

Af-Am

POINT OF VIEW



Our Community News Magazine

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august 1, 2019

SPS EXPANDS FREE PRE-SCHOOL OFFERINGS

"...Margaret C. Ellis School, located at 319 Cortland Street, has been transformed into the district's second early education "hub," serving only pre-school students beginning this fall.

By Springfield Public Schools – 9

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

"...by state law, children must be up-to-date on their required immunizations in order to start school."

By Baystate Medical Center – 13

HANDLING THE BACKLASH...

"...having peace of mind is priceless. You owe it to yourself to protect your body, mind, and spirit."

By Latoya Bosworth – 14

LIVING A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

"60 minutes of physical activity is the first step towards living a healthier lifestyle. But what is physical activity?"

By Chelesa Ako Brew – 14

CIVITY: FROM NO TO KNOW

"Civity is defined as "a culture of deliberately engaging in relationships of respect and empathy with others who are different."

By Lora Wondolowski – 16

MAKE-IT-SPRINGFIELD...

"Its goal was to encourage community interest and involvement in the vast field of the arts while bringing life to the then empty storefronts blanketing the Worthington St. area."

By Ken Harris – 17

MY COMMUNITY

"I always say that Indian Orchard is to Springfield what Western MA is to Boston. We are the forgotten part of the city that downtown doesn't regard. I am glad to say that the perception is changing."

By Zaida Govan – 18

ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

"...the vision of the organization is to provide training to a wide variety of individuals so they have the tools to best address addiction issues within the black population throughout the community."

By Azell Cavaan – 19

LGBT RIGHTS ON TRIAL AT THE SUPREME COURT

"The cases present the question of whether LGBT people may bring employment discrimination claims under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act."

By Jennifer L. Levi – 23

BLACK MUSIC...

"Black music, especially here in America where racism is so integral to our society, reflects the experiences of being Black in America, often filled with tense moments, racism, oppression, inequities, disappointment. But it also reflects joyous celebration, exclamations of love, healing and community."

By Yvonne Mendez – 30

PRINCE HALL MASONS OF CT CELEBRATE EDUCATION PIONEERS!

By Dwight Bachman, Public Relations Officer, Eastern Connecticut State University



Prince Hall Masonic Hall winners and supporters, Front row, L to R: Dr. Stacey Close, James Hodge, William "Rab" Smith, Mildred Smith, Hon. Bobby Gibson and PSM Floyd Bagwell.

Back row, L to R: W.M. Greg Lawrence, Aston Moore, Bloomfield Councilwoman Jennifer Neeley, WM Alvin Clark, Jayjuan McMillian and Bernard Prude.

The Prince Hall Masonic Foundation of Connecticut and Composite Lodge #22 of Bloomfield's Willie B. McLendon

Scholarship/David Carter G. Carter Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund recently presented awards to an exemplary group of pioneers for creating

and developing educational programs and activities to support young people. The theme for the ceremony,

continues to page 2



*David Starr
(1922-2019)*

MY FRIEND DAVID STARR

By Frederick A. Hurst

I can't recall when or how I first met David Starr but I know when I finally did he took a liking to me as I did to him. It was most likely during the period when I was Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination during which time I had frequent interactions with the media.

All I recall for certain is that I have known David for several decades from

meetings in his office at *The Republican*, from periodic lunches with him at the Colony Club and breakfasts at the Marriott, and from chance meetings at many community events, and serving on several Boards. And most recently at his apartment where we had lunch and talked about old times as well as current events.

continues to page 24

COMMUNITY

CONNECTICUT - COMMUNITY FOCUS

PRINCE HALL MASONS OF CT



continued from page 1

which took place at the Windsor Marriott Hotel, was "Education is a Priority for Survival."

Honorees included former teacher and school principal James Hodge Jr.; 91-year-old Mildred Smith, one of Hartford's first teachers; William "Rab" Smith, who was named recipient of the Masons "Special Honoree" award and who currently serves as a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals in Hartford; and the Honorable Bloomfield and Windsor State Representative Bobby Gibson (D-15th District), who successfully spearheaded a bill in the Connecticut General Assembly to make the study of African American and Latino History mandatory in public schools in Connecticut.

Dr. Stacey Close, associate provost/vice president for equity and diversity and professor of history at Eastern Connecticut State University, delivered the keynote address. Floyd Bagwell Jr., Past Grand Master of the Connecticut Masons, served as co-chairperson of the ceremony, along with Masons Lionel Jones and Bernard Prude. Terrell and Paulette Green provided memorable musical selections.

James Hodge Jr.



*WM Alvin Clark, James Hodge,
PGM Floyd Bagwell*

Hodge began teaching in Bridgeport in 1970. He later became a school program planner and school principal in Bridgeport, where he served for 35 years until he retired in 2005. For the past 12 years, he served as a building principal, and now serves as climate specialist in Bridgeport. Hodge also serves on the Board of Managers for the CCC/YMCA, as well as the Katherine Matthies Foundation and the Valley Community Advisory Board.

"When I was a student at Paul Laurence Dunbar School, my 8th grade teacher challenged all of the students to return one day as his boss. I did just that." When Hodge retired, staff and the community named the street in front school where he served as principal as "James A. Hodge Jr. Way."

"I believe in the potential of our students. I constantly recite philosophical quotes to them. Two of my favorites are: "A school is a building with four walls and tomorrow inside," and "Whenever you look back at your life think "positive." Whenever you look at the present be "realistic." Whenever you look at the future be "bold."

Hodge earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degree from Southern Connecticut State (SCSU) University and the University of Bridgeport, respectively. He holds a Sixth Year Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from SCSU.

Mildred Smith



*PGM Floyd Bagwell, Mildred Smith
and son, Wendell*

In 1957, Mildred Smith was among the first African Americans hired as a teacher in the Hartford Public Schools. Her illustrious career began at Arsenal Elementary School and ended at the Simpson-Waverly Elementary School, culminating in 1994 with 37 years of service. Mildred is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Metropolitan AME Zion Church and an active participant at the North Hartford Senior Center. At 91 years of age, Mildred still lives a productive and zestful life.

After graduating from high school, Smith attended Spelman College for Women for a year, and later attended Dillard College in New Orleans, LA, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She later earned her Master's degree in Education from the University of Hartford.

"As one of the first teachers of color the City

of Hartford hired, I knew right away that I had to have a high standard of personal accountability and excellence to myself and the community. I knew students, parents and colleagues viewed me as a role model. Most importantly, I always tried to lead and live a life above censure and reproach."

William "Rab" Smith



*WM Alvin Clark, William "Rab" Smith,
PGM Floyd Bagwell*

After "Rab" Smith graduated from Weaver High School, he was conscripted into the U.S. Navy where he served until being honorably discharged after World War II. "Rab's" special training in the Navy enabled him to enroll and successfully complete courses at Hampton Institute (now University) to become an electrician. "Rab" was one of the original tradesmen who played a role in securing contracts to complete the construction of what was then called the Civic Center. "Rab" is a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church; served on the Democratic Town Committee for more than 40 years and the Hartford Zoning Board of Appeals; and is a life member of the NAACP. He is a long-time member of the Nutmeg-Charter Oak Lodge of Elks, Tuscan Lodge, Prince Hall Masons, the American Legion Post and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

continues to page 22

Alterations & Dressmaking
By Lewins

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Artist in Residence	28
Children's Book Corner	29
Entertainment Review	30
Pen & Ink	28-29

VOTE Tuesday, September 10, 2019

AF-AM NEWS bits

By Frederick A. Hurst

COMPARING APPLES AND ORANGES

Comparing MGM Springfield revenues to Encore Boston Harbor revenues is much like comparing apples to oranges. Encore brought in 16.8 million in gambling revenue during its first week of operation. Critics have been pointing out how, during the entire month of June, MGM Springfield brought in only \$20 million but, again, it's like comparing apples to oranges. Not only is Encore much larger and was much costlier to build (\$2.6 billion), its Boston market is much larger and wealthier and more attractive to high rollers from all over the world. MGM's Springfield market does not have the same breadth and depth and was never expected to have the same attractiveness to high rollers. And MGM Springfield, with its downtown location in the South End is an urban experience that is transforming Springfield's downtown as well as raising revenue and providing great entertainment.

RENEE GRAHAM HITS HARD

Renee Graham wrote in the *Boston Sunday Globe* (July 7, 2019): "Still, at this point Trump could make a noose his campaign logo, and his supporters would scoop up the T-shirts. They are the misbegotten spawn of those grinning white people who enjoyed family picnics at lynching's and collected postcards of desecrated black bodies as treasured souvenirs....Meanwhile, some are still debating whether Trump is a racist, or whining that someone calling someone a racist is a far worse offense than being a racist....That's why I don't trust anyone who, after a racist atrocity, says, 'This is not who we are.' It may not be what you think our nation is, but this is exactly who we are: petty, hateful, and now governed by a racist cheered on by his openly racist supporters."

RENEE GRAHAM HITS HARD

"Understand this:" she continued to write in her must read article, "Trump is not an outlier. He is the president, regardless of whatever criminal acts, foreign or domestic, got him there. His rejection three years ago should have been swift. It was not. Instead we're entering a grueling campaign season knowing that Trump's most hateful spew is just getting started. His longstanding racial animosity has metastasized with power that he views as absolute, and he sees this nation's greatness inextricably bound to whiteness....So does the vast majority of the party he leads."

RENEE GRAHAM HITS HARD

In the same power-packed article Graham concludes: "To anyone who thinks Trump does not

represent the America they know, you don't know America at all. The America you think you know would have learned from the horrors of slavery; decades of Jim Crow laws; the Chinese Exclusion Act, this nation's first anti-immigration law; the genocide of indigenous people and violent theft of their land; and Japanese Americans' being forced into internment camps....If this nation had learned anything from centuries of teachable moments about racism, the America you think you know would not have elected Trump."

RENEE GRAHAM HITS HARD

Somewhere else in her article Graham wrote: "On the day after the 2016 presidential election, many white people reacted as if they'd awakened in a strange place. 'I don't recognize my country' was a common refrain. What they were seeing for the first time was a nation that their privilege had always allowed them to ignore."

THE WHITE RED SOX NATION

My early prediction was that when all of those White Red Sox players and managers went to suck up to Trump and all the Red Sox of color refused to go because of Trump's sordid racial record, the division would have a negative impact on the Red Sox's next playing season because the tight team harmony that led to their victory was destroyed....Ever so subtly, I predicted, the idea that their White teammates and managers chose a self-indulgent moment of recognition from a racist president over team harmony will dwell forever in the back of the minds of Black and Hispanic players and their manager. And the team has struggled uncharacteristically for the entire season. Pennant races and World Series are won and lost in the margins and the Red Sox, with the team's tainted racial history, gave up their margin over a visit to a president who did not deserve their good company. At least, that's what I think. We'll just have to wait and see how they fare for the rest of the season but by the end, I expect to say: "I told you so."

MAINE'S SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS IS NOT FARING MUCH BETTER

Once among the most popular senators in the U.S. Maine's Senator Susan Collins has now become the second least popular Senator since she chose to align herself with President Trump and his un-American policies. And she is facing her toughest re-election campaign. As reported in the *Boston Sunday Globe*, (July 21, 2019): "The poll, released by Morning Consult...showed Collins as the second most unpopular senator in the US with a 45 percent

approval rating, and 48 percent saying they disapprove of her job performance. Four years ago, Collins was the second most popular senator in the country with a 78% approval rating....In fact, since Trump entered the White House, her approval rating has dropped 16 percentage points. According to the pollster, no other senator has seen their standing hurt more by Trump in their home state." Collins will be facing a tough Democratic challenger in her next senate race in Maine House Speaker Sara Gideon who has been officially backed by the Senate Democrats and Emily's list and she has already raised her first million.

GOOD FOR NIKE AND COLIN KAEPERNICK

Few folks know that Colin Kaepernick's reason for insisting that Nike discontinue its sales of sneakers with the Betsy Ross flag on them was because the Betsy Ross flag, like the Confederate flag, has become a symbol of the extreme right. When Nike folks realized they were flouting with a public relations disaster, they quickly agreed with Kaepernick. In a witty commentary in a special to *The Washington Post* that was reprinted in the *Sunday Republican* (July 14, 2019), Kate Cohen truly captured the silliness of the outrage of otherwise reasonable people to Nike's reversal. She wrote: "After Nike flubbed the rollout of a new sneaker design, using and then quickly rejecting a flag that has become a symbol of the extreme right, some commentators objected. Don't let the right wing co-opt this symbol of American history! Don't let them take the Betsy Ross Flag! I say, they can have it. Really, it's fine. They can have that and the Confederate battle flag, which also sports a striking combination of red, white and blue....I mean, honestly, if you're into the Betsy Ross flag, I assume it's because America was great back in 1777, when only white male landowners could vote and slavery was legal in all 13 colonies. In that case, why would you (right wingers) even want the modern flag?...Today's flag dates from 1959 when Hawaii became a state. I've heard that people born in Hawaii are often brown and sometimes native Kenyan! Even worse: Civil rights activists carried the modern American flag as they marched; it has flown during the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the safeguarding of abortion in 1973 and the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015. By 2045, that flag will represent a country in which white people will be a minority. No problem, we're happy to take it off your hands."

GOODBY, CHICAGO DEFENDER

The *Chicago Defender*, one of the nation's oldest and well-known Black newspapers has ended its print edition. It will be missed.

continues to page 24

FEATURE ARTICLE

FORGET TRUMP!

Worry About The Compromisers

By Frederick A. Hurst

Reprinted from December 1, 2016

Yes, I voted. And I voted for Hillary Clinton although I didn't want to vote for her. And, I didn't particularly want her to win. It was the alternative that dragged my reluctant hand to pencil in a completed line for her on the ballot. But as I did it, I felt hollow and extremely disappointed at the probability of her victory.

I considered not voting. But that wasn't an option my conscience could absorb. I even briefly considered a vote for Trump for the same reason that I see a singular silver lining in his election. He is going to shake up Washington one way or the other and Washington needs shaking up.

I also must admit that I liked the way Trump beat the mainstream Republicans at their own subterranean, race-baiting game that they have followed since the law and order days of Richard Nixon and certainly would have followed with any other candidate with the same cynical chance of success. Trump simply raised their race-baiting strategy to higher levels by, among other tactics, forcing it right out into the open. It gave me a feeling of comfort knowing mainstream Republicans had been caught and beaten at their own game by a huckster whose political leanings still remain unclear.

