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EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY IN THE TOLEDO JOURNAL



## St. Martin de Porres Church's Black History Month celebration

*This year's recipients are Arthur, Jr, and Ellen Garrison Jones*

By Michael Daniels  
Journal Staff Writer

Over the past thirty years, the St. Martin de Porres Church Black History Month Concert has become one of the most popular church concerts of the year in Toledo, on the last Sunday evening in February. This year Arthur Jones, Jr, and his wife Ellen Garrison Jones received the St. Katharine Drexel Award, along with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and other special guests.

This award is given yearly to persons, who live in the spirit of St. Katharine Drexel, who used her resources in creating opportunities for adults and children. St. Katharine Drexel founded over sixty schools for Black and Native American children. She also founded Xavier University in New Orleans.

Arthur Jones, a Jefferson Award Recipient, is well known in Toledo for his passion to end domestic violence and to assure the rights of minorities. He served on the Black Chamber of Commerce, Toledo City Council and is an ardent supporter of minority businesses. He also served as President of the Board



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

(L-R) Sister Virginia Welsh presented Ellen and Arthur Jones the St. Katharine Drexel Award for their community service as Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz looks on at the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church Black History Month Celebration Concert.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Enjoying the St. Martin de Porres Church Black History Month concert were (L-R) Teresa Spearman, Emangel Holcomb, and Daisy Abrams.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Toledo Symphony Strings under the direction of Maestro Chelsea Tipton II performed a candlelight concert in honor of Black History Month at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church.

of Bethany House.

Ellen Garrison Jones, the Esquire, received her Law Degree from the University of Toledo. She has served in various positions in Lucas County including, Director of Lucas County Children Services. She retired from the county as a Client's Rights Officer with the Mental Health and Recovery Board. Presently Ellen is the convener for the Black Catholic Ministry Advisory Council of the Diocese of Toledo.

Art and Ellen Jones are active members of St. Martin de Porres Parish.

This year's program entitled 'On Angels' Wings We Soar to the Light' was performed by The Toledo Symphony Strings instead of the complete Orchestra under the direction of Guest Conductor Chelsea Tipton II.

They performed music of the Spirituals genre, among the compositions performed were also lyrics for Strings by Walker and Mozart's EineKleineMachtmusik, Movement 2.



# The House Passes Sweeping Police Reform Named After ‘George Floyd’, But Will it Pass the Senate?

By Jane Kennedy  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Only those with the hardest of hearts will ever forget the dying words of George Floyd, a Black man who gasped, “I can’t breathe!” as a white Minneapolis police officer literally choked him to death.

The horrific incident, which was captured in video, set off a season of protests across the United States and the globe and a national reckoning of the racial and criminal injustice that have plagued African Americans for generations.

In a late-night session on March 3, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, largely along party lines and with just one vote by a Republican, Texas Rep. Lance Gooden, who later said in a since-deleted tweet that it was an accident and he had pressed the wrong button.

This landmark, wide-ranging police reform legislation has received broad support from a wide variety of civil rights organizations, including the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the NAACP, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., the National Urban League, the National Action Network, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and several other civil and human rights groups.

“Never again should an unarmed individual be murdered or brutalized by someone who is supposed to serve and protect them,” Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), who authored the bill, said in a statement. “Never again should the world be subject to witnessing what we saw happen to George Floyd in the streets in Minnesota.”

Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis, Minn. officer responsible for Floyd’s death, was fired and will soon be tried on a third-degree murder charge. Jury selection was beginning this week. The bill, which must be signed by President Biden before it becomes law, aims to end racial profiling, change the culture of the nation’s police departments, build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve—and save lives.

The bill - if passed by the Senate and signed by the President, would:

- Prohibit federal, state, and local law enforcement from racial, religious, and discriminatory profiling.
- Mandate training on racial, religious, and discriminatory profiling for all law enforcement.
- Require law enforcement to collect data on all investigatory activities.
- Ban chokeholds and carotid holds at the federal level

“*Never again should an unarmed individual be murdered or brutalized by someone who is supposed to serve and protect them.*”

and conditions law enforcement funding for state and local governments banning chokeholds.

- Ban no-knock warrants in drug cases at the federal level and conditions law enforcement funding for state and local governments banning no-knock warrants at the local

and state level.

- Require that deadly force be used only as a last resort and requires officers to employ de-escalation techniques first. Changes the standard to evaluate whether law enforcement use of force was justified from whether the force was “reasonable” to whether the force was “necessary.”
- Limit the transfer of military-grade equipment to state and local law enforcement.
- Require federal uniformed police officers to wear body cameras and requires state and local law enforcement to use existing federal funds to ensure the use of police body cameras.
- Require marked federal police vehicles to have dashboard cameras.
- Make it easier to prosecute offending officers by amending the federal criminal statute to prosecute police misconduct. The mens rea requirement in 18 U.S.C. Section 242 will be amended from “willfulness” to a “recklessness” standard.
- Enable individuals to recover damages in civil court when law enforcement officers violate their constitutional rights by eliminating qualified immunity for law enforcement.

The Justice in Policing Act also establishes public safety innovation grants that community-based organizations can use to create local commissions and task forces to develop equitable public safety approaches, much like former President Barack Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. In addition, it requires the creation of law enforcement accreditation standard recommendations.

“This represents a major step forward to reform the re-



lationship between police officers and communities of color and impose accountability on law enforcement officers whose conscious decisions preserve the life or cause the death of Americans, including so many people of color,” said civil rights attorneys, Ben Crump and Antonio Romanucci, on behalf of the Floyd family in a statement.

Civil rights leaders are ecstatic over the bill’s passage but may soon find they will have to temper both their enthusiasm and expectations. The House passed a similar bill last year, but then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell buried it in what came to be referred to as his “legislative graveyard.”

In a CNN interview last week, Bass said that she has been in talks with Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tim Scott (R-SC) for several weeks, and current Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) will likely put some version of the

bill on the floor for consideration and a vote.

But first, obstacles will have to be overcome. Although Democrats now control the Senate, with a tie-breaking vote from Vice President Kamala Harris, some Democrats may require some convincing and 10 Republican votes also will be needed for passage.

Senate Republicans have claimed that the House bill puts police officers in danger and makes communities less safe. They also object to the provision that eliminates qualified immunity and prosecutorial standards, the major sticking point that they believe would subject law enforcement officers to excessive litigation. But Democrats argue it is needed to hold police accountable for unnecessary use of deadly force.

That’s a red line for me, Scott told the Associated Press. “Hopefully we’ll come up with something that actually works.”

# What Should You Do If Your Loved One Goes Missing

By Stacy M. Brown  
Wire Writer

According to the most recent statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, approximately 40 percent of the 425,000 missing children in America are Black.

Specifically, 156,000 African American children under 18 are missing and unaccounted for.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) continues its series on the plight of missing African American girls and boys who have disappeared.

Throughout the series, which began in 2019, a common theme emerged: Black children who go missing re-

ceive far less media coverage and police priority than White children.

“For preliminary matters, the media reports what police report or what is trending and deemed newsworthy,” Sherri Jefferson of the African American Juvenile Justice Project (AAJJP) told NNPA Newswire this week.

“Therefore, Black children are less likely to get Amber Alerts or other Alerts, including the ‘America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response,’” Jefferson noted.

Founded in 2007, the AAJJP is a program that focuses on community accountability and responsibility, youth leadership, and legislative initiatives

for juvenile justice transformation.

Jefferson added that AAJJP recognizes that Black children in America leak or SEEP – Systemic. Endemic. Pandemic – through holes of racism, classism, and capitalism.

AAJJP’s mission is to provide programs and services for social justice and reform, engaging the African-American community, the



“We cannot go it alone. Why are we missing? Our community lives in isolation with a no-snitch, no one sees or hears anything attitude,” Sherri Jefferson of the African American Juvenile Justice Project (AAJJP) told NNPA Newswire this week.

school system, and the child welfare and juvenile justice system.






Jefferson noted several other

Continued on page 16.



The U.S. Constitution doesn’t state Supreme Court Justices, as well as Federal Judges have to be lawyers or attend law school to sit on the bench. In order to diversify the courts, the Biden Administration has been considering appointing potential judges from other walks of life.

What occupations would you like to see judges representing and why?

 <p><b>Andra Barbour</b> Property Manager</p> <p>I would like to see a teacher sitting on the bench, particularly a high school teacher. The reason I say a high school teacher is they understand the mindset of young adults entering adulthood and when rendering decisions that may impact young adults greater, would be more sensitive to the fact a young person is still developing.</p>	 <p><b>Dr. Victor Coleman Jr.</b> Motivational Speaker</p> <p>I'd like to see someone from the medical field sitting on the bench. Medical personnel have compassion for people and realize that a specific outcome may not be deliberate, but instead, a result of an uncontrolled event. They also look at people through the lens of, "how can I help?"</p>
 <p><b>Corvette Landrum</b> Sterile Processing Tech</p> <p>I'd like to see a doctor on the bench. They would have a great understanding of the health and mental problems people are dealing with and wouldn't be so quick to want to make rulings against people dealing with mental issues. A doctor would be a lot more sensitive to people than an attorney.</p>	 <p><b>Brenda Wiggins</b> SSOR</p> <p>I'd like to see a human rights activist sitting on the bench. That type of person deals with people daily and on a much more personal level, therefore they would be sensitive to people's plights and people would be more trusting of them; being that he or she worked directly with common people.</p>
 <p><b>Ashley Green</b> Nail Tech</p> <p>I'd like to see someone from the healthcare field because I believe they would be more sensitive and humane to what people are experiencing. He or she would also have a more in-depth understanding of people needing healthcare or mental healthcare. Also, when people are supposed to receive payouts from their health insurance, the judge would be more understanding to the fact that the person needs the money immediately, as opposed to having the insurance company drag the case out, in order to avoid paying that person what he or she deserves.</p>	 <p><b>Chris Keller</b> Real Estate</p> <p>I'd like to see someone from the financial sector sitting on the bench. When making rulings regarding financial situations such as bankruptcy, that person would be more sensitive and have a greater understanding of what people are facing. That person could also rule against laws that are bias against people who are really struggling to get their financial situation in order.</p>

Ongoing Events

**Rental Assistance Programs for Homeless Toledo Public Schools’ Students**

The City of Toledo – partnering with the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board, Toledo Public Schools, Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio, and financial opportunity centers – has launched two new safety net grant programs to assist homeless families of students currently attending the school district. Up to \$2 million of Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act funding will be used to help approximately 300 families with rent payments for up to three months, rent deposits, and utility payments. Families at or below 60 percent of the area median income may qualify and will be rapidly re-housed into permanent living situations.

