, I took it upon myself to visit all the monthly Beat Management Team meetings, with the exception of the Sixteen Acres and Mason Square sectors, and can say with confidence it is no secret that many residents have no interest nor time to participate in sound discussions with community policing members.

I've said this before and I'll say it again—just like how President Abraham Lincoln put it, “A house divided by itself cannot stand.” Police and community cannot attain the best solutions without a channel of communication where a majority of residents are involved. Public and police interactions are a necessity for the growth of mutual understanding.

The purpose of lively discussions is to introduce concerns where a call to action in a public setting can benefit all who are desirous of obtaining an

acceptable quality of life in the areas of living or work.

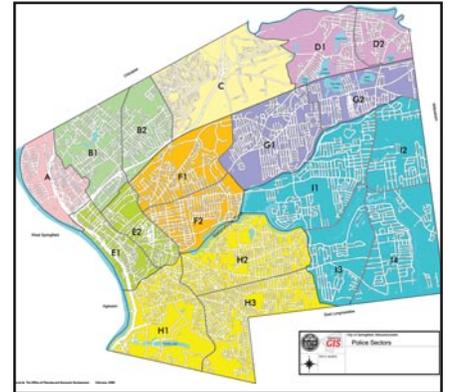
Honestly, I, myself, have not attended every meeting in my own residential sector due to personal obligations that prevented my availability. However, I am proud to have appeared at most of the presentations for my own desire of staying informed about what's going on.

Previously, I attended several of these discussions in various parts of the city and I gathered the input I was seeking. I no longer see a need to attend meetings outside of my own neighborhood. I realized that monthly crime statistics may differ, but what is common is a lack of interest or zero availability for a majority of residents to come out and let their voices be heard.

I find this disturbing because the small groups of residents who do appear are in a position to speak for everyone in the neighborhood. Naturally, I can't see this as a true collaboration because all of us have various degrees of concerns, suggestions, and opinions from which to offer sound solutions to rectifying the issues around us.

To engage more residents to at-

tend their monthly Beat Management Team meetings, perhaps all of us who do show up can make an effort to convince family, friends, and coworkers to participate. Maybe the community policing unit can be more visible in the neighborhoods on foot or bicycle patrol to interact and gain the trust of those they are sworn to protect. After all, the birth and history of community policing in our city started with a foundation of citizen and police interaction. Anyone who says otherwise, I urge them to check out www.springfieldpolice.net. Go to “About the Department” and click “History of the SPD”. There's an old but accurate video that explains the purpose of community policing.



The cooperation of all of our residents is needed just as much as police community engagement in order to foster a long term and satisfactory relationship. A resident can come to a meeting and get answers about a problem from the police in a public setting. Why think otherwise? Based on my experience, I found the police officers at these meetings to be professional and the kind who want residents to step up and help them reduce the disorders that hinder the acceptable quality of life we hope for. ■

POSITIVELY LIFE CHANGING

Feelings Are Mentionable and Manageable

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too, that mentioning and managing feelings doesn't mean your child needs medication or a prescription.

CHD is a great local resource regarding emotional wellness. As a major social service organization for our region, we offer extensive behavioral health programs, including services designed to identify and treat depression in children.

If your child needs corrective lenses to see well, you take them to the optometrist. It's not any different when it comes to mentioning and managing their feelings. Help is available—and CHD is ready to provide it. To find out more, call 1-844-CHD-HELP.

Ask your children how they're feeling. You can begin the conversation with three words: “How are you?” ■

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Around Town & In The Community



School Committee Member Denise Hurst and City Councilor Justin Hurst lend their support to Bob Charland, “The Bike Guy,” in his efforts to give back to the community by reconditioning bicycles and donating them to local children. The Hurst’s were able to secure donations from Arrha Credit Union, Sodexo and Point of View for the recent Bike giveaway at Washington Elementary School.



Baystate Academy Charter School 9th graders showcased their Expeditionary Learning Project on Race and Ethnicity at MLK Charter School of Excellence, leading the students in a variety of activities including sharing narratives, short stories, and genetic presentations that they worked on during the last quarter of the school year.



WTCC program producer Kenneth Barnett (standing center) celebrated with family and friends the 30th anniversary of his radio program “The Promise.”



The “Apps on the Rise” program under the direction of STCC Asst. Professor William Strother, Sr. took place recently at Springfield Putnam Academy where Putnam students demonstrated Apps they had created for electronic devices.

Around Town & In The Community



Mass. Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ashe meets with City Councilor Justin Hurst, Point of View Publisher Rick Hurst and State Representative Bud Williams.



The Community Resource Block Party took place on Rutland Street behind the MLK Jr. Community Center.



Scholarship recipients (beginning 2nd from left) Savanna Henry, Markina Ako-Brew, N'kyla Ellerbee, Azariah Mabry and Lamara Evans were acknowledged at the Xi Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Hats Off celebration entitled "Hidden Figures." Sorority members from L to R: Denise Cruse, President Nicole Charmicheal-Keel, Adrienne Benton, Rhonda Brace and Yolanda Johnson



Mason Wright Senior Living celebrated its 125th Anniversary and Founder's Day on June 5th. To help commemorate its rich history was Keynote Speaker Marc H. Morial, President & CEO of the National Urban League and fellow Urban League Presidents. L to R: Urban League of Eastern MA President & CEO Darnell Williams, Mason Wright resident and past Urban League Executive Director Chester Gibbs, Morial and Urban League of Springfield President & CEO Henry M. Thomas III.



Patrons of The Cabaret come together for one last time to say goodbye to the club, which has been a landmark location in Springfield's Mason Square.



COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS - CONNECTICUT

Windsor Native Dr. Natasha Stephens Tells Eastern Students, “Learn to Say Thank You While You Can Breathe!”

By Dwight Bachman, Public Relations Officer Eastern Connecticut State University

WILLIMANTIC, CT—“Never forget your roots and where you came from, no matter how high you go in life, show gratitude and help someone else.”

That’s what Alumna Natasha Stephens, who graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University in 2003, told the honorees when the University recently recognized the academic achievements of African, Latino, Asian and Native American (ALANA) students during its Fifth Annual Inclusive Excellence Awards ceremony. A total of 165 students were recognized for achieving GPAs of 3.5 or higher.

“Give back of your time to someone else,” said Stephens. “While you have breath in your body, thank those who helped you, showed you, took time to meet with you, who gave you an opportunity and took a chance on you. You are here today to be recognized for your persistence and hard work. You didn’t take the easy way or go through the back door.”

Stephens, of Windsor, thanked Stacey Close, of Bloomfield and Eastern’s associate vice president for equity and diversity, who taught her African American History at Eastern, and others for taking a chance on her and teaching her how to soar towards her dreams.

“As a first generation student in my immediate family to attend college, I did not know what I wanted to do long term, but after the many conversations with various staff, faculty and administrators, I wanted to go into higher education, and earn my PhD. I now am working on my application for law school.”



Dr. Natasha Stephens



Eastern President Elsa Núñez



Inclusive Excellence Award Winners with Keynote Speaker Dr. Natasha Stephens (center)

She advised the students that they could always change their plans in life, “only if you have one. When I arrived at Eastern I was strictly focused on business as an INROADS intern. Later, I volunteered first to show my work ethic, which led me to a paid student worker position. I later had the opportunity to work as student orientation counselor; work in the Blue Sky program to help assist first year students in the Office of Ac-

ademic Advising; a resident assistant, which helped me in my graduate school experience in Norfolk, VA. All of this was in higher education. My experiences at Eastern changed the trajectory of my educational plans, changed my goals and career aspirations, which I attribute to who am I now. So be open to change. You can’t just sit and wait for things to come to you, you have to step out and make things happen.”



