



HARLEM COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPERS, INC.

"GOOD NEWS YOU CAN USE"

The Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc. Connecting Harlem, Queens, Brooklyn and The Bronx

# COMMUNITY BRONX NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 30 No. 34

August 22, 2024 – August 28, 2024

FREE



The Baldwin Family  
Presents 'A Century  
of Baldwin: the  
Legacy Lives!'

see page 10



Apollo Theater  
Makes History  
with  
Kennedy Cener  
Honor

see page 9



Wally Amos, of  
Famous Amos'  
Cookie Fame, dies  
at 88

see page 13



## HARLEM WEEK Closes Out 50th Anniversary Weekend with "Summer In the City" and "Harlem Day" see page 12



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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc. will publish positive news and information. Our mission is to deliver “good” and informative news to our readers focusing on health, education, housing, business and employment opportunities. We look for and publish results, not problems. We promote businesses, opportunities and events happening in the communities we serve. We are dedicated to providing our readers with valuable information they can use to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and our communities.

HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWS  
BROOKLYN COMMUNITY NEWS  
BRONX COMMUNITY NEWS  
QUEENS COMMUNITY NEWS

Free copies distributed in your community weekly

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Community	3	Society	10
Expressions	4	Memorium	13
Community	5	Health	14
Op Editorial	6	Urbanology	16
Real Estate	7	Games	17
Calendar	8	Classified	18
Event	9	Literary Corner	19

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PAT STEVENSON

HARLEM WEEK concluded its weeks of celebration this past weekend with “Summer in the City” on Saturday and “Harlem Day” on Sunday. This year marks the 50th year this event has been celebrated. Our columnist William (Tony) A. Rogers has assisted with HARLEM WEEK since it began. He was formerly Executive Vice President of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce. You can learn about his history with HARLEM WEEK in his Urbanology column on page 16.

William (Tony) A. Rogers has also been a columnist with Harlem Community News since we began 30 years ago. We met at the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce when I covered the first event presented in our first publication which was about HARLEM WEEK. Shortly after we met we both learned he was married to my cousin, Carmine. Unfortunately Carmine died shortly thereafter within a year, however Tony remained supportive of my publication. Thank you Tony for supporting me for 30 years.

We will celebrate our 30th Anniversary in our September 5th issue. You can participate with a congratulatory ad, a listing or just make a donation at our go-fund-me. For more information you can contact me direct at [harlemnewsinc@aol.com](mailto:harlemnewsinc@aol.com) or call and leave a message at 646-354-3811

You can visit our website at [www.harlemcommunitynews.com](http://www.harlemcommunitynews.com) to see past issues. Subscribe to our “free” daily newsletter,

**Pat Stevenson**  
Celebrating  
30 Years Publishing

# Your Back to School Style Starts Here!

(Statepoint)

With the first day of school just around the corner, it's important for students to arrive with confidence in footwear that meets their style and function needs.

To help make school shopping a bit easier, Rack Room Shoes is offering families advice about this back-to-school season's top shoe trends:

1. **Elevated:** From color-blocked to classic-inspired sneakers, your favorite brands like Nike, Converse, Vans and Crocs are offering trends that will complement a variety of outfits, and become wardrobe staples.

2. **Retro:** Take a step back in time with retro and Y2K looks from Adidas,

Puma and New Balance. These brands offer an assortment of designs and take it back old school.

3. **Comfy:** Staying indoors or lounging in the dorm? Crocs, HEYDUDE and Birkenstock offer laid-back, comfortable choices ranging from fuzzy-lined styles to lightweight and flexible cushion slides.

4. **Bold:** Want your first impression to be memorable? Glitter, embellished toe caps and a wide selection of bright colors are your best friends. And this season's collaborations with Sanrio, Disney and My Little Pony bring favorite characters to life. You'll be sure to find your pair of statement makers.

5. **Sporty Accessories:** Be in style and learn with



style. For this school year, choose a backpack from a variety of colors, patterns, materials and brands. Rack Room Shoes has backpacks with the needed space for

every textbook, laptop or water bottle; featuring padded shoulder straps or a back panel for comfortable carrying.

For more back-to-school

style inspiration, visit a Rack Room Shoes in your area or online at rackrooms-hoes.com.

Whether it's to make a bold first impression, raise

the bar, or let old school meet new school, the right pair of shoes can give kids the confidence they need to step into a brand new school year.

