

# THE BLACK LENS<sup>TM</sup> SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

## The Poor People's Campaign

National Coalition Revives Dr. King's Legacy with 40 Days of Actions



Just a year before his assassination, at a Southern Christian Leadership Conference staff retreat in May 1967, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said the following:

"I think it is necessary for us to realize that we have moved from the era of civil rights to the era of human rights... [W]hen we see that there must be a radical redistribution of economic and political power, then we see that for the last twelve years we have been in a reform movement... That after Selma and the Voting Rights Bill, we moved into a new era, which must be an era of revolution... In short, we have moved into an era where we are called upon to raise certain basic questions about the whole society."

Later that year, in December 1967, Dr. King announced the plan to bring together poor people from across the country for a new march on Washington. This march was to demand better jobs, better homes, better education—better lives than the ones they were living. Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy explained that the intention of the Poor People's Campaign of 1968 was to "dramatize the plight of America's poor of all races and make very clear that they are sick and tired of waiting for a better life."

King aligned with the struggle of the poor and Black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee in March and April 1968. He suggested their struggle for dignity was a dramatization of the issues taken up by the Poor People's Campaign—a fight by capable, hard workers against dehumanization, discrimination and poverty wages in the richest country in the world. It was there in Memphis, TN, that an assassin would end Dr. King's life on April 4th, 1968.

Throughout his many speeches in the last year of his life, Dr. King described the unjust economic conditions facing millions of people worldwide. He held up the potential of the poor to come together to transform the whole of society. He knew that for the load of poverty to be lifted, the thinking and behavior of a critical mass of the American people would have to be changed. To accomplish this change of consciousness King said a "new and unsettling force" had to be formed. He described this force as a multi-racial "nonviolent army of the poor, a freedom church of the poor."

Today, 50 years later, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is uniting tens of thousands

of people across the country to revive King's "freedom church of the poor" and to challenge what are described as the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality.

On the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, Co-Chairs, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, surrounded by Poor People's Campaign members from across the country, announced a national campaign - 40 Days of Moral Action and called on people of conscience across the country to participate in a six week series of nonviolent direct actions.

Washington State was one of over 30 states across the country and in Washington, DC where people headed to their state capitals on May 14th to kick off the six weeks of direct action. Local activists in Spokane have traveled to Olympia each Monday since the May 14 kick-off and have also held local rallies in Spokane each week.

For more information about the history, demands and principles of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, or to get involved, visit <https://www.poor-peoplescampaign.org>. (Source: [poorpeoplescampaign.org](https://www.poor-peoplescampaign.org))



## How Can You Support the Black Lens?

**SUBSCRIBE • ADVERTISE • DONATE • SHARE**

Visit [blacklensnews.com](https://blacklensnews.com) • 509-795-1964 • [sandy@blacklensnews.com](mailto:sandy@blacklensnews.com)



ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

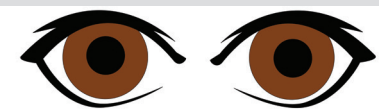
Look

Smile

Speak



I went with my mom to an event last week. We were walking down the sidewalk trying to figure out where we were supposed to go and we spotted another African American person. It's a thing in Spokane that if you are going to an African American event and you see an African American person, you make an assumption that they must be going to the same place that you are. Most of the time they are.



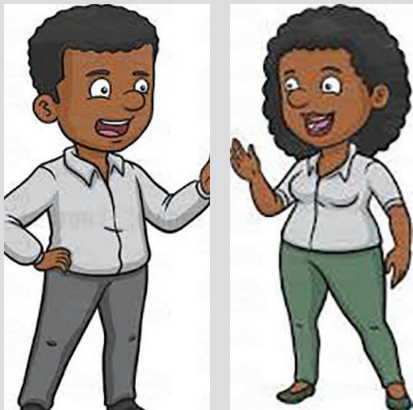
LOOK



SMILE

My mom was raised in the south, so it is customary for Black people in the South to talk to each other, and even though our family has lived in Spokane since the 1970s, my mom's southern upbringing still comes out when she sees another Black person. She smiles and she speaks. And that's what she did as this person approached. She smiled and she spoke.

The person had their phone buried in their phone and they either didn't hear her or they were ignoring her, so she spoke again. Louder this time. The person walked past. No eye contact. No greeting. Not even an acknowledgment of her existence.



SPEAK

I noticed the disappointment on my mom's face. I have felt it as well, when I have made an effort to reach out to another African American person in this town, longing for a connection, only to feel invisible. I'm used to feeling invisible in Spokane, but for some reason it hurts more when Black people do it to me.

So, I decided to start a Black Lens campaign this summer in honor of my mother. I am making a commitment that I will Look, Smile and Speak to as many people as possible, but particularly African American folks.

My hope is that in some small way we can change the culture of Spokane and bring a little bit of southern hospitality to the Pacific Northwest.

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

The Black Lens is a community newspaper, based in Spokane, WA, that it is focused on the news, events, issues, people and information important to Spokane's African American/Black Community and beyond. The paper is published on the first of each month.

Contact Information:

Square Peg Multimedia, 1312 N. Monroe St, #148, Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 795-1964, sandy@blacklensnews.com

Subscriptions:

Delivered monthly by mail - \$45/year - subscribe by mail or online

Submission/Advertising Deadline: 15th of every month

For information visit the website at blacklensnews.com

Facebook: blacklensnews; Twitter: blacklensnews; Instagram: blacklensnews

Published by Square Peg Multimedia LLC Copyright (c) 2018 All Rights Reserved

SCORE

Spokane

Starting a Business?

Get Free Advice Today.

SCORE


FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

www.scorespokane.org

509.353.2821

scorespokane@gmail.com

Looking for a Home?



Ty Patterson



BROKER

LICENSED IN WASHINGTON

RETIRED LIEUTENANT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U.S. MARINES, SEMPER FIDELIS



MOBILE

509-723-7152

ty@typatterson.realtor

www.typatterson.realtor

Windermere

REAL ESTATE

Windermere Manito LLC

Let's Get It!!!



# Imagine Jazz at The House of Soul

## The Vincent Herring Quartet: Legendary Jazz from New York

When Rachel Bade-McMurphy wanted to hear Jazz music, good Jazz music, she would travel to Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, even New York to soak up the smooth sounds that were often challenging to find in Spokane.

“We have been running something called Spokane Jazz Scene since we moved here in 2009. When we originally started that we were trying to spur the local scene a little bit and trying to work with promotion. We realized last year that we needed to do something bigger.”

Rachel was at a concert in Seattle to see Chick Corea, a legendary Jazz pianist, when she looked around and noticed that there were about eight other people who had also traveled there from Spokane. “We said, look at us, we’re all spending all of this money to drive over to Seattle.”

Rachel did the math and figured that if she could find a group of other people in Spokane, about 100, who were as interested in Jazz music as she was, then she could bring quality Jazz musicians to Spokane. She contacted Max Daniels, manager of The House of Soul on Wall street in downtown Spokane and soon after ‘Imagine Jazz’ was born.

The idea was to bring New York caliber Jazz musicians to The House of Soul so that the local community could interact with people who have played with the masters of jazz music. “These are the videos that we pull up on YouTube and pull up on recordings and its just their names, but these guys were there and they know and



they have the stories. I wanted our community to be able to experience that,” and that is in fact what happened. Spokane’s first ever Imagine Jazz Festival took place in April 2018.

Rachel and company rented a piano and placed it at The House of Soul for seven nights of music, featuring local artists Brent Edstrom, Brian Ward, Riley Gray, Brian Ploeger, Rachel Bade-McMurphy, The Imagine Collective, Men of Rhythm, the Larsen Group, Matt Henson’s Jazz

Project, Kristina Ploeger and Orlando Sanchez. Clinics and workshops also took place at Holy Names Music Center.

The festival culminated on the seventh night with headliner, The Willie Jones III Quintet, featuring legendary jazz drummer Willie Jones III. As a part of the festival, students from EWU, WSU, SFCC, SAJE and Whitworth University were also able to receive clinics from Willie Jones III and his band members Jeremy Pelt, Ralph Moore, Gerald Cannon and Eric Reed.

The success of Spokane’s inaugural Imagine Jazz, which musicians and audience members in attendance felt was one of the best Jazz shows they had ever seen in Spokane, has been a catalyst for other opportunities and Imagine Jazz hopes to bring more of the “big city vibe” and great music to Spokane by offering great Jazz shows 4-6 times per year and an annual festival each year, similar to the festival in April.

The goal of the series is to advocate for true artistry and to try to get those artists that aren’t always chosen by commercial entities because they might not be as well known, or don’t fit what’s popular and marketable. “These guys are the real deal, they play every day in NY, and we want to be able to bring that here.”

Right now, Imagine Jazz is busy gearing up for their next two events, one on June 19th and the other on October 24th.

The June 19th event, featuring the Vincent Herring Quartet, will be a one day concert and one day master class workshop. The musicians will arrive in town on Monday June 18th for the master class and then the concert will be on the 19th. Students, and others who are interested, will be treated to a private session with Vincent Herring (Saxophone), David Kikosi (Piano), Yasushi Nakamara (Bass), and Carl Allen (Drums).

*You are invited to Imagine Jazz with the Vincent Herring Quartet, June 19th, 7:30pm, House of Soul, 120 N Wall St, Spokane, WA 99201. Tickets \$25. <https://imaginejazz.org>*

# Your vote absolutely matters!

Dennis Cronin was trained by Spokane’s Civil Rights Pioneer, Carl Maxey. Since then he has been diligently working to ensure equal justice for all Spokane families. He now needs your help to get elected to Spokane County Superior Court.

If you don’t know if you’re registered, visit our site to find out:  
**[www.DennisCroninForJudge.com](http://www.DennisCroninForJudge.com)**

**Help us spread the word! Please follow, like, and share!**

   @CroninForJudge



★ ELECT ★

Dennis  
**Cronin**

FOR SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE POS. 10



# BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

## Stacey Abrams Wins Big in Georgia and Now Has a Shot at Becoming 1st African-American Female Governor

(Reprinted from *The Root*, Jason Johnson, <https://www.theroot.com>)

While the polls in Georgia officially closed at 7 p.m., the window of opportunity for Stacey Abrams, the first Black woman to win a gubernatorial nomination for any major party in Georgia, opened up.

With only 34 percent of the vote in, everybody from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution to CNN to Stevie Wonder could see that Stacey Abrams' 75-25 percent lead over Stacey Evans wouldn't disappear. By the time 53 percent of the vote was in, it was evident that something special was happening: Abrams was still leading 75-25 percent and had more than 200,000 primary votes, 50,000 more than Casey Cagle, the sitting lieutenant governor and the front-runner in the Republican primary.

At the Atlanta Sheraton, as the crowd slowly dripped in, people were calling this race by 8:30 p.m., long before some precincts were done counting their final votes. Abrams' victory is not only cause for celebration among African Americans, women, young voters and progressives—she also managed to do something that Democrats in Georgia are incredibly desperate to do: get the attention of the national Democratic Party. Georgia, whose Democrat Party has suffered defeat after defeat despite fielding adequate candidates over the years, needed a win. More than that, Georgia needed a strong showing by Abrams in the Democratic primary in order to stay on the Democratic National Committee's radar for the fall midterms, as well as remain a



hot location for major donors from across the country.

"We needed to show that we can turn out low-propensity voters," said a local activist involved in voter turnout. "We targeted counties and precincts that usually had 2 or 3 percent African-American turnout, and we jumped it up to 10 or 12 percent. That's good news, and donors need to hear our efforts are working."

Abrams' victory not only puts Georgia on the map but also heals an unnecessary and overblown wound in the Democratic Party, just in time for what might be a nation-changing midterm election. Abrams secured the support of Sen. Bernie

Sanders' Our Revolution and dozens of progressive and minority political organizations, while at the same time securing the endorsement of Hillary Clinton with an Election Day robocall encouraging people to vote.

So much for the Bernie-vs.-Hillary battle that was supposed to doom the party. So much for the belief that an African-American woman couldn't be competitive in a red state. So much for the idea that a single black woman couldn't win in the suburbs. So much for the idea that the entrenched black political elite in Atlanta that stood against Abrams actually speaks for the masses of black, white, Hispanic, Asian and young voters in Georgia.

And so much for the idea that the only way to victory for the Democratic Party is to chase after the same conservative white voters who have rejected Dems since the only Clinton in politics was Bill. Abrams' victory speaks to a new, vibrant political and economic coalition that challenges the status quo in Democratic politics and America as a whole.

As Abrams' supporters partied the night away on Peachtree Street, the work is only just beginning. There will be a tough race against either Lt. Gov. Cagle or Secretary of State Brian Kemp. However, that is a battle for another time and is still several months away. For now, it's a night of reveling and victory, of broken narratives and new stories. Tonight is the night that black Stacey jumped from being a hidden figure to becoming a historic political role model.

## Chadwick Boseman Celebrates Howard University Graduates

Special to the *Trice Edney News Wire* from *Howard University*

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – Howard University alumnus and award-winning actor Chadwick Boseman spoke to graduates about the significance of making it to the top of the Hilltop during the Howard University 2018 Commencement Convocation May 12.

In front of an audience of more than 8,000 family and friends, Boseman encouraged the graduates to not only exceed in their next steps, but also strive to achieve their life's purpose.

"When you have reached the Hilltop and you are deciding on next steps, you would rather find purpose than a career. Purpose is an essential element of you

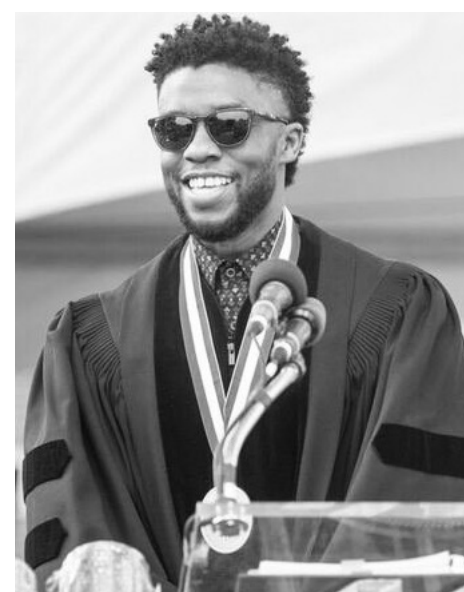
that crosses disciplines," said Boseman.

He applauded the members of the class of 2018 for climbing up their academic slopes and making it up the Hilltop.

"The Hilltop represents the culmination of the intellectual and spiritual journey you have undergone while you were here," said Boseman. "Each of you have had your own difficulties with The Hill, but it's okay because you made it on top. Sometimes, you need to feel the pain and sting of defeat to activate the real passion and purpose that God predestined inside of you."

Boseman also declared his Alma Mater, "a magical place - where the dynamics of positive and negative seems to exist in extremes." He referenced an inspirational moment he experienced when meeting the iconic Muhammad Ali on the University yard; highlighting how at Howard, magical moments can happen to give students powerful encouragement on their toughest days.

