



# Hope walks the walk

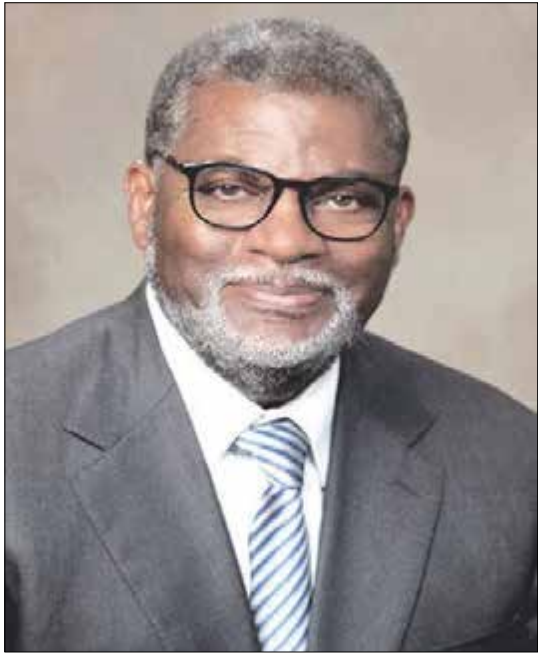
By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

The Hope family of development organizations is dedicated to strengthening communities, building assets and improving lives in the Delta and other economically distressed parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee, and has been very successful.

Comprised of a regional credit union (Hope Credit Union), loan fund (Hope Enterprise Corporation) and policy center (Hope Policy Institute), Hope has provided financial services, leveraged private and public resources, and shaped policies that have benefited more than a million residents in one of the nation's most persistently poor regions.

These Hope entities were all founded by William J. "Bill" Bynum. In their twenty-eight-year history they have continued to grow rapidly in impact, and here are a few examples from last year alone:

- 125 mortgage loans with 90% of them going to people of color and 64% going to women and 87% to first-time home buyers
- 456 affordable housing units financed which provided a home for 912 people
- 2,630 commercial loans to-



Hope CEO William J. Bynum  
PHOTO: FROM HOPE WEBPAGE

taling over \$85 million, 71% of which went to people of color, contributing to 6,597 jobs being retained and created

Recently on the WJTV Mississippi Insights program, Ed Sivak, one of several Hope executive vice presidents and Chief Policy & Communications Officer, shared with Melanie Christopher another new program which will address racial and gender gaps through a billion dollar boost from the U.S. Treasury Department



A Hope VP, Ed Sivak  
PHOTO: FROM HOPE WEBPAGE

"I think it's important that we level-set with the challenges that we face. Here in Mississippi, we don't have equal access to financial services. We know that well over half of black households in the state don't have access to bank accounts or are under-banked, in contrast to one quarter of white households. In small business loans and lending there is significantly different rates of turn downs between those two groups. And also, there are inequitable out-

comes in mortgage lending as well," says Sivak.

He says the new program, Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP), will be seeded by \$92+ million to be focused on providing small business loans, to start businesses, mortgages, car loans, etc. "Importantly this is going to be in communities that are overlooked and underserved by traditional financial institutions."

*Hope  
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## Ole Miss honors James Meredith 60 years after integration

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
The Associated Press

The University of Mississippi is paying tribute to 89-year-old James Meredith 60 years after white protesters erupted into violence as he became the first black student to enroll in what was then a bastion of Deep South segregation.

As it has done on other 10-year anniversaries of integration, the university is hosting celebrations and academic events. Meredith was honored Saturday during the Ole Miss-Kentucky football game, receiving a framed Ole Miss jersey with the number 62 – the year he integrated the university. The ceremony happened two days after he attended the Rebels' practice to speak to players.

"He came and revolutionized our thinking. He came to open our closed society," Donald Cole, who retired in 2018 as the university's assistant provost and head of multicultural affairs, said during a celebration Wednesday night.

The enigmatic Meredith, who lives in Jackson, has long resisted the label of civil rights leader, as if civil rights are separate from other human rights. He says his effort to enter Ole Miss was his own battle to conquer white supremacy.

Meredith's being honored at the Ole Miss-Kentucky game was an ironic echo of history.

Two days before Meredith enrolled on the Oxford campus in 1962, race-baiting Gov. Ross Barnett worked a white crowd into a frenzy at a football stadium in Jackson. Ole Miss fans waved Confederate flags to support their Rebels over the Kentucky Wildcats and to defy any move toward racial integration.

"I love Mississippi," Barnett declared. "I love her people. Our customs. I love and I respect our heritage."



Meredith

The next evening, Barnett quietly reached an agreement with U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy to let Meredith enter Mississippi's oldest public university. Meredith already had a federal court order.

White mobs of students and outsiders erupted when he arrived on the leafy campus with the protection of more than 500 federal law enforcement officers. The attorney general's brother, President John F. Kennedy, deployed National Guard troops to quell the violence, and Meredith enrolled Oct. 1.

During the event Wednesday at the university, Meredith told an audience: "In my opinion, this is the best day I ever lived. But there's some more truth. Celebration is good. I don't think there's anybody in this house or in the state of Mississippi that think the problem has been solved."

Meredith has said for the past several years that he's on a mission from God, to persuade people to abide by the Ten Commandments. He said Wednesday that he sees a special role for black women to lead the way in restoring moral order to American society.

"There's nothing in Mississippi that God, Jesus Christ and the black woman cannot fix," Meredith said.

Meredith grew up in segregated Mississippi before

*Meredith  
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# Official defends Mississippi Capitol Police pursuits

By Michael Goldberg  
Associated Press/Report for America

Amid backlash over the fatal shooting of a Mississippi man, the state's top law enforcement official said officers of a special police unit in the capital city of Jackson will not change the way they pursue suspects.

Mississippi Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell met with community members following a spate of recent shootings involving the Capitol Police, a unit that patrols areas around state government buildings and other neighborhoods near downtown Jackson.

"Anytime there is a loss of life, it's tragic," Tindell said Thursday night at a Jackson church. "But we can't be deterred in trying to make the city safe and doing policing the way it's supposed to be done."

Jaylen Lewis, 25, was shot during an encounter Sunday night with Capitol Police officers. He later died. According to

the Department of Public Safety, the officers attempted to initiate a traffic stop when the shooting occurred. The officers involved have been placed on administrative leave until an internal investigation is completed, a department spokesperson said.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, another division of the Department of Public Safety, is handling the investigation.

In a community meeting organized by Jackson City Councilman Kenneth Stokes, Tindell vowed that "bad actors" in the Capitol Police would be held accountable. He also said there is a "criminal element" in Jackson "that is not used to being policed."

"Don't sit here and complain about crime and death and murder and kids killing kids and tell me there's respect for law enforcement. Because there's not," Tindell said.

One woman said her son died fourth months ago. She said "arresting and killing" people

shouldn't be the only way to prevent crime.

"There's not a lot to do in Jackson. A lot of people are lost," said the woman, who did not give her name when she spoke at the meeting.

Stokes said some of his constituents fear that some Capitol Police officers might not be trained "on how to deal with black people in black neighborhoods."

"How do we stop the killing?" Stokes asked.

About 80% of Jackson residents are black. The public safety commissioner and the Capitol Police chief are white.

Tindell said Capitol Police could do a better job of connecting with residents. He also said officers couldn't reduce tension with people through police work alone.

"One of things we see again and again is a lack of accountability, particularly with young people who have no supervision," Tindell said. "They grow

up a with a sense of 'nobody cares about them, so why should anybody else.'"

Before Sunday's shooting, Capitol Police officers were involved in one shooting Aug. 14 and another Sept. 12. The department said those two shootings were not fatal. On Sept. 7, a man died in a car wreck after he was chased by Capitol Police.

Responding to questions over the recent altercations between citizens and officers, Capitol Police Chief Bo Luckey said his officers have changed tactics.

"The way we're going to police the area is not going to be the same as its been in the past," Luckey said.

Luckey said Capitol Police have made close to 100 arrests since he became chief in late May, which he characterized as a "very large number of arrests for any agency." He said those arrests primarily stem from more "proactive policing,"

*Police  
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Inside  
The Call My Name Quilt Project presents HIV & Justice Forum with Mississippi AIDSwatch



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## Celebrating the life of Eula V. Polk

*May 24, 1912 – September 27, 2022*



Polk

Sister Eula Viola Brown-Polk was born May 24, 1912, in Terry, MS to the late Richard Brown and Frankie Owens-Brown. As the last surviving child of her parents, she was one of nine daughters and one son born to this union.

In 1921, at the age of nine she accepted Christ and united with Little Bethel C.M.E. Church in Terry where she served faithfully in various capacities.

At Little Bethel, Sister Polk served as Sunday School teacher, secretary, treasurer, usher, choir member, stewardess and missionary president. She served twenty-

five years as a stewardess.

Her service to God extended beyond Little Bethel. At the district level, she served as treasurer, zone leader for eight years, district stewardess and worship leader.

From the very beginning as a member of Little Bethel, Sister Polk represented the church as a conference delegate and eventually lost count of the number of years she served as a delegate. Her dedicated service garnered her the title of queen of the Fourth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. She was humbled yet honored to wear this crown.

In 1940, she was united in holy matrimony to Eddie Lee Polk and jointly raised two children, Willie James Coleman and Moses Lee Herk, Jr.

Together with her husband, their sons were raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord. She has been blessed to be a daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother, an aunt, a beloved sister in Christ and a friend.

Her love for family and community was unquestionable and because of her nurturing spirit to everyone, she was affectionately known as ‘Aunt V.’ During her latter years, many referred to her as the ‘mother of her community.’

Sister Polk was educated at Terry Grove

Church School, Pilgrim Rest Church School and Lanier High School. A notable feat during a time when educational opportunities were more difficult than they are at present.

