



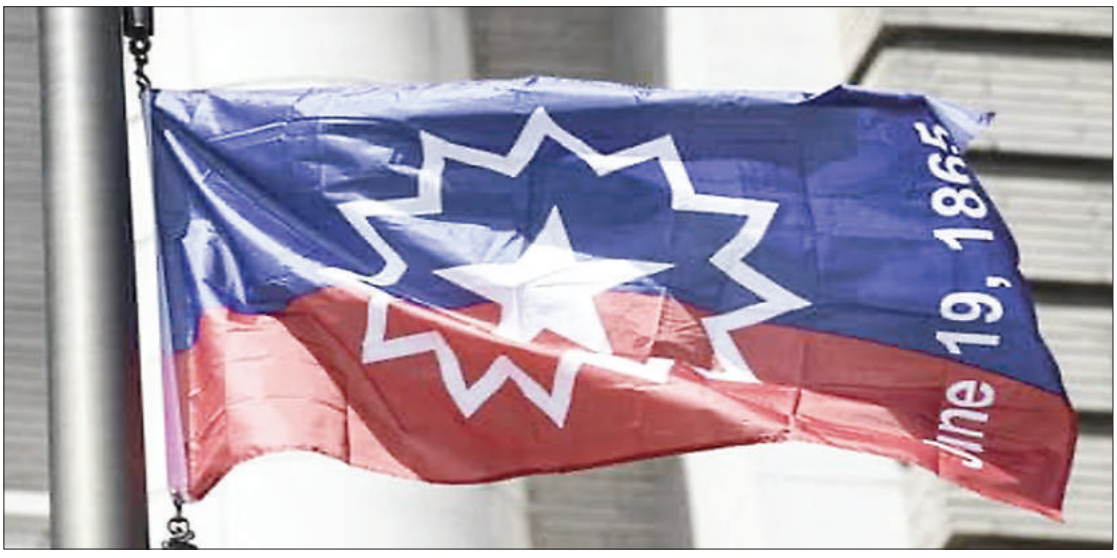
## Commemorating Juneteenth A NECESSARY REALITY

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

On July 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued an executive order that declared enslaved people in the rebelling Confederate State legally free. However, the decree would not take effect until the clock struck midnight at the start of the new year.

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first historical legacy of what is known as 'Watch Night' services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect.

At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered, as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the



The Juneteenth flag is a symbol for the Juneteenth holiday in the United States. The first version was created in 1997 by activist Ben Haith and that early version was displayed in 1997. The present version was first flown in 2000. The colors and symbols on the flag are representative of freedom and the end of slavery. The date on the flag represents that of General Order No. 3 issued in Galveston, Texas in 1865. Beginning in 2020, many states began recognizing Juneteenth by flying the flag over their state capitol buildings, especially after Juneteenth was declared a federal holiday by President Joe Biden the following year.

United States. However, not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Con-

federate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later.

Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were

free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

*"Keep in Your Heart the Blood"  
Blood spilled by those who fought for freedom.*

*Juneteenth  
Continued on page 3*

My dad was my first and best role model. Thank you dad.



Dr. James B. Ewers, Sr.

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.D  
President Emeritus  
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio

Father's Day will be celebrated Sunday, June 16th. Unlike Mother's Day when restaurants were filled, you will probably be able to go without a reservation.

Being a committed father takes a lot of caring and commitment. Being responsible and respectful are additional attributes that dads must have.

My dad was there when I went to bed at night and was there when I woke up each morning. He was always there leading our family. Upon reflection, I probably took my dad's presence for granted.

I never had to wonder if my dad was coming home. It never occurred to me grow-

ing up that I would have to ask my mom where my dad was.

I did not have any doubts or trepidation about him being in my life. The life lessons he gave me back in the day have stayed with me to this day. He was a role model for me in every sense of the word. He passed away many years ago.

My dad, Dr. James B. Ewers, was a dentist in Winston-Salem, NC. He was Jamaican and a graduate of the Howard University School of Dentistry in Washington DC. Afterwards, he moved to Winston-Salem NC and met my mom.

At the time, he was the only Jamaican in the city. I can't imagine what that was like. He then sponsored my cousin, Wilfred Ewers, who

## Deep South prison populations and their High Courts

On this Juneteenth, remember our ongoing sizzling truths and find the will to act on them

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

In September 2021, following the 2020 Census, the Brookings Institution reported that 58% of our nation's African-American population resided in the South. More granular Census data reveals that between 35.9% and 44% of the population in the Deep South is non-white. Most sources agree that the Deep South, a significant portion of the Bible Belt, sprawls across five states – Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia. A few sources would like to amend that long-held belief and include Texas and Florida, and a few more like to include western Tennessee and western North Carolina, as well.

Researching the Deep South is exhausting as there are hundreds of thousands of citations with a multitude of perspectives

Deep South	White % of State Pop.	White % Imprisoned Pop.	Overall Minority % of State Pop.	Black Only % Imprisoned Pop.
Mississippi	56.0	19.5	44.0	48.5
Louisiana	57.1	21.2	42.9	74.9
Alabama	64.1	25.8	35.9	74.1
South Carolina	63.4	14.7	36.6	56.4
Georgia	51.9	22.8	48.1	61.0

Table 1 – Data obtained from 2020 Census and Prison Policy Initiative – www.prisonpolicy.org

being highlighted. For simplicity as much as anything else – let's just state the obvious.

What defines the Deep South for the most of us? How about slavery, Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement? These rivers of soul-numbing horror, the fight to maintain the horror, and the march toward justice, as well as their many tributaries, define the Deep South to the present day.

Writing for the Facing South

Organization in 2015, Alyson Zandt's article titled, "What went wrong with the South," says in part, "What went wrong is centuries of enslavement and systemic discrimination that resulted in the immense disparities we see today – but most news stories don't capture that context. What went wrong with the Deep South is, in many ways, what went wrong with America. In the South, the effects of our nation's enduring racism are

most apparent, and it's hard to overstate the continued legacy of slavery. The American economy was built on the wealth created by a violent system of free labor. The economic motivation for that system was most apparent in the agricultural South, and so people in this region went to increasingly great lengths over time to preserve it in spite of contradictions with American

*Prison  
Continued on page 3*



James B. Ewers, Jr., Ed.D

*My dad  
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## Purple Diamonds Scholarship and Awards Gala: celebrating excellence and empowerment

By Edelia J. Carthan, Ed.D.  
Contributing Writer

Belmont Missionary Baptist Church's Dr. M.K. Nelson Multipurpose Complex was abuzz with excitement on Saturday, June 1, 2024, as it hosted the highly anticipated Purple Diamonds Scholarship and Awards Gala. The event brought together community members, honorees and distinguished guests to celebrate the achievements of the Purple Diamonds, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young women through enrichment and performing arts.

The evening commenced with a heartfelt welcome from Shanika Lee, director of the Purple Diamonds. Her address set the tone for the evening, highlighting the organization's commitment to fostering leadership, academic excellence and community service among its members.

"Thank you to all my staff, parents, sponsors, board members and supporters that made the event a success. We're 17 years in and this is only the beginning," Lee said.

Jaida Myers, crowned Diamond Miss, spoke on the occasion, sharing the significance of the event and the impact the Purple Diamonds have had on her life and the lives of her peers. Jada Ards followed with a presentation on the history of the organization, tracing its roots and evolution over the years.

Recognition of the 2023-24 team members, staff and board members was a key highlight. Shanika Lee took the stage once again to acknowledge the dedicated individuals whose hard work



Senior Charity Donald holds a giant check for \$250 presented at the gala.



Members of Purple Diamonds Dance Team pose for a picture at the gala. PHOTOS BY DR. JAY

and passion have propelled the Purple Diamonds forward.

Kiersten Friday, a proud Purple Diamond, led the prayer and blessing of the food, setting a reflective and grateful tone for the dinner that followed. Guests enjoyed a delightful meal, catered by the renowned Chef Judi.

The introduction of the guest speaker, Tanise Brown, was met with applause as she paved the way for Lateshia Pearson, the honored guest speaker. Pearson's inspiring words resonated deeply with the audience, emphasizing the importance of perseverance, education and community support.

### Celebrating Achievements

Several students received awards during the presentation, marking their exceptional contributions and accomplishments throughout the year. Ad-

ditionally, four outstanding seniors, Jada Ards, Charity Donald, Camiyah Johnson and Larajiah Smith, were each honored with a \$250 book stipend, recognizing their dedication and academic excellence. Brandee Harrington, board member, expressed her enthusiasm, "Congratulations Shanika Kelly Lee and the entire Purple Diamonds Enrichment and Performing Arts Program. An amazing event was had. Excited for all the students and the seniors who received a \$250 book stipend."

The announcement of the 2024-2025 captains marked a significant step for the organization. The new captains for the Diamond Misses are Emmilee Watts as captain, with Lauren Green and Londyn Jefferson serving as co-captains. For the Purple Diamonds, Tanise Brown was named captain, with

Jakiya Lewis as co-captain. Their leadership promises to guide the teams to new heights in the upcoming season.

### Acknowledgements and Gratitude

The gala concluded with acknowledgements to those who made the event possible. Carthan Enterprises provided printing and financial services, Chef Judi handled the catering, C Squared managed the decorum, Jazmine Ware captured the event through videography and DJ Sensei provided the evening's entertainment.

The 2024-25 Purple Diamonds Enrichment and Performing Arts Program board members, including Shanika Lee, Leroy Lee, Veronica Hall, Brandee Harrington and Dr. Marie Abston, were acknowledged for their ongoing commitment to the organization's mission.

Sponsors such as Rodney Hall from

Penn Global Marketing, Chef Judi, C Squared, Light House Academy, Hamilton Davis Mental Health, Inc. and Carthan Enterprises were recognized for their generous support.

The Purple Diamonds Scholarship and Awards Gala was not just an evening of celebration, but a testament to the power of community, mentorship and the relentless pursuit of excellence. As the organization looks to the future, it continues to inspire and uplift young women, preparing them to shine brightly in all their endeavors.

