

The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

In Honor of Dr. King - Let Us Vote NJ

In honor of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and so many others who fought and died for Blacks and all citizens to be able to participate in the electoral

process, it is time for the New Jersey legislature to remove any and all barriers to the voting booth.

The sad truth is that, for many, voting can feel like an inconvenience. New Jerseyans are busy people. Often, New Jerseyans, like most voters, are asked to balance many obligations at once. Election day often requires voters to make themselves available on a specific day at a certain time. That could be very difficult if one works out of town, does shift work, or is commuting to New York or Philadelphia. State legislators need to get to work to make sure that the people of New Jersey who can vote have a more flexible process to exercise their right to vote.

To that end state legislators should pass and send to Governor Phil Murphy the following elections reforms:

Allow for early voting. In particular, open poll sites for a 9-day period, including two full weekends, up to and including the Sunday before Election Day.

Require the State Division of Elections to automatically transfer a voter's registration to their new location after a change of



Jersey.

address anywhere within New registration. Currently, in order to participate in an election in Allow for same day voting New Jersey an individual who is

not registered to vote must register 30 days prior to election day. Allow 16- and 17-yearolds to pre-register to

Voting is one of the important most facets of participatory democracy. It is time to modernize the electoral process in New Jersey, and allow it to be flexible and inclusive of all New Jerseyans. Again, a

great way to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



SEED MLK Breakfast 1/19- Cedar Gardens Restaurant, Left to right: Michellene Davis (Keynote Speaker) honorees Raissa Walker and Jonette Smart, President, Seed Male Mentoring Program, honorees Paula McIntosh Bethea and Racha Barlow.





FREE Volume 3 February 1, 2019 Number 2

Story of Handy Brittingham/Britman

SUBMITTED BY IRA BRITTINGHAM

Corporal Handy Brittingham/Britman, (1838-1911) Emancipated Slave, Civil War Soldier, Farmer Handy Brittingham/Britman was born into slavery in (1838-40) Worcester County Maryland, near Berlin. His mother's name was Liddy



Brittingham according to his death certificate, and his father is listed as Edward Duncan. Handy was emancipated from slavery by his owner Ephraim W. Brittingham upon the condition that he be enlisted into the United States Colored Troops, Ninth Regiment Infantry Company G. Maryland Volunteers, on November 18th, 1863. This information is contained in his deed of manumission on file at the Worcester County Courthouse in Snow Hill, Maryland. Handy's owner was paid \$300 for his enlistment, and two other slaves he enlisted at the same time in Berlin Md.

Handy was mustered into the Army on November 23rd, 1863 for a three year term by Colonel William Birney. On the muster-in papers at the bottom was a statement that he was a slave for life, (this is from the 1664 Maryland Law concerning Slaves) and sent to Camp Stanton (named after Lincoln's Secretary of War) in Benedict Maryland, Charles County on the Patuxent River. The Camp was built by the slave Recruits of the 7th, 9th, 19th, 30th USCT which trained there.

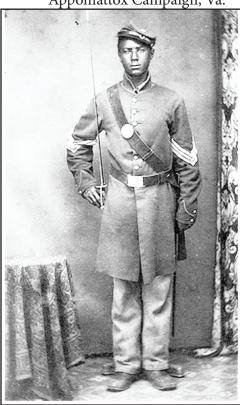
Handy's Regiment was attached to the District of Hilton Head, S.C. and The District of Beauford, S.C. The Tenth[X] Corps, Army of the James, Department of Virginia and North Carolina 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 25th Corps; 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 25th Corp Department of Texas This Regiment served honorably in the following engagements and Battles.

Seige operations of Peters burg, Va.

Ashepoo Expedition, S.C. John and James Islands, S.C. Bermuda Hundred, Va. Fussells Mills(1st Deep Bot-

tom)

Battle of Chappins Farm, Va. Assault on Fort Gilmore, Va. Battle of Fair Oaks, Va. Appomattox Campaign, Va.



Deep Bottom, Va.
Darbytown Road, Va.
Surrender and occupation of Richmond, Va.

Handy was combat wounded(shot in the stomach area) in the disasterous assault on Fort Gilmore, outside of Richmond, in the Battle of New Market Heights, Va. On September 29th, 1864. Handy was promoted to Corporal in June of 1864 After the war was over his Regiment was shipped to Brazos Santiago, Texas, and Brownsville, Texas for border duty on the Rio Grande River. He was sent to New Orleans La. for discharge on November 26th, 1866. Handy returned home and continued farming, he applied for his Army pension due to his war wounds on January 15th, 1884, but did not receive it until 1906, he died February 6th, 1911 on his small farm in Friendship, Worcester County Maryland.

Pictures are not of Mr. Brittingham

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The Nubian News Talks With Mayor Reed Gusciora

BY BERNARD SHABAZZ

There was a big crowd at Starbucks the morning TNN met with Mayor Gusciora in January.