Trump may have destroyed the Republican Party as we know it today. And that won't be so bad either. It has not only been a race-baiting party but it has systematically attacked the Black vote in ways not seen since before the passage of the Voter Rights Act of 1965 with very little opposition from Republicans who claim to want to "expand their party." If I had to make a choice between these "lace

curtain" Republicans and Trump, I think I would prefer Trump, especially if he continues to moderate his profile and behavior in a manner that suggests that much of his election sloganeering was an act, although I doubt he can go that far.

And there's even a rational argument for choosing Trump's new Republican Party over the Democratic Party, which, for most Black folks, has evolved over the years into the party of "I guess I'll just stay home" or the party of "I got nowhere else to go." Sure we were excited by Obama. But, believe it, by the time the Democratic Party picks up the pieces by appealing to Trump's White base, Black and Brown folks will become even less relevant to it. We'll need something new. Admittedly, the Trump Republican Party will not be it.

But Trump showed everybody! He exposed the raw truth about America, the Republican Party and the Democrats all at the same time. Something about that, though scary, is pleasant. Maybe now we can all start dealing from the top of the deck with a new set of rules that reflect a refreshing new approach that we can all live with. But even if we can't, be sure that our body politic will never again be the same.

As for you "Baby Boomers" and "Millennials," don't worry. We got your self-entitled backs. We lived the past. And what we haven't lived, many of us have studied with a determi-

continues to page 25



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EDUCATION

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Enjoy Your 3- or 4-Year-Old All Summer, Then Send Them to Preschool in the Fall!

By Daniel J. Warwick, Superintendent



*Daniel J. Warwick,
Superintendent at the
Springfield Public
Schools*

Every parent wants the very best for their child. Often, one of the biggest gifts a parent can provide for their little one is overlooked – and that is providing them with a pre-school experience. Attending a high-quality preschool gives young students a great advantage for success in kindergarten and beyond because it provides a solid foundation for students' academic success.

I am so pleased with the expansion of our free preschool offerings for Springfield families with three- and four-year old children. This school year, we have added nearly 300 full-day seats to our pre-school programming.

While we have always been committed to early education, the need to expand our preschool programming became evident on the heels of a survey, which revealed that only six percent of our kindergarten students entered school ready to learn. Falling behind in kindergarten sets a child up for continued challenges throughout their schooling years.

Often, families may relish their child's young years as a time to stay close all day with family members or those who wish to provide their child with a preschool experience have often been prohibited because of the cost of private pre-school and the long wait lists at free preschool offerings. My hope is that with the expansion of free preschool seats at

Springfield Public Schools, coupled with the sharing of information about how the preschool experience has been proven to provide lasting benefits for our youngest learners, the pitter patter of little feet will be louder and more robust than ever before in our hallways and classrooms this school year.

Pre-school spots are still available but filling up fast. For more information, call 413-787-6959 or visit www.springfield-publicschools.com. ■

PARENTS & COMMUNITY

10th Annual Community Event: The Back to School Celebration

By Patricia Spradley



*Patricia Spradley is
Chief Administrator for
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We are excited to serve the Springfield community with one of the largest events of the year. And what a way to kick off the new school year!

It's hard to believe that it's been

ten years since we launched the event. We've made continuous improvements along the way. Three years ago, we changed the event to have all school teams represented. The feedback from our families was phenomenal. Parents and students alike love having the opportunity to meet the principal and team members, getting acquainted, *before* the first day of school. They get to ask questions, familiarize themselves with school staff, and minimize some anxieties of starting something new.

However, the major draw continues to be the BACKPACKS (*Adults receive one ticket per child that is present with them in line.*), fun, food and give-a-ways! It is great to see families getting to know each other, while also learning of other supports provided by Springfield Public Schools and other partners, throughout the school year.

The PACE Team provides a Kickoff to Summer event at the PACE Center in June, whereby our community partners have an opportunity to share their (summer, before, during and after-school) programming with our families.

Please join us at The Back To School event which takes place rain or shine. So, come prepared with umbrellas, rain gear, sunscreen or sunglasses. In case of severe weather conditions, please visit the Springfield Public School website for information.

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EDUCATION

EDUCATION & HOPE

When The Rainbow is Fading...

By Gianna Allentuck



Gianna Allentuck is a Mother, Educator, and Community Volunteer.

To connect with Gianna regarding Education and Hope topics discussed herein, please contact her at gallentuck@aol.com.

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple stripes. Waving proudly. Brightly. Boldly. The rainbow flag commonly known as the LGBTQ pride flag often winks its light of hope at me from bumper stickers to Facebook posts to news stories to book covers. The flag has personality and – as intended – ignites an immediate reaction from my head and heart. I think of my family and friends who are lesbian or gay. I think of individual strength, courage, beauty. Stories, triumphs, and tragedies. I think of collective power and unity. Celebrations, losses, and victories. And I am always in awe.

In awe because the message of peaceful equality for all is beautifully simple, yet the fight against this advocacy effort is chillingly profound in its darkness and intensity. A fight disguised as protection of inalienable rights. Of family values, cultural norms, laws, traditions, spiritual and religious beliefs, systemic practices, stereotypes, or politics. A fight that breathes with hypocrisy. With musings of those who not only don't believe in equality, but who oppress by holding high what they feel is right for themselves, but for no others. Who rail with the loudest voice and deafest ears that they are free to think, feel, and act however they wish; but refuse to recognize that those they rail against are afforded those very same freedoms.

I don't identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer, and have no right to speak for any or all who do, but I am learning how to be an effective ally in the fight for equality. To understand and empathize with the heart and soul of the cause –



Photo taken from: <https://fullertonobserver.com>

the people. Individuals who are constant warriors – facing singular or monumental battles every day. Facing the need to be steel and sublime. Protective and open. Intelligent and learning. Fearful and fearless. The need to be tireless. Always ready to stand. Face. Defend. The need to be. Just be.

In imagining the energy required to publicly or privately navigate these diverse experiences, I believe that every person in the LGBTQ community is unbelievably strong. Confident. Compassionate. Empowered. Collaborative. Focused. Dedicated. Because I believe this, I also believed that local LGBTQ efforts are strategic, organized, comprehensive, and successful. More so, I believed that the LGBTQ efforts did not need help; and I should support other causes...

At the end of June, I was learning from a colleague and leader in a group called *ALANA (African American, Latino, Asian, Native American) Educators – Springfield* regarding their efforts to *empower educators of color, in Springfield, to make change happen around issues that are important to them.* (ALANA Educators – Springfield; Facebook)

After updating me, my friend started talking about her dedication to

learning more of the needs of our LGBTQ educators, students, and community members. She understands that diversity extends beyond race and culture and wants to be informed regarding other marginalized groups so that alignment and unity occurs. Growing the force of empowerment.

Incredibly that night – only a couple hours after our conversation – I received a meeting invitation via Facebook. The invite read: *Come join me, as we help build an LGBTQ agenda for Central and Western MA. MassEquality is looking to build out its statewide agenda to better shape how LGBT advocacy is done in this part of the state. But to make this happen we need our community and their allies to tell us what needs to be done and how we can make this agenda happen.*

I describe as *incredibly* because I rarely have the opportunity to visit with my friend from ALANA and engage in thoughtful conversation; and even more rarely do I engage with anyone regarding LGBTQ issues. For me to hear from both in one day how one group is looking to be an ally and the other is looking for an ally is incredible!

And long story short – my friend

from ALANA and I attended the LGBTQ meeting; listened, learned, and shared; and offered to support moving forward...

For me – and hopefully now you – the most poignant lesson from this meeting is that, yes, the rainbow shines bright with the strength and love of its people, but that radiance and warmth lulled me into passiveness; and now I am left wondering what will I do – what will you do – when the rainbow is fading...

Author's note: Though visibility is higher for groups and causes during different times of the year, the need for support and collaboration remains constant. For more information on ways you can help MassEquality and ALANA, please check out www.massequality.org and *ALANA Educators – Springfield* on Facebook.

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EDUCATION

EARLY EDUCATION & CARE



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

More Than Just Moms

By Nicole Blais

On Thursday, June 20, 2019, Springfield WORKS, HCS Head Start, Inc., Dress for Success and Springfield Partners for Community Action celebrated the inaugural class of the Whole Family Approach to Jobs, a workforce readiness program. In January, Springfield WORKS received a \$75,000 grant from the state, one of nine programs sharing \$500,000 from the Urban Agenda Program, to help get this project off of the ground. With help from Head Start, Dress for Success and Springfield Partners, Whole Family Approach to Jobs took a two-generation approach to workforce development — approaches that focus equally and intentionally on services and opportunities for the child and the adults in their lives.

Classes were held at the new MGM Head Start Child and Family Center and nine (9) mothers completed the 7 week intensive program. While their children were participating in Head Start or public school, these parents were building their capacity on topics of financial literacy, understating the Cliff Effect, career coaching and mentoring and personal development, i.e. communication skills, goal setting and developing positive support systems. Mock interviews, resume writing, and finding the right interview outfit from Dress for Success rounded out the experience for the moms.

As they obtained a new set of skills, they also gained a strong circle of support from one another and dubbed themselves: *More Than Just Moms*. During the celebration, a mom of three approached the podium and thoughtfully reflected, “Women who work, they came together for



Graduates, instructors and partners from the work readiness program

women they don’t know. Women empowering women and men caring for women they don’t know. They believed in me before I believed in myself.” This sentiment carried throughout the evening.

Two of the instructors for the program, Yasmin Ibrahim and Shawntsi Baret, passed out certificates of completion and reminded the group to never stop doing their best and that we are all in this thing called life and motherhood together. It was apparent that the relevant content coupled with relationship building helped to pull these moms out of their shells. Walking taller, smiling, available for conversation, the nine mothers and their guests were beaming with pride. One father even drove up from Florida to support his daughter’s accomplishment. At the close of the evening, the last speaker shared, “I’m not the same person, and I am stronger, more confident and hungry for success. Highly motivated mothers means to be better versions of themselves, prove to ourselves and everyone we are more than just moms.”

A majority of the graduates

have secured employment but ironically struggled with finding afford-

able early education and care options for their preschoolers/school aged children. Now, with a livable wage, some do not qualify for a childcare subsidy or Head Start slot and will have to pay out of pocket tuition, which can equal a second rent payment. Looks like there is more advocacy work to be done; but nonetheless, congratulations to all of the graduates on your hard work and investment in yourselves. ■

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EDUCATION

IN THE NEWS

Springfield Public Schools Offers Expands Free Pre-School Offerings

Committed to providing diverse opportunities for Springfield students to achieve academic success, Springfield Public Schools has expanded its pre-school programming, providing free half-day and full-day pre-school seats, including an additional 296 full-day seats beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

"Research shows that high quality pre-school provides a substantial head start for young students," said Superintendent of Schools Daniel Warwick. "They enter kindergarten primed to learn, acclimated to the school schedule and already adept at the social skills necessary for communication and collaboration – even at their young age."

Warwick said that the district's most recent Kindergarten Readiness Assessment survey indicated that only six percent of Springfield students are adequately prepared for kindergarten when they start school. "We found this data completely unacceptable and knew we had to prioritize early education, especially because of the promise it holds for future academic success all the way from elementary to high school," said Warwick.

While Springfield Public Schools

has offered free pre-school programming, the program had remained limited in scope and size. Historically, the district offered approximately 200 full day pre-school seats at only two schools. After a successful pilot last year, the 2019-2020 school year pre-school programming will be extended to include 20 schools and 643 seats. The investment cost the district more than \$1.5 million, according to Warwick.

In addition, Margaret C. Ells School, located at 319 Cortland Street, has been transformed into the district's second early education "hub," serving only pre-school students beginning this fall. The school previously housed pre-school through second grade. This hub will mirror the experience for pre-school students provided at the Early Childhood Education Center at 15 Catharine Street.

Springfield families with children aged three and four may register their child for preschool at the Parent and Community Engagement Center (PACE), located at 91 School Street. The phone number is 413-787-6959. The PACE center is open throughout the summer. ■



FREE Full-Day Program

For 4 year-olds

8:50—2:30 pm

FREE Half-Day Program

For 3 and 4 year-olds

AM session: 8:50 – 11:20

PM session: 12:00 - 2:30

APPLY at the Parent and Community Engagement Center located at 91 School Street (open all year). If you have any questions, please call Rosa Nieves at 413-787-6959 ext. 49129.



Gratis opción de día completo

para niños/as de 4 años

8:50—2:30 pm

Gratis opción de medio día

para niños/as edades de 3 a 4 años

sesión de la mañana: 8:50 – 11:20

sesión de la tarde: 12:00 - 2:30

Usted Puede aplicar en el Parent and Community Engagement Center localizado en la 91 School Street (abierto todo el año). Si usted tiene preguntas, por favor llame a Rosa Nieves al 413-787-6959 ext. 49129.

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EDUCATION

LOCAL COLLEGES IN THE NEWS

STCC Receives Significant Donation in Lead up to Major Gifts Campaign



SPRINGFIELD, MA – Springfield Technical Community College dedicated the reading room in the library in memory of John W. Bennett, who named STCC the beneficiary of his life insurance policy.

During a ceremony on June 14, STCC President John B. Cook thanked Bennett family members and friends who were on hand for the formal dedication of the Bennett Reading Room. STCC received \$250,000 from the Bennett estate.

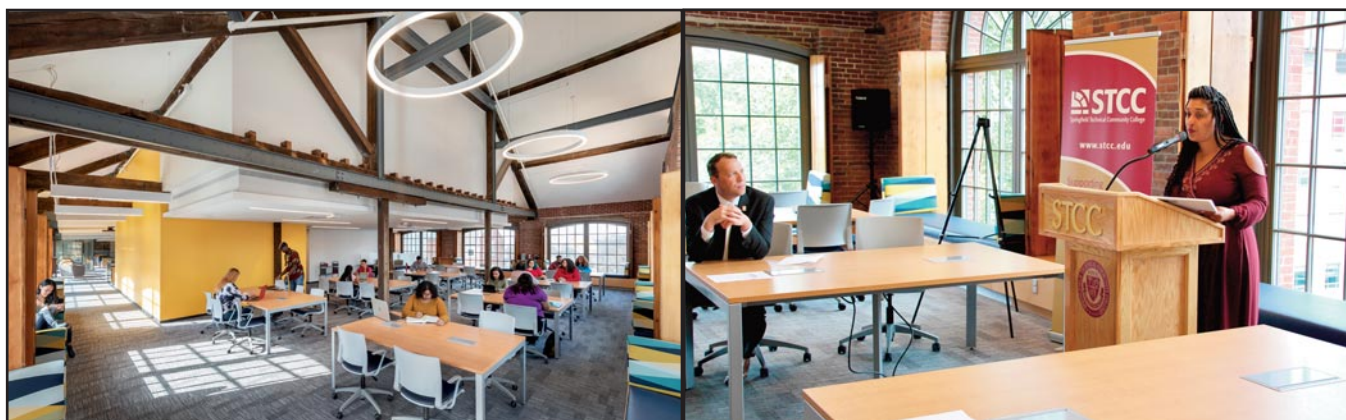
The significant donation comes as the STCC Foundation prepares for a major gifts campaign this fall. The Foundation, a nonprofit organization, helps the college meet its goals and commitment to provide superior educational opportunities in the community. The goal of the upcoming major gifts campaign is to raise money to build scholarships and enhance support services for STCC students.