"I remember walking across this yard, when Muhammad Ali was walking to-



wards me with his hands raised in a quintessential guard. I was game to play along with him," said Boseman. "What an honor to be challenged by the G.O.A.T. I walked away floating like a butterfly...walked away light and ready to take on the world. That is the magic of this place. Almost anything can happen here."





# HEALTH & MEDICINE

## Why Social Determinants of Health Matter

By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Social Determinants of Health (SDH) are the areas of your social and environmental condition and experiences that directly impact your health and health status.

Ask any care coordinator and you will hear story after story of patients whose clinical status was affected by challenges such as access to care, socioeconomic or educational status, cultural norms and beliefs, and even their own living environments. Traditionally, these challenges are more familiar to those in public health fields rather than those with more clinical or healthcare administrative backgrounds. However, it is critical to have a deep understanding of the social determinants of health and how they affect every aspect of your health.

Health starts in our homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities. We know that taking care of ourselves by eating well and staying active, not smoking, getting the recommended immunizations and screening tests, and seeing a doctor when we are sick all influence our health. Our health is also determined in part by access to social and economic opportunities; the resources and supports available in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities; the quality of our schooling; the safety of our workplaces; the cleanliness of our water, food, and air; and the nature of our social interactions and relationships. The conditions in which we live explain in part why some Americans are healthier than others and why Americans more generally are not as healthy as they could be.

Many studies have shown a direct correlation between where a child lives and his or her future economic opportunities as an adult. A person's health is determined by more than just access to health care. Social and behavioral factors contribute more than 60 percent of an individual's health status. Research shows that health behaviors such as smoking, and diet and exercise are most determinants of premature death. Whether someone is able to engage in healthy behaviors is largely determined by a range of social, economic, and environmental factors.

Research shows that health disparities are the greatest in poor neighborhoods populated with people of color. These groups have the highest levels of chronic disease and many other conditions.



Keep in mind that this phenomena happens, particularly, in major cities where some of the world's top medical and research institutions reside. Yet, one segment of the population enjoys healthy existences, while others, in the same city languish in sickness with poor health outcomes. It certainly can't do due the services and treatments needed don't exist.

Across the United States, one thing is clear: It has everything to do with ZIP codes.

In Chicago, life expectancy can differ by as much as 16 years between just seven stops on the "L," between the Loop and Washington Park. In Philadelphia, the five miles that separate Society Hill from North Philadelphia can add or subtract 20 years from your life. In New York City, if you reside near the Mets' Citi Field, you will live on average seven years longer than if you live near Yankee Stadium. That has nothing to do with the fortunes of the teams. These are some of the dramatic findings from research conducted by the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Society and Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Some neighborhoods have more liquor stores than grocery stores, lack safe and affordable housing, or have poor quality schools. And many urban and rural areas have experienced generations of isolation from opportunity.

For some of these neighborhoods the social determinants of their health clearly pose monumental challenges. It would be easy to say that we can't change the conditions where some people live and work.

In low-income neighborhoods, patients with diabetes are 10 times more likely to undergo limb amputation than those in affluent areas. Compared to white Americans, the rate of hospitalization for patients with diabetes is twice as high for Latinos and three times higher for African-Americans.

The death rate from breast cancer for African-American women is 50 percent higher than for white women. Racial and economic inequities in screening and treatment options contribute to this divide. In the U.S., 60 percent of low-income women are screened for breast cancer vs. 80 percent of high-income women. But even within the same economic stratum, white women have higher screening rates than African-American and Latino women.

Among health care officials, there's broad agreement that these inequities exist. There's less agreement about the reasons for them or how to narrow the gaps.

But there's a lot to be gained even through small changes. And over time, those changes can alter a person's odds of dying an unnecessary, early death to one that favors a long, healthy life.

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

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan.

*Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. A health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics, Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. Listen to Glenn, every Saturday at 9:00am (EST) on www.wurdradio.com, and Sundays at 8:30am (EST) on www.wdasfm.com. For more good health information, visit: www.glennellis.com*

## Experimental Drug Gets Green Light for New Ebola Outbreak

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) – The Ebola virus which took thousands of lives in West Africa has resurfaced in central Africa. This time, health officials are ready to put an experimental drug to the test.

The outbreak, which has caused at least 19 deaths and 39 confirmed and suspected cases, was reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) Bikoro Health Zone, Equateur Province between April 4 and May 13, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The drug, known as rVSV-ZEBOV, was developed over a decade ago by the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is now licensed to Merck to help protect people who have not yet been infected with Ebola.

It was proven safe and effective when first used in Guinea in 2015. Some 1,510 individuals were vaccinated between March 17 and April 21. Guinea was declared Ebola virus disease-free on Dec. 29. The trial ended on Jan. 20, 2016.

Others working with WHO are Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Médecins Sans

Frontières; and the DRC's Ministry of Health to introduce the shot, a WHO spokesperson confirmed Monday.

A "ring vaccination" approach around the epicenter of the outbreak in the Congo, will be used. But because Merck's Ebola shot hasn't yet won regulatory approval, officials must obtain an importation license, plus establish a "formal agreement on the research protocols," WHO spokesperson Tarik Jašarević told FiercePharma.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the world health body, said the WHO has a stockpile of 4,300 doses of the vaccine in Geneva; the company also has 300,000 doses of the vaccine stockpiled in the U.S.

The "ring vaccination" approach was a strategy used in 1977 to control smallpox. The idea is to vaccinate people who know someone who has been infected and the people who know those people, in an expanding "ring" around the infections.

So far, 393 people have been identified as part of the "ring" around people who are known or suspected to have been infected in the Congo.



*GLOBAL INFORMATION NETWORK creates and distributes news and feature articles on current affairs in Africa to media outlets, scholars, students and activists in the U.S. and Canada. Our goal is to introduce important new voices on*

*topics relevant to Americans, to increase the perspectives available to readers in North America and to bring into their view information about global issues that are overlooked or under-reported by mainstream media.*



# YOU SHOULD KNOW

(Or Things You Probably Didn't Learn In School)

## Maggie Lena Mitchell

### First Woman to Charter a Bank

Maggie Lena Mitchell was born in Richmond, Virginia on July 15, 1864. Her mother, Elizabeth Draper, was a former slave and the assistant cook for Elizabeth Van Lew, an abolitionist on whose estate Maggie was born. Her father, Eccles Cuthbert, was an Irish-born newspaperman who had met Maggie's mother on the Van Lew estate. The two were never married, and shortly after Maggie's birth, Elizabeth married William Mitchell, who was a butler on the estate.

As a young girl Maggie was forced to take on a number of responsibilities after the tragic death of her father in 1876. He was found drowned in the river and his death was ruled a suicide by police, but Maggie's mother was convinced that he had been murdered.

The death left Maggie's family in poverty and she worked as a delivery woman in a laundry business her mother started, as well as a babysitter while attending segregated public schools in Richmond. Nonetheless, she graduated at the very top of her class in 1883. She then taught grade school for three years at the Lancaster School and took classes in accounting and business at the same time.

In 1886, Maggie Lena Mitchell married Armistead Walker, Jr., a wealthy Black contractor and member of her church. They had two sons, Russell and Melvin, whom she took care of while her husband worked.

Mrs. Walker became an important community organizer for the Independent Order of St. Luke, a fraternal burial society that provided humanitarian services to the elderly. She started a newspaper for the St. Luke organization in 1902 called the St. Luke Herald, and after the success of the newspaper she started the St. Luke Penny Sav-

ings Bank and became the first woman in the United States to charter a bank. She was also the bank's first president. During the Great Depression two other banks in Richmond merged with St. Luke to become The Consolidated Bank and Trust Company. It was the oldest Black-owned and Black-run bank in the United States until 2005 when it was acquired by Abigail Adams National Bancorp.

Mrs. Walker was also an activist for African American and women's rights. She was a member of the National Association of Colored Women, and also the vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for the Richmond chapter.

In 1923 Walker received an honorary Master's degree at Virginia Union University, a historically Black university in Richmond.

By 1928, Walker's health began to decline and she was soon confined to a wheelchair because of paralysis. Nonetheless she remained president of St. Luke's Bank until her death on December 15, 1934.

A statue honoring Maggie Walker was unveiled during a special ceremony on July 15, 2017, on what would have been Walker's 153rd birthday. The statue is located in downtown Richmond near the Jackson Ward neighborhood where many of Walker's life accomplishments occurred.

*Sources: biography.com; http://wtvr.com; Kwame A. Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, eds., Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African & African American Experience (New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2004); National Park Service, "Maggie Lena Walker," http://www.nps.gov/mawa/learn/historyculture/index.htm.Contributor: Irons, Stasia Mehlschel, University of Washington*



## James H. Cone, Founder Of Black Liberation Theology



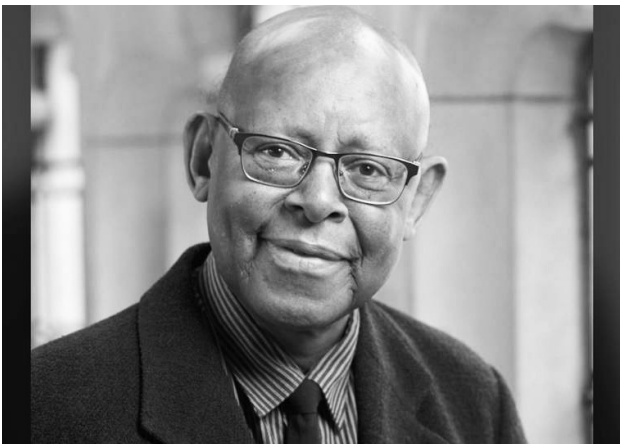
Rev. Dr. James H. Cone, known as the founder of Black liberation theology, died on April 28, 2018 at the age of 79. He was a longtime professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Rev. Cone's 1969 book, "Black Theology & Black Power," was a critique of racism within Christianity and indicted established Black churches for their inability to appreciate the Black Power movement and their continued cooperation with the systemic oppression of white churches. According to a statement from New York's Union Theological Seminary, Rev. Cone laid out an argument for "God's radical identification with Black people in the United States," launching what would come to be known as Black Liberation Theology.

Black Liberation Theology is a doctrine based on Christian Liberation Theology arguing that humanity must liberate itself not only from spiritual slavery but also from poverty and economic degradation. According to Cone, the Scriptures called for a stronger emphasis on helping liberate people from slavery, oppression and degradation in all forms, and that most established churches ignore this call.

Rev. Cone graduated with a BA from Philander Smith College in 1958. Three years later he received a Master of Divinity degree from Garrett Theological Seminary and earned his MA and PhD from Northwestern University in 1963 and 1965 respectively.

Cone was influenced by the Civil Rights and Black Power movements that shaped his understanding of Christianity. He grappled with the paradoxical nature of Western



Christianity—its espousal of brotherhood and its simultaneous embrace of institutional racism. He recognized that, over centuries, white Christian churches not only remained silent partners in the exploitation of various groups but also actively engaged and profited from it.

In addition to "Black Theology & Black Power," Rev. Cone also authored other groundbreaking books, including "A Black Theology of Liberation," "Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare?" and "The Cross and the Lynching Tree."

Rev. Cone was a Charles A. Briggs Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. He was also an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Professor Cornel West calls Dr. Cone "the greatest liberation theologian to emerge in the American empire."

(Sources: <http://www.blackpast.org>, [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org), [npr.org](http://npr.org))



# NAACP UPDATE: SPOKANE

## Bringing Kids of Color to Success in Schools

<http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com>

The May 21st meeting of the NAACP was held at the West Central Community Center. The meeting was focused on school discipline reform and racial disparities in suspension, expulsion and arrest rates in the Spokane Public Schools.

The meeting included a panel that was facilitated by Nikki Lockwood, a member of the Every Student Counts Alliance and a parent organizer with the ACLU.

Panel members were Jerrell Haynes, Board of Directors, Spokane Public Schools (SPS); Oscar Harris, Coordinator of Family Support & Community Engagement with Spokane Public Schools; Stacey Wells, a Career Specialist with Next Generation Zone; Sharon Randle, Spokane NAACP Vice President, and three students from The Community School.

The discussion highlighted the experiences of the students and their perspectives on racial disparities in the schools that they attended. A Q&A and community discussion followed the panel.

The goal of the meeting was to move beyond the statistics and to identify solutions that will help students of color to be successful in school.

The Every Student Counts Alliance is a group of advocates, parents, and community leaders seeking to reform school discipline in Spokane. Members include Team Child, the Spokane NAACP, the ACLU of Washington, The Arc of Spokane, the Northwest Justice Project, The Northwest Autism Center, the Spokane Regional Health District and Passages Family Support. They share information and ideas, collaborate to identify solutions, and work collectively to elevate the voices of students and families.



# Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears

## Living and Loving While Black



It's been a bad month of "While Blacks." The While Blacks, for the purposes and timing of this article, are Black people's encounters with police, or other security enforcement, because a white person called 911 to report what they perceived as suspicious or threatening behavior on the part of Black people in their vicinity. The so-called suspicious behavior is Black people going about the business of their daily lives, the same as, well, white people.

A few of the much publicized While Blacks in the last few weeks are:

— Police arresting two Black men for sitting and talking to each other in a Philadelphia Starbucks after being called by a white Starbucks employee who reported their "suspicious behavior;"

— Three Black women suddenly swarmed by seven police cars and a helicopter, while putting suitcases in their car after checking out of an Airbnb in Rialto, CA, because a white neighbor thought they were robbing the place;

— Police called by a white woman to report a Black family setting up a barbecue grill near her in a public park in Oakland, CA, where many other non-Black families had also set up charcoal grills;

— Campus security at Yale called by a white student, because she found a Black woman student napping in the dormitory common room while she was working on a paper;

— Police responding to a suspected burglary when a white neighbor saw a former White House staffer, who happened to be a Black man, moving into his new apartment in the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

So, there we have it; talking in a public place, checking out of an Airbnb, grilling in a public park, napping in your own dormitory, and moving into your own apartment, While Black.

And the list of newsworthy While Blacks in just the last few weeks, does not end there. We've been inundated with print and broadcast reports and videos posted on Facebook and Twitter capturing these encounters. #LivingWhileBlack. This seems to come as shocking news to many people who are not Black. While it has to be acknowledged that all Black people have not had an up close and personal While Black encounter themselves, we all know it's just par for the course in America.

It's against this back drop that on Mother's Day weekend, my beautiful 84-year-old, dreadlocked, grey-haired Mother and I, along with two other Black women friends arrived at an upscale restaurant in Sonoma County, California for a happy hour rendezvous. The bar area and restaurant had just opened, so it wasn't at all busy. We stood at the podium by the front door waiting for the host to acknowledge us. He was busy on a somewhat lengthy phone call, from which he never looked up to simply smile or mouth that he would be with us shortly. When he hung up the phone, he continued writing something, never once acknowledging our presence, for by now a considerable length of time.

