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From the Village of Brooklyn, New York Since 1996

Advocates Fight to Extend Millionaire's Tax

David Freedlander

*New Yorkers Descend on Albany for Capitol Camp-In
Protesting Budget Cuts and Tax Breaks for Millionaires*

(Albany, N.Y.) Hundreds upon hundreds of New Yorkers, unhappy with the budget agreement presented to the Legislature, protested at the Capitol Wednesday. The groups, representing a broad array of grassroots organizations and coalitions, have been protesting the Governor's budget proposals at the Capitol for weeks now. The protestors went to the Capitol Wednesday to oppose the final budget deal because it benefits the very wealthy of this state at the expense of the rest of us.

The groups urged the Governor and Lawmakers to listen to the overwhelming majority of the public and not provide tax cuts to the wealthiest New Yorkers in a time of fiscal crisis. The groups are holding demonstrations, press conferences and teach-ins throughout the day and will be camping-in all night at the Capitol to bear witness to the votes of this painful budget. The budget includes huge cuts for children, families, schools and communities while at the same time providing a \$4.6 billion tax cut for the wealthiest three percent of New Yorkers. The budget also fails to proactively renew and strengthen the rent laws, a sign that the Governor and Legislature are more concerned with pandering to real estate interests than protecting the millions of New Yorkers who depend on these laws to stay in their homes.

The organizations sponsoring the day's protests include: Alliance for Quality Education, Citizen Action of New York, New York City Coalition for Educational Justice, Long Island Progressive Coalition, Make the Road New York, New York Communities for Change, VOCAL-NY, Mirabel Sisters, Northwest Bronx Community and clergy Coalition, VOICE Buffalo, Right to the City New York, Real Rent Reform New York, Community Voices Heard, New Deal for New York, The Save Our SUNY Coalition, Strong Economy for All and the GrowingTogetherNY Coalition

"Governor Cuomo's budget deal puts special interests like Wall Street bankers and landlords before the people of this state," said **Robert Tolbert, a leader and Board member in VOCAL-NY.** "It's a reverse Robin Hood budget that takes from poor and middle class New Yorkers in order to give billions in tax cuts to the rich. Since becoming HIV-positive in 1995, I've shuffled through various shelters throughout NYC. But Governor Cuomo didn't have people like me in mind when he made this budget." "The overwhelming majority of New Yorkers disagree with Governor Cuomo's tax breaks for millionaires and the painful classroom cuts for children. In the coming weeks, we will document the real impact of the cuts and we will report back to the people of New York on the real and damaging consequences of Governor Cuomo's first budget. At the same time we will build a statewide campaign to restore fairness and sanity to New York's tax code. It is sadly ridiculous that, thanks to Governor Cuomo and Senator Skelos, a convenience store clerk will now be in the same tax bracket as Donald Trump," said **Billy Easton, Executive Director of Alliance for Quality Education.** "This budget hurts poor people the most. It cuts out the few programs that might have helped people who have to rely on public assistance, like me. The only way we're going to get decent

jobs is with training and jobs programs, but this budget zeroes out Transitional Jobs and Career Pathways, two critical programs that help New Yorkers move from welfare into work. This is not the time to be cutting jobs! It is unacceptable that this budget is going to make poor families pay while giving millionaires a tax break." **Tiara Velez, Community Voices Heard** "We are glad the Governor and the Legislature is taking such great joy in their early budget; we only hope that they will be there when the chickens come home to roost and these cuts take hold," stated **Jon Kest, Executive Director, New York Communities for Change.**

"The Governor has pushed his agenda through the legislature like a locomotive, knocking down any opposition in his way. His fiscal agenda is more in line with Fox News than with a progressive state like New York," stated **Ron Deutsch, executive director of New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness.**

"Cutting the top rates of the income tax will result in someone making \$25,000 per year paying the same top rate as someone making \$2 million or \$20 million. This budget is bad news for the working families of this state and will only further increase the income disparities between the haves and have nots which are already at record highs."

"I am worth \$3,500 dollars to be warehoused in a shelter, monthly. That same amount would pay two or more months rent for an apartment - PERMANENT HOUSING. EXPLAIN THE LOGIC. Governor Cuomo, if you used this money to house and train those who need training, this line of the budget would nearly disappear!!!" **Kendall B. Jackman, Former Postal Employee and member of Picture the Homeless.**

Colin Donnaruma, a doctoral student at SUNY Albany and an organizer with the Save Our SUNY Coalition, said: "If passed as is, this budget will be devastating to SUNY. It calls for \$100 million in cuts to a system that has already lost nearly 35% of its funding in four years. On my campus administrators have already deactivated five academic departments and cut 360 jobs. Any further cuts will directly harm students and reduce quality." "Poor people just don't count in Albany. Lawmakers should be ashamed of themselves for failing to deliver the promised 10% increase in the basic welfare grant. Poor children are the biggest victims of this decision. Lawmakers won't keep their promise to poor New Yorkers to give a family of three an extra \$1 a day but they have no problem giving another \$5 billion tax cut to the wealthy," noted **Mark Dunlea, executive director of the Hunger Action Network of NYS.**

"A strong majority of New Yorkers from every part of the state favored continuation of the Millionaires Tax as a method to restore the worst of the cuts in this budget but that's not what we got," said **Michael Kink, Executive Director of the Strong Economy For All Coalition.** "This budget hurts poor and middle-class New Yorkers and helps the very wealthy - it will keep New York as the nation's leader on income inequality, which is not a high ranking to be proud of."

Young Chefs Salute Women Achievers



Photo: Elliott "Skip" Roseboro

Cookin' Good: Last week, Charlotte Mial's culinary students prepared and served a feast for Von King Park's Fourth Annual March Women's History Month Phenomenal Women Brunch and Awards. See Page 7

C-Warrants Can Be Cleared on April 22, 23 at Antioch Baptist Church

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Coalition of Theatres of Color Salutes Gertrude Hadley Jeannette

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Fallout from Boyland Jr. Federal Complaint

By Mary Alice Miller

Challengers have already begun to emerge intent upon unseating Boyland, who is perceived as wounded and vulnerable.

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Young Black Men Hit Hardest in Recession

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LEGAL AID SOCIETY WINS TEMPORARY REPRIEVE FOR FORMERLY HOMELESS

The Legal Aid Society last week obtained a temporary restraining order (TRO) allowing some 15,000 formerly homeless families to stay in their apartments through April.

See News Briefs, Page 5

"WE MOVIN' TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN"

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(This article by David Friedlander was reprinted from www.observer.com)

Fallout from Boyland Jr. Federal Complaint

By Mary Alice Miller

Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr. has been quiet since the bombshell revelation of allegations that he had been working as a consultant for Brookdale Hospital while simultaneously using his legislative position to advocate for the hospital complex. Duly elected by the voters of the 55th Assembly District, Boyland's current term expires in 2012. Despite public calls for him to resign, there are no signs he will do so. The Assemblyman's sister, former NYC Councilwoman Tracy Boyland, has privately eluded that Boyland, Jr. will retain his seat. There has been no official statement from the Assemblyman to date.

Challengers have already begun to emerge intent upon unseating Boyland, who is perceived as wounded and vulnerable.

Royston Antoine (Uncle Roy) has declared his intent to run against Boyland in 2012. With a small group of supporters, Uncle Roy has conducted two post-complaint protests near Boyland's district office calling for him to resign.

Talk to Uncle Roy about Boyland and you can almost see the steam spouting from his ears. Uncle Roy's challenge to Boyland in 2010 was thwarted when his petitions were challenged. To this day, Uncle Roy contests that challenge. The problem? Uncle Roy claims the legal name of the person challenging Uncle Roy's signatures was not the same name on the court challenge. Where the mistake was made and whether the petition challenge should have been allowed to proceed was not decided to Uncle Roy's satisfaction prior to the 2010 primary date.

Former 55th AD Female District Leader Alicka Samuels (2002-2004) says she will not directly challenge Boyland, but "if the seat becomes open, [she] would run."

Samuels lost her seat in 2004 to Lisa Kenner "the same year Tracy ran for

Congress." She ran for City Council in 2005 against Frank Boyland and Darlene Mealy, who ultimately won the seat. Samuels has deep roots in the district, having grown up surrounded by politics. Her father was County Committeeman and was friends with Thomas Boyland. Samuels rules out a direct challenge to Boyland because she has "known the Boylands all my life. I worked with the Boylands."

So far, Tony Herbert is the only potential candidate to file a committee to run for State Assembly. Herbert has grassroots support in certain circles throughout the city, and is known to advocate for unsung crime victims, particularly

women and girls. Despite this support, Herbert's numerous campaigns for various elected offices have not been met with success. Herbert dropped his challenge to Assemblyman Boyland in 2010 when his petitions were challenged. There is much intrigue surrounding who offered support for Herbert's challenge. Rumor has it that Councilwoman Darlene Mealy secretly solicited several challengers to

Boyland, but wanted deny-ability with both the Boyland and Towns camps.