### About the Purple Diamonds Enrichment and Performing Arts Program

The Purple Diamonds Enrichment and Performing Arts Program is designed to promote education and equity among girls from low socio-economic backgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi, and nearby regions. This comprehensive initiative offers cost-free dance classes in a variety of styles, including Hip Hop, Contemporary, Ballet, Jazz, African, Latin and Majorette, enriched by educational workshops and mentorship programs.

Catering to girls aged 4-18, the program not only imparts dance as an expressive art form but also nurtures essential qualities such as confidence, leadership and teamwork. A key focus of the program is to encourage and support participants in pursuing and successfully obtaining college degrees, preferably from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

For more info about Purple Diamonds, visit [PurpleDiamonds.txn.com](http://PurpleDiamonds.txn.com)

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# Juneteenth

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**Dr. C. Sadie Turnipseed - assistant professor History at JSU - calls for a realistic portrayal of the United States' history in honor of Juneteenth 2023**



**Jodi Skipper - associate professor of Anthropology University of Mississippi - came to the realization that Juneteenth, not the 4th of July, is the celebrated holiday that lends itself to freedom of African Americans.**

*The blood of the slave as the whip touches the flesh.*

*Do not be enslaved, be now empowered.*

*Feel it, taste it, drink it.*

*Gather it in buckets, bathe in it.*

*Bathe your children in it.*

*Keep In Your Heart the Blood.*

The last eight lines of this poem by Kristina Kay is a mindset adopted by numerous poets, speakers and performance artists who are attuned to Juneteenth, the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was declared a legal holiday in 1986. Juneteenth – celebrated on June 19th – is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery upon the United States' soil. It has provoked much thought and expression for past and present generations.

From the 1935 poem, "Let America be America Again," by that prolific writer – Langston Hughes – to the 2022 poem (now a book), "Free at Last," by Sojourner K. Rolle and Alex Bostic, and works of poets few and far between, come much discussion and debate about the saga of the enslaved and locked out peoples of African descent who were forced to leave their home and build a country that targeted, robbed, brutalized, rejected and despised them, and never intended that they be free. Despite harsh treatment, there was something within these people that gave them hope for a better day. While longing to be free, mental escape became physical escape. Spiritual songs were messages for survival from the slavers' whip and empowerment.

When they came upon the scene, Juneteenth celebrations produced wakeup calls that had not been recognized by many. For the most part, these festivities were disconnected from everyday encounters. At some point, however, people began to see contrasts between 4th of July occasions and Juneteenth occasions.

"I learned what Juneteenth was, after I participated in a program for high schoolers at Grambling State University. Still, I didn't feel connected to the holiday, until I began to feel uncomfortable celebrating the 4th of July. I realized that most of my ancestors would have been enslaved or still on the African continent in 1776. Although Black communities in the U.S. experienced freedom at different times, Juneteenth as a federal holiday gives us a chance to recognize, as a nation, that July 4th doesn't represent the experiences of all or most of our ancestors. It was an aspiration or ideal, not realized until the most vulnerable of us were freed by June of 1865," explained Dr. Jodi Skipper (associate professor of Anthropology & Southern Studies at The University of Mississippi).

Skipper's comment calls to attention Frederick Douglass's Fourth of July Oration which referenced the hypocrisy of slavery. It also brings to mind what actress Ruby Dee said many years ago during her narrative at The National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN: "The movement is not over until all persons are free."

Backing these assertions is Dr. C. Sade Turnipseed (assistant professor of History at Jackson State University). Candidly speaking, she said, "We must confront the profound contradiction of our history – that a 'nation conceived in liberty' was simultaneously born in shackles. Today, we are presented with an opportunity to amend the injustices of our American past. By embracing what is fair, humane and genuinely decent, we can chart a righteous path forward. Let us act with love, for until all are free, none [is] free."

*The Mississippi Link publisher Jackie Hampton contributed to this article.*

# Prison

Continued from page 1

ideals of equality. The narrative of racial difference that was created to justify that system is still with us."

This touchstone, in what is the poorest and least progressive region of the nation, manifests most crushingly as lack of equity. There is a stubborn willful mindset in the Deep South that prevents all its people from thriving. All minorities, but especially African Americans, suffer chronically, decade after decade, and certainly poor European Americans are not immune.

In the Deep South especially, where change is needed the most, one of the many tools used to maintain white supremacy is incarceration. Just one example, in September 2022, National Public Radio reported that "Black people nationwide are 7.5 times higher than whites to be wrongfully convicted of murder, and 80% more likely to be innocent, than others convicted of murder."

Table 1, provides racial population data from the 2020 Census, compared to prison populations in the Deep South. In every Deep South state African Americans are imprisoned at a far greater rate than is their percentage of the states' population, and conversely, white's or European Americans are imprisoned at a far lesser rate than is their percentage of the states'

Deep South Supreme Courts	# of Justices	# white Justices	# minority Justices	Minority % of Court	Method of election
Mississippi	9	8	1	11.11	Nonpartisan by voters
Louisiana	7	6	1	14.28	Partisan by voters
Alabama	9	9	0	0.00	Partisan by voters
South Carolina	5	4	1	20.00	Legislative election
Georgia	9	7	2	22.22	Nonpartisan by voters
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>34 (87.1%)</b>	<b>5 (12.8%)</b>		

**Table 2: Data from Deep South State Supreme Court websites**

population. Many of these imprisonments are reviewed by each states' Supreme Court. According to the National Registry of Exonerations, there have been 210 exonerations in the five Deep South states to date, but not before a total of 2,758 years of freedom had been wrongfully taken.

One of the many institutional aspects that has not moved forward with the times in the Deep South is the racial composition of the Deep

South's Supreme Courts. Their justices over-represent the white population and underrepresent the non-white population. In a democracy, the rule of law is essential to its proper functioning.

Again, stating the obvious conditions in the Deep South today, Lady Justice certainly holds scales, and certainly holds a sword, but her blindfold is missing – at least in terms of true justice. Legal justice is painfully different.

# My dad

Continued from page 1

became the second Jamaican in the city.

As I grew older, I began to see that my dad was greatly respected and admired. People saw him as a leader and a difference-maker.

There were always people at our house, some just seeking counsel and a good word. On the humorous side, some were also intrigued by his Jamaican accent. I found myself at times being an unpaid interpreter.

My dad was a big man with kindness and gentleness wrapped inside of him. He had character, integrity and honesty. I saw it on display every day. Yet as a boy, I probably could not have used those words to describe him.

Being from the West Indies gave my dad a keen sense of money and how to value a dollar. He also understood that not all his patients could pay him for his services.

There were occasions when he would take me horseback riding or bring food home. I later found out that these were his patients who didn't have the money to pay him.

I can remember like it was yesterday some of the long and exhaustive lectures that he gave me. I would sit on the couch, and he would begin.

It was important to him that I was respectful and that I not get into any trouble. I can recall his words, "Jimmy my boy, if you get into any trouble don't call me." As a young boy, you can imagine the thoughts I had when he uttered those words.

It made me apprehensive knowing that he meant what he said. Well, it worked. Would he have come to my aid? I believe so. However, I never had to find out. He was never called by any official at any level about his son getting into mischief.

Education was emphasized in my house. I always knew I was going to college because my parents talked about it very early in my life. It was simply where I was going.

There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about my dad. He gave me the foundation and the fundamentals for successful living. I am thankful to God that he blessed me with him.

Sunday, June 16th, is Father's Day. If your father is living, I hope you celebrate with him and if he is not, remember him with fondness.

This column is dedicated to my father and to all fathers who are making a difference in the lives of their children.

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**CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY**

**In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which stated that all held as slaves in rebellious states shall be set free.**

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**Juneteenth is an important celebration of black liberation.**

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## Selected U. S. and Germany storytellers participate in Transatlantic Exchange Program that features neglected stories

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

From May 24-June 2, 2024, ten U. S. citizens and twelve Germany citizens, who were chosen from among many applicants, were actively engaged in the first part of an all-expense paid trip to Germany and back to their homelands. The Transatlantic Exchange Program – “Neglected stories: Elevating Marginalized Narratives in the U. S. & Germany” – mostly occurred at Gustav Stresemann Institut (Bad Bevensen, Germany). From there, the cohort transferred to Berlin where we toured a number of sites and continued our seminars.

Martin Kaiser is the storytelling project coordinator from Germany for the exchange.

“The cooperation between the Alluvial Collective and the Gustav Stresemann Institut developed through a book that Martin read: Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil, by Susan Neiman. Neiman wrote about the dialogue work the Alluvial Collective (formerly The William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation) is doing in Mis-



Tour guide educates about discrimination and mass control. PHOTOS BY JANICE-NEAL VINCENT

issippi,” stated Miriam Moch, project team member.

Other project team members are Dr. Castel Sweet (coordi-

nator of the Mississippi phase) and Cane’ Caglar.

Amidst a variety of perspectives, numerous stories with

specific themes were told. Lived experiences reigned supreme in light of the impact that was generated upon the masses of specific lands. Recognizing that some stories could be overwhelming, team leaders provided comfort by reserving a room for prayer to retreat.

The cohort was introduced to persons who did not mind sharing historical contexts on a variety of topics.

Adama Logosu-Teko is an immigrant who has had painful experiences of racism. Anti-discrimination, local anti-racism work, empowerment and political participation were among the concerns that he addressed. Incorporated within these categories were his global learning networking and publications on development policy and human rights. Having lived in Germany since 1984, Logosu-Teko reflected that his most difficult experience occurred when authorities assumed he was a suspect regarding a crime because of the color of his skin.

Dr. Tania Mancheno has lived in Hamburg since 2003. She focuses on urban space and violence, colonial history and the analysis of its local and

transnational consequences from a feminist perspective from the Global South, while focusing on Black Caribbean political thinking. On the city tour, she addressed the contradictions between postmodern and colonial urban planning.

Mancheno emphasized that names of many squares, streets and buildings represent a Eurocentric worldview.

