

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

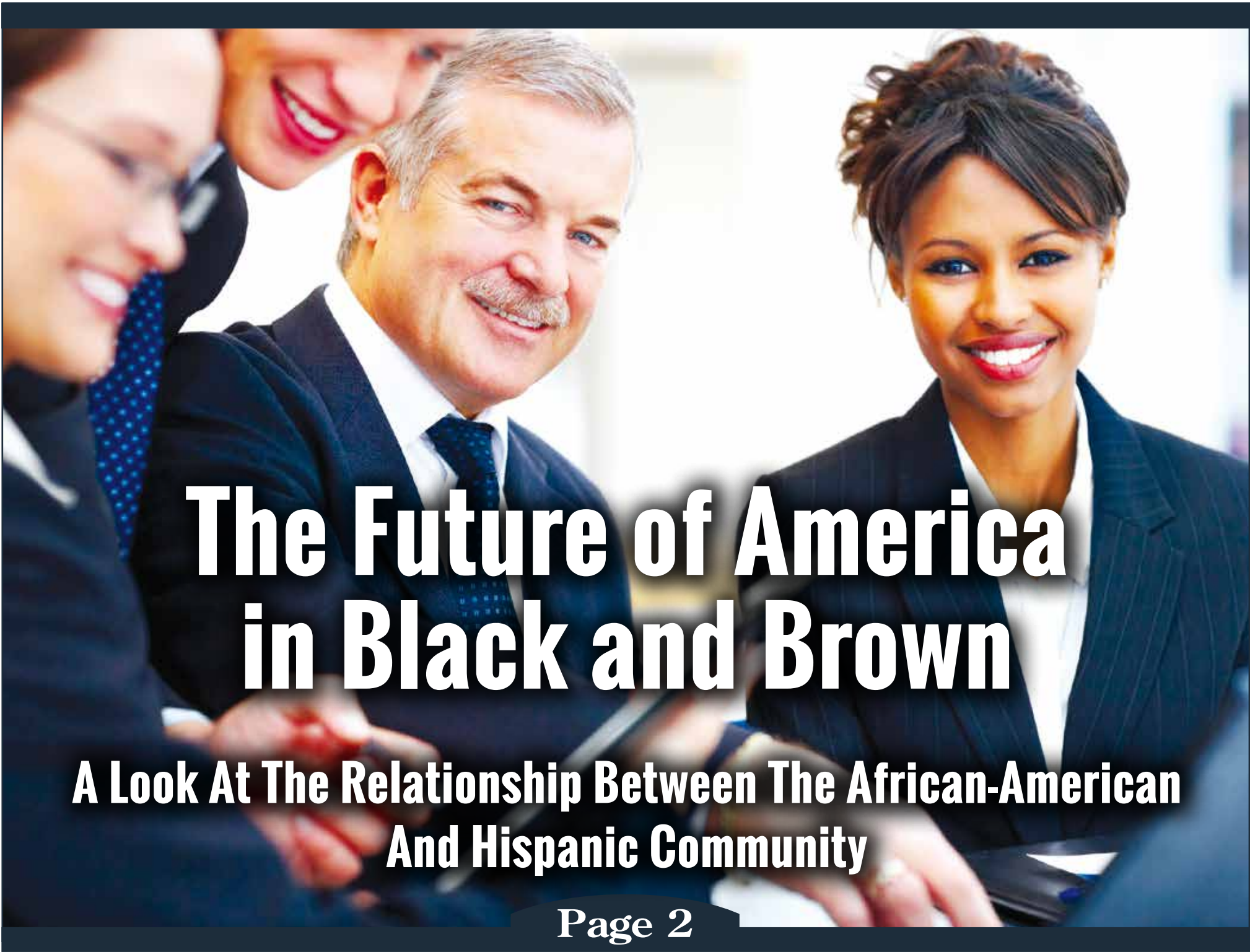
"The People's Paper"



NOLA's 100 Cities Rally

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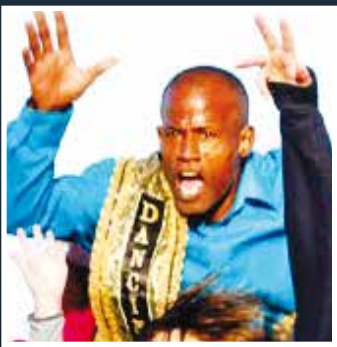
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The Future of America in Black and Brown

A Look at the Relationship between the African- American and Hispanic Community



Janet Murgia (pictured above) is President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest Hispanic Civil Rights organization. Murgia, has spent her time strengthening the relationships civil rights and advocacy organizations.

By Edwin Buggage
Editor

New Orleans in Black and Brown

After Hurricane Katrina New Orleans has become a City that is changing demographically. As the City was taken down to its knees with 80 percent of it underwater and many of its citizens unable to return, the question became

who would fill the void in the labor pool and contribute to the rebuilding of New Orleans.