In 1949, she became a member of the Heroines of Jericho Grand Lodge #353 and was a committed member until her fall in December 2019. On May 5, 2012, Sister Polk received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from New Foundation Theological Seminary in Terry.

In December 2015, Sister Polk served as one of four 100 plus year olds who served as grand marshal for the Terry Annual Christmas Parade.

Sister Polk was honored with yearly birthday celebrations that recognized her love and longevity of life. She has received special commendations from local, state and congressional leaders as well as recognition from her family and friends. Sister Polk was elated that individuals from all walks of life took the time to recognize her. This was due to her being the humble and spirit filled woman that she was.

Sister Polk’s parents instilled in her the value of hard work and that strong work ethic became a part of her life. She and her husband once made a living as migrant workers, who would travel to various states securing and working a myriad of

jobs. Sister Polk and her husband would also employ others so that they could care for their families as well.

Sister Polk was employed for over thirty years with the Sulser family helping to raise their children and grandchildren. Floyd Sulser, Jr. praise of her went beyond her being just an employee, and in his own words stated, “She was the most devoted and loyal friend you could find.” He also described her as “a loving and thoughtful person who lived life with others on her mind”.

A community and civic minded individual, Sister Polk registered to vote on Lynch Street as soon as the opportunity came and never missed a time voting. She often stated that “people need to realize the importance of not only registering to vote but actually voting.” One of the highlights of her life was being able to vote for the first African American President Barack Obama, in 2008. He would never forget her commitment to the importance of voting and presented her with a special commendation upon her 100th birthday celebration. Yes, she also voted to elect the first African American Vice-President, Kamala Harris.

Sister Polk was blessed to live for 110 years. When anyone inquired about her life she would humbly tell them “My life has had its ups and downs. We are not a

perfect people; we are subject to mistakes, but you don’t let the bad outweigh the good. If you are going to make it in this life you will have to let God do the leading and you follow. Life has not been easy but don’t give up. Someone asked me one day “don’t you ever get tired?” She responded “yeah, but I don’t let that stop me, because the race is not given to the swift nor the strong but to the one who endures until the end”.

After a fruitful and well spent life, Sister Eula Viola Brown-Polk, transitioned into God’s heavenly care Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

Sister Polk was predeceased by her parents, son Willie James Coleman, sisters Edna Brown- Stevens, Katie Brown-Bozeman, Marie (Mariah) Brown-Wade, Anna Bell Brown-Brooke, Juanita Brown-Washington, Richie Lee Brown-Williams, Nona Mae Brown-Bozeman and brother Leroy Brown who passed at the age of four.

Her rich legacy and loving memories will be cherished by her son, Moses Lee Herk, Jr., (Helen), daughter-in-law Bessie Eva Coleman, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, neighbors, her C.M.E. family, a team of dedicated caregivers, and a devoted and loving niece, Dollie Stevens-Gathings.

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## Hope

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Relating to his statements, the Association for Enterprise Opportunity says about the wealth gap and its consequences: “Wealth gap – the difference between assets and debt – between white and black households in the U.S. is 13 to 1 but shrinks to 3 to 1 among small business owners. Despite that evidence of business ownership as an engine of economic mobility, only 13 percent of black-owned and 20 percent of Latinx-owned businesses reported receiving the full share of financing requested from banks, compared to 40 percent for white-owned firms.”

In the Mississippi Insights interview, Sivak shared the story of a woman in Louisiana who attempted to get a loan for an organic coffee house – black-owned, women-owned business – she was looking for \$10,000 and was turned down at a bank. She told Hope that “I couldn’t get the loan because those programs weren’t made for people like me.” He relayed that Hope made the \$10,000 loan and now she has a website, thirteen stores selling her product in Louisiana, and talking to some of the biggest retailers in the country.

He indicated that “there are thousands of people like this business owner – in the Delta, in the Black Belt of Alabama, and right here in Jackson Mississippi. We are here to serve them and because of this program we will be able to serve them at levels we have never been able to before.”

The program host, Melanie Christopher, asked, “So you are acknowledging Mississippi of course remains the poorest state

in the nation, do you believe improving the lot of our lowest income communities can materially improve our economy as a whole? Sivak responded, “We absolutely need to make sure that everyone has access to the tools to build wealth. You know, given the tools, anyone can thrive, anyone can succeed in our community, yet the reality is that there have been laws put in place and barriers put in place, so particularly people of color could not have access to the wealth building tools that other people have had, and Hope exists to overcome those barriers.”

Christopher then asked about the Mississippi legislative session right around the corner, “What do lawmakers need to do now to give more Mississippians the chance to lift themselves out of poverty?” The question really caught my ear, especially with the extra emphasis in her voice on the words – lift themselves. Sivak said that it is important that we look at the children in the state.

“Nine out of ten children in Mississippi are either black or white, and the numbers are just about equal, yet the poverty rates in those two groups of children are markedly different. The rate is well over 40% for black children compared with 14% for white children. Until we recognize that solutions that invest in all people, particularly our black children, are in the best interests of our state’s economy, the reality is that our economic potential as a state is capped,” Sivak answered

Walking the walk at Hope.

# United Nations report mirrors Mississippi

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer



During the month of September, the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Lisa Borden featured a story following a final report by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which was dated August 30, 2022. The report criticized the “systemic and longstanding failure of the United States to take compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.”

The report tells us that while the United States signed onto the treaty in 1966, it took nearly 30 years before we ratified it in 1994. The U.S. has yet to integrate goals of the treaty into domestic policy. To his credit, on his first day in Office, President Biden signed an Executive Order 13985 - Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. No doubt a great step, yet far from having the treaty; the oldest of nine core international human rights accords, incorporated into law and policy. And so, we are a party to a treaty on paper only.

The U.S. has failed to create a national human rights institution (NHRI) to monitor implementation of the treaty and the U.S. lacks a national action plan to combat systemic racism and structural discrimination.

Under the heading of Hatred and Extremism, the committee recommended mandatory hate crime training for all law enforcement officials. In the area of Voting Rights, the committee recommended restoring the Voting Rights Act and taking other measures including federal legislation to eliminate unreasonable restrictions on the right to vote. They also recommended steps to ensure that people convicted of felonies have their voting rights restored upon completion of their incarceration, and that the federal government review state laws that provide for the automatic disenfranchisement of those who are incarcerated.

For Prisons, the committee raised concerns about the overrepresentation of racial and ethnic minorities in the prison population and specifically about their being disproportionately held in solitary confinement for long periods of time. Under Healthcare, the committee expressed its concern about lack of access to adequate healthcare in states that did not expand Medicaid. The committee concurred with the SPLC on racially disparate maternal and infant mortality rates and the impact that the Dobbs decision and state abortion restrictions will have on health and healthcare in the Deep South.

When speaking by telephone with Lisa

### COMMENTARY

Borden, she emphasized how large swaths of the report focused on the very issues that we are impacted by so prevalently here in Mississippi. She drew my attention to the issues of parole justice in Mississippi, where we are the highest incarcerator per capita in the entire world. To her point, despite the passage of the Mississippi Earned Parole Eligibility Act in July 2021, which saw parole hearings and paroles increase for a few months, the hearings and parole rates are once again declining.

On September 21, at a meeting of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, our own Senator John Horhn (D-26) raised the question about swelling numbers once again, directly to the Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner Nathan Cain, who indicated that he did not know why. “Were filling back up with probation and parole officers, the Personnel Board works with us, we got up to 80 vacancies but we have hired 40 in the last month and a half. But I don’t really know the problem,” Cain stated.

*Worldpopulationreview.com* states Mississippi had 17,577 inmates in 2020. Commissioner Cain indicates that we now have 18,600 but can’t explain why. When pressed further by Senator Horhn about the rise in parole denials, Cain stated that he asked the parole Board not to parole the gangsters, “right now we don’t parole gangsters and that’s a good thing” according to Cain.

I’m not sure what the readers of *The Mississippi Link* will do with this information, but I chose to go to the websites of both Representative Guest and Senator Wicker and emailed them the following message: Recently the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) released a report indicating that the US has failed to comply with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination that it entered into in 1966 and ratified in 1994.

Where do you stand on this issue? When you consider what racism costs Mississippi and Mississippians each and every day, shouldn’t we be proceeding to implement policy and law which would make us compliant with the treaty we signed?

Attorney Borden is senior policy counsel for international advocacy at the Southern Poverty Law Center. She oversees their work to advance U.S. implementation of its obligations under international human rights law in the SPLC’s impact areas of decarceration, protecting voting rights and civic engagement, eradicating poverty, and dismantling white nationalism and supremacy.

*Please consider visiting the Southern Poverty Law Center website at [www.splcenter.org](#) to learn more.*

## Meredith

Continued from page 1

finishing high school in Florida. He served in the Air Force and attended Jackson State College, a historically black school in the state capital, before suing to gain admission to Ole Miss.

A local resident and a French journalist were killed in the violence as Meredith enrolled. More than 200 officers and soldiers were wounded and 200 people were arrested.

Federal marshals provided Meredith with round-the-clock protection until he graduated with a political science degree in 1963. Meredith said Wednesday that most of his knowledge about what was happening on campus came from the marshals.

“Most of them were scared to death of the Mississippi people with rifles and shotguns,” he said.

U.S. Marshals Service Director Ronald L. Davis named Meredith an honorary deputy marshal during the ceremony Wednesday. Davis, who is

## Police

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which involves patrolling areas more often to show an increased police presence.

Police chases have been fatal in and around Jackson. In July, officers from another department chased someone from a suburb into Jackson. The chase ended in a wreck that killed a postal worker caught in the fray. Jackson has a high number of stolen vehicles, which makes pursuits necessary, according to Luckey.

“Getting a tag and running it later does nothing. Surveillance cameras do nothing,” Luckey said. “We have to take further steps to identify these actors.”