Mayor: The Starbucks here in downtown Trenton helps generate customers for surrounding businesses. Customers discover the other businesses and restaurants in the vicinity.



TNN followed up with the mayor about public safety in Trenton.

TNN: It's good that 12 Trenton police have been promoted to lieutenant and sergeant. It's not so good that Trenton is not ready to accept a woman as a chief of police. Although there are 212 female police chiefs throughout the country including Cathy Lanier, Police Chief of metropolitan Washington DC.

Mayor: I'm committed to diversity which is why I felt Carol Russell was a perfect fit. She has 20 years with the department, was promoted to sergeant and credited with exiting her patrol vehicle to walk the beat to get to know the community better.

TNN: Is it state requirements or city council blocking Ms. Russell's appointment?

Mayor: Both. City council says Ms. Russell should have a college degree. But there is no state requirement that a police chief must possess a degree. The state only requires police chiefs have 5 years supervisory experience.

Ms. Russell has served 3 years as a sergeant.

TNN had other questions for the mayor about public safety initiatives in the city.

TNN: Trenton has "Shot Spotter" technology which alerts police to the location of gun fire. Then what? The shooter gets away before police arrive. Mayor: "Shot Spotter" technology does increase police response time,

compared to waiting for neighbors or citizens to call the police. Trenton needs more boots on the ground. We had 400 officers. Now we have 290. Trenton needs the \$60 million transitional aide that Gov. Christie cut to \$9 million. Thanks to Gov. Murphy the aide has been increased by \$6 million.

TNN was also interested in recidivism which can impact the rate of offenses.

TNN: Will your administration give tax breaks to businesses that hire felons?

Mayor: Tracey Syphax has a released felons

program that my administration supports.

TNN wrapped up this sit down with Mayor Gusciora with information about upcoming events, follow-up on cultural initiatives previously reported here and an FYI.

Mayor: February 5th, Downtown Trenton will host the Chinese New Year Parade from 4 until 9pm. We'll be announcing Black History Month events during the month of February. In April Trenton will host a city-wide job fair to help residents get jobs.

TNN: Are you still working with singer and native Trentonian Sarah Dash?

Mayor: Recently we hosted the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor Gustava Dudamel at Hedgepeth Middle School.

TNN: Why are many parking meters green?

Mayor: They are defective. The city is installing new meters which will bring revenue to the city.

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Before Rosa, Martin, Malcolm and Barack there was Jackie

Before Rosa Parks stood up for justice and equality by demanding that she remain seated; before Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King had his dream of the Beloved Community; before Malcolm X indicted white racist America in the harshest terms for its crimes against Blacks and humanity; and before President Barack Obama walked into his office to sit behind his desk in the Oval Office of the White House and declared "Yes we can, yes we can," Jackie Roosevelt Robinson took his bat and with a mighty swing delivered a permanent and lethal blow to America's apartheid system of Jim Crow. He took the field for freedom, justice and equality, and played aggressively and courageously for the advancement of Black people. In 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier becoming the first Black ball player to play major league baseball in the modern age, Black America and White America were forced to envision not just Blacks playing next to whites on ball fields, but Blacks obtaining greater civil and human rights, more fully integrating all aspects of American society. His was an opening inning of a long tumultuous struggle which would take Blacks from being mere almost invisible spectators to active players from the bedroom to boardrooms, from living room televisions to lunch and dinner counters in public facil-

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31,1919 in Cairo, Georgia to a family of sharecroppers. His mother, Mallie Robinson, single-handedly raised Jackie and her four other children. They were the only black family on their block, and the prejudice they encountered only strengthened their bond.

Growing up in a large, single-parent family, Robinson excelled early at all sports and learned to make his own way in life. At UCLA, Robinson became the first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football and track. In 1941, he was named to the All-American football team. Due to financial difficulties, he was forced to leave college and eventually decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. After two years in the army, he progressed to second lieutenant. Robinson stood



Jackie Robinson with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

up for equal rights even before he and court-martialed during training did so in baseball. He was arrested in the Army for refusing to move to

the back of a segregated bus. He was eventually acquitted of the charges and received an honorable discharge. He then started his professional baseball career.

Robinson was a second baseman for the Kansas City Monarchs, a team in the Negro Leagues, until Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey decided he wanted to integrate baseball. Rickey wanted Robinson not only for his talent and style of play, but also because of his demeanor. He knew he was sending him down a tough road and thought Robinson was the man to handle it without fighting back. Robinson endured teammates and crowds who opposed his presence, and threats to himself and his family, with honor and grace.