Since those horrid days in 2005 the Latino population in New Orleans continues to grow. They have come from many diverse places seeking opportunities from cities such as Nashville, Houston, Atlanta, and all throughout Florida. Also they have come from places far away as Puerto Rico, Honduras, Guatemala and Brazil. Today, the overall population of New Or-

leans is still about 20 percent down from what it was before the storm and the breaching of the levees. But in its aftermath the Latino population has skyrocketed. Census figures show that 33,000 Hispanics have moved in since the storm, a 57 percent increase in the last decade. That's much higher than the national average, and that's almost certainly a significant undercount, thanks to undocumented immigrants who may fail to be captured by census Data.

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones

CEO/Publisher

Glenn Jones

VP Advertising

& Marketing

Edwin Buggage

Editor

Calla Victoria

Executive Assistant

June Hazeur

Accounting

Contributors

Freddie Allen

Edwin Buggage

Gary L. Flowers

Julianne Malveaux

Bookworm Sez

Vincent Sylvain

Art Direction & Production

MainorMedia.com

Editorial Submissions

datanewseditor@bellsouth.net

Advertising Inquiries

datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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First Lady Michelle Obama gave the Keynote Address at the National Council of La Raza's Conference here in New Orleans this week.

Civil Rights Groups Working Towards Black and Brown Unity

This is a trend that led the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest Hispanic Civil Rights organization to bring its Annual Conference to New Orleans. The organization is led by President and CEO Janet Murgia, since taking over NCLR she has focused on strengthening their relationships with sister civil rights and advocacy organizations. She has spearheaded efforts to build bridges between the African-American and Latino communities in conjunction with organizations such as the NAACP and the National Urban League. She was also the first Hispanic leader to give the keynote speech at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Birmingham, Alabama.

At this year's Conference speakers included National Urban League President Marc Morial who's spoken at several of their conferences and continues to be a bridge builder for the African-American and Latino Community. Also First Lady Michelle Obama, was the keynote speaker, talking about childhood obesity. While her appearance wasn't a policy driven speech or centered on the relationship between African-American and Hispanics it was significant; that we are at a point in our nation's history where the First Lady who is an African-American is speaking in front of the largest Hispanic Civil Rights group in the nation.

The Changing Face of a City and a Nation

That today the U.S. while still a country grappling with issues of its identity in the 21st Century, that a study done by the U.S. Census

estimates that by 2043 the White Population will no longer be the majority of the U.S. Population. With this being the case, groups that were once marginalized must today find ways to forge new coalitions and relationships that will affect communities across the nation, its workplace relations, laws, who's elected to offices and public policy decisions.

In the more immediate sense this population shift that's presently occurring in New Orleans has presented the question of how this is changing the racial dynamics and the economic opportunities for the African-American Population. Jafus Smith Jr., is an African-American contractor from New Orleans who sometimes uses Hispanic workers and sub-contractors. He says while he welcomes Latinos coming to the City to seek work, he feels that this is impacting some African-American contractors and workers adversely, "Some of them have come to the City and they were much needed, but I feel that it is important that as the city's Latino population grows that stricter labor laws are put in place to make sure the people who are here are working legally, because it poses a threat to African-Americans and the possibility of them finding employment and securing contracts and keeping monies in the City with people who live in and are invested in the City."

Came In Different Ships, But Now in the Same Boat

While sometimes according to media reports there is a schism between African-American and Hispanics, a Pew Research Center Survey found that overwhelming majorities of both Blacks and Hispanics have favorable views of

each other. Fully three-quarters of all Blacks (77%) have a very or somewhat favorable view of Latinos, while 79% of Hispanics have a similarly positive view of Blacks. (Three-quarters of all Whites also have an approving view of Hispanics and a slightly larger percentage expressed a favorable opinion of Blacks.) But some differences begin to emerge when Blacks and Hispanics are asked how well the two groups get along. A majority of Blacks (70%), but a smaller share of Hispanics (57%), say the groups gets along very or fairly well. At the same time, Hispanics are significantly more likely than Blacks to say that inter-group relations are strained (30% vs. 18%). This "perception gap" on inter-group relations persists even when controlling for socio-economic status. For example, 63% of all better-educated Hispanics — those who had attended college — say Blacks and Latinos get along well, compared with 73% of similarly educated Blacks. That's a 10-point difference — little different than the overall 13-point gap between the two groups. Similar differences emerge in most age and income categories as well.

"I feel that Latinos and Blacks have a lot in common, a strong commitment to family and strong into their faith and trying to provide a better life and opportunities for their children," says Christine Senteno, a Latina who is a longtime activist whose worked on both Obama campaigns and is based in Washington D.C. "Continuing she says, "That today we must create coalitions as people of color and not let people divide and conquer us, that we must use our collective strength to empower our communities to be a force in this country moving forward."



Christine Senteno, (pictured above), is a longtime activist and Obama campaign worker, believes that building coalitions of people of color, will strengthen the status of us all, and empower our communities to move forward and propel us as a collective force to be acknowledged and respected.