There are others who have been tentatively named as potential challengers. Reggie Bowman, Danny Goodine, Christopher Legree, Latrice Walker and Reverend Hatter all have their base of support. It is unclear if any will mount a challenge.

In the meantime, the federal case against Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr. winds its way through the courts. It is a long, tortuous process that will likely not be resolved prior to next year's election season.

Locally, there is a persistent rumor that the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office is conducting its own investigation into goings-on in the 55th AD and was

waiting to make its announcement out of deference to the feds. This is highly unusual, since the Brooklyn DA's Office is known for containing leaks. When contacted about a possible investigation of its own, a spokesperson for the DA said he "can't confirm."

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Black Press Business/Economic Feature

BUSINESS EXCHANGE By William Reed

WE MOVIN' TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN

Black Americans are losing political clout. The loss of voting power is not from White peoples' skullduggery, but due to our own movement choices. 2010 Census data shows that 20 of the 25 cities that have at least 250,000 people and a 20% Black population lost political clout. These declines happened in traditional Black strongholds such as: Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, Cleveland and Washington, DC. Black American political and population losses were fueled by middle-and-upper-class Blacks leaving cities for the suburbs and large percentages of Blacks leaving Northern cities for thriving centers in the South.

The Census Bureau says the nation's population is 308,745,538, up from 281.4 million. The 9.7% growth rate was the lowest since the Great Depression. Michigan was the only state to lose population; and Nevada, with a 35 percent increase, was the fastest-growing. Whether upwardly mobile Blacks know it or not, the new numbers are a boon for Republicans, with Texas and

Florida leading the way among GOP-leaning states that will gain House seats, mostly at the Rust Belt's expense.

There are over 37 million Black Americans. Down from 14.8% of the population in 2000, we are 12.3% in 2010. Fifty-two percent of Black Americans are female and 48% are male. African-Americans are the nation's second-largest minority group. Political clout has left the five counties

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Clear the C- Warrant**Project Safe Surrender
comes to Bed-Stuy**

By Stephen Witt

A new slant on a federal program will soon offer a two-day opportunity for Brooklyn residents to purge the record of any outstanding petty summonses and summons warrants.

Project Safe Surrender (PSS) is a pilot community program that will come to the Antioch Baptist Church, 828 Greene Avenue, from 9 am to 5 pm, April 22 and 23 for residents to adjudicate past violation summons in a safe and non-threatening environment.

"This is not a pardon but it is a solution that is favorable," said Robert Cornegy, the 56th Democratic Male Assembly District Leader. "Both clergy and law enforcement personnel will be on hand."

The charges to be adjudicated include unlawful possession of alcohol under the age of 21, consumption of alcohol in public, aggressive solicitation, unlawful possession of handcuffs, littering, riding a bicycle on the sidewalk, making unreasonable noise, offensive manner in the street, animal nuisance, failure to have a dog license, unleashed dog, spitting, trespass, disorderly conduct, loitering, unlawfully in the park after hours, and failure to comply with a posted sign in the park.

"All Class C summonses will be adjudicated," said Cornegy, noting that police from the 79th and 81st Precincts are known for writing these kinds of summonses.

Cornegy said there are about 500,000 of such summons boroughwide and about 67,000 in Bed-Stuy.

Cornegy said that should respondents have any misdemeanors or felonies on their records they will not be arrested and have access to the Legal Aid Society as

well as the Black Bar Association.

Cornegy said the PSS would cost about \$250,000 with the office of District Attorney Charles Hynes putting in \$200,000.

Then the Rev. Johnny Ray Youngblood rallied the community and came up with the other \$50,000, he said.

Hynes' spokesperson Jerry Schmetterer said holding the program is a way of helping out local residents.

"We are responding to community concerns that some people are afraid to apply for jobs or government services because of the weight of past summonses," said Schmetterer.

Cornegy said following the adjudications residents will also have the opportunity to go to Rev. Youngblood's Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, 760 DeKalb Avenue, where vital social service agencies that provide assistance in the areas of housing, health, employment, employment training and education will be on hand.

To get the word out to the community, Cornegy and volunteers have been putting posters up around the neighborhood. He also is having every tenant association write "Dear Neighbor" letters about the program, and plans to walk the neighborhood with the Organization 125 Men to get the word out.

This includes going in the churches, the barbershops, and the parks and wherever else residents might be, he said.

(If "Safe Surrender" will make a difference in your life, tell us at the Our Time Press Forum at www.ourtimepress.com)

**Young Black Men Hit the Hardest
in Recession**

Community Service Society Report

Only one in four young black men in New York City has a job, according to a report released by the Community Service Society of New York. The report, "Unemployment in New York City During the Recession and Early Recovery: Young Black Men Hit the Hardest," illustrates that some demographic groups experienced the brunt of the recession more than others in terms of unemployment and job loss. Data for the report comes from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and, according to the report, in New York City the groups most affected by the recession were blacks, Latinos, youth and those with less than a high school or equivalent diploma.

"The recession has created a landscape of the unemployed and underemployed with particular catastrophic consequences for young African-American men," said David R. Jones, president and CEO of the Community Service Society of New York. "We have long known the struggles of the more than 200,000 youth in New York City who are out of work and out of school. Now young black men between 16 and 24 years have become the banner of hopelessness, particularly here in New York City."

According to CSS Labor Market Analyst and the report's author Michelle Holder, the Bureau of Labor Statistics doesn't compile city-level demographic employment data such as contained in the report, which outlines a difficult picture for young people, people of color, and the less educated in New York City. Ms. Holder added, in addition to unemployed youth, an estimated 30 percent of the unemployed in the city who previously held a job were unemployed for more than a year and, for those 55-64 years old, it took almost nine months to find a job.

The top line report findings are:

The largest increase in the unemployment rate occurred among working-age black men – it jumped from 9 percent in 2006 to 17.9 percent in 2009, an increase of nearly 9 percentage points.

The highest unemployment rate in 2009 was among men 16-24 years of age—their overall unemployment rate hit 24.6 percent during the recession and early recovery period. Breaking this down by race, young black men had the highest unemployment rate in this group—33.5 percent.

While only one in four black men ages 16-24 have a job in the city, that figure drops to an astounding one in ten for young black men without a high school diploma.

Men 55-64 years old had the longest average spell of unemployment (approximately 39 weeks), but black New Yorkers had the highest percentage of those unemployed for more than a year; nearly 40 percent of black men and women who held a job before were unemployed for more than 12 months during the recession and early recovery. Overall, the average length of unemployment during the recession/early recovery period for all New Yorkers was just over six months.

CSS published a report in 2004 on black male unemployment that explored the jobless and unemployment figures for this demographic; that report showed that only about 50 percent of all working-age black men held jobs in New York City at that time. While that figure has not changed significantly, noted Ms. Holder, the jobholding rate for young black men in particular is about half that level, and even lower for those who lack a high school or equivalent diploma.

Ms. Holder added, "From a public policy perspective, the main findings of my report are troubling because young African-American men without a job and without an adequate education become at-risk for involvement in the criminal justice system.

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**Marijuana busts targets communities of color
Low-level pot busts of youths leads city
in cause of arrests**

By Stephen Witt

The city's police department's stop and frisk policy is sending thousands of young people of color through the penal system for minor marijuana arrests, according to a recently released study.

The Drug Policy Alliance report found that there were 50,383 low-level marijuana possession arrests last year and 86 percent of those arrested were young people of color.

"Had this been 86% of our young children of a lighter shade, there would be uproar. I believe there still should be," said Flatbush City Councilmember Jumaane Williams. "These arrests are simply about boosting arrest numbers and aren't the answer to our problems."

There are two components to all the marijuana arrests, explained Evan Goldstein, policy coordinator for the alliance.

The first is that in 1977, the state decriminalized concealed possession of up to 25 grams or seven-eighths of an ounce of marijuana. People caught with under this amount of weed are given a violation ticket,

similar to a traffic offense, and are subject to a \$100 fine.

The second component, however, is that those caught burning or exhibiting marijuana in public are committing a class B misdemeanor, which is an arrestable offense.

"In communities of color which has both police Impact Zones and stop and frisk policing, you have cops coming up to young men of color and saying to empty their pockets. "If even the slightest amount of marijuana is in their pockets, once they take it out, even if it's through police coercion, it becomes public view and then arrests are made."

Such an arrest was made of Brownsville resident Chino Hardin, who was stopped by plain clothes police in 2005 with three "nickel" bags of marijuana in her pocket – far less than three-quarters of an ounce.

"They (cops) pulled me into a building and said, 'Where are the drug?'" Hardin recalled. "I said if I had marijuana they would have to find it."

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Police Beat

Crime Roundup in Central Brooklyn

by Stephen Witt

77th Precinct covering Crown Heights and Prospect Heights

Burglar hits apartment

A sneaky burglar entered an apartment, on March 28 and got away with over \$6,000 in goods, police said.

The 47-year-old victim discovered the burglary when she arrived at her 848 Prospect Place apartment around noon.

Police reports indicated the burglar did not enter through the rear window fire escape and there was no damage to a metal door.