Dwight Bachman

She concluded by recalling advice from her parents—“You have to be twice as smart to be considered equal, so reach for the stars. Don’t settle.” Stephens further encouraged the students, “Don’t limit yourself or your abilities — challenge yourself to new things. You may have felt like giving up, but stay the course. Stay focused. Make the sacrifice to soar. Believe in yourself. Reach your highest potential, and give someone else the wings to fly.”

Eastern President Elsa Núñez told those in attendance that the awards ceremony was not just about inclusion. “Today, we show respect and celebrate the accomplishments of students who too often have been forgotten in the past. We are very proud of you! We are doing everything we can to promote the success of students of color. We know that having an inclusive, diverse, and culturally rich campus is good for all our students — in the end, we all must learn to live together in today’s global society.”

The University presented nine special awards. Melat Assefa and Christina Perez received the Advisor’s Choice

Award; Deja Seawright the Inspirational Leadership Award; and Chisolm Sunny Uduputa the International Student Award. The Resilient Warrior Award went to AnnRichelle Akko, Daniel Castillo, Adrian Lopez Diaz and Yineira Lopez. Taylor Hemphill was named recipient of the Social Justice Advocacy Award, and the Volunteer Service Award went to Destiny Hartmann. ■

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

LAW NOTES



Dr. Bridgette Baldwin is a Professor of Law at Western New England University School of Law with areas of interest in criminal law and procedure, international criminal law, evidence, critical race theory, cybercrime and welfare law.

The framers of the United States Constitution created a strong presidency able to make decisions efficiently and with greater expertise than the other branches of government, particularly in the areas of foreign policy and national security. But the framers also divided power among the branches of the federal government and between the federal and state government. Over time, we've also adopted international laws and norms that put some limits on the president's power. A lot of what the Trump administration has been doing since the inauguration can be viewed as testing the boundaries of its power and, in doing so, testing the resilience of our legal order.

First, the Trump administration has pushed outward on the other branches of the federal government to see how much power and influence it can wield. In the national security realm, it claimed that courts should not be able to review Executive Orders if the executive branch says that they deal with national security (courts have thus far rejected this ar-

gument). With regard to health care, the president has pushed on Republicans in Congress to get support for the president's agenda, and has made it clear whom he blames when legislation doesn't progress.

Second, the Trump administration has pushed downward to test the boundaries of state and local power. Under the 10th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, state governments usually have control over police powers. So when the administration claims that it is going to crack down on so-called sanctuary cities if they refuse to let their local police follow the orders of federal immigration officials, it is likely unconstitutional. But that hasn't stopped the administration from threatening state and local governments with a loss of federal funding and claiming (without evidence) that these governments are encouraging serious criminal behavior.

Third, the administration has pushed against international law and norms. With regard to national security matters, it has skipped meetings related to national security, border

Checks and Balances: How the Trump Administration is Testing the Boundaries of Its Power

By Sudha Setty Professor of Law

control, and human rights convened by the United Nations; it has questioned the value of intelligence-sharing agreements among our allies; and it has questioned the utility of longstanding and useful relationships like NATO. The president has also promised at various points to ignore international law—whether he will actually do so is unclear at this point.

Fourth, President Trump has tested his power and the power of our institutions by disrupting his own administration. He initially reorganized the National Security Council by making his political advisors integral to the council, installed loyalty watchdogs in different administrative departments, and remarks openly about his distrust of the intelligence community.

These disruptions and testing of executive power speak to a few things: President Trump's belief that he has a mandate to disrupt "business as usual," his skepticism towards the expertise and knowledge of people who have worked in the government for many years, his lack of knowledge

and lack of interest in the functions of different branches of government, and the lack of trust—in both directions—between Trump and his own administration.

How these disruptions will affect both this administration's work and future administrations is yet to be seen and will depend, in large part, on the strength and resilience of our government institutions and constitutional norms at the federal, state, and local level. ■



*Sudha Setty is a Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Development & Intellectual Life at Western New England University School of Law. She writes about national security law and civil liberties, and is the author of the newly released book, *National Security Secrecy: Comparative Effects on Democracy and the Rule of Law*.*

Trump Alerts!

By Marjorie J. Hurst



The Senate Health-Care Bill Is Morally Indefensible

Quoted from Laila LaLami, The Nation

“The United States is a rich country, and whether because or in spite of that fact, it treats the poorest and most vulnerable of its people with contempt. The Trump administration's

proposed budget calls for cuts to food-stamp programs that help 43 million people. The Secretary for Housing and Urban Development has made it clear that he doesn't expect federal housing

to be too comfortable and has called poverty a “state of mind.” At a rally in Iowa, Donald Trump declared that “I just don't want a poor person” serving the country in a cabinet position instead of “brilliant business minds.”

But nowhere is this contempt for the poor more evident than in health care. This week, the Senate will vote on a bill that, according to the Congressional Budget Office, will lead to 22 million people losing their health coverage in a decade, including 15 million people on Medicaid. The bill also slashes funds for preventive care, allows states to let insurance companies charge more for preexisting con-

ditions, and revokes the requirement to cover maternity and emergency services. The Republican senators who drafted this bill are doing more than reforming health care; they are deciding who deserves to receive it.”

We are lucky that this bill did not have enough support to be voted on by Republican Senators prior to their 4th of July recess. But make no mistake about it, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will bring it back for a vote once he has sweetened the pot enough or twisted arms enough to get the votes he needs for passage. Stay vigilant and make your voices heard.

EDITORIAL

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

RICHIE, YOU REALLY DID IT!

By Frederick A. Hurst

MY POINT
OF VIEW

Frederick A. Hurst



Congratulations to Congressman Richard “Richie” Neal for a job well done and for the vision that allowed him to see the possibilities in Springfield’s Union Station when it was little more than rubble. He has worked relentlessly on the project for decades while hoards of skeptics whispered their doubts. The outcome speaks for itself. Union Station can now be called the transportation hub of the region and Springfield can be proud.

It takes a special kind of person to fix their eyes on a distant future goal that most can’t even conceive of and to see it through to the end. If anybody could pull it off, Richie Neal was that person. He is smart, hard working and politically astute and has an unusually compassionate feel for the average person struggling to make a living, raise their kids and retire with dignity.

And he loves the city of Spring-



*Congressman
Richard Neal*

field where he was raised in the North End poor and blessed with a diverse group of friends who reflected the city’s racial makeup. Richie’s climb up the political ladder was steady and classic. Nobody has been able to repeat or even to come close to it. So it should surprise no one that he was able to raise the rubble of Union Station to a new glory in the same way he rose from the poverty of the North End to the United States Congress as the ranking member of the much sought after



*Union Station officially opened to the public on Monday, June 26, 2017.
This photo is from one of the many joyous opening celebrations.*

House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee.

Walking through the new Union Station should impress anyone. But for those of us who were born and raised in Springfield and recall the old station before its downward spiral, its revival is spiritual and

uniquely uplifting. It stands as the paramount symbol of the rebirth of the Springfield that we knew and a message to those who doubted and to those who hope that the City of Homes is on its way back.