Racism, Identity and the Search for Justice

With the George Zimmerman verdict, it has caused much controversy centered on the issue of race. But with this case, Zimmerman who is half-Peruvian and half-White has created a conversation that's not normally held outside of the Latino community, of the colorism and discrimination that exists within

the Latino community. And what is little known outside of the Latino community is what has come to be identified as Latino identity is broad and more nuanced than the broad racial classification categories in the U.S.

Unfortunately, the color of one's skin sometimes can affect

Cover Story, Continued
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1333 So. Carrollton Ave (Corner of Willow St.)

Men Talk it Over at the Barbershop Meetings

Calling all men. The Barbershop Meeting focuses on issues of importance to the growth and well-being, especially of young men. This is a place where men can learn from each other; take in an interesting and informative seminar or film, and share dreams and disappointments. Men of all ages are invited to join the lively discussions and to give input and support based on their life experiences. This meeting affords the opportunity for goal-

setting and reflections. Come and bring a few friends. Peter Nakhid leads the discussions.

July 24 and 31, 2013
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Ashé Cultural Arts Center,
1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.,
New Orleans

Free and open to the public.
For more information, call
(504) 569-9070.

Let's Talk About Housing

Interested in housing issues? The Louisiana Housing Alliance needs your input. The Louisiana Housing Alliance's annual Listening Tour is an opportunity for advocates, developers, service providers, government officials and policy makers to talk about what housing issues are impacting your community and how you can make policy change at the state level. The Listening Tour will introduce you to the Louisiana Housing Alliance, reflect on the state of housing policy in Lou-

isiana, and give you tools to talk about housing issues impacting your community. For more information contact Nathan Cataline, Community Engagement Coordinator at ncataline@lahousingalliance.org and connect with them Facebook and Twitter. The Tour takes place on August 19, 2013 from 11am-2pm

Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, 2200 Lafitte St,
New Orleans, LA 70119

St. Jude Community Center to Receive \$30,000 from the Walmart Foundation to Assist with Program Providing Youth Art Lessons

St. Jude Community Center will receive \$30,000 from Walmart to assist in St. Jude's work to provide art and music classes for children ages 12-15. The funds provided by Walmart will support the education of 20 students who attend music and art classes at St. Jude each week. St. Jude works to keep children off the streets by moving them into healthy learning environments with teachers.

Walmart Market Manager John Mims and Walmart Store Managers will present the check to the St. Jude Community Center Representatives, Art Students and teachers on Thursday, July 25 at 1:30 p.m. with an art lesson taking place between 1 - 3p.m. at St. Jude Community Center, 400 N Rampart St., New Orleans, LA



Volunteers Needed for Food Action Survey

The Lower Ninth Ward Food Access Coalition

The Lower Ninth Ward Food Access Coalition formed in 2012 to help increase access to quality food in the Lower Ninth Ward, which is considered a "food desert." The Coalition guided the creation of the Lower Ninth Ward Food Action Plan which outlines creative, nontraditional solutions to the problem of poor food access in the community. We are now planning a neighborhood-wide survey to collect valuable

information from Lower Ninth Ward residents that will help to develop the solutions outlined in the Food Action Plan: mobile grocery store, healthy corner store, and school-based grocery store.

Wanna help?
Volunteers are needed to conduct door-to-door surveys,
Now - August 15th

Contact Jenga Mwendo for more information at foodsecurity@sustainthenine.org or (504) 324-9955.

Best Babies Zone Hollygrove

Cypress Manor Apartments Community Room 3613 Cambonne Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

New Orleans Health Department and the LSU School of Public Health will launch the Best Babies Zone, an initiative designed to work with local partners from health, education, economic, social and community sectors in defined neighborhood zones to ensure that every baby is born healthy, into communities that enable

them to thrive and reach their full potential. The New Orleans BBZ consists of a core team from LSUHSC, NOHD, student interns from LSUHSC, Dillard University, and a CDC assignee. The initiative will launch in the Hollygrove neighborhood. New Orleans is one of three cities selected nationally from the Kellogg Foundation to work in partnership with national leaders to promote good health from one generation to the next. Please visit www.babieszone.org for more information.

Terrilynn Monette Memorial Announcement

Terrilynn Sheri Monette, missing Saturday, March 2, 2013 and found Saturday, June 8,

2013. She is the loving daughter of Toni Enclave of Long Beach, Ca and Terry Monette of Bellflower, CA and the sister of Kandice Enclave.

Family, Friends, and Media are invited to attend the Memorial Tribute on Saturday, July 27, 2013 at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church 2515 Franklin Avenue New Orleans LA. 70117 at 3:00pm.

A scholarship in her name has been set up through the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) for deserving students. To donate to the Terilynn Monette Scholarship Fund, please send contributions to:

UNCF, 1100 Poydras Street, Suite 1400
New Orleans, Louisiana 70163



ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.



