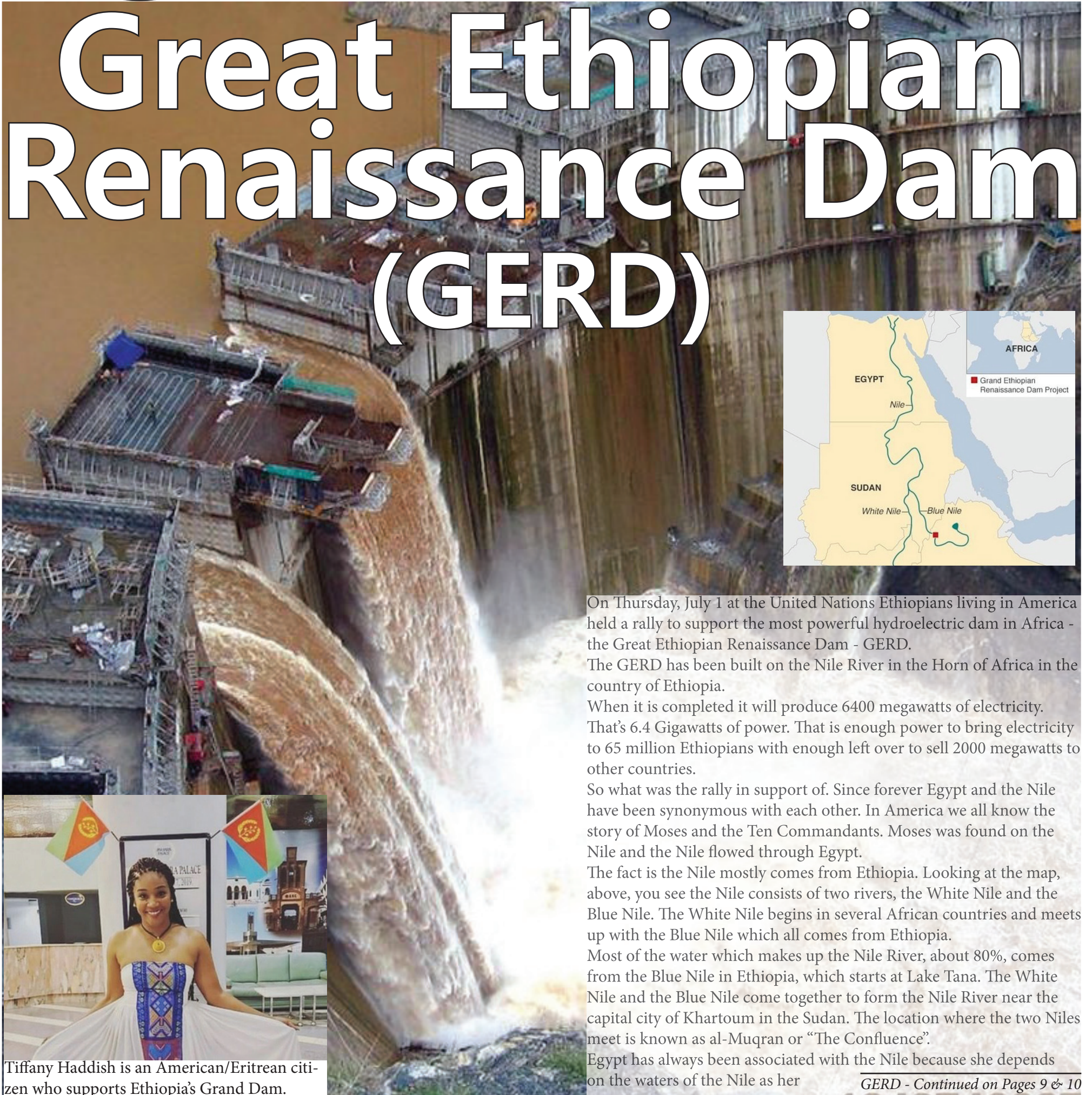


The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)



On Thursday, July 1 at the United Nations Ethiopians living in America held a rally to support the most powerful hydroelectric dam in Africa - the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam - GERD.

The GERD has been built on the Nile River in the Horn of Africa in the country of Ethiopia.

When it is completed it will produce 6400 megawatts of electricity. That's 6.4 Gigawatts of power. That is enough power to bring electricity to 65 million Ethiopians with enough left over to sell 2000 megawatts to other countries.

So what was the rally in support of. Since forever Egypt and the Nile have been synonymous with each other. In America we all know the story of Moses and the Ten Commandants. Moses was found on the Nile and the Nile flowed through Egypt.

The fact is the Nile mostly comes from Ethiopia. Looking at the map, above, you see the Nile consists of two rivers, the White Nile and the Blue Nile. The White Nile begins in several African countries and meets up with the Blue Nile which all comes from Ethiopia.

Most of the water which makes up the Nile River, about 80%, comes from the Blue Nile in Ethiopia, which starts at Lake Tana. The White Nile and the Blue Nile come together to form the Nile River near the capital city of Khartoum in the Sudan. The location where the two Niles meet is known as al-Muqran or "The Confluence".

Egypt has always been associated with the Nile because she depends on the waters of the Nile as her

GERD - Continued on Pages 9 & 10



Tiffany Haddish is an American/Eritrean citizen who supports Ethiopia's Grand Dam.