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## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

**SEPT 18**  
ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCE PROGRAM  
**OPUS130**  
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**OCT 10**  
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Jim Saltzman (DMA '18), Conductor  
With guest artist Terri Lyne Carrington (HonDMA '20), jazz drums  
*Featuring the arrangements of Jim McNeely*

**OCT 18**  
**MSM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
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Po-Wei Ger (BM '18), piano  
Winner of the 2024 Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition  
*Works by CARLOS CHÁVEZ, RAVEL, and ROBERT SIROTA*



### NEIGHBORS ATTEND FOR FREE!

When a ticket order is placed by a patron in the 10027 zip code, the first two (2) tickets to any of MSM's ticketed events are free. All additional tickets to the event will be charged at the regular price. For events with multiple performances, the promotion is limited to one performance date/time per event. Patrons must include their zip code in their MSM box office profile address or the promotion will not activate.

**NOV 8-10**  
MSM MUSICAL THEATRE  
**The Pajama Game**  
Music and Lyrics by JERRY ROSS and RICHARD ADLER  
Book by GEORGE ABBOTT and RICHARD BISSELL  
Chloe Treat, Director  
Sebastiani Romagnolo, Choreographer  
David Loud, Music Director

**NOV 21-24**  
MSM OPERA THEATRE  
**Roméo et Juliette**  
Music By CHARLES GOUNOD  
Libretto By JULES BARBIER and MICHEL CARRÉ  
Pierre Vallet, Conductor  
Katherine M. Carter, Director  
\$30 adults, \$15 non-MSM students and seniors

**NOV 24 | SUN**  
**MSM LATIN JAZZ ORCHESTRA**  
John Benitez, Director  
*Free, tickets required*

FULL DETAILS FOR THESE PERFORMANCES AND BEYOND  
**MSMNYC.EDU/PERFORMANCES**

# PONDER THIS! Black Newspapers Drumming Our Stories



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

of a people that had to persevere. Information was its prime purpose to organize and keep spirits high through various beats that meant different things discernable to tribes across the continent.

Drums played a significant role in the history of slavery. It did not take long to discover that the slaves used drums for communication. The British, Dutch, and French slavers, suspicious about any form of communication between slaves, soon forbid drumming to curtail their fear of uprisings.

It is recorded that by 1776, a large number of slaves had learned to read and write. In 1872, Samuel Cornish and John Brown Russwurm printed the first African-American periodical called Freedom's Journal in New York. As African Americans migrated

around the country, it opened the way for the circulation of newspapers to provide information to the rising Black population.

Black newspapers in a manner of speaking, began drumming our stories across the nation. Popular papers included: Philip Alexander Bell's Colored American (1837-41), the North Star (1847-60), the National Era, The Frederick Douglass Paper (1851-63), the Douglass Monthly (1859-63), The Christian Recorder (1861-1902) and Daniel Rudd's Ohio Tribune (later renamed the American Catholic Tribune, 1885-1897).

Communities depended on Black newspapers to keep them abreast of political meanderings that controlled their lives and livelihood. Racist discrimination and

disparities in the North; ongoing lynchings in the South, meager business opportunities and sometimes acknowledgements of the so-called new negroes who refused to be held back, became the highlights of daily editorials and opinion pages.

**BLACK NEWSPAPERS MATTER!** Black-owned newspapers publish news about our people, to be shared by all people. Various publications place an emphasis on positivity and celebration of our unsung heroes and sheroes; others may focus on daily issues of crime, disparities, and political chaos, while others circulate social, church, and community work.

The mindset of news gathering should be room for it all. All aspects of our journey are important

and worthy of noting in the media. We can choose to read the Black Press, choose to subscribe, but most importantly, realize that when we choose to advertise in a Black-owned newspaper, we are participating in the concept of the African drum continuing the heritage of a proud culture through communication.

Good news you can use has been the purpose of Harlem Community News throughout its 30 years of publishing. Let pride preside – celebrate and rejoice with Pat Stevenson!

Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries. Contact: [misshazel@twc.com](mailto:misshazel@twc.com)

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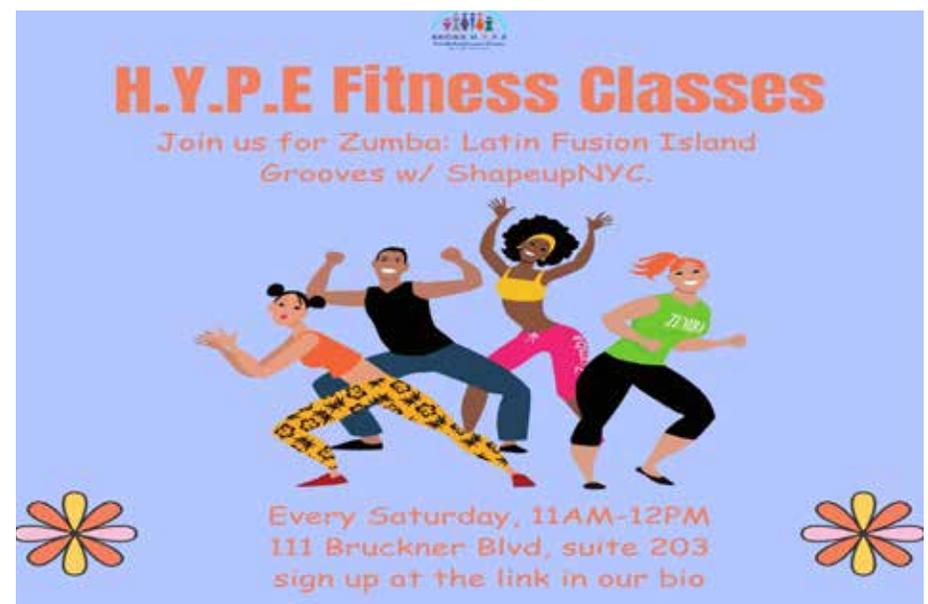
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# BRONX EVENTS



