

# The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

## Junior High School #1

### Is no safe haven in North Trenton

BY MICHAEL HARMON

I've been back in Trenton for about 2 months now. I've walked the streets many a day, trying to grow The Nubian News. I see wonderful people, small businesses attempting to progress, horrible streets and sidewalks, beautiful children and decay. I see many abandoned houses, a lot of abandoned houses. Reminds me of season 4 of The Wire, an HBO show set in Baltimore MD, where a notorious drug crew used abandoned houses to murder people, then hide the bodies. Like Baltimore in The Wire, Trenton is struggling. One of the biggest struggles is what to do



### REINA DEL PROM NIGHT IN LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL

FOR CARLOS AVILA

LAWRENCEVILLE-Familiares dieron a conocer a este medio de comunicación que la señorita Lisbeth Burgos actual Miss Guatemala del Condado de Mercer, fue escogida entre sus compañeras de escuela como la reina de la fiesta de la noche de graduación "Prom Night 2019" en la escuela Lawrence High School. Su pasatiempo favorito es cantar y socializar con sus amistades. Felicidades y éxitos en sus sueños por cumplir.

with the vacant buildings?

This brings me to the point. Junior High School #1 is vacant, abandoned and ripe for trouble. Abandoned isn't supposed to mean completely unsafe and open for people to do with as they please.

The front gate is literally wide open, as are a few doors for anybody looking for a place to do drugs, drink or hang out. The building is ripe for a killing, a rape, for someone to get injured and die. We have new leadership in

*Junior #1 - continued on page 3*

### INTERESANTE Y AMENA REUNION SOBRE NUTRICION

LAWRENCEVILLE-El martes 28 de Mayo, Rachele Graham, Aiesha Lee y Lucero Mejia; realizaron interesantes presentaciones sobre Salud y Nutrición en la reunión de padres y madres de familia del comité Mercer County Council for Young Children. Las reuniones del comité se realizan una vez al mes con el fin de educar y empoderar a los padres y madres de familia que tienen niños pequeños. Para más información sobre este programa pueden llamar al 609-364-0977.



**El Latino News**

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Trenton - Mercer County

Go to page 6 - Edited by Carlos Avila



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# The Other Black And Latino Crisis: Mental Health

By AL ALATUNJI

There are various issues which the Black and Latino communities refuse to seriously address. Yes, some handkerchief head politician or publicity seeking opportunistic preacher will make some noise about gun violence in particular Black on Black, Brown on Brown gun violence. However, too often it will be said “Blacks and Latinos do not manufacture the guns nor are major distributors of them.” Nevertheless, more often than not, it is a Black or Brown person who will be on the end of a bullet shot from a gun in the hand of another Black or Brown person. Then again, if it was not for the handkerchief head politician or publicity seeking opportunistic preacher there would be a deafening silence from the Black and Latino political and religious leaders, as witnessed with the two recent mass shootings in Trenton. Nothing from Council or the religious community. Beyond the typical and worn out “we offer our prayers and thoughts”, where was the Council’s emergency meeting to address the gun violence?

Where was the anger and outrage? Then again, do we expect anything of social redeeming value to come from this current City Council?



Substance and drug abuse are other issues that the Black and Latino communities refuse to address. “We are not the ones bringing the drugs into the country.” Black and Latino

people say. But prior to the current opioid crisis, that white folks are all up in arms about, it was Blacks and Latinos who have been sticking it in their veins, up their noses and into their lungs for decades. There is certain behavior which is tolerated in the Black and Latino communities which is just not accepted in other communities. Then there is the issue of mental health. There is clearly a mental health problem in the US. It is particularly acute in the Black and Latino communities. It is not an issue which the US nor the Black and Latino communities in the US want to acknowledge, but it must not only be acknowledged, it must be addressed. Nearly 40% of youth who needed mental health care between 2011 and 2012 did not receive the necessary treatment. For families living in

poverty, that number reached 45%, and for Black and Latino children, it was 55% and 46%. A member of Congress has decided to begin addressing the issue of mental health for low-income children, a significant number of whom are Black or Latino. The Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act was recently introduced in the US House of Representatives. This legislation would establish a grant program to increase the number of mental health professionals at low income schools by supporting partnerships between institutions of higher education and local education agencies to support teaching, training, and employment of school counselors, social workers, and psychologists. Professionals that participate in these partnerships would be eligible for student loan forgiveness after 5 years of employment at a low-income school. The legislation was introduced by Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA) one of two psychologists in Congress.

Junior #1 - continued from Front Page

Donnelly Homes, across MLK Jr. Blvd. says “the city has left the building to rot”. Broken or open fences make it easy to gain access to the property. Open doors make gaining entrance to the building just as easy. Decay and rot is inside.



our mayor’s office, with a new police director. What are you going to do about this? I’d hate to write an article saying ‘I told you so.’ Mary Mckellar, 69, a resident of

It’s obvious people have been in, with graffiti everywhere, bottles laying around, broken basketball backboards in the gym, smashed out windows on every floor and none of it safe.