Tindell said rising crime in Jackson makes necessary the Capitol Police’s new approach to policing.

“I got news for you,” Tindell said. “The businesses are leaving, the lawful- abiding citizens

black, said Meredith brought widespread change to American society.

“You chose a path that was not traveled – one with much resistance, one with fear and threats and violence, and you went there anyway,” Davis said.

The University of Mississippi had about 21,850 students on all of its campuses in the 2021 fall semester, with about 12.7% black enrollment. About 38% of Mississippi residents are black.

Ethel Scurlock, the first black dean of the university’s honors college, said during the keynote speech Wednesday that she had not yet been born when Meredith integrated Ole Miss in 1962 or when he was shot soon after setting out on his March Against Fear in 1966.

“But Mr. Meredith, I am here today,” Scurlock said. “I am the unborn baby that you were willing to go to war for.”

are going to leave. And I’m trying to build that confidence back that we will be here for the long term to turn it around.”

David Archie, a member of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, said the recent incidents between Capitol Police and people in Jackson require more community engagement.

“If you’re going to come into this community, please sir, I’m asking you not to come into this community like you’ve got all the answers,” Archie said.

*Michael Goldberg is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/mikergoldberg](#).*

## I N M E M O R I A M

# Jamel Rosemond Johnson

*May 30, 1979 - October 1, 2022*



Johnson

On Saturday, October 1, 2022, Jamel Rosemond Johnson made his transition from his life on earth to be with his Heavenly father.

Jamel Rosemond Johnson was born May 30, 1979, to the late Rev. James R. Johnson and late

Lottie Carr Johnson of Jackson, MS. Jamel married NKeChinyere “Queen” Ahamfule-Johnson July 26, 2018 and to this unity one child was born Giovanna Johnson (Houston, Tx).

He leaves to cherish his memory a loving daughter Jordan McAadoo of Jackson, MS., Two brothers: Jay Johnson (Shirley), Thomas Johnson (deceased Brenda); one sister: Tamoria Johnson-Dilworth (Michael) and a host of nieces and nephews.

Jamel accepted Christ at an early age and became a member of College Hill Baptist Church in which he was very involved in children’s choir. He was a member of Boy Scouts of America.

He received his education in Jackson Public School and graduated from Wingfield High School in Jackson, MS. Later, Jamel pursued his passion for cooking where he attended Culinary School at Hinds Community in Raymond, MS and advanced his studies at the Culinary School in Houston, Tx.

Jamel Rosemond Johnson worked numerous years for Outback on I-55 until the business closed.

His hobbies included singing and being a barber for those in the community.

## S c r o l l o f L i f e

# Maggie “Jean” Course Walker

*May 9, 1949 - October 1, 2022*



Walker

Maggie, affectionately known to others as “Jean,” was born May 9, 1949, in Jackson, Mississippi, to Alex Course and Hannah Jones Course Smith.

Maggie attended school in her early years in the Jackson Public School System (JPS), where she excelled academically and socially. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Jackson State University.

Maggie spent her career helping others. She worked for the Urban League of Jackson, becoming its first English teacher. Her professional career also included the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Tougaloo College, and Jackson State University, her final job at her alma mater in the College of Business serving as Coordinator of Enrollment, Career Placement, and Alumni Relations in the Center for Academics and Professional Success (CAPS) for 22 years.

Maggie gave her life to Christ at an early age at College Hill Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson, MS, under the leadership of Reverend R. E. Willis. She became a founding member of Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church, where her brother Stanley Smith is the pastor. Committed to a life of service, she was a faithful member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

Maggie is preceded in death by her mother, Hannah Jones Course Smith; father, Alex Course; and brother Spiegel “Billy” McCullum. She leaves to cherish her memories her loving and devoted daughter, Tamia Patrice Herndon Walker; devoted son, Elliott Lee Walker III; stepdaughter Elizabeth Walker (Don); three siblings, Barbara Moaton, Laura Hough, and Stanley Smith (Stephanie); a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and close friends, all of whom held a special place in her heart.



# U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson

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# ABC historical documentary on the Life of Sister Thea Bowman



Sister Thea Bowman

By Dr. LaShunda Calvert  
Guest Writer

The ABC film, entitled, “Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman’s Journey to Sainthood,” which began airing on ABC stations nationwide Sunday, October 2, 2022, sheds light on the fascinating and compelling life of Sister Thea Bowman.

Sister Thea was an African-American Catholic Franciscan Sister who used her powerful gifts to educate and challenge the church and society to grow in racial inclusivity. Sister Thea utilized, music, preaching, teaching, and her extraordinary talents and abilities to encourage Catholics to confront their own racism while she strongly advocated for African Americans to recognize and utilize the God given talents and abilities that God had bestowed upon them. She worked (Kingdom Work) until she passed from Breast Cancer in 1990.

This film consists of a host of interviews and commentary involving many close family and friends, which includes Mississippi natives, like Civil Rights advocate and Canton native Flonzie Brown Wright and Jackson native and JPS scholar MaHaila Calvert, who portrayed Mrs. Flonzie as a youth in the film.

Wright and Sister Thea grew up as best friends in Canton and Wright was able to provide a firsthand account on the aspirations and passions Sister Thea had about serving God and dedicating her life as a nun in the Catholic Church at an early age.

Wright was thrilled to be asked to be a part of this historical documentary and was excited about her mini me, MaHalia Calvert, portraying her in the film as a child, sitting on the doorsteps of Sister Thea’s home, playing with dolls and pretending to be



MaHalia Calvert seated on the left



Flonzie Brown Wright



Calvert (L) walking with the friend who portrays Thea Bowman in documentary.

nuns. Both Wright and MaHalia concurs that this experience was special, unforgettable, life changing, and an absolute honor to be a part of an inspirational, historical documentary, “Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman’s Journey to Sainthood.”

The program title is drawn from a quotation attributed to Sojourner Truth. When Sister Thea was asked what she wanted said at her funeral, she answered, “Just say what Sojourner Truth said: ‘I’m not

going to die. I’m going home like a shooting star.”

The film, part of the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission’s fall documentary season, began airing on ABC stations nationwide October 2, 2022. Streaming opportunities will be announced soon by the Diocese of Jackson, MS.

WAPT will air the film Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 1 p.m.

A link to the trailer of the documentary can be found at <https://youtu.be/tkzhnKG-7mxc>.

# Human Trafficking virtual workshop hosted

## Human Trafficking Is Real

Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health



Oct 12, 2022  
12:00 PM

<https://bit.ly/3LwJhkc>

**Speakers:** Xavier Johnson and Crystal Palmer  
Human Trafficking Program Navigators/Mississippi State Department of Health/Office Against Interpersonal Violence

### Mississippi Link Newswire

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health will host a virtual human trafficking workshop at 12 p.m., October 12, 2022.

Speakers are Xavier John-

son and Crystal Palmer, Human Trafficking Navigators, Mississippi State Department of Health, Office Against Interpersonal Violence.




The workshop is free and

open to the public. Use this link to join the conversation, <https://bit.ly/3LwJhkc>

For more information, contact the Institute at [iamh@advancingminorityhealth.org](mailto:iamh@advancingminorityhealth.org) or at (769) 572-5263.

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# Chrisette Michele helps punctuate ‘Black Excellence’ at NNPA Leadership Awards

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National Correspondent

Grammy winner Chrisette Michele sent the packed house home buzzing following her dazzling performance to conclude the National Newspaper Publishers Association’s Annual Leadership Reception at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C.

Belting out a string of hits and crowd favorites, Michele crooned and teased the Black Press and its guests about being “grown and sexy.”

She reached deep into her catalog with the “One Vision” band backing her; Michele performed “No Greater Love,” “All I Ever Think About,” “Blame It on Me,” and several other numbers as the crowd sang, swayed, danced, and screamed approval.

The presentation of the annual awards preceded the rousing performance.

Tennessee State University President Dr. Glenda Glover received the Leadership Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Public Education.

NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards and NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. declared that Dr. Glover earned the award for her work with African American students throughout the country.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison received the Leadership Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Law Enforcement.

Richards and Chavis applauded Ellison for “effectively challenging systemic racism throughout the country.”

Dr. Aida Habtezion, the chief medical officer at Pfizer, received the award for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Medicine.

The award’s inscription noted that Habtezion had championed the cause of ensuring that worldwide, patients, physicians and regulatory agencies are provided with information on the safe and appropriate use of Pfizer medications.

Terry Travis, the managing partner of EVNoire, was presented the “National Leadership Award for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in the Cause for Freedom, Justice and Equity.”

Travis received the award for his work in transportation, energy, and environmental health.

Attorney James L. Winston, the president and CEO of the National Association of Black-owned Broadcasters, Inc., was presented the “National Leadership Award for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in the Cause for Freedom, Justice, and Equality for All Americans, in Particular African Americans, in the Area of Broadcast Communications.”

Rev. Dr. William Barber II, the president of Repairers of the Breach, received the “National Leadership Award for Outstanding Achievement, Leadership, and Tireless Efforts in Fighting for Freedom, Justice, and Equity for All Underserved People of America.”

His daughter, Rebekah Barber, accepted on his behalf.

“Thank you, NNPA, thank you, Black Press,” Barber stated. “The fight continues.”



Chrisette Michelle performs at NNPA Leadership reception.



(L-R) NNPA President/CEO Ben Chavis, TSU President Glenda Glover, NNPA Convention & Planning Comm. Chair Terry Jones & NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards. PHOTOS BY NNPA SECRETARY JACKIE HAMPTON

The NNPA received orders for more than 2,000 tickets for the Leadership Awards Reception and ceremony.

Students from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts blanketed the ballroom, assisting NNPA employees and gaining valuable insight into the Black Press.

Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Virginia) and Rep. William Clay (D-Missouri) were among the elected officials attending the awards.

First-time attendees included Dr. Nicole McDaniel from Delaware.