Sep 21 at Lehman Rumba Mambo & Salsa



**August 24, 7:00am-3:00pm**  
**Summer Streets at Grand Concourse between East Tremont Avenue and Mosholu Parkway**

Miles of NYC's streets are open in both directions for people to play, walk, and bike. Take a break along the route at one of our rest stops to enjoy free activities. Summer Streets provides space for healthy recreation. Entry is free. For more information go to: <https://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/summerstreets.shtml#summerstreets-the-bronx>

**August 24, 7:00am-3:00pm**  
**Zumba: Latin Fusion with Jairy & Shape Up NYC at 111 Bruckner Blvd Suite 203**

Join us on Saturday at 10am for Zumba: Latin Fusion with Jairy. All are welcome and encourage to come get your groove on! Entry is free. For more information go to: <https://bronxhype.org/event/zumba-latin-fusion-with-jairy/2024-08-24/>

**NYC Summer Streets**  
 An NYC Department of Transportation Open Streets Initiative

**5 Saturdays in 5 Boroughs**

Queens Staten Island	Manhattan August 3rd, 10th & 17th	Brooklyn The Bronx August 24th
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**7am to 3pm**

**NYC** Eric Adams Mayor  
**NEW YORK CITY** Yvonne Rodriguez Commissioner  
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# The EITC: Helping Working Families Afford to Live in the Greatest City in the World



By: Mayor Eric Adams

Working people and families make life in our city possible. Their work and contributions in every sector — from public safety to business, hospitality, health care, and more, enable our city to function. Here in New York City, we believe that working people and their families should get a fair shot at getting ahead and reap their fair share of the many benefits our city has to offer.

That is why we are building a city that works for all New Yorkers, a city that expands opportunity and prosperity to every neighborhood and community. One major way we are doing this is by putting more money in the pockets of New Yorkers through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC is one of the most effective support pro-

grams we have to help low-income families and workers get a boost as they climb the ladder of success.

It is a simple and straightforward way to make sure working-class New Yorkers, especially parents with children, get their fair share. I understand the struggle to make it in this city. My mother worked a double shift as a cleaner to support my siblings and me. There are thousands of New Yorkers doing the same today, but thanks to the help of this tax credit, they're able to provide for their children and now get ahead.

The EITC has been putting money in Americans' pockets since 1975. But, there was more that could be done to boost eligibility and improve access — especially here in New York City. That's why when I ran for mayor, I made a promise to expand the EITC. And, two years ago, I joined my colleagues in Albany to expand the program for the first time in 20 years because promises made must be promises kept.

Since then, the EITC has

already had a substantial impact on New Yorkers' lives. As a result of our advocacy and partnership, in tax season 2023 we put \$280 million more back into the pockets of New Yorkers compared to the previous year. That means 746,000 New Yorkers in low-income communities have received a total of \$345 million to help them get by, and the average amount of money received for filers increased by 332 percent. This money helps New Yorkers pay their bills, helps keep a roof over their heads, and helps put groceries on the kitchen table. It is money that working people have worked for, money they have earned, and money that they deserve.

What's more is that our administration is committed to helping New Yorkers learn about their eligibility and receive the resources they need to actually claim this benefit. Many New Yorkers were able to receive support by applying for the EITC at our NYC Free Tax Prep locations across the five boroughs. Our tax preparers will help working-class New Yorkers receive the EITC

if they qualify for it

You can visit [nyc.gov/get-credit](http://nyc.gov/get-credit) to see if you qualify for this cash back. If you do, you can apply for this credit while filing your taxes. It is that simple. New Yorkers can file their taxes for free at any one of our NYC Tax Prep locations or online at [getyourrefund.org/nyc](http://getyourrefund.org/nyc).

I know that New Yorkers work hard every day, but many people feel like the deck is stacked against them and that the American Dream is out of reach. But our administration is working hard every day to make the American Dream a reality for all New Yorkers. Since day one, our administration has been driven by a clear mission: protect public safety, rebuild the economy, and make this city more affordable and livable for working-class New Yorkers.