For that we owe Richie Neal a profound debt of gratitude. ■

AF-AM NEWS

bits

By Frederick A. Hurst

continued from page 4

apply to them or their privileged friends. They think it will harm only Muslims or Haitians or, of course, folks of Hispanic origin. Not the Irish or others of European origin. So when immigration agents arrived at five a.m. one morning without notice to John Cunningham’s Boston home to arrest him for being an illegal immigrant, Boston society went nuts. You see, John Cunningham is a reputable electrical contractor and past chairman of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Boston who has been in Boston since 2003 after overstaying a 90-day Visa. No one less than

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh expressed grave concern as did the president of the Irish Cultural Centre of New England and the executive director of the Irish Immigrants in Massachusetts Center who pointed out that 12,000 illegal Irish immigrants live in Massachusetts. He expressed concern about the vulnerability of these “illegals” to grifters and others who stalk them and take advantage of them knowing they will not report them to the authorities for fear of being detained. Though I feel for John Cunningham, the irony in all of this is that many who supported Trump’s immigration

policies openly and the many who supported them behind the scenes and those who did nothing, had no idea that his policies would impact their own. Maybe now the outrage will grow. (See articles: *Boston Herald*, June 21, 22, 2017; *The Boston Globe*, June 21, 2017)

SO WHAT?

Iwould like to give attribution to the man who wrote the article that this comment is about but I misplaced it. He referenced all of the news reports about a Black man with dreadlocks who escorted an elderly White man down a department store escalator. He wondered why the media made such a big deal about it

and arrived at the conclusion that the media reaction was racist. Of course, he was right as he made the point that the more subtle message was that what the young Black man was doing – a small polite gesture to age – was something unusual “for a Black man,” something that most young Black men would not be expected to do. So while the media was praising the individual, they were condemning an entire race. It’s the subtle type of stuff that racism is made of.

WHAT A JOKE

Tump lashes out at Obama. What a joke!

OP-ED



Decision on Travel Ban Spares Family Members, Students And Workers

BOSTON, MA — June 26, 2017 — The U.S. Supreme Court today agreed to examine whether President Trump’s travel ban was a legitimate exercise of executive power, and in the meantime, stayed two injunctions that had blocked the implementation of the travel ban.

In a careful attempt to balance competing interests, the Court only allowed the travel ban to be applied to foreign nationals who lack “any bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States.”

For individuals, the Court ruled, a “close familial relationship” is required. For entities, the relationship must be “formal, documented, and formed in the ordinary course,” such as a student’s admission to a U.S. university, an offer of employment, or an invitation to give a lecture.

All other citizens of the six designated countries – Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Sudan and Yemen – may be barred from entering the U.S. for 90 days. The Court also upheld a 120-day suspension of the U.S. refugee resettlement program, and a reduction of the annual cap from 110,000, as former President Obama had planned, to 50,000. In fiscal 2016, the U.S. admitted 85,000 refugees.

“We are deeply disappointed by today’s Supreme Court decision, which – if only temporarily – upholds a policy grounded in xenophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment,” said Eva A. Millona, executive director of MIRA. “The administration has claimed the travel ban is meant to protect national security, but they have yet to produce a single shred of evidence to justify that claim. More than 3 million refugees have been resettled in the United States since 1975, with no incidents.”

Still, Millona said she appreciates the Court’s effort to limit the scope of the travel ban.

“Exempting students, visiting lecturers, and workers with job offers in the United States will go a long way to reducing the impact on Massachusetts, especially in higher education, technology and life sciences,” she said. “That is an important acknowledgement of the value of immigrants and refugees to those sectors, which are central to our Commonwealth’s economy.”

The exception for people with close relatives in the U.S. is also crucial, Millona added. “Some families have been waiting for years to be reunited, and it would be cruel and deeply unfair to extend their separation,” she said.

Yet another important provision of today’s

Supreme Court ruling is that it provides for any refugee who meets the “bona fide relationship” standards to be admitted to the United States even if the 50,000 annual cap has already been met.

However, Millona noted that requiring travelers and refugees to prove their relationship with a person or entity in the U.S. will add yet another layer to what is already a slow and complex bureaucracy.

“Even travelers with U.S. passports have been facing increased scrutiny and delays under the Trump administration,” she said. “We would not be surprised if in the coming weeks, people who meet the standards set by the Supreme Court still find it difficult to enter the country.”

The Supreme Court plans to hear the travel ban case in October. Until then, MIRA will continue to campaign against the policy, and will urge citizens to express their opposition – by calling and writing to the Trump administration, and by lobbying their elected officials.

In 2016, Massachusetts resettled a total of 2,433 refugees, including 232 from Somalia, 209 from Syria, 26 from Iran, 22 from Sudan, 4 from Yemen, and 1 from Libya. ■

COMMUNITY FOCUS



John Davis

John Davis Named Community Champion Award Winner at Denver Grade-Level Reading Conference

Springfield, MA — John Davis, Senior Trustee for the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for Ventry Industries, LLC, has been named the

Community Champion Award winner by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading at the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading All-America City Awards Gathering in Denver, Colorado June 14-16.

Davis was recognized for his efforts to increase reading proficiency in Springfield through the *Reading Success by 4th Grade* initiative.

Under Davis’ guidance, the Davis Foundation has supported programs having to do with education and the well-being of children, underscoring his belief that investments in early life and early education avoid larger and frequently intractable social costs later on.

Davis was among the first supporters and advocates of reading proficiency for Springfield’s children. Shortly after a community meeting in Springfield in 2009 where Davis and other civic leaders learned that statewide test scores showed less than a third of the city’s 3rd graders could read at proficient level, the *Reading Success by 4th Grade* initiative was launched.

At the time, the initiative was one of the nation’s first all-out community mobilization efforts for grade-level reading success.

Springfield was named a 2017 All-America City at the Denver Awards Gathering, based on a track record of success that includes reductions in the city’s rates of chronic absence and summer learning loss, and an 11 percent increase in 2015-16 in third grade reading proficiency. The city won an All-America City award in 2012, and has also been designated a Pacesetter Community in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for exemplary work in elim-

inating barriers faced by children from low-income families on the path to becoming proficient readers.

Davis serves on the Baystate Health Board of Trustees, is Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Nichols College, is Co-Founder of the Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley, is on the board of Baystate Academy Charter Public School, a board member of the Springfield Empowerment Zone, Co-Chair of Springfield Business Leaders for Education, and an Emeritus Board Member for the Urban League of Springfield (MA).



Read! *Reading Success by 4th Grade* is a broad coalition of leaders in education, child development, business, philanthropy and government working towards the goal of all of Springfield’s children reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

RELIGION

RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW



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

Ditching the Tightrope...

By Rev. Dr. Atu White

We must not approach life as if it is a tightrope because if you fall off or if you drop a ball, then your entire life is ruined or in peril. That is not balance, but borderline insanity.

Balance is seeing the whole while experiencing the sum of its parts. Balance is not achieved by happenstance, but we achieve balance by deliberate actions. Your deliberate actions should include balance in practice and in partnerships.

Balance in Practice

Are you drowning in a sea of commitments? Accept the fact that

you will not have everything at the same time. When we try to make everyone happy or to satisfy every commitment or obligation, in theory, it is a noble idea, however, in practice, it is rarely achieved. To achieve balance, we must look at life through the prism of a circle: Draw a large circle on a piece of paper and place God in the center. Next, draw and label lines from the center of the circle to the outer edges. These lines represent all of your commitments. For instance, it represents family, work, and church. (You can make your list as detailed as you'd like.)

This concept encourages us to view our entire life as a sacred service that honors God. In context, if God is the center of our existence, everything

should and does revolve around the Supreme Being. We must prioritize what needs our attention now. When all of our obligations, commitments, and desires revolve around God, it relieves the pressure of believing we are on a tightrope. We will not be able to do it all at the same time. Make peace with that reality and calmly celebrate the freedom in practicing balance. Practicing balance allows us to see the whole circle while experiencing the sum of its parts.