“This is black excellence,” she stated.



## Documentary celebrates 40th Anniversary of Michael Jackson’s Thriller



Jackson

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

When the Grammy Awards ostensibly snubbed Michael Jackson’s groundbreaking 1979 album, “Off The Wall,” the then-fledgling King of Pop vowed that voters at the Recording Academy would not ignore what he would offer next.

On November 30, 1982, just over three years later, Jackson released “Thriller,” which earned him a record-breaking 8 Grammy Awards, including “Album of the Year.” To commemorate the 40-year anniversary of “Thriller,” the Jackson estate and Sony Music Entertainment said they’re celebrating the artistic vision that anchored the biggest selling album of all time with a new official documentary.

Directed by Nelson George, the film promises to take fans back in time to the making of the album and release of revolutionary short films that redefined the music video format and captivated audiences globally.

“Billie Jean” remains the most streamed Michael Jackson song and “Thriller” is the only music video that has been inducted onto the elite National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. According to a news release, the documentary features never-before-seen footage and candid interviews.

The yet titled documentary chronicles the point in Jackson’s career that launched the singer into megastardom and created a pop culture phenomenon that is woven through the culture and continues to influence the worlds of music, television, dance, fashion and more to this day.

“The release of Thriller redefined Michael Jackson, taking him from teen star to adult superstar, who composed memorable songs, sang beautifully and reached the highest level of on-stage performance,” Nelson George said in the release. “The album, and the short films they inspired, created a new template for marrying music and image. It’s been a privilege to explore this extraordinary album and revisit its magic.”

When a fledgling MTV, which programmed white rock artists almost exclusively, refused to play the video for “Billie Jean” Epic Records persisted. Once the wall came crashing down, MTV’s ratings soared, and a door was opened for a generation of African American artists.

“He was MTV’s Jackie Robinson,” said cultural critic Touré, who appeared this week on the National Newspaper Publishers Association’s Let It Be Known to promote his new show, Masters of the Game. The second studio album by Jackson as a solo artist on Epic Records, Thriller captured a record 12 Grammy nominations and a record-setting eight wins.

Since its debut, Thriller has sold over 100 million albums worldwide, and was the first album to be certified triple diamond by the RIAA. “Michael opened and explored emotional depths and pushed the boundaries of sonic innovation on Thriller,” John Branca and John McClain, Jackson’s estate executors, proclaimed in the news release.

“In the process, he breached destructive barriers in the music industry and literally united the world through his music: there isn’t a place on this planet that hasn’t been exhilarated by the music of Michael Jackson.”

“This documentary’s exploration of Michael’s process and impact is revelatory.”

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# Are you doing everything you can to prevent a heart attack?

By Vince Faust  
*Tips to Be Fit*

You already know the best way to prevent a heart attack is to give up cigarettes if you smoke, regular exercise, lose weight if you're overweight, prevent high blood pressure, lower your cholesterol levels and control diabetes. Even with this information millions of Americans continue to jeopardize their health by not fully understanding how to reduce their key risk factors.

In the 1960s the average American consume about 45% of their calories from fat and oil. After decades of warning that a high fat diet increases cholesterol that percentage is dropped to 33%. That may seem like good news but it's not. Studies show that the best way to lower your cholesterol levels is not a low-fat diet. When most people cut back on fat they tend to reduce all fat in their diet. This reduction includes healthy monounsaturated fat such as Olive and canola oil.

The fats in these oils improve your ratio of the LDLs bad cholesterol to your good cholesterol HDL. This is a critical factor in reducing heart disease. You want to cut back on saturated fat making it less than 7% of your total calories. Be sure that your diet includes healthy monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. Foods that are high in monounsaturated fats include avocado, almonds, pecans and pumpkin and sesame seeds. We get most of our polyunsaturated fats from sunflower, corn, soybean and other oils. Foods that contain polyunsaturated fats include walnuts, fish and flaxseed.

You should avoid trans fats, which are engineered fats that are commonly used commercially in cookies, crackers and other baked goods. Trans fats are also used to deep fry fast food. It's been estimated that for every 2% of calories that are consumed daily in the form of trans fats the risk of heart disease increases by much is 23%.

We all know that hypertension is a very strong risk factor for heart disease and a subsequent heart attack. Studies show that many patients who have been diagnosed with hypertension don't achieve adequate control of their blood pressure. Blood pressure drugs are usually effective but only if taken as directed. The problem with blood pressure medication is that it causes uncomfortable side effects. The side effects include fatigue, dizziness and even fainting. Some people find excuses to skip doses or stop the medication altogether because of the side effects. It's been estimated that only 60% of people that take blood pressure medications follow all the instructions to take their medication. Some people reduce or stopping taking blood pressure medications. This can cause a rebound affect where your blood pressure spikes to dangerous levels.

You should not suddenly stop your medication because of side effects. You want to do your best not to neglect filling your prescriptions on time even if you do experience side effects when you first start taking blood pressure medication. Try to be patient and speak to your doctor about your side effects. Most of the time they go away on their own within a few weeks as your body adjust to the lower blood pressure. If the side effects become severe seek immediate medical attention. Good control of high blood pressure can dramatically reduce your risk for a heart attack and stroke. Studies show the people who lower their systolic pressure (top number) just five points can reduce their heart attack risk by 15% to 20% and stroke by 25% to 30%.

We all know that heart disease can run in families. If a sibling or either of your parents develop heart disease before 55 your risk

of developing heart disease it is approximately one and a half to two times as high as someone without a family history. If you have a parent or sibling who developed arterial fibrillation (irregular or rapid heartbeat) at any age your chance of developing heart disease increases 2 to 3 times. Family history is considered a non-modifiable risk factor but you can still take precautions.

Ask your doctor if you should have a yearly EKG. You can make it a part of your annual exam. If you have a family history of heart attacks you should also be vigilant about managing all of your other risk factors for heart disease. It's known that acute emotional stress caused by a near accident or some other frightening event can cause a momentary spike in your blood pressure and heart rate. Anger is one of the most common stress emotions has been found to precede 2% of

all heart attacks. Ongoing stress from financial issues can trigger chronically high levels of the stress hormone cortisol which can be a under-recognized threat to your heart and blood vessels.

Four Signs of a Silent Heart Attack

- Chest pain, pressure, fullness or discomfort. Sometimes the pain from a heart attack is sudden and intense, which makes them easy to recognize and get help. ...
- Discomfort in other areas of your body. ...
- Difficulty breathing and dizziness. ...
- Nausea and cold sweats.

If you experience any of these signs get medical help as soon as possible.

Almost 80% of all heart attacks and strokes are preventable.

Before starting your fitness program, consult your physician.

## October 29 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

*Mississippians can help save lives by disposing of unneeded medications*

*Special to the Mississippi Link*

Overdose-related deaths are on the rise in Mississippi – and all too often, the cause can be found in household medicine cabinets. That's why Mississippians are urged to safely dispose of unneeded medications by participating in the 23rd National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Oct. 29.

A variety of drug collection sites in Mississippi are open year-round for safe disposal of prescription medications. As a rule, unused medications should never be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet as they can pollute water and unintentionally expose others to the chemicals in these medications.

Make Mississippi OD Free provides a list of 101 disposal sites and information about overdose data, prevention and treatment at <https://odfree.org/takeback>.

“Overdose deaths continue to hit tragic record highs, but we can take action to prevent drugs from being misused by safely disposing of unneeded medications,” said Jan Dawson, program director, Mississippi Public Health Institute. “We’re asking Mississippians to locate a disposal site in their community and drop off potentially dangerous prescription medications as soon as possible.”

Overdoses are now the leading cause of death among U.S. adults 18-45. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than

106,000 people died in the U.S. as the result of a drug overdose in the 12-month period ending November 2021, with opioid-related deaths accounting for 75% of all overdose deaths. A report from the Mississippi Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative showed that drug overdose deaths in Mississippi rose by 49% in one year (2019-2020).

Most people who misused a prescription medication obtained the medicine from a family member or friend, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

For more than a decade, Take Back Day has helped Americans protect their families and loved ones by easily ridding their homes of unneeded medications – those that are old, unwanted, or no longer needed – that too often become a gateway to addiction. Working in close partnership with local law enforcement, Take Back Day has collected nearly 7,262 tons of drugs nationwide, with 27.8 tons collected in Mississippi.

On October 29, DEA and its law enforcement partners will collect tablets, capsules, patches and other solid forms of prescription drugs at designated drop-off sites. Liquids (including intravenous solutions), syringes and other sharps, and illicit drugs will not be accepted. DEA will accept vaping devices and cartridges, provided lithium batteries are removed.

October 29 is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Year-round receptacles are available at more than 13,000 pharmacies, hospitals, police departments and business. Additionally, with the passage of the DUMP Opioids Act in 2021, the public may now use drop boxes at Veterans Administration medical centers to dispose of controlled substance prescription medications. Check with your local VA health facility for more information.

Make Mississippi OD Free is a program administered by the Mississippi Department of Health in partnership with the Mississippi Public Health Institute, and is supported by a federal grant initiative funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The program's purpose, called Overdose Data to Action (OD2A), is to collect comprehensive and timely data on nonfatal and fatal overdoses to inform OD prevention and response efforts nationwide. Data for the initiative is provided by the Mississippi Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative, a multi-agency partnership among the Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Mississippi Board of Pharmacy Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Mississippi Department of Public Safety-Bureau of Narcotics and the Mississippi Public Health Institute.

Learn more at <https://odfree.org>.

## 7 tips for finding a Medicare plan that works for you

*StatePoint*

Feeling overwhelmed by your Medicare options? There's a good reason for that. With more than 3,000 Medicare Advantage plans, over 700 Part D Prescription Plans available and an array of carriers offering Medicare Supplement plans, there's a lot to consider.