“This backward-looking naming in a modern district deepens the historical separation between north and south. It perpetuates a way of remembering and commemorating in public space that ignores the history of the Global South and romanticizes it as ‘overseas trade.’”

The political educator – Beyza Buyuker – was born and raised in Kreuzberg. She examines extremism prevention, designing workshops for students and training programs for teachers. The scholar educated the participants on a number of topics such as the history of the Berlin Wall and the changes in Kreuzberg, arrival of the Gastarbeiter, the fall of the wall and the affect on Kreuzberg. In the “newness” of things,

Buyuker noted that Kreuzberg is “a new ghost town,” and Gorlitzer Park has a “new” role with acute problems.

Kohero Magazine staff explained that kohero is “the language of planning and art, and means cohesion.” The staff strives to achieve togetherness in which the perspectives, opinions and stories of people with a history forced displacement and migration are given a place. This inclusive platform for migrants aims to make the perspectives, stories and opinions of people who have immigrated to Germany more visible to the public. In support of refugees and migrants, the staff acknowledged the need “to tell stories, provide facts, facilitate discussions and create understanding.”

The second phase of the neglected marginalized narratives is slated for the U. S. from September 6-15, 2024.

“In the end, we hope that the project created the space for neglected stories to be heard and thereby opened with the opportunity to acknowledge the diversity of perspectives and strengthen coherence in our societies,” said Kaiser.

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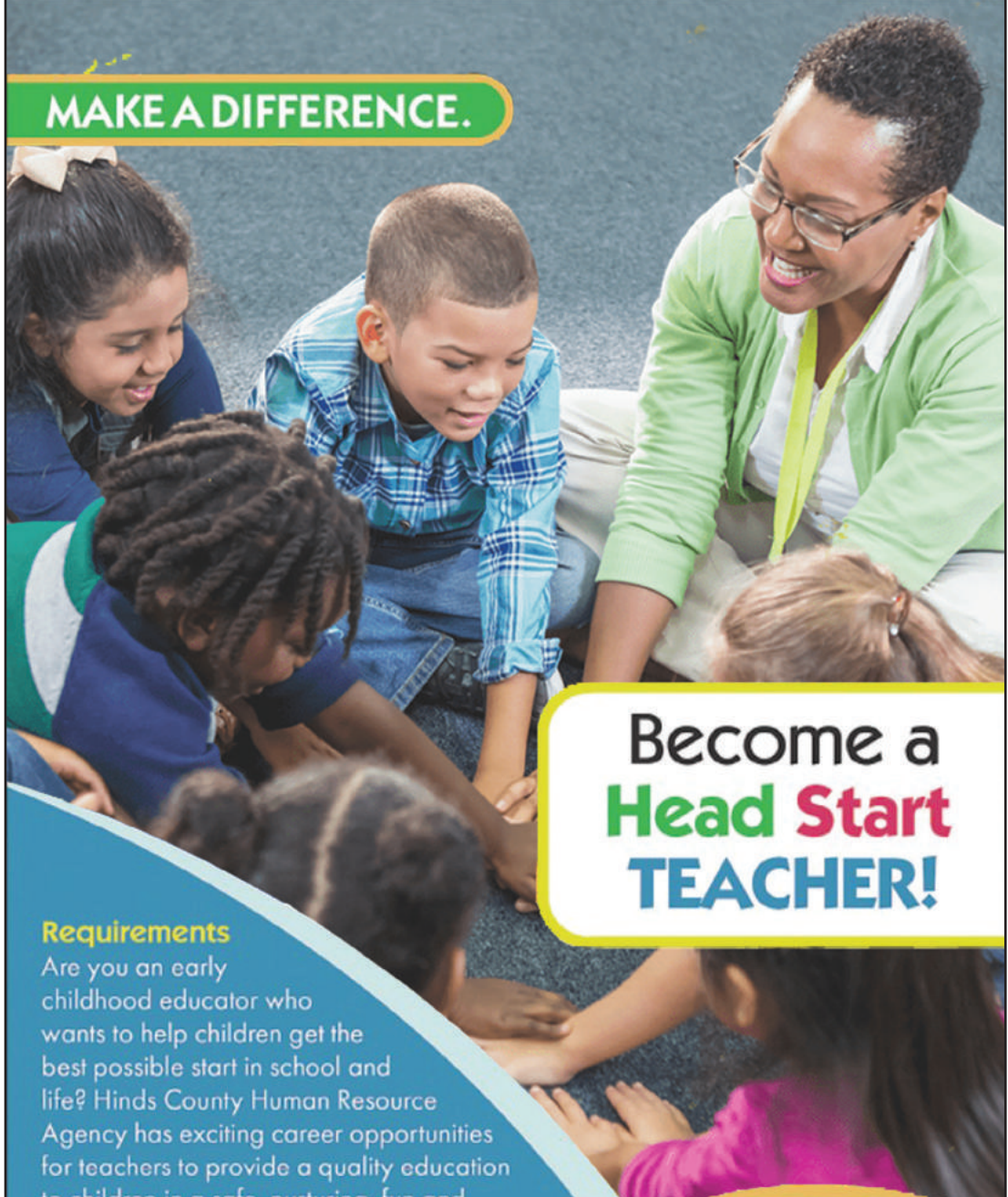
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# Freedom 60 Conference: Commemorating the legacy of Freedom Summer 1964 and advancing political engagement in 2024

*The Mississippi Link Newswire*

Sixty years ago, there came from many quarters of our nation a youthful diversity of ethnicities, opinions, lifestyles and persuasions, a cadre of risk-takers committed to lifting the last burden from the shoulders of the world's last oppressed woman and man. The coming together was more than idealism that has since been celebrated as the Mississippi Summer of 1964.

The SNCC Legacy Project and the Mississippi NAACP are proud to announce the Freedom 60 Conference, a significant event dedicated to commemorating the impactful legacy of the Freedom Summer of 1964, during a news conference.

The Freedom 60 conference will take place on June 21-22, 2024, at the Historic BB King Club Ebony in Indianola, MS. It will honor the courageous efforts of those who participated in the Freedom Summer of 1964, reflect on the historical significance of those efforts, and address the ongoing challenges and strategies for advancing political engagement ahead of the November 2024 Election.

While countless pundits and

chroniclers from without have vertically described, discussed and even extolled the seasonal events of that year, this is the rare occasion, some sixty years later, for a horizontal view of those who survived to tell the story – it origins, frustrations, triumphs and its aspirations as well as hope.

With the doves outnumbering the ravens in the parliament of our air, this is our unbent and unbowed voice calling to those who must succeed us as radical agents of change. We want them to know that ours was more than theory and faith. It was more than uplifting rhetoric and freedom songs – it was pragmatic and tedious, dangerous and deadly, not only for us but more importantly for the locals who believed in us with their lives. May this passage of time reveal what the present once obscured. It comes as a special comfort to know that we were far better than then we could have ever known then.

And it remains for our successors to become better than they can now foresee.

Words crack and crumble under the strain of fully describ-

ing those 1964 days on paper, but during these days of our assembly, our authentic faces and voices can uniquely make history live and breathe and teach greater moral bandwidth for a new generation. The “nostalgia” of our being here once more together is more than the remembering of our old pain, it is the memory of our collective possibilities as well to change the world.

Information on the conference and registration can be found at <https://www.freedom-summer60.org>

Speakers will include Indianola Mayor Ken Featherstone, SNCC Organizer Charles McLaurin, Sunflower County NAACP Branch President Charles Modley, NAACP Vice President of Campaigns Dominic Whitehead, Rep. Otis Anthony and others. Representatives from the SNCC Legacy Project, Mississippi NAACP, Civil Rights veterans, policymakers and community members will also be on hand Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 2 p.m. at the Historic B.B. King Club Ebony, 404 Hanna Ave in Indianola, MS.

## FREEDOM SUMMER

60 YEARS  
1964-2024



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## Brown vs. Board, 70 years later

By Rev. Norman Franklin  
*The Cincinnati Herald*

The Brown vs. Board of Education decision handed down by the Warren Court in 1954 changed the social landscape in America. Particularly in the southern region where Jim Crow laws mandated separation of the races.

The Fourteenth Amendment armed the former slaves with the constitutional rights of due process of law and equal protection of the law.

The Fifteenth Amendment gave the new citizens the right to vote. [Editor's note: The 15th amendment, ratified on Feb. 3, 1870, gave the right to vote to all male citizens regardless of their ethnicity or prior slave status].

It was well into the twentieth century before the Fifteenth Amendment was fully exercised. It took decades of struggles, protest and demonstrations, and murder before the apartheid south was bought under the law of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Blacks would use the intent of these laws to challenge systemic social and political attitudes prohibiting the exercise of their constitutional rights.

The law was subject to interpretation. Interpretation of the law lays on the altar of perspective. For example, the



George Edward Chalmers Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, and James Nabrit Jr. in 1954 winning the Brown vs. Board of Education case, 1954. Photo: New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection at LOC.

### COMMENTARY

recalcitrant White culture encoded Jim Crow laws to defy the rule of the new social order. Blacks, never obsequious, used the intent of the law to fight back.

Homer Plessy challenged Jim Crow laws that prohibited Blacks from the use of public facilities, from riding the same buses, and attending the same schools as Whites. Plessy refused to give up his seat to a White man on a train. He was jailed.

The Fourteenth Amendment case, Plessy vs. Ferguson, was argued before the US Supreme

Court in 1896. Perspectives interpreted the law. In an 8-1 vote, the Justices upheld Jim Crow.

The majority agreed that the amendment was meant to enforce equality, which they viewed as political equality, but not social. "If one race be inferior to the other socially, the Constitution of the United States cannot put them upon the same plane."

That perspective of "one race inferior" and separate but equal accommodations, governed well into the twentieth century.

The errant perspective of "intent of the law" employed

to uphold separate but equal became the primary argument of the NAACP Legal Defense Team. Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall won a string of victories before the Supreme Court against Jim Crow laws.