El Latino News
 En Contacto con la Comunidad
 Trenton – Mercer County

If you do not understand White Supremacy (Racism) --- what it is, and how it works --- everything else that you understand, will only confuse you.”
 Neely Fuller Jr. [1971]

NJ Civil Rights Groups Want Policy Reaffirming Public's Right To Record The Police

BY AL ALATUNJI

“George Floyd. Eric Garner. Walter Scott. Freddie Gray. Alton Sterling. We know these names because concerned bystanders bravely recorded tragic acts of police violence. How many more names do we not know and how many stories will we not hear, simply because no one was there to record?” The NJ Institute for Social Justice and the ACLU-NJ are jointly asking this group in a policy brief entitled “To Record and Protect.”

It was 17 year old Black teenager Darnella Frazier who video the cold blooded murder of George Floyd that spurred protests against police brutality around the world and highlighted the crucial role that citizens play in policing the police.

The two civil rights advocacy groups are calling on the State's Attorney General Gurbir Grewal to establish a First Amendment policing policy to reaffirm the rights of community members who record police encounters.

The groups warn that police officers who try to intimidate or otherwise prevent residents from recording, may be infringing on First Amendment rights. Among the groups' demands is a policy that outlines the scope of the First Amendment right to record police and prohibits officers from discouraging, intimidating or retaliating against people who verbally criticize police or record their conduct.

“As we seek to increase transparency and build trust, it is critical to empower community members—just like Darnella Frazier, who filmed George Floyd's murder—to hold law

enforcement accountable through exercising their First Amendment rights to criticize and record police conduct,” states the report issued by the NJ Institute for Social Justice and the ACLU-NJ

Recently, Attorney General Grewal announced a police body camera policy for police in NJ requiring that all uniformed patrol officers be equipped with them, expanding the policy's mandate to additional officers, and ensuring appropriate use of cameras.

In November 2020, NJ Governor. Phil Murphy signed legislation requiring that by June 1 every uniformed patrol officer in NJ wear a body-worn camera. Since that time, law enforcement agencies, county prosecutors, and the attorney general's office have taken steps to implement the policy in order to utilize police body cams. Previously, fewer than half of the law enforcement agencies in the state had body-worn cameras. In January, Governor Murphy signed another law appropriating \$58 million for grants-in-aid to support the state-wide body-worn camera program.

“Body-worn cameras have the support of police as well as the public, because the accountability they provide is mutual—everyone behaves better when they know they are on camera,” Attorney General Grewal said. “Body cameras not only promote safer and more professional law enforcement interactions, they assist police in gathering evidence and serve to reduce unfounded complaints against officers. Officers report that body-worn cameras can even help to de-escalate volatile situations.”

COMPENSATORY-FUNCTIONAL DEFINITIONS

Compiled from “The United Independent Compensatory Code/System/Concept by Mr. Neely Fuller Jr.

Racism: Some Initial Answers — (Repeat) Two Facts

- (1) The white people of the known universe, are collectively, the smartest, and the most capable, of all people, and,
- (2) The white supremacists (racists) are the smartest, and the most capable of all the white people.

Of all the people of the known universe — both white and non-white — those white people who practice racism (white supremacy) have the greatest ability to use truth, and to use it in such manner as to produce justice and correctness, in all places, in all areas of activity, in the shortest period of time.

The white people who practice racism know that they could, if they chose to do so, produce justice and correctness among the people of the known universe. They are smart enough to do this. They also know, however, that in the process of producing justice and correctness, they would also eliminate white supremacy (racism). Knowing this, they have chosen not to produce justice and correctness. They prefer to continue to practice white supremacy, though they fully understand that in order to practice white supremacy they must do so by promoting falsehood, non-justice, and incorrectness. They apparently have judged that white supremacy is better than revealing truth. They apparently believe that the value of white supremacy is at least as “valuable” as the practice of justice and correctness. To them, the promotion of white supremacy has proven to be, in many respects, “better” than justice and “better” than correctness.

You can order the digital edition of “The United Independent Compensatory Code/System/Concept online at: <https://producejustice.com/product/the-united-independent-compensatory-codesystemconcept-textbook/>

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National Black Family Month

BY AL ALATUNJI

July is National Black Family Month. It was established in 2006 by the Black Women's Agenda, Inc. to promote the enrichment of Black families through education, health, and self-improvement. The Black Women's Agenda maintains that National Black Family Month observance encourages Blacks to support their loved ones, reflect with one another, and invest in and inspire Black youth.

As part of its mission, the organization has established numerous programs to support Black women and their families. They include:

- Because We Care – a series of free forums that provide Black women and their families with the information and resources to take better care of their loved ones and themselves.

- Four for 4 – Four People, Four Votes, Four Years, and Foresight – an initiative that engages the members of 21 participating sororities, civic and faith-based groups in raising awareness, educating voters, and ensuring that at least four people, including themselves, vote on Election Day

- Inform & Inspire – workshops that introduce middle school girls in cities across the U.S. to the science of climate change as well as non-traditional STEM

careers, and

- The Bright Futures Awards – which recognize students whose academic achievements and service to school and community distinguish them as future leaders and success stories.

During the month of July, Black women and their families are encouraged to rededicate themselves to family and celebrate their connection, heritage, and commitment to one another. Families should look to implement progressive and positive changes; connect through old traditions; create new ones, and participate in activities that can be continued throughout the year.