The thief got away with two computers and jewelry.

Bodega robbed

A burglar went through an abandoned apartment to rob a bodega on March 23, police said.

The heist at 224 Albany Avenue was discovered at about 11:10 pm. The thief escaped with over \$1,000 in cigarettes and \$3,000 in phone cards.

Man stabbed outside bar

Four goons attacked and stabbed a man leaving a bar in the wee hours of March 27, police said.

The 29-year-old victim was walking on the southeast corner of Troy and Atlantic Avenues when the four approached him from behind. One of the perpetrators then stabbed him five times – in the finger, two times in the thigh, in the chest and in the right arm.

The victim, who is expected to recover, said the incident might have stemmed from a woman he was talking to in the bar.

Car stolen

A 2001 Acura was stolen on March 24, police said.

The 24-year-old owner of the car had parked it in front of 1226 Lincoln Place at about 10:30 pm on March 23.

When he returned (at about 11 am the next day) it was missing.

79th Precinct covering Bedford-Stuyvesant

Stabbing leaves man critical

A 24-year-old man remains in critical condition after being stabbed in the chest on March 27, police said.

The victim was found with the wound at about 4 am inside of an elevator at 433 Lafayette Avenue, part of the Lafayette Gardens public housing development.

He was removed to Brooklyn Hospital and police said a motive for this stabbing is unknown at this time.

Woman mugged

Three young thugs robbed a woman on March 24, police said.

The 36-year-old victim was walking on Ellery Street between Delmonico Place and Tompkins Avenue at about 11 am when the goons approached her.

They then robbed her of her purse that included her BlackBerry phone, iPod and cash.

Laundry larceny

A woman had her wallet swiped on March 21 as she did her laundry, police said.

The woman was doing her wash inside the laundry at 866 DeKalb Avenue.

She apparently put her wallet down momentarily and left it unattended when an unknown person snatched it and walked out of the laundromat.

Auto break-in:

A brazen thief swiped an IBM laptop computer from a parked car on March 21, police said.

The 2008 Dodge Blazer was parked in front of 369 Kosciuszko Street. The thief broke the front passenger window and took the computer from the back seat.

The 79th Precinct encourages all residents and visitors to lock car doors and remove all personal property from an auto, or leave personal property in the trunk.

81st Precinct covering Stuyvesant Heights

Man shot

An argument between two unknown men resulted in a bystander getting shot on March 20, police said.

The victim, who police said is in his 30s, was exiting a bodega on Lafayette Avenue around 4:20 am when he noticed the two men arguing and shots were fired.

The victim was shot once in the leg and was taken to Kings County Hospital. He is expected to recover.

Man slashed

Following an argument, a man was slashed in the knee on March 19, police said.

The argument occurred on the corner of Kosciuszko and Lewis Avenues and soon escalated into a fight.

The victim was taken to Woodhull Hospital where he received two stitches.

88th Precinct covering Fort Greene/Clinton Hill

Teen robbed

Two thugs robbed a 16-year-old youth on March 23, police said.

The victim was approached at 1:15 pm on the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Hanson Place when one of the perpetrators said, "What do you have in your pockets?"

Then the second perpetrator said, "If you are not trying to get hurt give us what you have in your pockets."

The thugs then stole the victim's iPod and cell phone and fled.

BAM larceny

A pickpocket swiped a woman's wallet from her purse on March 25 as she watched a movie at BAM, police said.

The 42-year-old victim thought at first the pickpocket stole the wallet on her way home, but it was later figured out the crime occurred around 4:40 pm at BAM.

Knifepoint robbery

Several thugs robbed a man at knifepoint on March 26, police said.

The 27-year-old victim was walking home from the subway at DeKalb and Myrtle Avenues at 3:30 am when the perpetrators approached him.

They then robbed him of money, a watch and a ring before fleeing.

Target crimes

In separate incidents, thieves worked the Target store in the Atlantic Terminal Mall, police said.

At 5:45 pm on March 26, a 25-year-old woman caught a thief red-handed as he made off with her purse while she was shopping. As she tried to stop him, however, the thief handed the bag off to an accomplice and they both fled.

In the second incident, two women ages 29 and 23 were collared on March 27 at 6:50 pm after they exited the store with baby items and clothes.

Report: Black Youth Unemployment at Catastrophic Heights

Law and Disorder, WBAI

Economic recovery has hit young African-American men the hardest, according to a recent report by the Community Service Society. The highest unemployment rate in 2009 was among men 16-24 years of age—their overall unemployment rate hit 24.6 percent during the recession. Breaking it down by race, young black men had the highest unemployment rate in this group at 33.5 percent. While only one in four black men ages 16-24 have a job in the city, that figure drops to an astounding one in ten for young black men without a high school diploma.

"The recession has created a landscape of the unemployed and underemployed with particular catastrophic consequences for young African-American men," said David R. Jones, president and CEO of the Community Service Society of New York. "We have long known the struggles of the more than 200,000 youth in New York City who are out of work and out of school. Now young black men between 16 and 24 years have become the banner of hopelessness, particularly here in New York City."

David R. Jones:

- Those who've never made the connection to work or those who've ceased trying. We're talking hundreds of thousands of people involved here. African-Americans constitute about a third of New Yorkers.

- I think people have to recognize we're in something totally new.

- At least anecdotally, the Great Depression didn't have this kind of impact on the black community that this recession is having on them.

- New York in the Great Depression was a segregated city, were working exclusively in black communities or trades that were circumscribed.

- You get Pullman porters and restaurant work which were the reserves for African-Americans before the civil rights movement hit. The homeless of New York were white on the Bowery.

- While we're seeing a better recovery, the number of long-term unemployed is actually greater in New York than other municipalities.

- The trouble is you start to lose job skills, you lose hope, all sorts with friends and employment starts to disintegrate.

- We did a report on security guards and I went back to look at it. There are 63

thousand security guards in the city of New York and virtually none of them are unionized, their average wage was \$10 an hour, no health insurance, no paid sick leave.

- New York has an unusually high concentration of the working poor.

- We've been focusing all our efforts, in terms of how we deal with poverty on the issue of this nexus between work and getting to a position where they can support themselves and their families.

- This is not limited to the South Bronx or Crown Heights, this is a national phenomenon.

- We know when we did our report on disconnected youth, we had 200 thousand disconnected youth in New York, there were nearly 5 million disconnected youth scattered across the country before the recession.

- We're never going to go back to the unemployment levels that we found unacceptable in New York of 5% again. That we're going to back down from the 9.5 %.

- It was always the expectation, if you worked really hard, there was going to be a way, sort of a seat at the table here. New York has one of the highest recidivism rates, we're doing a couple of things, we're making it impossible to get work once you've been incarcerated.

- We are going to get a group of young people who feel betrayed.

- I think this scapegoating that has taken on a really powerful voice, is partially because people want to blame someone for why they can't get employment.

David Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Service Society of New York, a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that promotes economic advancement and full civic participation for low-income New Yorkers.

Mr. Jones, an outspoken advocate for low-income New Yorkers, writes biweekly newspaper columns in the New York Amsterdam News and El Diario/La Prensa and a weekly blog on the Huffington Post Web site that serves to educate the public and government officials on issues of importance to minority and poor communities.

Low-level pot busts of youths leads city in cause of arrests

Continued From Page 3

Hardin recalled after being searched the cops pulled out the marijuana and then arrested her for exhibiting it in public. She then spent two days in the prison system before the matter was eventually dropped to a violation.

Goldstein pointed out that 70 percent of these arrested on these minor pot charges are under the age of 29, and for many it is their first encounter with the prison system.

The study also found that these minor marijuana arrests costs the city \$75 million a year at a time when many safety net programs are being cut due to budget constraints.

NYPD Police commissioner Ray Kelly has repeatedly defended the stop and frisk policing, particularly in communities of color because it helps fight the high incidents of black-on-black crime.

Kelly told reporters that the reason police make the marijuana arrests is because cops are following the letter of the law and once pot is displayed it becomes a misdemeanor and arrestable.

The report notes that during the Bloomberg administration from 2002 through 2010 cops made nearly 350,000 arrests for marijuana possession – costing taxpayers \$350 million to \$700 million. It also found that although 70 percent of the arrests were of black and Latino between 16-29,

"More people have been arrested for marijuana possession under Mayor Bloomberg than under Mayors Koch, Dinkins, and Giuliani combined," said report co-author Dr. Harry Levine, a sociology professor at City University of New York and a national expert on marijuana arrests.

City Councilwoman Letitia James said it's clear that the NYPD's current policy of giving high arrest priority to marijuana enforcement is fiscally wasteful, and has a greater impact on low-income communities where the 'war-on-drugs' has been primarily focused.

"Although African-Americans only constitute 13% of national of drug users, they make up 38% of those arrested for drug offenses, and 59% of those convicted of drug offenses. It is fair to say that the high priority given to marijuana enforcement directly relates to racial profiling in New York," she said.

News Briefs

Formerly homeless get temporary reprieve

The Legal Aid Society last week obtained a temporary restraining order (TRO) allowing some 15,000 formerly homeless families to stay in their apartments through April.