Robinson joined the Montreal Jackie - continued on page 9

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The Black Church and Health Promotion

Black churches and health promotion could be effective in preventative health through community outreach. Black churches know the needs of the congregation and the community best and have their trust. There is a high incidence of high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke and heart

Black church can be an ideal setting in which to offer health promotion activities in their communities. Most have fellowship halls and parking lots which could be used for indoor and/ or outside health fairs depending on the size. There may be health care practitioners that are members of



disease in the African American population. Several studies have found that the church can be an important conduit through which to inform racial/ethnic minorities about preventive health care. Partnership between faith and health alliances are encouraged. Collaboration with health agencies to provide culturally sensitive services for African Americans and clergy is essential. The

the church that could be recruited to form a team with other volunteers to help coordinate the health fair activities.

My experiences as the coordinator of the health fairs at my church, St. Luke AME Church, Newark, over several years have been very successful. My background is in the medical field. As a retired nurse I have been actively involved in all aspects in



How come virtually every public works project I see using private contractors is made up of all white men? Even though they are using tax dollars paid by all of us, only white men are seeing any benefit from our money. This is a prime reason the Black community stays poor. Our leaders are mostly funding only one segment of the community. Check it out the crew you see.

nursing and community health care promotion for over 30 years. Many health care providers responded to my invitation to participate at our annual health fairs. They expressed their interest and committed their agency in providing their services. Just a few of the many health care screenings were Mammography breast cancer screening, high blood pressure screening, diabetes screening, HIV/AIDS screening, and eye exams were provided. Many agencies provided resource materials on mental health, heart disease, Sickle Cell Anemia, home health care, in addition to nutrition. The black church is cognizant that the physical well being of the person is as important as the spiritual well being. Planning a health fair does require good organizational skills. Health care providers are extremely busy and need ample time to prepare for the event with personnel and supplies.

With the pastor's approval to hold the health fair at the church, a written formal letter to appropriate healthcare providers with detail information of the date, time, location, number of participants, and the name of the contact person need to be provided. Promotion of the event is key and

can be accomplished to inform the community by social media, church bulletins, flyers, email, radio, outside banners, local newspapers, and word of mouth. Attendance of the event depends on how progressive your event is promoted to let the community know it is open for everyone. The health fair event is cost effective due to the collaboration with healthcare providers which bring their supplies and staff with them. It is free to the participants. The church provides the building with adequate space indoors and/or the parking lot if it is outdoors.

At my church, we were blessed to have a variety of healthcare providers and social service agencies that returned for many years and looked forward to offering the service. My hope is that more Black churches would consider partnering with their local health care providers to offer preventative health care services that can reduce health disparities and save lives from many diseases that impact the Black community.

Submitted by:

Dr. Louise Ragin, RN, MA, DMin St. Luke AME Church, Newark, NJ Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Hooper, Pastor



El Latino News Contacto con la Comunidad Trenton – Mercer County

FORO COMUNITARIO PARA HABLAR SOBRE LA CRISIS FISCAL EN NJ



(izquierda) habla en un foro comunitario sobre la crisis fiscal que enfrenta Nueva Jersey en Rowan College.

NUEVA JERSEY-El Presidente del Senado, Steve Sweeney, y el Líder de la Mayoría de la Asamblea, Lou Greenwald- hablando en un foro comunitario municipal en Rowan College, alertaron que Nueva Jersey enfrenta una grave crisis fiscal y expusieron una serie de soluciones desarrolladas por el Grupo de Trabajo de Política Económica y Fiscal bipartidista de expertos economistas, académicos y en políticas fiscales, que han abordado los problemas. "Sin las reformas estructurales importantes, los costos en las pensiones y en los beneficios de Nueva Jersey aumentarán \$4.2 mil millones en los próximos cuatro años", dijo el Senador Sweeney (D-Gloucester/ Salem/Cumberland).

La discusión incluyó propuestas para abordar los crecientes costos de las

pensiones y los beneficios, hacer que el gobierno y los distritos escolares sean más eficientes, evaluar la eficiencia de nuestra estructura impositiva y aprovechar los activos estatales. El foro ofreció la oportunidad para que aquellos que escucharon las recomendaciones compartieran sus opiniones, uno de los objetivos principales de las reuniones que el Senador Sweeney y los miembros del grupo de estudio han tenido con distintos grupos a través de todo el estado.

El Senador Sweeney también dijo a los líderes empresariales que el nuevo sistema de pensiones híbrido recomendado por el Grupo de Trabajo preservaría completamente el sistema de pensiones existente para maestros y empleados estatales, de los condados y los municipios con cinco años de servicio.

El Grupo de Trabajo de Política Económica y Fiscal celebró su primera reunión organizativa el 30 de enero del 2018. Durante el curso de seis meses, el Grupo de Trabajo celebró reuniones que incluyeron presentaciones de expertos en políticas sobre temas críticos y discusiones sobre las ventajas y desventajas de las posibles soluciones. El Grupo de Trabajo emitió su informe y sus recomendaciones el 9 de agosto de

JOVEN GUATEMALTECO SE RECUPERA DE ACCIDENTE

POR CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON- El joven guatemalteco Everth Jose Hernández Pérez, se recupera de un terrible accidente, pero aun no puede ejercer su derecho y reclamar al seguro su compensación, por falta de un familiar que le ayude en esta gestión.