**Mt. NeboMary and Gail’s Closet Free Attire**

Mt. Nebo launches clothing ministry in Mary and Gail’s Closet. Mary and Gail’s Closet, named in honor of two church members who passed away in 2020, is a new clothing ministry to benefit men and women in need of business attire, including job and job interview - appropriate outfits. It’s stocked with donations from Macy’s, New York & Company and the Rotary Club, among others. Appointments are currently required. Call Mt. Nebo at 419-246-8561.

- Senior Centers Closed**
- Lucas County senior centers
  - Sandusky County senior centers
  - Williams County senior centers
  - Wood County senior centers

**Every Tuesday**  
**Toledo Masjid Al-Isalm Through Tarbiyyatul Haqq MinistriesFood Pantry**

Located at 722 E. Bancroft St., Toledo, OH 43608. Available Tues. 11 am - 1 pm every week. Free

**Food Pantry**  
**Every 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month**

The Redeemed Christian Church of God Mount Zion Chapel Toledo will hold a food pantry, at 2239 Cheyenne Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614

**March 11 & 18**  
**Free Food for UT Students through TCM & Holistic Hands**

University of Toledo students, are you experiencing hardship due to COVID-19? Stop by Holistic Hands across from Lot #13 on Thur Mar. 11 & 18 from 11-2 to receive a FREE meal. Bring your UT ID. Masks must be worn. Meals are limited, so come early. Want more info? Email: [holistichandswellnessgal-lery@gmail.com](mailto:holistichandswellnessgal-lery@gmail.com).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: State Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson in Toledo Blade: Eliminate hurdles to voting, add ballot drop boxes

*Submitted*

In case you missed it... In an op-ed for the Toledo Blade this weekend, state Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson called out Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose and Ohio Republicans for “trying to take us backwards and reverse our hard-fought victories on voting rights.”

In 2020 Mr. LaRose blocked

county boards of elections from installing multiple drop boxes at convenient sites so that Ohio voters could return their ballots safely and securely during the coronavirus pandemic. He claimed that he did not have the authority to provide more.

However, on a phone call with other lawmakers and civil rights leaders in the summer of 2020, Mr. LaRose assured

me that if he was given the authority by the courts or the General Assembly, he would allow counties to take this simple, commonsense action. Several court decisions gave him clear direction that he did, in fact, have the authority to expand the use of drop boxes.

Still Mr. LaRose said no. Instead he chose to side with the members of his party that want to restrict voting access, and

most importantly, he broke his promise to the voters of Ohio and Lucas County.

In spite of Mr. LaRose’s failures, the Ohio House Democrats are moving forward with a proposal to allow local boards of elections to have additional ballot boxes. We work for you, the citizens of Ohio, and I am proud to work for my constituents in Lucas County and Ohio’s 44th House Dis-

trict.

We must not see a repeat of the 2020 election, when people stood in long lines, voters worried about the U.S. Postal Service sending and returning their ballots in time, and people had to drive for miles outside of their neighborhoods to deliver their ballots.

***Paid for by the Ohio Democratic Party.***



# The Right to Vote is Under Siege



By Jesse Jackson  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The fundamental right in a democracy — the right to vote — is once more under siege. In state after state, Republican legislators have introduced literally hundreds of bills designed to suppress voting. Their passion is fueled by Donald Trump’s big lie that the presidential election was “stolen” from him. Their targets are minorities — African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans, and the young. They call themselves Republicans, but their lineage comes not from Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president, but from Jefferson Davis, the southern Democrat who led the Confederacy in its battle to keep Blacks enslaved. The current debates have a haunting history. After the South was defeated in the Civil War, Congress passed the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. Often termed the “second founding,” these amendments ended slavery (13th), guaranteed equal protection under the laws (14th) and prohibited discrimination in the right to vote

(15th). The defeated south then began what was called Reconstruction. To be readmitted to the Union, they had to create new constitutions that rendered equal rights to all. In some states, newly freed Blacks constituted the majority. In many states, a new fusion politics began, often bringing the newly freed Black citizens together with small farmers and merchants against the old plantation aristocracy. In states like North Carolina, the new majorities passed remarkable progressive reforms in public education, public works, progressive taxation, land redistribution and more. The white plantation aristocracy could not abide the new order. They organized a systematic effort to suppress the new coalitions. America’s first domestic terrorist organization, the Ku Klux Klan, unleashed a wave of violence against newly freed Blacks and the whites who joined them. An estimated 5,000 Blacks were lynched. The violence that included setting fire to Black stores and neighborhoods was designed to drive Blacks and their allies out of polling booths and the South. The plantation aristocracy successfully took back power, then imposed Jim Crow laws that made it virtually impossible for Blacks to vote. The federal government failed to check the violence, and in 1876, in a corrupt deal, Republicans agreed to end Reconstruction and remove the remaining federal troops. In 1896, to its lasting shame, the Supreme Court in Plessy v. Ferguson ratified the surrender, declaring separate but equal laws constitutional. It took more than 50 years before the civil rights movement and the Voting Rights Act restored the right to vote to African Americans. Today’s Repub-

lican Party is founded on the reaction to the civil rights movement. From the 1964 Goldwater presidential campaign on, Republicans traded hats with southern Democrats to become the party of state’s rights, white sanctuary and opposition to racial equality. Today’s Jefferson Davis Republicans know that they are increasingly a minority party. In Georgia, Arizona, Texas, North Carolina and other states, Republicans fear they will lose control. Once more, intimidation, mass incarceration and violence are used to intimidate. After the last election, Trump rallied his supporters with the big lie that the election was stolen, inciting them to sack the Capitol and to march on state legislatures. Worse, even after the riot, 147 Republicans in the House and Senate voted to overturn the election. The violence, just as in Reconstruction, is combined with a systemic campaign to suppress the right to vote. In 33 states, legislators have introduced 165 bills to restrict voting, the Brennan Center on Justice reports. In nine states, Republicans have introduced legislation to limit mailin voting (nearly half of votes in the 2020 election were cast by mail due to the pandemic). In 10 states, Republicans are pushing more stringent voter ID requirements, knowing that these discriminate against minorities (25 percent of African Americans but only 8% of whites have no government-issued photo IDs). Other states are pushing to prohibit the use of student IDs to make it harder for the young to vote, roll back automatic voter registration laws, end Election Day registration or reduce the number of days for early voting. In Florida, Georgia, North Carolina

and Texas, Republicans control all branches of government, giving them power to gerrymander districts in the redistricting after the 2020 census. Once more the Supreme Court has aided and abetted these anti-democratic actions. The rightwing majority gutted the Voting Rights Act in Shelby County v. Holder. For the first time, there will be no prior review by the Justice Department to limit racially discriminatory gerrymandering. Then in Rucho v. Common Cause, the “gang of five” ruled that the courts would no longer review challenges to partisan gerrymandering. No federal court will stand in the way of discriminatory outrages. It took decades to overcome the Jim Crow laws imposed at the end of Reconstruction. It required mass demonstrations, immense courage on the part of ordinary heroes, and finally the leadership of Lyndon Johnson and Martin Luther King Jr., among others, to begin to correct the injustice. We can’t wait decades this time. Jefferson Davis Republicans are once more intent on imposing minority rule, and using the law and a partisan majority on the Supreme Court to enforce it. They’re using both terrorist threat and legal measures to intimidate and impede voters. Once more it will take popular opposition — demonstrations, voter registration and mobilization drives, popular education and engagement — to protect the right to vote. The House of Representatives has passed a law, HR 1, to expand and protect the right to vote. The bill is likely to face universal opposition from Republican senators, unless popular mobilization forces some to stand up. It is time for ordinary heroes once more.



By Dr. E. Faye Williams  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – I often reflect on the stories told by my family and friends. While sometimes amusing, they can give rise to more serious

# Indispensable?

thought and consideration. One such story was told to me by a friend who was drafted during the Viet Nam War. He related that he had a close-knit family that always demonstrated love, and that he was well-respected among his circle of friends and associates. He admitted being shocked upon reading a large, posted poem entitled “INDISPENSABLE?” when he ventured into his first military Orderly Room. He did not memorize the poem, but remembered that it suggested that his life was no more valuable than the next warm body that could be put in its place. Recalling the transcripts of conversations between President Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger describing Viet Nam era soldiers as “canon fodder” added confirmation to his story. This characterization of his worth was in direct opposition to the value placed on his life - for all of his life. It was a sobering reminder that his life only held situational value. The same value of, say, George Floyd!