Studies show that spending time together as a family can foster communication; promote respect and mutual appreciation; build confidence and self-esteem in our children and provide memories that last a lifetime. So, in July as part of National Black Family Month, the Black Women's Agenda suggests getting everyone involved in preparing the family's favorite foods; interviewing one another and creating a family history; volunteering; reading together; sharing hopes and dreams, and singing out loud Sister Sledge's, "We are Family!"

To learn more about the Black Women's Agenda we encourage you to visit the organization's website at <https://bwa-inc.org>.



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Our Gold

Algernon Ward

Algernon Ward, Jr., his parents and four siblings lived on Southard Street in Trenton in a house on the side of the Southard Street Bridge. Through a series of moves the family wound up on Lamberton Street in South

challenged at Jr. #1, he felt that he was “existentially damaged” because of this disparity. Also, a teacher in one of his classes tried to convince students that slavery was not so bad. Algernon no longer took school seriously.



Algernon continued his education at Trenton Central High School in the late 60's. June Ray Ward, Algernon's mother, whom he described as the center of his life, fiercely objected when a guidance counselor wanted to place Algernon in the vocational program. He was placed in the academic program where he was an A or F student. Algernon did well in the subjects that he liked and failed the subjects he disliked. There was a young biology teacher fresh out of college who impressed Algernon with

Trenton. In the sixth grade Algernon was placed in a special advanced class at Dunn Junior High (Jr.#4), which at that time had a predominantly white student body. The six graders at Dunn were taught algebra. The family moved to Princeton Avenue and Algernon attended Junior High #1 whose students were mostly Black. It was in junior high that Algernon first became aware of the disparity in education; arithmetic was being taught at Junior #1. Algernon was bored and because he was not being

this simple definition-biology is the study of life. A spark was lit within him for science. He never missed biology and cut a lot of the other classes. Algernon's other love was music and he never missed an opportunity to play his trumpet.

The years spent at Trenton High, beginning in the late 60's, were the formative years according to Algernon. It was in high school where he decided who he was going to be and what role he would play in society. Algernon became an activist. He was

greatly influenced by Angela Davis, Gil Scott-Heron and others including Principal Roland Daniels and Black History teacher Barbara Hancock. As a young activist Algernon realized that he could influence policy. He was a member of the North Trenton Youth Council that met with then Mayor Art Holland who asked the group what they wanted. Algernon handed the mayor a piece of paper where he listed that they wanted a pool and that it be named after Martin Luther King, Jr. among other things. The next year construction on the pool began. Algernon then realized that real changes can be made on the ground.

Algernon did not attend college right after high school and his father, Algernon Ward Sr., said that he had to go to work. Algernon began working at the Oxzyn Company, a cosmetics manufacturer on New York Avenue that made makeup, perms, and hair grease-chemical compounding as he calls it. He worked there for eighteen months and even though this job was in a field that he loved Algernon realized then that he did not want to work at a factory for the rest of his life. He entered the Chance program at Mercer County Community College which enrolled him at Trenton State College. June Ward signed for a loan so that Algernon could continue the study of the biology. Algernon credits his mother's strong influence and the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. for much of his academic success in college. The Alpha's invited him to join their organization and impressed upon him the need for discipline in his studies. Algernon had to stay in the library from 6p-11p studying. For someone who had not developed good study habits, this was a new experience. He followed the Alpha's plan because he wanted to remain in the fraternity. Algernon was successful even though at one point he had to continue his studies part-time after the birth of his first daughter Aja. Algernon was the first Black in 10 years to graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from

Trenton State College. Algernon also took lab technician training and received his certification. He worked with Dr. Steven Silbering whom he met while working as a research assistant at Johnson and Johnson. Algernon is proud to be named on a patent with Dr. Silbering because of his help in developing a toothpaste with an amino acid and L-arginine compound that fights plaque. Algernon was employed by the State of New Jersey for 34 years, beginning as a lab technician. He was the first Black chemist hired because of the Affirmative Action program and he retired after 34 years of service.

Algernon is an active Civil War Reenactor where he uses his musical skill as a bugler. Reenacting has taken him to places that he could never imagine, he even starred in a movie. His trumpet-playing, which began in junior high, extended to playing in a local celebrity band called The Meditators that he formed with some friends after high school. The Locust Hill Cemetery Restoration Project on Hart Avenue in East Trenton is a project that Algernon and some local Civil War Reenactors are working on which will include a museum in a building next to the cemetery.

Algernon is the Co-Chairman of the Board of Incorporators of the Trenton Community Credit Union where anyone who lives, works, has a business or is a student in Trenton can become a member. “If we can control our wealth, there's nothing that can hold us back”. Algernon is a candidate for Trenton city council. He seeks to represent the north ward and his focus will include police reform, neighborhood development and crime prevention. Algernon says if you have any success in life, give all the glory to God.

If you have suggestions for Our Gold section please let us know. Each month we want to tell a little of the life story of those who have done so much for their families and their community. Contact us at 609 858-2777 or email us at: nubiannews@thenubiannews.com.