Marta Umaña vicepresidenta de la Asociación Cívica Guatemalteca llegó hasta el centro de enfermería "Royal Health Gate Nursing" localizado en el 1314 Brunswick Ave. Trenton, para ver de cerca la recuperación de

noche estuvo yendo a comprar en la tienda de lácteos "Halo Farms" que está ubicada a tres cuadras del lugar donde ocurrió el accidente.

La madre de Hernández Pérez, Paula Pérez, quien vive en Suchitepéquez, Departamento de Mazatenango, intentará en estos días una vez más presentarse en la Embajada Norteamericana en Guatemala, para pedir una visa de carácter humanitaria e ingresar al país a ver a su hijo que están en esta situación.

"Estoy pidiendo dinero prestado para



El joven guatemalteco, por sí solo no puede hacer nada, por eso la ayuda de sus compatriotas es crucial en este momento.

su compatriota Hernández Pérez quien en la noche del 25 de agosto del 2018, fue atropellado por un vehículo Mazda Azul, cuando cruzaba la Princeton Ave., en el norte de la ciudad de Trenton.

"Veo que no está bien cuidado, aquí hace falta las barandillas a los lados de la cama" dijo Umaña al ver a su paisano en riesgo de caerse de la cama, en su habitación donde permanece en recuperación.

En el accidente cuando fue atropellado, Hernández López sufrió graves golpes en el cerebro por lo que ese noche fue trasladado de urgencia al hospital Capitol Health Fuld Campus donde milagrosamente salvaron su vida, tras complicadas operaciones en su cabeza.

Sin embargo hasta ahora no ha podido recuperar completamente sus sentidos, como para reclamar su compensación por el daño causado ya que no tiene ningún familiar cercano que vele por sus derechos.

De la persona que atropelló, se conoce que es una mujer que reside en Yardley, Pennsylvania y que esa

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hacer estos trámites" dijo la madre desde el país centroamericano, quien tiene que viajar varias horas desde su pueblo, con el fin de llegar a la capital de Guatemala para tramitar la visa que le permita venir a Trenton.

Por su parte el Consulado de Guatemala en Nueva York señaló en una carta enviada a nuestra redacción. "Cuando un connacional se encuentra en un hospital en una situación que requiere cuidados o decisiones que sólo le competen a la familia, este Consulado remite una solicitud de carta firmada por nuestra autoridades en Cancillería, y la persona que hará su trámite ante la Embajada Americana en la capital, lleva consigo el día de su cita".

El joven guatemalteco, por sí solo no puede hacer nada, por eso la ayuda de sus compatriotas es crucial en este



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POR CARLOS AVILA

HIGHTSTOWN - En un esfuerzo entre la Librería de Hightstown y el programa Mercer County Council for Young Children (MCCYC), se



llegó al acuerdo entre las dos partes, ofrecer clases de inglés para padres y madres de familia que deseen aprender inglés como segundo idioma, (ESL).

"Se iniciara con el nivel básico para ir avanzando cada trimestre y pasar a un nivel superior", dijo una de las

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jóvenes profesoras quienes donarán su tiempo para poner en marcha este proyecto que ayudará a los padres de familia a mejorar el conocimiento del idioma, con el fin de poder ayudar a

> sus hijos con las tareas escolares y a su vez conocer sobre los recursos que se ofrecen a nivel local y del condado.

> Las personas interesadas pueden llamar al teléfono 609-364-0977 para más información. El curso es gratuito

durará de 10:30 AM hasta el mediodía. El inicio de clases será el día sábado 23 de Febrero, 2019. English Language Learners (ELL) programs, also known as English as a Second Language-ESL.

Incoherencia migratoria

Si vienen a Colombia por placer, negocios o porque deciden mudarse a este país se van a encontrar con una población diversa compuesta por personas de tez morena, negra y blanca. También encontrarán tradiciones y costumbres muy diferentes según las regiones, gastronomía variada en la que confluyen algunos alimentos como las arepas (masa de maíz utilizada en desayunos, rellena o para acompañar comidas). Los dialectos y las formas de vestir y de comportarse también hacen de cada

alcaldía de Bogotá que decidió desalojar un campamento ubicado en la localidad de Engativá, occidente de la ciudad, este acto dejó a más de 80 personas sin hogar, provocando que muchas de ellas opten por volver a la ciudad de Cúcuta (ciudad colombiana más cercana al país venezolano), la alcaldía declaró que sólo era un campamento temporal pero tampoco ofrece una solución a largo plazo para estos migrantes, los cuales en su mayoría están desempleados. (Redmas, 2018)



Venezuelans cross the Simon Bolivar International Bridge into the border city of Cúcuta, Colombia, October 2018.

región única.