That is what the EITC is all about, putting more money back into the pockets of working people, so they can continue to afford to live in the greatest city in the world.



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page 18

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# Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

**M**any low-to-moderate first-time home buyers are convinced they cannot afford to purchase a home in Harlem. Most of their belief stems from realizing the soaring home market values are beyond their means. They know interest rates are high, and most banks are offering substantially lower pre-approval amounts. To further exacerbate the situation, most low-income families have not received sufficient salary increases to keep pace with inflation and can barely maintain their monthly living expenses.

After a quick survey of the home buying landscape in Harlem it appears that this assessment is quite true and very accurate. Low-to-moderate income buyers are going to have a very difficult time achieving their dream of homeownership. It is going to be difficult, but not impossible. You must now create a solid personal purchas-

ing plan to become a homeowner.

Here are some tips to help you get started. (1) Start the home buying process now. The longer you procrastinate, the more time you will lose. The sooner you start the process, the faster you will be able to complete it. Attend a home-buying education workshop like the one offered by Harlem Congregations For Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI) to learn the process steps and build momentum toward purchasing a home. The home buying process is very complicated. You will need to develop a strategy to navigate the financial pitfalls by learning how to assemble a team of professionals to assist you. You will also be around like-minded individuals with the same goal and can support each other.

(2) Create a monthly household budget. You must have the discipline to stick to your budget. You must now start to aggressively save as much money as possible for the purchase of your home. Your budget will help you to identify areas of wasteful spending that are potential "financial blind spots." By becoming aware of these "financial blind spots" you can

adjust your spending habits to increase your savings.

(3) Calculate a realistic projected purchase date. To make your homeownership dream a reality will take some real hard work. You must maintain your focus with the single-minded purpose of achieving this goal. Keep your projected purchase date in sight. You cannot hit anything if you do not have a target. Create a realistic timeline to move through the process. Post reminders on your mirror, on the refrigerator, on your desk at work to help you maintain focus.

Celebrate every milestone you achieve, either reaching a savings goal or paying off a credit debt. Each step will bring you closer to your goal of homeownership. Remember, buying a home is not an overnight process. Take one step at a time. Remain positive. Keep the faith and you will achieve your dream of becoming a homeowner.

If you are interested in attending the HCCI workshop or have questions regarding the home buying process, contact Rev. Dr. Charles Butler at (212) 281 4887 ext. 231 or email [cbutler@hcci.org](mailto:cbutler@hcci.org).

## MTA Procurement

The MTA encourages vendors who have not done business with us to register for our bidders list using MY MTA Portal for vendors at [www.mymta.info](http://www.mymta.info). Registered vendors can search for procurement opportunities across all MTA agencies and receive invitations to bid or propose on the types of goods and services they can provide. Certified minority and women-owned businesses (M/WBE), service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (SDVOB), and disadvantaged businesses (DBE), are strongly encouraged to compete for MTA opportunities. Visit our website at <https://new.mta.info/doing-business-with-us> for detailed information and guidelines.

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# HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**August 24,  
11:00am-3:00pm  
Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Community Center Celebrates 70 Years of Service in Harlem**

Catholic Charities Community Services has put together an outdoor event featuring various activities with excellent music, food, and enjoyable activities for all ages. Entry is free. For more information go to: <https://www.harlemonestop.com/event/32813/Lt-joseph-p-kennedy-community-center-celebrates-70-years-of-service-in-harlem>

**August 24,  
2:00pm  
Black Mental Health Block Party & Concert!**

**at Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building Plaza**

An annual music and mental health event featuring the Black Broadway community, NYC local singers, and Black mental health providers as guest speakers. Entry is free. For more information go to:

<https://www.harlemonestop.com/event/32751/nyc-darkness-rising-live-7-black-mental-health-block-party-concert>

**August 28,  
11:00am-6:00pm**

**Senator Cordell Cleare's 3rd Annual National Senior Citizens Day in Harlem at Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building**

**Ladies Night COMEDY SHOW**  
SATURDAY AUG 31ST, 2024  
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM | SHOW TIME IS 8PM  
HOSTED BY NICKY SUNSHINE  
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TICKETS ONLY \$25  
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750A ST. NICHOLAS AVENUE (147TH ST) NEW YORK, NY  
FOR TICKETS GO TO COMEDYINHARLEM.COM OR CALL 347-766-3001

Come join us for National Senior Citizens Day to honor the contributions of older people to society. Entry is free. For more information go to:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/calendar/events/cordell-cleare/august-28-2024/national-senior-citizens-day-harlem>



**Aug 30 Machel Montano at the Apollo**

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AUGUST 28, 2024  
11 AM - 6 PM  
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## Apollo Theater Makes History with Kennedy Center Honor

By Stacy M. Brown,  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

The Apollo Theater, Harlem’s legendary cultural institution, has made history by earning a rare Kennedy Center Honors, one of the highest accolades in the arts. For 90 years, the Apollo has been the heart of American culture, nurturing emerging artists, launching legends, and serving as a center of innovation for Harlem, New York City, and the world. As the largest performing arts institution dedicated to Black culture and creativity, the Apollo has significantly influenced popular culture globally.