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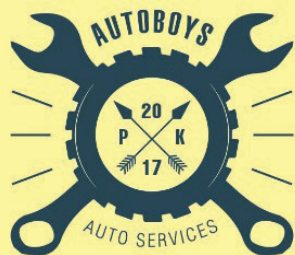
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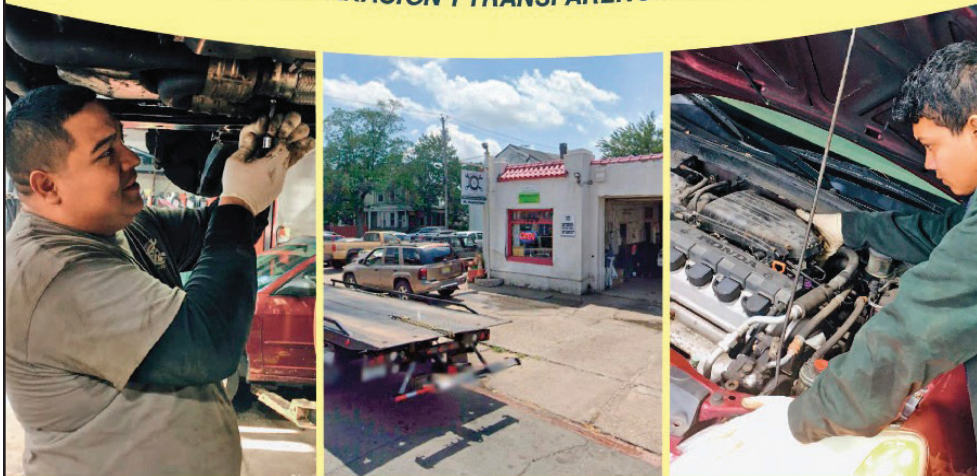
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Edificio del Departamento de Salud en Trenton llevará el nombre de Judith Persichilli

POR CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON - En gratitud al servicio y liderazgo cumplido por parte de la comisionada del Departamento de Salud de Nueva Jersey Judith Persichilli, el Estado de Nueva Jersey designará con su nombre al edificio

Nueva Jersey en enero de 2020. Poco después de su confirmación, el estado y el país en general se vio envuelto en la pandemia de COVID-19. Durante la pandemia la comisionada Persichilli lideró los esfuerzos del Estado de Nueva Jersey para combatir la propa-



del Departamento de Salud localizado en el 55 North Willow Street en Trenton, Nueva Jersey. El proyecto de ley fue respaldado por el portavoz de la Asamblea Craig J. Coughlin y el asambleísta Raj Mukherji.

Persichilli recibió su diploma de enfermería de la Escuela de Enfermería del Hospital St. Francis, una Licenciatura en Enfermería de la Universidad de Rutgers y una Maestría en Artes en Administración de la Universidad de Rider. Judith Persichilli comenzó su carrera como enfermera de cuidados intensivos y luego ocupó puestos ejecutivos en varios centros y organizaciones de atención médica. También ha recibido varios honores y premios relacionados con su trabajo. Persichilli fue nombrada comisionada interina de salud en agosto de 2019 y confirmada por el Senado estatal de

gación del mortal virus. "La comisionada Persichilli ha trabajado diligentemente para transmitir información crítica a los residentes y dirigir iniciativas complejas de salud pública para combatir la propagación de un nuevo virus mortal. Los esfuerzos de la Comisionada y su equipo a lo largo de esta crisis sin precedentes han salvado innumerables vidas y han vacunado completamente a 4.9 millones de habitantes de Nueva Jersey. Nombrar este edificio en su honor es una forma adecuada de reconocer su valentía, dedicación y liderazgo". Manifestaron en conjunto los patrocinadores de la Asamblea Coughlin y Mukherji. La Asamblea y el Senado en pleno aprobó esta iniciativa el pasado jueves con una votación de 49-21-4 y 25-11 respectivamente.

Si quieres contribuir a The Nubian News
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UN SOÑADOR LATINO VA A HARVARD UNIVERSITY

TRENTON-Eric Vásquez uno de los mejores estudiantes de las escuelas de Trenton posa junto a su madre y hermanas luego de la ceremonia de graduación de la Trenton Central High School en el Trenton Thunder Estadio el viernes 25 de junio del 2021. Vásquez partirá hacia Cambridge, Massachusetts el próximo 26 de agosto para iniciar el próximo mes de septiembre sus estudios universitarios en la prestigiosa 'Harvard University'. Le deseamos éxitos en su desarrollo académico y estaremos atentos a sus logros. En la foto; posa junto a sus hermanas Evita, Graciela y su madre Johana Reyes.



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Madre de familia clama por ayuda médica

Por CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON-Xóchilt Cortes Moctezuma, desde el interior del Hospital St. Francis Medical Central, después de batallar reservadamente por más de 10 meses, hoy clama ayuda por recuperar su salud que supuestamente fue afectada por negligencia médica.

Un grupo de amigas de Xóchilt se solidarizaron, se comunicaron con este medio para hacer pública la situación y buscar ayuda para que no la saquen del hospital, ya que temen que, en su casa, su condición médica se complique.

En un video, enviado por las amigas de la paciente se puede observar claramente uno de los intestinos

quien al mismo tiempo se contagió con COVID-19. "Durante este tiempo yo he tenido que hacerme cargo de toda la casa", manifestó.

Durante la entrevista desde afuera del hospital también pudimos hablar vía telefónica con la madre y le preguntamos.

¿Qué desearía que el hospital y los doctores hicieran por usted?