When one of us spoke to him he finally he looked up, clearly irritated, still not speaking. We asked him about being seated, at which point he proceeded to tell us where we could not sit. One of us pointedly, but politely asked his name, then asked the name of the manager of the restaurant, and where we might find him. The young man with a mixture of incredulity and contempt, gestured toward the bar area. One of my friends proceeded firmly, but calmly to tell the manager in no uncertain terms that the greeter's behavior was unacceptable. The manager was very apologetic and polite, and we were finally seated.

As soon as we sat down, one of my friends said, "let's take a moment to compose ourselves. We will not let this man's behavior spoil our afternoon." We closed our eyes, took a deep breath, and sat in silence for a few moments. My friends and my Mother seemed able to transcend the situation quickly. However, I was still burning with anger, ready to walk out of the restaurant and curse somebody out on the way.

But walking out would not have been the right thing to do. The right thing to do was exactly what my Mother and my friends did, and I'm glad I yielded my emotions to their example. We had firmly and directly, but without drama confronted the manager. Having done that, we stayed, thereby demonstrating our personal and collective power, our authority over the situation, and our strength and dignity.

Was the greeter's behavior racially motivated, or was he normally rude, condescending and egocentric? Did he see four Black women standing in front of him and cop an attitude, or had he watched too many vintage movies from the 1940s and assumed the persona of an arrogant maitre'd at a posh restaurant—a gate keeper wielding his petty power?

I've been a Black woman on this planet long enough to have been psychologically beaten down, ignored, undermined, preyed upon and betrayed more than a few times, because of my gender, my race, or both. This could have terminally diminished my Spirit, but quite the opposite. I've gained strength, resilience, and wisdom over the years. When I encounter blatant racist behavior, I don't hesitate to call it out immediately, but even in Donald Trump's proudly-let-your-hate-show America, most racism is covert.

Still, I don't walk out of my house everyday expecting a While Black encounter. That would deplete my precious life energy, and make me weak, ineffective, and a hostage to fear and anger. To diminish myself in such a way would render meaningless the struggles of my ancestors and betray the sacrifices of millions of Black people who came before me. It would dishonor my parents, who never let me forget that I was deserving, worthy, and strong.

To live in anger, hate and fear would dishonor my humanity and my call to Christian ministry. It would dishonor my Divine Spirit. It would dishonor God. If living while Black means living in fear while Black, then that's not really living at all. I choose to live.

Racism is woven into the fabric of America. It is systemic. We can train, educate and legislate behavior, but that alone will never work. Nothing short of the transformation of individual hearts will ever end racism. But I can't change anyone's heart. Even Jesus did not directly change hearts. He offered a different perspective—a radical new way of living and being in relationship with one another and with God. It is now as it was then, up to each individual whether or not we embrace such a liberating and loving world view.

I'm extremely grateful to the strong, proud Black women present with me in that restaurant on Mother's Day weekend, who helped me by their Spirit and example, transcend my anger and animosity, motivated by care for each other, and in service to the Divine Spark within us.

© Copyright Beverly Spears 2018



# Meghan's A Duchess Y'all!

## Meghan Markle: Our Black American Princess



By Renika Williams

I'm not sure how many of us have seen the classic 90's film B.A.P.S., starring Halle Berry, where a poor Black 20-something travels to Los Angeles to audition as a dancer for a music video, but instead gets cast by a scheming nephew to play the granddaughter of a rich, dying white man's long lost Black love interest.

What ensues is a lot of hilarity, and some heartfelt moments of understanding, but the moment that has stuck with me since I first saw the movie was when the old man, now on his death-bed, refers to Halle Berry's character Nisi and her friend as B.A.P.S or Black American Princesses.

Something about the phrase he bestowed upon the girls that he loved, in this tawdry 90's comedy, left me hopeful of the possibility that being Black and a Princess were finally not mutually exclusive, but also conversely, I was sad that these might be the only B.A.P.S I would ever get to see.

And then there was Meghan.

I have to say that I've been waiting for the royal wedding to happen for the last year and a half, ever since I first saw



Photo Credit: Alex Lubomirski/PA



a photo of them holding hands in public. I knew that this was it. She was my B.A.P. She would be the real thing, not the Hollywood version.

Their relationship has been shrouded with doubt, drama, and negative press from people who have a problem with Meghan's birthplace (Compton), skin color, and even the messiness of her bun/hair. She was in a place no Black person had dared go before, at least not in recent history, the British Royal Family. Not only had she dared to date Prince Harry, she dared to marry him. Live. On TV. In front of the world. Despite the hate and the humiliation her family caused her, she was destined to become our Black American Princess and nothing would stop her.

I forced my boyfriend to wake-up at 6:30am so we could watch the wedding LIVE. (Needless to say he wasn't happy, despite how supportive he was.)

But the moment of watching Meghan Markle – now Her Royal Highness Duchess of Sussex— walk down the aisle to the man of her dreams, the man that looked at her like he had never been so lucky in his entire Royal life, was the culmination of so many years of hoping that a Disney Princess could one day be one of us. That a real princess could one day look like one of us.

I will never forget the Royal Wedding or that kiss on the stairs of the Cathedral, or the day I saw my first real life Black American Princess.



The Kingdom Choir, a gospel choir from South East England, founded and directed by Karen Gibson, sang "Stand By Me" and "This Little Light of Mine" as a part of the Royal wedding.



Nineteen year old, Sheku Kanneh-Mason performed during the royal ceremony. He comes from a musical family and started playing the cello when he was six years old. He won the 2016 BBC Young Musician competition and in January released a classical album titled 'Inspiration' that pays tribute to his mentors and heroes.



Photo Credit: Alex Lubomirski/PA

## Bishop Michael Curry: 'The Power Of Love' Sermon at Royal Wedding

American Bishop Michael Curry is the Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church. He was elected in 2015 and is the first African American to serve in that capacity. The Royal wedding address is traditionally given by a senior clergy from the church of England, so the choice of an American pastor is a break from royal custom. Bishop Curry's Royal wedding sermon was titled "The Power of Love."

### Full Text of Bishop Curry's Sermon:

And now in the name of our loving, liberating and life-giving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

From the Song of Solomon in the Bible: Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

The late Dr Martin Luther King Jr once said, and I quote: "We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world, for love is the only way."

There's power in love. Don't underestimate it. Don't even over-sentimentalize it. There's power, power in love. If you don't believe me, think about a time when you



first fell in love. The whole world seemed to center around you and your beloved.

Oh there's power, power in love. Not just in its romantic forms, but any form, any shape of love. There's a certain sense in which when you are loved, and you know it, when someone cares for you, and you know it, when you love and you show it - it actually feels right.

There is something right about it. And there's a reason for it. The reason has to do with the source. We were made by a power of love, and our lives were meant - and are meant - to be lived in that love. That's why we are here.

Ultimately, the source of love is God himself: the source of all of our lives. There's

an old medieval poem that says: 'Where true love is found, God himself is there. The New Testament says it this way: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God, and those who love are born of God and know God. Those who do not love do not know God. Why? For God is love."

There's power in love. There's power in love to help and heal when nothing else can. There's power in love to lift up and liberate when nothing else will. There's power in love to show us the way to live.

Set me as a seal on your heart... a seal on your arm, for love is as strong as death.

But love is not only about a young couple. Now the power of love is demonstrated by the fact that we're all here. Two young peo-

ple fell in love, and we all showed up. But it's not just for and about a young couple, who we rejoice with. It's more than that.

Jesus of Nazareth on one occasion was asked by a lawyer to sum up the essence of the teachings of Moses, and he went back and he reached back into the Hebrew scriptures, to Deuteronomy and Leviticus, and Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

And then in Matthew's version, he added, he said: "On these two, love of God and love of neighbor, hang all the law, all the prophets, everything that Moses wrote, everything in the holy prophets, everything in the scriptures, everything that God has been trying to tell the world ... love God, love your neighbors, and while you're at it, love yourself."

Someone once said that Jesus began the most revolutionary movement in human history.

A movement grounded in the unconditional love of God for the world - and a movement mandating people to live that love, and in so doing to change not only their lives but the very life of the world itself.

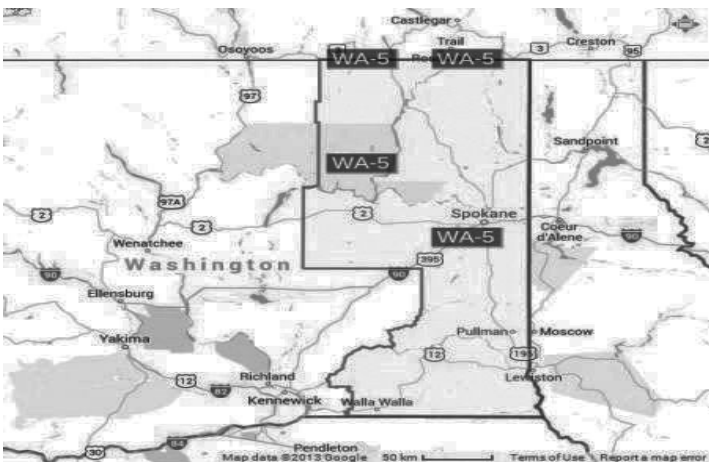
Continued on Page 19



# Nov. Election - 5th Congressional District

## Meet Your Congressional Candidates

How much do you know about the candidates that will be running for office in the upcoming *November 2018 election*? The decisions that members of Congress are currently making and will make in the future stand to have a significant impact on our community. Due to the importance of the upcoming November election for the 5th Congressional District, The Black Lens will be running a monthly column featuring the two primary candidates. I encourage you to read their answers, educate yourself, and vote like your life and your community depend on it. Because they do!



# Black Lens June Questions

**Topic - Prescription Drug Prices** - According to the International Federation of Health Plans, Americans pay two to six times more than the rest of the world for the same brand-name prescription drugs. It has also been reported that nearly 1 in 5 Americans are not able to afford the medication they were prescribed. As with other health care issues, the issue of high prescription drug prices is disproportionately impacting the African American community.

**Questions:** What do you see as the cause and the impact of current prescription drug costs on the American public? What role has congress played in things being the way that they are? What needs to be done now to address the problem?

## Cathy McMorris Rodgers

*Q: What do you see as the cause and the impact of current prescription drug costs on the American public? What role has congress played in things being the way that they are? What needs to be done now to address the problem?*

Recently, drug prices have risen dramatically, making it difficult for many people in Eastern Washington to access important – and sometimes life-saving – treatments and medications.

Unfortunately, much of this mess was created by Congress with the passage of the Affordable Care Act. Under the ACA, folks on the individual market are responsible for about 46 percent of the total cost of their prescriptions. In contrast, folks who receive health care through their employer are typically only responsible for about 20 percent of the cost. It's apparent the people who likely need the most support are being covered at half the rate, and are left to pay more than twice as much out-of-pocket.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health, I've had the opportunity to support legislation (which I hope Congress will adopt) that addresses the cost of prescription drugs.

First, we must increase transparency surrounding the actual costs. While regulations currently exist to limit what a pharmacy can charge for a particular drug, it's not easy for patients to find. These secret and deceptive costs are making the problem worse.

This year, I've co-sponsored H.R. 1316, the Prescription Drug Price Transparency Act, to require transparency and accountability for pharmacy benefit managers, the middlemen who manage prescription drug programs for health plans and Medicare Part D. This is critical for patients to make informed decisions about where they fill their prescriptions.

Second, I believe costs could be driven down drastically by increasing compe-



tion among providers. Under current law, navigating the complicated and outdated system of regulatory hurdles often discourages manufacturers from pursuing the development of a drug if a similar option already exists.

This is why I've supported H.R. 749. It would increase competition in the pharmaceutical industry and make commonsense revisions to safely streamline the review and approval process for generic drugs or supplements. By speeding up these processes, reducing duplication, and getting new drugs to market faster, we can increase competition for safe generic drugs to help bring down costs for working families in Eastern Washington.

Furthermore, I believe encouraging a free and open market increases the possibility of discovering life-saving drugs, therapies and treatments. And ultimately, I will continue to advocate for families, seniors, veterans and those with disabilities to have access to the treatments and medications they need. I will continue leading on legislation to make prescription drugs affordable and pushing to deliver results to help those who need it most.

## Lisa Brown

*Q: What do you see as the cause and the impact of current prescription drug costs on the American public? What role has congress played in things being the way that they are? What needs to be done now to address the problem?*

It's unacceptable that in the United States of America nearly a quarter of our population can't afford the medications they need to survive.

In every one of the 12 town halls I've held throughout the district, I've heard from people struggling to afford their prescriptions or about their aging parents who can't afford the medication they need. I met a woman in Newport who struggles to pay for the insulin she needs to keep her diabetes in check, and a woman in Spokane who told me she can't afford the \$125 per pill prescribed for her osteoporosis.

Because of health disparities, this is a problem that disproportionately impacts African Americans, who are 77 percent more likely to develop diabetes than white Americans and 40 percent more likely to have high blood pressure — two health conditions that require ongoing medication.

Congress has not taken meaningful action to address this problem that every American will face at some point in their life. Recently, the Trump Administration announced weak recommendations to try and lower the cost of medications. However, the president left out the single most important thing we can do: allow Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to secure lower prices in their contracts, then pass those cost savings on to consumers.

Unfortunately, my opponent has opposed attempts in Congress to lower drugs prices and has not represented eastern Washington seniors and fami-



lies on this issue. The argument that's often used is that drug companies need high profit margins to conduct research, but the clear solution is us investing in publicly funded research like other countries do.

Many people feel that the real reason Congress hasn't addressed this issue is because of special interests and pharmaceutical industry donors who contribute to many congresspersons, including my opponent. That's why I've pledged to not accept contributions from corporate PACs, and won't take money from the pharmaceutical industry.

Instead, I'll help solve this problem in Congress using the same tools I used to help lower drug prices in Washington. When I was in the Legislature, I successfully worked to pass a bill allowing us to negotiate drug prices for the state's Medicaid population, then we passed on those savings to tax payers and patients.

I've already done this at the state level, and I'll do it again in Congress. For too many people, it's a matter of life and death.

I MATTER. YOU MATTER. WE MATTER.

# BACK VOTERS MATTER

Are You Registered to Vote? #StayWokeAndVote ejp.m4bl.org BlackVotersMatterFund.org



# YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT VOICE

I will never forget how I learned to acculturate in my family's homeland. This taught me that I am able to adapt to cultural transitions even though it may be difficult. I learned how to problem solve and it gave me a broad perspective of the world and the people in it. Who I am as a person today has been greatly shaped by these early experiences in my life, one of the key attributes being perseverance.

# YWCA IS ON A MISSION



# Coffee with Deva Bailey-Logan

## A Photographer's Black Girl Magic Captured



**By Erica Bullock**

At a coffee shop in downtown Spokane, wrapped in a heavy white sweater with hair pulled back tight and bright pink lipstick on full lips, sat a smiling young Black woman ready to share her vision of Black Girl Magic.