The Kennedy Center’s recognition marks the first time a venue, rather than an individual performer, has

received this prestigious award.

“We are thrilled to be the first organization honored in the history of the Kennedy Center Awards, emphasizing The Apollo’s impact on the past, present, and future of American culture and the performing arts,” stated Michelle Ebanks, president and CEO of The Apollo.

The 47th Kennedy Center Honors will also celebrate the lifetime achievements of director and filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola; blues singer-songwriter and guitarist Bonnie Raitt; jazz trumpeter, pianist, and composer Arturo Sandoval; and the surviving members of the countercultural rock band The Grateful Dead.

“I am profoundly humbled and deeply honored to be selected as a recipient of the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors,” Sandoval said. “This recognition is an extraordinary milestone in my career.”

Raitt said she’s “deeply honored and thrilled to have been chosen to receive one of this year’s Center Honors. There is no higher level of esteem nor as delightful a celebration.”

Frances Ford Coppola reflected on his career and the honor, stating, “There’s no greater honor than to be included along with those who inspired me, who I looked up to, and who gave me encouragement when times were dim.”

The Grateful Dead has always been about commu-



nity, creativity, and exploration in music and presentation, stated the band’s Bob Weir. “We’ve always felt that the music we make embodies and imparts something beyond the notes and phrases being played—and

that is something we are privileged to share with all who are drawn to what we do—so it also must be said that our music belongs as much to our fans, the Dead Heads, as it does to us,” he continued. “This honor, then, is as much theirs as

ours.” The Kennedy Center Honors, which raises funds for the Kennedy Center in Northwest Washington, D.C., will be held on December 8 and aired on CBS on December 23.



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# Audrey's Society Whirl: The Baldwin Family Presents 'A Century of Baldwin: The Legacy Lives!'

By Audrey J. Bernard, Society Editor

The Baldwin Family recently commemorated the centennial birthday of literary icon and civil rights activist James Baldwin at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, at an event helmed by bestselling author, motivational speaker, and coach Harriette Cole. "A Century Of Baldwin: The Legacy Lives!" featured luminaries of art, literature, and culture and tributes, and acknowledgments to Mr. Baldwin from The Baldwin Family, honoring his life and legacy.

The memorable evening began with a swanky cocktail reception, which provided beautiful views of the plush Lincoln Center

area. The excitement was palpable as guests entered the grand theater with its imposing stage. A breathtaking 100 sign with Baldwin's image hung from the ceiling. Then, a spiritually moving rendition of "Precious Lord" by Mama, I Want to Sing! performers Letrice Arlene Sturdivant and Bishop Kevin RJ McKay started an illustrious program with warm, welcoming remarks from Cole.

The pristine program was filled with wonderment and powerful monologue channeling the spirit of James Baldwin. Highlights included a performance by actor Jo D. Jonz; acknowledgments, ancestor tributes,

and testimonials delivered on behalf of the Baldwin family by Karim Karefa-Smart, Darlene Burnett, and Daniel Baldwin; the never-before shared reading of the letter James Baldwin wrote to his nephew Trevor at his birth; and additional readings by Dr. Frank Leon Roberts and Robert Jones Jr. (known as the Son of Baldwin on social media). Another highlight was a special performance by Grammy Award-winning artist, songwriter, and activist Rhymefest from his latest album, "James & Nikki: A Conversation," which was inspired by the legendary conversation between Baldwin and renowned poet

Nikki Giovanni. The night culminated with all show participants and audience members joining together to sing "Happy Birthday, Jimmy!"

During the program, Trevor Baldwin (James Baldwin's nephew and Founder, Baldwin United Fund) officially announced the launch of the Baldwin United Fund, a collective action fund in partnership with Tides Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This proud family operation will provide grant assistance to global programs while promoting the legacy of James Baldwin through art, literacy and social justice.

"A Century of Baldwin: The Legacy Lives!" was co-produced by famed choreographer George Faison and the James Baldwin Centennial Committee (JBCC). The JBCC is an arm of the Estate composed of Baldwin's nieces/nephews created to facilitate special initiatives in conjunction with the centenary. In addition to the event, Vintage just released a stunningly designed box set of James Baldwin's principal novels, featuring "Go Tell It On The Mountain" (introduction by Roxane Gay), "Giovanni's Room" (introduction by Kevin Young), and "If Beale Street Could Talk" (introduction by Brit Bennett) with cover art by Baldwin's friend and contemporary Beauford Delaney. Everyman's Library has also just released a major hardcover compendium of Baldwin's nonfiction, including "The Fire Next Time," "Nobody Knows My Name," "No Name in the Street," and "The Devil Finds Work," with an introduction by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. and timed to the celebration of the Baldwin centenary.