“Whether this is your first time enrolling in Medicare or you've been through the process before, it's easy to get confused by the big picture, not to mention all the details,” says Ryan Kocher, Medicare growth officer at Cigna.

This Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP), Kocher is demystifying the enrollment process by sharing the same tips he offers to his own friends and family members:

1. Don't wait. Understanding Medicare can protect your health and finances in the years to come. If you are transitioning from a commercial plan, work with an expert with your company's insurance plan to avoid gaps in coverage as well as late penalties.
2. Nail down the basics. There are many different plan types. Here's a breakdown:
  - Original Medicare, offered through the U.S. government, includes all providers who agree to participate in the program.
  - Medicare Supplement plans are plans offered by many private insurers that complement Original Medicare. For an additional premium, these plans cover costs such as copays and coinsurance not covered by Original Medicare. There are a number of standardized options available.
  - Standalone Prescription Drug Plans, offered by private insurers for a monthly premium, provide drug coverage not covered by Original Medicare or Medicare Supplement.
  - Medicare Advantage (MA)



plans cover everything covered by Original Medicare, and most also include dental, vision and hearing benefits. They often include prescription drug coverage, and other extras like over-the-counter drugs, transportation to doctor's visits and pharmacies, and fitness plans. MA plans are often available at no extra cost.

3. Review your plan annually. During the AEP (October 15-December 7), it's important to review your current Medicare plan, even if you like it. This is because plan details are subject to change every year. Review the Annual Notice of Changes, which is mailed to you by your insurer each September. This document spells out plan changes for the upcoming year.

4. Compare all the costs. Be sure to factor in all the associated costs of a given plan, not just the monthly premium. Out-of-pocket costs, such as co-pays and deductibles, should also be considered. Additionally, note the prices and rules around the prescription drugs you take.

5. Check network requirements. Before signing up for a

particular plan, check to make sure that your favorite health care providers are in its network. While you may be able to go out of network for care, be prepared to pay more if you do.

6. Ask questions. Don't settle on a plan until you understand it. If you have questions, reach out to your broker, insurer, physician and even those friends and family members who have Medicare for help.

7. Use your plan. Now that you have a plan, make the most of its benefits. Schedule all the screenings, vaccines and other preventive health measures recommended by your doctor. Early intervention can help detect conditions early when they can be more effectively treated.

“Don't be daunted by the Medicare enrollment process. Being a careful shopper can ensure you find a plan that accommodates your wallet and your well-being,” says Kocher.

For more information about Medicare, visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov), Cigna's website at [www.cigna.com/medicare](https://www.cigna.com/medicare) or the state health insurance assistance program in your area.



P R E S E R V E D

# You have to do your part

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



“You didn’t tell us we had to do that.” During the first weeks of school, I hear this phrase at least once per

day per class (probably an average of 5-7 times a week) from my college English Composition students. A few years ago, I heard it so much that I started to doubt that I’d given clear instructions on what needed to be done for my classes.

I even reviewed the syllabus and other class assignments to see if I could figure out what I might have left off the syllabus that could have been the cause of my students’ complaints. After doing this, I saw that the class instructions and policies were clearly outlined in the class syllabus. I even redesigned parts of the syllabus to make it easier for them to understand. However, after doing this and still getting the blank stares and comments like “I didn’t know I was supposed to do that,” a few weeks later, I started to think that the problem went beyond my students

simply not understanding instructions. So where was the break down?

When I asked my classes again how I could help them succeed in class, one student shared that me not telling him what to do at the end of class like his other instructors caused him not to get his work done. I then reminded them that they were in college, and they’d need to remember to read the syllabus. Even though they were adults and in college, they still seemed to struggle with taking full responsibility for completing their classwork.

Later that same day during my office hours, I thought about how challenging it was to get my students to take responsibility and how God must think the same way about us sometimes. We are given the tools and strategies through our weekly church services and individual times of prayer and bible study. But for some reason, we want to blame others when we don’t get what we want. We blame Sis. This or Bro. That for making us lose our joy when it’s really our choice to give it away.

James 2:14-17 says, “Dear

friends, do you think you’ll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it?... Isn’t it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?” (Message) It’s like praying for God to lose weight then continuing to eat junk food and refusing to exercise.

Like my students, we have to accept that we play a part in our spiritual successes and failures. We can’t passively wait for God to bless us. We have to be intention as we take an active role and seek out those blessings. It’s not enough to say that we’re praying for a situation to change; we have to act in faith on what we believe is God’s answer to our prayers.

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of “Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends” and “Writing to the Beat of God’s Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers.” Email [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

## Clergy strive to reconcile politically divided congregations

By David Crary  
AP National Writer

One member of Rabbi David Wolpe’s diverse congregation left because Wolpe would not preach sermons criticizing Donald Trump. Scores of others left over resentment with the synagogue’s rules for combating COVID-19. But Wolpe remains steadfast in his resolve to avoid politics when he preaches at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles.

“It is not easy to keep people comfortable with each other and as part of one community,” he said. “A great failing of modern American society is that people get to know each other’s politics before they get to know their humanity.”

Wolpe – whose congregation includes liberal Democrats and hundreds of conservative Iranian Americans – is far from alone in facing such challenges.

Though many congregations in the U.S. are relatively homogeneous, others are sharply divided. In some cases, divisions are becoming more pronounced as midterm election season heats up, leaving clergy to keep the peace while still meeting the spiritual needs of all of their members.

A black pastor in Columbus, Ohio, Bishop Timothy Clarke of the First Church of God, says there are “deep divides” in his predominantly African-Amer-

ican congregation of more than 2,000. He cited abortion as a particularly divisive topic in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling in June allowing states to ban the procedure.

“There are good people on both sides,” said Clarke, who addressed the congregation’s differences in a recent sermon.

“I talked about the fact God loves everybody, even those you disagree with,” he said.

The Rev. Paul Roberts, senior pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, said his congregation, like many others, is dealing with one contentious issue after another.

“The whole thing with Trump, Black Lives Matter, the pandemic really has highlighted a sense of uneasiness when you’re covering all these different topics as a church,” he said. “It just seems there isn’t anything that doesn’t have tension over it.”

His church has about 140 regular attendees, a politically and theologically diverse group that’s about half black and half white. He said a few people left the church over its support for the Black Lives Matter movement, but for the most part it has stayed together.

He attributes that in part to hours of patient dialogue over such issues as mask-wearing and vaccines, which some black members were wary of because

of the history of medical maltreatment of African Americans.

The Rev. Sarah Wilson said her congregation at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Cary, Illinois, includes Republican business leaders and liberal nurses and teachers. There are partisan differences, as well as conflicting views on abortion, but she aspires to keep political debate out of the church and avoid partisan rhetoric of her own.


“Politics are very important to me – I vote in every election,” she said. “But I’m not here to tell a person how to vote or who to vote for. If people ask me, even for city council, I don’t do that.”

“Staying in the middle of the road means God thinks it’s all important,” he said. “When you vote, you can vote your convictions – but don’t attack anyone else’s convictions because they’re different from yours.”

At Sinai Temple, Rabbi Wolpe strives to encourage mutual respect within his congregation. He cites the men’s book club as a positive example: In a recent initiative, it alternated reading a book by a left-of-center author, then a book by a conservative.

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# Emmett Till lives



Mourners at Emmett Till's funeral. PHOTO: DAVID MANN, SMITHSONIAN LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

By David Johnson  
*Los Angeles Sentienel*

Classism, racism, war, and corporate greed are malicious outliers, which in their ways, plague the United States and global civilization abroad. Recollect back to 1955, Post World War, Two United States and these same outliers were a virus dividing and corrupting the United States and most of the world. In that year 1955, a 14-year-old black male teenager from Chicago was sent by his mother to visit his family in Money, Mississippi. This innocent teenager was named Emmett Louis Till. Actually, Emmett was having a great time visiting his southern family, receiving all the love and attention and having care-free fun for three days into his visit before the horrid curse of violent, racist injustice struck Emmett Till, this family and the United States of America!

Till was born July 25, 1941, and was murdered August 28, 1955. Emmett, as most Americans know, was violently tortured and murdered in Money for allegedly whistling at a married, white woman named Carolyn Bryant. This rule was a long held racial taboo in the Southern States. Black males were not allowed to even look at white women in their eyes in public let alone whistle at them or around them. Such racist, classist unjust social rules were a result of the terrible slavery system and were passed down as the Jim Crow racist injustice system of the South. Being born and raised in Chicago, Till wasn't accustomed to such public social rules. Although racist outliers existed against blacks in Chicago, they were not as rigid and as violently enforced as in the Southern States.

This case was indicative of the racial hatred perpetuated against blacks or African Americans throughout all of the United States almost one hundred years after slavery supposedly ended. This case was terrible and exposed how the entire society of Mississippi and the South was a prison and or torture chamber for blacks. Contradicting these facts, the whites of the South claimed to be the most civilized humans on Earth at the time. This clear permanence of racial hatred and systematic genocidal programming against one group, the Black Americans also contradicted the United States Declaration of Independence and the Constitution ratified Articles 13 and 14, developed after the end of the Civil War.

Young Emmett was tracked down the day after the so-called whistling incident. The white husband of the woman and his white male friends along with a black man, came to the home where Till was staying. They barged in the home and grabbed Emmet, along with Emmett's cousin, Simeon Wright. Simeon was with Emmett at the time of the whistling incident. After figuring out which of the boys was the one who supposedly whistled, the abductors bust the teeth out of Simeons mouth by throwing him off their truck then taking off with Emmett. Witnesses said in trial, they saw them drive up with Emmet and took him into a barn and tormented Emmett for hours. The witness said they heard Emmet screaming for hours and they could hear the whipping and beating blows they were hitting him so hard.