Balance in Partnerships

In the New Testament, Titus 2:4 states, *"These older women must train the younger women..."* The inference of training (in the original Greek language) is to bring into balance. The

greater context is that we must help each other find balance. That is the beauty and true splendor of partnerships. Your wisdom and words should encourage, correct, and help those with whom you are in partnership.

There are temptations in life that will leave you unbalanced and unsettled. For instance, we encounter the temptation of walking a tightrope. The wisdom of others will help you enjoy the sum of life's parts and be present in the moment. Being present means not rushing through life, but walking while experiencing all of life's interruptions. Partnerships mean there are shared and vested interests so that we strive to see the good materialize in the other—albeit personal and/or professional. We should find comfort in the wisdom of others who attempted to walk the tightrope and realized life is best lived seeing the whole while enjoying the sum of its parts. ■

LIVING

LIFE'S CHALLENGES



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

Are You Waiting on the Lord?

By Sweets H Wilson, PhD

before God knowing that whatever the subject is of our impatience, it is not too big for God to handle. When we come to this place, worry, anxiety and fear find no place to dwell because God is there. It is only when we leave God out that these negative emotions have the right to torture our minds and that they will do. But

worry is defeated when we trust in God.

I enjoy the words God brought out through the Psalmist: *"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put*

a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him. Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord..." (Psalm 40:1-5 NIV)

As humans we enjoy being in control. If we do not know how something will happen or why something is happening, we feel out of control and that is not an easy state to live in. When we cannot have our hand in every detail, manipulating *continues to page 33*

FROM HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

To wait on the Lord does not mean to stand around passively. Rather, it is to be silent

RELIGIOUS DIRECTORY

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RELIGION

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One on Solomon's Porch"*
Acts 5:12b



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Pastors, Ministers, Professors and Theologians, please submit your articles for the "Religious Point of View" to Rev. Dr. Atu White at: atuwhite@gmail.com

... AND YES, SHE CAN AND YES, SHE DOES!

continued from page 2

Concise, to-the-point, factually driven, no excuses, get-it-done person are certainly some of the descriptors I would apply to Mitzi from having interacted with her in my position as a member of the Springfield School Committee. If I wanted information or wanted something done or wanted to get answers for the many parents who called me on a regular basis, I knew all I had to do was call Mitzi and I would immediately get a response. It could be a response I wanted to hear or one I didn't want to hear but I knew it would be a response based on facts not suppositions or feelings. She became my "go to" person and, in my estimation, she served the superintendent and our district well during her tenure.

"But who is she really?" I asked myself when I recently learned that she had been appointed by Governor Deval T. Patrick to the State Board of Higher Education (and felt she deserved applause). I thought about the other side of Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach, the fun-loving Mitzi Beach, the one who wears a Dr. Seuss hat to celebrate "Read Across America Day," dresses up in every imaginable costume and parades around central office and the district commemorating every known holiday, drives around with rabbit ears and a bunny's tail on her car at Easter, donates to worthy causes regularly and quietly, inspires intense loyalty and is comfortable in her own skin. And I wondered what kinds of experiences had shaped her to be who she is.

What I learned is that Mitzi is the only child of Philip A. Beach, a medical doctor who had a general practice in Harlem, and Edna L. Beach, a legislative consultant and lobbyist in Albany, New York. Both her parents are now deceased but they were able to provide Mitzi with an upper middle-class upbringing and all that went along with that lifestyle—dancing lessons, piano lessons, boarding school, membership in Jack & Jill, summer camp and summers at Martha's Vineyard, trips abroad, hobnobbing with the likes of Eleanor Roosevelt, Edward Brooke and the Rockefellers—exposing her to the kinds of experiences that build your confidence, help you to not take yourself or others too seriously, and enables you to cut through the b.s. rather quickly (my conclusions).

Mitzi also developed a seriousness of purpose. She started out wanting to be a pediatrician but found she liked learning and talking about education and decided to major in elementary and special education at Lyndon State College in Vermont. After graduation, she taught math, science, social studies and special education. She was way ahead of her time with her special education classes. She be-



Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach, Superintendent of Ware Public Schools, and Dr. Charles Desmond, Executive Vice President of the Trefler Foundation, are sworn in as members of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education



From left: Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach explains the ramifications of the No Child Left Behind legislation as Division IX President and Springfield School Committee Member Marjorie J. Hurst, Esq. and Massachusetts Association of School Committees 2002 President and East Longmeadow School Committee Member Rosemary Sandlin look on.

lieved that it was an injustice to segregate special education students from regular education students and to teach down to them so she taught her students to do everything regular education kids could do to the best of their abilities. Many of her students, with her as their example, went on to become special education teachers.

Her next step was to get a master's degree in Guidance Counseling from the University of Vermont. Her intent was to become knowledgeable in all facets of education, which led her to accept a fellowship from Springfield College to study Industrial Psychology, the workplace counterpart of guidance and counseling. However, due to a serious back operation, she was not able to complete her studies. Later she went on to get her doctorate from the University of Vermont in educational administration.

Mitzi's employment career also followed a

pathway that kept her moving forward. She worked for the Vermont Department of Education as director of Homeless Education, as well as in their Title I office; served as the director of an alternative high school in Holyoke that served students from Chicopee and Springfield; worked for the Massachusetts Department of Education in special education; was especially recruited to work in Washington State as its homeless coordinator and Title I director from which she took a leave of absence to work for D.C.'s superintendent of schools, Arlene Ackerman, for two-and-a-half years after which she was asked to apply for a team leader position in the U.S. Department of Secondary Education where her team was responsible for reviewing all of the assessment systems for the entire country; and then a job interview in a Washington bar landed her in Springfield in the position of special assistant to the superintendent for program accountability and evaluation; and, then, in the summer of 2006, she was appointed Superintendent of the Ware Public Schools. Call me clairvoyant if you like, but somehow I do not believe Mitzi is at the end of her forward momentum.

After all that educational achievement (I haven't even touched on all the accomplishments she's made as Ware's superintendent in her two short years there, such as getting the high school out of warning status which is HUGE, developing a full curriculum where there was none, completing pacing guides and aligning them with the state's, removing the district's special education program from non-compliance status, receiving a commendation from EQA (Educational Quality Administration), getting students to choice back into the school system, settling the teachers' contract, getting the district's accomplishments publicized, and on and on), I asked her what she did for fun.

Not surprisingly, she used to love skydiving, motor cycling, golf, tennis and was an avid skier until she hurt her back. But, as her friends will attest to, she is also a gourmet cook and can make anything from soufflés to Cream Brulee (my favorite) to a mouth-watering full course meal featuring Roulade of Beef. And every Sunday, she bakes muffins to bring to the school's special education class for them to sell in their TAP Café. Mitzi is also a collector of miniature dollhouses and has a prized Daddy Long Legs collection. And also not surprisingly, she is a news-aholic and goes to sleep and wakes up listening to the news, keeps her car radio tuned to news stations and reads every newspaper she can get her hands on.