Cook said donations like the one from the Bennett estate help create an affordable pathway to the college, with debt a key consideration for many families. “Despite the fact that STCC is one of the most affordable options, each year our students take out \$4 million in federal student loans,” Cook said. “When we receive a gift like this, it has tremendous impact for us and our students. We are tremendously grateful.”

Cook told the family the reading room – designed with attention to historic detail – is one of the most inviting spaces in the newly renovated Ira H. Rubenzahl Student Learning Commons.



Family and friends of the late John W. Bennett join in a dedication at STCC. From left: John Willemain of Monson, Anne Kusekoski of Springfield, Abbie Kusekoski of Springfield, Jane Donovan of Springfield, Jeanie Couvillon of League City, Texas, Ann Westra of Englewood, Colo., Catherine Kusekoski of Springfield, Beth Aparicio of Littleton, Colo., William Bennett of London, England, Corinne Wingard of Agawam and STCC President John B. Cook.



STCC students gather in the Bennett Reading Room. (Photo by Chuck Choi)

mons.

“When people now visit campus, this is one of those places we are sure to show. When our trustees hold a meeting in the Learning Commons, this reading room is the place they gather,” Cook said. “We just don’t have a space quite like this on campus, and we are thrilled to now identify this as the Bennett Reading

STCC President John B. Cook listens as Vice President of Advancement and External Affairs Denise Hurst speaks at a dedication.

Room.” STCC Vice President of Advancement and External Affairs Denise M. Hurst said the gift will support the college’s mission to transform lives of students.

“The gift from the estate of John Bennett is a significant commitment and will have a direct, positive impact on the high quality of library re-

sources available to our students,” Hurst said. “Dr. Bennett’s philanthropic planning directed his life insurance policy to the STCC Foundation which allowed the college to establish the Bennett Reading Room and the resources within. We are grateful to Dr. Bennett and his forward-thinking planning to ensure his legacy at Springfield Technical Community College.”

The library reading room on the second floor of the Student Learning Commons includes large windows with a scenic view of the campus and city of Springfield. The Student Learning Commons opened in December following a major renovation.

Bennett’s wife, the late Mary Killeen-Bennett, served as a faculty member in STCC’s Human Services Program. The couple established the Killeen-Bennett scholarship at STCC.

Born in Holyoke, Bennett was a staunch advocate for education. He earned degrees from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Yale University, University of Pittsburgh and did graduate work at Brown University.

An Army veteran, Bennett taught at Springfield’s High School of Commerce and served as president of the Springfield Federation of Teachers.

Interested in making a gift to support STCC students? Contact STCC Vice President of Advancement and External Affairs Denise M. Hurst at (413) 755-4197 or dhurst@stcc.edu. ■

EDUCATION

LOCAL COLLEGES IN THE NEWS

\$100,000 Donations to Help Hispanic Students at HCC, Westfield State

HOLYOKE **COMMUNITY** **COLLEGE**

HOLYOKE, MA – College students of Hispanic heritage from Holyoke will benefit from new scholarships established at both Westfield State University and Holyoke Community College, thanks to \$100,000 gifts to each institution from Victor and Mariellen Quillard of West Springfield.

Victor Quillard, a retired president of Hampden Bank, and his wife Mariellen are both Holyoke natives and their gifts aim to support Hispanic residents from Holyoke who are pursuing their college degrees. The \$100,000 donations were given to the Westfield State Foundation and the Holyoke Community College Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising corporations of each institution.

The gifts will establish two new endowed scholarships in the Quillards' name.

"Our community is fortunate to benefit from the Quillards' life-changing support," said Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the HCC Foundation. "Vic and Mariellen have been dear friends of HCC through the years, and this scholarship is evidence of their belief in the potential of today's and future generations of students. As a Hispanic Serving Institution, HCC is par-

ticularly grateful for the Quillards' leadership in helping us graduate more students from undeserved populations and in creating a path for students to continue their education beyond HCC."

The Victor E. and Mariellen Quillard Scholarship at HCC gives preference to Holyoke residents of Hispanic heritage who have completed a minimum of 12 credits and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75. The Victor and Mariellen Quillard Scholarship at WSU gives preference to Holyoke residents of Hispanic heritage who transfer from HCC to Westfield State and have a minimum GPA of 2.75.

"We greatly appreciate the Quillards' generosity and their commitment to Holyoke and the Hispanic and Latino communities," said Erica Broman, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Westfield State University and executive director of the Westfield State Foundation. "The Quillard Scholarship will have a transformative impact for these transfer students from HCC who attend Westfield State for many years to come."

"These significant monies will support the university's goals to offer an accessible and affordable education while supporting its commitment to a diverse and welcoming community," said Westfield State University president Ramon S. Torrecilha. ■

Westfield State University Receives CASE 2019 Educational Fundraising Award for Overall Improvement



WESTFIELD, MA – Westfield State University has received a 2019 Educational Fundraising Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for overall improvement, in recognition of significant program growth over a three-year period.

Ninety-eight U.S. higher education institutions received awards this year. Westfield State is among 30 institutions to earn its first Educational Fundraising Award this year—a record number since the awards were established in 1993.

Since Ramon S. Torrecilha joined the University as its 20th president in 2016, a culture of renewed philanthropy has been developed. The Westfield State Foundation, the philanthropic partner of the University, realized gifts of nearly \$691,000 in Fiscal Year 2015. Over the next three years, it raised nearly \$900,000 in FY16; \$1.8 million in FY17 and more than \$3 million in FY18. Westfield State was one of just six public comprehensive institutions with endowments under \$35 million to receive this honor this year.

"Westfield State is proud to receive this national recognition for the philanthropic success we

have enjoyed over the past four years," said Dr. Torrecilha. "We are thankful for the exemplary efforts and teamwork of the Division of Institutional Advancement, led by Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Westfield State Foundation Dr. Erica Broman, and the commitment of our many constituents who support the success of students through their personal, professional, and financial contributions."

"These institutions have not only demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism and best practice in their fundraising efforts, they have contributed to the betterment of educational advancement worldwide by serving as a model to which others can aspire," said Sue Cunningham, CASE President and CEO.

The Educational Fundraising Awards annually recognize exemplary development programs based on a blind review of data submitted to the CASE AMAtlas Voluntary Support of Education (VSE) survey. CASE member institutions that have participated in the VSE for the past three years are automatically considered. ■

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HEALTH

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Baystate  Medical Center

Baystate Medical Center Introduces a One-Time Procedure That May Reduce Stroke Risk for a Lifetime in People with AFib Not Caused by a Heart Valve Problem

A person with AFib is 5 times more likely to suffer a stroke than someone with a regular heartbeat

SPRINGFIELD, MA – Baystate Medical Center is the only hospital in western Massachusetts to now offer patients with atrial fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem, a life-changing alternative to the lifelong use of the blood thinning medication known as warfarin (Coumadin).

The alternative treatment is an implantable device made by Boston Scientific called WATCHMAN, which is proven to reduce the risk of stroke in these patients.

“This is a much welcome advancement for patients who have suffered a bleed – one of the major risk factors to anticoagulant medications – and who had no other option but to discontinue their use of warfarin,” said Dr. Marshal Fox, an electrophysiologist in the Heart & Vascular Program at Baystate Medical Center.

Today some 5 million Americans are living with AFib, a number that is expected to double by 2050. Atrial fibrillation, also referred to as AF, is the most common type of heart arrhythmia – when the heart beats too slowly, too fast, or in an irregular way. When someone has AFib, the normal beating in the upper chambers of the heart (the two atria) is irregular, and blood doesn’t flow as well as it should from the atria to the lower chambers of the heart (the two ventricles). As a result of these irregular heartbeats, blood can collect in the

heart and result in the formation of a clot, which can then travel to a person’s brain and cause a stroke.

“Until recently there were no other therapies available to help prevent stroke for patients who could not tolerate taking long term anticoagulation medicine. Clinical trials had proven the efficacy of WATCHMAN equivalent to blood thinners in preventing stroke. So, we knew we had to offer this procedure for our patients as part of our comprehensive Heart & Vascular Program,” said Dr. Fox.

WATCHMAN is appropriate to those AFib patients who:

- Have a history of serious bleeding while taking blood thinners.
- Have a lifestyle, occupation, or condition that puts them at risk for serious bleeding.
- Are taking warfarin and having trouble with their treatment plan, and a different type of blood thinner isn’t an option.

WATCHMAN works differently from blood thinners like warfarin and is a permanent implantable device – the only one of its kind approved by the FDA – that closes off a part of the heart where blood clots commonly form and keeps them from escaping.

Clinically studied before its approval by the FDA, WATCHMAN has a proven track record of safety. In a clinical trial, 9 out of 10 people were able to stop taking warfarin just 45 days after get-

ting the implant. At one year, 99 out of 100 people were able to stop taking warfarin.

The WATCHMAN procedure is performed by an electrophysiologist, such as Dr. Fox, along with an interventional cardiologist, Dr. Amir Lotfi, in Baystate’s Electrophysiology (EP) Lab. About the size of a quarter, the WATCHMAN doesn’t require open-heart surgery. Instead, doctors make a small cut in the patient’s upper leg, then insert a narrow tube through which the WATCHMAN is guided into the left atrial appendage (LAA). The entire procedure – performed under general anesthesia – takes about an hour and requires only an overnight stay in the hospital.

After the procedure, patients take warfarin until their LAA is permanently closed off, usually in about 45 days. During that time, heart tissue grows over the WATCHMAN implant to form a barrier against blood clots.

In addition to reducing the risk of stroke, WATCHMAN has other benefits for AFib patients, including the elimination of regular blood tests and food and drink restrictions that come with warfarin.

“Our introduction of WATCHMAN is another example of how Baystate continues to provide leading-edge technology in order to enhance the lives of patients and their families here in Western Massachusetts,” said Dr. Lotfi.

For more information on Baystate Medical Center’s lifesaving cardiac treatment, visit baystatehealth.org/hvp.

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HEALTH

YOUR HEALTH

Baystate  Medical Center

Back-To-School Checklist

Don't wait - plan your child's back-to-school physical and immunizations now

SPRINGFIELD, MA – Don't send your child off to college without a meningococcal B vaccination.

"Many colleges have now stepped up their efforts to require incoming students to be vaccinated against this potentially deadly bacterial infection, which last year resulted in the death of a community college student in Florida," said Dr. J. Michael Klatte, a pediatric infectious diseases specialist at Baystate Children's Hospital.

Type B meningococcal meningitis, also known as MenB, is a bacterial infection of the linings of the brain and spinal cord (called meninges). The same bacteria can also cause an infection in the blood. For survivors, MenB can lead to permanent disabilities such as loss of limbs, irreversible brain damage, hearing loss, and scarring on the body.

"Since the meningococcal B vaccine isn't required for everyone, you might have to specifically ask your teen's pediatrician about getting it before he or she goes off to college. As students on college campuses are at higher risk for catching meningococcal disease, getting the shot will keep them safe from that infection," Dr. Klatte said.

"This year's very large measles outbreak in several areas of the country has many parents concerned. It is further proof that by refusing to vaccinate, your child and those around them are then at serious risk for catching these diseases – some of which can be fatal. Time and again vaccines have been proven to be both safe and effective, so there shouldn't be any reasons not to vaccinate," Dr. Klatte said.

The Baystate pediatrician suggested that parents should check with their child's doctor, school or the local health department to learn about the immunization requirements in their state or county.

He noted that by state law, children must be up-to-date on their required immunizations in order to start school. 2019-2020 immunization requirements as listed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH) include:

- Two prior doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine for entry into any grade level ranging from kindergarten through college graduate studies (including health science students), unless one has documented evidence of immunity to all 3 infections.
- Two doses of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for entry into any grade level ranging from kindergarten through college graduate studies (including health science students), unless one has documented evidence of immunity or a history of varicella confirmed by a physician.
- One dose Tdap for entry into any grade level ranging from grade seven through college graduate studies (including health science students).

The Tdap booster dose – recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for preteens at ages 11 or 12 years – provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). Children initially receive protection against these bacteria with the DTaP vaccine, which loses its protective effectiveness over time. As a result, preteens and teens need to get a Tdap booster dose. This is important not only to protect them, but also those around them – especially babies and the elderly.

According to the CDC, all preteens 11-12 years old need one dose of Tdap vaccine, one dose of meningococcal vaccine (to help prevent against bacterial meningitis due to meningococcal types A, C, W and Y), and two doses of HPV vaccine (for those who get their first dose of HPV vaccine between 9-14 years) to be fully protected against these serious diseases. A second dose of meningococcal vaccine is also necessary at age 16. The MA DPH (via the *Massachusetts HPV Initiative*) and the CDC continue to urge health care professionals to give a strong recommendation for all of the adolescent vaccines recommended for boys and girls ages 11 or 12 years, and to recommend HPV vaccine as they would Tdap and meningococcal vaccines.

You can find vaccination schedules online at www.aap.org/immunization or www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/.

When it comes to back to school physicals, Dr. John O'Reilly of Baystate Children's Hospital

agrees with the American Academy of Pediatrics that "back to school means back to the doctor."

"A good student is a healthy student. Since the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends yearly well visits for children starting at age 3 through 18, scheduling a back-to-school physical each year is a good way to meet that goal," he added.

Dr. O'Reilly, who is also chief of Baystate General Pediatrics, said the time is running out to schedule those back-to-school check-ups and sports physicals as pediatrician offices face an influx of calls to schedule appointments and get the proper paperwork completed before the school year begins.

"As pediatricians we want to partner with parents to help their children be successful students. Are they generally healthy? Will they have any problem seeing the board? Is their hearing okay, so they don't miss what the teacher is saying? Do they have any attention issues? We want to address all these issues before they enter the classroom," Dr. O'Reilly said.

"If your child has asthma or a peanut allergy, or any other chronic condition, we will need to develop an action plan to share with the school nurse. Paperwork must also be completed for any prescription medications your child may need to take while at school," he added.