Darryl "Dancing Man 504" Young

Healing the World through Dance

by: Edwin Buggage

New Orleans is a place where life consists of more than simply existing; it is a place where life is lived to the fullest and celebrated on a daily basis. Twenty-four hours a day, somewhere in the City you can hear blaring horns, the sounds of drums, voices singing or see people dancing to the unique beats and rhythms that are New Orleans. Hailing from the Ninth Ward, Darryl "Dancing Man" Young has become an ambassador bringing Secondline Culture and the educating people on New Orleans to people of all ages across the globe. His "Heal 2 Toe Project" is a fitness program aimed at kids using the secondline dance as way to engage young people in physical activity while teaching them about New Orleans culture.

"Some kids today they don't get out and play like they did when I was growing up and this is an innovative way to get young people active and using it as a way to educate them about the unique culture of the City and its people, I think we have a beautiful City and I enjoy sharing stories of our City with people and in the process building bridges of understanding," says Young.

He has taken his program to many cities in the U.S. and places as far away as Paris, France teaching young kids through dance. Young says as he travels many kids say they can't dance and are afraid, but he uses this as an opportunity to teach a greater life lesson. Saying to them that it is less about having great dance moves than it is overcoming the fear of trying something new. "I tell kids when I am working with them not be scared of what they can't do, but by overcoming fear they will realize so many of the things they can actually do if they tried."

Young has also delved into the world of publishing by producing the "Heal 2 Toe Cultural Coloring Book," where there are images of him and aspects of the Secondline Culture of New Orleans, "I think it is important that we expose our kids to our culture at a young age, where they can appreciate their City and to those not from here to know that New Orleans is a wonderful place not just to visit, but to live." Through his work with kids Young was also instrumental in helping local school Green Park Elementary received a Pay 60 Grant from the NFL.

As First Lady Michelle



Obama has her "Let's Move" Campaign to fight childhood obesity, Darryl has taken the Secondline dancing and made it into something all can use to be in better shape not just physically but mentally. While he has "Heal 2 Toe" for kids he has BrassXcise for adults. In these classes he does exercise using Secondline dancing and Brass Band music to get people in shape. "In these classes since the music is a so celebratory the participants don't really think of it as exercise in the way most workouts are designed. Also because New Orleans is such a spiritual place and music and dance for us is like medicine to our souls it has that effect as well. In

the way I use the word "heel" it actually has a double meaning for what I do is also designed to "heal."

Recently, there was a shooting at a Secondline on Mother's Day wounding many people and made national and international news. Young who was there that day and is a fixture at the Secondlines across the City says that people at-

tending have nothing to fear and feels that the blame in some cases are misplaced when people speak of the event causing the violence. He says that the people committing the violence have nothing to do with the organizations that are having the parade or the people attending them. A true lover of his culture he feels the Secondline is an extension of the culture African's created in Congo Square during slavery in New Orleans and must continue. Secondly, he feels it creates economic opportunities for small businesspersons. "During the Secondline, there are people selling food, drinks and other merchandise, also there are people who receive money making the costumes, musicians make money and all the small business that are along the route make money whether it is bars, corner stores or restaurants. The Secondline benefits the City in ways

that are spiritual, mental, financial and cultural and we cannot let people stop what we've been doing for hundreds of years. This is more than just people dancing to music this is a healing line that connects us to our culture."

In New Orleans people live to enjoy life. It is found in everything we do and Darryl has found a way to take his love of dance and use it to teach young people and keep others fit. He is an important person in our culture as he has become an ambassador giving the unique gift of the New Orleans a way of life to people both young and old. In the years post Katrina Darryl "Dancing Man 504" Young has become a force in our City leading a parade or in this case a Secondline towards healing and rebuilding. And for that he is being honored as the Data New Weekly Trailblazer for the month of July 2013.

JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

New Orleans Joins 100 Cities Rally for Justice

Photos by Vincent Sylvain

Last Saturday, concerned citizens of New Orleans joined with over 100 cities to demand the U.S. Department of Justice resume its investigation into the Civil Rights violations committed against Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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What Blacks Can Learn from South Africa



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Nelson Mandela turned 95 years old on Thursday, July 18. He has been hospitalized for more than a month, and the world holds its breath as we witness the decline of the lion that roared for freedom in South Africa. Mandela's insistence and persistence for freedom for Black South Africans, which included a 27-year jail sentence, reminds us of the persistence it takes to make structural and institutional change.

We African Americans have been far more episodic in our quest for freedom. We galvanized around *Brown v. Board of Education*, again around the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Fifty years ago, we were on the Mall in Washington, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, the most well-known of the several speeches delivered that day. We continued to fight for college admission, fair housing, and diverse police forces. And as these gains were attained, some of us stopped fighting.