In a greater sense, that story relates to our community at large. We’ve learned from our history that, upon emancipation, most institutional and general thought believed that African-Americans, outside of slavery or similar conditions, had become obsolete in their usefulness to society. In a general sense, my experience and observations inform me that the value of OUR humanity, and the humanity of other peoples of color, is based upon a sliding scale of the value that whites perceive we bring to them. This is most obvious in sports and entertainment, and in other skilled areas where we have achieved essential expertise. There is little question that we retain value as long as we can provide a “valued” service or perform the “dirty” jobs that whites are unwilling to do. The pandemic and last presidential election have highlighted this dynamic as never before. Past administration actions shed light on its intended outcomes. Most respected medical officials agreed that

achieving herd-immunity in the manner pursued by the Trump administration would have had an epically destructive impact on Black and Brown communities. With disparate healthcare, circumstantial herd-immunity outcomes of “get well” or “die” favor the unwelcomed “die” option for people of color. Disregard of voters of color is another issue with which the nation currently struggles. The “BIG LIE” supporting a 2020 Trump victory is sustained by the effort to eliminate votes originating in communities of color. Republicans emphatically supported discarding votes from urban centers in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Michigan, and Arizona. It doesn’t take a genius to know whose votes were under fire. Rogue police, those who support them, and radical political reactionaries who understand the change that OUR unfettered participation in the political process predict, have shown their intent to take this country back to a time of ‘limited democra-

cy’ by virtue of race. OUR immediate and on-going challenge is to ENGAGE to protect OUR true value. We no longer have the luxury of sitting-back while waiting for others to take-up our cause. For as long as this country has existed, ‘slowing-down’ or taking ‘measured steps’ toward full social justice has been the mantra of those who resist constructive social change. We now face a new, more dangerous enemy who is willing to immediately and dramatically throw the legal and social constructs of our ‘democracy’ into reverse gear. They willingly discard the principles upon which this country was founded to the goal of maintaining racial, social, and cultural superiority. We must match their vigor with an equal vigor for the salvation of our lives and those of our children. We have no other choice! (Dr. E. Faye Williams is President of the National Congress of Black Women and host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-89.3 FM.)

## The Toledo Journal

A NATIONAL BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

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3450 W. Central Avenue,  
Suite 107, Toledo, OH 43606  
(419) 472-4521

Sandra S. Stewart  
Publisher

Myron A. Stewart  
Editor



Member of National Newspaper Publishers Association,  
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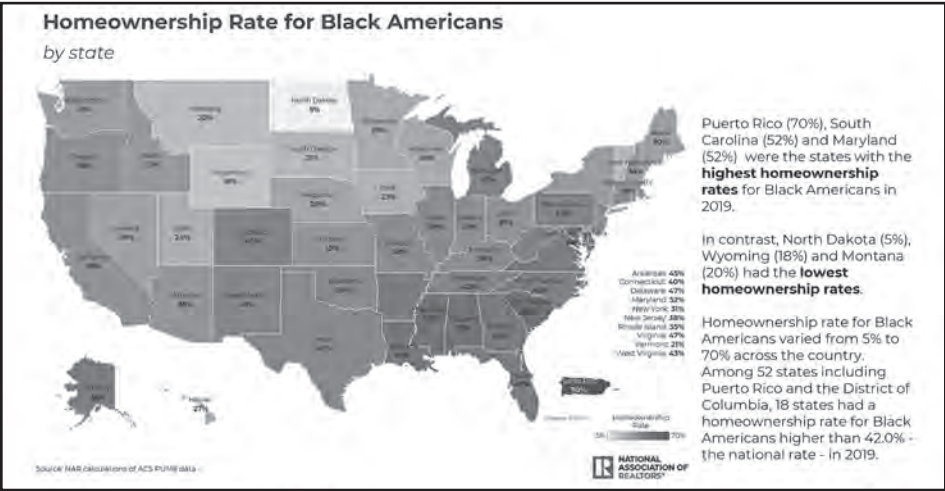
# \$10 billion Sought for Housing Assistance Direct Payments



By Charlene Crowell  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Over the past year, COVID-19 and its variants have plagued the globe taking lives and interrupting normal activities in virtually all areas of life. For Black America, already plagued with steep health, income and wealth disparities, coping with the pandemic has been even more painful.

With less income, higher unemployment, and less access to financial resources, both businesses and consumers



must be done to aid businesses that were already underserved by PPP.

“Many Black, Latino, Asian and immigrant business owners are sole proprietors and independent contractors – vital to their communities,” said Ashley Harrington, Director of Federal Advocacy with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). “Congress should make increased loan amount eligibility for sole proprietors and independent contractors retroactive, as they did when the rule changed for small farmers and ranchers. We must ensure all vulnerable businesses have equitable access to the relief they need to weather this crisis.”

Well-known national organization such as the NAACP, National Action Network and the National Fair Housing Alliance, are partnering with Black business organizations like U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. and the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, along with local partners including the Boston Impact Initiative, Chicago Urban League, and Pacific Community Ventures.

Speaking in a united voice to federal officials, this coalition of organizations and businesses called directly on February 12 for race-explicit solutions to the new PPP relief. Substantiating this appeal was data that showed that these same businesses that previously missed out on PPP funding collectively provide 8.7 million jobs, \$280 billion in annual payroll, and \$1.3 trillion in revenue.

“This targeted aid should serve as a model for a long-term revitalization program aimed at providing small businesses in these hard-hit areas with the resources to recover faster and emerge strong”, said Luke Pardue, and economist with Gusto, a national data firm specializing in small businesses. The firm is also a member of

process, and the fee structure”, states a CRL policy brief. “These structural inequities made it extremely difficult for small businesses – and particularly businesses owned by people of color -- to qualify for assistance or receive it in time to save their businesses and the jobs of the employees that depend upon them.”

Additionally, and according to CRL, PPP administration by the Small Business Association failed to require demographic data to determine if lenders prioritized underserved markets and businesses, and consequently failed to issue lender about prioritizing borrowers in underserved markets as well.

Just as Black businesses struggle to access capital, exclusionary housing policies have made it nearly impossible for Black families to build home equity on parity with whites and/or convert home equity into wealth needed to begin a business. In short, denied access to finance is a key reason why many Black consumers struggle as renters instead of becoming homeowners.

Representing the nation’s largest trade association with its 1.4 million members working in residential and commercial real estate, the National Association of Realtors recently released a report that analyzed data from the Census Bureau’s American Consumer Survey. From a racial perspective, NAR examined homeownership over the past decade, looking at characteristics of who purchased homes, their reasons, and financial backgrounds.

Noting that homeownership boosts consumer wealth, NAR concluded that the net worth of a homeowner is 40 times that of a renter: \$255,000 versus \$6,300 in 2019. But, according to NAR, not all families enjoy the same access to home-

rence Yun, NAR’s Chief Economist said, “The residential housing market’s strong performance during the pandemic helped homeowners enjoy a significant increase in wealth via approximately \$1 trillion in additional home equity over the last year. However, as indicative of the K-shaped economic recovery, greater numbers of potential first-time homebuyers – many of whom are minorities – are feeling discouraged by disproportionate job losses. Essentially, they’re being priced out of owning a home because of rapidly rising home prices resulting from historically-low housing inventory.”

“For Black Americans,” continued Yun, “in general the greater likelihood of having student loan debt, combined with lower household incomes and accrued savings when compared to the national average, adds to the challenge.”

With the exception of Asian and Pacific Islanders, Black heads of household had a higher percentage of student debt than either Latinos or Whites. While 21% of Whites held \$30,000 in student debt, according to NAR, Black student loan debt averaged \$40,000 and affected 43%. Latino student debt was the lowest amount at \$20,000, while that held by Asian/Pacific

Affordability				
Share of households that can afford to buy the typical home				
	White	Black	Asian	Hispanics
Alabama	74%	58%	73%	63%
Alaska	84%	73%	88%	77%
Arizona	57%	40%	66%	58%
Arkansas	74%	58%	86%	76%
California	33%	20%	44%	20%
Colorado	46%	30%	48%	32%
Connecticut	64%	42%	74%	42%
Delaware	65%	40%	75%	47%
District of Columbia	56%	14%	35%	33%
Florida	51%	43%	65%	50%
Georgia	70%	55%	74%	63%
Hawaii	24%	18%	27%	77%
Idaho	57%	38%	57%	39%
Illinois	70%	45%	76%	62%
Indiana	76%	53%	74%	69%
Iowa	76%	58%	72%	67%
Kansas	75%	61%	79%	70%
Kentucky	70%	49%	75%	67%
Louisiana	70%	58%	70%	59%
Maine	64%	45%	73%	61%
Maryland	64%	45%	70%	53%
Massachusetts	51%	31%	58%	53%
Michigan	74%	53%	80%	65%
Minnesota	68%	40%	70%	55%
Mississippi	77%	59%	84%	66%

	White	Black	Asian	Hispanics
Missouri	72%	56%	76%	66%
Montana	35%	32%	40%	41%
Nebraska	74%	60%	68%	53%
Nevada	50%	32%	53%	41%
New Hampshire	62%	57%	76%	61%
New Jersey	59%	37%	74%	42%
New Mexico	65%	58%	72%	59%
New York	55%	37%	54%	40%
North Carolina	68%	42%	77%	57%
North Dakota	69%	38%	26%	63%
Ohio	76%	52%	83%	63%
Oklahoma	74%	56%	71%	67%
Oregon	46%	22%	55%	38%
Pennsylvania	70%	47%	72%	56%
Rhode Island	61%	38%	70%	59%
South Carolina	73%	49%	77%	52%
South Dakota	71%	75%	60%	72%
Tennessee	67%	52%	79%	55%
Texas	69%	54%	77%	58%
Utah	55%	27%	51%	41%
Vermont	62%	61%	74%	70%
Virginia	62%	44%	71%	55%
Washington	48%	32%	65%	53%
West Virginia	72%	58%	84%	76%
Wisconsin	71%	43%	74%	60%
Wyoming	65%	16%	40%	32%

alike strive to hold on for much-needed relief. In many cases, modest financial resources are either gone or near their end, and the patience to cope has worn thin.

In response, an unparalleled coalition of more than 100 national, state and local advocates are pressing Congress and the Biden Administration for substantive changes to deliver equitable relief to underserved communities. Foremost in the coalition’s concern was getting Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds to deserving but largely left out businesses from earlier funding rounds.