Roy Bryant, the husband of the woman who claimed she was whistled at and brother-in-law, J.W. Milam kidnapped and brutally murdered Emmett Till. They dumped his body in the Tallahatchie River. This murder shocked the nation by gaining global media coverage. In turn, this case infused a generation of Black Americans to create and join the Civil Rights movement. With nationwide media coverage, the funeral of Emmett Till was held in Chicago with an open casket where anyone could see the terrible swelling and mutilation from the beating put on Emmett by the murderers.

Outrage ensued throughout the nation and even world-wide for such racist brutality being allowed in the United States. Black media outlets and organizations went in with

all resources exposing the tragedy by even putting Emmett Till's funeral casket picture on their front pages. *Jet Magazine* even put the picture on the front of their magazine. Black politicians, the NAAACP and black celebrities expressed their heart break and outrage at this ongoing continuing murder and rape of blacks throughout the United States.

Then came the trial and attempt to get justice for Emmett's family and for the black community held in Sumner, Mississippi in September 1955. Emmett's great-uncle testifying against the murderers marked the first time a black human testified against a white human in the state of Mississippi. The problem was the defense was up against long held practices of allowing white people to murder, rape and torture blacks in Mississippi. It was clear what the outcome would be when the judge threw out all the testimonies given by all witnesses to the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till, even after they testified in court. The murderers were acquitted of all charges including the murder charges. With all the media coverage, it was clear to the entire world the U.S. government was continuing the oppression of Black Americans although the U.S. was proclaiming itself to be the beacon of justice and freedom.

This case galvanized generations of blacks and some non-blacks to take up the cause of human rights and justice throughout the United States. With the likes of Paul Robeson and those generations of devotees who worked and lived for justice and freedom, African Americans as myself could get our education and I am free to write this article and you are free to read it. In 2007, a Federal Bill named "The Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Right Crime Act" was created due to continual effort of noble citizenry. All of the Civil Rights work and successes make it clear that we have the ability and right to challenge laws and practices no matter how old and how cherished by the rich and or the government. With all this revealed, Misses Carolyn Bryant in her later age of 82, recanted her claim about Emmett Till whistling at her in an interview stating it wasn't true and it did not happen.

Justice cannot only become a thing of the past, a memory of the noble generations who sacrificed for current generations liberties and rights. Justice has to be openly taught as a pillar of the African American Legacy. Does nobility matter any longer and to who? What are the current injustices being ignored and which type and class are perpetuating the injustices and which groups are the victims? The United States and world should be careful that the mirror of the past does not continue to reflect ugly faces.

Over the last decade, blacks were being murdered on camera continually by police officers of the law even though white males continue to be the super majority of people who murder cops. Also, the all-white male police officers did this while there was an African-American President of the United States. Clearly, this is an agenda. This is evidence that the agenda to torment and murder blacks has and will continue in the United States if African Americans and immigrants and other underrepresented ethnic groups do not organize together and concentrate resources and effort on stopping the killings ... not to mention the world's biggest privately-owned prison system, holding the highest number of humans on Earth. This clearly is systematic strategy and not random.

Many, such as Dr. Cornell West, say that we live in a more Autocratic Authoritarian state in the U.S. than ever before. Thus, I ponder, was slavery transformed? Was Jim Crow and Apartheid implemented throughout the United States in covert methods to this day? Ku Klux Klan leader, Neo Nazi representative David Duke once said, and I paraphrase, "We, the Ku Klux Klan took off our hoods and put on suits and ties and filled the politician seats and board rooms and senators' seats." How about that?

# Black women holding Trump accountable

By Ben Jealous  
*People For the American Way*



Former President Donald Trump has spent a lifetime getting away with things. Rich and willing to use an army of lawyers to defend his abuses and bully people he has wronged into submission, Trump is a prime example of the inequities in our justice system.

But that could all be changing, thanks to two courageous black women who are not intimidated by his insults and public bullying. One of them is New York Attorney General Letitia "Tish" James. She has been leading an investigation into a "staggering" amount of financial fraud she charges that Trump has committed over the years.

After trying everything he could to avoid it, Trump appeared in her office in August to answer questions. But the only question he answered was about his name. For every other question – more than 400 other times – he invoked his right under the Constitution's Fifth Amendment to avoid incriminating himself.

In September, after interviewing dozens of people and reviewing millions of pages of documents, James's office filed a lawsuit against Trump and his three adult children who have been in business with him – Ivanka, Don Jr. and Eric. The suit asks them to forfeit \$250 million in ill-gotten gains and seeks to prevent them from doing business in New York for the immediate future. She told a reporter that the lawsuit shows how Trump repeatedly lied about the value of his properties "to unjustly enrich himself and to cheat the system, thereby cheating all of us."

Trump responded in his typical fashion. He called James a "racist." He called her investigation "the greatest witch hunt in the history of the country." Now, anyone who has followed Trump's interactions with black women who call him on his...stuff...knows that this is part of a pattern with black women who see through him and aren't afraid to speak truth.

Trump's disgusting record of insulting and smearing activists like Stacey Abrams, public officials like Vice President Kamala Harris, Rep. Maxine Waters and Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser – and journalists like April Ryan, Abby Phillips, and Yamiche Alcindor – was recently reviewed by Kaly Holloway for The Daily Beast, which said that James's lawsuit "is bringing the ex-president's racism and sexism back into the spotlight."

James is not the only fearless black woman seeking to hold Trump accountable. In Georgia, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis is conducting a criminal investigation of Team Trump's efforts to overturn the results of the presidential election in Georgia.

Remember that phone call a few days before the attack on the Capitol? Trump was desperately trying to overturn his defeat by Joe Biden. Trump, his chief of staff Mark Meadows, and a bunch of Trump attorneys got on the phone with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. Trump demanded that Raffensperger "find" him enough votes to flip the election to him. Unethical? Definitely. Illegal? Very likely.

It's against the law in Georgia to solicit election fraud. And that phone call was just part of the Trump team's efforts, which included the

creation of a fake set of pro-Trump electors. Trump's efforts in Georgia included false charges of election fraud against two black women election workers. When Trump and his allies repeated those smears, the women's lives were disrupted by threats and harassment. According to news reports, Willis's investigation could lead to a multi-defendant racketeering case.

Trump, predictably, has called the Georgia investigation a "witch hunt." But Willis has taken on murderers and drug gangs, and she is not afraid of Trump or his insults.

Trump's record in business and politics suggests that the truth means nothing to him. He acts as if he believes the law does not apply to him. He acts as if his wealth and power and lawyers will continue to let him get away with anything.

It is important that we as Americans affirm the principle that no person – even the country's most powerful person – is above the law.

There is good news on that front. There are multiple investigations into Trump's wrongdoing. I am grateful for the work being done by Tish James and Fani Willis, by the House select committee investigating Jan. 6, by staff at the U.S. Department of Justice, and by journalists who are willing to dig for the truth.

Truth is the first step toward accountability, accountability that in Trump's case is long overdue.

*Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free" will be published by Harper Collins in December 2022.*

# Relieving the burden of student loan debt

By Rep. James E. Clyburn  
*D-S.C., Chairman, Democratic Faith Working Group*



Higher education should be a staircase to economic mobility, but student loan debt has become a barrier for far too many. More than \$1.6 trillion in outstanding federal student loan debt is crushing 43.4 million borrowers in the United States today. Millions can't afford to buy a home, start a business, or save for retirement.

That is why President Biden, at the urging of yours truly and many others, campaigned on addressing student loan debt. He promised to provide targeted student loan debt relief to working- and middle-class families, and he has delivered.

The student loan debt repayment pause – precipitated by Covid-19 – ends December 31. Consequently, come January 2023, borrowers are required to restart repayments of their student loans. Understanding that the re-payment pause temporarily provided much needed relief to overburdened borrowers, the Biden-Harris Administration has announced new plans for targeted debt relief to make the student loan system more manageable for working families.

Last month, President Biden announced up to \$20,000 in federal student debt forgiveness to Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 in federal student debt forgiveness to non-Pell Grant recipients. Borrowers who earn less than \$125,000 per year or households earning less than \$250,000 are eligible for debt relief.

The Administration is also making the student loan system more manageable for current and future borrowers by improving the income-driven repayment plan that will substantially reduce future monthly payments for lower- and middle-income borrowers.

They are changing the rules to lower income-driven repayment plans from 10% of discretionary income to 5%. The rule change will also raise the amount of income that is considered non-discretionary, therefore protecting it from repayment. This guarantees that no borrower earning the annual equivalent of a \$15 minimum wage will have to make a monthly payment.

This help is going to be life-changing for millions of working people. Many of the 43 million Americans who hold federal student loan debt will receive some amount of debt forgiven. About 27 million borrowers will see \$20,000 knocked off their student loan balance. For 20 million borrowers, that's enough to totally wipe out their entire student loan balance. These latest actions build on the steps the Biden-Harris Administration has already taken to provide over \$32 billion in loan relief to 1.6 million borrowers.

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced it was discharging \$6 billion in loans to settle a class action lawsuit filed against the agency for its handling of the Borrower Defense Repayment program under the Trump Administration. This program provides debt relief for borrowers defrauded by for-profit institutions like the now defunct Trump University. The Biden Administration's new rules make it easier for those harmed by predatory marketing and recruiting practices to receive debt relief. As a result, the agency received 60,000 applications in just one week after the announcement compared to only 100,000 applications in all of 2021.

Finally, President Biden made some temporary changes for applicants to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program because in 2017, the first year that borrowers could apply for forgiveness only 1 percent were approved. On October 6, 2021, Biden's

Department of Education announced modifications to the program and a time-limited waiver so that more students could be eligible and more realistic repayment plans could be implemented. This includes loan types and payment plans that were not previously eligible.

As a result, over 175,000 borrowers have received over \$10 billion in forgiveness due to their work in the public sector in professions including teachers, nurses, social workers, service members in our military and first responders.