So how's that for a woman who's a natural achiever who "can" and, more importantly, who "does!" Congratulations, Dr. Beach, on your latest achievement. ■

COMMUNITY

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER



Congratulations to **Jane Albert** on her promotion by Baystate Health to Senior Vice President for Marketing, Communications and External Relations. She will serve as a member of the President's Cabinet and will oversee marketing and digital strategy, government and public relations, community relations and public health, communications and philanthropy. Albert joined Baystate Health in 2002. She has served on many boards including Spirit of Springfield, NCCJ, Jewish Community Center, Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce. Albert is a graduate of Babson College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



Congratulations to **Anthony V. Hayes** who was named the new General Manager for public broadcaster WGBY in Springfield after a nationwide search. Hayes comes to WGBY with nearly two decades of executive experience in public TV and radio in Connecticut and Washington, DC. He succeeds Rus Peotter who retired last fall after leading the station for 15 years. Hayes will lead the station in its strategic planning, editorial operations and community engagement, serving its public media mission of advancing the educational and cultural life of western New England. A native of Queens, New York, Hayes holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the New York Institute of Technology, and a Master of Arts in Media Entrepreneurship from American University. He will join WGBY on July 10.



Congratulations to **Patrick Sullivan**, Executive Director of the Springfield's Parks, Buildings and Recreation Management, who was honored for 30 years of service with the city. This is a man whom everyone likes. His positive personality makes it a pleasure to work with him and his work ethic is to be admired and imitated. Among other duties, he is responsible for directing all activities of Springfield's parks and parkland and 5 million square feet of municipal buildings, including School Department buildings, fire stations, libraries and police headquarters.

MGM Appointments



Congratulations to **Alex Dixon** who was appointed General Manager by MGM Springfield. With ten years of industry experience, Dixon was most recently the Vice President and Assistant General Manager of the Horseshoe Casino in Baltimore, MD. There he helped to open the Horseshoe property both ahead of schedule and under budget. A Las Vegas native, Dixon earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in Finance from Howard University. He has held leadership roles for several groups such as Habitat for Humanity and the Las Vegas Urban League's Young Professionals in Las Vegas, the Associated Black Charities, and the MedStar Harbor Hospital both in Baltimore.

Congratulations to **Courtney Wenleder** who was appointed Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer by MGM Springfield. Wenleder will direct and oversee the strategic financial planning, operational performance and financial management of MGM Springfield. Wenleder most recently held the CFO position at New York-New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, where she served for nine years and oversaw significant capital in-

vestments and property enhancements, including the introduction of the new retail esplanade. Wenleder earned her Bachelor's Degree in Science with a concentration in Accounting from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master's Degree in Accounting and an MBA from University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV).



Congratulations to **Marikate Murren** who was promoted to Vice President of Human Resources by MGM Springfield. In her new role as Vice President of Human Resources, Murren assumes responsibility for planning and directing all aspects of the talent and human resources function, including ensuring adherence to labor laws, regulations and HR corporate policies and procedures for MGM Springfield. She was most recently the Director of Human Resources for the property, a role she assumed last June.



Congratulations to **Michael Custodio** who has been named the Director of Property Initiatives. Custodio is responsible for leading analytic projects, strategic planning and evaluation of key business drivers property-wide for MGM Springfield. He was most recently in the same position at MGM National Harbor in Maryland, where he was part of the successful opening team.



Congratulations to **Arlen Carballo** who is the Director of Financial Planning & Analysis. Carballo will provide strategic direction and management oversight and be responsible for operating/capital budgets and various operational and financial analyses that enhance the service experience and profitability of the property. She most recently held a similar position at MGM National Harbor where she and her team successfully produced, monitored and evaluated monthly results to ensure financial objectives were met during pre-opening.



Congratulations to **Meagan Lippmann** who is the Learning & Development Partner. Lippmann will manage the learning and development to onboard nearly 3,000 new employees for MGM Springfield. She began her career at MGM Resorts in Hotel Operations at MGM Grand before transitioning to Training and Development at the property level and then onto her current role as Learning Partner with MGM Resorts International University in May 2013. She has developed, implemented and led several leadership development programs and most recently was part of the successful opening team at MGM National Harbor.



Congratulations to **Jason Randall** who is Director, Talent Acquisition & Development. Randall will lead efforts for the recruitment, onboarding, training and ongoing retention for MGM Springfield's 3,000 employees. A Western Massachusetts resident, he most recently served as Director of Human Resources for Great Wolf Lodge since January 2015. He serves on the Board of Directors for The Children's Study Home and is a 2014 recipient of BusinessWest's 40 Under Forty.

THE ARTS

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW

Springfield Celebrates Black Music Month at a New Location

By Moyah Smith



Moyah Smith is the Community Outreach Officer and Mortgage Loan Officer for United Bank. Also a radio personality for WTCC, her show, *Whispers After Dark*, is every Wednesday evening from 8–10pm on 90.7fm or www.wtccfm.org.

Once again, Springfield celebrated Black Music Month. A collaboration of a few local radio personalities who goes by the moniker, *No Names Entertainment*, has organized this event, which occurs every Friday during the month of June, for the past four years. At the time of writing this article, the event was two weeks in. The event had been held at The Cabaret on Hancock Street for the past couple of years. Due to the unexpected closing of that landmark location, there was a bit of anxiety about whether the new location of The Cozy Pavilion would be able to carry the torch of past successes for the event, especially due to short notice during the planning.

The event features live entertainment from local and regional artists from as far as New York City. If the opening act of week one was a sign of what was to come, there would be no reason to expect anything less than pure entertainment. The rhythmic sounds of Springfield's own U-Troop Drummers, led by drum veteran, Brian Thomas, started the evening perfectly. Then joined by the headline duo, *Two Man Trio*, featuring Jo Sallins on bass & keyboards, and Joel Turcotte on drums, it was hard to resist moving to the vigor of the African drums, especially after a long work week. Once Sallins handed out instruments to the audience, the pavilion exploded with energy as everyone was involved in the musical jam session.

Week two highlighted the band *Steady Pressure* featuring Leon Spradley (also known as "The Voice"). Covering classics such as *Do I Do* (Stevie Wonder) and *Pretty Brown Eyes* (Mint Condition), among many others, had folks dancing in their seats and many headed to the



Leon Spradley and his group, Steady Pressure, entertain a large and enthusiastic audience at the Black Music Month event held at the Cozy Pavilion.

dance floor to really get it in. There was a special appearance by a young man from Hartford, Connecticut who goes by the name *Tang Sauce*. This is someone you want to look out for. He is a rapper/hip-hop artist, with...well, some added "tang". Clearly a young man with an old soul, one can listen to his work and feel the old school flavor. When he picked up his trumpet in the middle of spitting rhymes, you couldn't help but wonder if there was a bit of influence from the great Miles Davis.

The last two weeks had expected performances from *The Pitts Campaign Music Review* for week three and the band *Malado* and a vocalist out of NYC, *Kosi*, on week four. Based on past experiences with these performers, the level of entertainment will continue to shine.

2017 was the first year we had to share the event with a rainy evening on one of the Fridays. Being in the Pavilion made that a non-issue! The show went on without a hitch. Remember to celebrate the contributions of Black artists, writers and performers throughout history every June and throughout the year. ■

WTCC OPEN HOUSE!!!

WHEN: Sat. July 29, 2017 from 10am—2pm

WHERE: One Armory Square, Springfield

WHO: Anyone interested in being an on-air personality, production, programming, etc.

JOIN OUR TEAM!!!



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THE ARTS

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW



The Springfield Jazz And Roots Festival

The 2017 Springfield Jazz and Roots Festival will feature trend-setting musicians, revolutionary conversations, workshops, and special initiatives that highlight the unique nature of Springfield and western Massachusetts. Each year, The Festival celebrates music, art, and its host, the City of Springfield, as a hub and a leader of cultural excellence in the region.