“The design of PPP strongly disfavored businesses owned by people of color, who generally do not have established banking and face greater obstacles in capital access,” wrote the coalition. “Moreover, the incentive for lenders to fund large loans, which yielded larger fees, has proved to be a barrier to entry for the vast majority of businesses of color.”

Fortunately, beginning February 24, new PPP approvals will be restricted to businesses with 20 or fewer employees for two weeks in order to target smaller businesses with relief. The SBA will also implement new rules in the coming days that will lessen barriers for small businesses in several areas. These key changes will provide better access and equitable assistance: using gross income instead of net profit as an eligibility measure, improved practices collecting demographic data and eliminating student debt defaults/delinquency from borrower applicants.

However, despite these changes, more

“ This targeted aid should serve as a model for a long-term revitalization program aimed at providing small businesses in these hard-hit areas with the resources to recover faster and emerge strong... Such a plan could take the form of targeted block grants that Congress provides to distressed localities. ”

the coalition. “Such a plan could take the form of targeted block grants that Congress provides to distressed localities, who are then able to spend the funds on small business development, job training, and support programs to improve job retention. Congress could make the Neighborhood Capital Investment program permanent with \$12 billion in annual appropriation.”

In its own independent PPP analysis, CRL also noted the pandemic’s profound effect on small businesses.

“At the outset of the program and during the first round of funding from April 3 to April 16, 2020, it was clear that structural inequities were built in to the administration of the program, the application

ownership, and homeownership itself does not offer a complete perspective.

White consumers have consistently held a homeownership rate of 70% or higher. But over the past decade, Black homeownership, the single group most negatively impacted by the Great Recession, dropped from 2009 to 2019 to 42%, less than that of Latinos at 48%, or Asian-Americans at nearly 61%. Depending upon locale, White homeownership ranged from 49-78%, Black homeownership ranged from a low of 5% in North Dakota to 70% in Puerto Rico. In the continental United States, 2019’s highest Black homeowners was in South Carolina and Maryland, both at 52%.

Explaining the racial disparities, Law-

Islanders was the highest at \$42,600.

In December 2020, according to NAR, the median price of an existing home was nearly \$309,800, 13% more costly than the previous year, and over 40% higher than five years ago. In 2019, Black median income was short of \$70,000, while that of Whites that same year the median income was \$90,000.

Groups like CRL, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Consumer Law Center, and many others are pushing for funding that will help preserve homeownership with a \$10 billion housing assistance fund that would provide direct payments to homeowners for mortgages, utilities, property taxes, property insurance and other related housing costs.

Advocates are also requesting \$100 million for housing counseling and \$40 million for the Fair Housing Initiative program to assist families disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. They highlight that previous federal programs, such as Treasury’s Hardest Hit Fund, were designed to help struggling homeowners during the housing crisis of 2008 but came too late and provided little relief in communities of color. Black and Latino communities together unnecessarily lost \$1 trillion of wealth during the Great Recession.

Public policies and broad societal discrimination created many of today’s economic inequities. It is now time to correct the ills of systemic discrimination. And it is government’s duty to ensure that the hardest hit communities receive their fair and equitable share of relief.



# After a Century of Land Theft and Exclusion, Black Farmers Getting Needed Government Aid

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire

With the objective of ending systemic racism, the House of Representatives passed two bills this week: The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the For the People Act of 2021 that attacks voter suppression. Lawmakers have also signaled their desire to stamp out oppression affecting another group of Americans: Black farmers.

“More than a century of land theft and the exclusion of Black people from government agricultural programs have denied many descendants of enslaved people’s livelihoods as independent, landowning farmers,” Mark Bittman, an author, and former food columnist, wrote in an op-ed for the New York Times.



PHOTO CREDIT / iStockphoto / NNPA

**Under the proposal, the government would pay off USDA loans and USDA-guaranteed loans held by socially disadvantaged farmers and give an additional 20 percent to the farmers to cover income taxes associated with the debt relief.**

Bittman noted that “African-American labor built much of this country’s agriculture, a prime source of the nation’s early wealth.”

In February, the U.S. House Agriculture Committee approved a land-

only recover from the devastation of these crises but give them the tools and assistance to thrive that they’ve long been denied,” Sen. Warnock continued.

“Considering the urgent need for this funding and the overwhelming support this proposal has garnered from across the agricultural community, we can’t get this relief passed and out the door quickly enough,” he stated further.

Specifically, the Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act would provide \$5 billion to America’s Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and farmers of color who have long struggled to keep their farms and ownership of their land in rural communities because of long-standing discrimination by the USDA and other government agencies, Warnock added.

Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) are co-sponsors to the legislation.

“In addition to the economic pain caused by the pandemic, socially disadvantaged communities are also dealing with a disproportionate share of COVID infection rates, hospitalizations, and death,” U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack remarked.

“The American Rescue Plan expands testing and vaccinations and ensures that we get the economy on track for everyone, especially those who have been mar-

also together to support the Emergency Relief for Farmers of Color Act, led by U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA).

Sen. Warnock said the legislation offers direct relief to Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic farmers and other agricultural producers of color to help them respond to the devastating consequences of the pandemic and resulting economic downturn and address long-standing inequity in agriculture.

“This once-in-a-century pandemic, and the economic downturn that followed, has revealed and exacerbated long-standing disparities in our government that have left certain communities behind, particularly Black farmers and

“More than a century of land theft and the exclusion of Black people from government agricultural programs have denied many descendants of enslaved people’s livelihoods as independent, landowning farmers”

“In the years since the end of slavery, Black Americans have been largely left out of federal land giveaways, loans, and farm improvement programs,” he continued.

“They have been driven off their farms through a combination of terror and mistreatment by the federal government, resulting in debt, foreclosures, and impoverishment.”

mark \$5 billion program of debt relief for socially disadvantaged farmers, despite Republican objections that the aid was an unconstitutional form of reverse discrimination.

According to Successful Farming, an agriculture-themed website, Chairman David Scott, a Georgia Democrat, said minority farmers deserved the help because they had been overlooked in the mammoth trade war and coronavirus relief programs that began in 2018.

Under the proposal, the government would pay off USDA loans and USDA-guaranteed loans held by socially disadvantaged farmers and give an additional 20 percent to the farmers to cover income taxes associated with the debt relief.

The measure is part of President Joe Biden’s \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan now before the U.S. Senate.

More than 600 leading food companies, racial equity leaders, and farm organizations have come

“This legislation is a major step toward righting some of these injustices and leveling the playing field for farmers and farming families of color to help them not only recover from the devastation of these crises but give them the tools and assistance to thrive that they’ve long been denied.”

farmers of color,” Sen. Warnock remarked in a statement emailed to NNPA Newswire.

“This legislation is a major step toward righting some of these injustices and leveling the playing field for farmers and farming families of color to help them not

ginalized or shut out of federal assistance in the past,” Vilsack continued.

“I applaud the provisions in the bill that begin to address systemic discrimination and provide relief and assistance to Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and other farmers of color.”

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# Black Families Across the Nation Use Their Stories to Empower Others

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Wire Writer

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – It was around 10 am about six months ago, August 18, 2020. Jamie and Tonya Nash and their two sons were in class and at work inside their house in Newnan, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta.

It was a scene being played out in millions of homes across the nation as the days of the coronavirus pandemic wore on. But, as if the international quarantine wasn't enough, the life of the Nash family was about to take on a whole new dimension.

Their older son, Daniel, 13, was at his computer in the dining room and their youngest son, Nicholas, 7, was at a desk in the kitchen. Nicholas, a good-natured, warm and jovial son who loves to sing and video-tape himself playing with toys, was playing around as Mrs. Nash chided him, encouraging him to focus on a worksheet.

"I was explaining to him what he needed to do, and he was just being silly and grinning, and I was like, 'Boy, look, do this work and you can have

a break. You're taking away from your break time over here playing."

Just as she thought he was about to focus, something strange happened.

"All of a sudden his head dropped down and I thought to myself, I know this boy ain't going to sleep. So, I pulled his head up and I said, 'Boy you better wake up. What are you doing? And then when I pulled his head up, I could see his eyes. They were rolling around and moving fast.'"

Mrs. Nash, who has a master's degree in public health, recognized immediately what was happening -albeit unbelievable.

"I knew it was a seizure. But the Mama in me was like, this

is not happening. What is going on?"

She grabbed Nicholas with one hand and her phone with the other and was trying to dial 911, but she couldn't get the number right as she struggled



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Rare Disease Day is recognized on Feb. 28.

to balance. So, she cried out for her husband, Jamie, who was in the bedroom teaching an online JROTC class.

The Nash family story is harrowing and emotional even as she recounts it. But they are telling their story anyway as Sunday, February 28, the last day of Black History Month, has been designated as Rare Diseases Day by the National Organization of Rare Diseases (NORD). Though their situation is more unusual than most, they are hoping to impart awareness

to other Black families who may have to deal with rare conditions like Epilepsy.

"It was very scary. He had never had a seizure before. So, we called the ambulance,

and he went to the ER and they told us that, because he had no history of seizures, this would probably be the only one that he'll have," she said.

Even after Nicholas was over the seizure, his regular health care provider reiterated the next day that it was not clear what had happened, but he should be fine. That was not the case. "Five days later we found him in the bathroom where he'd had another seizure."

As is typical of the days of COVID, only one parent was allowed to go into the hospitals or doctors' appointments with Nicholas. After the second seizure, Mrs. Nash took him to the Children's Hospital of Atlanta. There he was diagnosed with Epilepsy, put on medications, and was told he needed to see a neurologist for an electroencephalogram (EEG) - which is a test that detects electrical activity in the brain.

Both of their sons began showing signs of autism when they were 2 years old. But the Nashes had learned to man-

Continued on page 16.

# Open for healing



Alex, colorectal cancer survivor and patient at UTMC's Eleanor N. Dana Cancer Center

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# Talking to your child gets them ready to read!

Submitted

Getting your child ready to read is as easy as talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing. The Library is here to help you incorporate these five early literacy practices into your daily routine with your birth-preschool age child.