Deva Bailey-Logan is a photography student at Spokane Falls Community College and has a chance to compete in a competition called "The Shootout," which is hosted annually by SFCC and the Photo Arts Club.

The theme this year is to "Explore the Magic" and will challenge students to use the backdrop of the historic Masonic Temple to create videos and photos within this theme.

Bailey-Logan intends to capture local Black Girl Magic by highlighting the beauty she sees in all Black women. To her, Black Girl Magic is not magical just because we're Black, but because of the diversity among women of color in skin tone and experience. "We come in shades lighter than white to darker than dark and there is beauty in each of them."

To Bailey-Logan, Black Girl Magic means being supportive, caring and strong. In that way, "there is Black girl magic in everyone."

Her path to photography became apparent after pursuing cosmetology and hospitality degrees and failing to find satisfying work within those careers. Having started a blog for youth in Spokane, she knew it would be better with photographs. Since she couldn't afford to hire a professional to take them, she decided to learn herself.

Born in Gary, Indiana, and raised in towns in Michigan, she grew up in both rural and urban environments, which shows in her self-described "country, yet bougie" personality. She speaks with a direct calmness about some painful experiences dealing with drugs and abuse that initially altered her plans for her future.

Support from family, including 4-year-old daughter Zoe, and especially her close relationship with her mother Di-



anne Patterson-Bailey is what pushed her through the self-doubt to continue working toward the goal of earning a living at a job she loves. Recalling her childhood, "All I knew growing up was Black excellence," she said.

She is interested in food and fashion photography, with plans to push the industry towards never-before seen imagery. "I get frustrated with the mediocrity," she explained.

"Let's try something new. Let's put different people in the clothes," Bailey-Logan said. She explains that she has become bored with the imagery popular today from the posture of the models to the angles of the shots.

Her ultimate career goals include commercial advertising and photography, while also creating her own art.

Bailey-Logan said that sometimes her outspoken opinions are perceived as controversial and that has negatively impacted a few relationships with other Black women in the



Spokane area. That won't stop her from continuing to network or keep her from speaking her mind and expressing true self.

She plans to distinguish herself with the intentional use of diverse hair, skin tone and sexuality. She is working towards acceptance and normalizing an uglier aesthetic, "Why does everything have to be so pretty?" she asks. "That's not real life."



Much of last year Bailey-Logan spent talking. She spoke for her sex and relationship coaching business. She spoke for her hospitality consulting business. She also wrote for her blog. This year, she has backed away from speaking and writing every day because it is too exhausting. Her pursuit of a career in photography is in part because, "I no longer want to talk," she said with a laugh.

Bailey-Logan has plans to continue the Black Girl Magic photo series from a spiritual perspective and plans to work on projects starring men and masculinity as well. Explaining what it would mean to be able to make a living as a photographer, she responded that expressing herself is of the upmost importance with whatever she's working on. With photography, "I like the side of creating the emotion that I want to give you. I'm creating the feeling, the narrative, the story. And I'm going to give this emotion to you," she said.

Expect to see more of her work in the coming months on a dedicated website. Currently, her photographs are shared on her Instagram, @devaloganphotography.



## Varinique Davis: A Chance to Act in NYC

Varinique Davis is a talented senior at Eastern Washington University who will be graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Public Relations and a double minor in Journalism and Theatre.

She enjoys the subjects that she has studied, but Varinique's passion is acting, singing, and dancing, and her dream is to try to build a career doing what she loves.

Recently, Varinique had the opportunity to audition for the Open Jar Institute, an extremely competitive, 5-day Summer intensive held in New York from July 30 - August 4, that gives students the opportunity to work directly with Broadway actors to sharpen their

skills, network, see Broadway shows, and experience what it is like to work in the theatre in New York City.

The national auditions for the Open Jar Institute were held during the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Spokane and Varinique was chosen to participate, one of only 120 students across the entire country to make it into the program.

The cost to participate is \$2800 and Varinique has raised half of the money from family and friends, but needs help to raise the rest. She has set up a Go Fund Me Page. If you would like to help Varinique get to New York and pursue her dream, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/open-jar-institute-summer-intensive>.





# EWU’s Get Lit! Literary Festival 2018

## Brit Bennet Author: The Mothers

**Tell me about your background.**

I grew up in Oceanside, California, which is near San Diego. I lived there with my parents and my two older sisters. My dad is from Los Angeles, my mom is from Louisiana, so I had a lot of family in the south. Also a lot of family on the west coast. I went to undergrad at Stanford and then went to grad school in Michigan, so I spent a few years in the mid-west and now I’m back in Los Angeles.

**Were you a quiet kid?**

I think I was studious. I don’t know how quiet I was because I was very opinionated and still am. (*Opinionated about what?*) I was opinionated about a lot of things. I read a lot. I cared about politics from middle school. I started to have a political consciousness and started wanting to debate with people and get into those types of conversations.

**Was there something that sparked the love of writing for you?**

I was a very bookish kid. I loved reading. I loved writing. I wanted to be a writer from an early age. I would write little short stories and little things like that. I don’t know if there was one thing that sparked my love of writing. I know that my mom was and is the big reader in the family, so she always was reading and always had books in my hand and took us to the library, so I loved reading from a very young age.

I remember when I was in elementary school a teacher gave me a copy of the book ‘The Outsiders’ and that was a novel that I think changed me in a lot of ways. One, I just really loved the story, but two, she told me that S. E. Hinton wrote that book when she was a teenager, and I was like, I didn’t know teenagers could write books, and that was something that I took as a personal challenge. Can I write a novel? So, I would work on writing these novel drafts when I was in high school, you know drafts that hopefully will never see the light of day, just to see if I could do it. But I didn’t know any writers growing up. I never thought it was something that you could really actually be. I didn’t start to think of it as something that I could do until I got to college and started to meet young living writers.

**Your degree is in English?**

Yes. I originally thought that I was going to be a lawyer. It’s what my parents really wanted me to do, because nobody wants their child to be a writer (laughs). I met with the head of the Black community at Stanford where I attended college and talked to her and she said, I can tell you don’t want to go to law school, what do you really want to do? I told her that I wanted to be a writer and she kind

of gave me permission to do that. That was one of the first people that said, okay, how can we make this happen, what are the concrete steps you need to take.

Both of my parents grew up very poor. My dad grew up in inner city L.A. and my mom grew up in rural Louisiana. They both were first generation college students and they had high expectations for all of us. So for me to come around and say I wanted to be a writer was not really what they had in mind. They were like, are you sure? What are you going to do with that degree? These were very concrete concerns. But I think the recession kind of liberated me because I felt like wasn’t going to get a job regardless. There were so many people that I knew who were on practical tracks and still were not getting jobs. So it was like, well, let me take this chance and see what happens. I applied for grad school right out of under-grad. It was the MFA program at Michigan. I was there for 3 years and while I was there I was able to finish my book and eventually sell it. The book was my Master’s Thesis. So, now my parents are really excited about the book. They love it. They’ve been giving copies to everyone and they are really supportive. It took them a little bit of time to see but I understand.

**Tell me about your book:**

It’s about a girl whose in the wake of losing her mother. She get’s pregnant by her pastor’s son and decides to terminate the pregnancy. The novel follows the ripples that the decision causes in her life and the lives of those in her church community.

**Where did the concept come from?**

I think a lot of it came from growing up in the church. My mom is Catholic and my dad is Protestant, so I kind of bounced between different church traditions growing up. I was always really interested in how different people expressed faith, especially the role of young people in these communities. So, I think a lot of the book came from curiosity, about what would happen if there was this group of young people in this really small conservative church that had this huge moment and people making these big decisions that have effects on their lives.

**How long did it take you to write the book?**  
7-8 years.

**What would you say to young people about writing?**

I feel like a lot of the young people that I know, we are such a text heavy generation. We write so much, not so much in a formal setting, like a newspaper, but we’re constantly communicating through the written language. It’s surprising to me that people don’t want to have any type of a platform. There are so many people who are giving away these really great insights for free and not getting any personal credit for those types of thoughts.

I first started writing in journalism. I was in the high school newspaper. I was not a good journalist at all, I mostly just wrote these opinion pieces. I had no skill or interest in actual reporting. I just wanted to say what I thought. I just used the newspaper as my personal platform and for whatever reason they let me get away with it. But I think one of things that taught me was how to write publicly.

Before, I was working on these novels, but nobody was reading them. I was just writing it for myself. We handed the newspaper out every so often at lunch and I think that was an important experience for me, because you’ve got these 14 - 18 olds who are at lunch for a half an hour. They’re hanging out with their friends. They don’t want to read a newspaper. So, my goal every time was what can I do, what can I write, to make this person stop what they are doing and read this. I would walk by at lunch, and when we did a good job, I would see people reading the newspaper and not talking to their friends or hanging out. It was an important experience for me in thinking about how do I grip people, how do I communicate something publicly, how do I write something that matters and that interests people. So, the experience of the newspaper, gave



me that gift, even if it did not actually teach me how to be a journalist, and I definitely encourage young people to seek out those types of platforms.

Again, like I said, we give away so many of our insights and thoughts for free on Instagram and Twitter and Facebook, so why not have an actual platform and be able to engage with people.

**What would you say about the push for more “professional” careers as opposed to writing?**

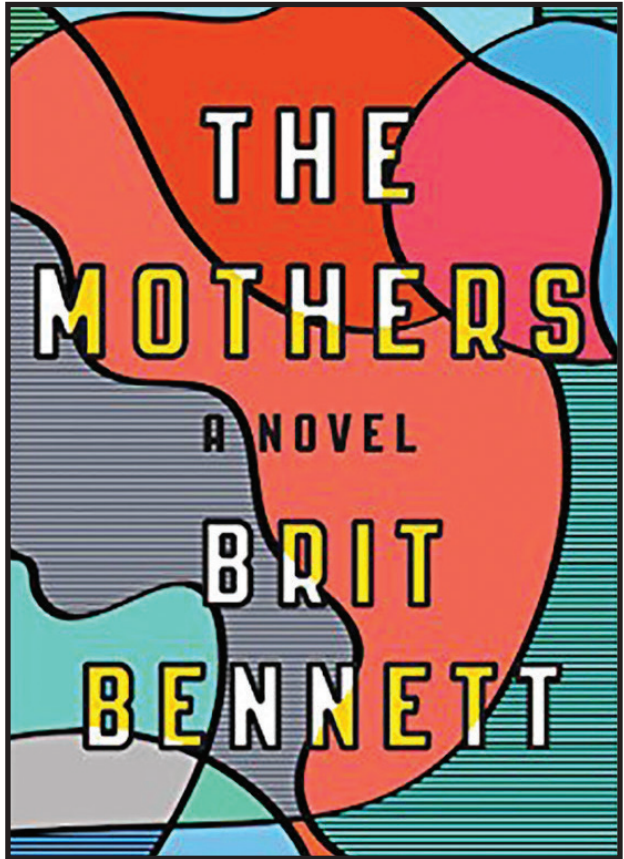
It’s tough because it’s very easy to say follow your heart, do what you love, but not everybody has the opportunity to do that. I was very fortunate that I wasn’t in a situation where I had to take care of my family. I was in a situation where I knew that if I had to move back home, I could. Not everybody can do that. So I would never tell somebody to turn down this really great well paying job to go write your novel, if you’re not in a position where you can do that. I would never tell anyone to do that, but I do think that narrative is so important. Stories are so important. Language is so important. And I think there is often a tendency in our culture to devalue those things. But, when you think about these huge cultural moments of the past year, whether it’s Black Panther or any of these types of ideas that are shaping cultural narratives, it effects our politics, it effects our history, it effects our present, it effects how we move through all of these things. So, it’s not some trivial thing, some vanity thing.

I think what I do as a fiction writer, regardless of how explicitly political my fiction is, I think that by virtue of writing about Black people that are human and complex, I think that is a political act and it is activism and it does matter. So I would just encourage people to broaden what you think of as far as what gives you value and what brings value to your community and your culture. It’s not always just these things that we immediately think of as this is the important work.

And if you are not in a position to devote yourself to your art, there’s nothing wrong with working on it when you can. Stealing the time to work on your project. Doing what you love and what makes you happy when you have the time to do it.

**What’s next for you?**

I’m working on the adaptation for the book. I’m doing a screenplay from the book. I just turned in a draft, so I’m waiting to see what they think about it. It’s hard. It’s really different from writing a book. So, I’m working on that and then I’m working on the second novel. The next book.





# SAVE THE DATE

127th Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference  
Spokane, Washington  
August 7—11, 2018



Bishop Clement & Supervisor Alexia Fugh—Episcopal Leaders

FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming



Host Presiding Elder  
The Reverend  
Spencer F. Barrett



Host — Pastor Mitchell and the Bethel Spokane Congregation!

## Host Hotel Information

Double Tree by Hilton Spokane City Center  
322 N. Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99221  
Bethel Rates: King/2 Queens \$129 - Premium \$149  
Make Reservations by July 7, 2018  
Call (877) 918-6845 or visit [www.reservationcounter.com/Spokane](http://www.reservationcounter.com/Spokane)

*Bethel Church*  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL

645 S. Richard Allen Court, Spokane, WA 99202 509- 598-2864

I CHOOSE TO WORSHIP

# WESS MORGAN

NATIONAL GOSPEL RECORDING ARTIST

08.11.18

Featured Artist

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM / STARTS AT 7:00PM

BING CROSBY THEATER  
901 W. SPRAGUE AVE, SPOKANE, WA 99201

FOR MORE INFORMATION (601) 559.0896



# Francine Green Retires After Twenty Years

## East Central’s Green House Adult Family Home Is Now Under New Ownership

By Sandy Williams

When Francine Green made the decision to open an Adult Family Home in 1998, it was because she felt that God had called her to do the work, that it was “her mission and ministry to help those who were not able to help themselves.” But purchasing the 120 year old, dilapidated house on the corner of East Fifth Avenue and Stone Street, that had been relocated to that spot from the other side of the I-90 freeway in 1959, had taken all that she had financially and the licensing process that would bring in the needed income to cover the expenses of remodeling and operation was taking much longer than expected.

It appeared that the doors to what was to be called the Green House were going to be closed even before they had the chance to officially be opened. But then came a knock at the door. An African American man from the neighborhood had “heard about” the new home and was looking for a place for his mother. That knock would be the beginning of twenty years of dedicated service.

“When I first saw this home, it needed a lot of work,” Green said, “but I had this vision- a vision is when you see it and others don’t. Faith is when you do it and others won’t. However, with my vision and faith, I know nothing is impossible.”



The mission statement of the Green House was “Here we bless to be blessed” and it was posted in the home as a constant reminder to all who entered the building during the twenty years that the Green House provided personalized home health care services and dispensed love 24 hours a day for weeks, months and even years to people of all races and backgrounds, and did it with the tender loving care and down home cooking that one would expect from a close relative.