The deadline to apply under the time-limited waiver is October 31, 2022, so if you believe you are eligible, I encourage you to visit <https://studentaid.gov/> and search for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

These actions by President Biden will help narrow the racial wealth gap. Over 50% of black borrowers report their net worth is less than they owe in student loan debt. Also, black students are more likely to borrow, and borrow larger amounts, relative to other racial or ethnic subgroups. Black college graduates owe an average \$25,000 more in student loan debt than white college graduates. Four years after graduation, 48% of black borrowers owe an average of 12.5% more than they borrowed.

By providing relief from this disproportionate and crushing debt, we are giving the next generation the opportunity to pursue the American dream and provide a life for themselves and their families that they have earned through hard work and the pursuit of a higher education.

We have all heard the saying that a rising tide lifts all boats. I believe that these efforts by the Biden Administration not only help to lift boats, they also put wind in their sails to help move us closer to the promise of "a more perfect Union."







## © Feature Exchange

5495 I-55 South Frontage Road

# BOLTON CITY HALL





**The Call My Name Quilt Project presents  
HIV & Justice Forum with Mississippi  
AIDSwatch at Jackson Medical Mall**

**By Janice K. Neal-Vincent, Ph.D.**  
*Contributing Writer*

On Friday, September 30, 2022, from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. at Jackson Medical Mall Center Stage (350 W. Woodrow Wilson in Jackson)– HIV & Justice Forum with Mississippi AIDSwatch took place. The Change the Pattern discussion featured four panelists who explored Mississippi's civil rights legacy and the HIV justice movement. Remembering civil rights activist, Fannie Lou Hamer's fight for justice, discussants pinpointed key issues of the HIV epidemic.

Sa'Mya Johnson (advocate); LS Jones (Advocate/Prevention Access Campaign); Valencia Robinson (Mississippi in Action) and Sammy Moon (LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi) conversed with fervor.

Cortney Garner who moderated the discussion, wanted to know who from the community needed to be part of the HIV/AIDS discussion for the Call My Name project.

“Everybody doesn’t deserve to be at the table. Only people who want to be at the table should be at the table,” claimed Jones.

“We need more passionate people. We need people at the table who really want to serve. We need people living in the Word,” retorted Johnson.

"We need more women at the table," said Robinson.

Moon asserted that education is the underlying link to remedying myths about HIV/AIDS.

Panelists concluded that (1) the Call My name project is a project of love; (2) there is a need for healing work; (3) people in the communities should combat racism, discrimination and oppressive religion; (4) communities need to strive to understand each other; and (5) all in the communities must take ownership of their actions.

The majority of the US cities that have the highest HIV rates are in southern states. Jackson, Miss. ranks 4.

Despite new treatment methods to help combat HIV, the virus still looms over us. Rates continue to haunt our communities, despite constant efforts for preventative strategies.

Following the discussion, Juanita Davis, Senior Program Manager (AIDS United), exclaimed, "Do the work. Stop complaining. The work is real. HIV is real, and together we can end this epidemic...We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our time."

Southern AIDS Coalition Executive Director – Dafina Ward – chimed in with her opinion: “There is such importance in telling the story in southern communities, to those who are black and brown for partnership and opportunities...So many people want to tell their stories about persons whose lives have been lost.”

The Quilt Project is an open-source, community driven nodding toolchain designed primarily for avoiding mistakes in the past – whether those mistakes relate to community management, diversity and inclusivity, project governance or transparency.

Garner said of the Quilt project: "It [makes] me think about my health and for people to get tested. I can never forget the people who've had input."

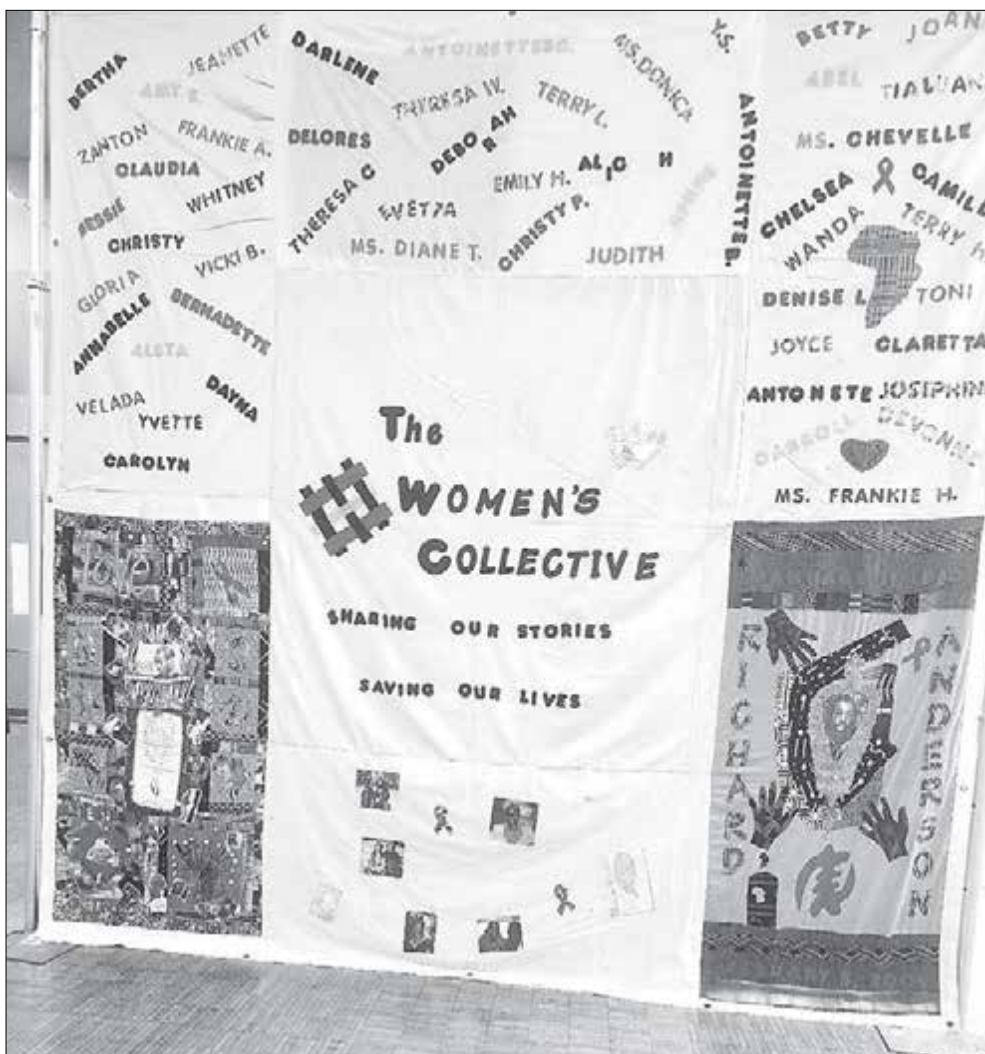
Quilts that tell the stories of persons and their loved ones impacted by AIDS/HIV were displayed in the mall.



**Standing - Cortney Garner, moderator; sitting (l-r) - Sa'Mya Johnson; Valencia Robinson; LS Jones; & Sammy Moon**



**Panels for The Call My Name project are done in workshops by Stephanie Laster & Jada Harris**



## THE WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE QUILT



**Juanita Davis, Senior Program Manager, AIDS United, calls for unity.**



## Community Appeal Quilt



## Call My Name





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# Tougaloo College Chamber Singers performed at the annual Legislative Conference Gospel Extravaganza



Tougaloo College Chamber Singers

### The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Tougaloo College Chamber Singers performed at the Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) Gospel Extravaganza event in Washington, D.C. September 29,

2022. The annual event is recognized as showcasing the best of southern gospel music.

The invitation to perform at this signature event came from the Congressional Black Cau-

cus Foundation (CBCF) with the theme “Advancing Our Purpose, Elevating Our Power.”

The 51st Annual Legislative Conference was held at Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church in

Washington, D.C. at 8:00 p.m.

Some of the honorary guests at the event included Representatives James E. Clyburn, Bennie G. Thompson, Sanford D. Bishop and G. K. Butterfield.

# Hinds CC honors Foundation scholarship recipients



Scholarship recipients with President Emeritus, Dr. Clyde Muse

### Special to The Mississippi Link

The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized 2022-2023 scholarship recipients, donors and other honorees at a reception Sept. 23 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

Among those recognized were, standing from left, Mallory Gipson of Florence, who received the Lora M. Underwood Memorial Scholarship; Weldon Grizzell of Jackson, who received the Vashti and Clyde Muse Impact Scholarship; Brantley Martin of Raymond, who received

the Dr. Vernon Clyde Muse Scholarship and Carmen Harris of Bolton, who received the Vashti Underwood Muse Scholarship. Seated with them was Hinds Community College President Emeritus Dr. Clyde Muse.

The Hinds Community College Foundation will award more than 900 scholarships during the 2022-2023 academic year. The deadline to apply for a scholarship for academic year 2023-2024 is Feb. 15, 2023

For more information, visit [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu).

# Alcorn's Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite to perform at Walt Disney World Resort for largest-ever HBCU Week

### Alcorn State University Newswire

Alcorn State University's Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite will be taking the stage at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., for the largest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week ever. HBCU Week is set for Oct. 7-9, 2022.

The marching band is among four other HBCU bands – Bethune Cookman, North Carolina A&T, Delaware State and Winston-Salem State – invited to participate in the Battle of the Bands Oct. 9 from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. at Magic Kingdom Park, ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. Tickets for the Battle of the Bands are \$25 and can be purchased at HBCUWeek.org.

“This is an opportunity of a lifetime, and I’m so happy that our students get to experience such a wonderful moment,” said Dr. Everson Martin, director of bands. “I’ve never been myself, so I feel like this is a dream come true. And to experience this with my students and represent Alcorn State University on such a grand stage is special.”