For more information on Baystate Children's Hospital, visit www.baystatehealth.org/bch. ■


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HEALTH

GOT H.E.R.S.

Handling the Backlash from Setting Boundaries

By Latoya Bosworth, PhD



Dr. Latoya Bosworth
dubbed herself
Brenda's Child in
honor of her late
mother. She is an edu-
cator, author, speaker,
and self-esteem expert.
www.brendaschild.com

Anytime you decide to set any type of boundaries with people in your life, whether they are personal or professional, you must prepare yourself for the imminent backlash. It will come. We are creatures of habit. When you decide to change how you interact with someone, it rattles them. They are shocked, offended, confused, and instantly make it about them. What did *they* do? Why are you treating *them* like this? You've always allowed this, why are you changing now? If you are not careful, you could wind up being manipulated or guilt tripped into compromising those newly set boundaries. The following tips will help you manage the initial stress of protecting your energy, mental health and time.

- 1. Be Clear.** When you set boundaries, you must be clear with the people you set them for by explaining what they can expect from you moving forward. This is what you will no longer do for them, how you will respond to behaviors, or what you will require.
- 2. Be Brief.** Everyone doesn't deserve an explanation as to why you decided to set a boundary. They just have to respect it. However, should you decide to explain why, as I would for perhaps my adult child, be direct and to the point. The more you explain yourself, there is an increased likeli-

hood that you will end up going back and forth with the individual. This will result in explaining yourself further, which the individual can mistake for an argument, which may make them feel they can convince you to change your mind.

- 3. Be Consistent.** When you care about your job and about people, you can be persuaded to do something "just this one time." DON'T. While it may make you feel better to oblige (either to avoid confrontation or because you're helping), the feeling is only temporary. Eventually you will feel burdened again because it won't be "just one time." You have proven to them you can be swayed, so they will keep pressuring you. The cycle will continue.
- 4. Keep the Focus on You.** This is most difficult when you set boundaries because people will say things like: "you've changed" or "you think you better than me now" or "you are being selfish." You will question yourself. You are not being selfish; you are being *self-full*. And while it may cost you some relationships, false words spoken about you, or insults spoken to you, having peace of mind is priceless. You owe it to yourself to protect your body, mind, and spirit. ■

HEALTH MATTERS

Living a Healthier Lifestyle through Physical Activity

By Chelesa Ako Brew, B.S., Exercise Science Personal Trainer



Doris Sexton-Harris,
Health Consultant,
Doris can be
contacted at
dorharris77@hotmail.com

Over the years, the health and wellness field has increased tremendously. Many are becoming aware of the importance of being active but are struggling with how to begin. According to physical activity guidelines, 60 minutes of physical activity is the first step towards living a healthier lifestyle. But what is physical activity?

It's simply any body movement requiring energy. This could be walking, yard work, or walking upstairs. Personally, I consider a heart rate above 90 bpm as being active and anything above 100 as the beginning of a light intensified workout. Health and Fitness professionals, like me, encourage avoiding sedentary living such as a lot of sitting, less walking, taking elevators or parking close to store entrances. The more you move around, the better for your body and mind.

Some benefits of physical activity are:

- increased blood flow to the brain, muscles and organs.
- prevention of chronic diseases such as hypertension, stroke or diabetes.

- improved mood and sleep quality.
- reduction of stress and depression.

How then should one begin living a healthier



Chelesa Ako Brew

lifestyle? First and foremost, I encourage walking and especially for those without knee, hip or foot injuries or limitations, I always recommend taking the stairs, not the elevator. However, if for example going up to the third floor is too much, then take the elevator to the second floor and walk up to the third. At the grocery store, parking the furthest distance from entrances is highly recommended to get more steps in. Do more standing than sitting and last but not the least, try to only sleep at night. Naps throughout the day are okay, but why sleep when you could be moving!?

Once active, an exercise regimen is the next step of living a healthier life. Exercising at least twice a week will provide more health benefits such as preventing and treating obesity. Begin at your own pace and look into exercises that can be performed at home such as squats, planks, pushups and jumping jacks. Performing these exact exercises 2-3 times for 15-30 seconds each targets major muscle groups in the body and gives a great workout. Try to progress as the exercises become easier by adding resistance, more seconds and less rest breaks in between.

Almost anyone can begin to live a healthier lifestyle. The hardest part is beginning but once you start seeing the results and benefits, I promise, you would not want to stop. ■



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HEALTH

YOUR HEALTH

Caring Health Center Earns National Recognition for Patient-Centered Care for the Fourth Year in a Row

SPRINGFIELD, MA – Caring Health Center (CHC) is proud to announce that its medical homes (1049 Main St. and 860 Sumner Ave.) in Springfield have once again received certification by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for using evidence-based, patient-centered processes that focus on highly coordinated care and long-term, participative relationships. CHC, a leading provider of advancing quality in health care, has achieved this NCQA certification since 2015.

We are excited to once again receive this prestigious recognition that reinforces the high quality of care we

provide to our patients,” said Tania M. Barber, President & CEO. “Our model of care enhances the partnership between patients and providers, while encouraging patients to be active participants in their own health care. This recognition is a testament to the efforts of our staff and providers to transform health care and ensure the best outcomes for all.”

The NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home is a model of primary care that combines teamwork and information technology to improve care, improve patients’ experience of care and reduce costs. Medical homes foster ongoing partnerships between patients and their personal clinicians,

instead of approaching care as the sum of episodic office visits. Each patient’s care is overseen by clinician-led care teams that coordinate treatment across the health care system. Research shows that medical homes can lead to higher quality and lower costs, and can improve patient and provider reported experiences of care.

“NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition raises the bar in defining high-quality care by emphasizing access, health information technology and coordinated care focused on patients,” said NCQA President Margaret E. O’Kane. “Recognition shows that Caring

Health Centers have the tools, systems and resources to provide its patients with the right care, at the right time.”

To earn recognition, which is valid for three years, Caring Health Center demonstrated the ability to meet the program’s key elements embodying characteristics of the medical home. NCQA standards aligned with the joint principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home established with the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Osteopathic Association. ■

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care Considers our Foster Parents “Modern Day Champions”

By Janet Knapp

Rita F. Pierson wrote, “Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be.”



*Jacquelyn Dawkins,
Foster parent*

One such champion is Jacquelyne Dawkins from Springfield. She has been a foster parent for about 30 years. Jacquelyne has been with Devereux since January, 2013. She currently has a young girl who was placed with her over a year ago. Upon meeting the little girl you are drawn in by her engaging personality. However, she does have a significant trauma history which has affected her behaviors. Her tantrums occur sometimes for no apparent reason.

In the time that the child has been with Jacquelyne, she has made a lot of progress. Some of the success can be attributed to Jacquelyne's ability to maintain structure and routine for the child. Although the child's behaviors can be extremely challenging, Jacquelyne believes the child will

find more success in remaining in her home than going to another foster home. Jacquelyne shared during a recent conversation that she feels committed to being a stable force in the child's life. One of Jacquelyne's strengths is her willingness and ability to try new interventions in an effort to help with the child's challenging behaviors. The child feels secure and loved by not only Jacquelyne, who she refers to as “Mommy,” but her extended family and friends as well.

Jacquelyne has many of the qualities that make an excellent foster parent. She provides structure, consistency, and a never-give-up attitude with regard to the little girl. Jacquelyne understands the root of the behaviors of the child and doesn't take what she does personally. Sometimes she laughs about some of the predicaments the child gets herself into. Jacquelyne will share some of the stories with the Devereux staff and that's when we recognize how bright and clever this little girl can be. This little girl is fortunate to have someone like Jacquelyne in her life! The staff would like to take this opportunity to thank Jacquelyne for her commitment to our youth.

If you're interested in being a champion to a child with a trauma history, please call Devereux at 413-734-2493. There is a great need in the Springfield area. Please call for more information. Our classes begin in September. Please call soon if you would like to be part of the training.

The rewards are endless!

LEADERSHIP PIONEER VALLEY

Civity: From No to Know

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*

This spring LPV hosted a professional fellow from Morocco who wanted to gain insights on civic engagement in the United States. Through the process of exposing her to civic engagement processes in the Valley, we organized a series of lunches and a dinner with our alumni, local leaders, elected officials, and donors. The result were rich conversations about our collective desire to make a positive impact on our communities. We plan to host more dinner conversations that help bridge barriers of race, geography, employment sector, and age. This at a time when there is a national call for more civility and real connections.

I have written before about the importance of civility and rebuilding the public square in our communities. Recently I attended a national community leadership conference and participated in a session on “civity.” Civity is defined as “a culture of deliberately engaging in relationships of respect and empathy with others who are different.” Civity comes out of the work of a national organization to build leaders in communities across the country that strengthen civic net-

works by forging divide-bridging relationships of respect, empathy, and trust. I found the civity framework intriguing and helpful. It is a deliberate process for building relationships that creates connections across difference while allowing people to respectfully disagree. Knowing doesn't mean we agree or aren't different.

After some initial sharing in the workshop, we were asked to pair with “someone different than us.” As a group we defined key differences that included race, socio-economics, politics, and newcomer status. Right away a woman from Nebraska asked me to partner saying that she guessed that our politics were different. She was right—she was a Republican and I am a Democrat. The process resulted in a rich conversation about our upbringing and core values that led us to our politics. We did not focus on issues that created divisions but beliefs. We found that we both grew up in conservative areas that were/are majority Republican. Both of our moms were involved with community. Her parents were Republicans while mine voted for both parties. What started out as initial anxiety and caution morphed into respect and listening. I was initially very nervous and felt put on the spot about who I am. After our brief five-minute conversation, we found ourselves wanting to continue the conversation and be braver.

I am not naïve enough to think that our 5-minute conversation solved everything. I know that there are tricky subjects we didn't touch. It was also hard to not think of her as someone who “hates gay-people” and “doesn't believe in climate change,” even though I didn't know her

continues to page 17

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BEAT



Ken Harris is a former Special Police Officer and Corrections Officer. He is a graduate of STCC. Follow him at shadowedu.blogspot.com pvpeduc.wixsite.com/arts

In addition to the resurgence of the arts in the Springfield Public School system, the arts are becoming a huge part of Springfield's downtown. Make-it-Springfield, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is having a huge creative impact on the social and economic base of downtown Springfield.

Make-it-Springfield was founded by Laura Masulis of Mass Development and UMass Professor Michael DiPasquale just over three years ago. Its goal was to encourage community interest and involvement in the vast field of the arts while bringing life to the then empty storefronts blanketing the Worthington St. area.

Anyone entering this public establishment at 168 Worthington St. will find an array of activities to indulge in. The community workshops with members and hosts use spaces here to share fun workshops in 3-D printing, bicycle repairs, painting, sewing, and so much more. Members have 24/7 access and shared community spaces include tools and equipment people can utilize in this unique environment that are supportive of

skill building, community bonding, and casting a wonderful light on local talents.

Initially, Laura and Mike intended for Make-it-Springfield to span just one month in 2016. It was expected to be a temporary respite from the lack of creativity seen in the downtown district. But all that quickly changed during that June month when nearly 500 people came through the doors and 40 workshops materialized led by volunteers willing to teach their respective crafts to others who were eager to learn.

Those involved did not want to see Make-It-Springfield shut down after just one month of operation and they encouraged Laura and Mike to find a way to keep this 30-day project active on a long-term basis. Since this was totally unexpected and definitely not part of their original plan, the two had to find a way to stay open since the consensus was that this was something unique and special.

Three years later, Make-It-Springfield continues to thrive and has evolved into a nonprofit organization. Not only do they rely mostly on a network of up to 100 volunteers but they also depend on tax deductible dona-

Make-it-Springfield

An Awesome Platform for Artists!

By Ken Harris

tions from the public to pay for operating costs like rent, equipment, and supplies.

As of this writing, there are 20 to 25 members. Attaining membership takes only a few days. The process requires an explanation by the applicant on what the space will be used for and why the person wants to be a part of this community. An orientation then follows on how everything works.

It only costs \$3 a month to access space (as long as there is no scheduled workshop). Ways to pay depend on the applicant. It can be on a month-to-month basis and can end whenever one wishes. In addition to reserved space, members can take advantage of the available equipment and printers.

As an option, if they wish to host a workshop, members can charge a fee to the participants and keep 80% of whatever they make.

While Make-It-Springfield is open to all ages, it is generally required that those under age 18 be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Make-It-Springfield is a cool spot for people of all walks of life to indulge in their creative passions. To find out more or to get involved and support them, check out their website at

<http://www.makeitspringfield.org/>.

I enjoy spreading the word about local arts like this. You can follow me at <https://amazon.com/author/har-riskenneth>

LEADERSHIP PIONEER VALLEY

Civity: From No to Know

continued from page 16

beliefs. I do know that unpacking those assumptions and moving from no to know will take time—but that understanding is possible based on what we did cover.

Going back to the civic engagement discussions, we learned that many people are not civically engaged because they fear the disrespectful climate. People are retreating to their camps whether virtually or

otherwise. The impending presidential elections may only exacerbate this climate. There are many pathways to begin rebuilding civility in the U.S. and our communities. I believe that the civity process can be a useful framework at Leadership Pioneer Valley, whether it's in our LEAP program, board meetings, or future community conversations. This may seem like a drop in the bucket, but 40-50 people a year is a good start.■

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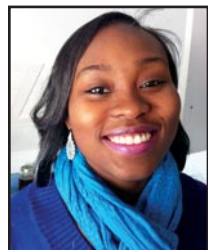
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COMMUNITY

LET'S CONNECT

Creating Our Utopian Community

By Beverly Guerrero-Porter



Beverly
Guerrero-Porter

Election season is drawing nigh and political hopefuls are out campaigning to obtain or retain a seat in some level of office. With the help of skillful PR teams to craft their messaging and the support of wealthy donors with varying interests to help broaden their reach, these politicians hope to secure your trust in their promises and ultimately your vote.

The current political climate is morally deficient, corrupt and decaying. Sometimes it feels as if society is on the brink of collapse because many of the powers that be care more about retaining their position and favor with wealthy campaign donors than working for all citizens. Equality does not matter unless it is an equality concern that benefits the majority. Our issues are non-issues because it doesn't impact them directly. Lives outside of their own don't matter; historically it didn't matter and unless we foster change, it will continue not to matter. The passive-aggressive message is blaringly clear in the sea of American flags with a solid blue stripe running through its center, draped outside of homes and businesses or pressed on the backs of vehicles and in front of t-shirts in increasing numbers. The unwillingness of effective policy changes around gun laws and lax consequences to those in a certain uniform and/or of a certain hue seem to further perpetuate this.