“I have a gift of loving and caring for people who are vulnerable, less fortunate, some whose families have forgotten them,” Green said. “I let God bring them in and take them out. Some stayed for months and some over 13 years under my care with no hospitalization. I was commanded to exhibit love and compassion in each relationship with my residents and staff, whether it was for a season or a lifetime.”

That gift of compassion, however, does not come without its cost. The business of caring for others, particularly those who have developmental disabilities, mental health challenges and dementia, is one where “you have no sick days or vacation days”, Green said. It requires “a tremendous amount of patience and strength, both emotional and physical”, and the toll that such intensive care requires can shorten ones life span.

As Green’s health began to suffer, she prayed about it and decided that it was time to retire and focus on her own health. It was a difficult decision, but she sold the Green House to new owners. She wants the community to know that things have changed. “I’m not affiliated with Emerald Green AFH, LLC, the new occupants of the home. My name is no longer on the building. It has been taken down.”

As Green shifted her attention to retirement, her focus was on getting herself healthy and she decided to put the same energy that she had dedicated to the Green House into establishing a health retreat to help others who were also struggling with their health. But tragedy struck just as she was taking the first step into her new future.



“My personal home on Jump Off Joe lake burned down. I lost everything from my past. The cries of my grief and pain became liquid prayers. God was testing my endurance and strength. He heard my heart and has given me dreams and visions of another plan for my life. I believe it, expect it and receive it! I was battling how to let go. Now I’ve got a fire in my belly and want to immediately get to work to start rebuilding my home.”

So, Francine Green, a Black business pioneer, who arrived in Spokane 25 years ago, is beginning the next chapter of her life. She is a Vegan now and since becoming Vegan her “medical diagnosis of diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol levels have dropped and normalized,” and she has lost 37 lbs by making a few simple diet and lifestyle changes.

“I’m ready for anything this world might bring. I look back at all the times God has come through for me in divine interception. I thought the home health care business was a period, but it turns out it was just a comma.”

*Francine Green is in the development stage for her new health retreat and other ventures. The Black Lens will bring you more information in the future.*

“IT’S NOTHING.  
I’M FINE.

Men live shorter lives.\*  
We’d like to encourage them  
to do something about it.

They say it’s easier to get a man to ask  
for directions than to schedule regular  
health screenings.

**Inland Imaging offers a number of preventive exams** that can detect potential stroke and vascular disease, colon and lung cancers — and more. Our new 3T MRI prostate screening exam finds nearly twice as many early stage cancers as traditional methods. Screening helps you assess risks and address health problems before they become life threatening.



*\*Men die at higher rates from nine of the top ten causes of death. They make up over 92% of workplace deaths. On average, men live five years less than women. Source: Mens Health Network, 2012.*

For more information call 509.455.4455  
or go to [inlandimaging.com/preventive-screening](http://inlandimaging.com/preventive-screening)

**Inland Imaging**  
Answers you can trust and care you can count on.



# Black and Vegan: My Journey into Veganism



**By Shamerica Nakamura**

My journey into veganism started as any other Millennial’s journey - a documentary on Netflix. I am that person that binges on documentaries during any free time that I am given. So this journey began like most Saturdays, me on the

couch scrolling through Netflix in hopes of finding the next documentary that would change my life. I finally stumbled upon the “What the Health” documentary that promotes veganism by addressing the correlation between diet and chronic diseases.

Now, I am going to be honest in saying that I have watched quite a few documentaries about eating habits but none have quite opened my eyes the way that this one has. Over the years, I have been searching for answers about the chronic health conditions that occur in my family and community. Not only that, I have been experiencing problems with infertility for the past few years and have discovered the impact diet can have on fertility. I have also had a difficulty

with stomach pains, sleeping problems and a lack of energy throughout the day.

Now, I am not going to lie - the thought of me going vegan is terrifying. Being vegan means refraining from the use of animal product, particularly in your diet. This lifestyle is specifically unnerving since I am essentially cutting out the food that seems embedded in my roots: chicken & beef. I can live without pork - I did so for years, but chicken & beef? That seems like torture. Not only that - I have to cut dairy, which does not seem difficult, but seriously giving up pizza? I work with youth, pizza is life and is always offered at any event that I attend.

Needless to say, here I am, 6 months into this journey and I can say that veganism has definitely been a process. The reason I have called my journey to veganism a journey is because I want to ensure my mindset is focused on a lifestyle rather than a trend like a diet typically is. I am also fully aware that I may still have animal products occasionally but will not doubt my ability to lead a healthier lifestyle. For example, although I have given up meat and dairy, there have been times that I have had pizza, a street taco and I am especially having a difficult time in giving up seafood - my dad is from Mobile, Alabama so I am a bayou girl at heart.

However, the diet choices that I have made periodically throughout this journey does not make me a failure, nor

does it predict my ability to fully become vegan. Throughout this process I have realized that giving up food that I am accustomed to is not going to happen instantly and will take time - how much time, that I am not sure. This is a very challenging process.

Speaking of challenges, being a Black female who is vegan has definitely been eye opening. First, being invited anywhere with food is difficult and I find myself either eating beforehand or declining the food that is offered. Secondly, whenever I tell people that I am on the journey to becoming vegan they seem to take offense and make assumptions, seldom asking the reason why I am on this journey.

It’s actually been quite interesting to see how defensive people are when I say that I am vegan. It’s as though you are attacking them personally. I find it really interesting because I am not that person who will shove the dangers of not being vegan down someone’s throat. I am doing this as a personal journey, and so far I am feeling so much better. I find that I have so much more energy, no stomach pains and a better time falling asleep.

I understand that being vegan is not for everyone, but it is a choice that so far has been helpful for my overall health. No matter the challenges that I have faced, I am hoping that I am able to continue on this journey for as long as possible.



**Pastor Otis Manning  
&  
First Lady  
Jarretta Manning**

Invite You to Join  
Us at the:

**WORD OF FAITH  
CHRISTIAN CENTER**

9212 E. Montgomery Avenue, Suite 400  
Spokane Valley, Washington 99206

**Sunday Morning Service at 10 AM**

Visit our web site at: [www.wordoffaithspokane.org](http://www.wordoffaithspokane.org) or  
call 509-924-6504 if you have additional questions.



806 W. INDIANA AVE | SPOKANE, WA 99205

A CHURCH IN  
THE **HEART**  
OF THE **CITY**,  
WITH THE  
PEOPLE OF  
THE **CITY**  
AT **HEART**.

COME WORSHIP WITH US & ENJOY A SPIRIT FILLED WORSHIP!

**SUNDAY**  
SUNDAY SCHOOL | 9:45 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE | 11:00 AM

**WEDNESDAY**  
BIBLE STUDY | 7:00 PM  
YOUTH GROUP | 7:00 PM

COME AND RECEIVE  
**JESUS**

HE DELIVERS  
HE SAVES  
HE RESTORES  
HE HEALS

FIND US ON:

 **YouTube**  
HOLY TEMPLE COGIC SPOKANE

 **facebook**  
FACEBOOK.COM/HOLYTEMPLESPOKANE

[WWW.HOLYTEMPLECOGICSPOKANE.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYTEMPLECOGICSPOKANE.ORG)



PASTOR & FIRST LADY  
EZRA & ELEISE KINLOW

**THE BLACK LENS**

Spokane's ONLY African American News Source

**READ.  
SUBSCRIBE.  
CONTRIBUTE.  
ADVERTISE.  
SHARE.**

*If you're not reading it yet....You should be!*

509-795-1964 ■ [sandy@blacklensnews.com](mailto:sandy@blacklensnews.com) ■ <http://www.blacklensnews.com>





**Come join  
us in our  
journey  
following  
Jesus.**

**New Hope  
Is On Fire!**

Worship Service  
**SUNDAYS 11AM**

Sunday School  
Sundays at 9:30am

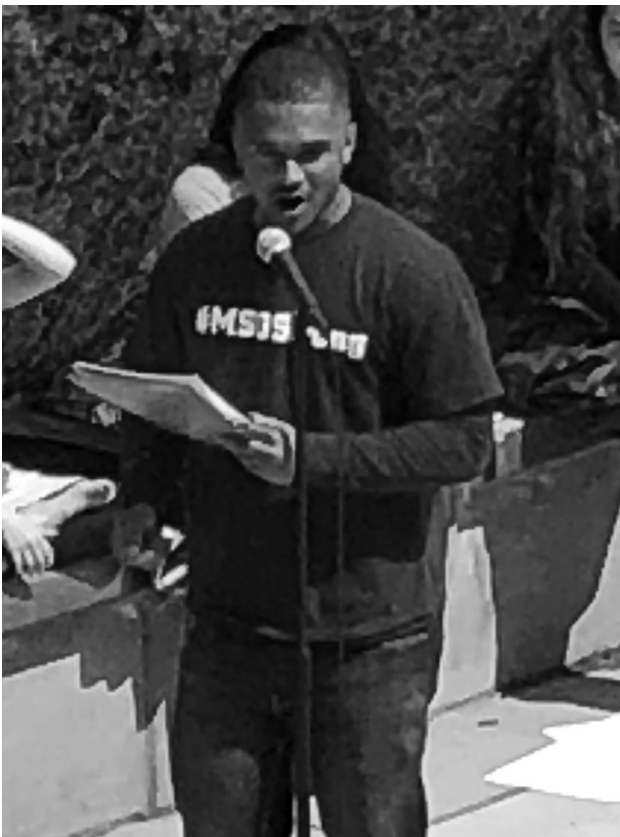
**New Hope Baptist Church**  
9021 E. Boone Avenue  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212  
509-535-1336  
[NewHopeSpokane.com](http://NewHopeSpokane.com)



**Pastor James &  
First Lady Shawn  
Watkins**



# Voices From The April 20 National School Walkout

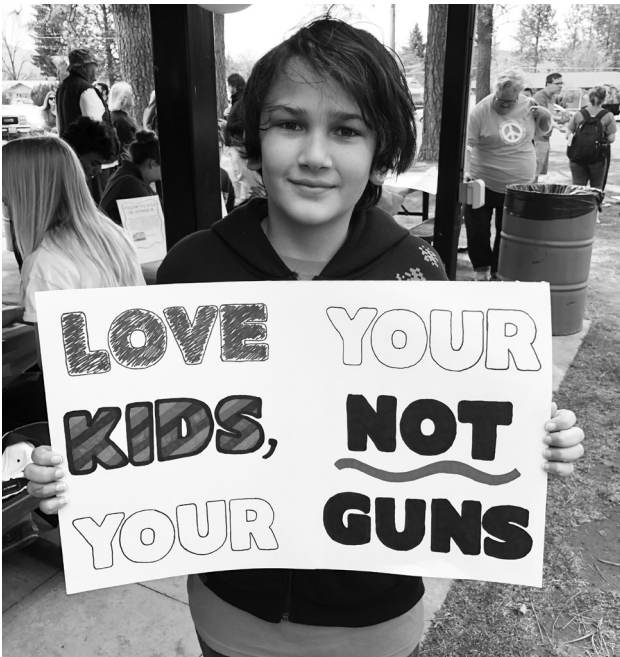


**Kai Koerber**  
(Marjory Stoneman Douglas Student, Parkland ,Texas)

In the Declaration of Independence, we have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and we are fighting for that right to life. People are dying in front of us and people are losing their children. You’d think that these legislators would actually care about what’s going on and put life over money. But that’s the unfortunate reality of it. Regardless of whether you’re a Republican or a Democrat, it’s more a question of humanity than party affiliation.

The Never Again movement and the March for our Lives movement have provided students with a national platform to speak their mind and address issues that were not being addressed. So, whoever you are, where ever you live, whatever you do, you need to be a part of this, and you need to spread the word and let people know what’s going on in your community.

At the end of the day, the main premise behind all of the violence is loss of life. It doesn’t matter where the violence takes place, the end result is always what we care about. I feel like every parent and every student and every kid has a right to grow up and be what they want to be or see their kids grow up to be what they want to be. It’s absolutely ridiculous that we have to be out here doing this, but we’re out here and we’re doing it.



**Andre Lopes**  
I came today because I don’t stand for gun violence, especially not in schools. It’s not okay that someone can go and get a gun and bring it to school, an automatic gun that can shoot constant bullets, not giving anyone a chance to escape or fight back. You shouldn’t be able to buy that. That shouldn’t be legal. No one really needs guns. They say that people need guns to protect themselves, but if the bad guys don’t have guns, then the good guys won’t need them either. If the government isn’t going to do anything about it, then the people need to. To the counter-protesters I guess I would say that the world is changing and if they want to protect their family, this is how.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL WALKOUT

*National School Walkout is a movement powered and led by students across the country. We’re protesting congressional, state, and local failures to take action to prevent gun violence. America is the only country in the world where so many people are killed by guns, and yet our leaders do nothing about it. In many states it’s more difficult to register to vote than it is to buy a rifle. Apparently to some politicians, a vote is scarier than a gun.*

*The National School Walkout is the launch of a forward looking youth movement that has a strategy, a plan for action, and isn’t going away.*

- We have a three-part goal:*
- *Hold elected officials accountable*
  - *Promote solutions to gun violence*
  - *Demystify and engage students in the political system*

*Fore more information visit:  
<https://www.nationalschoolwalkout.net>*



**Alana Koerber**  
(Kai Koerber’s mother)

From a parent’s perspective, the day of the shooting was terrifying. I try to pick up my son every single day from school, just so that we can catch up and get lunch and I can connect with him before I have to go about doing adult things. To have to get a text message from him saying “mom, there’s an emergency happening at school and I just want you to know that I love you and I might die today.” You have no idea what that kind of hurt and what that kind of helplessness is. You raise your child and you do everything, every single day, to make sure that you are there for them and in that moment you realize you are helpless. There is nothing you can do except pray to God that your child will be spared.

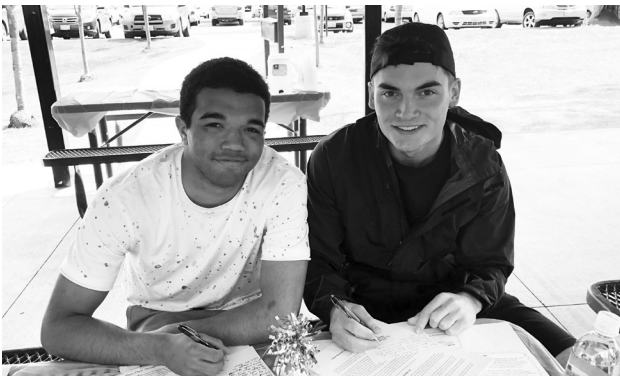
I stood there underneath the highway overpass. The police set up a barricade and would not let the parents even get within eye shot of the school. The parents next to me were getting videos from their kids of dead bodies. Pools of blood on the floor. Dead children everywhere. To have those images come out as your child’s phone is going to voice mail. I told God, I said “God, listen, whatever it is I have to give up for my son to come out whole, consider it done,” because I want my baby. It’s not something that any parent should have to go through.