The Baldwin Family would like to thank the partners at Vintage Books & Penguin Random House, New York Public Library and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, National Museum for African-American History and Culture, Google, Kinfolk Tech, Pande Literary, Concord, Richard Avedon Foundation, and legacy benefactor the Ford Foundation. Publicist Nina Flowers handled all media.

Photos by Kevin A. Richards



Caroline Avedon and Laura Avedon



Daniel Baldwin



Host Harriette Cole



The Baldwin Family



Guests join family in Singing Happy Birthday Jimmy.



Robert Jones Jr. and Trevor Baldwin

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<sup>4</sup> Maximum income and loan amount limits apply. Fixed-rate mortgages (purchases or no cash out refinances), primary residences only. Certain property types are ineligible. Maximum loan-to-value ("LTV") is 97%, and maximum combined LTV is 105%. For LTV >95%, any secondary financing must be from an approved Community Second Program. Homebuyer education may be required. Other restrictions apply.

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# HARLEM WEEK Closes Out 50th Anniversary Weekend with “Summer in the City” and “Harlem Day”

**H**A R L E M WEEK concluded its 50th year anniversary this past weekend with two of its signature outdoor events, “SUMMER IN THE CITY” on Saturday, August 17th and the event that started it all—“HARLEM DAY” on Saturday August 18th.

“SUMMER IN THE CITY” took place at the St. Nicholas Avenue Main Stage (West 135th Street bet. St. Nicholas Ave. & Frederick Douglass Blvd) and offered a full day of activities including Broadway

performances by the Jeff Foxx Band, WBLS 50th Year Anniversary tribute and salute to “The Quiet Storm;” The highly anticipated fashion show, health testing stations and hundreds of food vendors, arts crafts, music, jewelry, hats, sculptors, corporate exhibitors, and games. Youth activities included the Alex Trebek Harlem Children’s Spelling Bee at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the NYC The Children’s Festival was held at Howard Bennett Playground and provided

a full day of activities for youth..

“HARLEM DAY,” featured three stages of entertainment with performances by A\$AP Ferg, Full Force, Fatman Scoop, Ray Chew and Friends, The New York Liberty, cast members of Hell’s Kitchen, MJ The Musical, Moulin Rouge, and A Wonderful World, Nat Adlerly, Jr. and SING HARLEM; and more.

Photos by Seitu Oronde



# Wally Amos, of Famous Amos' Cookie Fame, dies at 88

by Jennifer Sinco Kellejer, Associated Press

Wallace “Wally” Amos, the creator of the cookie empire that took his name and made it famous and who went on to become a children’s literacy advocate, has died. He was 88.

He died August 13, 2024, at his home in Honolulu, with his wife, Carol, at his side, his children said. He died from complications with dementia, they said.

“With his Panama hat, kazoo, and boundless optimism, Famous Amos was

a great American success story and a source of Black pride,” said a statement from his children, Sarah, Michael, Gregory, and Shawn Amos.

They said their dad “inspired a generation of entrepreneurs when he founded the world’s first cookie store” on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles in 1975.

Wallace Amos was also co-founder of Uncle Wally’s Muffin Co., whose products are found in stores nationwide. But Amos said the fame never really mattered much to him.

“Being famous is highly overrated anyway,” Amos told The Associated Press in 2007.

His muffin company, based in Shirley, N.Y., was originally founded as Uncle Noname Cookie Co. in 1992, a few years after Amos lost Famous Amos, which still widely uses his name on its products.

Amos had said the Famous Amos cookies sold today are unlike his cookies, which had lots of chocolate, real butter and pure vanilla extract.

“You can’t compare

a machine-made cookie with handmade cookie,” he told the AP. “It’s like comparing a Rolls Royce with a Volkswagen.”

Uncle Noname, however, floundered because of debt and problems with its contracted manufacturers.

The company filed for bankruptcy in 1996, abandoned cookies and went into muffins at the suggestion of Amos’ business partner, Lou Avignone.

Inside his now-shut-tered Hawaii cookie shop, he sold bite-sized cookies similar to the ones he first



sold at the Famous Amos Hollywood store.

Amos also was active in promoting reading. His shop, for example, had a reading room with dozens of donated books, and Amos usually spent Saturdays sitting on a rocking

chair, wearing a watermelon hat, reading to children.

The former high school dropout penned eight books, served as spokesperson for Literacy Volunteers of America for 24 years, and gave motivational talks to corporations, universities, and other groups.