Although the official Festival begins Saturday, August 12 in Court Square, stop by City Stage on **Friday, August 11** for an inspired evening of jazz and conversation. Entitled **Jazz and Justice**, this special fundraiser will feature **Christian Scott**, a Grammy-nominated trumpeter hailed as one of the most dynamic composers and performers on the scene today. As a prelude to the music, Scott will be joined by fellow musicians, **Charles Neville** and **Sarah Elizabeth Charles** in an intergenerational conversation exploring art as a means for addressing and overcoming forms of social injustice.

The conversation starts at 7 pm and the concert begins at 8. VIP tickets include an artist reception at 6 pm. Visit citystage.symphonymhall.com for tickets.

THE MAIN EVENT

On Saturday, August 12 in Court Square, experience passionate vocalists, innovative music makers and foot-stomping beats! Talent lineup includes **The Jeremy Turgeon Quintet**; **Community Grooves**, (the faculty band of the Community Music



Springfield native, **Taj Mahal** performs at the 2016 Jazz Festival

School); the Latin beats of **Zaccai Curtis & Insight** with vocalist **Natalie Fernandez**; Springfield native **Sarah Elizabeth Charles** and her band **SCOPE**, with special guest trumpeter **Christian Scott**. Innovative bassist **Miles Mosley** graces the stage, and is followed by the beautiful sounds of vocalist **Lizz Wright**. And last but not least, dance the night away to the sounds of **Rebirth Brass Band**.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

At this year's Springfield Jazz and Roots Festival, we continue to celebrate our community by hosting a variety of special initiatives and activities to engage and excite the crowd!

New Orleans style Brass Band Camp & Second Line Parade

In collaboration with the Community Music School, student musicians will participate in this **New Orleans Brass Band Camp**, focused on history and musical training in the tradition of New Orleans brass and marching bands. Instructors include saxophonist **Charles Neville**, CMSS faculty musicians and AmeriCorps staff. Then, on **August 12th** students will lead a Second Line Parade to kickoff the Festival! Participants will gather at the Community Music School at 11AM

and the parade begins at 11:30AM, marching down State Street and into Court Square. Everyone is invited to come down and march in the parade!

Hip Hip HOOPLA! Jazz Fest Celebrates Our Proud History of Basketball

Whether you watch it or play it, the spirit of the game is hard to miss! The birthplace of basketball and home to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, the Festival pays homage to that tradition with HOOPLA Basketball activities, produced in partnership with the Basketball Hall of Fame, the Dunbar Community Center, and Stone Soul Festival organizers. There will be special guest celebrity players. Proficient dribblers are invited to bounce their balls in our Second Line parade!

The Urban Roots Initiative

An ongoing focus of our work has been to raise awareness on social and environmental issues. This year, the Festival introduces a food program that highlights local and sustainably grown food as a centerpiece of the festival experience. This program is developed in partnership with a number of gardening organizations including Springfield's Gardening The Community, Nuestras Raices, Wellspring Greenhouse, and UMASS's urban



Terri Lyne Carrington performs at the 2016 Jazz Festival agriculture program.

The Springfield Jazz and Roots Festival is made possible by scores of volunteers, and is funded solely from donations from individuals, organizations and corporations including **MassMutual**, **Xfinity**, **NAI Plotkin**, **Mass Live**, **The Republican**, and **Trinity/Mercy Medical Center** and other generous supporters.

Music, Food and Fun for everyone! For more info about the Festival, to become a sponsor and to volunteer, visit springfieldjazzfest.com or email Kristin_neville@yahoo.com.

For more information:

www.springfieldjazzfest.com

Twitter: [@SpfldJazzFest](https://twitter.com/SpfldJazzFest)

Facebook: facebook.com/SpringfieldJazzFest

2017 SPRINGFIELD Jazz & Roots Festival

August 12*
11 am - 10 pm
Court Square
Downtown Springfield
FREE

Presented by BLUES TO GREEN

Photo by Jesse Ke

Rebirth Brass Band

* Special Event
FRI. AUG. 11 @ 7 pm,
City Stage. "Jazz
and Justice"
A conversation &
concert with Christian
Scott, Sarah Elizabeth Charles and
Charles Neville. *VIP tickets include artist
reception. Details at springfieldjazzfest.com*

MAIN STAGE LINEUP

- The Jeremy Turgeon Quintet
- Community Grooves
- Zaccai Curtis & Insight with Natalie Fernandez
- Sarah Elizabeth Charles and SCOPE with guest appearance by Christian Scott and Tunde Adjuah
- Miles Mosley and the West Coast Get Down
- Lizz Wright
- Rebirth Brass Band

MassMutual xfinity TISHMAN The Republican. MGM MASS LIVE Trinity Health Of New England Mercy Medical Center

Music, food, fun, HOOPLA basketball, local food challenge, brass band camp and more! springfieldjazzfest.com

THE ARTS

CHILDREN'S BOOK CORNER



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.

Three wheels were never going to cut it.

And two? Well, moving up from tricycle to bicycle was good, but still not enough. No, you're practically counting the days until you get your driver's license because you need *speed* and in the new book **"Motor Girls"** by Sue Macy, you'll see that you're on the right road.

In 1895, Chicago newspaperman Herman Kohlsaas became agitated.

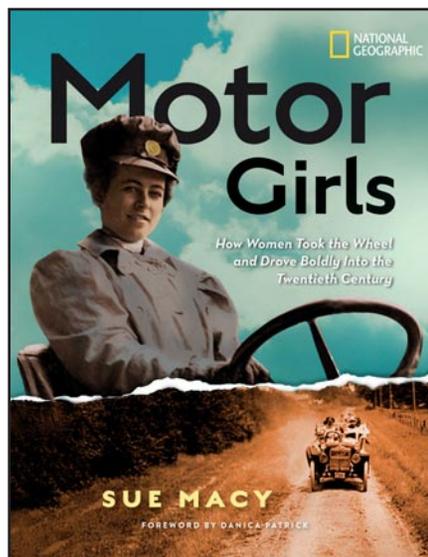
He'd heard that American inventors were hard at work on "motorcars" and he thought it was time to see what those things could do, so he announced that he was holding a race. Eighty-three inventors registered their cars, but just two vehicles actually showed up on Thanksgiving Day that year. The drivers were all men, but they opened up a whole new world to every American.

Would an automobile be the same if it was called a "Kinetic" or an "Autopher"? Those were the first fancy names that were kicked around for the horseless carriage before the word "Automobile" was settled on. No matter what they called it, just 30 companies made them in 1899 but a year later, the U.S. boasted more than twice that many auto manufacturers. Women obviously noticed, though it was thought that they were too delicate to handle an automobile, or that they couldn't think straight and might become distracted on the road.

But of course, women proved everybody wrong. Not only did they learn how to drive, they learned how to change tires and work on their own cars' engines in classes held specifically for female mechanics. They even enhanced what was coming off the assembly lines: Lillian Sheridan

"Motor Girls"

By Sue Macy, Foreword by Danica Patrick
c.2017, National Geographic \$18.99 / \$24.99 Canada 96 pages
Reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer



became a top Ford saleswoman with an all-woman sales staff, while Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper. Women broke records by driving cross-country (the first time of

which took 60 days) and they became taxi drivers and ambulance drivers. They used automobiles to further their right to vote, and to help at home and overseas during World War I.

And yes, if you lived a century ago, you could find a woman on the racetrack...

In a few short years, she'll have her driver's license. She's already picking out the car she wants. But first, thrill your future driver with a history she needs to know by giving her "Motor Girls."

Beginning and ending with a race, this book speaks to the heart of kids who love fast and faster, but racing isn't all author Sue Macy presents. This book is filled with photos of early cars and their (female) drivers, as well as a wealth of tidbits for young



Sue Macy, Author

gearheads. Kids will enjoy knowing what it was like to go on a road trip a century ago; how autos helped women's rights; and what kind of behavior was "ruffianly" on the road.