Many in the Black middle class didn't know what they should fight for. They had good jobs, nice homes, and good cars. They had gone to college and their children were, as well. Unless they were dyed in the wool civil rights activists, they were content to coast along. To be sure, there were micro aggressions they needed to manage, much as Ellis Cose's *Rage of a Privileged Class: Why Are Middle-Class Blacks Angry? Why Should America Care?* (Harper Books, 1993) detailed. While there is a connection between many kinds of profiling, there is a big difference between being hassled at a department store and being unarmed and killed on the street.

The South African fight was

clear, just as the fight for African American rights was in the sixties. The difference? African Americans made gains that were tenuous without continued protest. In South Africa, the pressure for protest has been continuous despite the gains that have been made. Even as Black Africans have been elected to leadership in South Africa, many see past the titular gains to ask about the living conditions of those who are not middle class, not moneyed, still living without electricity in townships. In contrast, few African American politicians speak for the least and the left out, the poor, the unemployed, the marginal. That there is an African American president of the United States has been more a muzzle than a motivator. Reluctant to criticize President Barack Obama, too many activists have swallowed their ire even as our president has ignored them.

As Nelson Mandela struggles to maintain life, one is reflective about the ways he was denied his freedom for so long. Mandela made a life for himself on Robben Island, as he navigated captivity

and restriction, broken promises and crippled dreams. Because of Mandela's persistent and gentle spirit, however, he prevailed enough to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (along with Frederik Willem de Klerk) in 1993.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. also earned a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his work in the Civil Rights Movement. In accepting the Peace Prize, he said "I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, peace and freedom for their spirits." King laid out a game plan that many have only reluctantly embraced. We still have hunger, illiteracy and dissent in the U.S. Few have stepped up to deal with these matters with the persistence that Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress had. When President Obama establishes a middle class task force, what does this mean for the poor?

Perhaps the comparison between US black people and those in South Africa is unfair. WE have had leaders like Nelson Mandela

– Dorothy Irene Height comes immediately to mind – who have given their lives to the freedom struggle and have not wavered or cowered in the face of challenge. South Africa, like the United States, has class divides between the middle class and the poor, with a sometimes indifferent middle class more interested in profits than people. But when I think of Nelson Mandela's persistence, I think of the many ways that we, African Americans, have dropped the ball.

Trayvon Martin is not the first young man to have been massacred in the streets, nor is he the first to garner national attention. Little has changed because we have not been persistent in our protest. The details in providing equal opportunity in South Africa may be flawed, but they represent movement. The episodic engagement of African Americans around justice issues pales in the face of South African persistence.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.

What Should We Tell Our Sons?



By Gary L. Flowers
NNPA Columnist

Last week's injustice to the life and legacy of Trayvon Martin takes its infamous place in the annals of United States history, along with the 1857 *Dred Scott* Supreme Court ruling, the 1896

Plessy v. Ferguson court ruling, the 1955 Emmett Till murder, and the 1963 fire hosing and church bombing of Black children in Birmingham, Ala., and the 2010 murder Oscar Grant while in handcuffs. Each was a singular moment in American history, yet reminded the world of the unequal justice and "open season" on Black people in America. As was the question of Black families then, today, following the targeting of Trayvon, Black parents sense another "open season" and are asking: What should we tell our sons?

In an ideal America parents—of any color—should only tell

their sons to be honest, hard working, faithful, fair, and respectful, among other virtues. Of course, the America in which we live, filled with the false notion of White supremacy, is a tale of two turnouts for boys whose names begin with the letter T. Imagine one is named Trevor. One is named Trayvon.

Trevor is White, blonde-haired and blue-eyed. Trayvon is Black, brown-haired and brown-eyed. Both Trevor and Trayvon are typical teenage boys who are testing their proverbial "wings" in life. Both seemingly have much life in front of them. Both Trevor and Trayvon's parents love them

dearly. Yet, when each exits their respective homes, the feelings of their parents are virtually in two different worlds. The White parents have no fear their son will be racially profiled. The Black parents know that racial profiling of their son is a real and, perhaps, regular possibility. We know how Trayvon's life so violently ended.

Now that we have analyzed and been agitated to action by the acquittal of Trayvon's murderer, Black parents should tell their sons 0 things:

- Dress like you wish to be treated. Police and "want-to-be" cops profile certain dress such as no belts, sagging pants, white tank

tops etc. Although wearing a hoodie in the rain, as Trayvon did, should be free from profiling.

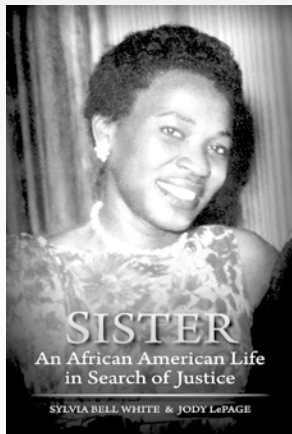
- Take driver's license photo with blazer, white shirt and tie (at least white shirt and tie), unless you choose cultural attire.
- Give your name and ask their name, if asked for identification.
- Be polite, without being pious; cordial, without being cowardly.
- Pull over in nearest lighted area.
- Turn on interior lights in car.