Under the TPO, the New York Supreme Court ordered the city to make full Work Advantage program rental payments for April only.

Work Advantage is a two-year rental assistance program that provides a rental subsidy for working families and individuals coming out of shelter to support their transition into secure permanent housing.

The court action came after the city aborted the program because the state refused to put in their \$64 million to fund the \$140 million program with the federal government and city putting in the rest.

The state did allocate \$15 million for homeless services in their recently passed budget, but did not indicate exactly what program the money will go for – or even in New York City for that matter.

The city's Department of Homeless Services says they anticipate a 51 percent rise in homelessness from canceling the program.

The restraining order only protects current Advantage tenants still residing in their apartments with valid leases for the month of April. It does not apply to Advantage voucher holders who are not in apartment. The case is scheduled to go back to court on April 21. -SW

Top cop on the mend

Police sources said things in the 81st Precinct are running smooth while Dep. Inspector Juanita Holmes recovers from a vicious domestic violence incident.

Holmes, 46, is commanding officer of the precinct. She suffered several fractured ribs last week after her police officer husband beat her in Long Island for allegedly cheating.

Until her return to duty, the precinct is under the command of executive officer Captain Alex Perez.

Holmes received the command last year in an NYPD shakeup after allegations surfaced that the precinct, under its former commander, was fudging crime statistic numbers. -SW

Summer armory debate heats up

Bed-Stuy community members are pushing the city to not go through with plans to double the space for homeless at the Sumner Armory on Marcus Garvey Blvd.

The armory currently houses 200 homeless single adults. The city's Department of Homeless Services is looking to double that capacity to 400, or even 450.

State Sen. Velmanette Montgomery and Community Board 3 members toured the site last week with the idea the facility could serve other purposes as well. One idea floating around is to have the facility become mixed-use allowing for a track and gym. "We're trying to for community use like the armories in Park Slope and Harlem," said CB3 Chair Henry Butler. -SW

WHEN AFRICA CALLED, LIBYA ANSWERED

OMOWALE CLAY *for the December 12th Movement International Secretariat*

Today, under the banner of "Col. Qaddafi is killing his own people" the U.S. and European armed forces are bombing another developing country - Libya. Once again the Western "Fourth Estate", the well organized and financed corporate media is telling a one sided story redundantly. So, today, many people who had little independent knowledge about Libya are now experts, trained and licensed by the New York Times, Daily News, NBC, etc. Even many who had supported Libya are now vacillating under the influence of the media blitz and America's first Black President.

However, in evaluating what weight to give President Obama's position on Libya, one should remember it was just eight years ago that another brilliant Black man, representing the highest levels of the United States Government and having garnered international respect and credibility, set before the world community and definitively told them – what he had come to know was a lie - Saddam Hussein had "Weapons of Mass Destruction." It was February, 2003, and the man was then U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell reporting to the United Nations. This is what Secretary Powell later revealed about his U.N. testimony, which history has well established was the decisive factor in getting U.N. approval to invade Iraq.

In speaking to the The British Guardian newspaper regarding his U.N. report, Sec'y Powell called on the CIA and Pentagon to explain how he was given unreliable information which proved key to the US case for invading Iraq. The Guardian reported that Powell's landmark speech to the United Nations on February 5, 2003, cited intelligence about Iraq leader Saddam Hussein's bio-weapons program gained from a defector, codenamed Curveball. But the defector, real name Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-Janabi, admitted in an interview with The Guardian he lied to topple Saddam.

Speaking to the same newspaper, Powell said: "It has been known for several years that the source called Curveball was totally unreliable", and he went on to say, "The question should be put to the CIA and the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) as to why this wasn't known before the false

information was put into the (report) sent to Congress, the president's state of the union address and my 5 February presentation to the UN." This is a critical time for the Libyan people and I think it important to frame the country and its leadership in the words of South Africa's first Black President and Freedom Fighter, Nelson Mandela, who called Muammar Qaddafi "one of this century's greatest freedom fighters, and insisted that the eventual collapse of the apartheid system owed much to Qaddafi and Libyan support. Mandela said that in the darkest moments of their struggle, when their backs were to the wall, it was Muammar Qaddafi who stood with them.

One must remember that as Col. Qaddafi is demonized by the West, it was his vision and resources that brought together revolutionaries and freedom fighters from every corner of the globe to share ideas and develop their revolutionary knowledge. Many liberation groups throughout the world received education, training and support from Muammar Qaddafi and the Libyan revolution including ANC, AZAPO, PAC and BCM of Azania (South Africa), SWAPO of Namibia, MPLA of Angola, The Sandinistas of Nicaragua, The Polisario of the Sahara, the PLO, The Native American Movements throughout the Americas and the Nation of Islam led by Louis Farrakhan to name but a few.

The situation in Libya right now is complex but there are five important perspectives to understand:

1. There is no reliable or accurate count as to the number of people, inclusive of so-called opposition rebels from Benghazi., Government troops or civilians that have been killed or wounded in Libya. The press is reporting what ever is told to them by the "so-called rebels" without independent verification. While very little news from the government of Libya is allowed to come through. Two things are clear, however. First, there is a very fluid definition of who is a "civilian" in Libya today. The Western press is consistent in calling people civilians whether they are unarmed, armed or

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rebels assaulting government troops. Secondly, what is reported by the West is that hundreds of bombing runs and cruise missiles have been launched against Libyan government troops and cities. The Libyan government has from the very beginning indicated that the initial protest beginning on February 15th in Benghazi was the act of Islamic extremist with al Qaeda connections and drug gangs that been armed by foreign sources. The West has refused to review information provided by the Libyan government to confirm this information.

2. The Western powers have for decades supported financially and militarily the most oppressed regimes in the Middle East for purposes of maintaining control and domination of the world's largest oil reserves.

Towards that end the United States and Britain and France in particular have sought through covert and overt actions to support the repressions of millions of people in these Arab states, while insuring that any revolutionary movements are isolated and destroyed. Israel has been armed to the teeth, inclusive of nuclear weapons as a guarantee of European control.

In addition, the United States has sought to base its AFRICOM military operations on African soil for years now. However, the African Union has taken a position, given its member states colonial past, to oppose foreign troops on African soil. The Libyan situation has created a cover for the

United States for the first time to launch military operations against Africa under AFRICOM's new Commander, General Carter Ham, who took over command of AFRICOM just days before military operations were launched against Libya.

3. The West has been waiting for an opportunity to bring about regime change in Libya. First, based on the necessity to control one of the world's largest and highest quality oil reserves just a stones throw from Italy (Libya was its former colony) and energy hungry Europe. This plan falls within the on going strategic discussions on absorbing Northern African as an integral political and economic part

of the European Union and NATO. Secondly, the West has been totally opposed the creation of a United States of Africa, which Col. Qaddafi has been pushing and supporting financially.

The creation of an United States of Africa (U.S. of A.), with its continental economy, currency, army and development plans, would make Africa a global force with which to be reckoned. The U.S. of A. would prevent African states from dealing with global economy forces on a bi-lateral basis which has historically created unfair and exploitative trade relations.

4. The flag being flown by the so-called rebels in Benghazi is that of former king Idris, of Libya's former monarchy - overthrown by Col. Qaddafi in 1969. Benghazi was King Idris's most important political base and the center of many of the most reactionary forms of Islam fostering Islamic movements such as the Wahhabis, Salafists, Muslim Brotherhood, Al Qaeda and the Libyan Islamic Brotherhood. Benghazi, has been a fertile ground for the opposition to Col. Qaddafi's progressive Revolutionary Islamic political beliefs that saw a) women playing an equal role in society b) the people must control and own the wealth of the country 3) Black people were the true founders of Northern Africa 4) Anti-Capitalist perspective on the economy 5) Pan-Africanism.

5. The United States led coalition under the cover of protecting civilians is bent on regime change in Libya – period. The day to day operations of the Western forces in Libya are a clear demonstration that the United Nations mandate is being violated.

This is why it is important to see through the dis-information campaign be waged by the media and the military campaign being waged by the Western armed forces against the people of Libya, to usher end the most backward forces with whom they can do business. - OC

The December 12th Movement International Secretariat and the Coalition to Defend Libya and Africa, is calling for a "Rally: U.S. Hands Off Libya and In Defence Africa," Friday, April 1, 2011, 4pm-6pm at the United States Mission to the United Nations, 799 1st Ave. at 45th St. in NYC. For information and to endorse, please call (718) 398-1766.

Playwright August Wilson's Works Take Center Stage at National Black Writers Conference Symposium, Medgar Evers College

Brooklyn, NY, March 28 - Legendary playwright, author and poet August Wilson's work took center stage at the National Black Writers Biannual Symposium on Saturday, March 26th, 2011. Hosted by the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College, this year's conference - themed "Honoring the Work and Life of August Wilson" - explored the canon of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author through panel discussions, dance, and film. Wilson was a major contributor to the American literary tradition whose oeuvre includes seminal plays like *Jiminy*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Fences*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and *Radio Golf*.