I think Kai becoming an activist has given him a sense of purpose and he has used this to deal with his pain and his grief, because let’s not forget there’s a lot of trauma and pain still. It’s heartwarming to see my son be able to express himself in a way that is change related. That he’s going to be a symbol of a strong generation. A leader in this new generation It’s really humbling and I’m honored that he’s become such a good reflection of young Black leadership in this country.

I want my son’s generation to shut it down! Point blank. Simple. I want them to change the world. They have already created a narrative of change and now are causing legislative change around the country. They have these politicians shaking in their boots because they know the young people are coming and they are making their voting lists and they are going to social media and they are putting together the websites and saying vote for this one, that one and this one. This is a revolution and these young people are going to unify the world. They are going to give these people who are in seats of power a run for their money and show them what change looks like. I look forward to having a front row seat.



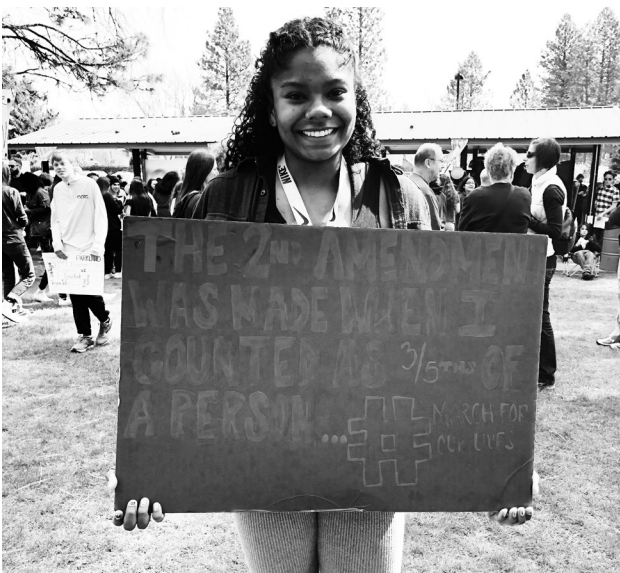
**Izzy Girtz**  
People came here today for a variety of reasons, but my personal goal is to get high powered weapons gone, like automatic rifles that are made for killing. That’s their purpose. My goal is to at least get the conversation started in congress because it’s felt incredibly slow. I think a lot of counter-protesters think this is a political issue and we are the liberals against the conservatives, but students dying in schools is not a political issue. It’s a human issue. One death is one too many.



**Terrell Elgee Sanders & Matthew Pixley**  
(writing letters to Cathy McMorris Rodgers at the walkout)

**Terrell**  
I told Cathy McMorris Rodger how I was feeling. How I’m tired of being afraid in class and down the hallways and how I don’t understand how there are no laws or regulations being made. We’re supposed to be the future and we’re supposed to change the world, but they’re not protecting us.

**Matthew**  
I’m a future marine and I’m writing to Cathy McMorris Rodgers saying that civilians who are untrained should not be able to have assault weapons or any weapons really at all. I think that it causes too many problems if it gets into the hands of the wrong person, the consequences could be horrible.



**Serena Cobbs**  
(Serena’s sign says - The Second Amendment was made when I was counted as 3/5 of a person)

I came today because I don’t like the fact that people who aren’t in the military can buy military grade assault rifles and the requirement to get a gun isn’t very high. They should really do very thorough background checks and I feel like it should take more time to get a gun. I saw a post and somebody said what was on my sign and I looked it up. The 3/5 compromise was made in 1787 and then the second amendment was made in 1791. The fact that they took away the 3/5 compromise and still haven’t done anything to even change the second amendment is just not okay at all because children are dying. It’s not something that they should have to go through in their mind, like am I going to make it home for dinner or am I going to have to say I love you to my mom before I die. That’s not something that they should have to do.



# Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

## In The Midnight Hour

The old saints sang about it. The sorrow and pain of life. That time of night when you are left alone with all of your trials and tribulations. Those moments when you feel most alone and burdened with the cares of this world. No one there to ease your pains but somehow, there is still light in the darkness. There is hope because, as the story goes, transformation happens in the midnight hour. Things turn around in the midnight hour. A famous gospel artist penned a song that states how things will happen. An assurance of sorts.

“Late in the midnight hour, God’s going turn it around. It’s going work in your favor”.

Although it seems like a simple and clear notion, the truth is we all struggle with figuring out a way to trust God and believe that things are going to work out for us. Especially those private things that we struggle with. Those things that others may have no idea about.

We all somehow find our way to the intersection of challenge and hope. We all experience challenges in this life that make us question why? Why is this happening to me? Why is this happening to my family? Why did my loved one die? Why is my health or the health of those I love fading away? Why am I burdened? Why does life seem so hard right now? When is my help coming? Why do I deserve this?.

One thing that I know for sure is that without challenge, there is no opportunity to activate the action of hope. Without challenge there is no chance to believe and ultimately no chance for change (transformation) in our midnight hour.

We learn who we really are in the midst of trouble, in the midst of change. Now this is not to say that we should welcome trouble, in fact I am challenging you to do something completely different. I am challenging you to minimize the way you look at challenges and maximize

your belief in the wonder that happens in the midnight hour.

It is in those dark times, those cloudy times, that we learn of our strength. In the midnight hour is when we can become accustomed to believing and expecting a change. The midnight hour is when God is “on shift” and handling issues for people like you and I. Once we understand that the universe really does conspire for our good, we can rest assured that whatever happens we will be okay. We will survive, we will heal and our situations will turn around.

God wants the best for us. The Universe wants the best for us. However, there are multiple truths that we must understand. While God & the Universe are in cahoots for our best, we still have free will and sometimes our own will and the will of others can put us in situations that lead us right to midnight’s door. There will be hard times. There will be times in which we cannot see our way.



Although struggle is promised, we must live life knowing there is always hope. Although it feels much easier said than done, we must never lose hope and belief that late in the midnight hour God can turn it around and it will work in our favor.

*Kiantha Duncan is a Principal Development Strategist with The Duncan Brown Group. She can be reached at 206-225-4736.*

## My Ride-A-Long With the Spokane Police Department

By Eli Ashenafi

“I’m ready to go out there and make a (expletive) difference”, a cop exclaimed as the teams were dismissed to start their shifts. Right before that, a different cop was explaining to me how he used to be a firefighter, but felt like the potential to make an impact was larger within the police force. Yet another told me that she was a nurse by profession, but enjoyed serving as a volunteer cop on days off.

In the current U.S. climate, it is easy for people like myself to forget that trying to make a positive difference plays a large factor for many who choose to become cops. But who can blame me? As a black man, every day I am given justifiable reasons not to trust law enforcement. Our society is quickly forgetting much of what it means to “serve and protect” because we are constantly bombarded with heinous examples of the police doing just the opposite.

Many in blue would argue that these atrocious events we see on media outlets are few and far between, while others would argue they happen more often than we even know. I’ve always sided with the latter, but what my ride along showed me is that a core part of the problem is not that all cops are bad, but that there is a distinct divide between why cops believe they do what they do, and their public perception.

One of the cops I spoke with told me, “The police force is the only profession where if you get rid of us tomorrow,



society would crumble”. Although his peers immediately refuted this in order to include doctors and nurses, the fact that this person believed this so whole-heartedly deeply resonated with me. Most cops feel an unparalleled altruism in their work. I will add this; it is not entirely unjustified. Being a cop kind of sucks. It’s clearly a high-risk job, the hours are long, the tasks can be tedious, and the rewards are primarily intrinsic. Not to mention that cops are just, as one of them so eloquently put it, “the band aids”. Their primary duty is to act as first responders, not community police officers or detectives.

But many still choose this life, and it is up to us who care about police accountability and fostering safe communities to inquire as to why, so that we can find common ground.

Most every cop I spoke with was open to chatting about why they became a cop, but there was unanimous reservation towards discussing the current climate. One cop even told me, “I’m definitely aware, but it’s far less digestible than just one conversation”. The general feeling is one of disagreeable understanding. They (cops) know but they don’t see it the same (as civilians). Before this experience I would have said the onus lies solely on “them” to change. Again, now I see the value in sharing this responsibility. There has to be a collaborative effort to create lasting positive impact, and there can be no such “us” vs. “them” mentality.

This is my big takeaway from my first ride along; that both sides are full of people who think that what they are doing is in the context of making a positive impact. What we need now is to find ways to come together.

I hope to go on more ride alongs in the future so as to delve deeper into the relationships between the Spokane Police Department and the many communities it serves. I would also like to thank all the police officers that let me listen in and ask questions along the way. Everyone has a lot to learn, and your transparency can only help to improve this community.

**KYRS**

Streaming at [kyrs.org](http://kyrs.org)

88.1/92.3 FM

**Thin Air Community Radio**

Independent Local Music and Perspectives

**Theresa's Salon**

Smoothing Treatments - Color & Style Cut - Weaves

**Theresa Fisher**  
Stylist

Now Inside Eastside Hairworks

3019 E. 5th Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99202  
509-534-2470 [fisherta@gmail.com](mailto:fisherta@gmail.com)





# THE BLACK PRISONERS CAUCUS

## Coyote Ridge

### Reach Out and Touch Somebody's...

By: Harry "Brocq" Whitman

Can we Talk?

This is a statement we used growing up in Chicago to preface a difficult conversation in which the truth, or an opinion, may offend someone. This is such a subject.

Why are good Black brothers in Washington choosing to date our white sisters instead of our Black sisters?

I never thought that I, a Black man who was born and raised and came of age during the Civil Rights Movement in Chicago would ever hear a sister ask that question with any real sincerity in my lifetime. Yet, several weeks ago the unthinkable occurred. The question made me uncomfortable for obvious reasons and since I have never lived in the state of Washington, I was left to reflect on my own experiences and my observations of and conversations with brothers from Washington.

Do understand that to respond to this question in a more comprehensive way it would require a larger and more diverse sample of Black men and a more extensive analysis examining history, psychology and many other factors, and would perhaps take up the entire space of this paper.

Also, I am not using this as an opportunity to berate white people. I just want to

respond to my sister's heart-felt question, "why do Black men in Washington date our white sisters instead of our Black sisters?"

When I was growing up, one of the most common explanations Black men gave for why they dated white women was because they were considered "easy". Black girls in my community were mostly raised in the church. They were strict about when they lost their virginity and who they lost it to. Because of a brother's impatience to wait, brothers looked for someone who would "give it up" without too much hassle. They believed that our white sisters fit this description, and because there were no white women on the south side of Chicago and a brother being seen with a white woman over there would incur the wrath of the neighborhood, they would travel to the suburbs to be with white girls.

Today in Washington, it appears that some brothers also date our white sisters because they believe they are docile and easy to control. Many Black men here, because of insecurities, fears, and over all weaknesses, are intimidated by the strength of Black women. They are afraid that their woman will be more successful than them, make more money than them, drive nicer cars and own bigger homes. White women, on the other hand, are expected to do better than them.

Because of these fears and perceptions, many Black men here seem to look for

what they believe is a more docile woman. Someone he believes he can more easily control.

I talked to numerous Black men here before I wrote this. When they responded, 99.9% of them expressed their perception and belief of how easy it is to control and manipulate a white sister. Over time, however, what many of them learned was that our white sisters are women just like our Black sisters and they are not all docile and easy to control and manipulate as the men believed.

So, in response to my disgusted Black-sister, you need to know that not all good Black men are choosing to date our white sisters instead of our Black sisters. Because Black men appear to be "flocking" to our white sisters, don't be misinformed that they have some sort of goddess status or something.

Reflect on history. Black Egyptian Queens, like Hatshepsut and Nitocris, ruled dynasties and armies of men in Egypt, and remember, it was Black women who taught white sisters how to cook and season food. It was the Black woman who taught white sisters how to raise their children. It was Black women who were breast feeding and raising white babies during slavery. It is the Black woman that had to endure their fathers, husbands, and children being beaten, killed, and thrown in jail. Black women were born with two strikes against them,

being both a woman and Black. Yet still they stand tall.

It is because of the Black woman's strength, elegance, power, love and beauty that some good Black men choose this Black Queen. It's not just their outer beauty that is captivating, or the fact that they come in all shapes, sizes, colors and shades that attracts Black men to them. It is their inner beauty that Black men find most appealing. Their spirit, loving and nurturing souls, their integrity, ability to overcome great obstacles, willingness to stand for what they believe in, and their determination to succeed and reach their highest potential while enduring great pain and suffering is why Black women are so revered.

And so my brothers, if you are looking for a virtuous woman, someone who can be a good wife and mother to your children; someone who can be your best friend and who understands your struggles, a true soul mate, then you are looking for a good Black woman- a sister.

But what matters most, no matter what color she is, is that you be a "man". That you fulfill your role, provide for and properly guide your woman and your family and they will respect you. With that comes the peace you sought in white women by your misguided perceptions that they are easy.

Can we talk?

Any comments or questions contact the Black Prisoner's Caucus at: [www.bpceast@gmail.com](mailto:www.bpceast@gmail.com)

“I DIDN'T LIKE BEING CALLED A DUMMY.”



Daniel knew that tobacco companies were targeting him and it helped him quit. Learn how you can quit for good using FREE gum or patch:

[donemyway.org](http://donemyway.org)





Bishop Michael Curry Continued From Page 8

I’m talking about power. Real power. Power to change the world.

If you don’t believe me, well, there were some old slaves in America’s Antebellum South who explained the dynamic power of love and why it has the power to transform.

“They explained it this way. They sang a spiritual, even in the midst of their captivity. It’s one that says ‘There is a balm in Gilead...’ a healing balm, something that can make things right. There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.’

And one of the stanzas actually explains why. They said: ‘If you cannot preach like Peter, and you cannot pray like Paul, you just tell the love of Jesus, how he died to save us all. Oh, that’s the balm in Gilead! This way of love, it is the way of life. They got it. He died to save us all.’”

He didn’t die for anything he could get out of it. Jesus did not get an honorary doctorate for dying. He didn’t... he wasn’t getting anything out of it. He gave up his life, he sacrificed his life, for the good of others, for the good of the other, for the wellbeing of the world... for us.

That’s what love is. Love is not selfish and self-centered. Love can be sacrificial, and in so doing, becomes redemptive. And that way of unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive love changes lives, and it can change this world. If you don’t believe me, just stop and imagine.

Think and imagine a world where love is the way. Imagine our homes and families where love is the way. Imagine neighborhoods and communities where love is the way. Imagine governments and nations where love is the way. Imagine business and commerce where this love is the way. Imagine this tired old world where love is the way.

When love is the way - unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive. When love is the way, then no child will go to bed hungry in this world ever again. When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook. When love is the way, poverty will become history. When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary.

When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields, down by the riverside, to study war no more. When love is the way, there’s plenty good room - plenty good room - for all of God’s children.

“Because when love is the way, we actually treat each other, well... like we are actually family. When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all, and we are brothers and sisters, children of God.

My brothers and sisters, that’s a new heaven, a new earth, a new world, a new human family. And let me tell you something, old Solomon was right in the Old Testament: that’s fire.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin - and with this I will sit down, we gotta get you all married - French Jesuit Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was arguably one of the great minds, great spirits of the 20th century. Jesuit, Roman Catholic priest, scientist, a scholar, a mystic.