Our Sons,
Continued on next page.

Sister

An African American Life in Search of Justice

By The Bookworm Sez



"Sister: An African American Life in Search of Justice"

by Sylvia Bell White & Jody LePage
c.2013,
University of Wisconsin Press
\$27.95 / higher in Canada
289 pages

Turn left.

That's what your GPS said, so you turned - though that didn't seem correct and you knew that blind obedience to electronics isn't always a good idea. Would you be late? End up lost? Or would you end up in exactly the right place?

Like a GPS, life also has a way of taking you down unknown roads. In the new book "Sister: An African American Life in Search of Justice" by Sylvia Bell White & Jody LePage, for example, you'll read about one woman's journey from Louisiana to Wisconsin and into history.

Like most eight-year-old children, Sylvia Bell loved to play.

She remembered swinging from ropes with her brothers, batting baseballs, and getting "all dust and dirty." As the seventh child of thirteen, and the only girl, Sylvia had simple fun while growing up in Louisiana in those pre-Depression years.

But when she was eight years old, her mother disappeared (something she did often), so Sylvia became a

mother to "them boys." She took over the cooking and housework but left disciplinary matters to her father, who was both "a mother and a father, to tell you the truth."

Eventually, Sylvia's mother returned (staying away, Jody LePage hints, might have been a method of birth control) and the family thrived. Sylvia's father, a respected man in the community, kept two jobs and was able to buy a small farm in order to feed his brood. He raised his children with a velvet fist - though it's speculated that as the father of a dozen boys, lynching and violence probably never left his mind.

At age seventeen, Sylvia became part of the Great Migration and moved to Milwaukee. When her mother died, she wanted to move back home but her father wouldn't allow it so, with some of "them boys," she returned to Wisconsin and her life.

Then, nearly ten years later, in February 1958, something went horribly wrong: Sylvia's brother, twenty-one-year-old Dan, was stopped by two Milwaukee police officers at the edge of the highway one night and, after a

brief pursuit, one of them shot Dan in the back of the neck.

They almost got away with it...

I don't think I give away too much by emphasizing the word "almost" there. Just by browsing its dust jacket, you know what happens in "Sister"... but you don't. No, you've really got to read this half history, half oral history book.

Early-on, author Jody LePage explains why she spent many hours recording Sylvia Bell White's memories of life, family, and her steadfast demand for justice for her brother - memories that are fascinating, often charming, and occasionally horrifying. I enjoyed how the authors used history to set the stage for each chapter here, and I loved that this books' authenticity (including speech peculiarities) and irresistible personality pull readers back through decades and geography.

If you're looking for something that's different, powerful, and sometimes delightful, then you're going to love this book. For you and your cravings for history, "Sister" is a book to turn to.

Our Sons, Continued from previous page.

- Place hands on top of steering wheel.
- Announce intention to reach for wallet or identification.
- Call Police immediately after traffic stop and identify location to ensure that there was an official stop recorded by Police dispatch.
- Write detailed account of stop.

Moreover, we must teach our sons competence, courage, commitment,

and compassion. We must teach them Black history. We must teach them past legal gains can be reversed if each generation does not remain vigilant. We must teach them that American economic downturns most often lead to a rise in racism against Black people. We must teach them not to feel entitled to anything. We must teach them that an empty intellect makes the most noise.

We must teach them that ideas are intellectual currency. We must teach that comfort breeds complacency. We must teach them that injustice, like Italian Dressing, must be shaken. We must teach them that the garden of the mind must be cultivated for weeds. We must teach them that a liar is worst than a thief. We must teach them a good reputation is worth riches. We must teach them their aspirations should exceed their grasp. Lastly, we must teach our

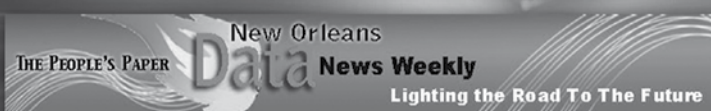
sons that we are the composite of all whose memory we cherish.

Trayvon's tragedy is marbled in our memory, and should inspire all conscientious Americans to sharpen our swords against injustice, wherever it may be, and to whomever it may be targeted.

Gary L. Flowers is executive director and CEO of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc. He can be reached at gflowers@black-leadershipforum.org.

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Black Leaders Celebrate Nelson Mandela's Birthday

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The Black community joined the world in singing 'Happy Birthday' to ailing former South African president Nelson Mandela when he turned 95 on July 18. The Nelson Mandela Foundation created the international day of service following Mandela's 90th birthday to celebrate the legacy of the anti-apartheid leader.

"Clearly we have chosen to honor President Nelson Mandela on his 95th birthday, but the truth of the matter is that this is a man of such significance, substance, and importance that we should be honor him every day," said Johnnetta Cole, director of the National African Art Museum and first African-American woman to serve as president of Spelman College in Atlanta.

The foundation encouraged people around the world to dedicate 67 minutes to serving their community, a minute for each year Mandela spent in public service.