They argued the intent of the law to defeat discrimination in institutions of higher education. The separate but equal and equal protection clauses were successfully argued in four cases before the Supreme Court from 1936 to 1950.

The string of victories sharpened the strategic genius of NAACP lead counsel, Thurgood Marshall.

Marshall had five cases before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1952. Each challenged the constitutionality of state-sponsored segregation in public schools.

The Supreme Court consolidated the five cases under Brown vs. Board of Education.

Separate school systems for Blacks and Whites were inherently unequal, Marshall argued, and therefore violated the "equal protection clause" of the Fourteenth Amendment.

He also introduced sociological data from social scientist Kenneth Clark. The data showed that segregated school systems tended to make Black children feel inferior to White children.

The unanimous decision, delivered by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren on May 17, 1954, ruled that state-sanctioned segregation of public schools was a violation of the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution and was unconstitutional. Chief Justice Warren stated, "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

The decision changed the landscape of public education and gave the name of Thurgood Marshall a coveted place

in history. We pause to celebrate his legacy of audacious genius; we pause to celebrate 70 years of the transformative Brown vs. Board of Education decision.

But we can only pause. Reflection is needed amid setbacks trending in the toxic sociopolitical environment eroding social progress today.

In many ways, the sociopolitical environment is as toxic now as in the era that required the Brown vs. Board of Education fix.

These setbacks are trending: extremist rhetoric in the political arena; restrictive voter legislation; the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) gutting the 1965 Voting Rights Act; SCOTUS gutting Affirmative Action; state legislatures' move to make Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) statutes in education, government, and private industries that receive federal funds, illegal; and legislative moves to prohibit the sharing of accurate history in K-12 school curriculum because it makes some uncomfortable.

But we are better prepared to stand our ground and push back against efforts to roll back progress. The legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall resonates with this generation of leaders.

## Raising successful kids: Picking the right school starts earlier than parents think

By Calvin Moore, Jr., CEO  
*Council for Professional Recognition*

Comedians love to make jokes about how things are different from when they were growing up. Many start with something like this: "In my day we had to actually pick up the phone and ask who it was to know who was calling us." While we laugh about how technology has rapidly changed our lives from one generation to the next, more parents need to embrace this reality as it relates to education.

The place to start is when parents make that first critical decision about where to send their child for early childhood education. Too often we see parents picking a program based on their memories of what daycare was like for them. They did not like the preschool at the church decades ago, so they will never enroll their little one in a program based in a religious setting. The memory of preschool was unenjoyable, so they would never

consider it for their three-year-old today.

How accurate can memories really be from so long ago? Or they make choices about the quality of a program from what a neighbor or friend told them or an online review. An all-day program was right for one child but not for another — there is no universal "right" answer.

My experience began as a Head Start student and years later, I served as a Head Start teacher. One of the things I learned as a teacher was the importance of supporting the social and emotional development of all my students and providing positive guidance. These are competencies stressed for educators like me who've earned a Child Development Associate® Credential™.

I join my fellow educators in believing it is critical to develop a warm, positive, supportive, and responsive relationship with each child, and to help each child learn about and take pride in his or her individual and cultural identity. These

are wise words that parents should also take to heart when looking for a program that will spur their child to the success we all want.

Choosing the right program that meets the unique needs of a child also has benefits beyond the immediate ones.

We have all seen parents who push their children in high school or college to pursue a field of study, sport or other extracurricular activity to make mom and dad "happy," neglecting the needs of the child.

The best way to create a successful ecosystem is to start at the earliest age. Parents should choose an early childhood education environment that matches their child's needs, not one based on faded memories of youth.

Dr. Moore leads the Council for Professional Recognition, a nonprofit that supports early childhood education professionals and administers the Child Development Associate® Credential™.



Dr. Calvin E. Moore, Jr., CEO, Council for Professional Recognition



## Running a local race? How to keep your feet healthy

### StatePoint

Whether you're a novice jogger embarking on a couch-to-5K program or a marathoner serious about racking up finishers' medals, it's critical you take great care of your feet.

"Running is an amazing form of cardiovascular exercise, but because it's a high-impact sport that involves repeated trauma to the feet, everyone from long-distance runners to casual joggers is at risk for developing painful and debilitating foot conditions," says Bryce A. Paschold, DPM, FACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and a Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS).

To help you identify signs of some of the more common foot issues associated with running so you can get proper treatment before the condition keeps you from the activity you love, the foot and ankle surgeon members of ACFAS are offering the following insights:

- **Plantar Fasciitis:** Plantar fasciitis is perhaps the most common complaint from runners. Presenting as heel pain, it's caused by inflammation of the ligament that holds up the arch. At the first sign of heel pain, Dr. Paschold advises runners to stretch the calf, wear sturdier shoes and use arch supports. In some cases, icing and anti-inflammatory medications, such as ibuprofen, are helpful. Should pain continue, visit a foot and ankle surgeon, who might recommend custom orthotics, injections and physical therapy.
- **Neuromas:** A neuroma is a pinched nerve between the toes that can cause pain, numbness and a burning sensation in the ball of the foot. Overly flexible shoes are often the cause, and padding, orthotics or injections are usually effective treatments.
- **Tendonitis:** Runners can be



ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

sidelined with tendonitis if they ignore the warning signs of this overuse condition. There are several forms of tendonitis that affect the Achilles and other areas, and all are treated with rest, icing, strengthening, stretching and anti-inflammatory medications, and sometimes with orthotics and physical therapy. Because overzealous training is usually the cause, especially among beginners, it's important to ramp up mileage and speed gradually. A running coach can tailor your training plan to your current fitness level.

- **Broken bones:** Don't assume that because you're able to run, your foot is not fractured. Signs of a stress fracture can include pain, swelling, redness and possibly bruising. If a fracture is suspected, remember to practice RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation). You should also see a foot and ankle surgeon for an X-ray and proper diagnosis. Remember that like with other overuse injuries, stress fractures are often brought on by trying to do too much too soon. A general rule of thumb is to increase

mileage by no more than 10 percent week to week.

- **Lisfranc injuries:** One misstep can lead to a sprain, fracture or dislocation of the Lisfranc joint. Consider wearing a headlamp in low lighting for surer footing. It is also a good idea to incorporate exercises into your regimen that will keep ankles and feet mobile and strong.

"While completing a marathon or even longer distance race may seem like the ultimate goal, it's wise for new runners to start with shorter races first. This conservative approach will keep your feet in good shape so you're able to run pain-free for years to come," says Dr. Paschold. "And of course, it's vital to listen to your body and seek care from a foot and ankle surgeon whenever a foot problem is suspected."

*For more information on foot care or to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit [FootHealthFacts.org](http://FootHealthFacts.org), the patient education website of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.*

## Taking care of teeth brings families peace of mind

### StatePoint

Tooth decay is the most common preventable chronic disease among children in the United States. If left untreated, it can negatively affect a child's physical and social development, as well as their school performance. Toothaches and cavities can cause pain, infection, and ultimately affect overall wellness, including children's behavioral health.

Mental health and oral health can be intertwined; mental health conditions like anxiety and depression can lead to poor oral health, and dental health problems often exacerbate behavioral health issues.

As a parent or caretaker, there are steps you can take to protect your child's oral health today – and overall health tomorrow.

Through the dental health benefits provided through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), children will have access to essential oral health care, including regular cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings, X-rays and more.

### Schedule Routine Dental Care

Routine dental care is essential to preventing and treating many of the most common oral health issues children experience. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that a child's first pediatric dental visit occur before their first birthday and that as they get older, they see the dentist twice a year for cleanings, X-rays and treatment.

Regular dentist visits can help identify and treat potential issues early. Once your child is old enough, visits can also include preventive care like sealants, which help stop



(C) ANNASTILLS / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

cavities from forming.

Use the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' 'Find a Dentist' tool to find dental providers in your area that accept Medicaid and CHIP.

### Practice Healthy Habits at Home

Encouraging good dental hygiene is another way you can reduce your child's chances of experiencing negative side effects from poor dental health. Helping them brush their teeth twice a day and flossing regularly can keep cavities, gum disease and tooth decay at bay.

During pregnancy, you can even positively impact the health of your baby by taking care of your own teeth and gums. Daily brushing and flossing and regular dentist visits contribute to overall health and protect your baby's teeth.

### Get Insured with Medicaid and CHIP

Your child may qualify for free or low-cost health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP. The Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign wants families to experience the security that comes with knowing their child's dental care and other preventive services are covered.

Medicaid and CHIP cover more than 39 million children in the United States and have

helped ensure that more than 94% of the nation's children have health coverage, even when their family may experience barriers to access like language differences and low health literacy. Enrollment is open year-round, meaning your family doesn't have to wait to see if you qualify.

Dental care isn't the only thing covered – preventive care, emergency care, behavioral health care, vision care, vaccines, prescriptions, and pre- and post-natal care are all covered when your child is insured through Medicaid and CHIP.

Eligibility varies by state and depends on family income and how many people are in your household. In most states, children up to age 19 with family income up to \$80,000 per year (for a family of four) may qualify for Medicaid or CHIP. You can learn more about finding coverage at [InsureKidsNow.gov](http://InsureKidsNow.gov) and explore the Find a Dentist tool to find care near you.

Your child's smile shouldn't be a source of stress. For peace of mind, take care of even the tiniest teeth with regular check-ups, healthy habits and health coverage, like Medicaid and CHIP.

*Provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

# WOMEN'S HEALTH

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**BOOK REVIEW:**  
**NEGOTIATING WHILE BLACK:**  
**BE WHO YOU ARE TO GET WHAT YOU WANT**  
 BY DAMALI PETERMAN  
 C.2024, PUTNAM  
 \$30.00 • 239 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
 Columnist

Absolutely not. And that's the final answer. Nobody's budging on it, nobody will hear any argument, it's done, the answer is just plain "no." Or is it – because isn't there some wiggle room in nearly any controversy, a toenail's worth of space to find a middle ground? Read "Negotiating While Black" by Damali Peterman, and you could find maybe between the N and the O.