M s . Mckellar believes “ t h e building was once beautiful” and could “be used as a hospital or housing” for

city residents. In New Brunswick, on April 5, a man

the only one to see the opportunity for disaster at the school.



The once proud and mighty Junior #1 gymnasium

was found dead in an abandoned home. The death was ruled a homicide. New Brunswick is 30 minutes from Trenton. Home owners are responsible for their property and what occurs on it. Schools are the property of the city and what happens on school grounds, is the responsibility of the city. Why is the school so open for trespass? What plans does the administration have for the old Junior 1? I can’t be

Junior 1, once shared the lot, with Jefferson Elementary school, between MLK Jr. Blvd. and Brunswick Avenue, in North Trenton. The gothic architecture building was one of many beautifully built school structures in the city. Junior 1 opened its doors in 1916. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School now sits where Jefferson used to be. The new school is beautiful and is a testament to what Trenton was and could be.

## All Year Scholars

By TANGELA WRIGHT

Trenton has some great and wonderful programs that are right here under your nose but to bad you have to be in some different circles to be able to have the information or be apart of the circles that are providing the information. While on my way from supporting an event, I stumbled upon 2 women and a sign for a Fish Fry Fundraiser. So, I went over to gather information so that I could make a donation but instead we dropped into a meaningful conversation about TCHS All Year Scholar an Athletics Program. This program has been put together to provide the children from the ages of 7 thru 17 a safe place to learn more about the fundamentals of Basketball, instructions of basketball as well as tie this into real life issues.

The mission statement of the program is to provide our children with mentor ship, mental health development and fundamentals of basketball education. Their vision is a place where our children can learn, play and grow to their maximum potential.

I asked Cekeiva Brooks could she tell me the highlights of the program



Pictured Cekeiva Brooks (Lt)  
Namiaya Wright (m) Tangela Wright

which are it low cost to our families, it will cover the fundamentals of basketball, communication on and off the court, prompting a positive attitude while learning rebounding, shooting, defense ball handling, passing, footwork and team building. We are challenging all High School

Basketball Players from all schools Trenton, Ewing and Lawrence to come out and be a blessing to these upcoming players. In return for your volunteer work community service hours will be provided with a letter. I know you're asking who much will all this cost, whelp it will only cost \$30 per child for 7 weeks ending in August with camp running for on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The

camp will be running at Cadwalader Park where the basketball courts area. If you would like additional information please feel free to go to [www.TCHSallyearsscholarsandathletics.com](http://www.TCHSallyearsscholarsandathletics.com).

You may also contact Cekeiva Brooks (609) 533-5504 or [cekeirab@gmail.com](mailto:cekeirab@gmail.com) for all general information.

## Educational Opportunities For Individuals With Criminal Records

By AL ALATUNJI

Legislation has recently been introduced in Congress which would create more educational opportunities for potential students with criminal records. The bill introduced by Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-LA) and Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) entitled Beyond the Box for Higher Education Act would encourage colleges and universities to remove criminal and juvenile justice questions from their admissions applications. The sponsors of the bill believe such a move would significantly increase more individuals, in particular Blacks and other people of color, the chance to obtain a higher education beyond high school.

"Education is the gateway for success in accomplishing anything in life, and all American citizens regardless of a criminal background deserve the right to an education." stated Congressman Richmond.

Approximately, 70 millions Americans have some type of criminal which show up on all type of routine background checks making it more

difficult for those individuals to go to college, finding a good paying job and rebuilding their lives. Studies have show that college applicants rejection rates are 12 to 13 percentage points higher for those without.

Many with criminal records will fail to complete their application once they reach the criminal history question, knowing that responding to the question honestly would reduce their chance of admissions. The Richmond and Cummings bill would offer recommendations for colleges and universities that decide to keep criminal and juvenile justice questions, such as delaying the request to avoid a chilling effect, and making transparent, specific, and narrow inquiries that offer prospective students the opportunity to explain their circumstances.

"This bill is a necessary step forward to removing collateral consequences and systemic barriers to entry for people who deserve another chance at life," stated Congressman Richmond.