"Quisiera que el hospital me ayudara a transferir a otro hospital o lugar donde me puedan cuidar, porque yo no tengo mi casa condicionada para poder llevar un cuidado de esta magnitud. Tengo miedo que me pueda dar una infección o gangrena porque no tengo los suplementos necesarios para que mi hija me pueda



fuera de su estómago y así la quieren enviar a su casa para que su hija Geraldine (19) a quien la habían entrenado por dos horas se hiciera cargo de su recuperación en su casa. "Lo cual es de alto riesgo", según manifiesta la propia hija, con quien tuvimos una entrevista la semana pasada, justamente frente al hospital en mención.

Geraldine manifiesta que todo este vía crucis comenzó en plena pandemia, en agosto del pasado año 2020.

"Mi madre vino con dolor de estómago y tuvieron que operarla de emergencia" señala la joven. Anota que en ese día el cirujano que operó, la dejó con un intestino fuera del vientre y por ahí estaba desechando desperdicios del cuerpo.

"Luego trataron de arreglar, la operaron de nuevo y desde ahí comenzó su problema. Desde ese entonces mi hermano y yo hemos pasado por mucha depresión al ver a nuestra madre así," señala la joven Geraldine. Anota además que para ese entonces la pandemia estaba en pleno auge y ellos no podían visitar a su madre

cuidar", dijo Xóchilt desde su cama #322 en el tercer piso del hospital St. Francis.

Este medio de comunicación se ha tratado de comunicar con el hospital en mención para conocer su expli-



cación y no se ha tenido respuesta hasta el cierre de esta edición.

Xóchilt Cortes envió videos y fotos de su vientre con los intestinos fuera de lugar, pero por obvias razones no podemos publicar más que una foto en la que está en su cama y otra en la que se ve una de sus manos infectada a causa de un suero que la pusieron en el hospital de Newark, según manifiesta esta madre de familia quien pide ayuda para poder recuperarse y volver a estar junto a sus hijos.

Turner Bill Would Reduce Youth Involvement With Justice System

BY AL ALATUNJI

Legislation sponsored by State Senator Shirley Turner (D-Mercer-Hunterdon) which would create the “Restorative and Transformative Justice for Youth and Communities Pilot Program” in the Juvenile Justice Commission. The bill was recently passed in the State Senate.

“Restorative justice and transformative justice programs have been nationally recognized as the best practices in keeping young people out of the criminal justice system and successfully reintegrating them into their communities after being released from out-of-home placements,” said State Senator Turner.

and practices have been recognized as best practices in keeping young people out of the youth justice system. Such programs have been successful in reintegrating them into their home communities after being released from out-of-home placements. Restorative justice is a system that brings victims, community members, and youth who have committed harm together to discuss the harm that was done and explore solutions to address the root cause of that harm. This system presents an alternate avenue for addressing harm and encourages active participation in the restorative process to facilitate stronger community relationships and community driven public safety.

Transformative justice addresses conflicts and harms at the individual level, community level, and within broader social structures.

According to supporters of State Senator Turner’s bill, transformative justice works to build alternatives to current systems and transform the conditions which

help create acts of violence or make them possible. Both restorative justice and transformative justice offer different perspectives of justice aimed at interpersonal and consensual resolutions, with transformative justice also incorporating systems-level change.

“Our youth justice system devastated our children before the pandemic and is devastating them more now. What we did, by passing this bill, is a tremendous step forward toward reinventing the way we treat our youth and giving them a second — and first — chance,” said Senator Nellie Pou (D-Bergen/Passaic) who co-sponsored the bill with State Senator Turner.

“I have worked hard, alongside my colleagues in the legislature, to improve the conditions within our youth facilities but the true path toward change is in our communities, where restorative justice and other programs like the ones covered in this legislation will keep our kids out of the system in the first place and give them an opportunity to be cared for and thrive. I look forward to seeing this pass the whole Legislature and watching the Governor sign it into law,” added State Senator Pou.



“This program would aim to develop innovative restorative and transformative justice continuums of care in Camden, Newark, Paterson and Trenton that offer both individual support services and spaces to foster systemic change. It is crucial we are doing everything in our power to redirect these young adults onto the right path to avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system.” The bill sponsored by State Senator Turner would establish a two-year pilot program in the Juvenile Justice Commission, which would assist with the reintegration of youths released from juvenile facilities to prevent repeated involvement with the youth justice system. The goal is to help youths avoid any initial involvement with such a system.

The program would be designed to help provide ways the Juvenile Justice Commission and communities directly impacted by the State’s current harmful juvenile justice policies can transform NJ’s youth justice system – during the current public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and potentially beyond – based on a restorative justice and transformative justice approach.

Nationally, restorative justice and transformative justice programs

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Who: Girls and Boys, 3rd - 12th grade

4x Mercer County Champion



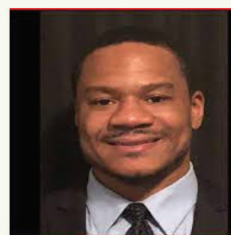
Former Division 1 Wrestler

2nd in State of NJ

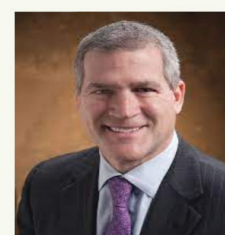
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Combating Blindness Within The Black Community

Many Blacks do not even realize it's happening until they have lost a substantial amount of peripheral vision. However according to eyecare experts there is a very simple way that Blacks can prevent blindness from the devastating effects of glaucoma leading cause of blindness in the Black community: Don't skip your eyecare visit



What is glaucoma? According to eyecare experts glaucoma is a disease of the eye characterized by three components:

Damage and loss of the retinal ganglion cells and optic nerve described as cupping

Loss of visual field

Usually increased eye pressure.