This month we will focus on the early literacy practice of talking. Did you know that talking is one of the very best things parents and caregivers can do to help children prepare for future reading success? Technology is rapidly changing the way we interact with one another. While there are many positive ways technology can enhance early literacy at home (more on this in a later article!), studies have shown that the lack of human conversation with our babies, toddlers, and preschoolers hinders language development in these early years. The more words children hear before they enter kindergarten, the better readers they will become!

Look for chances to chat each day during morning and evening routines, mealtimes, while in the car, and while tak-

ing a walk. Help your child learn new words by repeating back some of what they say and adding new vocabulary.

Child: I see a bird!

Adult: You do see a bird! That red bird is a cardinal. What do you think the cardinal is doing?

Child: Eating?

Adult: That's right. The cardinal is eating seeds.

Here's something to talk about! Watch a virtual storytime from the Library with our children's librarians at [toledolibrary.org/virtualstorytime](https://toledolibrary.org/virtualstorytime). Books are also wonderful conversation starters. Visit or call any Library location for help selecting books that encourage talking.



PHOTO CREDIT / PIXABAY

# Michelle Obama to Launch Cooking Show for Kids on Netflix

Submitted

First Lady Michelle Obama has confirmed that she is launching a new cooking show for children on Netflix called Waffles + Mochi. The 10-episode series will debut in March 2021

The 57-year old wrote her Instagram page: "It's all about good food, discovering it, cooking it, and of course, eating it. These two will take us on adventures all around the world to explore new ingredients and try out new recipes."

Back in 2018, both Michelle and her husband former President Barack Obama entered into a multi-year agreement to produce films and series with Netflix, the world's leading internet entertainment service.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Tune in on Netflix to watch Waffles + Mochi.

They will produce a diverse mix of content, including the potential for scripted series, unscripted series, docu-series, documentaries, and features. All of their projects will be accessible to more than 125 million households in 190 countries.

WHAT WE'RE READING NOW



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# Mom Releases Fourth Book For Parents

## *Her Son Learned to Read, Write, and Do Math By the Age of 3*



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

Andrea Stephenson has written her fourth book, **Teaching Mathematics in Early Childhood**. This book, which is an Amazon bestseller, has over 200 simple playful activities, tips, and resources that make learning math easy and fun.

(Black News) - Many believe that math comes naturally for some and not others. This is simply not true. Math is a subject that builds upon the previous concept. Many students can raise their math scores with practice.

Furthermore, teaching mathematics in early childhood is one way to start a child on the right track.

Andrea's son spoke in full sentences at 18 months, started spelling and reading at 21 months, could write the alphabet and numbers by 27 months, and do multiplication by 36 months. Her other books,

Teach Your Toddler to Read Through Play, Fun and Easy Ways to Teach Your Toddler to Write, and Teach Your Child about Money Through Play detail how

this was done through fun and playful in-depth learning methods.

You can see Andrea and her son interact on the YouTube channel, Corban's Fun Learning Adventures.

They share fun science experiments, DIY projects, and learning games weekly.

On Andrea's website, SimplyOutrageousYouth.org, there are online courses teaching study tricks and reading tips. Additionally, they have expanded into providing t-shirts for children with positive messages and images.

The mission is to show parents that all children are capable of learning in a natural, playful, environment without flashcards. This is important work and Andrea is honored to do it.

# Learning in a New Way, Remote Learning

By: M. Jackson, BA., M.ED  
Guest Writer

In the last several months or so the classroom norm is no longer in school buildings but in the home of students and families. We call this remote learning, the new way of learning for most. Although home school and other alternative learning have been around for many years, this is not every student or parent method for learning for various reasons, as we have various learning types, taking students and families outside their norm due to coronavirus.

When I talk with most parents some feel overwhelmed or frustrated about remote learning leaving most feeling anxious about remote learning. What to do about getting their child or children on google classroom and how to help them complete their google classroom assignment. Here are a few things I like to tell parents you can do, keep in mind remote learning is only a temporary aide to the coronavirus.

**First** take a deep breath and tell yourself and children that you can do this and we can do this. Reminding yourself and child or children, you're doing a great job, positive reinforcement is a start to self and your child or children from the start of the day to the very end. If you have younger children praise yourself and your child or children for getting them logged on to the computer and into google classroom that is the biggest accomplishment of the day like sending them off to school.

**Secondly**, if you were able to manage keep your child or children on google classroom through your own or the support of a older sibling, relative or daycare provider, please see that as a success while separating google classroom from home can be very chal-

lenging to parents or student or students with the temptation watch television or play on video games because their are out of the classroom. As we understand remote learning is not always the most quiet place, if possible find a nice quiet place for learning this will help your child or children.

**Thirdly**, be proud for encouraging your child or children for completing each class assignment. This might be a verbal praise or perhaps giving them a recess outdoors or your regular incentives that you probably do while your child or children are in school. In addition, parents and students need to keep in mind that it is okay to feel frustrated because most have felt that way but don't give up.

**Fourth**, make sure you know your child's or children google classroom schedule this is key. If you don't know ask your child or children's teacher about the google classroom schedule to help your child or children get to google meet on time for each meet. If your child or children or yourself don't understand how to complete assignments, don't be embarrassed arrange for a google meet so your teacher can teach you or your child or children how to navigate through to complete google classroom assignments.

**Fifth**, if your health allows you to join a gym to work-out some frustration or get a workout video and work-out at home or turn on some music to dance too. Your local library have

many videos and resources that can easily be checked out. In addition, you can always find a quote or inspiration from the internet to help get you through the day and even a favorite song that inspires and uplifts.

Additionally, another option is writing in a journal to write about google classroom and how things are going or feelings of being overwhelmed or feelings of frustration. Or you can write your accomplishments out like I was able to get my child or children on google classroom today that

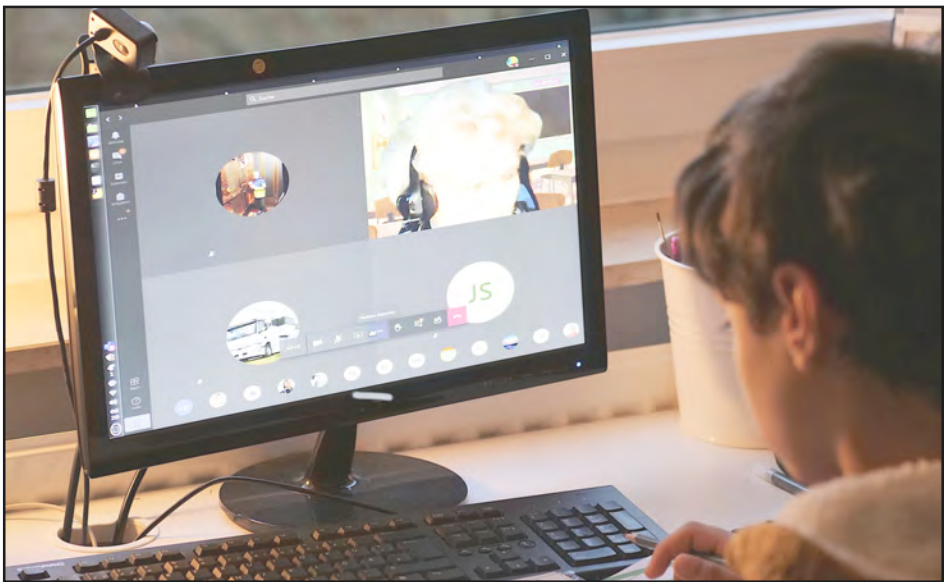


PHOTO CREDIT / PIXABAY

made me feel very proud, another my child or children maintained in google classroom and finished all work today I feel really proud about it.

In conclusion, remember the last several months have not been nobody's norm for the most part. Most students

and families rely on in-person learning at school. Find a friend or a relative that you can talk to or find a support group to help you even if you need more support don't be afraid to reach out to a mental health provider.

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*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from  
whence cometh my help. All of my help  
cometh from the Lord. Psalm: 121*

Why Did Jesus Say He And His Father Are One?

Submitted

"I think Jesus, who is the Son of God, and God the Father are in a business together," says Miquel, 11.

Yes, they're in business together, but it's much deeper than a business partnership.

"Jesus and God are mighty," says Kathy, 11. "They are one together. God and Jesus are patient, passionate and perfect. God and Jesus are the exact same person."

In AD 325, the Roman emperor Constantine called Christian leaders to meet at Nicaea in Turkey to craft a statement that would clarify the relationship between Jesus and his Father. The council concluded that they are not the same person, but distinct persons with the same "substance."

The idea that Jesus and his Father are the same person is called modalism, which asserts that Jesus is a way or mode in which God the Father makes himself known. So Kathy's statement that they are exactly the same person is mistaken. They are distinct persons.

The AD 325 council stated that Jesus is fully God. He was begotten, not created. The council rejected the teaching of Arius, who said Jesus was God's first creation. He was not fully God nor fully human.

Because Arius was influenced by Greek philosophers, he believed all matter and material things were evil. He taught that Jesus only appeared human. His body wasn't real flesh and blood.

The Nicaean Council stated that Jesus is the only member of the God-head (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) who became incarnate. He came forth from the Father but al-

ways co-existed with him as God.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, that was the first and only time humanity and divinity came together in one person. But divinity and humanity were never comingled. The two natures remained distinct.

This is how Jesus could say that he existed before Jewish patriarch Abraham, yet he could tell a Samaritan woman he was thirsty. As deity, Jesus pre-existed Abraham and all creation. As humanity, Jesus got thirsty.

This is heady stuff of which volumes have been written over many centuries. No doubt we'll be contemplating the uniqueness of Jesus Christ for all eternity. How infinite God could take on finite flesh and veil his divine glory for 33 years is the kind of mystery that will always perplex our little pea-picking brains. As Clint Eastwood once said, "A man has to know his limitations."