In these recent times voting for a candidate has felt like playing a round of Russian Roulette where one finds himself/herself desperately hoping that the pull of the trigger doesn't prove fatal to their community's progress. We can never know for sure how well or not elected officials will

serve in their role when we choose them but we do not have to allow our fate to solely rely on who has our vote.

Civic engagement has its place but we have the power to do more than cast a ballot. We have the very tools we need to create a community that is tailored to our needs without petitioning government involvement. We all have different gifts, abilities and knowledge that we can contribute toward literally being that change we want to see in our corner of the world. As a matter of fact, there are already several initiatives that have been in place to improve the quality of our lives and there are so many ways that you can be involved or lend your support. It isn't so hard to find areas of need; this publication is a great resource for learning about community happenings that you can contribute to.

Continue to petition, continue to organize and mobilize and demand systemic change while being actual agents of change and slowly, quietly transforming this community to become a utopian place we all have been looking for. A place of belonging and celebration of us and all that we are and give. It's possible only if we tear down walls and build bridges among ourselves.

It's a coming together among ourselves that will lead to progress. Chinatowns weren't built over night. Little Haiti's and Little Cuba's were not built overnight. The Newyorican communities were not built overnight. It will take work, it will take time, it will take sacrifice and consistency but it still is possible if we believe that we are worth it and put our resources and efforts together to line up with that belief into a true community that welcomes our lives and celebrates all that we are. This can be a place where we can belong and finally just be. ■

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

My Community

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

In the middle of the summer many families are returning from their vacations and getting ready to settle back into the ritual of the "school year." As President of the Indian Orchard Citizens Council (IOCC), I want to remind folks that summer isn't over yet. Now is when we will continue to harvest our crops from our summer gardens. I planted tomatoes, peppers, lettuce and cantaloupe. I am so excited about the cantaloupe. About ten years ago I was saying that since we live in New England and we can't grow food all year round, we should have a greenhouse. I dreamt of a greenhouse for a long time and about four years ago, my dream was realized and in my own neighborhood.

The Wellspring Harvest Greenhouse is up and running and producing hydroponic lettuce that is distributed locally to Big Y, Mercy Hospital and some local schools. When this happened in Indian Orchard, I was so happy!!! The greenhouse is on the old Chapman Valve site. It is truly exciting to know that we can eat fresh, locally grown lettuce from "our own backyard" here in Springfield. Look for it in your local Big Y.

I always say that Indian Orchard is to Springfield what Western MA is to Boston. We are the forgotten part

of the city that downtown doesn't regard. I am glad to say that the perception is changing. We are "on the map" of Springfield and we are doing great things in our city. We had our first "Community Baby Shower." Many parents and grandparents in need can't get to the High School of Commerce for that Baby Shower and Glo-Mom was gracious enough to host one in Indian Orchard.

We also were joined by many businesses and citizens to hang flower baskets (like the ones up and down Main and State Streets) in the Orchard. The Indian Orchard Blooms campaign hung 125 flower baskets all over the Orchard with the leadership of former State Representative Paul Caron who is the Interim Chair of our Indian Orchard Business Connections Committee. This committee was set up to help businesses in the Orchard grow and address any issues they may have.

Also happening in the Orchard are more opportunities for families and friends to come out and have a good time. I&G, Inc. hosted an "Arts in the Park" festival which was very well attended and enjoyed by the entire community. In October, the IOCC will host its 3rd annual Food Truck festival on October 12th on Main Street and Myrtle Street in Indian Orchard. To GPS it, make sure you put in the zip code "01151" or you may end up in downtown Springfield.

We are so excited about the good things happening in our community. Indian Orchard is not that far from downtown and it's not that far from where you are. Come out and enjoy [#InnerCityReality](#). ■



www.facebook.com/AfAmPointofView

COMMUNITY

FEATURE ARTICLE



Seated Ernest Allen, MS, BACE Consultant; Arthur Cash, LICSW BACE Consultant; Standing left to right Della R. Blake, M.Ed Program Director BACE Program; Jennifer Parks, Assistant Director for Workforce and Provider Support, MA DPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services; Dr. Lolita Hanley, Psy.d, BACE Consultant

A criminal justice career that spanned more than three decades left such an impression on Della Blake that she is now using retirement as an opportunity to focus on an issue that has lived in her heart for years – how best to help members of her own community understand and overcome addiction.

“A lot of the poor decisions that people make have one thing in common – substance abuse as a

Just a reminder...

VOTE on September 10th

Addressing Substance Abuse to Help Heal a Community

By Azell Cavaan



Azell Cavaan

root cause,” said Blake, who last year retired from the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department as an assistant superintendent. “Not all criminal behavior is a result of addiction and addiction doesn’t always lead to criminal behavior, but it is a very real issue that plagues many individuals. As a community, I want us to have the tools to help in the most effective way possible.”

With funds from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (MDPH-BSAS) and through the Adcare Educational Institute, Blake established the Springfield-based Black Addiction Counselor Education Program (BACE) three years ago. The program, which is expected to extend to Boston this year, trains black people in the area of addiction and mental health treatment while creating opportunities for those trainees to become licensed and certified as substance abuse counselors.

“What’s unique about our program is that we provide a platform for people to receive addiction counseling from qualified professionals with whom they can relate because they share a culture and a community,” said Blake.

This month, the BACE program will celebrate its second graduating class. The 17 graduates have completed a 10-month course, which included facilitators: Arthur Cash, a therapist and owner of his own practice; clinical psychologist Dr. Lolita Hanley; and clinician Ernest Allen.

With the successful completion of the course,

graduates may continue to pursue the remaining steps of the application toward licensure, certification or both. Their classroom education may also be used immediately in many human service fields and beyond, according to Blake.

Blake said the vision of the organization is to provide training to a wide variety of individuals, so they have the tools to best address addiction issues within black populations throughout the community.

“We see ourselves as a valuable resource for agencies already engaged in this work or for individuals who want more information to support family and friends,” said Blake. “We’ve been so well-received and it’s clear that a focus like this is long overdue and much needed.” ■

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HUMAN SERVICES

Around Town & . . .



En Motion Dance Theater pose for a photo before their annual recital “Just Dance.”



The Swan family and friends gather for Jonathan Swan’s 50th birthday celebration.



Former staff and students celebrated the UMass Amherst Bilingual Collegiate Program reunion at UMass Springfield.



Friends and family gathered at Adolpho’s in Springfield to celebrate the birthdays of Moyah Smith and Dee Clinton Baskerville at the “Moyah and Dee’s Birthday Bash!!”



Archbishop Timothy Paul reveals the renaming of Eastern Avenue as Rev. Dr. MLK Way.

. . . In The Community



The Urban League of Springfield sponsored their Youth Opportunity Net Set Tennis Program at Blunt Park this summer.



YSET Academy under the direction of director Dr. Paula Starnes held their annual community picnic.



Delania Mack-Braxton (seated center) celebrated her birthday by attending The Paul Brown Monday Night Jazz series at Hartford's Bushnell Park presented by the Hartford Jazz Society.



The first annual Women's Empowerment Banquet and Award Ceremony took place at the Castle of Knights.



The Performance Project First Generation recently performed their new production Stand Tall Mi Gente! at Holyoke Community College.

CONNECTICUT - COMMUNITY FOCUS

PRINCE HALL MASONS OF CT

continued from page 2

“Rab” spoke with humility, expressing deep gratitude to the Masons for honoring him, and said that he will support higher education efforts for minority young people until his last breath. “I was absolutely overwhelmed by the program and its participants. As I said at the ceremony, ‘Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift, that’s why it’s called the present.’ Be thankful to God for His gift of a new day.”

Bobby Gibson



WM Alvin Clark, Rep. Bobby Gibson, PGM Floyd Bagwell

Gibson has a long history of service to community. He served as a teacher in Bloomfield Public Schools for 6 years and in Hartford for 15 years, prior to joining the Capital Regional Education Council (CREC) in 2015. He returned to teach in Bloomfield at the Carmen Arace Middle School. Gibson has been a football, track and field and girls’ basketball coach. He is a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, an SAL Commander at the American Legion and a trustee at Hopewell Baptist Church.

Gibson successfully spearheaded House Bill #7082, supported by State Senator Douglas McCrory, State Representative Brandon McGee and Dr. Benjamin Foster, through the Connecticut General Assembly. Gibson’s efforts have now made African American Studies mandatory in public schools in Connecticut.

“We have value as a people,” said Gibson. “As Dr. King said, ‘God did not make a mistake in creating us.’ This bill will help to educate and assist in the centuries of African and African American contributions to the world and this nation,” said Gibson.

Bloomfield School Superintendent Dr. James Thompson applauded the Masons service to the community as “invaluable.” He cited Mr. Isiah



Left: Dr. James Thompson, Bloomfield Public Schools Superintendent, applauds Masons. Right: Isaiah Brooks, scholarship recipient, thanks Masons.

Brooks, a scholarship recipient who attended the University of Maine and returned home to work at Bloomfield High School after graduating as “a fine example of the Masons mentoring. This fall, Brooks will attend Springfield College to pursue the Master’s in Business Administration in a one year accelerated program. “We commend the Masons of Composite Lodge of Bloomfield for the 7 years they have served the community and youth. The scholarships they award students are a wonderful display of commitment to our youth,” said Thompson.



Dr. Stacey Close, Associate Provost/Vice President for Equity and Diversity and professor of History at Eastern Connecticut State University, received thunderous applause for his presentation on “The Power of Education.”

Dr. Stacey Close’s Encyclopedia mind lit up the audience with an exhilarating speech on “The Power of Education.” He opened with the mantra from Carter G. Woodson, the father of African American History, on the importance of knowledge of self. Close discussed the illustrious role of numerous local giants who played a role in the struggle for freedom through education.

Some included Lorenzo Greene during Colonial New England. He also recounted how whites

tried to stop efforts to build a college for Blacks; how whites rioted and firebombed Black churches in Hartford; how Rev. Dr. James Pennington, of what is now Faith Congregational, and other Black members of other churches, such as Metropolitan AME Zion, in the 1840s created schools in their basements for Black children; how public education was instituted without Black teachers; how Black

children were sent to the back of classroom; and how, in 1917, Mary Townsend Seymour, W.E.B. DuBois, and James Weldon Johnson and others thwarted attempts to segregate Hartford’s schools.

Close cited the education efforts of Congressman Oscar DePriest and Rev. John Jackson in 1929, and C. Edythe Taylor, who was among the first black teachers in the public schools of Hartford.

“A number of African American followed Edythe Taylor into the teaching profession, but it would not be until 1954 that city of Hartford hired an African American male, Alvin Wood, to teach. In 1934, Wood was clearly qualified with a science degree from Howard University to teach in Hartford, but was not given an opportunity until 1954,” said Close. Wood took a job as janitor at Aetna, later moved to the post office, and in 1954, was finally approached to teach, but not before having to take additional courses at Central and UCONN. He later became the city’s first black principal in 1960s.

Close recalled how higher education also was not welcoming to African Americans and how Lemuel Custis, a Howard University graduate who flew 82 combat missions as a Tuskegee Airman, became a police officer in Hartford. Of course, Close talked about Walter “Doc” Hurley, who was a four sport letterman at Weaver High, a graduate of Virginia State University, organizer of Doc Hurley Classic, and won a state title as a coach in Virginia. Throughout the late 1940s and forward, Hurley was a role model for generations of young people, particularly young men. When Dr. King was assassinated in 1968, school officials frantically begged Hurley to come to Weaver High to calm young students. He did. A statue has been erected in Hartford in his honor.

continues to page 35



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.

This fall, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear three cases of enormous importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. The cases present the question of whether LGBT people may bring employment discrimination claims under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Title VII prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sex (as well as race and religion). While early courts considering the issue said that transgender people are not protected under Title VII, for nearly two decades, most courts to hear such claims have allowed them to go forward. Similarly, while most federal circuits previously denied Title VII claims brought by lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, increasingly federal courts – including two circuit courts of appeal, have come to understand that sexual orientation discrimination cannot be separated from sex discrimination.

The argument for claims by LGBT people to proceed under Title VII is straightforward.

At a fundamental level, a per-

son's transgender status can only be understood in relationship to their birth sex. To be transgender means that a person has a gender identity – an internalized sense of himself or herself as male or female – that is different than their birth sex.

The case before the Supreme Court, *EEOC v. Harris Funeral Homes*, illustrates this point. The Plaintiff, Aimee Stephens, had been a funeral home director for six years before telling her employer that she was transgender. After she said she was going to transition from male to female, she was terminated. As she explained in briefs filed with the lower courts, she would not have been fired if she continued to come to work as male and was only terminated once the employer knew she would be coming to work as female. Therefore, the basis for her firing rested on her sex. While this is a clear-cut, logical argument, her employer has pursued appeals claiming that Congress in 1964 could not have intended to extend protections to transgender people.

LAW NOTES

LGBT Rights on Trial at the U.S. Supreme Court

By Jennifer L. Levi, Professor of Law, WNEU School of Law

The other two cases being taken up by the Court present similarly straightforward claims and face similar disputes. In *Zarda v. Altitude Express*, a skydiving instructor brought a sex discrimination claim after he was terminated for telling a female client that he was gay in order to calm her nerves about being strapped to him during a tandem jump. He argued that the employer's hostile treatment of him based on his sexual orientation was intrinsically related to him being male: sexual orientation is connected to a person's sex because it is defined by the sex of the person to whom someone is attracted. Sexual orientation discrimination is therefore necessarily also sex discrimination. The appeals court that decided *Zarda* was compelled by that argument; the appeals court that decided the third case to be heard this fall, *Bostock v. Clayton County*, was not. The U.S. Supreme Court will resolve the con-



Jennifer L. Levi is Professor of Law at Western New England University School of Law and is also the Director of the Transgender Rights Project at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). Levi's advocacy and scholarship for the last two decades has sought to make the world a safer, more hospitable, and more welcoming place for GLBTQ people and those who love them.

flict.

A decision in all three cases will likely not issue until sometime in 2020. Meanwhile, much hangs in the balance for LGBT people. Fewer than half of U.S. states have laws, like Massachusetts, expressly prohibiting sexual orientation and transgender status discrimination. And apart from Title VII, no other federal statute applies in these cases. All eyes will be on the Supreme Court to see whether the Justices will affirm or deny protections for LGBT workers under existing federal law. ■



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EDITORIAL

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

MY FRIEND DAVID STARR

By Frederick A. Hurst

MY POINT
OF VIEW

Frederick A. Hurst



continued from page 1

David took a deep interest in my style of activism as I did in his. Although our two styles overlapped somewhat, they were drastically different but we spent a lot of time trying to merge the two. We both always knew that we were less than moderately successful but we never abandoned the challenge.