Amos earned numerous honors for his volunteerism, including the Literacy Award presented by President George H.W. Bush in 1991.

“Your greatest contribution to your country is not your signature straw hat in the Smithsonian, but the people you have inspired to learn to read,” Bush said.

Born in Tallahassee, Florida, Amos moved to New York City at age 12 because of his parents’ divorce. He lived with an aunt, Della Bryant, who taught him how to make chocolate chip cookies.

He later dropped out of high school to join the Air Force before working as a mailroom clerk at the William Morris Agency, where he became a talent agent, working with The Supremes, Simon & Garfunkel, and Marvin Gaye before borrowing \$25,000 to launch his cookie business.

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# HUD Announces Policy Changes to Aid Homeless Vets

By Stacy Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced significant policy changes to help veterans experiencing homelessness. The new regulations ensure that veterans receiving service-connected disability benefits are not ineligible for supportive housing projects aided by project-based rental assistance through the HUD Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program.

Previously, VA benefits provided for injuries

or illnesses acquired or worsened during military service were considered income when determining eligibility for housing assistance. The agency said this caused some veterans to exceed the income threshold for these programs. The updated policy will now exclude these benefits from income calculations, allowing more veterans to qualify for housing assistance. Alongside this change, HUD awarded \$20 million to public housing agencies to further improve the HUD-VASH program.

“No veteran should

ever have to experience homelessness, but when they do, they should not face barriers to getting help they deserve,” said Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman. “This policy change will ensure that veterans who are receiving the disability benefits they earned through service and sacrifice can access the housing assistance and supportive services they need to resolve their homelessness.”

The HUD-VASH program is a vital resource for housing veterans experiencing homelessness. It

pairs rental assistance through housing vouchers from HUD with case management and other supportive services provided by the VA. The homeless program staff at local VA medical centers identify veterans experiencing homelessness and refer them to public housing agencies, which issue vouchers to eligible veterans and their families.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough emphasized the importance of the new policy, stating, “The days of a veteran having to choose between getting the VA

benefits they deserve and the housing support they need are finally over. This is a critical step forward that will help veterans nationwide – and bring us one step closer to our ultimate goal of putting an end to veteran homelessness for good.”

To expand access to HUD-VASH for veterans, HUD is:

Requiring public housing agencies (PHAs) that administer HUD-VASH to set the initial income eligibility for veterans at 80 percent of Area Median Income, rather than 50 percent. This higher initial income eligibility threshold was previously optional but is now mandatory.

Adopting an alternative definition of annual income for applicants

and participants of the HUD-VASH program that excludes veterans’ service-connected disability benefits when determining eligibility.

“Every veteran deserves a roof over their head, and the Biden-Harris Administration is doing everything we possibly can to end veteran homelessness,” said White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden. “These actions reflect President Biden and Vice President Harris’s commitment to breaking down barriers to housing so that every veteran gets the benefits they have earned.”

For more details on the revised HUD-VASH operating requirements, visit HUD’s website.



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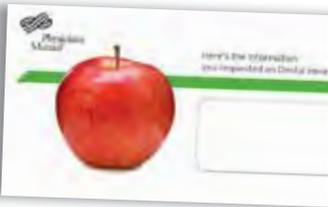
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# Prepping for Fall Allergies: What Every Black Parent Should Know

By Brian Bolinger

**I**tchy, red eyes. Runny nose and hacking cough. Feeling tired and yucky. Allergies are caused by everything from mold spores to pollen and dust mites. So if your child is susceptible to allergies, it's time to get ready before the school year. And don't forget food! Research shows that Black students are more vulnerable to food allergies, like fish and shellfish.

So let's cover the bases. Here's a comprehensive strategy to help Black parents get their kids prepped for the Fall.

First, identify triggers, such as pollen, mold, or cockroaches. Then take measures to

eliminate them. Regular cleaning, air purifiers, and closed windows on high-pollen days are all useful tactics. Regularly showering and changing clothes when exposed can also be beneficial.

Then comes the medicine. If your child uses meds or needs meds just in case, make sure all those inhalers, sprays, and capsules are in close reach. Let your child's school know about these issues and provide the allergy plan for the nurse. The school should be familiar with your child and have all the important meds on deck.

If you don't know what allergens are causing your child's issues, it's time to get

to the bottom of it. Know what to look for. Common allergens like pollen, mold, and dust mites like certain environments. Ragweed pollen, for instance, may travel vast distances on the wind, so even if you don't live near it, you may be impacted.

But sometimes it's still not clear. If it's not, that's totally okay. At this point, you should consult an allergist or immunologist. They will usually deliver skin prick and blood tests to see what could be triggering your child's allergies.

Your allergist will help you devise a plan to avoid allergens or minimize their impact. Medications may be

prescribed, and tweaks may be made with follow-ups. In some cases, immunotherapy (another name for allergy shots) may be effective.