"August Wilson's rich plays gave life and voice to the struggles of Black people in this country; our celebration of his work and life meets the center's mission to expand the literary canon and the general public's knowledge of the literature produced by Black writers," stated Dr. Brenda M. Greene, Executive Director of the Center for Black Literature.

Led by African drummers, a procession of panelists, authors and contributors made its way into Founders Auditorium - officially heralding the start of the conference. Kyra Gaunt, Professor of Anthropology at Baruch College, served as Mistress of Ceremonies welcoming attendees. The program commenced with a dedication and tribute by Dr. Brenda Greene.

Dale Byam, a film director and Professor of Africana Studies at Brooklyn College; John Foster, Education Director at the Brooklyn Academy of Music; Ed Bullins, the prolific playwright, novelist, poet and dramatist of the 1960s; and Thomas Bradshaw, Guggenheim award-winning playwright and assistant professor at Medgar Evers College all reflected on when and how they first experienced Wilson and explored his work's affect on their lives. Byam reminded us that August Wilson drew his inspiration from voices that visited him and

guided him in the portrayal of characters and themes in his work. And Bullins analyzed his work by creating a dramatic reading that drew upon his personal knowledge of the words and thoughts of Wilson.

Tanya Wright, actress, director and author of the new novel *Butterfly Rising*; delivered a stirring dramatic dance performance set to music. Byam's film, *August in April*, presented informative selections from each of the late playwright's 10-stage plays interspersed with candid interviews by those who directed and acted in the productions. Four of the symposium panelists: Ed Bullins; playwright, director and scholar, Paul Carter Harrison; scholar, poet and maternal niece of Wilson, Kimberly Ellis; and director, producer and founder of the New Federal Theatre Woodie King, Jr. were all featured in the film.

The conversation, entitled "African Myths and Archetypes in the Plays of Wilson" - between Paul Carter Harrison and Don Gagnon, Professor of English at Western Connecticut State University, gave many in the audience food for thought. Harrison's and Gagnon's discussion focused on ways that Wilson's plays project an ethnic sensibility that is rooted in African spirituality, ritual and culture. One member of the audience stated that he was a sci-fi fan and as a result of hearing this discussion, he was going to encourage his sci-fi group to read and analyze the works of August Wilson from an African-centered perspective. Dr. Esmeralda Simmons, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Law and Social Justice; director, producer and founder of the New Federal Theatre Woodie King, Jr.; and poet and maternal niece of Wilson, Kimberly Ellis, rounded out the panel portion of the day's discussions with personal anecdotes from their relationships with Wilson.



22nd Annual Tribute To Our Ancestors Of The Middle Passage

When: June 11, 2011 from noon to 6pm
Where: Ancestors' Circle
16th St. & Coney Island Boardwalk

Ruby Dee Joins Coalition of Theatres of Color Salute to Gertrude Hadley Jeannette

Ruby Dee came to Harlem to join the Coalition of Theatres of Color (CTC) in honoring theatre legend Gertrude Hadley Jeannette, 96, founder and CEO emeritus of the H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players. The March 28 Women's History Month tribute at the Dwyer Cultural Center included a proclamation to Jeannette from the office of Congressman Charles Rangel.

A pioneer in contemporary Black theater, Jeannette's 70-year career spans theater, television, and movies. Yet, she also made New York City motor vehicle history. In 1935, she was New York City's first woman to get motorcycle license and in 1942, due to the shortage of male taxicab drivers, she was the city's first woman cab driver.

Ruby Dee saluted her longtime friend. They met at the American Negro Theater during the 1940's, while working with actors like Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte and Ossie Davis. "Gertrude is very special to our family," said the Oscar nominated actress. "Gertrude produced Ossie's first play *Alice in Wonder* in the 1950's. In the 1970's Ossie featured Gertrude in his film *Cotton Comes to Harlem*."

"The Coalition of Theatres of Color is about preserving the history and

commitment of Black theatre in New York City and New York State. No one exemplifies that better for Women's History Month than Gertrude Jeannette," said award-winning theater producer Woodie King, chairman of CTC and the founder and producing director, New Federal Theatre. "She covers over 70 years of theater in New York as an actor, playwright, director and producer. She's done it all."

In the late 1960's both Jeannette and King were actors in the Broadway production of the James Earl Jones classic *The Great White Hope*. Jeannette was very familiar with the story. Her

husband Joe Jeannette, a prizefighter and president of the Harlem Dusters a motorcycle club, worked as a bodyguard for boxer Jack Johnson, the inspiration for the play.

The impact of this multi-talented actress, playwright and director dates back to the 1940's, when she was a member of the acclaimed American Negro Theater. Performing on Broadway, Jeannette originated roles in shows like *Lost in the Stars*, *Nobody Loves an Albatross*, *Amen Corner*, *The Great White Hope*, and Tennessee Williams' *Vieux Carre*. In 1950, when Pearl Bailey dropped out of the live CBS network broadcast of James Weldon Johnson's

God's Trombone, Jeannette stepped into the starring role. Her film credits include: *Nothing but a Man*, *Shaft*, *The Legend of Nigger Charlie*, and *Black Girl*. She's worked with legends in American theater from being mentored by Frederick O'Neal to being taught directing by Lee Strasberg to even helping playwright Tennessee Williams craft her role in *Vieux Carre*.

In 1979, Jeannette founded the H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players to give artists a chance to develop their talents and skills in the theatre and to enrich the cultural

Continued on Page 7



Coalition of Theatres of Color - The Hierarchy: Sade Lythcott, CEO, National Black Theatre and daughter of Barbara Ann Teer, NBT founder; Gertrude Hadley Jeannette, founder, HADLEY Players; Voza Rivers, Founder, New Heritage Theatre, and Chair, Harlem Arts Alliance; Carl Clay, Founder and Producer, Black Spectrum Theatre; Jacqueline Jeffries, Associate Producer of the National Black Theatre; Oscar nominated actress, author and activist Ruby Dee; Woodie King, founder and director of the New Federal Theatre. Photo: Gerry Goodstein



Charlotte Mial

Photo: Elliott "Ski" Roseboro

H. Von King 2011 phenomenal women's event is a success; New effort underway to name park's kitchen after Charlotte Mial, culinary teacher and women's brunch-awards producer

Herbert Von King Park Cultural Arts Center's Culinary Program, founded and sustained by volunteer Charlotte Mial, honored phenomenal women of New York for the fourth consecutive year, during March Women's History awards ceremony and brunch, last week (25). Ms. Mial and her students produced the event and selected the honorees, this year, for their outstanding work in nontraditional employment for women. Among the honorees were Central Brooklyn Community Activist Alma Carroll and Lisa Orloff, founder of World Cares, the Hattie Carthan awardees; Neversee Davis, who was bestowed the coveted community leadership award; and, in alphabetical order: electrician Joi Beard; gardener Marechal Brown, laborer Ebony Cochran,

private trainer Jodi Cornish; plumber Tamara Grant, safety officer Kathryn Denise Green, driver Theresa R. Green, NYC assistant commissioner Annika Holder, Rashida Johnson, iron worker Tanya Ridley, psychologist Renee Roach, operating engineer Marie Sullivan. The honorees were awarded with handcrafted pottery gifts from the Cultural Arts Center's former ceramics program. Community leaders who hosted at various times included Henry Butler, Community Board 3 chair; Lemuel Mial, manager of Von King Park Cultural Arts Center, who also performed; the poet Lady Dee, Bernice Green of Legacy Ventures and David Greaves of Our Time Press. Event highlights were the culinary work of the program's junior chefs in the kitchen and their stellar service in the dining room; presentations by students



Photo: Elliott "Ski" Roseboro

Culinary students prepared brunch for 2011 Phenomenal Women

in the Dramatic Arts program, an inspiring keynote by Loretta Tapia of Non-Traditional Employment for Women. Remarks by Tyrone Woods speaking on behalf of Councilman Al Vann rounded out the warm intimate afternoon.

As community leaders move forward in their efforts to name the Von King Park Ampitheatre after the beloved late educator

and Von King Park (then Tompkins Park) supporter Almira Coursey, some audience members attending this year's event say they will actively pursue the idea of naming Von King Park's kitchen after Charlotte Mial, who has volunteered there for 15 years. Way to go, Charlotte, and congratulations to this year's phenomenal women.

Coalition of Theatres of Color

Continued From Page 6

life in Harlem. The Audelco Award winning H.A.D.L.E.Y. Players was named in tribute to her impact on theater. It means *Harlem, Artists, Development, League, Especially, for You. This Audelco Award winning theater showcases three major productions every year. All productions are under the Equity Showcase Code. Her many honors include induction into the Arkansas Black Hall and receiving the prestigious Paul Robeson Award from the Actor's Equity Association*

"Every play we do, we try to entertain audiences," said Jeannette. "The Harlem community supports us. Our last play *Nobody Knew Where They Was* just closed. We had to turn people away almost every night. Except one."