Muchas de las cosas mencionadas anteriormente son compartidas con países vecinos como Panamá, Ecuador, Venezuela y Perú, ya que antes todos componían la Nueva Granada y luego la Gran Colombia hasta que decidieron dividirse y los territorios se separaron conformando los países que conocemos hoy en día.

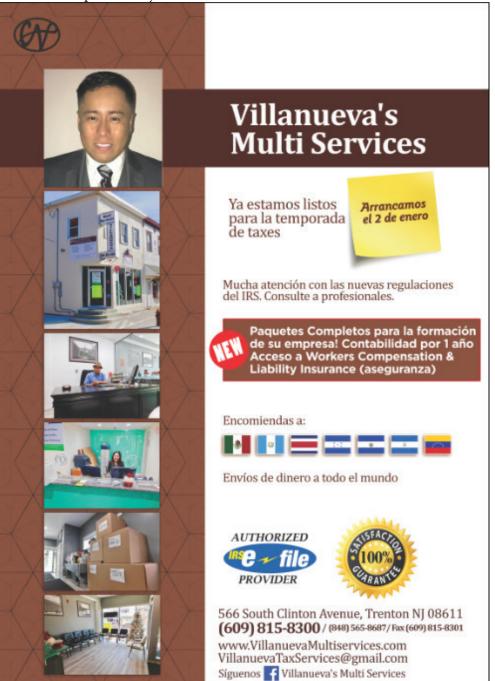
A pesar de este pasado compartido y las costumbres, que incluso hoy en día puedan ser similares según las algunas regiones(como la preparación de la arepa), hay situaciones que están transformando el sentir y la fraternidad entre estos países.

Esto se evidencia en la creciente xenofobia de muchos colombianos y de personas en general hacia los venezolanos que día tras día se ven obligados a refugiarse en los países vecinos, podría calificarse de absurdo el comportamiento de rechazo hacia quienes en los años 80 estuvieron construir puentes que nos unan. dispuestos a acoger a colombianos y extranjeros en busca de un mejor bienestar económico.

Sumado a esto los gobiernos no proponen soluciones eficaces ante la crisis migratoria que día tras día toma fuerza, por el contrario actúan de manera desconsiderada como la

Es absurdo e incoherente observar como latinoamérica critica el comportamiento xenofobo de Trump pero parece replicarlo con sus países hermanos, esto se demuestra en comentarios como "los venezolanos están ocupando nuestros trabajos", "no queremos a más venecos pidiendo dinero en las calles y en los buses" "vienen aquí delinquir". Todas estas frases reproducen un discurso que divide y aleja a las personas con las que incluso compartimos tradiciones culinarias, folcloricas e históricas. Es esencial que los elementos que nos unen sean enaltecidos y olvidemos esas diferencias que discriminan y excluyen, talvez así se pueda lograr un progreso, en todos los aspectos, que le demuestre a los países del norte que la recepción de migrantes y refugiados puede ser posible y que en lugar de construir muros que nos dividan estamos dispuestos a Fuentes:

Redmás noticias, 2018. Así se realizó el desalojo del campamento venezolano en Bogotá. Recuperado de: http://www.redmas.com.co/bogota/ asi-se-realizo-el-desalojo-del-campamento-venezolano-en-bogota/





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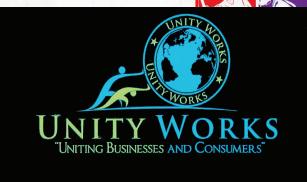
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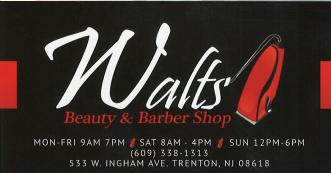


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Tel: 609-943-2177 Fax: 609-939-0206 SERVING ALL FAITHS AND BELIEFS Jackie - continued from page 4

Royals, the Dodgers top farm team, in 1946 and led the International League with a .349 average and 40 stolen bases. Also, in 1946 Robinson married Rachel Isum, a nursing student he met at UCLA that year.

As a Black baseball player, Robinson was on display for the whole country to judge. Rachel and their three children, Jackie Jr., Sharon and David, provided Jackie with the emotional support and sense of purpose essential for bearing the pressure during his early years of baseball. earned a promotion to the Dodgers and made his major league debut on April 15, 1947. On April 15th each season, every team in the majors celebrates Jackie Robinson Day in honor of the day he broke the color barrier in baseball, becoming the first Black player in the 20th century to take the field in the big leagues.

At the end of his first season, Robinson was named the Rookie of the Year. He was named the NL MVP just two years later in 1949, when he led the league in hitting with a .342 average and steals with 37, while also notching a career-high 124 RBIs.