"Education changes lives, often keeping individuals off the path that

originally led them to incarceration. It is tragic aspiring students may be barred from educational opportunities because of a criminal or juvenile record. We must look beyond the box to see the person who is attempting to better themselves," said Congressman Cummings. "The bill we

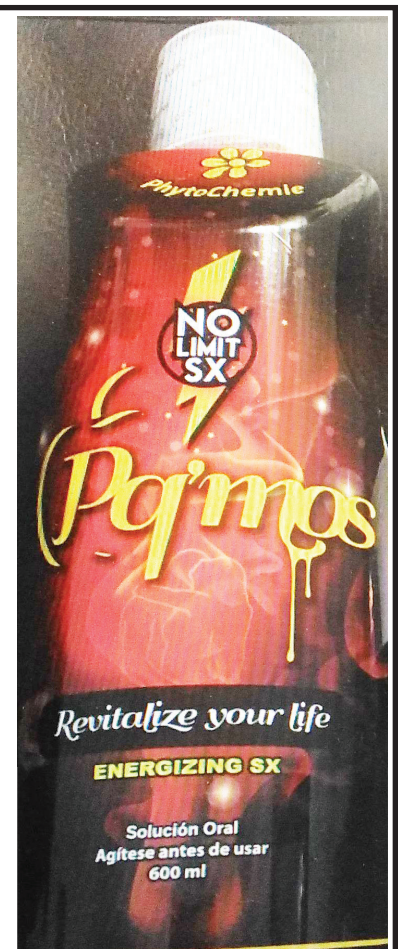
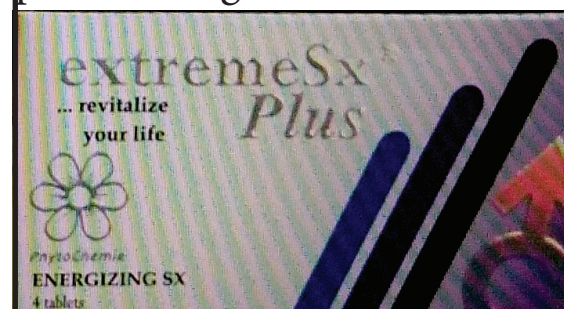
introduced will provide guidance and training to higher education institutions so they can remove the barriers that hold many aspiring students back from successfully starting their second chance," added Congressman Cummings.

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# The Status Quo Has Been Deadly To Us

You people are a trip. You complain about how terrible Trenton is, then you complain about anyone trying to change the status quo.

Case in point. Parking meters and parking generally is in bad condition. Just about everywhere you go parking meters are broken or missing. This didn't happen overnight. This is a result of years of neglect and mismanagement by those whose jobs it was to oversee the parking program in the city.

Trenton has lost millions of dollars because those people, the mayors, city council people over the years, public works management and workers, traffic management personnel, police officials and patrolmen, the courts and the judges have not done the jobs they have been paid to do. Year after year these people got paid to maintain and enforce parking regulations but they didn't do it. That's the status quo.

Now we have a city council which wants to address the abuses of the past and people complain and berate them for it. Hey they may not perfect and maybe got off to a shaky start, but they are doing what they believe is right for this city. They are trying

to break the status quo.

Too long public paid officials have taken their money and left behind a poorly managed and broken city in their wake.

You people talk about being sick of it but as soon as someone tries to do right by you you complain and attack. Shut up and listen, maybe you'll learn something. Maybe they are wrong but they are trying. Give them a chance.

Just because the mayor and Sheila Oliver et al say one thing doesn't mean they are right. People in power have been saying things about Trenton for years – and look at the shape it is in. The status quo has sold us a bill of goods.

Considering how much money we the people have paid over the years it's a damn shame the condition this city is in. Education is broken and has been for years. And every year, year after year a quarter of a billion dollars of our hard-earned money is spent. And for what? Every school in this district is a failed school and has been for nearly 40 years. Failure is the status quo.

Every year millions are spent on public housing and the housing in this city is abysmal. There are

thousands of abandoned houses and building going to waste. Low income housing is shuttered while hundreds live on the streets. This is the legacy of past administrations. People you voted for and ate chicken dinners with. The status quo.

Millions of dollars come into Trenton to improve the health outcomes of our citizens. There are many non-profits which get this money for programs which are supposed to end some of the extreme conditions our citizens face. Years later these same citizens are in the same condition or worse than they were when these non-profits first got funding. How is it someone has been on methadone treatment for 20 years. There's no cure there only state funded dependency. But that's the status quo.

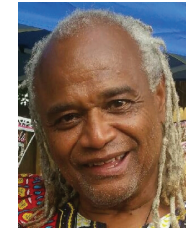
There are and have been job training and preparation programs since I can remember. I remember Job Corp way back in the day when it was at Fort Kilmer. That was supposed to train our young so they could get jobs and be productive members of society. There have been a host of other programs over the years getting our tax money and here it is 50 years later and we are still talking about the same thing. Seems the only ones who have really made out are those who run these programs. The status quo.

And lord knows we've been talking about community policing for so long and spent so many millions on it, you would think cops would be on a first name basis with everyone in town. Don't bet on it. Every police director who comes to town has these new and better ideas, which cost millions to implement, and when he is gone police and community are in the same mode as when he came.