You want something. You're denied, and it's frustrating. Be-

tween your ask and the other party's rejection, what went wrong? Damali Peterman wondered that, too, when she tried to buy a new car before the pandemic and the first dealership all but turned her away.

Was it because she's Black, a woman – both or neither?

Peterman is the founder and CEO of Breakthrough ADR, and an expert in dispute resolution. "Negotiation is my life," she says, and she knows there are always two sides to an argument. Finding a happy middle to a dispute or negotiation is usually

possible; at the very least, there may be compromise to be found.

First of all, don't be afraid of negotiation; any time you make a decision or figure something out with someone, you're negotiating. Also know that there's not a "one-size-fits-all" way of give-and-take; you need to find what works best for you.

When you're asking for something, keep in mind the "Five Elements in Every Negotiation." know what you want, what you need, how to listen closely, how to communicate, and when to close the deal. Pay close atten-

tion to the other person's body language and properly validate what they are saying.

Always "be your authentic self;" not doing so is why things collapse well after the deal is set.

Do your research and "peek inside their bag" so you have "more material... to work with" in negotiating.

Always be the first to make the offer, but don't show your hand too quickly. Know how to over come bias.

Apologize when needed. And know what to do when "high-stakes negotiations" could be a

matter of safety...

You're the sort of person who knows what they want. You've thought it through and you want it now. So learn how to get it by reading "Negotiating While Black."

Ask pretty please? It often doesn't work that way in real life, so author Damali Peterman shows readers a number of better ways of talking things over and reaching a consensus that works for both parties in nearly any situation, in or outside of the office.

Her methods are gentler but firm, smart but not smug, flex-

ible but not bend-over-backward, and kind but not pushover. Yes, some of the advice here is common-sense but it also comes with new perspective, including easy-to-grasp lessons for marginalized readers who want to go beyond the frustration of being abruptly dismissed.

When "please" doesn't cut it anymore and demanding is not the right move, "Negotiating While Black" is the book you want. It shows you the way to ask with a velvet fist.

Should you miss it? Absolutely not.

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# Perpetrating the fraud

*We keep hearing about crime, inflation, reproductive rights, immigration and education. Under all the hyperbole – it's about white power*

By Christopher Young  
Contributing Writer

"Perpetrating the fraud," is defined by www.dictionary.com as deceit, trickery, sharp practice, or breach of confidence, perpetrated for profit or to gain some unfair or dishonest advantage. Another dictionary, www.urbandictionary.com, defines perpetrate the fraud as when one acts or speaks in a way not true to character in order to deceive or bamboozle others. Two online dictionaries, each with a very similar definition. And isn't that exactly what we see going on in America today? Individuals and groups fraudulently deceiving others to seek advantage; to seek power and control.

It's no coincidence that the current wave of fraud began the day Barack Obama was elected president.

White authoritarianism was cemented into what became our country by 1619. The canvas that America is painted on has been around for over four hundred years now.

We gained independence from Great Britain in 1776, yet the system of slavery persisted for another ninety years. Then it took another ninety plus years before the Voting Rights Act became law. It passed overwhelmingly, yet racial discrimination in America has persisted. Progress? Yes. Equality and equity? No.

When we hear people, and they're always white people, saying there is a level playing field in America, they are either lying or have drunk the Kool-Aid. We know America has been about white authoritarianism from the jump, and its most recent swell lays bare that truth.



Looking closer. PHOTO: CHRIS YOUNG

Authoritarianism does not pair with freedom, justice or equality. Hence, the fight never ends.

Despite roaring for law and order, since Trump descended the Trump Tower's gold escalator in June 2015, scores of Trump's associates, campaign staff and attorneys have pleaded guilty and/or been convicted of various crimes in several cases. The list includes Steve Bannon, Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, George Papadopoulos, Roger Stone, Allen Weisselberg, Michael Cohen, Peter Navarro, Jeffrey Clark, John Eastman, Rudolph Giuliani, Jenna Ellis and Kenneth Cheseboro. Now, the man at the top of it all has been found guilty by a jury of his peers of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records; normally a misdemeanor, but a felony when occurring with the intent to com-

mit or conceal a separate underlying crime, in the State of New York, per numerous sources.

Cases in Georgia, Florida, Arizona and now Wisconsin, against Trump and/or his associates are still pending. Perpetrating the fraud.

Majorities of Americans agree with the jury verdict finding Trump guilty, on May 30, 2024. "A CBS News/YouGov poll showed that 57% of adults said the jury in Trump's trial reached the correct verdict. That finding was backed up by a Morning Consult poll, in which 54% of registered voters said they approved of the verdict, as well as an ABC News/Ipsos survey, in which 50% of adults said the verdict was correct," per www.nbcnews.com on June 3, 2024.

"Perpetrating the fraud" by people who are almost without exception, white,

Christian and Republican is now at a fevered pitch. They are spewing disinformation and lies in support of one man, who is now a convicted felon, and scheduled to be sentenced on July 11, 2024, in the "hush money" case. In December 2022, two of his companies were found guilty of criminal tax fraud and falsifying business records connected to a 15-year scheme to defraud tax authorities.

In February 2024, per Reuters, "a judge ordered former President Trump and his companies to pay nearly \$355 million in a ruling in the New York civil fraud trial. Trump will also have to pay millions in interest on that money, be barred from serving as an officer or director of a New York corporation or other legal entities in the state for three years and cannot apply for loans from any financial institution registered in the state for three years for fraudulently inflating the values of his properties. Perpetrating the fraud.

White Christian Republicans, for years claiming their devotion to law and order, are now assaulting the judicial system instead of accepting the verdict that they don't like. But the political and cultural upheaval we are enduring now goes deeper than one man, doesn't it? Isn't Trump just the loudest barker at the carnival? He seems to lie and deceive as often as he breathes, yet scores of elected officials and even Christian evangelicals solidly support him. Why is that? Why are they so willing to perpetrate the fraud for him?

He is the poster-boy – the proxy –for their white grievance. The day will come

when Trump fades away, but the racism, white supremacy, and willful inequity that he provides cover for will persist until our country lives up to its aspirations.

We will continue to have right-wing politicians railing against progressive education while doing nothing to address our children being shot in their schools – 346 school shootings last year per *US News & World Report* on January 5, 2024. They will continue to resist expanding Medicaid and improving health care while swearing devotion to a culture of life.

The Commonwealth Fund reported on June 4, 2024, that in comparing the 14 highest income countries, "the United States continues to have the highest maternal death rate, with the rate for Black women by far the highest of any group." White mothers in the US die at a rate of 19.0 per 100,000 live births, while Black mothers die at a rate of 49.5 per 100,000 live births. Do you hear any white culture of life Republicans screaming about that?

In February of this year, The Brady Center for Gun Violence reported that data from 2017 to 2021, "showed Black males 18- to 24-years-old are 23 times more likely to die by firearm homicide than their white male peers."

These ugly truths vanish from the headlines in a nano second, in favor of focusing on the three-times convicted, selfish, racist and characterless white man-child. Perpetrating the fraud isn't the norm for most, yet for a large swath of white Americans – whatever it takes to preserve their supremacy.

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# *In Honor of Juneteenth, we remember the words of Margaret Walker in her poem “For My People”*

## **Margaret Walker**

1915–1998

*For my people everywhere singing their slave songs repeatedly: their dirges and their ditties and their blues and jubilees, praying their prayers nightly to an unknown god, bending their knees humbly to an unseen power;*

*For my people lending their strength to the years, to the gone years and the now years and the maybe years, washing ironing cooking scrubbing sewing mending hoeing plowing digging planting pruning patching dragging along never gaining never reaping never knowing and never understanding;*

*For my playmates in the clay and dust and sand of Alabama backyards playing baptizing and preaching and doctor and jail and soldier and school and mama and cooking and playhouse and concert and store and hair and Miss Choomby and company;*

*For the cramped bewildered years we went to school to learn to know the reasons why and the answers to and the people who and the places where and the days when, in memory of the bitter hours when we discovered we were black and poor and small and different and nobody cared and nobody wondered and nobody understood;*

*For the boys and girls who grew in spite of these things to be man and woman, to laugh and dance and sing and play and drink their wine and religion and success, to marry their playmates and bear children and then die of consumption and anemia and lynching;*

*For my people thronging 47th Street in Chicago and Lenox Avenue in New York and Rampart Street in New Orleans, lost disinherited dispossessed and happy people filling the cabarets and taverns and other people’s pockets needing bread and shoes and milk and land and money and something—something all our own;*

*For my people walking blindly spreading joy, losing time being lazy, sleeping when hungry, shouting when burdened, drinking when hopeless, tied, and shackled and tangled among ourselves by the unseen creatures who tower over us omnisciently and laugh;*

*For my people blundering and groping and floundering in the dark of churches and schools and clubs and societies, associations and councils and committees and conventions, distressed and disturbed and deceived and devoured by money-hungry glory-craving leeches, preyed on by facile force of state and fad and novelty, by false prophet and holy believer;*

*For my people standing staring trying to fashion a better way from confusion, from hypocrisy and misunderstanding, trying to fashion a world that will hold all the people, all the faces, all the adams and eves and their countless generations;*

*Let a new earth rise. Let another world be born. Let a bloody peace be written in the sky. Let a second generation full of courage issue forth; let a people loving freedom come to growth. Let a beauty full of healing and a strength of final clenching be the pulsing in our spirits and our blood. Let the martial songs be written, let the dirges disappear. Let a race of men now rise and take control.*

# Rev. James Lawson, Jr.

*A legendary Civil Rights leader Who trained John Lewis in non-violence, dies at 95*

By Lauren Victoria Burke,  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

One of the last living legends of the American Civil Rights Movement that fought against violence and injustice on behalf of Black Americans, Rev. James Lawson, Jr., has died in Los Angeles. The reported cause was cardiac arrest.