The Dodgers won six pennants in Robinson's 10 seasons, but his contributions clearly extended far beyond the field. After retiring from baseball early in 1957, Robinson engaged in business and in civil rights activism. He was a spokesperson for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and made appearances

with Martin Luther King, Jr. Robinson was also the first black television analyst in MLB and the first black vice president of a major American corporation, Chock full o'Nuts. In the 1960s. He also helped establish the Freedom National Bank, a Black owned financial institution based in Harlem, New York.

Volume 3

With his induction in 1962, Robinson became the first black person in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown, New York. His autobiography, I Never Had It Made, was published in 1972. In 1984 Robinson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor for an American civilian.

Robinson died in 1972 at the age of 53. He did not live long enough to see the first Black manager of a major league baseball team or Blacks serving in executive positions within major league baseball. He did not live long enough to see the first Black president of the United States or the other civil and human rights accomplishments of Blacks. However to his last, he fought just as hard, aggressively, courageously and with the same dignity as he had played the game of baseball. On January 31st of this year, Robinson would have been 100 years old.

The Nubian News honors the life and legacy of Jackie Roosevelt Robinson, an early pioneer and hero of the Black civil and human rights struggle. That struggle continues.



Capital City Area Black Caucus Meeting and Panel Discussion 1/12, Awards and Panel Discussion held at the Trenton YMCA431 Pennington Ave. Pictured Freeholder Sam Frisby and author Tracey Syphax, author of From The Block 2 The Boardroom



Former Trenton Police Officer and Detective and Under Sheriff at Mercer County Sheriff's Office was a member of the panel at the Capital City Area Black Caucus's meeting on 1/12/19. He expressed his opinions about the situation in Trenton between the Police Department and the community.

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Nubian News Book Review

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

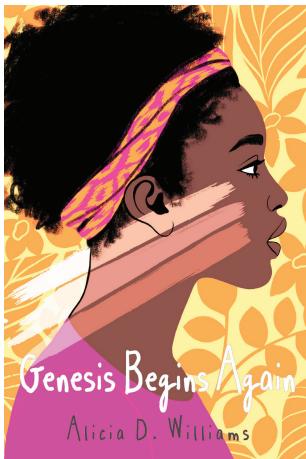
"Genesis Begins Again"

BY ALICIA D. WILLIAMS

c.2019, Atheneum Books for Young Readers \$17.99 / \$23.99 Canada 384 pages

Leave me alone.

That's what you'd like to tell just about everybody right now: go away. Stop talking to me. Don't fuss, quit fight-



ing, put away those bad words. You're done, so leave me alone. As in the new book "Genesis Begins Again" by Alicia D. Williams, life is much easier if you don't rely too much on people who hurt you.

The Mean Girls at her old school were dumb.

Thirteen-year-old Genesis Anderson had proof: the list they circulated was titled "100 REASONS WHY WE HATE GENESIS" but only sixty things were on the list and some were totally lame.

Whatever. Every now and then, Genesis added her own entries to the list. She hated that she let Mean Girls get away with being mean. She hated herself because her Dad drank too much and gambled with rent-paying money, so her family moved a lot. She hated having to stay with her Grandma, however temporary it was each time. Most of all, she hated her dark skin and her tangly-thick curls, and that she didn't inherit her

mother's coffee-with-milk complexion and "good hair."

She could've added that she hated having fake friends but, after yet another publicly humiliating home eviction, more promises from Dad, and an upgraded rental, she'd first see if a new school and another fresh start made any difference.

Thankfully, as it turned out, things

weren't bad at Farmington Oaks Middle School, just outside Detroit. In the beginning, Genesis kept to herself because there were Mean Girls there, too, but she was happy to see that most of the kids were nice. She began to make *real* friends, and she found her first BFF. She even liked her teachers, including the one who encouraged her talents as a singer.

But none of these positives changed Genesis's view of herself as "ugly." Dark skin, "nappy" hair, there had to be a way to fix it. Once she learned the secrets in her family, past and present, there was just no way she could accept herself as she was...

Starting with an awkward situation with frenemies, author Alicia D. Williams

introduces 9-to-13-year-olds to an observant, smart-but-typical kid with modern problems, including a kind of racism that's not often discussed. What ultimately happens is a shocker to the story, in part because we're abruptly told the truth about some of the adults in Genesis' life and though it explains a lot, it's not pretty. We learn of this ugliness when she does, presenting an opportunity for readers to think about (and deal with) topics that might be new or uncomfortable. Happily, it's all done with the barest, mildest profanity and absolutely zero unnecessary drama. Also nice for both you, and for your young reader: the friends Genesis makes are reallife-real, and adults in this book are portrayed without a hint of malice or

For a middle-schooler, this book set in a middle-schooler's life is perfect, especially if their life isn't. Hand your child "Genesis Begins Again," and she won't be able to leave it alone.

MENTORING PROGRAM KICKS OFF IN THE CAPITAL CITY

BY SHAKUR TOWNS

Saturday evening was the launch of a new mentoring program for young women in Trenton.