Now we have a new police director, Sheila Coley. Before she came to town you could ride around town and not see a police for two, three days. Now, suddenly, everywhere you look there are two or more cops on the streets and police wagons all over the place. My question is where have they been? We've been paying for them all this time so why is it they are now so much in evidence? But that has been the status quo. Work it Sheila.

So for you people complaining about some on city council standing up for better outcomes in government, chill out and maybe, just maybe – help.

The status quo has not been good to us. It's time to break the wheel.



Kamau Kujichagulia  
Publisher

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# Piden más fondos para el cuidado de niños en NJ

POR CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON-El pasado jueves 30 de mayo, cientos de madres de familia participaron en la manifestación "rally" que organizó Advocates for Children of New Jersey para bebés denominado "Strolling Thunder New Jersey 2019" evento que se realizó frente a la gobernación de Nueva Jersey en Trenton.

"Yo vengo de Newark y estoy aquí para apoyar a mis niños. O quiero que

familias de Nueva Jersey. La compensación adicional debida al aumento del salario mínimo será un gran aumento para los trabajadores de cuidado infantil, pero la realidad es que los proveedores no podrán pagarles sin más apoyo estatal. Los salarios más altos para los trabajadores de cuidado infantil deben venir con una mayor inversión estatal", dijo Cecilia Zalkind, presidenta y CEO de Advocates for Children of New Jersey



ellos cuenten con mejores recursos para su futuro" dijo Kimberly una madre de familia de Newark que vino con su niño Brian de un año de edad. ACNJ entregó una petición con más de 1,100 firmas, pidiendo al Gobernador Phil Murphy y al liderazgo legislativo a tomar medidas inmediatas para aumentar las inversiones y los subsidios estatales para el cuidado de niños en los centros infantiles, que atienden a familias de bajos recursos económicos.

"Los trabajadores de cuidado infantil tienen una enorme responsabilidad al cuidar y educar a los niños de las

(ACNJ). Lurdes Lemus, otra madre de familia que es de Trenton, vino con su niño de 2 años de edad y dijo que también venía a apoyar y a pedir a los legisladores que entreguen más recursos para los niños. Dijo además que es el segundo año que viene a esta manifestación y que esta agradecida por la tarjeta de \$50.00 que le entregaron. ACNJ solicitó \$ 19 millones en fondos adicionales para el subsidio de cuidado de niños que se incluirán en el presupuesto estatal del año fiscal 2020 antes de la fecha límite del 30 de junio.

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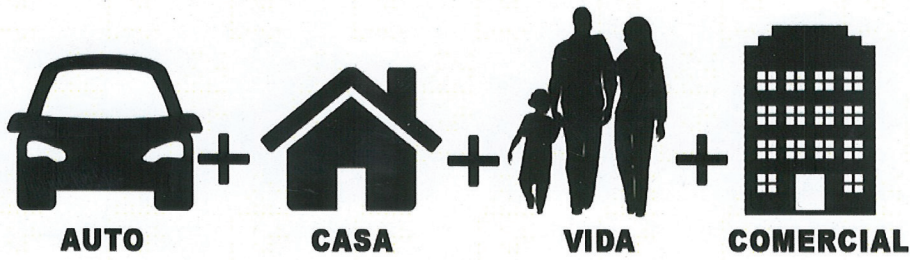
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## EL TRUENO DE TRENTON y LA COPA DE LA DIVERSION

La banda se prepara para su primera presentación en el estadio "Trueno de Trenton"

TRENTON-Este próximo sábado 8 de junio la banda Punta de Lanza hará historia al presentarse por primera vez en el estadio de baseball "Trueno de Trenton", se espera que haya una gran concurrencia de público para los juegos de baseball de esa tarde y noche.

Todos están invitados- Los organizadores han hecho el esfuerzo para invitar a toda la comunidad hispana, para disfrutar de este evento

deportivo, donde además habrá música, comida y hasta se cantará por primera vez el Himno Nacional de Guatemala. Este será el primer país latinoamericano que marque un precedente de esta naturaleza.

En los próximos años se irán sumando otros países en esta fiesta denominada "Copa de la Diversión". El Himno Nacional de Guatemala será interpretado por la joven de origen guatemalteco Diane Cardona. Los miembros de la banda tendrán acceso libre al estadio "Trenton Thunder" o mejor dicho Trueno de Trenton.