David cherished the status quo and I opposed it. He wanted to improve it from within and I wanted to replace it. David never stopped trying to bring me around to his way of thinking and I never stopped resisting him just as I never stopped trying to bring him around to my way of thinking and he never stopped resisting me.

But David was far more persuasive than I was, probably because he was far more powerful and had a role in almost everything of importance in Springfield and the region. He persuaded me to participate on some key boards that were made up primarily of White males. The two most prominent were the Library and Museum Association and Springfield Central but he was also instrumental, I think, in my serving on the BayState Health board.

I served on those boards and several others partly as a friendly concession to David but primarily to satisfy my own curiosity about the inner workings of Springfield's White power structure, which had been, for the most part, impenetrable.

David knew I was uncomfortable serving on all-White boards. While he was interested in integration as a solution to the problems of race, I was curious about the inner workings of power and how to shift it to the powerless, which, with Springfield's shifting demographics, meant to the Black

and Hispanic communities. The idea of integration as an end goal did not inspire me although I conceded to David that integration might make shifting power easier.

David embraced the political status quo except for former Springfield Mayor Charlie Ryan with whom he had a decades-long feud that puzzled me and most people I know. But he embraced and protected other Irish and Italian mayors and helped them to maintain their vice grip on political power that exists to this day. David was Jewish. He didn't embrace them because he had any special preference for the Irish or Italians. When it came to politics, he was simply practical and was mostly concerned with stable government that supported the goals and objectives that he believed were best for the region. He knew that I preferred systemic change and we both agreed that my task was more difficult.

What I appreciated most about David Starr was his candor. Early on he told me that it would be much more efficient for us to speak to each other openly about what was on our minds. He said it would save us both a lot of time. He was right. And we would walk away from every conversation in agreement or in disagreement or with a combination of both and remain friends.

I was most impressed by David's response to the first issue of *Point of View* which I mailed to him in March of 2003 and requested his opinion. Most people told me how great the first issue was while, over lunch at the Colony Club, David told me simply that it was "okay for a first effort." It was years and many issues later that he complimented me for a job well done.

I was voted into a private group that meets every month for eight months out of the year for dinner and

a presentation by a selected member on a topic of the member's choice. David Starr orchestrated the vote. The late former UMass chancellor, Dr. Randolph Bromery, was the only other Black member and I think David saw a different type of diversity in me. He was right, of course. Dr. Bromery fit the group's normal pattern. I did not. I've been with the group long enough to become one of its longest-serving and oldest members and I still do not fit the group's normal pattern although I've made many friends. I thank David Starr for that.

I recall when David was honored by the Newhouse family who made a large donation in his name to the Museum Association while sponsoring an event at Springfield's Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum which David insisted be limited to 100 guests.

David could have attracted thousands of admirers locally and from all over the state and beyond. But true to his nature, he only wanted a few close friends in attendance. Honestly, I would not have felt slighted not to be invited. But I was invited. And it gave me a warm feeling to be among the 100.

David Starr has done so much good that it is difficult to capture most of it in a readable news article. It would take even more than a book to do him justice. Suffice it to say that he is among the rare people posterity will forever recall for his kindness and for his prolific "works."

It would be an exaggeration to suggest that I was an intimate part of David's inner circle. I was not. But it was an honor to have known him and to have been in his orbit. ■

AF-AM NEWS bits

By Frederick A. Hurst

continued from page 4

CALIFORNIA'S TROUBLES

"Incarceration, like other social problems, is typically rooted in failing schools. Only 31% of fourth graders in California are proficient in math, compared with 40% nationwide. Only 23% of Hispanic and 21% of low-income California fourth graders score proficient in reading, about half as many as in Florida. California spends \$3,600 more per pupil than Florida....This year California will spend \$102 billion on K-12 education, about 50% more than before voters raised taxes on the rich in 2012. Test scores haven't improved, and much of the money has gone toward pensions for retired public employees." (The *Wall Street Journal*, June 29, 2019)

MY KIDS AND GRANDKIDS WON'T WANT TO READ THIS

Robert D. Kaplan wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* (July 18, 2019), "Print is a technology that encourages complex thinking and, with that, moderate and considered opinions, conducive to mature decision-making. On the other hand, the digital-video era and its social-media component encourage rage and passion – and passion is the enemy of analysis. Leaders and their citizenries will likely be less mature, less given to prudent choices in this new age of communication technology, which enables cyber conflict." He further wrote: "As digital technology accelerates, politics and memory degenerate. News cycles are more intense, even as they are more quickly forgotten. Consequently, the new generation of Western politicians is fundamentally without character." ■

FEATURED ARTICLE

FORGET TRUMP!

Worry About The Compromisers

*Reprinted from December 1, 2016**continued from page 5*

nation not to allow it to be relived, which is why we aren't overly concerned about White supremacists, the alt-right, White nationalists, ku klux klan (small "k" intended) and not even the average White working men who, throughout history, have been duped into making Black folks their scapegoats while elite White folks enjoyed outlandish privileges and, often enough, got rich.

Don't quite yet overplay what you are seeing roll out. What you have seen so far should be the least of your worries. The "boy king" Trump, the alt-right Bannon, the racist Sessions, the delusional Giuliani, the perennially addled Gingrich, these should not be your biggest concern. Not one of them could be successful imposing the extremes of their beliefs on an American public.

If you have not already studied your history, just watch closely as it struggles to repeat itself over the next four years and you will learn that what you need to worry about most are the "compromisers," who will bargain away your fundamental interests to promote their own. You won't know who they are yet because you've had no reason to know and they haven't yet revealed themselves. But, trust me, just watch the process unfold and you'll spot them coming out of the woodwork.

First, you must understand that Trump cannot possibly deliver on his promises, a fact he understood even as he was making them to garner votes from disenchanted White folks whose motivations for supporting him, admittedly, vary. Some are outright racists who migrated to the Republican Party after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voter Rights Act of 1965. These are people who are part of a culture that has always existed in America and will al-

ways exist. You needn't worry that America will ever go back to the world they want, no more than it can go back to the world those less informed, working class White male Americans yearn for. The past is past. Besides, even if it was retrievable, we Black and Brown folks will not be returning to the past. We're too smart and tough to let that happen. We'll fight.

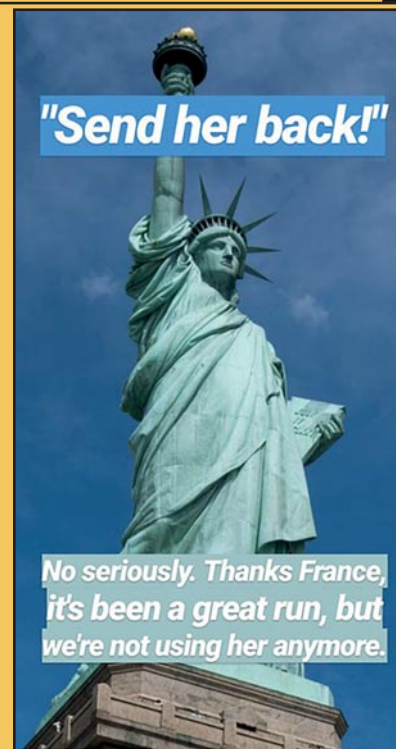
Nonetheless, you need to understand that compromises are about to be made and they will be historical. And if we are not all careful, Black and Brown rights will be the prime trade-off cards as will be the privileges promised to less informed White folks who "want their country back." Trump can't give them their country back because it wasn't their country in the first place. It has always been all of our country.

But, what Trump can offer them is scapegoats. When it becomes obvious that he can't build a wall and make Mexico pay for it, rationally reverse trade policies, send 11 to 12 million Hispanics, many of whom are absolutely essential labor to America, back to Mexico, make Russia's Putin America's friend, jail Clinton, win the war against terrorism overnight, unilaterally end the nuclear pact with Iran, re-align the world order starting with NATO, take away medical insurance from 20 million folks who just got it, dump the Cuba rapprochement, spend huge amounts of money and cut rich folks taxes without wrecking the economy, and can't make the country that is already the greatest country the world has ever known, "great again" in the manner his supporters are expecting, Donald Trump is going to have to figure how to appease those White folks who get mad at him. And if history is any guide, Black and Brown folks will be on his radar screen because we are red meat to

Trump Alerts!

By Marjorie J. Hurst**"Send her back!"**

No seriously. Thanks France,
it's been a great run, but
we're not using her anymore.



much of his base.

But Trump can't sell us out without the help of the compromisers. You need to understand that compromise is both good and bad and often both at the same time. Remember, our nation was built on compromise by some of the greatest political thinkers the world has ever known. The Constitution they produced, separating the powers of government, was ingenious and designed to guarantee government by compromise. But two key compromises written into the same Constitution were to make Black folks three-fifths of a man and to deny women the right to vote.

And many historical compromises emerged from it over time. Remember the Fugitive Slave Act and the Dred Scott decision and the Separate but Equal decision that abandoned our kids to segregated and unequal schools and so many, many more. I could go on and on and on with examples of compromises that were made in the interest of folks who were willing to strip minorities of their rights in order to promote their own, often selfish, interests but I'm sure you get the point.

We are certainly going to suffer

some political setbacks over the next four years. But Trump shouldn't be your biggest concern, whether he stays far out to the right or moves to the middle. You should worry more about so-called "friends," both Republican and Democratic, independent and unaffiliated, who took noble stands against Trump but who seem to be already positioning themselves to compromise.

I don't mind compromise. It's the American way that Republicans shamelessly and recklessly abandoned when our first Black President, Barack Obama, was elected. It's the substance of the coming compromises that we all need to keep a vigilant eye on.

I don't think we are up for a repeat of some of the most egregious historical compromises or the like. No, I don't. I think the Baby Boomers and the Millennials of all races who are inheriting this country are too smart to let that happen as are we who have been there before. But, nonetheless, we all must remain alert to what is unfolding from the 2016 elections and make certain that the compromisers don't sell us out. ■

RELIGION

RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW



Dr. Atu White, Editor, serves as Pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 33 Oak Street, Springfield, MA and as First Vice President of the United Baptist Convention of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. atuwhite@gmail.com

We should be forever encouraged by the divine dialogue recorded in Exodus 3 between Moses and our Creator, God. Upon accepting his new community organizing assignment, Moses sought to clearly understand how he was to present a new and provocative paradigm of living to a people conditioned to live out their lives under adverse conditions for more than 400 years. Moses felt as if he needed to correctly present the source of his newly appointed authority and power, so he asked for the name of the One who was appointing him (Exodus 3:13-14). God answered, “I AM WHO I AM.”

The WHOM Within OUR Community

By Pastor Samuel Saylor Sr., Gardner Memorial AMEZ Church

Now, in the 400th year since the African was forced to endure slavery and many other forms of barbaric atrocities under the burden and banner of hatred, greed and godlessness, we should be reminded of the source from Whom we are to take our authority in presenting the liberating message of our God.

The Church, in effect, is the sure footprint of God, and the believers are to demonstrate an effectual compassion toward the people of God. I am reminded of what one minister friend stressed: The Church of Jesus Christ is called to be a radical power which bends toward a relational glory impervious to other opposing forces. Moses was called to speak truth to power in a divine intentionality of radical liberation. Such powerful plans are needed and currently avail-

able to the community of God’s children who are calling and crying for the Church of Jesus Christ to be radically relevant to their struggles and systems of oppression.

A community blessed of God cannot be a passive force in the realm of a compelling and focused demonic agenda. To be blessed and highly favored suggest a certain approaching wrestling match with Satan and the spirits of high dark places.

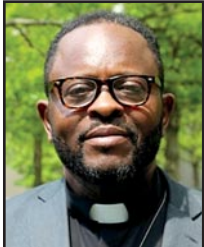
Moses had a major assignment—to end the cries of the children of God who were in prayerful agony and growing hopelessness. God moved His man off the mountain and assigned him to a community that may have forgotten God’s name and the promises bestowed upon their patriarchs. We are no less endowed with the promise of God, no less worthy of

a salvific solution and resolve.

The Church of Jesus Christ must hear the call of God to move off the mountain and take to the streets to reintroduce the restorative nature and intent of God.

Jesus stressed to His ‘then’ audience and still to His ‘now’ audience the purpose of His father in the Gospel of Matthew 9:37, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

Paul is sure of his source and authority as he elaborated in 1 Corinthians 15:10, “Yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” The Whom in our community must be introduced even today. ■



Pastor Samuel Saylor Sr.

70th Wedding Anniversary



Bishop Talbert Swan I and Ora Swan celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary at a service at Spring of Hope COGIC, founded by Bishop Swan.

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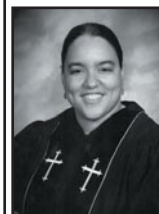
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**Pastors, Ministers, Professors and Theologians, please submit
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Rev. Dr. Atu White at: atuwhite@gmail.com**

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, 10 books including "Centos of Life". 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

Red Velvet Cake

By Juanita Torrence-Thompson

Saying you feel like little wooden beads
Threaded crisply to a thin gold chain
Is rather weird; but you look like diamond circles
In a glass case wrapped up in a gold bow
At an upscale boutique.

Even when it rains, you love to play
Games with your squares and rectangles;
Never remembering the challenge
Of not walking away.

You are so different from octagons and triangles;
And you smell like freshly baked
Red velvet cake with no place to go.

Copyright 2019 by Juanita Torrence-Thompson
Published 2019 in 50th Anniversary issue of LIPS Magazine

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

Mrs. Lizzie's Story

By Berdia Brown



We had one child; Mavis died many years ago.
Seven years ago, I lost my beloved husband, Willie Joe.
Joe and I lived in our own little simple home, we did just fine
We had a flower garden with flowers of all kinds.

After I suffered a stroke, Joe was unable to care for me. He was old and frail.

I told him to put me in a nursing home, that's where I wanted to be.
It was hard for him to do this, you see. I asked him, "Do you love me?"
He said, "Liz, you know I do."
"Well, Joe, do the right thing for me and you."

Every day he'd come to see me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from our flower garden, in hand. He was truly a good man. I'm ninety eight years old. I want my story to be told.

I have no living relatives; they're all gone. I'm now living peacefully in a nursing home.

There are times when I feel so alone. I read the bible, which gives me the strength to carry on.

I've been in this home for many years.
Some nights I cry in silence; no one but God sees my tears.
My husband would often come to see me, when he was alive
I miss him so much, especially his funny jokes, and smile.