The Coalition of Theatres of Color (CTC) is a non-profit community of renowned multi-cultural theatre arts organizations in New York State. These institutions have joined forces to ensure sustainability and longevity of theatre of color in multicultural communities. Ms. Dee and her late husband Ossie Davis were instrumental in founding the Coalition of Theatres of Color. The organization is supported through grants from the New York City Council Committee, chaired by James Van Bramer and also from The New York Community Trust. New York City theatres are Billie Holiday Theatre, Black Spectrum Theatre, H.A.D.L.E.Y Players, National Black Theatre, New Federal Theatre, New Heritage Theatre Group and Paul Robeson Performing Arts Company.



Photo: Jerry Goodstein

First Ladies of Theatre: Sade Lythcott, CEO, National Black Theatre, youngest member of Coalition of Theatres of Color, presents proclamation from Cong. Charles Rangel to Gertrude Hadley Jeannette, the organization's oldest member.



THE PARENT'S NOTEBOOK

Exploring the true Three R's (Responsibility, Relationships and Resources) necessary to unleash the innate genius of our children.

By Aminisha Black

Linking Values to Village

If we are to *save and nurture* our young we must reconnect with or remain true to African values where relationships between man was highest-held producing the village that would raise the child. Job Mashariki has retired from Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ) where he served as a Founder, Exec.

Director/CEO for over thirty years. Recalling that he was at the EAST/UHURU SASA, I wanted to get a sense of the seeds he spread along the way to BVSJ. Below are some edited responses of former UHURU SASA students who were asked to share memories of Baba Job.

"My father did the following: took us shopping for school supplies, drove us to school daily, took us fishing. He provided activities in the house and our friends would come over and enjoy our home. He valued education and as a result, all 9 of his children graduated from college. He taught us the meaning of hard work and giving to others - employing us within the family business and when BVSJ gave toys to kids we were required to help hand out the toys." *Asha Mashariki* -Teacher

"The thing I love most about Baba Job is his BRUTE honesty! He says what he means & he means what he says. He confirms for me that speaking my mind & remaining true to the ESSENCE of who I am is the 'golden' way to be." *Monifa Jumatatu Torrence* - Executive Legal Assistant

"I learned my work ethic from my father. At a young age, I not only watched him and my mother work diligently in our family bookstore, I was dragged out of bed early Saturday mornings to help them. He worked countless hours to provide multiple resources to those less privileged, guiding others in doing the same.

However, as I have watched him over the past year settle into life as a retiree, I've learned that, most importantly, hard work reaps pride and self-fulfillment." *Aziza E. Mashariki* - Certified Public Accountant

"We especially appreciate his raw honesty, genius intelligence and no-holds barred convictions in the victory and development of people of African descent.

We love his candor, serious power stance and his strong activism for maintaining the integrity of the African family." *Malika Iman* - Computer Instructor, Graphic Designer, Performing Arts Manager

"My father Job has taught me *Kujichagulia* - self-determination. BVSJ and Awareness Communications are part of his self-determination. To hear a call, see

the vision, when there is nothing and then to build it is what he has shown me and taught me by example. WE decide as a community what WE need and don't wait

for others to come alongside us. WE build for ourselves in order to do for ourselves, in order to live for ourselves and our community." *Kafi Mashariki-Carrasco* - Former Exec. Director/Principal Harambee Preparatory School

"Baba Job was pretty scary to me growing up. I found him tough on the outside and soft in the middle. I never bothered to explore the middle, but I witnessed

it in his interactions with his children at times and definitely when the Kamani (her nephew) generation came along. Baba Job and Kamani had such a rapport!"

Hazina Campbell-Dorius - Education Specialist "What stands out to me most about Baba Job is that he leads by example. My family has been directly impacted by Baba Job because my father, Baba Robbo, retired from BVSJ. Even I worked at the Medgar Evers bookstore. His entrepreneurial spirit and spirit of family and community has benefitted countless people." *Attika Jumatatu Torrence* - Independent Filmmaker

"Thinking of Baba Job conjures up images of the many sleep overs I had as a child with his daughters. We would try to tone the noise down as much as

possible, in awe of a god that has entered the space. I would say he, along with my father and the other men I was gratefully raised around at UHURU SASA, has

taught me IN ACTION what a man is. A Godlike figure serving his family, community and the world." *Zuri Shabaka* - Chemistry

"My earliest memory of Baba Job was as when he would take the boys to the mountains and we would fill containers with spring water to bring back to

Brooklyn. Later, when Black Vets first opened, we would sit in on meetings with the older brothers and think of strategies to get the word out about programs

and hand out flyers." *Ali Mitchell* - Exec. Mgr. Sisters Community Hardware

"Growing up in our community was a hands-on experience and vision into what true social justice is. I'm very grateful that Job Mashariki modeled for myself and many others a commitment to a population that as underserved. It is this example that influenced my decision to not only teach but I'm drawn to teach those that are 'unteachable'. Everyone needs someone, you have to find a way, community is where it's

at." *Makini Campbell* - Teacher "The transformation of a nation begins in the homes and hearts of its people" - The Parent's Notebook

Aminisha's articles can be read in *Our Time Press* - "The Parent's Notebook" weekly - out on Thursdays and on the Web at www.ourtimepress.com and nana411.wordpress.com

Conference Highlights

to be Screened at True South Bookstore

"Translating, Recovering and Restoring Ancestral Memories in the Struggle for the African Mind" is the Theme

The True South Bookstore will screen selected highlighted presentations from the International Association for the Study of Classical African Civilization's Conference held at the historic Howard University in Washington, D.C. from March 17-20, 2011. The conference was convened to stress the theme: "Translating, Recovering and Restoring Ancestral Memories in the Struggle for the African Mind".

During the month of April, The True South Bookstore will screen highlights from the conference featuring works from Dr. Leonard and Dr. Rosalind Jeffries, the Honorable Dudley Thompson, Anthony Browder, Atlantis Browder, Dr. Frances Cress-Welsing, Dr. Richard King, Legrand Clegg, Esq.; Dr. Anderson Thompson and students

from the Howard / Chicago State University's Egypt study abroad experience.

All meetings will take place at The True South Bookstore located at 492 Nostrand Avenue (bet. Halsey & Hancock Streets), Brooklyn, N.Y. on Sundays @ 3:45pm and Mondays @ 6:00pm. Meetings are free and open to the public. For information, please call Brother Brown at (347) 425-7330. This is a great opportunity for our community to be informed and inspired on their history and culture by some of the best elder and "new jack" scholars on the planet.

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At Wit's End By Stephen Witt

The political animal that is Hakeem Jeffries



Give me a reformer politician today and I'll show you the entrenched and powerful politician of tomorrow.

At least that's my hunch when it comes to Assemblyman Hakeem

Jeffries.

In many ways, Jeffries came in on the back of the late City Councilman James Davis, who took on the old Clarence Norman machine and beat it before being assassinated in City Hall in 2003.

Jeffries, like Davis, fought that

machine, losing the first few go-rounds to former Assemblyman Roger Green. In one race, Green actually had the block Jeffries lived on cut out of the district so he couldn't run against him.

But in losing, Jeffries learned the game and now that he has tasted victory he runs the tightest ship since Captain Ahab was hunting down whales.

In the meantime, he has gotten some of his pals good-paying jobs when the Democrats took over the Senate last year, and political pundits whisper how he's gotten real cozy with Andrew Cuomo.

Jeffries also knows how to play to the crowd on easy hot-button issues like opposing Cathie Black as Schools

Chancellor, but can disappear like a rabbit in a hole when it comes to sticking his neck out.

Perhaps this explains why he has avoided speaking to this paper for several weeks on Cuomo's cuts of the Work Advantage Program, which threatens to throw 15,000 at-risk and formerly homeless households on the street.

Jeffries' mouthpiece, Lupe Todd, who is to political operatives what Einstein was to physics, has repeatedly told me Jeffries can't speak to this paper because he is so busy on the floor in Albany hammering out the budget.

But that didn't stop Jeffries from penning a lofty piece for an uncritical online media outlet recently where he quoted a German statesman that "laws are like sausages, it is better to not see them being made."

Jeffries also covered Cuomo's back in blaming the Senate Republicans for letting the "millionaire's tax" expire instead of

pinning the tail on the governor, who long has said he wants the tax to expire.

There's no denying that budget cuts had to be made, but Cuomo's spending plan did not spread the pain out equally. It most hurts the poor and the "at-risk". It cuts them off at the knees with cuts in education, Medicaid and housing while the rich are getting more tax breaks than ever.

But Jeffries the reformer is learning the quickest way to higher positions is making friends with people like him – those on the way up.

And I see quite a future for Jeffries. Congressman Ed Towns has been in office over twenty years and Jeffries might just be the one to succeed him one day.

It isn't even that much of a stretch to see him one day vying for U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer's seat.

The sky is the limit for reformers that learn how to play the game.

Sports A Slice of Brooklyn

By Eddie Castro

I've been told by many *Our Time Press* readers, that I don't cover the team that is on their way to Brooklyn as much as I should so, if you ask, you shall receive.