## Conmemoración de la tragedia del Volcán del fuego en Guatemala

POR LAURA LUCIA RODRÍGUEZ PEÑA

Hace un año, el tres de junio de 2018 para ser exactos, la comunidad San Miguel Los Lotes, en Guatemala, sufrió las consecuencias de la erupción del Volcán del fuego. Se tiene registro del aumento de la actividad volcánica desde el día dos de junio cuando los centros de estudio notaron

donde abundan los volcanes, nada más en Guatemala hay 32 volcanes de los cuales presentan actividad tres, el volcán Pacaya, Fuego y Santiaguito (EFEverde, 2019). Lo anterior permite deducir que es casi inevitable que las ciudades y asentamientos en Guatemala no estén cerca de algún volcán ya sea inactivo o activo, por consiguiente se esperaría



cambios que indicaban una posible erupción. Sin embargo, cuando las autoridades alertaron a las familias y ordenaron la evacuación, fue demasiado tarde (Barrientos, 2019). A Pesar de comenzar el éxodo de esta comunidad guatemalteca, las cenizas y el material volcánico avanzaba con mayor rapidez llevándose todo a su paso, autos, casas, árboles y la vida de centenares de personas. Hasta el día de hoy se contabilizan 202 muertos y 229 siguen desaparecidos (El comercio, 2019)

Un año después de lo ocurrido la comunidad no logra recuperarse de los daños ocurridos, recuerdan con tristeza a los seres queridos que perdieron la vida durante la tragedia. San Miguel los Lotes es actualmente un lugar con montañas de material volcánico, aún se evidencian restos de algunas construcciones que quedaron convertidas en ruinas después de la erupción. Actualmente, continúan desaparecidas muchas víctimas, de las cuales nunca se encontraron sus cuerpos, ya que las autoridades interrumpieron la búsqueda, pues según estos seguir moviendo la arena volcánica implicaba dificultades y riesgos (El comercio, 2019).

Centroamérica es una región en

que el gobierno estuviese preparado para cualquier emergencia de este tipo. No obstante, la tragedia del volcán del fuego demuestra la falta de prevención y de alerta temprana por parte de las autoridades ambientales y de los organismos encargados de la evacuación en este tipo de situaciones. Además, se evidencia un mal manejo posterior por parte del gobierno, puesto que este, representado por el presidente Jimmy Morales sólo ha entregado nuevas viviendas a 168 familias, lo cual representa una cantidad mínima ante las 1000 familias damnificadas que perdieron su hogar desde hace un año (El comercio, 2019).

Las familias han decidido continuar la búsqueda de los cadáveres de sus seres queridos por su propia cuenta, es increíble e inhumano que estas personas que lo perdieron todo no cuenten con más apoyo por parte del Estado para encontrar los restos. San Miguel los Lotes será de ahora en adelante recordado como un pueblo sepultado por el fuego, pero vivirá en la memoria de quienes lo conocieron como un sitio lleno de color en donde algún día vivió una comunidad humilde y tenaz de Guatemala, una comunidad que sobrevive a la adversidad.



# Business Card Directory



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## Ultimate Prom Experience 5/4/19

BY DAWNE WASHINGTON

As the class of 2019 cross the stage, 6 youth will reflect on memorable events which include their prom night. Prom night requires a lot of prepping, time, finances, and support. These six young ladies, Diamond Caver, Tyneisha Khadeesha Walker, Aniya Murphy, Darriel Knox, Renee Watson, and Dameonna Bervine, received an experience for their ability to excel through education.



The Rising Community Women Leaders of Trenton raised donations for the Ultimate Prom Experience. The event was co-sponsored by Mr. Terrance Stokes, Trenton POP Warner, The Element Hotel, the Trenton Police Department SOA and



PBA Associations, and The Trenton Board of Education.

The recipients of the Ultimate Prom Experience were all seniors at TCHS and have excelled in academics as well as citizenship. The young ladies have exhibited hard work, discipline, resilience, and leader-

ship within the community. The ULTIMATE PROM EXPERIENCE included formal hair styles, formal makeup application, eyelashes, facial waxing, manicure, pedicure, food, and a special prom gift bag filled with goodies.

Detective Sgt. Bethesda Stokes, a member of the Trenton Police Department's Youth Stat Initiative,

discussed the importance of being a positive presence within the community despite her authoritative roll. Stokes talked about giving back to her hometown during a time when the community needs it most. Quashauna Dixon, one of the recipients, will attend Norfolk State in Virginia in the Fall. Ms. Dixon will

be graduating from Trenton High School with a 3.5 GPA. Ms. Dixon was very happy to receive a prom experience and looks forward to her



new chapter in her life when she enters college as a freshmen.

The sponsors enjoyed prepping the young ladies and were probably more excited than the youth. The event was positive, heart felt. The youth participated in a mini photoshoot prior to attending their prom.

## Black Maternal Care

BY AL ALATUNJI

Black women are dying in pregnancy and childbirth at an astounding rate. For Black women, the risk of pregnancy-related death is a staggering three to four times higher than for white women. Black women are also twice as likely to suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications. This disparity transcends income and education levels and cannot be explained away by such risk factors such as genetics or lack of healthcare access.