Head drum major Alvin Jones expressed his excitement about the historic moment for the band.

“For the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite marching band, performing at Disney World is a huge historical milestone in the program’s history,” said Jones. “Disney World is one of



Alcorn State University Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite

the country’s biggest attractions, so showcasing our rich traditions and musical talents on such a global stage is a tremendous opportunity. Personally, the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite Marching Band and Disney World have been at the forefront of my childhood memories. Visiting the park and performing with SOD while is surreal. I can’t wait to experience this with my fellow bandmates.”



In addition to the Battle of the Bands competition, the three-day event will include a college fair and a live broadcast of ESPN’s “First Take.”

Disney anticipates over 5,000 high

school students to attend the college fair, which will host recruiters from 50 HBCUs. Alcorn’s Office of Admissions will attend the fair set for Oct. 7 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and offer on-site admissions to the institution.

“The Office of Admissions and Recruitment is looking forward to attending HBCU Week in Orlando, Florida,” said Courtney Smith, director of Admissions.






“One of the best parts of the job is to tell prospective students about the many academic and scholarship offerings and the family atmosphere that they can expect at Alcorn.”



### Introducing the Lantern Project

6 pm, Monday, October 10  
Margaret Walker Center  
Facebook & YouTube

For more information, contact Lauren Shelby at [lauren.e.shelby@jsums.edu](mailto:lauren.e.shelby@jsums.edu).

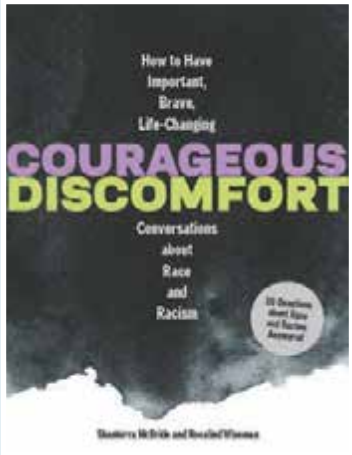


The Lantern Project is a multi-state and multi-institution effort to digitize legal records of enslaved persons, led by Mississippi State University Libraries and featuring records from Mississippi State University Libraries, University of Mississippi Libraries, Delta State University Libraries, Historic Natchez Foundation, the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System and the Montgomery County (Alabama) Archives.

The Lantern Project has been generously funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Attendees will get tips on navigating both the project digital collection and specific historic documents included in the project, such as probate and circuit court records.





BOOK REVIEW:

COURAGEOUS DISCOMFORT:

HOW TO HAVE IMPORTANT, BRAVE, LIFE-CHANGING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE AND RACISM

BY SHANTERRA MCBRIDE AND ROSALIND WISEMAN

C.2022, CHRONICLE BOOKS

\$24.95 • 208 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
Columnist

About a size seven. That’s how big your mouth must be, because you just stuck your size-seven foot into it – which is great, because now things are awkward and you never meant harm. You want to have the right conversation about race, you strive to be respectful, and “Courageous Discomfort” by Shanterra McBride and Rosalind Wiseman can help.

So your foot is back on the ground now and that didn’t feel good, did it? Probably not,

but McBride and Wiseman say that discomfort is necessary for (eventually) doing good in order to make change.

Recognizing that everyone has a right to dignity and acknowledging their worth is the first step. The next is reading the series of “questions” or might-happen scenarios that the authors present, and getting some ideas on how to be a good ally.

Should you speak up, for instance, if a teacher says something racist in class, even if it might mean trouble for you?

What if it’s a friend, or a family member, who says something offensive? Should you apologize for what others have done, even it was a long time ago – and if so, how? You say you don’t “see color,” but when do you actually need to see it?

Everyone has biases, the authors say, but curiosity is natural for learning, so take care that microaggressions don’t get in the way. They acknowledge that being curious is tricky, but that you should never be afraid of it.

Don’t be offended if someone

doesn’t trust you; there’s a reason for it, and it goes way back.

Likewise, don’t be mad if they don’t always include you in every event. Be willing to listen if someone has a gripe with you, a post, a statement, or something you did that hurt them. Be patient. Figure out what being an ally means to you. Leave a black person’s hair alone.

And finally, remember that taking ownership isn’t about shame, but about growth. A step in the right direction is a step in the right direction.

In its first few pages, “Courageous Discomfort” is a perky explanation of the friendship of McBride (who is black) and Wiseman (who is white and Jewish). It doesn’t linger; the book then takes a scolding tone before it settles in to the help it promises.


When the authors advise readers to use caution, they mean it, though.

There’s a little bit of talking-in-a-circle inside this book, and enough repetition that you’d notice. There’s some confusion in how readers should act when


meeting new people – do you ask them about themselves, or don’t you dare? – and prompts to speak up when one sees injustices, but no good help on that for the quietest of readers.

Conversely, and to be sure, the advice the authors give lays a great foundation for equality work, but nuances in the narrative mean that this is probably a book for older teens and young adults.

If day-to-day activism is the goal, “Courageous Discomfort” helps you put your money where your mouth is.



**ZACK WALLACE**  
Hinds County Circuit Clerk



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**Jury Duty Recording:**

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Circuit Clerk's Office  
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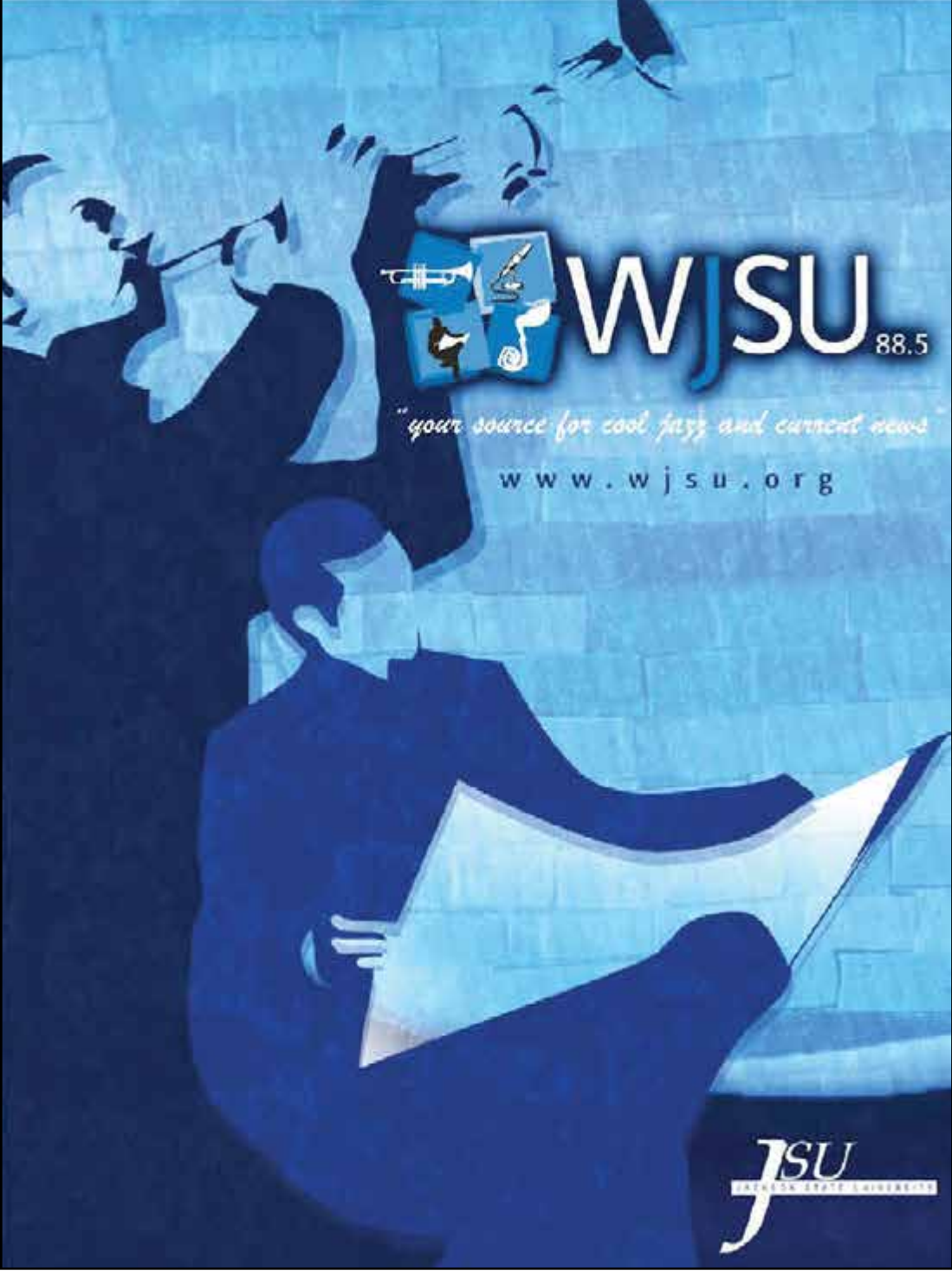
- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election


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## Walk With A Doc

AARP Mississippi invites you to come out for Walk With A Doc. Take a step toward better health with this initiative that brings doctors and patients together. Participation is free.

### Walk With A Doc

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022 | 8:30 a.m.

Parham Bridges Park  
5055 Old Canton Road  
Jackson, MS

Register:

<https://aarp.cventevents.com/wwad108>

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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

## Voter Registration

Voter Registration was held at Raymond High School and Terry High School in the Hinds County School District on National Voter Registration Day. 70 students registered at Raymond and 33 students registered at Terry, for a total of 103 new registration voters.







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DO  
THIS**

**WE  
CAN  
DO  
THIS**



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COVID is unpredictable. I need to protect myself, my family, friends, and my community. So, I got my booster for extra protection against COVID's worst outcomes and for powerful peace of mind.

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