Special Treasures Mentoring is the



Jerry Compere, Board Member and Shana Siplin, Founder.

brainchild of Shana Siplin, an African-American woman from the city whose life experiences prepared her for the mission. Ms. Siplin created the program in 2018 with the intent of establishing a safe, constructive place to help young women deal with the experiences and challenges of being who they are in an often hostile environment.

She has a dual role as founder of the program. She works to build the structure of the organization as well as hosting the weekly group sessions and mentoring components. Shana says that the vision is a result of growing up in an impoverished situation, and being a teen mom in Trenton. Her environment could have been detrimental to her had it not been for the mentors and good friends who helped nurture her along the path of life. She felt she had to give something back to the community that she grew from. "For me, giving back was to look at where I came from in my journey and my story and try to provide that same positive experience and opportunity for the girls that I mentor," says Shana.

"As we begin we want to build out our program from one to three to five years. So, with the first year its teenaged girls 16 to 19 years. We will also have a small group of 11 and 12 year old girls; we also want to address parenting so we address the family. We will have career development workshops for the parents' one or

twice a year. "

The launch of the program highlighted the level of talent among the girls who have been participating since the beginning in 2018. The launch was held at the Ellarslie Museum in Cadwalder Park. The site was chosen to expose the young women to something different than what they may see on a daily basis. "Seeing something different makes you think differently about yourself," says Ms. Siplin.

The evening's event was to introduce people to invest their time and money, register their young

women into the program and to attract volunteers.

Jerry Compere is a renowned musician who has played with many people from Wyclef Jean to the late jazz bass guitarist and NBA basketball star, Wayman Tisdale. He is currently the Music Director at Kingdom Church in Ewing, NJ and a Board Member of Special Treasures Mentoring.

He states that he and Shana began talking about the program five years ago. He has been an encouragement to her as well as an advisor and counselor throughout the process. His role is an adviser as well as a Public Relations person for Special Treasures Mentoring.

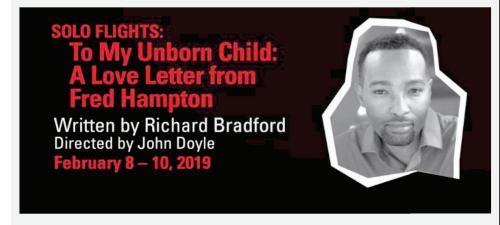
The program is free, there is an application package, and an interview process for young women interested in the mentoring program. Parents are also asked to make a commitment to attend a number of sessions throughout the year.

This is definitely a better look than what is currently being offered to our young women through social media. I did not see one fight the whole evening!

For more information, contact: shanaspln@yahoo.com



SOLO FLIGHTS: TO MY UNBORN CHILD: A LOVE LETTER FROM FRED HAMPTON



To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton revives a critical voice for justice. Murdered by Chicago police at 21 as he lay by his pregnant lover, visionary Black Panther Fred Hampton preached a humane, compassionate revolution against racist brutality, child hunger, poverty, and capitalism.

Purchase your tickets here! Subscribers can call 609-392-0766 to reserve their tickets.



Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, will give a presentation and talkback after the show on February 8!

Tickets for this special show and presentation are \$65 for general admission and \$45 for students. These tickets can be purchased here.

Hate Crimes Symposium

On January 22 a forum was held at MCCC concerning hate crimes. Police and other law enforcement from federal, state and municipal agencies were well represented. The FBI coordinated the event with the aim of extending the knowledge of these crimes further into the community and law enforcement agencies.

During the morning session most of the crimes discussed concerned crimes against Arab Americans,

or going to school; and gives federal authorities greater ability to engage in hate crimes investigations that local authorities choose not to pursue.

The number one victims of hate crimes are African Americans - by far and away, followed by Latinos. However this day was spent mostly talking about crimes against Jews and Muslims.

The discussion about hate crimes used to center on societal crimes

> where legislation enforcement benefited society large. Such as fighting Jim Crow laws,



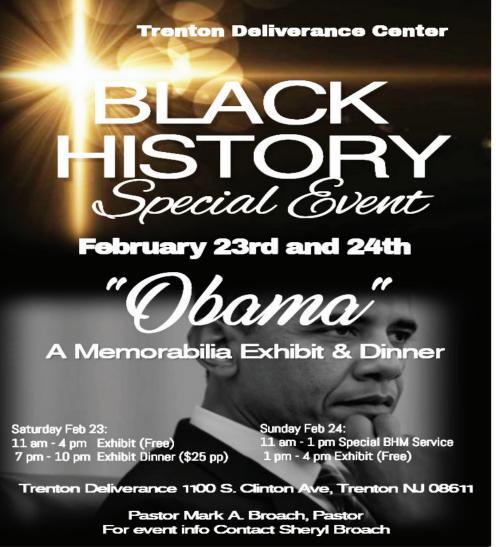
Muslims and Jews.