Black women, however, are not the only women in the US who are experiencing poor maternal care. The United States which boasts how great, powerful and prosperous it is, is one of only 13 nations where the rate of maternal mortality is now worse than it was 25 years ago.

During 2011-2014, the Center for Disease Control found alarming racial disparities in maternal infant mortality deaths nationwide: 12.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women compared to a staggering 40 deaths per 100,000 live births for Black women.

New Jersey ranks 47th among all states in maternal mortality with 37.3 deaths per 100,000 live births. In New Jersey Black women are over four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women. A Black baby is three times more likely to die before age 1 than a white baby.

Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC) wants to reverse this trend as well as reduce the alarming statistics regarding Black maternal mortality. She believes that health care for Black women can only happen if the United States recognizes and addresses persistent bias in its healthcare system and do more to ensure Black women and other women have access to culturally competent, holistic care to reduce preventable maternal mortality. To that end, Congresswoman Adams has introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives entitled the Maternal Care Access and Reducing Emergencies (Maternal CARE) Act . Congresswoman Adams is the founder and co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus.

The Maternal Care Act would establish a \$25 million program to fight maternal bias in healthcare. The new grant program would be directed to medical schools, nursing schools and other healthcare professional training

programs to support evidence-based implicit training that would improve health for Black women by reducing bias in judgement or behavior with an

appropriation of \$125 million to identify high-risk pregnancies and provide mothers with the culturally competent care and resources they



need. The grant program would also assist states to implement medical home demonstration to develop and carry out pregnancy programs. These programs, it is felt, would improve maternal care by incentivizing maternal healthcare providers to deliver integrated healthcare services to pregnant women and new mothers and reduce adverse maternal health outcomes, maternal deaths and racial healthcare disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity. The proposal goes further to assist medical schools with incorporating bias recognition in clinical skills testing by directing the National Academy of Medicine to study and make recommendations.

"We cannot address the Black maternal health crisis facing this country until we address racial disparities in healthcare. The Maternal CARE Act will confront the persistent biases in our health system to ensure Black women have equal access to the quality pre-natal and post-natal care they deserve" stated Congresswoman Adams.

The Maternal Care Act has also been introduced in the U.S. Senate by U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). Senator Harris is a candidate for president.

# Nubian News Book Review

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

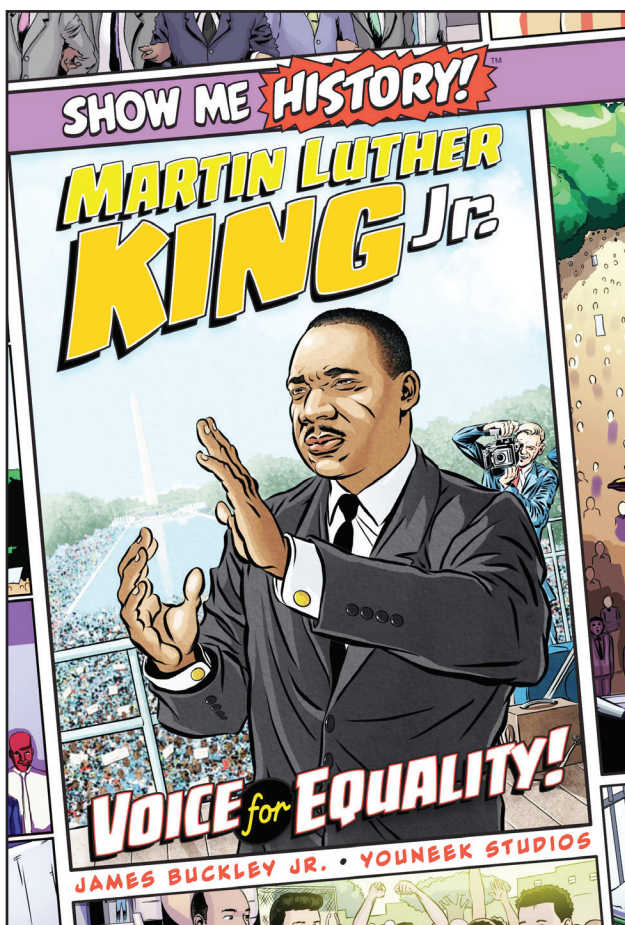
## “Martin Luther King, Jr.: Voice for Equality!”

BY JAMES BUCKLEY, JR. AND YOUNEEK STUDIOS

c.2018, Portable Press

\$12.99/\$17.99 Canada, 96 pages

The heroes in comic books arrive in fancy costumes.