Former South African President Nelson Mandela turned 95 on July 18th.

Michael Eric Dyson, a sociology professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., said that Black people in America shared a special connection to the Black people of South Africa, each group facing rigid forms of

institutionalized racism in the 20th century – apartheid in South Africa and Jim Crow in the United States.

"Black people understood the roots of that apartheid the vicious way in which the legal system

worked against the freedoms of those people, and the way in which society prevented the flourishing and mobility of Black people in South Africa and in America," said Dyson. "We understood when Black South Africans had to

show their [identification] cards to any White person to prove their citizenship and their ability to move around. So we understood that our shared struggle was against a common enemy: White supremacy and colonialism."

Cole said that Black Americans continue to feel solidarity with their South African sisters and brothers.

"There is a long and very deep and very important connection between African Americans and the people of South Africa," she explained. "Apartheid and legalized racial discrimination in the United States were like kissing cousins and many people understood that relationship and we as African Americans contributed our support to the anti-Apartheid movement."

Apartheid, a system of racial segregation in South Africa, began in 1948 when the minority ruling White Afrikaner party split South Africans into racial groups ("native", "white", "coloured", and

Mandela,

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their life chances in significant ways, "I cried when I heard the verdict," said Christine Senteno, who has children like many Latino families that run the gamut of skin complexions. And sometimes the choices that are made in respect to identity and the behaviors that go along with these one includes taking on race prejudice and in some instances self-hating behaviors against members of your own group. "When I think of Zimmerman I think of some people even in my own family whose chosen to assimilate into a "White" and this in my view played a part in his distorted racial perception of Trayvon Martin on that night that he believed he was suspect." Continuing speaking of what a dangerous precedent was set she says, "After this verdict, I feel for some it has given them a license to hunt down young men that are black and brown and I feel saddened that we still live in a nation

with a justice system that would allow this to happen."

Smith who in his over four decades of life as an African-American male was not surprised by the verdict and the fallout, and feels its stirring of a conversation about race in his opinion is a good thing. As he is speaking he takes it a step further when referencing the relationship between Blacks and Latinos as an important issue for New Orleans and the nation moving forward. "Racial prejudice is something that definitely played a part in how this whole case was handled and even how people think what constitutes racism and to me it is troubling that people still don't understand what racist behavior is. They have this old way of thinking oh he never says the N-word or have Black friends. I could say that in my life I've met many who were not Black who once getting to know me sincerely like me for who I

was as a person and would do anything for me as an individual, but still distrusted, disliked and was prejudice against Blacks, in general, and I think that was the case with Zimmerman."

Can a Nation and City that's Divided Come Together?

Because of this case people from around the country are re-examining the issues of race and justice. Today we are looking at a nation that is changing. No longer is it a country where everything is simply a matter Black and White both literally and figuratively. Today's world calls for a new understanding of race, ethnicity, nationality and how that factors into our everyday life in a world that is changing. The relationship between black and brown in the U.S. and in New Orleans is as important to the nation and the City's future.

Unlike some cities New Orleans is a place with its laissez faire attitude, history and approach to life that is different is not necessarily perceived as deficient. "In New Orleans you can be who you are and be included" says Christine Senteno, who spent time in New Orleans and while visiting experienced Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, something that forever changed her life. "I have come to love New Orleans and its people, I think it's great that Latinos are coming to New Orleans, it is the one place that I can say is hospitable, accepting and respectful of others coming in, while in other places it seems people are just tolerant and that is something very different."

"In a City that is changing it is about people getting to know one another and that's where change and a spirit of togetherness begin," says Jafus Smith. And as the City is changing af-

ter nearly eight years since Katrina, what is on the horizon is a bold new face; one that is Black, Brown, White and Asian and everything else in between. Today in the 21st Century we are emerging as a world that closer resembles the larger world, one that is a majority of people of color. So today as we forge ahead as the many shades that make up the pieces of the puzzle that is the "human race" it is our charge to find where we all fit into our unique ways and then maybe we can respect each other, get along and work together toward mutual progress where no one or a particular group has to be left behind, subject to unjust laws or squabbling over things that keep our eyes off the prize. In this scenario, we as a nation can be our best selves, expanding the lanes and possibilities of the American Dream to all of our citizens.

Eric Greely, Sr. Named Principal of Miller-McCoy Academy

The Board of the Directors of Miller-McCoy Academy for Mathematics and Business has selected Eric Greely, Sr. to serve as the school's principal.

"Mr. Greely brings experience as an educator, school leader and corporate executive to Miller-McCoy Academy," said Michael Todd, Chairman of Miller-McCoy Academy's Board of Directors. "He will be able to lead young men in the values espoused by Kelly Miller and Elijah McCoy – the school's namesakes, who made groundbreaking contributions to the fields of mathematics and business/entrepreneurship."