Lawson was a legendary associate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a teacher, strategist and associate alongside all the major figures of the American Civil Rights Movement from King to Ralph Abernathy and James L. Farmer Jr. to John Lewis, Roy Wilkins and Bayard Rustin. Lawson would become an indispensable architect in the fight for justice for Black citizens in America.

Lawson's path as a civil rights activist was notably shaped during his time as a missionary in India from 1953 to 1956. While in India, Lawson studied Mahatma Gandhi's principles of nonviolence, which deeply resonated with his Christian beliefs. After returning to the U.S. Lawson enrolled at the Oberlin School of Theology in Ohio and met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1957.

The rising community activist recognized Lawson's potential and convinced him to move to the South to train activists in nonviolent activism. Before Oberlin, Lawson attended Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where he became active in the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an organization dedicated to nonviolent action.

"The world won't get no better if we just let it be." Rev. James Lawson Jr. embodied these lyrics. He was a courageous nonviolent strategist who taught many to meet injustice with what my fa-



James Lawson at a picket against Ralph's supermarket in Los Angeles, 9 July 2019. PHOTO: @UFCW770 | FLICKR.COM / WIKIMEDIA

ther called "soul force." My condolences to his family. May his legacy live on," wrote Bernice King, the daughter of the legendary civil rights leader.

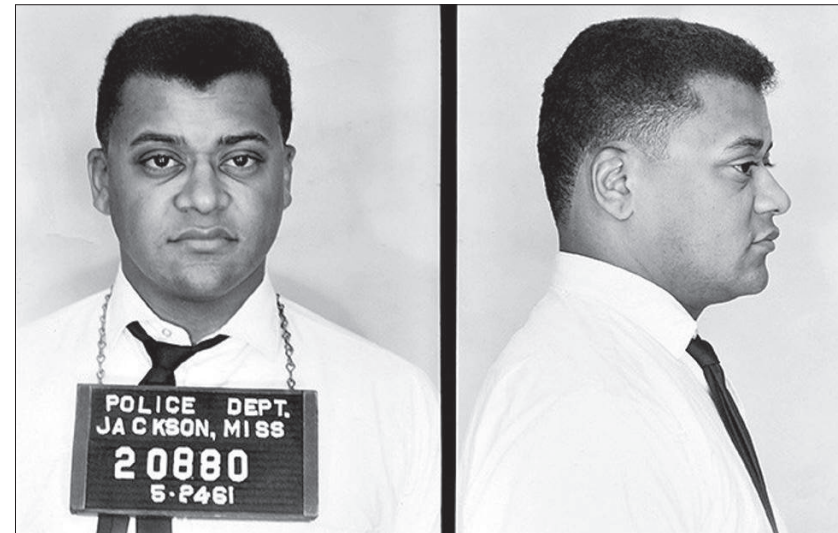
"The King Center mourns Rev. James Lawson Jr., a leading nonviolent strategist whose insight was deeply valued by Dr. King. Rev. Lawson, who died at 95, profoundly impacted the Civil Rights Movement, training leaders like John Lewis and Diane Nash. Condolences to his family," reads a note from the King Center read after news of Rev. Lawson's death.

Lawson moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and enrolled at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School. In Nashville, Lawson played a key role in organizing and leading workshops on nonviolent tactics. His efforts culminated in the Nashville sit-ins of 1960 and Lawson successfully desegregated lunch counters in the city. The sit-in strategy became a crucial part

of the broader Civil Rights Movement in the years to come as the non-violent protest won the attention of the nation and the world as it shined a light on the absurdity of segregation laws in the South.

Lawson became a key figure in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and continued to work closely with Dr. King, participating in several major campaigns during the Civil Rights Movement. They included the Freedom Rides and the March on Washington in 1963. Lawson's commitment to nonviolence remained steadfast even in the frequent and brutal face of violence and arrest by law enforcement in the South that shared close ties with the Ku Klux Klan.

"The Southern Poverty Law Center joins the world in mourning the loss of the Rev. James Lawson Jr., a civil rights activist who led sit-ins, marches and Freedom Rides.



Lawson faced brutal arrests and violence in the South.

Today we remember the Rev. James Lawson Jr. as we continue pushing for equality and justice. Rest in power. #TheMarchContinues," a message on social media from the Southern Poverty Law Center read in tribute to Lawson.

"The world has lost a powerful life force and mentor to so many of us. Expelled, arrested, and repeatedly brutalized, Rev. James Lawson never stopped waging revolutionary nonviolence against racism, sexism, militarism, and plantation capitalism. Rise in power, ancestor," wrote Tennessee legislator Rep. Justin Jones in honor of Lawson.

"We just lost a moral giant and spiritual genius - Rev. James Lawson, one of the greatest freedom fighters of our time! His courage and compassion was incredible! His prophetic witness shall forever burn in my heart!" wrote Princeton Professor Cornel West.

Reverend Lawson was born on Sep-

tember 22, 1928, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He grew up in Massillon, Ohio, where his father was a coal miner and Methodist minister who instilled in him a strong sense of faith and justice.

After King was killed in 1968, Lawson continued his work as social justice advocate. He served as pastor of the Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles from 1974 to 1999, where he focused on issues such as worker and immigrant rights. Lawson continued to be an influential voice, advocating for nonviolent resistance and human rights.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent investigative journalist and the publisher of Black Virginia News. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered and speaks on Crisis Comms on YouTube @LaurenVictoriaBurke. She can be reached at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

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## 5 Key Facts About Stroke

**FACT #1:** stroke kills brain cells

Stroke happens when a clot or rupture interrupts blood flow to the brain. Without oxygen-rich blood, brain cells die.

**FACT #2:** types of stroke

Ischemic caused by a clot, Hemorrhagic caused by a rupture and Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) or "warning stroke" caused by a temporary blockage.

**FACT #3:** about one in four stroke survivors is at risk for another

Fortunately, up to 80 percent of second clot-related strokes may be preventable.

**FACT #4:** prevention is key

Had a stroke? Work with your doctor to identify the cause and create a plan to prevent another. This may include managing high blood pressure, making healthy lifestyle choices and taking medications as recommended by your doctor. After an ischemic stroke or TIA, most patients will be prescribed an antiplatelet or anticoagulant therapy.

**FACT #5:** time lost is brain lost

**F.A.S.T.**

Now that you know prevention, here's how you spot one.

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P R E S E R V E D

## Daddy's girls: DNA goes a long way

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



"Frank Jr" was what I was called as a child because between me and my 3 sisters, I was the one most like my father. From how I walked (I can thank the strong Riley family genes for being pigeon-toed) to my love of cooking, I was a carbon copy of my father. I thought I might out-grow it, but the resemblance is even stronger now when I hear myself saying the same things my father says, "You don't have to believe me. Just Keep on Livin'... You'll see," minus the North Carolinian accent. Even as I have tried to change how I walk and talk, I can't because it is in my DNA.

In tribute to my beloved father who passed away April 8, 2020, at the age of 81 years old, I'd like to share a fasci-

inating story of daughters who knew the power of both their natural and spiritual DNA (destiny, needs and authority). The daughters of Zelophehad knew their destiny, let God meet their needs and exercised the right authority. Zelophehad was a descendant of the Old Testament's Joseph who did not make it to the Promised Land.

Numbers 27:1-7 explains how they petitioned Moses for the right to inherit land. Since their father died without leaving a male heir, they were concerned. Inheritance laws at the time made it nearly impossible for women to own land. Verse 2 shows how the five sisters, Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah, chose to deal with their situation in bold unity.

Using an attitude of assurance, not fear or arrogance, verse 4 shows how they appealed to the right authority at the right time and with the right attitude. In addition,

they knew what the current laws were, but they also knew what they were entitled to.

When Moses took their case to God, he was told by God to give the women their land because what they were asking for was right. The scripture doesn't say whether the daughters prayed before they went to Moses. However, God's response shows that he was waiting to meet their needs; all they needed to do was to courageously faithfully ask him.

Like these daughters, we have to learn how to follow our destiny, allow God to meet our needs and will obey the authority that he places in our lives.

Much like our natural DNA, our spiritual DNA can reproduce others that love God, seek after God and trust God.

We should ask God to show us how learning more about our spiritual DNA will make clearer the destiny God

has for our lives, give us the confidence to know that our needs will be met and allow us to recognize and obey the authority that will influence our life. More than anything else, we must believe that God will increase our ability to trust Him, our desire to seek God and, most importantly, our capacity to love Him.

Thanks to my father for the many lessons taught and the lessons that were taught by watching your example of strength, faithfulness and honor.

To all the fathers, daddies and play daddies, have a wonderful Father's Day!

Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth-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 her at [preservedbypurpose@gmail.com](mailto:preservedbypurpose@gmail.com) or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.

## Hard times are nothing new

By Pastor Simeon R. Green III  
Special to The Mississippi Link



Hard times, times of trials and tribulations seem to be as constant as the sunrise. We can watch the news on any given day and hear of the hard times of those around our country. We can read the morning paper and learn of the trials of those in our own community. We can totally avoid the media and still become familiar with hard times simply by listening to the troubles of those around us.

Hard times are not simply the possession of others, hard times are experienced by each and every person who lives on plant earth today. We've had our difficulties. Hard times have knocked at our doors and announced their arrival.

The living of life will lead us through deep cavernous valleys where it seems that the sun will never shine again. There will be days when it seems like life is caving in around us and as hard as we try to hold up the walls, we can't seem to do it. Hard times will drain us. Hard times will exhaust us. Hard times will take the enthusiasm and excitement of childhood and transform it into a listless and lifeless existence. Hard times will use us up.

We can try to convince ourselves that this is something new, that we've gotten a bum deal, but the fact of the matter is that hard times have occupied our planet almost as long as we have.

There are some today that teach the bald face lie that if we do what God says to the letter then we won't go through those

hard times, but I've come to tell you that nothing could be further from the truth. Living in obedience doesn't mean that we will never see hard times, but it does mean that we will not go through the hard times of life alone.