Their heads are ringed by bubbles that say things like “POW!” and “ZOOM!” and that’s when bad guys fall like dead twigs from a tree. BAM! All the heroes in comic books are super-powerful and mighty but here’s the thing: as you’ll see in the new book “Martin Luther King, Jr.: Voice for Equality!” by James Buckley, Jr. and YouNeek Studios, real heroes sometimes quietly wear suits and ties.

Welcome to this history tour. Your guides are Libby (a.k.a Lady Liberty, the statue) and the boy who will someday be your “Uncle Sam.”

Today, they’ll take you on a tour of the life of a boy named Mike.

Yes, that was his name at birth: Michael King, Jr., but when Mike was a boy, his father changed both their names to honor a religious man. That was also when Martin Luther King, Sr. decided to become a minister. Later, Martin Luther King Jr. did, too. Back then, young King knew that it was wrong to deny someone their rights, based on the color of their skin.

As a child, he vowed to do something about Jim Crow laws someday but it wasn’t until he was older and visited Connecticut that he learned what it was like *not* to be segregated. That trip changed his focus: he was still a man of God, but he’d use his talents as speechmaker and leader to gain civil rights for African Americans.

It wasn’t easy.

King’s house was bombed and, although his family was safe, it was scary. His followers and friends were beaten and bloodied in fields, on the streets, and in marches. His life was threatened and that landed him in the hospital once.

And yet, King never gave up; he persevered by reaching out to politicians and other influential people who could help the cause. He planned and marched, even though there were times when he was just plain *tired*. And he did it until the day he died on a hotel balcony, killed by a man with a gun...

Kids who struggle to read, or who claim they don’t like to read may change their tune with “Martin Luther King, Jr.: Voice for Equality!” Parents take note: this isn’t your old-school stuffy history book.

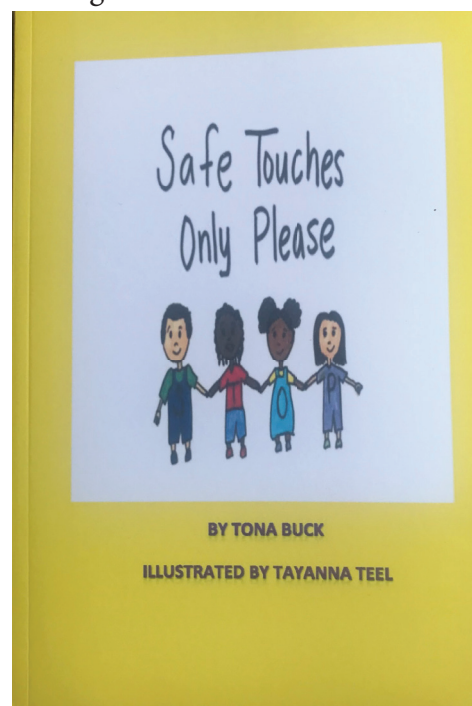
Using the younger versions of two historical icons, author James Buckley, Jr. tells the story of Dr. King through comic-book-like illustration and balloon-text, mediums that are familiar to both readers and reluctant readers. Inherently, that makes this a tale kids can relate to, but Buckley Jr. also uses modern language that children understand, which helps get them involved by subtly including them in the emotions inside the story. Crisp illustrations by YouNeek Studios then keeps them engaged.

That makes this a story that could turn a middle-schooler’s groans into smiles this summer, while it’ll still appeal to kids who love books. For either kind of child in your home, “Martin Luther King, Jr.: Voice for Equality!” is a book they’ll ZOOM! through.

## Safe Touches Only Please

BY TANGELA WRIGHT

You may have missed a wonderful family event at Cadwalader Park in Trenton. It was a “Free Children’s Book Release Party” with a positive message.



this community event that spoke to the hearts of children about knowing the difference between good and bad touches. She gave away 100 books signed with a personal message to the reader.

When I asked her what made her write this easy to read children’s book she said she wanted to be able to get this information to the children and what better way to make sure that children get the books in their hands, then to give an event that would bring parents out to give the book to children for free. And she did just that. She also said she wrote the the book to help children understand the difference between safe and unsafe touches and let them know that they are not alone in what they may be going through. She wanted to also be able to point them in the right direction of seeking help by telling someone as soon as a bad touch happens.

Tona has also written another book called “That Second”. You can get more information about her and her books on her website [www.tonabuck.com](http://www.tonabuck.com).

“Safe Touches Only Please” is a children’s book written by Tona Buck and illustrated by her daughter Tatyana Teel. Ms. Buck sponsored



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## Black Caucus Members Call For Study of Black Males

By AL ALATUNJI

Several members of the Congressional Black Caucus have introduced a resolution which calls for the creation of a federal commission to study the challenges facing Black men and boys. In particular, the commission which would be named the Commis-

disparate income and wealth levels, school performance at various grade levels, health issues, drug abuse and death rates.