A couple of weeks back, I've had the pleasure of meeting Nets star Brook Lopez as he read the

classical story, *Jack and the Beanstalk* to kids in downtown Brooklyn. Kids and fans gathered around the 7-foot center from Fresno, California to get a glimpse of him. After reading the story, Brook took pictures with kids individually, followed by a group picture with all kids in attendance. I even managed to get in a picture with him. To wrap up an exciting day, Brook elaborated on how he felt visiting the wonderful

Borough of Brooklyn, and how good he felt reading and interacting with the kids. The kids may not remember the days of Patrick Ewing, Charles Oakley and John Starks, but upon their move to Brooklyn, they can get their first look at a potential basketball hero they can all look up to. It was a great day for the kids as well as a great experience for myself getting to know the Nets star a little bit better.

Brook was asked a question by one of the children regarding the team's success. What could've been a tough question to swallow, Lopez was optimistic towards the future of the New Jersey Nets answering, "Unfortunately, we're not one of the good teams now, but it is our goal to one day be better and win a championship." The Nets are scheduled to move to Brooklyn (Atlantic avenue) for the 2011-2012 season. With their big man and soon-to-be 23-year-old Brook

Lopez already in place, the New Jersey Nets must address some issues they lack in certain spots to be a contending team in what is a very competitive Eastern Conference. From a personal view, Lopez is much bigger in person, and if he can "bulk up" throughout the course of the years if healthy, we may be talking about one of the most dominant centers in the league. One huge beneficiary the Nets must address is they must be able to keep point guard Deron Williams. After a bitter ending in Utah, the Nets made a trade for Williams in hopes of being the team's franchise point guard. Williams will be a free agent after next year. He has been considered the best point guard in the game today alongside Chris Paul. Nets' front office hope they can convince him to a long-term contract on the way to Brooklyn.

Even though the Nets are one of the NBA's worst teams, there is a positive note to add since the arrival of Avery Johnson as head coach. Last year, the Nets had a record of 12-70. They have won 23 games so far this year which are signs of improvement from last year. If they can convince Deron Williams to stay as Net, agree on an extension with both Williams and Lopez, the team can build around and possibly add key free

agents as well as address what they lack in upcoming NBA drafts. I for one have been getting impatient on the building of the arena, but I feel this is going to excite Brooklynites like they've never been before. A winning attitude should add the cherry on top.

Sports Notes: (High School Basketball) An "A" for effort. Boys and Girls High School's title run ended Saturday as they were shorthanded, only playing six players as they fell to the Mt. Vernon Knights 70-63, ending their run to the New York State title. The season is far from over. Boys and Girls High is one of eight teams chosen to play in a tournament hosted by ESPN. The team will play with six players due to various suspensions. (Baseball) *At last!!!!* Baseball is finally here. The New York Yankees begin their run of a 28th world title today @ 1:00 against the Detroit Tigers from Yankee Stadium. (NBA Basketball) The honeymoon is over, and the Knicks have been sinking. With a big win against the Magic, can the Knicks improve their playoff seeding? After a date with the cross-river rival Nets last night the Knicks host the league's worst team in the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Cavaliers have beaten the Knicks three times this year. Game is Sunday, April 3 @ 6:00PM.

Bipartisan Group Introduces Bill to Block Swipe Fee Limits

By Ben Weyl, CQ Staff

A bipartisan group of senators unveiled legislation Tuesday to delay new limits on debit card fees charged by banks, though a key senator vowed to block their efforts.

The bill (S 575) would suspend for two years implementation of a provision in the 2010 financial regulatory overhaul (PL 111-203) limiting the fees that banks can charge retailers for processing debit card payments. It also would require a study of the "interchange" fee issue.

Montana Democrat Jon Tester and Tennessee Republican Bob Corker are the bill's lead sponsors; they were joined by Democrats Thomas R. Carper and Chris Coons of Delaware and Ben Nelson of Nebraska, as well as Republicans Jon Kyl of Arizona, Pat Roberts of Kansas, Mike Lee of Utah and Patrick J. Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Retailers have long complained that the fees are excessively high, but efforts to limit them were unsuccessful until last year. By a 64-33 vote, senators adopted an amendment, sponsored by Senate Majority Whip Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., to the financial overhaul instructing the Federal Reserve to issue rules for "reasonable and proportional" fees for debit card transactions.

Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate,

vowed to block any attempt at weakening the law.

"The \$13 trillion banking industry doesn't need another handout, especially one paid for by small business and American consumers," Durbin said Tuesday.

On a conference call with reporters, Tester acknowledged that assembling the 60 necessary votes to overcome any filibuster would prove difficult, though he added that his office had heard from senators who voted for the Durbin amendment but now may be considering supporting his bill.

"I think we have a real chance to get 60," he said.

Banks Cry Foul Over Fed Rules

In December, the Fed proposed capping interchange fees at 12 cents per swipe, a reduction of more than 70 percent. While that is still higher than retailers would like, the financial industry, which would lose billions of dollars in revenue under the new rules, blasted the proposal and launched a lobbying blitz on and off Capitol Hill to block the limits.

"The legislation introduced by these senators today rightly recognizes that the Fed's rule will cause significant and immediate harm to community banks, consumers and the broader economy," said Frank Keating, president and

CEO of the American Bankers' Association. "The clear implication is that more time to study the impact of this provision is definitely warranted."

The new Fed rules are expected to be finalized on April 21, and they would go into effect on July 21.

Banks have warned that the rule might force them to eliminate free checking, raise the costs of using debit cards or limit the amount consumers could purchase to \$50 or \$100 at a time.

Lawmakers in both parties also have expressed concern that despite an exemption granted to financial institutions with less than \$10 billion in assets, smaller community banks would be harmed by the fee limit.

"The stakes are simply too high to move forward with this rule without a closer look at the impact on consumers, credit unions, community banks, and the small businesses and

jobs they sustain," said Tester. "That is why we need to make sure we stop and study these proposed rules before implementing anything."

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairwoman Sheila C. Bair have also expressed skepticism that the exemption for smaller institutions would work.

Retailers say that banks are simply trying to hold on to their outsized profits and have countered with their own lobbying push against the Tester-Corker measure from large companies like Wal-Mart and Target as well as dozens of small business owners.

"The bipartisan swipe fee reforms signed into law last year will bring fairness and competition to the broken debit market and will save consumers billions by ending decades of price-fixing by Visa and MasterCard," said Katherine Lugar, executive vice president for public affairs at the Retail Industry Leaders Association.

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**LEGALNOTICES
BUSINESS FORMATIONS**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Otto & Fito LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/07/10. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to Otto Perez, 96 Knickerbocker Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11237. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: TGB ONE ASSOCIATES LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/15/10. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to Otto Perez, 96 Knickerbocker Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11237. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

PARAMONT PROPERTIES LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), filed with the Sec of State of NY on 2/4/11. NY Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her to The LLC, 570 92nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11209. General Purposes.

Notice of Formation of Coney Island Commons Manager, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 02/18/2011. Office location: Kings County. Principal office address: c/o ELH Mgmt LLC, 98 Rockwell Place, Brooklyn NY 11217 SSNY

designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to : The LLC, c/o ELH Mgmt LLC, 98 Rockwell Place, Brooklyn NY 11217. Term: until dissolved. Purpose: To engage in any act or activity lawful.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: MARATHON GAS LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/24/10. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 868 39th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11232. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

201 CLIFTON PLACE LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), filed with the Sec of State of NY on 12/2/10. NY Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her to Leonard Mazzarisi, Esq., 1203 Bay Ridge Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11228. General Purposes.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE UNDER NOVASTAR MORTGAGE FUNDING TRUST, SERIES 2007-1, Pltf. vs. CHRISTOPHER BARBER, et al Defts. Index #38286/07. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated June 22, 2010, I will sell at public auction at

the Rosary society. She was also a member and the treasurer of the DPR Block Association for many years. She was an active community worker, and volunteered her services whenever she could.

Dorothy received several awards. One from the DPR Block Association in honor of her years of dedicated service to the community, one from the UBC Golden Age Committee and one from The Unity Democratic Club. She along with her sister Rose performed many services for the Union Baptist Church on Decatur Street.

Anyone who knew Dorothy knew about and requested her "Famous home made rolls". It was nothing for her to prepare four to five pans at a time, and don't forget those famous cinnamon rolls. The whole house smelled like Dots Bakery. Dorothy loved to dance. Her favorite dance was the Charleston. She loved to tell her favorite stories about the past and growing up with her siblings. She was a notorious checker player and would take you on and beat you any day of the week.