Eyecare professionals maintain the elevated intraocular pressure from glaucoma damages the optic nerve mechanically and creates decreased blood flow to the eye. The most identifiable cause of glaucoma is the enlarged lens or cataract in the eye.

They point out that early cataract surgery and trabecular bypass has become the best option to stop vision loss in patients with glaucoma. The current use of eyedrops and laser help to lower intraocular pressure

eyecare professionals maintain do not address the causative mechanism of the glaucoma being the enlarged lens. Incisional cataract surgery and glaucoma surgery is often needed to truly stabilize glaucoma.

All people should be screened regularly for glaucoma according to eyecare professionals as part of a medical eye exam. They point out that screening should consist of an eye examination consisting of gonioscopy (examination of the drainage angle), intraocular pressure measurement with Goldmann applanation tonometry and a dilated optic nerve examination. If there appears to be any damage to the optic nerve or abnormal pressure, then a visual field test should be performed, and optic nerve photos taken.

Persons with thin corneas should be more aggressively monitored and treated for glaucoma as the disease tends to be worse in these patients.

People with conditions such as glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy that could lead to blindness if left unchecked need to stay particularly vigilant with their checkups.

Eyesight or human vision is one of the most important senses. As much as 80 percent of what we feel comes through our sense of sight. By protecting the eyes, people will reduce the chance of blindness and vision loss while also staying on top of any developing eye diseases, such as glaucoma and cataracts.

Blacks lives matter and a very important aspect of that life is to be able to see clearly.

NJ Creates COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force To Address Racial And Health Disparities In The State

On June 11th Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation creating the COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force on Racial and Health Disparities. The task force would consist of 23 members. Ten of those members would be public members appointed by Governor Murphy. Two of the remaining members would be members of the New Jersey Black Legislative Caucus and the New Jersey Legislative Latino Caucus.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted our minority communities and we must work together to eliminate the exist-



ing racial disparities in health care," said Governor Murphy.

The bill was sponsored by State Senator Sandra Cunningham (D-Hudson) and State Senator Nellie Pou (D-Bergen and Passaic) and Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter (D-Bergen and Passaic), Assemblywoman Angelica Jimenez (D-Bergen and Hudson), and Assemblywoman Linda Carter (D-Middlesex, Somerset and Union).

Black people in NJ account for 17% of COVID-19 deaths but only make up 12% of the state's population. According to data from the Kaiser Family Foundation, as of June 7, Blacks make up only 8% of those who

are vaccinated in NJ.

Assemblywoman Sumter said long before the COVID-19 pandemic, Blacks in the state faced disparities in the healthcare system in other areas. "African-American and Latino mothers saw higher mortality rates," Assemblywoman Sumter said. "A disproportionate number of minority families lacked access to health insurance and care. Communities of color have been impacted by COVID-19 at an alarming rate. We need to understand how and why these disparities are happening, and what we can do to mitigate the harm this pandemic has caused."

A poll released by Stockton University in March revealed that a majority of racial and ethnic minorities and lower-income residents in NJ want a COVID-19 vaccine, but report getting vaccinated at half the rates of white and more affluent residents in the state.

"These findings reflect inequity in how the virus and the vaccination process are affecting people of color and lower-income populations in NJ," said John Froonjian, director of the Hughes Center. "Black, Hispanic and lower-income residents are just as worried about COVID and are as eager to be vaccinated as the rest of the population."

The new law requires the task force to report to the Governor and the Legislature, no later than one year after the COVID-19 public health emergency is lifted, on its findings and recommendations. The task force would expire 30 days after the issuance of its report.

GERD - Continued from page 1

life blood. Egypt actually gets only a few millimeters of rain water and is almost completely dependent on the Nile's waters for agriculture, drinking, fishing and many other uses of the waters.

Herein lies the problem. The GERD has been built in Ethiopia and Egypt fears it will lose much of the water it is used to getting. Thus Egypt does not want Ethiopia to complete the dam and utilize it.

When the dam is completed it will form a huge reservoir which may cut down on the amount of water both Egypt and Sudan get. Both countries are worried about that lessening effect.

But Ethiopia contents that her people need the benefits the dam will provide. Now only about 25% of Ethiopia's 100 million people are connected to the electric grid. The dam will make it possible for the entire country to finally have electricity.

So it comes down to whether the benefits Ethiopians will enjoy are worth the possibility that Egyptian people may suffer. Should Ethiopia place her citizens' well-being above those of the Egyptians.

Egypt's fears have lead her to ask for the support of Arab and white countries. While Ethiopia has reached out to Black countries, believing this is an African problem best solved

by Africans. Negotiations between the countries has been going on for many years. At some point Ethiopia decided to start the dam and now it is almost complete and the reservoir needs to be filled.

The African Union has been hosting negotiations but to date there has been no agreement. Ethiopia has said the dam is crucial for its growth and it would begin filling it during this month's rainy season.