This brings us to the trinity. Almost all attempts to explain the trinity by anal-

ogy create problems. Nevertheless, the one I like best comes from scholar Neal Plantiga, who writes, "The whole trinity is more like a three-member society than a single personality with several self-relations."

"Jesus and God are both perfect, and no one else is," says Gabriel, 11. "God and Jesus both glow in all their glory."

When Jesus returns to establish his kingdom, his glory or glow won't be veiled as it was when he lay in a Bethlehem manger on the first Christmas.

Think about this: By taking on human flesh at birth in Bethlehem, Jesus humbled himself in ways we can never imagine. The Creator took on a form of his creation. Jesus further humbled himself by submitting to a cruel crucifixion to pay for our sins.

Memorize this truth: "I and my Father are one," (John 10:30).

**ASK THIS QUESTION:** Because Jesus humbled himself in his birth and sacrificial death on a cross for you, will you humble yourself and accept his free offer of eternal life by believing in him as your savior?

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Aretha J.

**Dear Aretha:** It is always nice to hear nice things and we do appreciate your expressions. In order to minimize our expenses we ask that you call us first to remove the expense of the middle-man from this process. We in turn will immediately contact our agent in that city to make the removal from place of death, make preparation for your mom, provide us with proper permits and the number of death certificates that you will need. We will schedule a flight from origin to destination of Detroit Metro Airport. Upon arrival at our facility, we will go over the arrangement process with you to make things go as smoothly as possible. That is the aim and standard operating procedure of the C. Brown Funeral Home, Inc.

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# Tabernacle MBC closes out Black History Month with a bang

*Historical facts and African dance were highlighted*



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Prior to the start of their Black History Month program, Pastor Sylvester and First Lady Vondean Rome, right, join some of the members of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church for a photo op.

By Jurry Taalib-Deen  
Journal Staff Writer

First Lady, Vondean Rome of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 2500 W. Central Ave, proudly held up a picture of Alice Coachman, who, during the 1948 Olympics, was the first Black woman from

any country, to win an Olympic gold medal.

First Lady Rome continued sharing the accomplishments of Ms. Coachman with the congregation, many of whom were dressed in traditional African attire, during the church's annual Black History Month program, held on Sunday February 28 at the church.

Nancy Davis, one of the organizers of the event, told The Toledo Journal that several speakers from the church would share historical facts and the To-

ledo Kwanzaa House would prefer an African dance.

"I'm excited about today," she said. "This program encourages people to study more about our history. By learning their history, people learn what type of ability they truly have. The thing that really got me excited were the young people involved with the program; they were so excited about the event, that it made me excited," Ms. Davis expressed.

For the children's active participation in the program, she said during the final rehearsal, the day before the program, they all received free pizza, and would be awarded with certificates of participation.

Diane Gordon, founder of



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

First lady Vondean Rome, holds up a picture of Alice Coachman, Olympian, while she reads her accomplishments.

Toledo Kwanzaa House, along with Miyonnah Gordon, taught the children, who ranged in age from four to 14, a Kwanzaa dance.

"The children were excited about learning the dance. That excitement and desire of wanting to learn the dance, made it

easier for them to catch on to it," she said.

Mrs. Gordon said teaching the dance is a part of Toledo Kwanzaa House's outreach program, which they collaborate with churches, schools and other institutes within the city.

“ This program encourages people to study more about our history. By learning their history, people learn what type of ability they truly have. ”



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Diane Gordon, right, founder of Toledo Kwanza House and Nancy Davis, left, organizer, join the girls of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church prior to their performance.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL

Girls ranging from four to 14, perform a Kwanza dance.



# Business gathering aims to improve network, increase revenues

By Jurry Taalib-Deen  
Journal Staff Writer

Business owners and professionals representing a multitude of areas gathered at The Spotlight Lounge, 710 South Reynolds on the afternoon of February 27. The objective of the event was to network, help business owners develop a greater focus for their business and possibly create

partnerships, that would help increase the revenues from that union. Spearheading the event was Arlinda Self, of the Self Love Movement and TaShara Brown, TaShara B of Confidence in a Cup, explained that the working brunch session featured eight speakers representing their particular business. Each would explain the nature of their venture, as well

as, offer insights on how others could grow their business. No charge for attendees and they were encouraged to move around and introduce themselves to their business colleagues.

“We want to help people grow their business, as well as, help them become informed to the various types of help, such as business loans, they can get to expand their network,” Mrs. Self said.

“We also want them to become more confident in their product or service, as well as, expose them to government and private sector programs that are available to them,” Ms. Brown said.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL  
**Arlinda Self, left, and TaShara Brown, TaShara B spearheaded the successful event that had 100 registered.**



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL  
**Three of the sponsors of the event are, as well as presenters are, from left, Rob Pasker, Ambrea Mikolajczyk, and Lance Self.**



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL  
**Arlinda Self went around with a microphone and gave people the opportunity to introduce themselves and explain the nature of their business. Donnetta Carter explained how she creates environments for business to network and grow and Danielle Schonegge, is the owner of Danielle Housing.**

Mikolajczyk were a few of the sponsors of the event.

Mr. Self, a salesman at Taylor Hyndui of Toledo said, “Businesses and professionals of Toledo need to take their vision to another level. An event like today will help them reach that level.”

Mr. Pasker, of Pasker Real Estate said, “This environment will help the vision of those

here today, to grow and become more focused.”

“I knew today would, not only encourage networking, but it would give us the opportunity to patronize each other’s establishments and perhaps, establish business ties,” Ms. Mikolajczyk said.

Another speaker for the day was Nkechinye Okpah owner of Eddiblez, which is THC/CBD infused food, for holistic healing. She told those in attendance, “I don’t want people to think of weed when they hear THC/CBD; I want them to think of holistic healing.”

She went on to explain how THC/CBD has been used by the medical community to treat a variety of ailments, including pain associated with joint disorders.

“I have degenerative joint disorder and I use THC/CBD to manage my pain. I don’t use narcotics such as Vicodin or Percocet’s,” Ms. Okpah said. “I just want people to begin associating THC/CBD with a natural and holistic way to treating pain.”

Due to overwhelming attendance, 100 registered for the event, Mrs. Self and Ms. Brown were considering making the event a quarterly activity.



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL  
**Marisha and Devon Raymond are business partners who operate a daycare and have their own podcast that focuses on what marriage is really like and black love.**



PHOTO CREDIT / TOLEDO JOURNAL  
**People representing various types of businesses attended the event to network, and expand their businesses.**



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March 14, 1794:

Eli Whitney patented cotton gin which made cotton king and increased demand for slave labor.

March 13, 1932:

Publication of the First Black Daily Newspaper, Atlanta Daily World.

March 15, 1933:

Los Angeles Sentinel founded by Leon H. Washington

March 16, 1935:

Percy Laavon Julian (1898-1975) synthesized the drug physotigmine which is used today in the treatment of glaucoma.

March 12, 1955:

Charlie Parker (34) dies, one of the founders of the modern jazz movement, in New York City.

March 11, 1956:

Segregation Denounced in public schools.

March 10, 1989:

Singer Doc Green of the Drifters dies.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NOTICE OF FORTY-FIVE (45) DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO LMH LEASE

Lucas Metropolitan Housing ("LMH") proposes to revise the lease agreement. The proposed changes can be found at <https://www.lucasmha.org/news-view?id=115>. If you have a comment, contact LMH at [tmackin@lucasmha.org](mailto:tmackin@lucasmha.org).



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Singer Doc Green of the Drifters dies.

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Toledo Municipal Court

The Court is now accepting applications for the full-time position of Information Technology Specialist. Responsibilities include serving as IT liaison for staff and vendors, receiving and responding to inquiries about hardware, software, and network problems; providing on-site hardware and software installation, servicing, and maintenance, and providing technical/AV support. Demonstrated skill in communicating technical information to non-technical users, and the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others in a fast-paced environment required. Associate's degree in information technology or a related field, and/or four (4) years full-time experience performing IT work directly relating to tasks associated with this position or any combination of education and experience provided the required skill and knowledge for successful performance of the position, required. Prior help-desk experience preferred, but not required. Potential candidates must pass a background check. Must be LEADS certifiable. Starting salary \$47,750.98 annually.

Submit resume with cover letter describing how you meet the qualifications outlined above by 4:30 p.m., Monday March 22, 2021 to The Court Administrator's Office (Attn: HR-IT), Toledo Municipal Court Judges' Division, 2nd Floor, 555 N. Erie, Toledo, OH 43604 or email to [tmchiring@tmcourt.org](mailto:tmchiring@tmcourt.org). Equal Opportunity Employer. For complete job description go to <http://tmc.toledomunicipalcourt.org/docs/>

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# Film Review: Coming 2 America



Arsenio Hall (left) and Eddie Murphy (right) are back in Coming 2 America.

PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED

By Dwight Brown, NNPA  
Newswire Film Critic

The commissary at Tyler Perry's studios must have been packed during the shoot. Hefty main cast. Lots of supporting roles. Extras in abundance. Murphy plays a prince, but he is truly the king of Black comedy — and luminous. The Nigerian sounding accent, wicked smiles, dramatic acting and horsey laughs. He plays a host of other characters too, the most frenetic is rock/soul musician Randy Watson, a Rick James knock off in a powder blue outfit warbling "We Are Family." Equally disarming is Wesley Snipes as the duplicitous snake Izzi. He's wonderfully evil.

Nothing wrong with a little nostalgia. But if you're looking for a comedy revelation, this isn't it. It's an '80s throwback with a comic superstar, his merry men/women and a tinge of Wakanda fever. Grab a seat and be prepared to yawn before you laugh hysterically.

If 1988 feels ancient to you, you're young, go sit in a corner. If that era brings back pleasant memories, step up. Things have happened since back in the day. The larger public has learned what the African American community has known all along, being Black is cool and being Black in Africa is mythically awesome. That's what made the original Coming to America iconic.