There was a man who lived about three thousand years ago (so much for hard times being something new). He did just what God commanded him to do and yet got knots on his head. On one occasion he opposed the leaders of Israel and their "yes men," the false prophets. Elijah, the man of God, challenged the "yes" men of Ahab and Jezebel to a showdown at the Carmel Corral. The challenge was quite bold. Elijah and the prophets would each get one bull to sacrifice on an altar located on Mt. Carmel. The god that answered with fire burning up the sacrifice would be recognized as the one true and living God.

Hard times had convinced Elijah that he was used up, that he couldn't go on, and that he was finished. Here was a great man of God that was ready to throw in the towel because hard times were pressing him.

Hard times come in many different packages. Sometimes they wrap themselves in a hospital gown and ICU unit. At other times they take on the countenance of a marriage gone bad, a child gone astray or a job folding with no prospects. A friend moving away, a mate lying down and never getting up, or the dashed hope of death can usher in hard times.

Simeon R. Green, III, Richmond First Church of God, 6517 Walmsley Blvd., Richmond, Virginia 23224.

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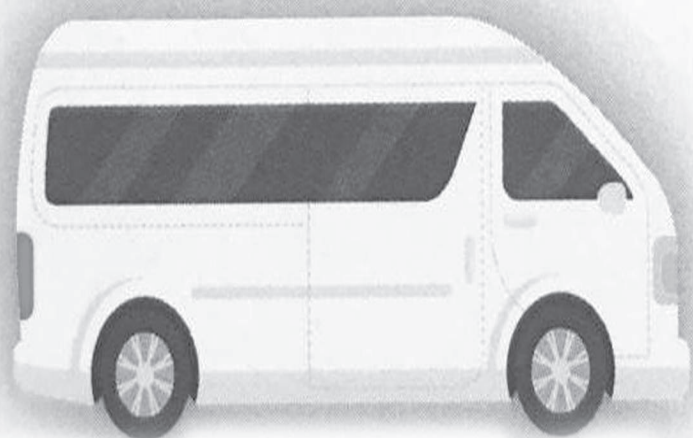
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CITY OF JACKSON

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE  
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The City Clerk of the City of Jackson will receive bids for the replacement of bridge located on Martin Luther King Drive, City Project No. ERBR-25-250(03) no later than 3:30 P.M., Local Prevailing Time, **JULY 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024** in the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All bids so received will be publicly opened and read aloud. The work shall consist essentially of the following items:

**1) Removal/Replacement of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Bridge in its entirety plus related approach work.**

The above general outline of features of the work does not in any way limit the responsibility of the Contractor to perform all work and furnish all plant, labor, equipment and materials required by the specifications and the drawings referred to therein. Contract time shall be 75 consecutive calendar days from the effective date shown in the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed for each consecutive calendar day the Work has not achieved Final Completion. The amount of liquidated damages per day will be \$500.00 plus any additional actual costs above \$500.00 incurred by the Owner. These actual costs include, but are not limited to, engineering, inspection, and other construction related costs resulting from the Contractor's failure to complete the work on schedule.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact Ms. Yika Hoover (Manager) in the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Bids shall be made out on the bid proposal form to be provided, sealed in an envelope and plainly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Bid for CITY OF JACKSON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT. Each bidder shall write his Certificate of Responsibility Number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing his proposal. Bids and EBO Plans shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City Clerk Office, City Hall - 219 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi prior to the hour and date hereinbefore designated. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.** in the Public Works Department 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39201. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

1. City of Jackson - Public Works - Warren Hood Bldg. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor; Engineering Manager Office, 200 South President St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201.
2. CIVILTech, Inc., 5420 Executive Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39206

Copies of the Contract Documents, Contract Drawings and Contract Specifications may be procured through the following:

1. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained from CIVILTech, Inc., located at 5420 Executive Place Jackson, MS 39206 (Mailing address: P.O. Box 12852 Jackson, MS 39236-2852) upon payment of \$100.00 for each set, which will not be refunded.
2. All documents required for bidding purposes may be obtained through Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com), upon payment for each set, which will not be refunded. Electronic Bids may be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](http://www.centralbidding.com). For any questions related to electronic bidding, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check on a solvent bank or a Bidder's Bond issued by a surety Company licensed to operate in the State of Mississippi, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid price, payable to the City of Jackson as bid surety. Bidders shall also submit a current financial statement, if requested by the City. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Payment Bond and Performance Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount.

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9					10			
11					12			
13				14			15	
			16			17		
18	19	20						
21			22			23	24	25
26			27			28		
29						30		
31						32		

**ACROSS**

1. Limbs
5. Location
9. Knit
10. Idiot
11. Destitute
12. Summary
13. National capital
15. United States
16. Idler
18. Rich
21. Really cool
22. Epitomize
26. Coral reef
28. Notion
29. Mush up
30. Killed
31. Rushed
32. Signal

**DOWN**

1. Dog food brand
2. Dig
3. Debate
4. Spread out on the couch
5. Veneration
6. Happen again
7. Take away
8. Dismay
10. Cheesy
14. Fence of branches
17. Secretary
18. Coats
19. Devour (2 wds.)
20. Love intensely
23. Lazy
24. Sense
25. Ship's small boat
27. Headed

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**Crossword Solution**

A	R	M	S	A	R	E	A
L	O	O	P	T	W	E	R
P	O	O	R	R	E	C	A
O	T	T	A	W	A	U	S
				W	A	S	T
W	E	A	L	T	H	Y	
R	A	D	T	Y	P	I	F
A	T	O	L	L	I	D	E
P	U	R	E	E	S	L	E
S	P	E	D				

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Week of June 9, 2024

# The Conservative Right and the new Jim Crow

By Dr. John Warren  
 Publisher, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



Most African Americans know that the term “Jim Crow” represented the personification of segregation in America following the Reconstruction as a means of reuniting a post-Civil War America. The Jim Crow segregation laws represented the American version of “separate but equal”

doctrine of the then U.S. Supreme Court’s response to Plessy vs. Ferguson Decision which created “separate but equal” for the races in America.

The Conservative Right, which is manifesting itself in election officials of the Republican Party and now the United States Supreme Court itself, would seek to roll back all social gains made since the Brown Decision of 1954 which in effect reversed the “separate but equal” Jim Crow doctrine which was further outlawed with Title VI of

the Civil Rights Act of 1965.

This law and the Voting Rights Act gave new meaning to the “Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

What we see today in the Halls of the United States Congress is a Conservative Right Republican movement that no longer honors the Constitution nor the oath of Office these people took when they were sworn into office.

What we see at all levels of State government where mem-

bers of this Conservative Right holds office or positions of influence, is an effort to either reverse, abolish or gut any laws or public policies that appear to speak to the rights of individuals who are not a part of the Conservative Right. These changes, if successful, will ultimately lead to the restoration of “Jim Crow” living conditions, especially for people of color and anyone who appears to have rights that conflict with the Conservative Right. Such a government will eliminate the concept of “due

process.”

These actions will lead us closer to the goals of Project 2025, which is the Blueprint for the the next conservative President of the United States.

What can those of us who see what is coming and disagree with the new order the Conservative Right has in mind, do?

We can vote like never before. We can register in such numbers and wait in such long lines and vote by mail and early ballot, that the ground swell of our numbers will out vote the

Conservative Right and perhaps even vote some, if not most, of them out of office.

Perhaps we should hope we get jury duty for the trials of those Fake Electorates as we watch very closely the selection of people for the Electoral College in all states.

We can treat every state as a battleground state and make no assumptions. We can remember what Thomas Jefferson spoke when he said “Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Freedom. Where do you stand?”

## Mistakes? Mayhem? No. This is outright murder

By Naba'a Muhammad  
 StraightWords.com



When Israel bombs, starves or shoots Palestinians, mainstream media downplays the atrocities.

Loss of lives are chalked up to mistakes or the tragedy of wartime mayhem. It’s not. It’s murder.

The Israeli Defense Forces’ recent slaughter of hundreds of Gazans to retrieve Israelis taken captive by Hamas is another bloody example of unlawful killing, genocide and murder.

“Hell. That’s what the Israeli military attack, artillery shells and bombings looked like,” said Mohamed al-Habash. “We saw many fighter jets flying over the area. We saw people fleeing in the streets. Women and children were screaming and crying,” he told the Associated Press.

The June 8 assault in Nuseirat, which the Associated Press described as “a built-up refugee camp dating back to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war,” was another slaughter since the Oct. 7 attack on Gaza by Hamas and other militant groups.

“According to Gaza’s health ministry, more than 270 people, including children and other non-combatants, were killed during intense fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas militants in and around the Nuseirat refugee camp on Saturday (June 8), in the middle area of the war-torn enclave. More than 600 were reportedly injured with hospitals overwhelmed,” said UN News.

Days earlier, the IDF hit a nearby UN school being used as a shelter. Local officials reported 37 people, including 14 children, were killed.

Since it launched an essentially one-sided offensive, Israel has killed nearly 37,000 Palestinians. Almost 2 million Palestinians are displaced and facing starvation.

The refugee camp attack was widely praised and Israel’s hostage rescue lauded with almost nothing said about nearly 300 Palestinians killed. This is simply wartime mayhem, analysts would argue. It’s not. It’s murder.

When outright murder isn’t applauded, Israeli war crimes are attributed to “mistakes.” Remember Rafah? It’s literally been days since video captured the screams, horror, fear and panic as tents in a refugee camp were set ablaze. Palestinians fleeing and seeking safety died after an Israeli strike that the Zionist state said killed Hamas members. The collateral damage was at least 45 Palestinian deaths as bombs hit. Fires spread burning children, women and men alive in tents. Some were dismembered.

The attack was widely condemned outside of America as a massacre and violation of human rights law. Inside of America, the press mentioned the human tragedy and repeated Israel’s propaganda that the incident

was a mistake to be investigated.

Is there any other place on earth or incident where the criminal is allowed to probe and render a judgement on his crime?

While Palestinians die in Rafah, the Biden administration plays politics and word games. Since there has not been an all-out invasion, Israel has not violated President Biden’s red line and U.S. money and arms keep flowing say the White House and its supporters.