What is also different about the GERD is it has been paid for completely by Ethiopians. The people have bought into this project with their own money. Giving what they have, whether \$1, \$5, \$20 or \$1000. They have given because they know

that with a steady supply of low cost energy their lives will change for the better.

Politics has reared its ugly head too. Trump actually suggested Egypt bomb the dam. It seems white leaders do not want Black countries to do what is best for their people unless they are getting a piece of the pie.

In this instance they are not getting any of this pie.

We support building and filling the dam. Egypt is not the Egypt of old, it has become a corrupt ally of the United States and will have to learn better how to stand on her own two feet and take better care of her people.

Nubian News Book Review

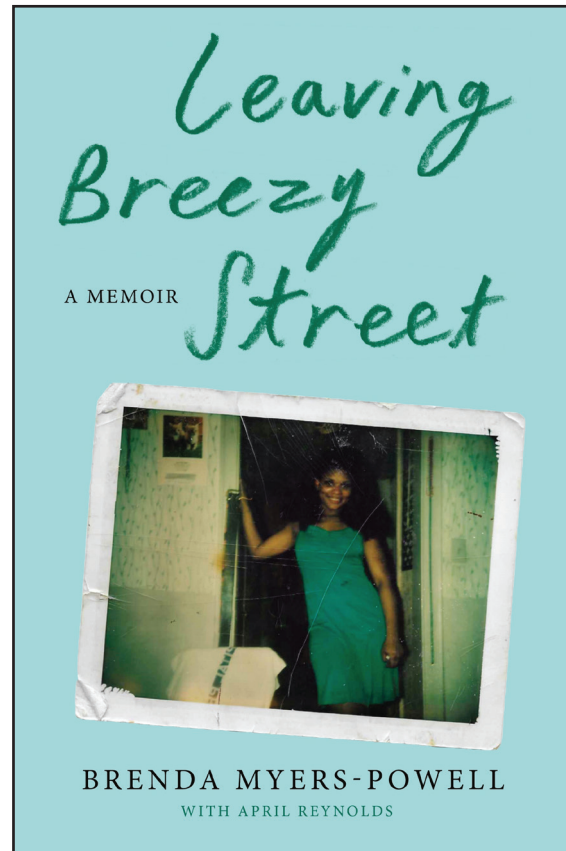
BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

“Leaving Breezy Street: A Memoir”

BY BRENDA MYERS-POWELL WITH APRIL REYNOLDS

c.2021, Henry Holt and Company
\$26.99 / \$36.99 Canada 288 pages

Sometimes, you just gotta get out. You need a weekend in a remote cabin or high-end spa. You gotta get out of *those clothes* at days' end. You need a breath of fresh air, new



scenery, something to distract you. Sometimes, you need to get out for your sanity. Other times, as in the new book “Leaving Breezy Street” by Brenda Myers-Powell (with April Reynolds), you need to get out for your life.

They told her that her mother loved her very much.

Little Brenda Myers had to take her aunts' words for it; her mother died before Brenda could walk, and so she was raised by her grandmother. Ma'Dea's home was safe and warm, nobody ever went hungry, but the woman couldn't keep Myers from being molested, starting when Myers was just four years old.

It continued: at ten, she was removed from Ma'Dea's house due to alcoholism and physical abuse; a year later, the uncle who took her in began molesting her. Myer returned to her grandmother's house, “from the frying pan to the fire,” where she endured the least egregious trauma until she got pregnant.

At age fourteen, she realized that she needed money to raise an infant.

On Good Friday, 1973, she took the train to downtown Chicago and turned her first tricks. She came home with “almost four hundred dollars.” Ma'Dea, she says, “didn't ask one question.”

That was the beginning of years of horrors. Myers was captured by a pair of “Gorilla pimps” who beat her to control her; though she was a minor, they took her across state lines and raped her until she didn't care. She escaped, returned to the streets, sold herself for cash, a place to stay, clothing, and eventually, drugs, when all she really wanted was nurturing.

“Folks tell me, ain't all that happen to you,” she says. “I wish it hadn't... I wish to God I was lying my head off.”

Here's a warning, so take it seriously: if you like your memoirs sweet and tender, back away from this one. “Leaving Breezy Street,” the title of which refers to the alter-ego and pseudonym author Brenda Myers-Powell used for work, is anything *but* warm and fuzzy.

It. Is. Brutal.

But then again...

At the risk of being a spoiler here, there's a happy ending or four in this memoir, including the empowering, steely, and emotional update on Myers-Powell's life today, a tale-within-a-tale that'll make you teary-eyed. Those tears will happen partly out of relief because *whew!* what Myers-Powell tells is like some kind of horror story but the monsters are real – yet, curiously (and much to a reader's chagrin), she respects her past and leaves a lot unsaid.

That doesn't include celebrities, whose names pepper this memoir.

Just bear in mind that this book is packed with profanity but there's also a laugh or two, in a dark kind of way. Still, if you want a tale that'll drop your jaw every few pages, “Leaving Breezy Street” is the book to get out.

* * *

If you're in the mood for more memoir, look for “Somebody's Daughter” by Ashley C. Ford. It's the story of growing up with a father in prison; missing him, loving him from afar and not getting the whole story of his incarceration – until the story's spilled and the reckoning arrives...