A long, long time ago, Akeem Joffer (Eddie Murphy) was the young prince of Zamunda, a fictional country over in the motherland. Rather than taking part in an arranged marriage, as expected by his father the king (James

Earl Jones), Akeem eschewed tradition. He and his wingman/coat-holder Semmi (Arsenio Hall) went to Queens, New York, looking for a wife. He found Lisa (Shari Headley), a commoner, the daughter of Cleo (John Amos) a man who owned a fast-food restaurant named McDowell's. The two lovebirds married and lived happily ever after—until...

That's the old plot. The step off point for screenwriters Kenya Barris, Barry W. Blaustein and David Sheffield. It's like they cheated off an old term paper to write the new formulaic one. Innovation, wild imagination, uncanny scenes or profound dialogue—nope. Expect, with Barris at the helm, inside culture jokes, bawdiness (an attempted male adult circumcision. Ouch!) and Black-ish humor.

Prepare for a few surprises (a welcomed touch of female empowerment). There are plenty of laughs, one-liners, sight gags, rivalries and problems to solve. None add up to much more than an excuse to give Eddie Murphy one more run at Akeem before we all go to the elephant burial ground.

Director Craig Brewer, who guided Murphy to a career-redefining performance in Dolemite Is My Name, helms the project. Comedy is his stomping ground, but not much else. He works in a Black Panther angle with a few martial arts warrior fight scenes—none particularly convincing. Romantic moments are shallow at best.

Settings in Africa and New York's largest and most diverse borough provided opportunities for stunning exteriors of

African plains or bustling streets, but few exist. That's because the production was largely shot at Tyler Perry Studios. Pageantry, elaborate processions, fancy royal bedrooms, neighborhood barbershops, it all looks fake. What isn't bogus are the comic performances, which Brewer nurtures perfectly.

These days, King Jaffe Joffer is ailing, old, contemplating succession and mortality. He turns to Semmi with certain derision: "I will be dead soon. Why couldn't it be you?"

Old laws dictate that Prince Akeem's successor must be a male heir. That displeases the prince's eldest daughter Meeka (Kiki Layne, If Beale Street Could Talk) and his two other offspring (Akile Love and Murphy's real offspring Bella Murphy).

Marrying Meeka off to General Izzi's (Wesley Snipes) useless son Idi Izzi (Rotimi Akinsosho) could have two benefits: A future male prince and uniting the two, potentially warring nations of Zamunda and Izzi's country Nexdoria.

It's a plan, until Akeem discovers that, due to an old indiscretion, he has a son back in Queens. When Lavelle (Jermaine Fowler), his mom (Leslie Jones) and Uncle Reem (Tracy Morgan) show up at the palace, things get complicated.

The slow, tedious buildup may make viewers doze off before any signs of action appear, like Lavelle being tasked with outsmarting a lion or a women vs. men crucial action scene.

Otherwise, the rhythm is slow (editors David S. Clark, Billy Fox, Debra Neil-Fisher) and the

cinematography (Joe "Jody" Williams, TV's Empire) unremarkable. Campy, garish costumes (Ruth E. Carter, Black Panther), extravagant sets (Douglas A. Mowat, Inception), a funky musical score (Jermaine Stegall) and a host of cameos (En Vogue and Gladys Knight) fill in the cracks nicely.

The commissary at Tyler Perry's studios must have been packed during the shoot. Hefty main cast. Lots of supporting roles. Extras in abundance. Murphy plays a prince, but he is truly the king of Black comedy — and luminous. The Nigerian sounding accent, wicked smiles, dramatic acting and horsey laughs.

He plays a host of other characters too, the most frenetic is rock/soul musician Randy Watson, a Rick James knock off in a powder blue outfit warbling "We Are Family." Equally disarming is Wesley Snipes as the duplicitous snake Izzi. He's wonderfully evil.

Arsenio Hall in drag could give kids nightmares. Whoever hit him with the ugly stick should be properly credited. Also begging for laughs and attention are Jones and Morgan with more nuanced performances by Layne, Headley and Nomzamo Mbatha as Lavelle's love interest.

Tune in looking for the old days, Afrocentric culture and silly comedy and you'll be satiated. Expect something earth-shatteringly new, and you won't. Remember how two African interlopers once changed audiences' perception of Queens, New York? Zamunda forever!

Premiered on Prime Video Friday, March 5, 2021.

# Social Security Matters: Ask Rusty – Delayed Claiming; Am I Now Getting the Right Amount?

Dear Rusty: I am having problems getting answers from the national Social Security office or the local agent who I first spoke with to apply for my benefits. I am 70 in January 2021 and applied for benefits at the end of August 2020. I asked to have benefits start in October 2020 with my first payment received in November. I was told that the benefit for applying at age 69 & 9 months would not be received until January of 2021. Until then I would receive the 69 years and 0 months payment, which I received in November and December of 2020. In January 2021 however, I received the same 2020 payment plus the COLA increase. I've asked what's up at the local office and have been waiting for a return phone call. My first question: is the amount I received in November and December last year correct, i.e., it is only the age 69 amount, not the 69 and 9 months benefit for the age I was at the time? And second, if that's true, when in 2021 should I get my full amount? Signed: Confused

Dear Confused: I'll try to clear this up for you. Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of 0.667% are earned monthly for each full month you delay claiming after your full retirement age (which for you is 66). But although you earn delayed retirement credits monthly, Social Security only applies them in January of each year. You don't lose them; they just don't do the benefit adjustment until January of each year. That's why you got only the age 69 benefit when you started your benefits in October and why your payment in November and December didn't include those DRCs.

The SS payment you received in January was actually for your December benefits, and included the 2021 COLA increase (which is computed using your December benefit). And just as an FYI, they do apply DRCs immediately for anyone who claims at age 70, regardless of the month they claim. What happened to you was because you claimed before you were 70.

The additional 6% DRCs you earned between January and September last year should be applied in January of this year and should be included in your next benefit check, which you will receive in February (SS pays benefits in the monthly following they are earned). When they do that computation, they'll automatically adjust your COLA using your new benefit amount. So, what you were told by the Social Security agent is essentially correct — your benefit payment won't reflect those additional DRCs for 2020 until your January 2021 payment, which you will receive in February.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).



# NFL Hires First Black Woman Referee

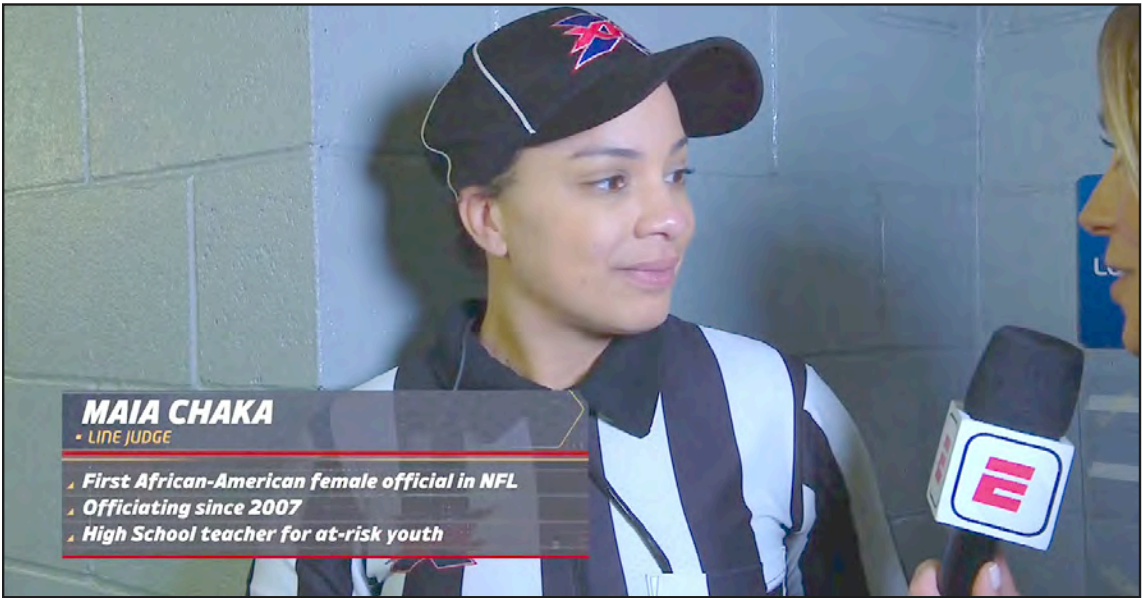


PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED / Interview with XFL referee Maia Chaka / ESPN / YouTube

As long as you put in the work and you are fundamentally sound in anything that you do, you know you will reach your goal,” Chaka offered.

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Newswire

Maia Chaka knows well that Women’s History Month is all about commemorating, observing, and celebrating the vital role of the fairer sex in American folklore.

She just didn’t know she would become a part of that history.

After years of officiating games in the Pac-12, Conference USA, and the NFL’s Officiating Development Program, Chaka will head to the NFL in the Fall.

When she takes the field in September, the Norfolk State University graduate and health and physical education teacher will do so as the first Black woman to work as a referee in the NFL.

She’ll also be just the second woman to wear the zebra stripes. Sarah Thomas, who worked last month’s Super Bowl, is the other.

“This is a funny thing. I was actually at home, and I was playing NBA2K with my nephew online because that’s what I like to do at night,” Chaka told NNPA Newswire just hours after an appearance on NBC’s “Today” show.

“Then, I received a phone call at around 9:15 p.m. [March 4], and I just dropped everything I was doing. The next thing I know, I’m getting told ‘welcome to the National Football League,’” Chaka exclaimed.

Did she think it was for real? “I just jumped up and threw everything off my lap. I thought

I was being punked because I didn’t believe it at the time. But it was true,” she remarked. Troy Vincent, an African American and the NFL’s second-in-command behind Commissioner Roger Goodell, celebrated Chaka’s appointment. “Maia’s years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance – including as par to the NFL Officiating Development Program – have earned her a position as an NFL official,” Vincent declared.