Mr. Greely is a native of Bogalusa, La. He has 12 years of corporate and business experience working at Proctor & Gamble Distributing Company, Coca-Cola USA, and AMC Communications. He also has approximately 12 years of experience as an educator, including locally as a teacher in Jefferson and Orleans parishes for four years.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Greely relocated to St. Louis, Mo., and worked in various capacities at Liberty High School, including a position as business teacher and the past five years as the school's assistant principal.



Eric Greely Sr.

He is certified as a secondary principal in Missouri.

Mr. Greely obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing and a Masters of Arts in Urban Education from Southern University. He has also earned certification as a Specialist in Educational Leadership and is near the completion of his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Northwest Missouri State. Currently, he and his family reside in New Orleans East.

Mandela, Continued from previous page.

"Asian"). Families were uprooted, neighborhood were razed in an effort to keep the racial groups separate. Under the brutal system, Black South Africans received inferior education, health care and public services. Nelson Mandela worked to organize Black South Africans in secrecy and in public fighting the racist apartheid policies. Mandela was arrested and sentenced to life in prison in June of 1964 and served 27 years. Even as Black Americans, suffered their own racism, they supported Black South Africans in their battle for equality. Following decades of political and economic pressure, the South African government began to dismantle apartheid in 1990 and freed Nelson Mandela that same year. In 1994, Mandela was elected South Africa's first Black president.

Dyson said that for many Black Americans, Mandela was their substitute president.

"We were grateful for [Mandela's] rise," said Dyson. "We celebrate Mandela, because Mandela gave us that example that paradigm that inspiration even as we furnished some example and some inspiration for South Africa."

During a Nelson Mandela Day event on Capitol Hill, members of Congress, civil rights leaders and shared stories of success and sacrifice inspired by the legendary South African leader that retired from public life in 2004.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) said that President Mandela taught the world invaluable lessons about determination, leadership, and unity.

"I regard President Mandela as a personal hero, and I am among

Playwright Harold Ellis Clark wins UpStage Theatre's 4th Annual Emerging Playwright Project

UpStage Theatre Company of Baton Rouge, LA recently named metro New Orleans area playwright Harold Ellis Clark

winner of its 4th Annual (2013) Emerging Playwright Project for his play, Fishers of Men. Clark, who lives in Gretna, LA, is the first Louisiana writer to win the award. UpStage Theatre Company located at 1713 Wooddale Boulevard in Baton Rouge, LA is set to run performances of the play Friday, September 13th (7 p.m.), Saturday, September 14th (7 p.m.), and Sunday, September 15th (3 p.m. & 7 p.m.). For details/tickets, call (225) 924-3774.

Fishers of Men, a play Clark adapted from his screenplay, The New Saints, debuted to sold-out audiences at Dillard University's Cook Theatre (New Orleans, LA) in June 2012. The critically-acclaimed play focuses on Bishop James Perriloux, an ex-con and controversial pastor of a megachurch in New Orleans, who sends men from his congregation into the city's streets late at night to rescue lost souls. Two potential converts threaten to wreck the foundation of Perriloux's ministry and endanger the lives of each character.

Clark wrote numerous unpublished novels and unproduced screenplays for 18 years before starting to write plays in 2010 at the suggestion of veteran actor Lance E. Nichols ("Larry Williams" in HBO's Treme), who was impressed with the dialogue in his work. While he believes that his latest play, We Live Here, com-

pleted in late April, represents his best work after more than two decades of writing fiction, Clark says that Fishers of Men is his all-time personal favorite.

"The play's about redemption, something that many of us seek at some point in our lives; I certainly have. That universality is what fuels the play's passion," said Clark. "Audiences' enthusiastic acceptance of that theme and the overall production was a pleasant surprise, because mixing religion and spirituality with the secular is quite risky. That positive reception gave me confidence that the play would resonate with persons elsewhere. The fact that it did with UpStage's selection committee represents a wonderful honor."

Earlier this year, Clark was honored for his play, Tour Detour, as one of two finalists for the 56th Annual (2013) Stanley Drama Award for playwriting, coordinated by Wagner College (Staten Island, NY). The award ceremony took place at The Players in Manhattan, NY on March 18, 2013. Clark also was named a semi-finalist for the 2013 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference for Tour Detour. His screenplay, Chummy's Spirit (adapted from his independently published novel of the same name), was named an official selection for the 2013 International Family Film Festival (Hollywood, CA).

Clark's first play, Marrero Action, debuted in March 2011 at the Anthony Bean Community Theater in New Orleans. His screenplay, Urban Realities, was made into a short 2000 film starring Mykel Shannon Jenkins (ABC's Ugly Betty; CBS's The Bold and the Beautiful).

the many that have been profoundly moved by both him and the people of South Africa," said Waters.

She added: "President Mandela once said that 'What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the

significance of the life we lead.' Few embody this quote better than Nelson Mandela himself, whose lifelong struggle against racism and apartheid not only improved the lives of all South Africans, but also showed the world what is possible when one man refuses to sacrifice his ideals."

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