While this book is perfect for 8-to-12-year-old girls with motors on their minds, boys can learn a thing or three from it, too. If they've got speed in their souls and eyes locked on a license, "Motor Girls" will get their engines running. ■

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



Renée Flowers is Point of View's Artist in Residence. You can contact her directly at (413) 209-9882 to arrange a private viewing of her work.

Every month
different
paintings created
by
Renée Flowers
are displayed at
Point of View



THE ARTS

PEN & INK



JUANITA TORRENCE-THOMPSON: Pushcart nominee. Playwright. Published fiction, children's stories, feature articles, hundreds of her award-winning poems in dozens of U.S. and international journals, nearly 30 anthologies, 9 books including "When Morning Comes" (2016). Writes print & online newspaper poetry columns; produces poetry salons and reads internationally. Former Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of award winning *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.poetrytown.com

The Cotton Club

By Juanita Torrence-Thompson

We're driving in Harlem along 125th Street
—now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard—
on a February Saturday.

We pass the Apollo Theatre,
Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Office Building.
An African-American woman in a blue beret
carries a brown bag from a little bodega.
We pass a bank and McDonald's.

In the sunlight, near the Hudson River,
stands the stark white and black
Cotton Club.

Inside past the foyer
is a long red carpeted room
Straight ahead up above in red neon lights:
"The Cotton Club"

My eyes focus on the clusters
of tables with pink linen tablecloths
and napkins shaped like two triangles.
Each table is decorated with red and white
carnations, glass and silver salt and pepper
shakers and a lit green candle.

On either side as you enter the room
are massive white Roman pillars
and matching walls with protruding
glass chandeliers and mirrors.

The room fills with an integrated women's club
who are served scrumptious Southern fare
—some for the first time.

After the musicians set up on the small stage,
the MC introduces the five African-American
female singers. The place jumps with gospel sounds
down to the heartfelt "Amazing Grace."
The lead soul sister of song encourages us
to sing, and dance along. Their white satin
gowns move to the infectious beat.
Black, white, brown and yellow sway and dance
in the aisles. Yes indeed, we're having church!

COMMUNITY

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER



Congratulations to **Carlos Landrau** on his retirement from the Springfield Police Department after 32 years of service.

Congratulations to **Emmanuel Kadima** on his graduation from the STCC Nursing Program.



Congratulations to **Gloria Wilson** who received a Master's Degree in Nursing from Elms College School of Nursing.

LIFE'S CHALLENGES

Are You Waiting on the Lord?

continued from page 26

and dictating what goes on in our lives or in the lives of those near us, it drives us crazy. However, we are never in the perfect will of God when we take the reins from Him and decide we can handle things better than He can. Letting go and letting God comes only through being still and resting in the knowledge that when we refocus on Him rather than our issue, it will come to pass in His time and in His way only. If we do not learn to rest in Him during our season of waiting, we will never conquer the worries that plague us.

However, waiting can be wearisome; our own strength will fail. All created things have a degree of endurance, but when that endurance fails us, we are left tired and defeated. Waiting in the waiting room—weeks, months and sometimes years—can

take its toll on anyone. Our peace may be stripped leaving us worried and confused. We often become frustrated and annoyed wondering if He had forgotten us. But, this is not the case for those that have discovered God's strength. We know He is all powerful and can do whatever He pleases. There is no burden too heavy to carry when God is carrying it for you. In fact, when we became dependent on Him, we become even stronger. Nevertheless, this knowledge alone does not always satisfy our irritations. We desire to know why it is taking so long for God to act.

Still, the only answer we hear back is not why, but rather, "Wait patiently and rest in Me. Trust in Me my child." It is not for you to know why the wait is so long, but more importantly how to wait. ■

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Springfield Partners for Community Action Builds Community



SPRINGFIELD, MA — June 2017 — The staff at Springfield Partners has found a delicious way to celebrate the success of Paul Boyd, one of our Individual Development Account graduates.

Looking for assistance in expanding his small business, Chef Boyd enrolled in our Individual Development Account Program. Chef Boyd completed the program in May 2014 and invested his matched savings account into his own restaurant-on-wheels. “I asked the instructors the best way to start a business. I appreciate the help from everyone here from Steve, the people at the front desk, Iris, and Walt.”

Chef Boyd has been operating a food truck for the last seven years, but has been working in the restaurant industry for the past thirty-five years. Chef Boyd usually fires up the grill Monday through Saturday from 8:30am through 4pm (depending on weather).

Boyd’s Bistro will be parked behind our agency at 721 State Street (near Hancock Street) on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30am-2pm. When not parked at Springfield Partners, Boyd’s Bistro can be found at State and Montrose Streets (near the TD Bank branch).

His menu includes breakfast all day and \$3 sandwiches on water rolls (BBQ chicken, steak & cheese, etc.), \$5 smoked ribs with a choice of sides, and several \$4 pasta dinners.

Come join us on Wednesday and Thursdays this summer and enjoy some delicious, reasonably-priced food. Menu for Boyd’s Bistro.



We recently celebrated the achievements of an impressive bunch of college-bound Springfield residents at our community scholarship awards breakfast event given in their honor.

The event, which took place on Friday, June 16th at La Quinta Inn & Suites in Springfield, featured an uplifting keynote presentation by John Cook Ph.D, President of Springfield Technical Community College. We were so lucky to get Western Mass News anchor Ray Hershel to act as our master of ceremonies for our 2017 Community Scholarship Award

Breakfast this morning. Ray was fantastic as he outlined our programs.

Those chosen to receive our 2017 Community Scholarships are:

- Deidra Catala
- Sasha Gonzalez
- Kiara Mickens
- Taylor Mickens
- Nathalie Orelie
- Emanuel Parrilla
- Vidhi Patel
- Kimberly Quiñonez
- Kyle Rivera
- Priscilla Rucks-Smith
- Cecelia Scott

Congratulations to all!

CONGRATULATIONS CORNER

A Family Graduation Affair



Congratulations to **Jazymne N. Rosemond**, daughter of Jerald Rosemond and Neraida Martinez, who graduated from Springfield Technical Community College with an Associate degree in Criminal Justice.

Congratulations to **Jeremy J. Rosemond**, son of Jerald Rosemond and Neraida Martinez, who graduated from Springfield College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications & Journalism.



Congratulations to **Justin J. Hurst, Jr.** and the entire Kindergarten class at German Gerena Community School on their promotion to the first grade. Job well done!

GOOD NEWS

July 2017

William H. Carney Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony



Jay Griffin,
Stone Soul Festival
Program Chairman
hayjay252@msn.com
Tel: 413-636-3881
or
413-739-2947

Sgt. William H. Carney was the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. This Medal of Honor is the highest military award of the United States. Sgt. Carney

served in the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry and fought during the Civil War. Sgt. Carney was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry in saving the regimental colors during the Battle of Fort Wagner in 1863.



"SERGEANT CARNEY'S FLAG"
by Michael Gnatek 54th
AFRICAN-AMERICAN
REGIMENT COA



Stone Soul is proud to honor his memory by annually presenting the William H. Carney Medal of Honor Awards ceremony. This year's honorees from L to R are: Major Margaret E. Oglesby; accepting for the late Harold L. Bell are family members Donna Bell, Harell Bell and Chanel Bell; Richard Devine of the Hampden County Sheriff's Dept., Springfield School Committee member Barbara Gresham; John H. Brown of the Sheriff's Dept.; and Lujana Hood, Executive Director of PAHMUSA, the Pan African Historical Museum.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

STCC Celebrates 2017 Scholarship Winners



Student scholarship recipients gather at Scibelli Hall during the Donor Recognition Breakfast

SPRINGFIELD, MA — Springfield Technical Community College on May 25 celebrated students who earned scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$10,000 and recognized donors who provided them with generous support.