The Rafah massacre occurred shortly after the International Court of Justice ordered “an immediate cessation of military operations” in Gaza. Israel scoffed at the decree. Prior to that, the International Criminal Court sought warrants charging Mr. Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant with war crimes. Israel and America responded by threatening both forums for global justice.

Like other murderous “mistakes” and atrocities discovered, Rafah has been forgotten. Remember when Israeli Defense Forces told Palestinians to flee south? Then bombed them. That, too, was called a mistake.

Israel has committed other heinous crimes: Palestinian officials say more than 500 bodies were recovered in mass graves at Gaza hospitals in May, some mutilated and with signs of torture. Victims’ hands were tied and some were missing their heads, said the Gaza Ministry of Health.

According to accounts given to UN personnel, Israeli authorities dumped detainees or bodies of Palestinians taken to Israel back into Gaza. Detainees said they “were routinely rounded up, stripped to their underwear and loaded into trucks, blindfolded and bound.” After arrest came “shocking inhumane treatment, including waterboarding, severe beatings, attacks by dogs and being forced to hold (a) stress position for hours, sometimes 12 hours, 24 hours.”

Israel, which controls food coming into Gaza, has been warned against using starvation as a “weapon of war.” The warning came after a May report forecast famine for 2.3 million people unless fighting stops and aid shipments increase. “The extent of Israel’s continued restrictions on entry of aid into Gaza, together with the manner in which it continues to conduct hostilities, may amount to the use of starvation as a method of war, which is a war crime,” UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk warned.

These acts aren’t mistakes or mayhem, they are the intentional destruction of an entire people.

Naba’a Muhammad, award winning Final Call editor, is host of “Straight Words With Naba’a Richard Muhammad, Bj Murphy and James G. Muhammad,” which airs live Tuesdays, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m Central Time, on WVON AM 1690 Black Talk Radio Chicago and is livestreamed at the iHeart Radio app and WVON.com.

Get more of Naba’a Muhammad’s writing and content at [straightwords.com](http://straightwords.com).

## How can you mend a broken heart?

By LaShunda Calvert, Ph.D.  
 Tips for a Good Marriage



How can you mend a broken heart? No one asks this question better than the Reverend Al Green. Unfortunately, many have suffered from a broken heart at some point in their life especially in relationships/marriage.

What is a Broken heart? A broken heart is when you experience a severe emotional and/or physical pain that is seemingly tormenting. A broken heart is lifeless – it has been drained of everything it once knew. A broken heart is filled with hurt, turmoil, anxiety and stress. Further, a broken heart is embedded with scars, tears, ugly cries, sobbing, and a heaviness that has the potential of causing one to see no end in sight. A broken heart is just what it says it is; you are heartbroken with a broken mind, a broken soul and a broken spirit.

**What are the symptoms of a broken heart?**

- Symptoms of a broken heart:
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Stress
- Sleep patterns change (sleep too much or too little)
- Appetite changes (eat more or eat less)
- Little to no energy
- Joy has been replaced with mourning and sorrow
- Moody
- Family and friends no longer recognize you – in case you are unaware – we know
- Stop living – you wake up to a funeral service versus a life celebration – you put on your funeral service attire everyday

**What causes a broken heart in marriage?**

Now, you do realize, I refer to this as boo hurt. There is no pain compared to the pain we often experience due to a boo hurting us.

- Unresolved childhood trauma
- Baggage from previous relationships

- tionships
- Lack of support
- Spouse abandonment
- Verbal attacks – negative words hurt
- Family/children not a priority
- Contention
- Economic troubles
- Lack of gratitude
- Lack of intimacy
- Lack of quality time – do something together often – don’t always say no
- Emotional affairs
- Pursuing the counterfeit – the turf over the real grass (the husband/ the wife – the real deal)
- Marriage is based on obligation
- Marriage is based on deceit and manipulation – you know how they do it on soap operas – husbands and wives find ways to make their spouses stay in a toxic marriage – but boy if, I’m sorry, when the truth comes out... I know... another article for another day
- Job/Career replaces the spouse – working double shifts is not just about building wealth – stop lying, you building space – it’s an escape – you’d rather clock in than deal with a nagging wife or a nuisance husband – facts
- Lovechild
- Separation
- What happens when a broken heart in marriage is not mended?
- Promotes hopelessness and mistrust
- Planning for present/future doesn’t involve spouse
- Children replace spouse
- Emotional/physical affairs
- Leads to diseases – heart disease, etc.
- Separation
- Divorce
- If you broke your spouse’s heart and you truly love your spouse – fix it. Our daughter recently expressed that chocolate, flowers and gifts are not always sufficient– need more than that – you can do those things for self – continue reading...
- How can you mend a broken heart in your marriage?**
- Pray/seek God for guidance

Sincerely apologize as often as need be

Communicate with your spouse – talk about everything

Spouses need lots of consistent reassurance like the following: I am here until death do us part, you are the only one for me, I love you, you are beautiful, how can I make things right? Follow through and mean it.

Spouses need lots of consistent quality time

Be honest – offer proof for accountability

Be patient, especially if you caused the heartbreak

**How long does it take to mend a broken heart in marriage?**

It takes time – it depends on the offense and the emotional damage it caused and the willingness of the spouse to fix it. Unfortunately, in many marriages – the heart has suffered too much damage and can only be mended by God, divorce and counseling.

In conclusion, how do you mend a broken heart in marriage? If you love each other and you both want your marriage – implement a plan together on how to mend your broken heart, which will require patience and lots of communication.

And to that spouse who refuses to mend your broken heart – pray and God will breathe healing upon your heart daily. Remember, there is nothing impossible for God to do. Don’t give up – give God a chance to fill your heart with peace and joy – it’s a process.

In the meanwhile, to all the broken hearted, get up, remove your funeral attire, and live life to the fullest each day.

Contact Dr. LaShunda Calvert for speaking engagements (motivational, ministering, marriage counseling, marriage workshops, marriage seminars, marriage conferences, etc.) on: Instagram: [lp/etsstay2gether4ever](https://www.instagram.com/lp/etsstay2gether4ever) (Dr. LaShunda Calvert) Facebook: [Dr. LaShunda Calvert](https://www.facebook.com/Dr.LaShundaCalvert) Email: [letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com](mailto:letsstaytogether4eva@gmail.com) or call 601 596-2528.

## Michael D. Johnson 5K/Walk/Run & 2024 athletic scholarship recipients

By Jackie Hampton  
Publisher

The Michael D. Johnson (MDJ) Foundation held its' 14th annual 5K Walk/Run on May 4, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at the downtown War Memorial Grounds, 120 S. State Street in Jackson. The foundation is posthumously named in memory of the late Michael D. Johnson who was a star student-athlete at Murrah High School, when at the age of 18, was killed by a drunk driver at the intersection of State St. and Capitol St. in downtown Jackson.

Johnson led the Murrah Mustangs to a state basketball championship in 2005. He was also a standout baseball shortstop and had signed scholarship papers to play baseball at Copiah-Lincoln College prior to being struck down in 2005.

In 2008, the Jackson City Council officially renamed the Lakeland Drive Baseball field (in front of Smith-Wills Stadium) 'Michael D. Johnson Memorial Field in his honor.'

Immediately after the 5K Walk/Run the foundation awarded two \$1,500 scholarships and three \$250 book stipends to students in memory of Johnson. The awards were presented at The Michael D. Johnson field.

The first-place winner, receiving a \$1500 scholarship, was Jaylon Fell of Forest Hill High School. The second-place winner, also receiving a \$1,500 scholarship, was Evan Stewart of Ridgeland High School. Deron Smith of Murrah High School, Madyson Dixon of Lanier High School and Derek Byrd of Callaway High School each received \$250 stipends.

To date, the foundation has awarded over \$20,000 in scholarship money for over 10+ years.

Sponsors, past and present, included Entergy, Jackson Public Schools, Rainbow Signs, Mars and Steele Trophy, LA Pharma, The Delta Health Alliance and Bash Brothers Media.



(L-R) Emmett Johnson, father of Michael Johnson & MDJ Foundation president; Tony Fell, Jaylon's father; Jaylon Fell, 1st place scholarship winner; Jaylon's brother Ethon, his mother Erica, his brother Aaron and Emmely Johnson, sister of the late Michael D. Johnson PHOTOS BY JAY JOHNSON



(L-R) Emmett Johnson, Derick Byrd, winner of book stipend, with his mother Kimberly Byrd and Emmely Johnson



(L-R) Emmett Johnson, Evan Stewart 2nd place scholarship winner, Eric Stewart, Evan's father and Emmely Johnson.

## Hinds County School District Weekly Update

ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE

### TENURE RECOGNITION FOR HINDS' COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hinds County School District recognized their employees for their dedicated number of years served in the Hinds County School District by presenting them with a service pen. These pens acknowledge their tenure for 5, 10, 15 and over 20 years of service to the district. Breakfast was provided as a gesture of gratitude for their commitment to Hinds County School District.





# HOPE celebrates Juneteenth

Our vision is to be a community development financial institution that: provides a substantial number of low-wealth people and communities with the financial tools and resources needed to achieve a better quality of life; that influences policies and resources that impact our constituents and our interests; and that is financially self-sufficient.

Learn more about what HOPE is doing to create opportunities for ALL people and places across the Deep South at [www.hopecu.org](http://www.hopecu.org).



**Visit one of our  
Greater Jackson locations.**

**Medical Mall Branch**

350 Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Suite 370B  
Jackson, MS 39213  
(601)362-8050  
Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 1:00PM  
& 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**University Boulevard Branch**

1748 University Boulevard  
Jackson, MS 39204  
(601)965-7100  
Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
& Friday 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

**Utica, MS Branch**

106 E Main Street  
Utica, MS 39175  
(601)991-3336  
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**Terry, MS Branch**

109 W Cunningham Avenue  
Terry, MS 39170  
(601)878-0773  
Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
& Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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