“When she takes the field in September, Maia Chaka, a Norfolk State University graduate and health and physical education teacher, will do so as the first Black woman to work as a referee in the NFL. She’ll also be just the second woman to wear the zebra stripes. Sarah Thomas, who worked last month’s Super Bowl, is the other.”

“As we celebrate Women’s History Month, Maia is a trailblazer as the first Black female official and inspires us toward normalizing women on the football field,” Vincent concluded.

Chaka told NNPA Newswire that she expects coaches and players to treat her the same as any other official. “I think the coaches

do not hold us to a different standard [than men] because we are all officials at the end of the day. It does not matter what gender we are. We are all wearing the same uniform.” The importance of her historic promotion isn’t lost on Chaka.

“It’s an honor to join the National Football League,” commented Chaka, who works with at-risk girls in Virginia. “I just want young girls of color – young women – to know that if you have a drive for something, don’t let anything hold you back just because you think something may give you some limitations. Work hard and follow your dreams.”

Her promotion to the big league also demonstrates to women of color that they can work and succeed in a male-dominated field, Chaka said.

“As long as you put in the work and you are fundamentally sound in anything that you do, you know you will reach your goal,” Chaka offered.

“I think it’s important that they see the representation in these fields.”

Asked if she would switch from playing NBA2K with her nephew and challenge him to Madden Football, Chaka demurred.

“No, he couldn’t handle me on Madden,” she retorted.



PHOTO CREDIT / SUBMITTED / NFL / TWITTER

“As long as you put in the work and you are fundamentally sound in anything that you do, you know you will reach your goal.”

- MAIA CHAKA

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# Black Families Empower Others

Continued from page 7.

age two autistic children. Medical science sometimes connects autism and epilepsy – both being neurological disorders - but, given the advanced ages of their sons, there was no reason to believe either would be diagnosed with Epilepsy. So, the Nash family had begun a mysterious journey; not knowing that an even greater shock was on the way.

“When we had the EEG done, we weren’t expecting results right away, but the neurologist looked at the results and she said, “I’m going to tell you this. Your EEG results are extremely abnormal’, which blew me away because I did not expect her to say that. She said the way his EEG looks; it doesn’t look like someone who just started having seizures.”

Ultimately, the diagnosis was confirmed. Nicholas not only has Epilepsy, but he has an extremely rare kind of Epilepsy, called Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS). It is a form of Epilepsy that usually becomes apparent during infancy or much earlier childhood, “usually before the age of 4 years,” according to the National Institute of Health (NIH).

“That was devastating to hear to put it lightly,” said Mrs. Nash. “Since the diagnosis, our son has had different types of seizures and they were pretty much unexpected as to when they would happen. They would randomly happen.”

They can occur at any time, even the most inopportune times: “He had a seizure on his birthday, he had a seizure on Thanksgiving, he had a seizure on Christmas and multiple seizures during the Christmas break,” his mother recalls.

“For many African-Americans with epilepsy, access to appropriate care is a central problem. But even more damaging than issues of medical care can be the fear, misperceptions and discrimination imposed by people who don’t know the truth about epilepsy.”

The diagnosis has changed their lives astronomically.

At first the seizures mostly happened in the morning; then started happening in the evening. “So, whenever he’s up, we’re up. We’re watching him like a hawk because there’s been a couple of times that he’s had a seizure, and no one was around him and we found him. We had to put cameras all over our house so that, God forbid, if he had a seizure, we’d at least be able to see what happened and if there was a trigger, what kind of seizure he had, and how long it lasted. He will need monitoring constantly for the foreseeable future until we get things under control.”

In addition to assuring that their home is safe for Nicholas, they are also working closely with his school system to make sure he has the accommodations needed to maximize the quality of

his education.

Lorraine Newborn-Palmer, a member of the African American Professional Advisory Board for the Epilepsy Foundation (EF), says the increased education about seizures in the Black community is crucial.

“As an ethnic group, conditions such as epilepsy are being discussed more often in the context of historical backgrounds and now in the face of an ongoing epidemic,” says Newborn-Palmer, clinical program manager for the Sandra and Malcolm Berman Brain & Spine Institute. “We, as nurses, recognize the increased importance of education about seizures and epilepsy that cannot be overlooked. Forging ahead in this everchanging healthcare environment has become even more of a challenge.”

Fortunately, Tonya Nash immediately recognized Nicholas’ first seizure. But there are multiple kinds of seizures, all of which appear different. Here are a few of the most important facts about African-Americans and seizures, according to research by Thometta Cozart, a Master of Public Health and representative of the Epilepsy Foundation (EF) who facilitates the EF’s mini grant program:

African-Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with epilepsy than Caucasians; they more often experience status epilepticus, a medical emergency in which a seizure continues for 10 minutes or more without stopping; and they are at increased risk for Sudden Unexpected Death from Epilepsy (SUDEP).

For many African-Americans with epilepsy, access to appropriate care is a central problem. But even more damaging than issues of medical care can be the fear, misperceptions and discrimination imposed by people who don’t know the truth about epilepsy — that it doesn’t define a person, it’s just a medical condition. Education is the key to changing attitudes and encouraging those with the condition to seek proper care.

More than 578,000 African-Americans are living with active epilepsy in the US and more than 25,000 new cases are diagnosed each year among African Americans in the US.

African Americans are more likely to experience a medical emergency in which a seizure continues for 10 minutes or more without stopping. A free Seizure Recognition and First Aid certification training will help a care giver to recognize and administer efficient first aid. Information on this training can be found at [www.epilepsy.com/firstaid](http://www.epilepsy.com/firstaid).

Among the most important facts to be known is that there is always hope as research continues. Despite the difficulties over the past six months, the Nashes remain a healthy and happy family. Tonya and Jamie will be celebrating 18 years of marriage in June.

Of Nicholas, Mrs. Nash concludes, “In spite of all the seizures, our son continues to be a loveable, happy and resilient little boy!”

# What Should You Do If Your Loved One Goes Missing

Continued from page 2.

er factors that explain why missing people of color still get little attention in the media and police. They include how police and families define missing children.

“Often, police do not inform the Black community of the process of reporting missing people,” Jefferson remarked. “Therefore, children are generally defined as a runaway and not missing.”

Runaways are not given priority.

Throughout the United States, authorities issue warrants for runaways who face formal charges when located.

Further, Jefferson added that police “misinform parents and families that this process will speed up locating missing persons and that is false and damaging to the missing person because it criminalizes their victimization plus it leads to police and system involved process.”

“Children are detained and subject to further abuse,” Jefferson declared.

In many cases, when a child goes missing, parents are told to delay reporting for 24 hours.

Jefferson called such a delay a denial of justice that [could] lead to the death of those missing.

“Police misinform or misuse information provided by the families to include an emphasis on depression, behavior or conduct disorders, and isolation,” Jefferson demanded. “These factors lessen the chance of defining the person as missing.”

Ultimately, the missing person is viewed through the lens of voluntarily being absent or willfully not wanting to be located, Jefferson added.

AAJJP officials also expressed concern about trafficking.

“Our children and young adults are often adulterated and are less likely seen as victims. We see this in addressing just JUST US – Juvenile Urban Sex Trafficking in the United States – where Black, African American, and Afro Latinas are less likely seen as victims of kidnapping or missing by force or coercion.

Instead, they are perceived as willing participants engaged in sex for profit,” Jefferson said.

She said AAJJP implores communities of color to become proactive in searching for missing loved ones. For example, a parent or caregiver knows their loved one’s routine.

So, when a child does not report to school or return home after school, a search should begin immediately.

Jefferson offered that parents and caregivers consider adding GPS tracking devices via a cell phone, bracelet, watch or necklace, to their children and elderly parents.

“Call 911 to make an official, recorded, and documented emergency call,” Jefferson advised, noting further that

all calls made to 911 are monitored and recorded, unlike non-emergency police station phone numbers.

“Respectfully, but vigorously request to file a missing person report. Do not

suggest that they are missing due to mental health illness, which police prompt Black people to divulge to justify missing persons,” Jefferson declared.

“While there could be a correlation, until it’s proven, just pursue it as a missing person. Make fliers with their photos and last known location and full descriptions of what

they were wearing,” she continued.

AAJJP officials said it’s vital that parents know what their children are wearing each day.

They note that parents may leave for work before their child goes to school. In that case, Jefferson said parents should have their children send photographs or use facetime or a video device each morning.

She recommends using social media to post information and photos of anyone missing, using hashtags like #Breaking, #Missing, and tagging @MissingKids, @JeffersonandCo, @BlackGirlTragic, and @IHaveVanished.

Jefferson said it also helps to add media outlets like @EbonyMag, @Ebsence, and @BlackPressUSA.

“Go door-to-door. Question friends,” Jefferson said. “This is why parents need to get a list of names and contact information of their children or loved ones’ friends and associates.

“Retrieve phone records – this is why it’s important to put all cellular phones in the name of a parent to avoid needing a court order or warrant to retrieve records and creating delays – and know their social media account handles to search for information.”

Jefferson demanded that communities must embrace the “each one, teach one to reach one” approach.

“We cannot go it alone. Why are we missing? Our community lives in isolation with a no-snitch, no one sees or hears anything attitude,” Jefferson said.

“It’s hurting our community. Our children and families are suffering. Hence, there is a big difference between a snitch and a good Samaritan.”

If every major television network, cable outlet, news program, and social media feed posts a picture of a missing person at the bottom of the screen and the Department of Transportation uses digital billboards to showcase missing people 24/7, 365, that would help locate the missing.

“What if our Black magazines, both digital and print, would do a pull-out section every issue? We would find our missing people.”

“Respectfully, but vigorously request to file a missing person report. Do not suggest that they are missing due to mental health illness, which police prompt Black people to divulge to justify missing persons.”