I had a bad stroke which crippled me. I can't do much for myself.
Sadly, I have to depend on someone else.
I'm treated very well in this place, which is now my home.
I'm sure I'll die here; at least I won't be alone.

Sometimes I wonder, "Why am I still here?"
I just give my mind a rest; I know that God knows best.
I've made many friends since I've been here. Many have died who I once knew.
I now have only two; Mable and Nora, they come by to see me every day.
We come together and pray.

Mable's daughter, Mildred, has retired and will care for her at home.
I will miss her when she's gone.
Mildred continues to visit me.
She always brings me a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Last week she visited with me for about an hour.
She told me that Mable was doing well.
Last month they flew down to Georgia to see her sister, Annie Bell.
It's another year, and I'm thankful to be here.
Sadly, Mrs. Lizzie passed away on her ninety ninth birthday, on the first day of May.
I'm so happy I took time to listen to what was on her mind.
She was so cheerful as she talked about her husband, and her beautiful flower garden, she left behind.

That January day, a memory was made that I will never forget.
She was a wonderful lady I'd met.
Her favorite flowers were dahlias, holly hocks, daisies, and morning glory.
This was Mrs. Lizzie's story.

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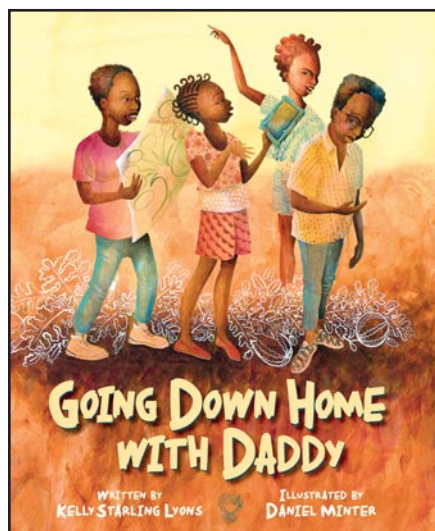
THE ARTS

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.

Getting together with your family this summer is going to be fun!



You'll see your cousins and grandparents, friends and kin, and your aunts and uncles will be there, too. You'll eat foods you love, play games to win, and you'll hear stories that your family likes to tell. But what will *you* bring to the family picnic? In **"Going Down Home with Daddy"** by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Daniel Minter, that's a question one boy struggles with.

As Sis slept in the back of the car next to him, Lil Alan worried and worried.

They were on their way to Granny's house on the family farm, going to Daddy's side of the annual family get-together, and everybody'd have something to share for this year's celebration. Sis would sing a song for Granny. One of Lil Alan's cousins had made a scrapbook. Another boy was reading a story aloud.

Everyone had something, but Lil Alan's hands were empty.

Still, he had time to think.

When they got there, all the adults were laughing and slapping backs and giving out hugs; the women had been cooking for days and everything smelled delicious for the feast. Daddy fired up the tractor and took Lil Alan and his cousins out for a ride on the farm that had been in the family for a long, long time. Daddy's Pa had been proud of the land and its crops, and so was Daddy, and Lil Alan, too.

When Sunday morning rolled around, Lil Alan's hands were still empty and so was his heart. At church, he heard more family stories as everyone worshipped together, but he was sad that he still hadn't come up with something to share. Back at Granny's house, he thought about what he was going to offer at the celebration as he looked at a wall full of old pictures of grandparents and great-grandparents. He thought of his family's land and the people who cared for it. He remembered stories of folks before them.

And then he knew. Lil Alan *did* have something to share.

It was right in front of him all along...

Much like a lazy summer afternoon, "Going Down Home with Daddy" unwinds at a leisurely pace, covering a mere weekend but starting with a restless car ride.

Since your child may be looking forward to this summer's family reunion, that may seem like an odd place to begin but this book isn't *just* about a reunion: author Kelly Starling Lyons and illustrator Daniel Minter wrap the event around a warm family tale that feels like being snuggled in a soft blanket. Even the youngest kids will understand Lil Alan's struggle for meaning, the comfort of knowing that

you're loved, the goodness of being surrounded by family, and the strength of knowing where you came from.

Whether your family is next door or half a world away, this book is great for the 4-to-7-year-old who

loves them. Isn't it time, then, to put that kid and "Going Down Home with Daddy" together? ■



Author, Kelly Starling Lyons

PEN & INK

American civil rights activist **Martin Luther King Jr.** delivered his **"I Have a Dream"** speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963. The following poem, reprinted from **"They Wear the False Hoods"** commemorates this anniversary.

Coming Home, Regardless

By Renay Intisar Jihad



Renay Intisar Jihad

Digging underground to Passage, onward.
Sorting the forest from the trees.
Moving steadfast to Freedom's Way.
Watching our back on prostrate knees.

Reverencing wombs to heal carved scars.
Referencing wounds to debride who we are.
Studying the roots to master the future.
Timing each moment to measure the years.

Chains undone.
Gone, yet here.
Chains undone.
Gone, yet here.
Clear the path.
What's needed has been given.
Walk the path.
What's been given, we are living.
Honor the past.
Walk into
The Ordained Beginning.
Pass on the past.
This promise is worth committing.

*Looking back to crest onward,
is life's natural sprouting deed.
Victory's germ has taken root,
and with the faith of a mustard seed*

We are and always will be
a reflection of our ancestors:
Strong, Courageous, Rising!!!

THE ARTS

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW



Yvonne Mendez is the Director of Education & Engagement at the UMass Fine Arts Center. She produces events for the Valley Jazz Network, and also works with the Springfield Jazz and Roots Festival.

Black Music is About Being Black in America

By Yvonne Mendez



Music is a reflection of life: the life of the individual and the life of a people. Black music, especially here in America where racism is so integral to our society, reflects the experiences of being Black in America, often filled with tense moments, racism, oppression, inequities, disappointment. But it also reflects joyous celebration, exclamations of love, healing and community. Music is a primary survival ingredient for Black people in America, starting back in Congo Square, where the music was about ritual, about healing and community. Our music begins in spirituality and continues within emotion, reflecting our modern experiences. For black people, music and art are an intrinsic part of our individual and collective beings.

Sixty-seven percent of blacks felt music helped them to connect to others. And also recognized that black music has significantly influenced almost every genre of music today [1]. Despite slavery and the efforts to suppress our culture, we persist, and black music has become a mainstay of American musical traditions.

Our communities are very varied, by age, by experience and so is our music. Artists like Cardi B, Nicki Minaj and others reflect the experiences and the lives of young black people, with their lyrics and the composition of their music. Does it take away from who we are? Is it nonproductive? No. Pop music is not trivial, but a necessary subset of many other musical subsets, each with the purpose of reflecting lives and experiences.

Like in this era of Trump, there are so many parallels to the Reagan Era and McCarthyism, where injus-

tice ruled the day, and oppression seeped into every crevice throughout our daily lives. Bigotry and anti-immigration sentiments, white extremist groups, anti-Semitism and violence against black men in the U.S. and worldwide is on the rise. Are there new artists, like Public Enemy, Sam Cooke, Nina Simone, inspiring and leading the march towards equity? Kendrick Lamar is one artist doing just that. His song *Alright*

[https://youtu.be/Z-48u_uWMHY] says “All my life I had to fight,” addressing police violence and living conditions of Black America. Jamila Woods talks about women and power in her song *Blk Girl Soldier*—a powerful video [<https://youtu.be/asVhaf-DASjo>]. Other artists like Chance The Rapper, Solange, Tribe Called Quest (*We The People*) are also contributing to this effort of music and justice. [2]

Janelle Monáe’s *Americans* goes a bit further and offers healing and unity despite these injustices. “Hold on. Don’t fight this war alone. Halo around you, don’t face it on your own,” [<https://youtu.be/Z8Cpc1Eb3Jk>], reminiscent of Marvin Gaye’s *What’s Going On* and *Mercy, Mercy, Me* that covered so many of the ills and problems of the world, the environment, society and war.

Black Music is based on ritual and community. The music reflects the varied subsets of our community, as well as the ups and downs, peaks and valleys of Black life, while also nurturing community, overcoming despair and collectively working towards solutions. The music is lively; it makes you want to dance and sing, tap your feet, nod your head in agreement with the lyrics. It reflects and represents the nature of life itself.

Sources:

[1] <https://today.yougov.com/topics/arts/articles-reports/2018/11/13/black-americans-music-rap-gospel-rb-genres>

[2] <https://teachrock.org/lesson/black-livesmatter-music-in-a-movement/>



WTCC is your source for music - from jazz to R&R oldies, gospel to salsa, R&B to blues, Motown and more, as well as Caribbean, Portuguese, Latino, Polish, Greek, Native American and Italian programming - plus talk shows with local hosts discussing local issues.

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8:00 P.M.



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L to R: Damany Gordon, President of Genuine Culture LLC, presented a concert at Gateway City Arts in Holyoke featuring noted Drummer Makaya McCraven.



WTCC Radio Station staff pose for a photo during the Black Music Month celebration at American International College where they were recognized for 50 years of broadcast excellence. Others recognized at the event included The Movement Project Director Laurice Jiggetts; “Betty Laws Fights Back” President Aleana Laster; and YSET Academy Director Dr. Paula Starnes.



The Floyd Patterson Band performed recently at the Forest Park Amphitheater. L to R: Guitarist and band leader Floyd Patterson Jr., Randy Bost on trumpet, Adam Call on saxophone, drummer Rick Marshall, and guitarist Luther Johnson III.

COMMUNITY

GOOD NEWS - AUGUST 2019



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

The Stone Soul Festival is scheduled for August 30th through September 1, 2019.

This will be our 31st year of presenting an event created for the community and by the community with support from the sponsors/supporters listed in our Annual Anniversary Booklet.

Stone Soul Festival Highlights

FRIDAY - 8/30:

Smooth Jazz and Local Talent – hosted by Andrew Cade, entertainment coordinator for Friday and Saturday.

Kid's Night – free hot dogs and hamburgers, hosted by the Hampden County Sheriff's Dept., Springfield Family Support Programs, and the Children's Study Home.

SATURDAY - 8/31:

Stone Soul Community Breakfast – at 9:30 a.m., serving grits, eggs, juice, bacon, etc.

Stone Soul Parade – assembling at Rebecca Johnson School and stepping off at 11:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Ken Barnett at (413) 221-2472 or Desi Jackson at (413) 205-9234.

Health Fair – hosted by Richard Johnson and Mable Sharif; includes 30 medical and social service agencies.

Youth Talent Show – dancing and singing by Springfield's finest at 6:00 p. m. – Delfonics

Stone Soul vendors – including Shabazz Wings, and other types of vendors.

SUNDAY - 9/1:

Praise in the Park – hosted by Elder Zachary Reynolds & Missionary Patricia Reynolds starting at 10:30 a.m.; prayer, liturgical dancers, singing, and more.

Stone Soul Picnic – serving ribs, chicken, beans and the world famous fish fry provided by Baystate Sportsmen Club. Free of charge.

Gospel Program – with co-hosts Evenus Thompson and George Lovejoy presenting some of the finest gospel quartets, choirs, and groups.

Community Service Awards – coordinated and chaired by Danita Wilson.

This year **Pit Master Certificates** are available. Over the years, many families come to cook and prepare food at the Stone Soul Picnic. If you

or your family are one of the many, Stone Soul, Inc. has a certificate for you or your family with your name signed by the Stone Soul Committee acknowledging your participation in the Stone Soul Picnic and certification of your rank as pit masters. **In order to get your certificate, please call (413) 737-1485 prior to the festival.**

This year we will be supported by Springfield Cannabis LLC. They will be sponsoring the entertainment and promotion of the festival. Steven and Michelle Mrowzinski have plans for operating a recreational marijuana shop in the City of Springfield. They have met with the Stone Soul Committee on several occasions. We look forward to supporting them.

Glenroy Buchanan and the Native American Inter-Tribal Council of Western MA will be setting up an exhibit at the festival. Stone Soul will provide a few more surprises. All are welcome! ■

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VOTE Tuesday, September 10, 2019

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Sisters Who Are Legends, Making A Difference

By Theresa Bryant



Lucille Kennedy

Sisters Who Are Legends is an event that encourages women to bring forth the beauty and strength within themselves. Conceived and organized by Lucille Kennedy, it gives women the opportunity to adorn themselves in their finest attire, luxuriate and celebrate just being a sister.

Come out and celebrate the legend in you. **Sisters Who Are Legends will take place at the Log Cabin on Sunday, August 25, 2019 at 2PM.** The afternoon hopes to provide women with fine dining, a hair show and an opportunity to network, socialize, and perhaps share a testimony. You may just inspire a sister or give her the courage

to press on.

This year's theme is all about making a difference in the lives of others. You will hear the stories of legendary women who have triumphed in the face of adversities. These testimonies of resilience and self-care will definitely make a difference in your life.

For more information and tickets, contact Solid Gold Beauty Salon at (413)732-4542 and come out for an afternoon of celebration, motivation and inspiration. ■



The 2019 Hello Neighbor Community festival took place recently at DeBerry Elementary School. L to R: Rep. Bud L. Williams, Celestial Praise Church of God First Lady Michaelia Daubon, Stacia Brown, Reverend Toni Jacobs, Beatrice Morrow, Springfield Acting Police Commissioner Cheryl Clapprood, and Celestial Praise Church of God Bishop Andrew Daubon.

NABVETS Corner

Joyce Jessup Auxiliary Member

By Milton Jones, Member



Joyce Jessup

Joyce holds a very unique position in the organization in that she is our only auxiliary member at this time. An auxiliary member is defined as a NON-VETERAN who serves veterans through their membership in NABVETS Springfield Chapter #00102. She very rarely misses a meeting, participates in most events and activities, including planning and organizing, represents the organization in uniform and deeds as well as pays her dues annually.

Joyce got involved with the NABVETS Springfield Chapter due to her connection to this writer. After attending a couple of meetings with me, and finding out who the members were and what the Chapter was trying to do, she committed her support unwaveringly. As an auxiliary member, she cannot hold office but she will quickly volunteer to fill in wherever necessary performing duties such as taking notes, making telephone calls, cleaning the office, etc. In my opinion, her assistance has been invaluable.

Joyce would like to see the Chapter provide more direct assis-

tance to veterans and their families, such as clothing drives, food drives as well as information sessions in the community. She said it is critical to help preserve the contributions of Black Veterans both locally and nationally.