She is survived by her son, Calvin; daughter, Valerie; daughter in law, Linda; son in law, Shelby; grand children, Juan; Yvette, great grandchildren Brandon and Erin, her devoted sister, Cynthia; her brother, Thomas; her sister in law, Mittie, her brother in law, Paul, her sister in law, Ruth; and a host of relatives, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends. Her family and God were her entire life!!

the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 274, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on May 5, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., prem. k/a 919 Belmont Ave., Brooklyn, NY. Said property located on the northerly side of Belmont Ave., 33 ft. 7 inches easterly from the corner formed by the intersection of the easterly side of Fountain Ave. with the northerly side of Belmont Ave., being a plot 83 ft. x 16 ft. 5 inches. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$400,687.58 plus cost and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. SEAN R. SMITH, Referee. COHN & ROTH, Attys. for Pltf., 100 East Old County Rd., Mineola, NY. #79717

SURROGATE'S COURT - KINGS COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK By the Grace of God. Free and Independent File No. 5061/2004

To: Mary Louise Francis, Executor of the estate of Michael S. Francis, Ruby Gilchrist, James N. Francis, Jr.; Public Administrator of the County of Kings, Hartford Insurance Company, Attorney General of the State of New York, New York State Department of Taxation.

George Alexander Francis, Jr. whereabouts unknown, or his distributees devisees, heirs at law assignees or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained.

A Petition as amended for the final Account having been duly filed by LIVINGSTON S. FRANCIS who is domiciled, at 65 Bauer Avenue, Roosevelt, L. I. New York 11575. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County at 2 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, New York, Room 319 on May 19, 2011, at 9:30 in the forenoon of that day why The Account of LIVINGSTON S. FRANCIS, a summary of which has been served herewith as administrator of the Estate of Rosetta O. Spooner a/k/a Rosetta Spooner should not be judicially settled.

(a) Allocating the balance remaining after attorney's fees and disbursements paid, be distributed to the distributees as follows: That \$55,000.00 plus twenty (20%) of the net estate shall be paid to the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York for the benefit of GEORGE ALEXANDER FRANCIS whose whereabouts are unknown subject to the further order of this Court. (b) Estate of Michael S. Francis 20% of the net Estate (a) Ruby F. Gilchrist 20% of the net Estate (d) James N. Francis Jr. 20% of the net Estate (e) Livingston Francis 20% of the net Estate (f) That the Sureties be discharged (g) That the Surrogate fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation for Godfrey H. Murrain in the amount of \$21,500 to Godfrey H. Murrain for legal services in the and the reimbursement of the Court filing fee of \$625.00 and further (h) That Livingston S. Francis be allowed commissions pursuant to the statute in the amount of \$17,735.16 and reimbursement of expenses paid for the benefit of the estate pursuant to section 1805 of the SCPA. In the amount of \$11,480.00 (i) That the Account proceedings be Judicially settled and for such other and further relief as may be just in the premise- and for such other further relief as may be just, proper and equitable.

Hon. Diana A. Johnson, Surrogate, Kevin McJerman Acting Chief Clerk. Dated, Attested and Sealed

March 23, 2011. Attorney for Petitioner GODFREY. H. MURWAIN Tel. No. (212) 619-1250. Address of Attorney: 225 Broadway, suite 305 New York. New York 10007 **Note.** This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. COLUMBIA CAPITAL CO., PLAINTIFF VS RONALD HODGE, ET AL DEFENDANTS. ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: CHRISTOPHER J. FANNY, ESQ., 76 COURT ST., SUITE 34, BROOKLYN, NY. 11201 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated FEB. 9, 2011 and entered Mar. 9, 2011 I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS ST., RM. 224, BROOKLYN, N.Y. on APRIL 21, 2011 at 3:00 P.M. Premises in Brooklyn, N.Y. and described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, City and State of New York designated on the Tax Map of the City of New York, for the Borough of Brooklyn as said Tax Map was on May 27, 1981, Block 3834 Lot 17. Premises known as 468 RIVERDALE AVE., BROOKLYN, N.Y. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$87,462.51 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 916/08 PHIL SMALLMAN, ESQ., REFEREE. SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS

Index No.: 09-23661 Filed: 3/3/11 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated. One West Bank FSB, Plaintiff, - against- Nathan Toyourchi, if living and if any be dead, any and all persons who are spouses, widows, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, heirs, devisees, distributees, or successors in interest of such of the above as may be dead, and their spouses, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for IndyMac Bank, F.S.B., its successors and assigns, New York

Catastrophic Unemployment

Continued From Page 3

As it is, black people are overrepresented among the incarcerated in this country. We need to ensure that young men of color in New York City are achieving the basic educational requirements to either get a decent job or go on to college if they so choose."

Existing research has shown that the lack of a high school diploma as well as high unemployment puts young men at greater risk for incarceration. Also, there is strong evidence that shows that having a prison record is associated with subsequent poorer employment and wage outcomes. CSS continues to strongly advocate for quality

City Environmental Control Board, New York City Parking Violations Bureau, New York City Transit Adjudication Bureau, United States of America -Internal Revenue Service, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the attorneys for the plaintiff within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$384,800.00 and interest, recorded in the office of the clerk of the County of Kings on March 7, 2006 in CRFN: 2006000127420 covering premises known as 333 Linwood Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: Bay Shore, New York March 16, 2010 By: Samuel J. Reichel, Esq. Frenkel, Lambert, Weiss, Weisman & Gordon, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 20 West Main Street, Bay Shore, New York 11706. (631) 969-3100 Our File No.: 01-033029-F00

General Educational Development (G.E.D.) programs as well as transitional workforce programs that help prepare young people to make successful transitions into either college or permanent, full-time employment. "Without work, without school and without a diploma, young African-American men are vulnerable for the prison pipeline," Jones added. "The absence of training and jobs will provide a clear and uninterrupted pathway to poverty and potential imprisonment," Jones added.

For 165 years, the Community Service Society of New York has been the leading voice on behalf of low-income New Yorkers and continues to advocate for the economic security of the working poor in the nation's largest city

Obituary

Dorothy Tiltree Copeland Overton

Dorothy Tiltree Copeland Overton was born in Perquimas County, on April 15, 1923, in Hertford North Carolina. She was the youngest daughter born to the late Thomas J. Copeland & Annie Q. Copeland. They had four children Rose, Cynthia, Dorothy and Thomas.

Dorothy grew up with her childhood sweetheart Cecil Overton and they married on April 19, 1942. They celebrated fifty-eight blessed years together. From this union there were two children, Calvin & Valerie. Calvin married Linda Overton and they had two children Juan & Yvette. Yvette has one son Brandon. Valerie married George S. White and they have one daughter Erin.

Dorothy attended Pasquotank County School in Elizabeth City and graduated from P.W. Moore High School. She worked and retired from the garment industry.

Although Dorothy was a very quiet and shy person, she possessed an inner strength. She consistently stressed traditional family values, and believed that the early bird catches the worm. She insisted on being "On Time." But most importantly, she expressed a loving and caring relationship with her family.


Dorothy was a long standing member of Our Lady Of Good Counsel Church and a member of

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Movin' on Out
Continued From Page 2

that had the largest Black populations in 2000 - Cook in Illinois, Los Angeles, Wayne in Michigan, Kings in New York and Philadelphia - all lost Black population. Among the 25 counties with the biggest increase in Black population, three-quarters are in the South.

More than half of Black Americans live in the South. New York had the largest Black population of any state as of July 1, 2008 (3.5 million); Georgia had the largest numeric increase since July 1, 2007 (67,000). The District of Columbia had the highest percentage of Blacks (56 percent), followed by Mississippi (38 percent). Cook County, Ill. (Chicago's county) had the largest Black population of any county (1.4 million), and Orleans Parish, La. (New Orleans' county) had the largest numeric increase since July 1, 2007 (16,000). Claiborne County, Miss. had the highest percentage of Blacks in the nation (84 percent).

Places where Blacks had gained "political stronghold" status are losing Black people. Detroit lost almost 200,000 Blacks. Detroit's 25 percent population drop represents the fastest collapse in American history of any major city not decimated by a natural disaster. Blacks' percentage of Atlanta's population shrank from 61% to 53%. But in Atlanta's vast metropolitan area, the Black population soared to the second-largest Black population after New York. Chicago lost more than 180,000 African-American residents. The Black population fell 3.5% to 1.6 million. Washington, DC lost its Black majority.

In their quest to "keep us with the Joneses", Blacks are hurting their ballot power. The number of Black suburbanites climbed to 58 percent in the South, compared to 41 percent for the rest of the U.S. That's up from 52 percent in 2000 and represents the highest share of suburban Blacks in the South since the Civil Rights Act passed in the 1960s. Suburbs anywhere are a huge draw.

Typically, today's middle-class African-American families are making the same kind of choices as White families: As soon as their kids are school-age, they move to the suburbs. Suburbs are also luring lower-income Blacks who are leaving neighborhoods that don't have supermarkets and other retail.

The South is the second most-racially and ethnically diverse U.S. region after the West. Roughly 61 percent of its population is White, 19 percent Black and 15 percent Hispanic. That's compared with a national breakdown of 65 percent White, roughly 12 percent Black and 16 percent Hispanic.

Blacks are leaving Blue State America for Red State America. Ironically, because in their "I can go anywhere I want" mind-sets, they are showing a preference for living in the kind of states dominated by Republicans. Because of Blacks' movements, Republican-leaning states will gain at least a half-dozen House seats. (William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org)

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