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act is an American Act of Congress, passed on October 22, 2009,[1] and signed into law by President Barack Obama. The measure expands the 1969 United States federal hate-crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. It removes, in the case of hate crimes related to the race, color, religion, or national origin of the victim, the prerequisite that the victim be engaging in a federally protected activity, like voting

or separate but equal or voting rights. Today hate crimes are more an individual issue. Over the past few years instead of integrating and protecting more people into society as a whole, now it is only done one by one.

Pastor John Taylor was concerned about educating our children about hate crime and wanted to know if schools were doing their part.

Jonette Smart was a bright beacon of light representing the Trenton Branch of the NAACP. She brought out that Trenton's school district has a very good policy against bias crimes and has a training program which keeps it real and current.



- 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 1:15pm, Starbucks Community Room, 102 S. Warren St., Trenton - For the non-religious, the spiritual, and everybody in between 609 836-1403
- Saturday, February 2 at 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM - Paint & Sip Hosted By Sprout U PTA, Hosted by Cookieeyouwantme Hamilton and 6 others. Sprout U, School Of The Arts, 27 East Paul Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08638
- Saturday, February 2, at 2 PM - 5 PM - Book & Magazine Signing Event with Author & Poet Racha Barlow. Vue Lounge, 1980M North Olden Ave, Ewing, New Jersey 08618
- Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 6 PM – 9 PM, Grace Cathedral Fellowship Ministries, 1217 Calhoun St, Trenton, New Jersey. This is a historical experience in gospel music where the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, the Gospel Music Workshop of America

and the Hawkins Music and Arts Love Fellowship Conference come together to celebrate and honor the legacy and heritage of gospel musical pioneers.

- Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7 PM - 8:30 PM, Grief Support Group. GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life. Shiloh Baptist Church - Trenton, NJ, 340 Rev S Howard Woodson Jr Way, Trenton
- Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM - LET'S TALK RECOVERY Hosted by Recovery is Essential "& etc.". Westminster Presbyterian Church Trenton NJ 1140 Greenwood Ave, Trenton, New Jersey 08609
- Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 8 AM - 5 PM - Black Heritage In the Bible · Hosted by Smith Family Foundation, 407 West State St, Trenton, New Jersey 08618
- Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 2 PM - 4 PM - A Talk on Puerto Rican and Black Solidarity! Public · Hosted by ProLibertad-Free the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners. Holyrood Episcopal Church / Iglesia Santa Cruz 715 W 179th St, New York, New York 10033. These are the talks we need to have more often. Only by looking back at and learning from our past, can we ensure the vic-

tories of the present and future. Join us we discuss, ask questions, and explore this rich history of solidarity! Donation: \$5-\$10 Sliding scale (No one will be turned away due to lack of funds)

- Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 6 PM - 10 PM - Trenton Cycling Open House, Public · Hosted by Trenton Cycling Revolution and Bike Mercer Count. Championship Bar, 931 Chambers St, Trenton, New Jersey 08611
- Saturday, February 23, 9am - 1pm, Black History Breakfast and Authors Showcase, Shiloh Baptist Church, 340 Rev. S. Howard Woodson Way, Trenton, NJ
- Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 6 PM - Paint n Sip, Public · Hosted by Hair By Rhonda Kay. Art & Soul - The Studio, 1870 N. Olden Avenue Ext, Ewing, New Jersey 08638
- Saturday, February 23, 2019, 10 am - Four Centuries of African American Soldiers, Public · by Four Centuries of African-American Soldiers and The Old Barracks, The Old Barracks, 101 Barrack Street. Trenton, New Jersey 08608. This vivid living history program tells the heroic stories of America's black warriors spanning four hundred years until today. The program includes authentic military artifacts, lectures by authors of military history books, fully equipped re-enactors and military veterans sharing their own personal stories. This is a rich, engaging and fascinating program

that pays tribute to the contributions of African American Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen to the military history of the United States. Admissions: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students \$5 Trenton residents

- Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 9 AM, Annual Prayer Breakfast, Life Abundant Church of God 167 Mercer St, Trenton, New Jersey 08611. Join us for a powerful breakfast of word, prayer and food for the soul, mind and body! You will be blessed! Donation \$20
- Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 7 PM – 10 PM, Trenton Divine Poetry Night Out · Hosted by Trenton Divine Poetry Night Out. 146 Us-130, 146 U.S. 130, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505, General Admission \$20
- Thursday, March 28 thru Sunday, March 31, 2019 - 2019 Trenton Film Festival, Public · Hosted by Trenton Film Society. Passage Theatre at the Mill Hill Playhouse, 205 E Front St, Trenton, New Jersey 08611. Trenton Film Festival will screen a juried selection of 54 new, cutting-edge films of various genres from around the world. We present post-screening Q&A's, receptions and a panel discussion that offer audiences the opportunity to interact with filmmakers who are at various stages in their careers.

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