Taking the lead on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus in introducing and advocating the commission were Congresswoman



sion on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys would study the high rate of homicide, incarceration and other hardships faced by Black males. The commission would be bipartisan and housed within the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' office and led by a staff director. The 19-member commission would consist of one person outside of federal employment appointed by each of the Senate and House of Representatives majority and minority leaders; the Chair and five additional members of the Congressional Black Caucus with relevant expertise or committee assignments from housing, healthcare, education, labor and employment, and justice and civil rights. In addition, to fill the commission, the president would appoint two non-federal employees and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the federal departments of justice, education, labor, housing and urban development, and health and human services would each appoint one member of their staff to the commission.

The commission would be charged with examining homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, violence, poverty, fatherhood, mentorship,

Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Congresswoman Lucy McBath (D-GA), Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-LA) and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY).

The creation of the commission has a special importance to Congresswoman McBath whose son was gunned down by a white motorist in Florida in 2012 at the age of 17 for allegedly playing his music too loudly.

"I was teaching him to stand up against unrighteousness and to stand up against injustice. I was preparing him to take his place in this world at the decision-making table as a powerful young Black man," stated Congresswoman McBath.

"My son like so many others, was a victim of implicit bias, and racism and I feel an obligation in my core to address these issues," added Congresswoman McBath.

The resolution has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee for its consideration. In addition to creating a commission, the resolution calls for an annual report to be forwarded to the president, Congress, cabinet and the chairs of relevant Congressional committees. It would also be posted on a centralized federal website for public access.

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# What's Happening

- Every Tuesday, Open Mic with Benny P, 8:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., Trenton Social, 449 South Broad Street, Trenton
- Every Thursday - Children's Thursday Theater, 3:00 p.m., Trenton Free Public Library, 129 Academy Street, Trenton
- Every Saturday, Board Game Workshop, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Trenton Free Public Library, 129 Academy Street, Trenton
- Every Monday, Bible Conversation Group, 12 Noon to 1:15p.m., Starbucks Community Room, 102 S. Warren St., Trenton - For the non-religious, the spiritual, and everybody in between 609 836-1403
- Every second Saturday, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Championship Bar and Music Club at 931 Chambers Street in Trenton NJ there is 'Barz All Night'. Each artist gets to perform 3 songs and some freestyle cypher during intermission.
- Every Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Open Mic Night with your favorite host Cinnamon R. Martin. Get a front row seat to some of the best talent that Trenton has to offer. Items for sale at this unique small business shop. 25 East Bridge Street, Morrisville, PA. There is a \$5 donation for the event.
- Sign up every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. West End LL Girls Softball. West End Batting Cage, 600 Artison Ave, Trenton, NJ. Registration: \$40. More information: Ron Davis 609-817-5062

- Saturday, June 15, 2019, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Higbee Street School Juneteenth Celebration, Higbee Street School, 20 Bellevue Avenue, Trenton, NJ
- Monday, July 8th thru August 2nd. Colonial Summer Camp. The Old Barracks of Trenton. information: [www.barracks.org/summer-day-camp.html](http://www.barracks.org/summer-day-camp.html) Sign up: [www.barracks.com](http://www.barracks.com)
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- Tuesday, June 18th, - Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce presents Networking Before 9, 8:00 am - 9:30 am, at the Straube Center, 108-112 Straube Center Blvd, Pennington, NJ, 2nd floor. To register: [www.capitalregionminoritychamber.org](http://www.capitalregionminoritychamber.org) or call 609 498-0698
- Saturday, July 20th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm - 15th Annual Auto/Motorcycle Show at Higgs Park in Ewing across from St. John's Baptist Church. A full day of entertainment, music, something for everybody. St. Johns famous Fish Fry, all makes and models of Street Rods, Domestic and Foreign Cars, Antiques, Motorcycles, Classics, Stock and Production Autos. \$2 entry fee, kids under 12, free. For more information call Ronnie Hines at 609 977-3159

- Saturday, June 29th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Sisterhood Business Brunch presented Ladies With Vision at Sprout University, 27 East Paul Ave, Trenton, NJ. "The Power of Networking" Sisterhood Business Brunch is an event for women in business, aspiring female entrepreneurs, and those looking for a professional network of like-minded women. It is designed to bring women together to empower, support, and help build each other's brand. Keynote speaker is Tangela Wright.

- Saturday, June 29th, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Battle Of The BANDS, Hosted by POO Production and Willingboro Recreation & Parks Department. 29 John F Kennedy Way, Willingboro, NJ. (609) 871-5700 for info. ADMISSION FEE \$5
- Saturday, June 29th, 12:00 Noon, Watson-Johnson Dance Theatre presents LEGENDS" @ 29th Annual Dance Recital, Villa Victoria Academy, 376 W. Upper Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ. Contact: Carolyn Watson-Johnson 609-227-6348




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