Reynolds-Jackson Bill Prohibiting Immigrant Detention Awaiting Governor's Signature

by Al Alatunji

With advocates and residents voicing their opposition to the detainment of undocumented immigrants, Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D-Mercer-Hunterdon) sponsor a bill that would prohibit certain entities from agreeing to detain immigrants in NJ facilities. The legislation was passed by both houses of the State Legislature in late June.

The bill has been sent to NJ Governor Phil Murphy for his review and signature. If Governor Murphy signs the bill, NJ would become the fifth state to ban such agreements.

Under the Reynolds-Jackson bill, the State, local government agencies, and private detention facilities in NJ would be prohibited from entering into a new agreement or renewing/expanding an existing agreement with federal immigration authorities – such as the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – to house or detain individuals for civil immigration violations.

“Many in NJ are calling for an end to ICE contracts,” said Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson. “These detention centers have proven to do more harm than good for New Jersey families. This legislation will put a stop to that.”

Over the years, jails in several NJ counties have been used by ICE to detain dozens of undocumented

immigrants. While some places have recently chosen to end these contracts, others have chosen to renew them.

“It is time for the detainment of undocumented immigrants in our state to come to an end,” said Assemblyman Gorden Johnson (D-Bergen), a sponsor of Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson's bill. “The fundamental principle here is that no one should ever be put behind bars due to their immigration status. As a state and a nation that is a proud melting pot of cultures, creeds and ethnicities, that kind of treatment does not align with our values or our history.”

Local government agencies prohibited from engaging in these contracts include counties, municipalities and local sheriff offices.

“Preventing our state from entering into any further detention contracts with federal immigration authorities is the right and humane thing to do,” said Assemblywoman Linda Carter (D-Middlesex, Somerset, Union), also a sponsor of the bill. “We cannot continue to take part in depriving undocumented immigrants of the dignity and respect they deserve in this country.”

A January executive order issued by President Joe Biden banned the Department of Justice from entering into agreements to detain undocumented immigrants.



Ethiopians in the diaspora, living in America, came to the United Nations building in New York City to rally in support of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) being discussed in the Security Council. The GERD, which will produce more hydroelectric power than any dam in Africa was paid for the by the people, rich and poor, of Ethiopia. Egypt, supported by white countries, is trying to prevent the dam from being used. The same story of holding back a Black people for white man's profits.

WINNER OF MS NEW JERSEY SENIOR AMERICA PAGEANT 2021

It was live and it was great! After a year's hiatus due to the Covid virus pandemic, the MS NEW JERSEY SENIOR AMERICA PAGEANT

original comedy routine based on her life experiences and crazy imagination. Her delivery was flawless, and the audience rewarded her with



Queen Dorothy Johnson of Mt. Laurel and Trenton's own, Amini Sababu

2021 held its annual Pageant at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Toms River. The Grand Ballroom was filled to capacity for the afternoon event, as people came in, and sat next each other, talking and socializing without fear of catching this dreaded disease.

Eight elegant women 60 years and older, participated in the Pageant, and in the end, the lady who emerged as this year's QUEEN was Dorothy Johnson of Mt. Laurel. She scored highest in the four Categories which include: Evening Gown, Philosophy of Life, Talent and a Private Judges' Interview. For her Talent, she did an

generous applause and a standing ovation.

As more and more restrictions are lifted, QUEEN Dorothy will soon begin a year long journey traveling throughout the State, promoting the positive aspects of aging at age related venues. In August, she will participate in the MS SENIOR AMERICA PAGEANT 2021, and compete for the national title.

Trenton was represented this year by our own Mama Amini Sababu. Amini worked as a social worker for McBoss and is one of the founders of The Senerity Garden on Prospect St.

Advocates Respond to NJ Prison Closure with Demands for Systemic Change

NEWARK, NJ (June 10, 2021) On Monday June 7, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced he would be closing the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women. The announcement came after women incarcerated at the facility coura-



Former NJ Commissioner of Correction Marcus Hicks, resigned after report accused him of being unaware of the horrific treatment of inmates under his care.

as possible and must work with advocates, incarcerated women, and their family members to address the conditions that led to these attacks and other injustices."

Kerness, who corresponds regularly with people in prison across the state, began receiving multiple letters about abuses at Edna Mahan in January. She helped the women make their stories public by sharing their letters with the governor, legislators, advocates, and the media.

"Right now there are around one hundred women at Edna Mahan with less than two years left on their sentence - these women should be released rather than transferred," said Kerness. "When I get calls from women at the facility they are very clear about what they need. They want to maintain the campus model of Edna Mahan. They want access to programming and services. And they want the Murphy administration and the entire Department of Corrections held accountable for allowing pervasive abuse and human rights violations."

geously came forward to speak out against brutal beatings and sexual assaults by corrections officers. But advocates working with incarcerated women say simply closing the facility won't solve these problems.

"It is an endemic culture of racism, misogyny, and violence within Department of Corrections staff that led to these brutal assaults," said Bonnie Kerness, Director of the American Friends Service Committee's Prison Watch Program. "Transferring the women elsewhere does not guarantee their safety. Governor Murphy must take immediate steps to release as many women

Over the coming months, Kerness and other advocates will continue working with incarcerated women to seek justice and accountability.

The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social systems.

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- Fri. - Evening Worship 8:00pm

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