In 2017, STCC students received a total of \$700,000 in scholarships and services, which include on-campus events such as the Diversity Series, technology support and emergency funds for students facing difficult financial problems, said Rima Dael, Executive Director of In-

stitutional Advancement and Foundation.

"Donor support provides vital resources to enable STCC to respond to the rapidly changing needs of our students and ensure a high performing, globally competitive workforce for the region," Dael said. "Scholarship funding is critical to our students' path toward success here at STCC and when many of them transfer to four-year institutions."

"It is a wonderful celebration where we get to honor the donor community that supports student suc-

cess and commemorate student achievement by awarding the scholarships with the recipients' families present," she said.

The breakfast and awards ceremony drew hundreds of donors, STCC staff, friends and families of the honorees and the student scholarship recipients. The college celebrated the achievements of 141 student scholarship recipients.

Donors included individuals, families, corporations, the Department of Higher Education, STCC and its Foundation.

Mohamed Gabriel, 23, an engineering transfer student from West Springfield, won six scholarships.

"It feels great," he said. "It's definitely a great opportunity. I didn't expect to get one – never mind that many."

Gabriel recommended that students make the effort to apply for scholarships.

"When I talk to other students, I tell them to apply. You've got nothing to lose. I applied and now I have my next year covered through scholarships. I think students should definitely take advantage of scholarships. There are a lot of them," Gabriel said.

Offering "STCC Greetings" to the audience gathered in the theater, Dr. Arlene Rodriguez, vice president of academic affairs, saluted the students for their efforts. She said she understands many students work extra jobs to fund their education while also supporting their families.

"Yet despite all of that, you have distinguished yourselves academically. You have demonstrated your intellectual gifts," Rodriguez said. "You have demonstrated what scholars call grit – and you have grit." ■

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JULY 2017 EVENTS

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

ON-GOING

THRU—SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

Springfield Science Museum Houses Make Believe Worlds for Children 3 to 10

Where: Springfield Museums,
21 Edwards St., Spfld., MA

Info: 413.263.6800, x459

TUESDAY—4

4th of July

Star Spangled Independence Day sponsored by MassMutual and organized by Spirit of Springfield to feature Concert by 215th Army Band of the Massachusetts Army National Guard and Fireworks by Grucci

When: 7pm Concert;
9:30pm Fireworks

Where: Riverfront Park, Spfld., MA

Info: www.spiritofspringfield.org;
413.733.3800; 413.231.2003

THURSDAY—6

Sector E Community Police Meeting

When: 6—7pm

Where: Commissioners Board Room,
Springfield Police Depart.,
130 Pearl St., Springfield, MA

Info: Residents of Downtown Metro, Maple High Six Corners, South End and Armory Quadrangle neighborhoods are welcome to come and meet officers and share your concerns.

SATURDAY—8

Sanctuary in the Streets Springfield Training

When: 1—5pm

Where: The Recovery Learning Community,
235 Chestnut St., Spfld., MA

Info: RSVP: tinyurl.com/SIS78

Celebrate Big Band Music sponsored by Springfield Armory

When: 5:30 pm Dance Lessons;
6:30—8:30pm Concert

Where: STCC Technology Park (across from STCC and Springfield Armory), One Armory Square, Springfield, MA

Info: 413.734.8551;
www.nps.gov/spar

MONDAY—10

HCC Summer Session II Classes Begin. Classes available both on campus and online.

Info: Go to www.hcc.edu

THURSDAY—13

Springfield City Library Brings Blues Musician Barrett Anderson to Forest Park Branch Library for Concert

When: 6:30pm

Where: Forest Park Branch Library,
380 Belmont St., Spfld., MA

Info: **FREE and Open to the Public**

TUESDAY—25

Holyoke Public Library Offers Hands-on Pastel Painting Workshop for Adults with Pastelist Gregory John Maichack

When: 3—5pm

Where: Holyoke Public Library,
250 Chestnut St., Holyoke, MA

Info: **FREE and Open to the Public**;
Preregister at 413.420.8101

**SATURDAY—29 &
SUNDAY—30TH**

The New England Food Truck Festival with 45 of New England's Premier Food Trucks

When: 12noon—9pm Saturday;
12noon—6pm Sunday

Where: Big E Fairgrounds,
1305 Memorial Avenue,
West Springfield, MA

Info: \$5 for 6 and older;
FREE under 6;
www.Nefoodtruckfest.com



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2017



Contact: Rosemary Tracy Woods
413.301.6314
ArtForTheSoulGallery@gmail.com

A Collection of Artists are "Coming Together" at Art for the Soul Gallery



(Springfield, MA...) Founders of the non-profit Art for the Soul Gallery are celebrating the gallery's legacy, by bringing together the various artists who have exhibited at the gallery going back years ago when it was operated as a for-profit consortium of artists called Artist Square Group Gallery to artists who have exhibited more currently at the present day Art for the Soul Gallery.

The new show, entitled "Coming Together: An Artist Collective", will feature a wide array of artists, who have exhibited at the Tower Square gallery before including: Paul Midura, Larry Poncho Brown, Dean Nimmer, Richard Roy, Frank Frazier, Marlon Seymour, Kristine Crimmins, Timothy Champoux, Lorraine McAlpine, Gloria Acre and Glenn Rossi to name a few.

"The value of recognizing the artists of Artist Square Group Gallery cannot be overstated because of their loyalty, continued hard work and the devotion to their craft," explained Rosemary Tracy Woods, Executive Director of Art for the Soul Gallery.

"Since Artist Square is no longer in existence, I wanted to keep alive the concept of local artists who ventured with me in the opening of the group gallery, and give them an opportunity to come together as a group once again."

The theme of this show is reflecting on the past and looking toward the future, says Woods. It will be an opportunity for visitors to see how the artists have grown in their various mediums. Some, who had not exhibited their works in a gallery format before, have since launched wonderful careers. The uniqueness of this show will also be seen in the scope of the artists, as some are local and some are renowned and internationally known.

The "Coming Together: An Artist Collective" exhibit will run through late-September, and will feature some special events including a silent auction, raffle, artist of month, music and open mic night. Look for event schedule to come at www.facebook.com/AFTSgallery/

Art for the Soul Gallery is located on the second floor of Tower Square adjacent to the food court at 1550 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01115.

For additional information contact Tracy Woods at 413.301.6314.

Art for the Soul Gallery - Tower Square - 1500 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01115 413.301.6314

Representative Bud L. Williams

July 2017 Office Hours

7/5 1-2:30pm, Library Express at Pine Point
7/6 1-2:30pm, Mason Square Branch Library
7/10 1-2:30pm, Mason Square Branch Library
7/12 1-2pm, East Forest Park Branch Library
7/17 1-2:30pm, Mason Square Branch Library
7/19 1-2:30pm, Library Express at Pine Point
7/21 1-2:30pm, Mason Square Branch Library
7/24 1-2pm, East Forest Park Branch Library
7/26 1-2:30pm, Library Express at Pine Point
7/28 1-2:30pm, Mason Square Branch Library



Bud L. Williams

COMMUNITY

PHOENIX RISES FROM THE ASHES



COMMUNITY

PHOENIX RISES FROM THE ASHES



THE PROM

Photos by Leonard Underwood