In some of his writings, he said, from his scientific background as well as his theological one, in some of his writings he said - as others have - that the discovery, or invention, or harnessing of fire was one of the great scientific and technological discoveries in all of human history.

Fire to a great extent made human civilization possible. Fire made it possible to cook food and to provide sanitary ways of eating which reduced the spread of disease in its time. Fire made it possible to heat warm environments and thereby made human migration around the world a possibility, even into colder climates. Fire made it possible - there was no Bronze Age without fire, no Iron Age without fire, no Industrial Revolution without fire.

The advances of fire and technology are greatly dependent on the human ability and capacity to take fire and use it for human good. Anybody get here in a car today? An automobile? Nod your heads if you did - I know there were some carriages. But those of us who came in cars, fire - the controlled, harnessed fire - made that possible.

I know that the Bible says, and I believe it, that Jesus walked on the water. But I have to tell you, I did not walk across the Atlantic Ocean to get here. Controlled fire in that plane got me here. Fire makes it possible for us to text and tweet and email and Instagram and Facebook and socially be dysfunctional with each other. Fire makes all of that possible, and de Chardin said fire was one of the greatest discoveries in all of human history.

And he then went on to say that if humanity ever harnesses the energy of fire again, if humanity ever captures the energy of love - it will be the second time in history that we have discovered fire.

Dr King was right: we must discover love - the redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world, a new world.

My brother, my sister, God love you, God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.



An Un-Feminist World

Written By: Ky Ethredge (7th grader) & Bethany Montgomery

Because I am a woman, am I not supposed to dream big?  
Because I am not provided with the same opportunities as men?

I thought I was an equal citizen,  
but obviously not,  
In society I am viewed as an object  
whose love can be bought.

Just because they shower me with gifts, men think that gives them ownership of my innocence. I can't even walk alone, especially if my body is shown. I'm just trying get home, but for those whistles they cannot atone.

They think their cat calls are compliments  
but in actuality they are offensive  
and inappropriate.

Some men think they are better, they think of me as lesser. They assume I am not as strong, and I can't run as fast. In PE class the girls are always picked last. And While boys play football, I am expected to cheer...  
but I deserve the same opportunity  
to play on the field.

Boys get to play all the sports,  
while we get a limited choice...  
When we try an advocate for more,  
they shut down our voice.

He is praised for having two girlfriends, but I'm disgraced and given a scarlet letter  
if I am not a virgin.

Rosy the riveter, male supremacists dismissed her. When men left us for the war, we held up the working force. We did the same things as men, and did just as good a job as them.  
Feminism isn't about women  
being better than men,

It is supported on the base that we are just as good as them. We are all equal no gender is better than the other but if this statement were true, then why do women still suffer?

Sure, men worked, week after week, yet women were still thought of as weak?  
We took care of your kids and raised them to stand on their own 2 feet,  
now who's on a working streak?  
Our set of skills are far from bleak.

Why does a man make more money when we do the same job? My 78 cents to his dollar,  
now that math seems wrong.  
We tell him to stop, but our story isn't believed by the cops. Then we go home, expected to clean up our mangled innocence

with a mop. Remember to make sure your doors and legs are locked.

Boys love the short shorts we wear in the summer. Throw in a low-cut top and their breath gets heavier. We can take it to the next level by letting down our hair. Their eyes will lock and the only thing they can do is stare and once we put on some high heels they'll be gasping for air.

Primal instinct that is 1 thing, but the line between that and over-sexualisation isn't quite as distinct.

You looking for a good time?  
You want me to sell you  
my love for a dime?

This is such an odd incline...  
You want me? Well, what if I decline?  
Why am I constantly being over sexualized!?

I am not just some man's prize. I was never destined to be a "trophy wife." Don't dim my shine by putting a man next to my side. I'm an independent woman no man can stop my grind.

Men are seen as superior while women are inferior. It's time we fix this world and the stereotypes living in it.

Everyone deserves to be treated  
equal no matter their gender.

These stereotypes are teaching young girls like us, we are less than and not equal to men.

But then again that must be what society wants. Since I'm a woman I guess I'll never be good enough.

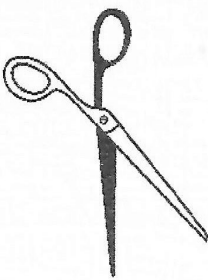
Because I'm a woman, am I not supposed to dream big?  
Because I am not provided with the same opportunities as men?

Because I am a woman I will not accept that truth. I will accomplish all my goals and be living proof...that women can follow their dreams and do anything we put our minds to.

We are women... and we are proud. We will never let any human being bring us down. We are great and our greatness outshines the night. We will conquer every obstacle and always be bright.

We are feminist, and I hope you are too.  
Everyone is equal... now let's make that statement true.

Master Barbers  
LARRY  
Q.C.



LARRY'S BARBER & STYLING

Specializing In Tapers & Fades  
Appointments Available

3017 E. 5th Ave.  
(509) 534-4483

Tues.-Fri. 9:30am-6:00pm  
Sat. 8:30am-5:00pm



COUPON  
ONE DINNER 1/2 OFF

When you Buy One Dinner You  
Receive a Second Dinner of Equal  
or Lesser Value for Half Price

414 -1/2 W. Sprague Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99201  
509-838-5071  
http://chicken-n-more.com

"Best Southern Food in Washington"





# OUR VOICES

## How Do You Mend a Broken Heart

### The Cosby I Know and the Man Who was Convicted

By Julianne Malveaux

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - I used to love me some Bill Cosby. Not only because he was America's Big Daddy, but also because he was fun and funny. Most of the times that I was around him, I felt lifted. He had that deep, heh heh heh laugh, and that sweet smile, and then he loved some HBCUs, so what could you say?

Yeah, there was that irascible thing; that pull up your pants and don't steal the cake preachy conversation. But there was the \$20 million that he and Camille gave to Spelman College and the fraction of which I was able to wangle from him for Bennett College. We had this conversation, once upon a time, when he said that he loved me, and I replied, as much as you love Dr. Cole, and he said yeah. So I said, "Where is my \$20 million?" If you love me even ten percent as much I get 2 million. He laughed. I laughed. He spent a day at Bennett talking to my students.

Now he has been convicted as a sexual predator, and while there will be an appeal, the fact that more than 60 women have made accusations is daunting. Even if half of them are piling on, enough of them have made the case that a man who has been an amazing philanthropist has also been an awful sexual predator. How do I mend my broken heart?

Indeed, my heart is broken. It started breaking with the first allegation. It continued to break as the accusations piled up. How could I, how could we, reconcile the image of a man whose humor and dadliness engaged a generation with a man who, by his own admission, drugged women so he could have nonconsensual sex with them. What is



real, what is fake, and how do we begin to enjoy powerful episodes of the Cosby Show without thinking of the man who was just convicted?

So do we throw the art out? Do we decide that the engaging body of work is now worthless because the creator is horribly flawed? Do we decide that Fat Albert wasn't really fat and funny, that Theo and Rudy weren't amazing kids, that I Spy didn't spy, that the Cosby body of work is useless?

I will make no excuses for a man who has been convicted as a sexual predator, even as I confess my affection for him. But I wonder if we can separate the art from its

creator, especially when we consider the fact that Cosby broke so many barriers as he created his art. And while he deserves more than a wink and a nod or a slap on the wrist, I think it also important to consider context. Who taught this man to be a sexual predator? Was this the norm in Hollywood at that time? Cosby was raised well enough to know the difference between right and wrong, and he was not only wrong but also butt wrong to drug women to have sex with them. One could be a misunderstanding. Sixty is an epidemic. Even if half of them are making it up, thirty, twenty, ten, or even one is more than enough.

So my heart breaks for our culture, and for that which many will throw away. Meaning, do Cosby's crimes invalidate his art? Will all eight seasons of the Cosby show be kicked to the curb because its creator is an extraordinarily flawed man? Will a moment in history, a moment when the ensemble depiction of a dynamic Black middle-class family entertained a nation, be obliterated by the judgment of one man?

I am not sure of the answer. I am certain, though, that my heart is broken. Cosby will appeal and he may prevail. Or, he may not. But I am among those who cherish the memories of the Cosby show, the Cosby philanthropist, the funny and irascible man who came to my campus, talked good sense to my students, and cared. Cheers to him for lifting up Black colleges. Shame on him for violating women. How can I reconcile these images? How can I mend my broken heart?

*Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com)*

## Face the Truth About Lynchings to Move Our Country Forward



By Jesse Jackson

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - If we don't know the whereas, the therefore doesn't make sense. Witness the ovens in Auschwitz and Treblinka, and then you can understand the creation of Israel. Last week, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice opened in Montgomery, Ala., demanding a reckoning with one of this nation's most repressed atrocities: the lynching of thousands of Black people in a campaign of racist terror that lasted for decades.

Lynching is an act of violence that, to this day, is not a federal crime. Visit the memorial in Montgomery, where Jefferson Davis reigned as the architect of slavery, succession and sedition, where Dr. King preached, and you'll understand the therefore, from the civil rights movement of Dr. King to the current calls for

equal justice, police reform and an end to mass incarceration.

The museum, set on a six-acre site overlooking the Alabama State Capitol, has a haunting majesty. The open-air museum features 800 steel monuments, suspended from a high ceiling, one for each county where a lynching occurred. Each is engraved with the name of the county and the names of the victims, some 4,400 in total.

Lynching was domestic racial terrorism. It wasn't accidental or incidental. The terrorism grew after the Civil War in fierce reaction to the Reconstruction that gave the freed slaves the right to vote and to own property. Terrorist groups like the Ku Klux Klan weren't outliers; they enlisted some of the White gentry to terrorize Blacks into subservience.

Lynchings varied, but many were public affairs, announced in the newspapers, gathering large crowds to watch the mutilation of often innocent victims, while the local authorities turned their heads. Their gruesome nature was purposeful, designed to instill fear, and thus help perpetuate white supremacy.

The lynchings spread even as the memorials honoring Confederate generals and leaders proliferated to reinforce the point. Bryan Stevenson, the extraordinary director of the Equal Justice Initiative that gave birth to this project, is clear on his intent. "I'm not interested in talking about America's history because I want to punish America," he said, "I want to liberate America.

"This shadow cannot be lifted until we shine the light of truth on the destructive

violence that shaped our nation, traumatized people of color and compromised our commitment to the rule of law and to equal justice." Everyone wants to celebrate the resurrection, but you can't embrace the resurrection unless you acknowledge the crucifixion. As Stevenson puts it, we all want reconciliation, but "truth and reconciliation" are sequential. "You can't get to reconciliation until you first get to truth."

The lynchings accelerated in the 1880s, peaked in the early 1900s and continued until the beginning of World War II. They helped enforce segregation and Jim Crow laws with blood and fear, an apartheid system that lasted until the Civil Rights Movement freed the South in the 1960s. This isn't ancient history.

To this day, African-Americans live with entrenched inequalities: greater poverty, greater unemployment and lower life spans. African-American men are more likely to be stopped by police, more likely to be searched if stopped, more likely to be jailed if detained, more likely to be shot by police.

"Black and brown people are still presumed dangerous and guilty," says Stevenson. "There are these terrible disparities in quality of life for people of color, and you begin asking questions about why these things persist, and I think it inevitably leads to wanting to talk more concretely about history."

Near the memorial is the Legacy Museum, located in a warehouse that once was part of Montgomery's slave trade. That museum documents with artifacts and narrative the transition from slavery to segregation

to voter suppression and mass incarceration. Stevenson's hope is that the truth can help foster greater reconciliation. At the memorial, each county marker has a duplicate, with every county invited to use to create its own memorial. A first step would be to finally make lynching a federal crime.

More than 200 attempts were made to pass an anti-lynching law in Congress that would allow federal prosecution of perpetrators and hold local officials accountable if they did not act to protect the victims. With Southern senators armed with the filibuster, the Congress never acted. Finally, in 2005, a Senate resolution was passed that expressed regret for the failure. Yet to this day, lynching is still not a federal offense. Similarly, Congress and the administration could proceed with bipartisan efforts to end mass incarceration and to reform discriminatory police practices.

Real progress was beginning— with the cooperation of both parties— during the Obama years. Now, the Trump administration, with a Justice Department led by former Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, has begun to reverse these vital reforms. The reckoning that began with the Civil Rights Movement has continued; the memorial is a testament to that. People of good will want the healing to continue. The vibrancy and prosperity of the New South requires that the healing continue. But to heal wounds, you have to take the shrapnel out first. To move to reconciliation, you must start with the truth. Bryan Stevenson has courageously built a memorial that helps us do just that.



# OUR VOICES

## As America Punishes Its People, Is U.S. Democracy On Its Deathbed?

By David A. Love, JD

(blackcommentator.com) The signs are all around us. Something is not right in America. The country is a traumatic place for millions, triggering stress among wide swaths of the public, as if the screws are being tightened ever more excruciatingly. Democracy is eroding, as people are losing faith in an open society and a country that is not working for them — and a government that is not meeting their needs or serving their interests.

A November survey from the American Psychological Association sounds the alarm, or more accurately, reflects the sentiment that so many have known personally or anecdotally. Nearly 60 percent of Americans say today is the lowest point in U.S. history. Moreover, most respondents (63 percent) say the future of the country is their most significant source of stress, while nearly six in 10 are stressed from America's social division.

These concerns span all age groups and party affiliations. Other issues causing people stress include health care, the economy, trust in government, crime and hate crimes, wars, terrorist attacks, unemployment and low wages, and the environment.

Young people are disenchanted with the current system. A Harvard study from 2016 found a majority of millennials — 51 percent — reject capitalism.

The U.S. does maintain some of the trappings of democracy. However, the nation is arguably a sham democracy, with important rights enshrined in the First Amendment, but with election integrity ranked at the bottom of Western democracies and a right to vote subjected to gerrymandering, voter suppression, and massive disenfranchisement.

The land of the free has become a punitive nation, where its policies do not reflect efforts to build communities and improve the lives of people, but rather measures that encourage deprivation and reflect a desire to inflict gratuitous violence on the people. America is ruled by an oligarchy in which a small, wealthy elite dictates policy.

A Harvard Business School study declared that the U.S. political system, designed not to serve the public interest but to do the bidding of lobbyists and private interests, “has become the major barrier to solving nearly every important challenge our nation needs to address.”

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* has allowed campaign finance to



metastasize into unlimited influence of money in elections. A legalized system of bribing politicians means the nation is unable to address the worst poverty and most glaring economic inequality in the developed world. This, as the American middle class has died, and most Americans have regressed to Third World status, as one MIT economist has concluded.

This is why public consensus may favor or oppose a particular policy, yet the legislation enacted in Washington, and in Harrisburg and other state capitals, may not necessarily reflect the popular will. Consider the massive, unpopular tax cuts recently enacted for the wealthy and corporations, efforts to roll back consumer protections and banking regulations, the evisceration of civil rights and environmental protections, and resistance to addressing gun violence.