Joyce is a retired United States Postal Service employee where she worked for 27 ½ years and worked with a lot of veterans and was exposed to many of the issues that veterans face. She made a vow that when she retired, she would do what she could to help veterans and she is faithfully fulfilling that vow. Thank you, Joyce. ■



Milton Jones

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Remembering Rhonda Swan

By Freda Malone

The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship Fund (RSMSF), established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, is for students who are underrepresented in the field of Journalism. The Scholarship Committee awarded \$5,000 in scholarships this year.

Recipients include:

Jonathan Kermah, who just completed his Junior Year at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His major is Journalism and communications. He is an Entertainment and Podcast editor for the Amherst Wire.

Bridget Bristol who just completed her sophomore year at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her major is Journalism and Political Science.

Wesley Days Jr. who is a graduate of Longmeadow High School who will be attending Emerson College in the fall where he will major in Journalism.

The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship Committee would like to thank the University of Massachusetts at Amherst school of journalism, and the Valley Press Club for their partnership in the distribution of these scholarships. We would also like to thank all those who have supported the fund with donations and participation in our golf tournaments. The annual Rhonda Swan Memorial Golf Tournament is the fund's primary fundraiser. This year's tournament will be held on **August 31st, 2019 at the Oak Ridge Country Club**. For more information, please contact Curt Marcellin at 413-335-1952.



Jonathan Kermah '20



Bridget "Brie" Bristol '21



Wesley Days, Jr.

The 4th Annual
**RHONDA SWAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 GOLF TOURNAMENT**
 SATURDAY, AUGUST 31st, 2019

Oak Ridge Country Club
 850 S. Westfield Street
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 start time 12:00 pm

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 tee sponsors \$100.00

For more information please call Freda Malone at 413-218-6399
 or Curt Marcellin at 413-335-1952

MORE PHOTOS

*MGM and Baystate Health Teams Among Participants
 in the Springfield Dragon Boat Races Hosted by
 Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club*



MGM team



*Baystate Health
 team*

CONNECTICUT - COMMUNITY FOCUS

PRINCE HALL MASONS OF CT

continued from page 22

Close revealed how Connecticut educated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1944 and 1946 on the possibilities of change in America; how Malcolm X visited Hartford in 1954, teaching on Thursdays in an apartment in Bellevue Square; and how Malcolm opened a mosque, first on Albany Avenue and then, on Main Street in Hartford. Close also told how Marcus Garvey and Hartford UNIA chapter educated and organized in the state as well.

Other notable educational achievements included Union Baptist Church spearheading the first Black College Tour in the 1960s, and in 1988, how Dr. David Carter Sr. became the first African American to lead a four year college at Eastern Connecticut State University. Carter later became chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) System, where he would secure 950 million dollars of funding for the system.

Before becoming chancellor of the CSCU System, Carter argued the importance of education to a group at the state capitol, positing that if you can teach a child to read by second grade, the chances that child will succeed in life are excellent. Such illumination and passion garnered the unanimous support for Carter of legislators on both sides of the aisle, enabling Carter to transform the sleepy Eastern campus into a world class university.

"For more than the past 30 years, Carter and Floyd Bagwell developed and institutionalized Eastern's STEP/CAP program at Eastern, which, today, has produced more than 1000 college graduates!

Close also cited the annual Delta Sigma Theta Sorority MLK Jr. celebration, from which more than 300 people have received scholarships, as an excellent example of the community's belief in the power of education. He noted the election in 2018 of Johanna Hayes, National Teacher of the Year, to Congress.

"Ms. Hayes, a beacon of strength and leadership, is a true signal that people recognize the power of education in the halls of Congress in Washington D.C."

Close noted that 2019 marks the 400 year anniversary of the African presence in North America, and that State Representative Gibson's bill to mandate the teaching of African American and Puerto Rican history, beautifully reflects the power of education.

Close enjoyed telling the story of Billionaire Robert Smith surprising Morehouse University students at their Commencement in May by informing

them that he was paying off the student loans of more than 300 graduates. "That, my friends, is the power of education!"

Close wrapped up his presentation, encouraging young people: "I say to you, seize the time, continue to run where the brave dare not go, remember the names of Dr. Cato Laurencin, MD Harvard and PhD from MIT and Dr. Juliette Phifer Bursteman. We who believe in the power of education, cannot rest!"

"This was one of our best scholarship fundraisers," said co-chairperson Floyd Bagwell Jr. "We are not going anywhere without an education. We are equally proud of our many supporters. We are truly grateful to the Bloomfield-based Sandler and Mara, PC law firm for being a Silver Donor for the Prince Hall Masonic Foundation of Connecticut and Willie B. McLendon Scholarship Fund.

Other dignitaries attending the scholarship fund memorial included Masons David Dinkins, Alvin Clark, Jerry Solomon, Greg Lawrence, Mondell Davis, Jayjuan McMillan, Benny Thomas, Lionel Jones, Ashton Moore, Edward Wilson, Marcus McGregor and Elijah McFoley, among others.

Willie Braxton McLendon, a Navy veteran, retired postal official, investor, civic leader and philanthropist who held



**Willie Braxton
McLendon**

numerous positions with the Prince Hall Masons, was a founding member of the Carpe Diem Fraternity of Hartford and had a passion for education and the success that it potentially assured everyone who obtained a post-secondary education degree or certificate.

It was his vision to establish an endowed scholarship that would assist promising young men of color annually who elected to attend CSCU or an Historically Black College or University. Upon his passing, he bequeathed a modest sum to carry out his vision and legacy.

David G. Carter is well-known for, perhaps, being the best entrepreneur of higher education the state of Connecticut has ever had or will ever see. As mentioned above, his innovative approaches led



**Dr. David Carter Sr., former
Chancellor Connecticut State
Colleges and Universities System**

to vast improvement in the infrastructure, program offerings, student enrollment and diversity by the four colleges in the CSCU System.

In addition, he was a scholar, was published in many professional journals and chapters in books, and was named the recipient of many awards and honors. Among them were the NAACP Roy Wilkins Civil Rights Award; Outstanding Service and Leadership in Enhancing International Education Award; the Americanism Award from the Connecticut American Legion; Urban League of Greater Hartford's Black History Community Service Award and the League's 2003 Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award; Connecticut Rivers Council Boy Scouts of America Award; Image Award from the Epsilon-Omicron Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Tapestry Award from the "Hartford Courant" in 2002; Good Citizen Award from the Connecticut Grand Lodge Order of Sons of Italy in America in 2001. He was selected "Man of the Year" in 2000 by the African American Affairs Commission.

Carter earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the HBCU Central State University in Ohio, an M.Ed. from Miami University in Ohio and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Briarwood College. ■



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR — AUGUST 2019



*Jynai McDonald,
POV Community
Calendar Editor
Please submit your events
with attn: Jynai in the
subject line to
info@afampov.com*

August 1 (Thursday)

Mayoral Race Public Forum

Where: Mason Sq. Branch Library
765 State St., Spfld., MA
When: 6PM–7:30PM

Springfield Carnival Annual Proclamation & Health Fair

Presented by: Caribbean American
African Athletic Social Club
Where: Mason Square, Spfld., MA
When: 10AM–4PM
Info: 413-693-3343 or
413-306-2353

August 3 (Saturday)

Brunch with PJ Masks!

Where: Uno Pizzeria & Grill
1722 Boston Rd., Spfld., MA
When: 10AM–12PM
Cos: \$10/kids 12 under \$15/adults
Info: 413-543-6600

Springfield C3 Safety Fest

Where: Riverfront Park
1360 W Columbus Ave.,
Spfld., MA
When: 12PM–4PM — **FREE**

Zoo on the Go

Where: Eastfield Mall
1655 Boston Rd., Spfld., MA
When: 11AM–12PM

Taste of Caribbean & Jerk Festival

Where: Mortensen Riverfront Plaza
300 Columbus Boulevard,
Hartford, CT
When: 1PM–11PM

August 6 (Tuesday)

National Night Out & Captain Marvel in the Park

Where: 1437 Carew St., Spfld., MA
When: 5:30PM–10:30PM — **FREE**
Info: www.myesnc.com

August 9 (Friday)

First Annual Pints and Politics at the Beer Garden

Where: 1477 Main Street, Spfld., MA
When: 5PM–8PM

August 10 (Saturday)

Democratic State Committee Meeting

Where: Easthampton High School
70 Williston Ave.,
Easthampton, MA

When: 9AM

Info: www.massdems.org

6th Annual Springfield Jazz & Roots Festival

Where: Court Square, Spfld., MA
When: 11AM–10PM

1st Annual Sundress & Linen Day Party

Where: Smokey Joe's Cigar Lounge
395 Dwight St., Spfld., MA
When: 5PM–10PM

August 11 (Sunday)

Alpha Phi Alpha Bowling For A Cause

Where: AMF Lanes Chicopee Lanes
291 Burnett Rd, Chicopee, MA
When: 4PM–8PM
Tickets: \$20 (includes shoe rental)
Info: (413) 592-9161 or
<https://www.amf.com/location/amf-chicopee-lanes>

August 15-16

City of Guards 2019 Scholarship Fundraiser: Life Without Basketball

Where: Basketball Hall of Fame
100 Hall of Fame Ave.,
Spfld., MA — **Tickets:** \$50
When: Thursday 5:30PM /Friday 8PM
Info: cityofguards@gmail.com

August 15 (Thursday)

Neighborhood Block Party

Where: William N. Deberry School
670 Union St., Spfld., MA
When: 4:30PM–7PM — **FREE**

Just Us - Summer Concert Series

Where: Fountain Park
883 Tinkham Rd.,
Wilbraham, MA
When: 6:30PM–8:30PM

August 17 (Saturday)

Caribbean Parade

Where: State Street Corridor
Spfld., MA
Info: 413-214-2744 or
413-693-3343

August 18 (Sunday)

Unity in the Community Softball Game

Where: Magazine Park, Spfld., MA
When: 3:35PM

August 20 (Tuesday)

Meet the Candidates for Mayor & City Council

Where: Mason Square Branch Library
765 State St., Spfld., MA
When: 5:30PM–7:30PM — **FREE**

August 24 (Saturday)

SPS Back to School Celebration

Where: Blunt Park
1780 Roosevelt Ave., Spfld., MA
When: 10AM–1PM — **FREE**

3rd Annual Look Park Food Truck Fest.

Where: Look Memorial Park
300 N Main St., Florence, MA
When: 12PM–6PM
Tickets: www.lookpark.org
Info: 413-584-5457

Dakin Humane Society Benefit Paws & Pints at the Brew Barn

Where: Brew Barn
455 Highland Ave.,
Phillipston, MA
When: 12PM–5PM
Tickets: \$20/adults — \$10/children
Info: 413-781-4000 x 122

Springfield Indie Soul Festival

Where: King Phillips Stockade
(Forest Park)
70 Columbus Ave., Spfld., MA
When: 11AM–9PM
Tickets: \$10/adv — \$15/at door
Info: info@springfieldindiesoulfestival.com or
springfieldindiesoulfestival.com

August 28 (Wednesday)

13th Annual Democrats of Distinction Awards Banquet

Where: Springfield Lodge of Elks #61
440 Tiffany St., Spfld., MA
When: 6PM–9PM — **Tickets:** \$50
Info: 413-297-8614 or
pringfieldmassdems@gmail.com

August 31 (Saturday)

The Stone Soul Festival Parade

Where: Eastern down State Street -
Left at Putnam Crossing
Roosevelt, Spfld., MA
When: 11AM
stonesoulparade@gmail.com
413-221-2472

August 2-3

Jurisdictional Leadership Conference

Where: Spring of Hope Church of
God in Christ
35 Alden St., Spfld., MA
When: Friday: 7PM / Saturday 9AM
Registration required:
www.springofhopechurch.org/lc2019

Sundays - September 22 — December Westfield State University Duke Elling- ton Workshops Youth Ensemble

Where: Westfield State University
577 Western Ave.,
Westfield, MA
When: 10AM–12PM — **Cost:** \$250
To register online:
www.westfield.ma.edu/jazzworkshop
Info: 413-572-5523 or
twatkins@westfield.ma.edu

Mondays - September 23 — December Westfield State University Duke Elling- ton Workshops Adult Ensemble

Where: Westfield State University
577 Western Ave.,
Westfield, MA

When: 6PM–8PM — **Cost:** \$250
To register online:
www.westfield.ma.edu/jazzworkshop
Info: 413-572-5523 or
twatkins@westfield.ma.edu

Tuesdays

Adult Basic Education & SNAP Path to Work Enrollment (GED/HiSET Classes)

Where: Training Resources of America
32-34 Hampden St., Spfld., MA
When: 11AM — **FREE**
Info: 413-732-2223 or
jmcdonald@tra-inc.org

Tuesdays

Mason Square C3 — Community Engagement Initiative Working Together for a Safer Community

Where: Mason Square Branch Library
765 State St., Spfld., MA
When: 11AM — **FREE**
Info: 413-263-6853

Wednesdays

Playgroup

Ages birth - 5 yrs old (siblings welcome)
Where: Mason Square Branch Library
765 State St., Spfld., MA
When: 10:30AM–11:30AM — **FREE**
Info: 413-263-6853

Wednesday - Friday

White Lion's Summer Beer Garden

Outdoor Beer, Music, Food & Garden
Where: Tower Square Park
1477 Main St., Spfld., MA
When: 4PM–9PM
Info: info@whitelionbrewing.com

Thursdays

Holyoke Farmers' Market

Where: Intersection of High St. &
Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA
When: 10AM–2PM

Fridays

Downtown Springfield Farmers' Market

Where: Court Square, Springfield, MA
When: 11AM–3PM

Fridays

Food Truck Fridays

Where: MGM Springfield
One MGM Way, Springfield, MA
When: 11AM

Saturdays

Yoga in the Park

By: Dharma Yoga Studio
Where: MGM Springfield
One MGM Way, Springfield, MA
When: 9AM–10AM — **FREE**
Info: 413-732-2223 or
jmcdonald@tra-inc.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE "WOMAN OF THE YEAR"



Denise M. Hurst, STCC Vice President of Advancement and External Affairs was selected as the 2019 Professional Women's Chamber Woman of the Year. Left: Denise accepts the award from Board President Gillian Palmer. Right: Denise poses with Board Members. Below: Her family shows their support!



Hurst Family



Rosemond Family



Estrada Family



STCC Family

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Congratulations to Ohannes Zanazanian, who is in the grey shirt standing in between his proud parents, Moises and Marie. Family and friends, some of whom traveled from as far away as Florida, California and Puerto Rico gathered to celebrate with him at his recent high school graduation party.



WEDDING CELEBRATION

Lisa Marie Marrow & Frederick Ashley Hurst - July 6, 2019