“We have a situation now where people who are in power impose a lot of punishment on unfortunate people,” said former President Jimmy Carter. “We have seven times as many people in prison now as we did when I left the White House, for instance. We have got a much greater disparity of income among Americans than we have ever had before.”

“In fact, eight people in the world — six of them are from America — own as much money as half of the total popula-

tion of the world, 3.5 billion people,” Carter noted. “In America, we have the same problem, maybe even in an exaggerated way. We have marginalized the average person for the benefit of the wealthier people in America.”

Even worse, some have sounded the alarm on the threat of tyranny in America. Riding in on a wave of faux populism, hate, and revanchism, the Trump administration has embraced greed, corruption, and self-enrichment. Gaslighting the public and appealing to emotions to give people a warped sense of their own best interests, Trump acts in the long tradition of propaganda and deception employed by authoritarian regimes. Former Deputy U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates calls what is taking place a “relentless attack on democratic institutions and norms,” with an impact felt not only during this presidency, but potentially for years to come.

Authoritarianism is on the rise in parts of the world, and it is important that we not allow fascism to go unnoticed, warns former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who considers Trump the most anti-democratic leader in U.S. history.

In the absence of civic engagement and an informed populace, democracy dies. The U.S. trails most of the developed world in voter turnout, the public lacking in civic knowledge of the Constitution, the workings of government, and the structure of the three branches. Civic ignorance and a lack of critical thinking skills allow fake news to prevail, and provide an opening for a would-be dictator.

If true democracy — a relatively recent phenomenon in America — is dying, the prescription is a surge of engagement. And that is what the country is experiencing — unprecedented activism after years of increasing economic inequality and waning civic participation. Inspired by the sad state of America, one in five Americans has participated in protests or attended rallies since 2016, and over half have volunteered or supported a cause. Protesting to restore democracy and their psychic well-being, people are learning government is not a spectator sport. The armchair is the deathbed of democracy.

This commentary was originally published by WHYY.org

*David A. Love, JD - Serves BlackCommentator.com as Executive Editor. He is a journalist, commentator, human rights advocate and an adjunct instructor at the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information based in Philadelphia, and a contributor to theGrio, AtlantaBlackStar, The Progressive, CNN.com, Morpheus, NewsWorks and The Huffington Post. He also blogs at davidalove.com. Contact Mr. Love and BC.*

## Silencing Our Voices

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – When the voices representing us are silenced, what do we do? Many of us love sports and since most teams in almost every sport would be judged just another boring team without Black players, decent voices in sports have been silenced. Colin Kaepernick took a knee to protest police brutality. He was punished for doing good by upholding a right of citizenship! Others followed Colin's courageous act. A few misguided athletes criticized Colin because they just didn't get it, but so many of us understood and supported his action.

Many of us took a knee prior to every football game to show our support. After several other players began understanding the significance of Colin's act, the bosses of the National Football League decided it was time to silence Colin's supporters. They've already silenced him by colluding to make him an unemployed quarter back. Now they've at-

tempted to silence all players who might want to express their belief that police violence against Black people without cause is wrong.

The plot thickens. Since it's more likely to have Democratic voices speak out for freedom of speech, certain Republicans decided to silence those voices by refusing to allow them in the room as they uncover what may be not so pleasant details about their standard bearer - #45. If they had no fear about what they would see, what is it that caused them to deny anyone who might see things different from the unchallenged spin they would bring out of the meeting? Who was to represent us? Do actions to silence those who speak for us concern enough of us to make a difference in November on election day?

I fear that diminishing our rights has become so common that many of us are just shaking our heads in defeat as though there's nothing we can do. Dick Gregory taught us that people will do to us whatever we tolerate. I

think too many of us are tolerating too much. When even the voices of our elected representatives are silenced, it's time for us to rise up and show our objections. Our rights are being sliced away every day. You name it. We've experienced increased murdering of our innocent children in schools. We have a “so-called leader” with a bottomless appetite for destruction of all that has been achieved, one who embarrasses us around the world and one who tries to end social services and healthcare for the needy.

Now athletes have lost their freedom of speech on the field. Every race, creed and culture, as well as women are denigrated. Hatred thrives and has gained a stranglehold on decency. Not just Black ancestors, but many decent people have worked too hard, suffered too much for us to throw up our hands and assume there is nothing we can do.

Bishop William Barber has planned a “Poor People's Campaign” and we need to sign up to participate in great numbers. If we sit back and say nothing, our silence is giving consent and accepting that it's okay to silence athletes even though there would be no game without them. Silencing our elected leaders



by refusing them an equal opportunity to be at the table on our behalf is taking away our right to free speech, too. This campaign is as much about us as it is about those who have no job, no hope and no hope of hope, as well as for those who suffer from police brutality or those who are discriminated against or those who suffer any form of injustice. This campaign impacts us, too, so let's all get involved and do our part.

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women. She is host of Wake Up and Stay Woke on WPFW-FM 89.3, and is a weekly columnist for the Trice Edney Wire Service.)



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

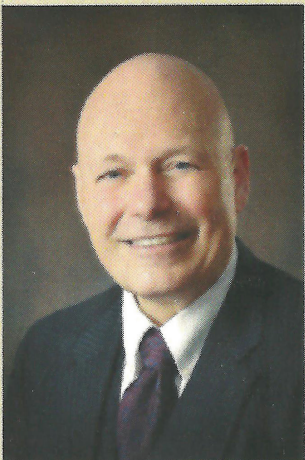
May I professionally help you to sell, buy, or lease a property?

**GILLESREALTY.COM**  
GK Hansen Real Estate

**Robert A. Gilles**  
WA & ID



Direct 509-939-6420  
Fax: 1-800-520-5794  
rgilles@gillesrealty.com  
1608 N. Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205



Put our experienced team to the test!

Are You Interested In A Career in Real Estate? Call Me.

## Career Opportunities SPOKANE

Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for management, sales, office, machine operators and laborer positions. To view all of our current openings, please visit our website

[www.SCAFCO.com](http://www.SCAFCO.com) and/or CWalla, our authorized distributor of SCAFCO products [www.CWalla.com](http://www.CWalla.com) to fill out an application.

You can also send your resume to SCAFCO at 2800 E Main Ave Spokane, WA 99202.

**Benefits Package Includes:**

**Medical, Dental, Vision Insurance, Vacation, Excellent 401(K) and Profit Sharing.**



To advertise your employment opportunities in the Black Lens call 509-795-1964 or e-mail [sandy@blacklensnews.com](mailto:sandy@blacklensnews.com)



**Aging & Long Term Care**  
OF EASTERN WASHINGTON

**509-458-2509 • [www.altcew.org](http://www.altcew.org)**

### There is Help For You!

Our Caregiver Support Programs are available to unpaid caregivers helping loved ones age 55 and older.

- Individual counseling/support groups
- Respite, if you need a break
- Medical equipment, supplies & services

**Pick up the Phone and Call!!**

**FBH-Elder Services (509) 458-7450 Option #2**

Aging & Long Term Care - **ADVOCACY. ACTION. ANSWERS.**

## BLACK VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED

**WEAVES  
WIGS &  
SUPPLIES**

**Wright Way**  
BEAUTY SUPPLY

2103 N DIVISION STREET | SPOKANE, WA 99207  
[WRIGHTSBEAUTYSUPPLY@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:WRIGHTSBEAUTYSUPPLY@OUTLOOK.COM)  
**509.703.7772**

**SHOP ALL THESE BRANDS & MORE!**

**THE COLLECTION**  
PREMIUM QUALITY HAIR

**Miss Jessie's**  
ORIGINAL

**BLACK LABEL**  
HAND & BODY LOTION

**MILKYWAY**  
100% HUMAN HAIR

**EBHA**  
Collectively, We Can Make It!

**CREME OF NATURE**

**Carol's Daughter**

**MIZANI**

**Dark and Lovely**



# JUNE EVENTS

## JUNE 6

### 2018 SUPREME COURT FORUM VIDEO-CONFERENCE

**Legal Financial Obligations LFOs**  
Presented by the Minority and Justice Commission. Featuring a presentation from Dr. Alexes Harris, University of Washington, leading researcher on Washington State’s use of monetary sanctions.  
**9am - Noon**  
(Doors open at 8:30am)  
**Gonzaga University School of Law Barbieri Court Room**  
**721 N Cincinnati St, Spokane, 99202**  
For further information please contact Carolyn Cole at [Carolyn.cole@courts.wa.gov](mailto:Carolyn.cole@courts.wa.gov).

## JUNE 6

### I DID THE TIME MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Join I Did The Time for monthly organizing meetings to address issues related to reentry & recovery, mass incarceration, criminal justice reform. All are welcome, formerly incarcerated and justice-involved people, family members, service providers and concerned citizens are encourage to attend.  
**6 - 8pm** (first Wednesday of each month)  
**West Central Community Center**  
**1603 N. Belt Street, Spokane 99205**  
For information find I Did The Time on Facebook.

## JUNE 7

### SRLJC RACIAL EQUITY DISPARITY SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Join the RED Committee. We want to hear the voice of the community as we move toward Criminal Justice Reform  
**6-8pm**  
**The Philanthropy Center**  
**1020 W. Riverside, Spokane, 99201**  
[#SRLJCWatch](https://www.spokanecounty.org/913/Racial-Equity)

## JUNE 9

### SPOKANE PRIDE PARADE AND RAINBOW FESTIVAL

Join OutSpokane, along with 20,000 of our closest friends, in celebrating Spokane’s 27th pride celebration.  
**Noon - 1pm - Pride Parade**  
**Noon - 6pm - Rainbow Festival**  
**6pm - 10pm - Dance Party**  
**Downtown Spokane & Riverfront Park**  
For more information visit: <https://outspokane.org/pride-parade>

## JUNE 11

### MONDAY MOVIES PRESENTS: TONGUES UNTIED

Free Pride Month community screening of the classic film TONGUES UNTIED. The NY Times calls the film an experimental amalgam of rap music, street poetry, documentary film and dance. Filmmaker Marlon Riggs calls his film “an affirmation of gay Black life.”  
\*Note: Some scenes of nudity  
**7:00pm - 9:00pm**  
**Magic Lantern Theater**  
**25 W Main Ave, Spokane, 99201**  
For more information visit <https://www.magiclanternnonmain.com/monday-movies>

## JUNE 13

### FUSE DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB

In June, we will meet to review and discuss all the books that we’ve read in order to find connections, patterns, themes, and shared moments of inquiry and observation among the writers and their concerns, focus, questions.  
**6:00pm -8:00pm**  
**Spokane Public Library (Downtown) Level-up Classroom**  
**906 W. Main Street, Spokane**  
For more information contact Erin Pringle-Toungate at [EJToungate@gmail.com](mailto:EJToungate@gmail.com)

## JUNE 16

### WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Refugee Connections Spokane along with over a dozen community agencies will be hosting the United Nations World Refugee Day. This year’s focus is the Refugee Child. The event includes youth activities, an international marketplace, a naturalization ceremony, live performances, and community agency fair.  
**11am - 3pm**  
**Nevada Park**  
**800 E. Joseph, Spokane**  
For more information call (509) 209-2384.

## JUNE 16-17

### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Join the Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition for Spokane’s annual Juneteenth Celebration events.  
**June 17 - Juneteenth BBQ - 2pm**  
Liberty Park  
**June 17 - Father’s Day Fill-up - 2:30pm**  
Chicken & Waffles, Shrimp & Grits  
MLK/ECCC, 500 S. Stone St, 99202  
FREE (Donations accepted)  
For more information: e-mail [inwjc@ymail.com](mailto:inwjc@ymail.com), visit [www.INWJC.org](http://www.INWJC.org), or look for INWJC on Facebook.

## JUNE 18

### NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting  
**7:00pm**  
**Community Building - Lobby**  
**35 W. Main Street, Spokane WA**  
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 (ext 1141) or visit the website at <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

## JUNE 23

### BLACK LENS CAR WASH

Are you looking for a way to support the Black Lens. Bring your dirty car (or clean car) to the Black Lens community car wash. Donations will be accepted. We are also in need of volunteers to help.  
**9am - noon**  
**Car Wash Plaza**  
**417 S. Thor Street, Spokane 99202**  
For more information contact the Black Lens at 509-795-1964 or visit [blacklensnews.com](http://blacklensnews.com)



### Black Panther Screenings

**Saturday, June 2 - 2 p.m.**  
Indian Trail Library, 4909 W. Barnes. Free.  
**Saturday, June 9 - 2 p.m.**  
Hillyard Library, 4005 N. Cook. Free  
**Wednesday, August 1 - 7pm**  
The BECU Movies at Riverfront Park features big screen outdoor movies, entertainment, trivia and tasty food vendors.  
Seating opens at 7:00 pm, movies start at dusk  
Riverfront Park Lilac Bowl, 507 N Howard  
Price: \$5 per person, 5 and under are free



**Cedric the Entertainer**  
June 21  
7pm  
Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort  
Worley, ID 83876  
Tickets: \$35  
Must be 21 yrs and older to attend.

## Imagine Jazz Presents: Legendary Jazz from New York..... The Vincent Herring Quartet

Vincent Herring  
David Kikosi  
Yasushi Nakamara  
Carl Allen



## Tuesday June 19th

7:30

## AT THE HOUSE OF SOUL

120 N Wall

### WEDNESDAY:

7:30 ..... Jazz & Whiskey Wednesdays  
w/ "The Imagine Collective"

### THURSDAY:

7pm .....Karaoke

### FRIDAY:

All Night.....Ladies Night

### SATURDAY:

8:30..... Motown & Dance  
with Nu Jack City

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



24<sup>TH</sup> Annual  
**UNITY**  
in the  
**COMMUNITY**  
SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> · Parade 9 am ~Event 10am to 4pm

Riverfront Park, Downtown Spokane

The Region’s Largest Multicultural Celebration

Cultural Village · Live Entertainment  
Free K-8 School Supplies & Kids Helmets  
(while supplies last)

Unity Parade (register to participate)

Career, Education and Health Fair  
Activities for All Ages  
Senior Resource Area

Unity Parade  
(register to participate)

Career, Education and  
Health Fair

Cultural Village

Activities for All Ages

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Live Entertainment

Free K-8  
School Supplies

Free Kids Helmets  
(while supplies last)

Senior Resource Area

Send information about upcoming community events to [sandy@blacklensnews.com](mailto:sandy@blacklensnews.com).



# COMMUNITY CAR WASH TO SUPPORT THE BLACK LENS



**Proceeds  
Benefit  
The  
Black  
Lens  
Newspaper**

**Saturday, June 23  
9am - Noon**

**Donations  
Accepted**

**Donations  
Accepted**

**Car Wash Plaza, 417 S. Thor St, Spokane**

For more information contact The Black Lens at 509-795-1964, [blacklensnews.com](http://blacklensnews.com)