But again, before you settle for multiple medications, be sure to follow a prevention plan.

It all starts with cleaning and maintenance.

The first step is to keep your home clean with good circulation. Make sure to vacuum carpets and upholstery regularly. Dusting surfaces with a damp cloth can capture those pesky allergens.

When cleaning, consider a HEPA filter vacuum, and try to keep indoor humidity under 50



percent if you have the control option. Dehumidifiers are great for basements, and quality air purifiers – while sometimes pricey – are great if they have a HEPA filter.

And don't forget the bedding! Try to wash it at least weekly with hot water, as this will kill most mites. Also, be sure to use certified allergy-proof covers on mattresses and pillows.

On days when you can avoid it, stay indoors. Check weather apps for pollen counts.

Watch your news. Go to places such as The National Allergy Bureau for updated information online.

Finally, work with the school. Know where the nurse's office or other places store medications like antihistamines and EpiPens. Know the emergency procedures in case your child has a serious reaction.

Stay strong, stay the course, and put those allergens in their place!

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# Urbanology: History: Social-Emotional Learning



By William A. Rogers

**S**ocial-Emotional Learning is a term used by The Impact Repertory Theatre, a Harlem-based program that serves as a safe space for young adults. It was co-founded by Jamal Joseph, a professor at Columbia University and a former member of the Harlem Branch of the Black Panther Party, and Voza Rivers, president of the

Harlem Arts Alliance and Executive Vice President of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce.

Impact is an Oscar and Grammy-nominated program where young people use current events and their personal experiences as material to explore the issues facing young people. Before becoming a member of Impact, prospective members experience a twelve-week intensive leadership training program.

At the Boot Camp, young people learn the fundamentals of leadership, service, public speaking, and the repertory performance material. The repertory company performs in front of over 25,000 people per year. Many graduates of Impact go on to careers in the arts. Luther D. Isler, poetically known as The Artist Anubis, is

one.

In March 2012, the Artist Anubis left Impact and founded Harlem Bomb Shelter. Originally a spoken word open mic in Harlem, The Harlem Bomb Shelter has grown into a platform for young artists to share experiences and encouraging education through expression and entertainment.

Programs like the Impact Repertory Theatre and the Harlem Bomb Shelter are very important options for young people in search of self. Dr. Alicia Henderson, Chief of Behavior Health for Ryan Health, who was a guest on my Urbanology radio program on WHCR 90.3 FM, talked about the alarming 36.6 increase in post-COVID suicide rates among Black persons between the ages of 10 and 24.

Luther “The Artist Anubis”

Isler just completed a powerful one-man spoken word poetry show at the Producers Club titled Broken Mirror. This wonderful show about a young man’s battle with identity and anxiety is coming back Saturday, August 24, and Friday, August 30, 2024, at the Triad Theater, 158 West 72nd Street.

Luther wrote Broken Mirror to battle his depression by celebrating his journey: the ability to turn your issues of depression and anxiety into creative art forms like the spoken word, dance, and songwriting is an Impact formula. I took my grandson to see Broken Mirror at the Producers Club, and we both came away with food for thought.

Issues of anxiety and depression can be troubling not only for young people, but there was also an alarming

rise in senior suicides after COVID, Broken Mirror’s dialog is very powerful and sometimes amusing as we follow Anubis during his first therapy session.

Anubis creatively uses the spoken word and poetry to take the audience on his journey to therapy--a journey many can identify with. That is why Broken Mirror can be healing and therapeutic for young and old. To get tickets for Broken Mirror, visit [www.triadnyc.com](http://www.triadnyc.com) or call 646 225-0688.

To get information on the Harlem Bomb Shelter programs, send an email to [heartistanubis@gmail.com](mailto:heartistanubis@gmail.com)

To get information about the Impact Repertory Theater programs, visit [www.impactreptheatre.org](http://www.impactreptheatre.org).

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Answers to Crosswod on page 17



## HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY MEN'S HEALTH

– A Conversation Continued

By Zakiyyah

### Herbs Are Nature's Medicine

**M**en’s biggest health problems are generally the result of a lack of health care monitoring earlier in life. For example, the progression of heart disease: “if you don’t get your cholesterol checked when it’s going high when you’re 20, and if you don’t get your blood pressure checked when it’s going high when you’re 30, maybe your blood sugar’s getting a little high when you’re 40, what do you think is going to happen when you’re 50?” Of the top ten causes of male

deaths, only one is male organ specific: prostate cancer.

**THE PROSTATE** - An enlarged prostate creates a blockage, which may cause repeated urinary tract infections and start the process of bladder or kidney damage. Not enough is known about what causes prostate cancer and/or how to prevent it, yet the disease is treatable if found in early stages. This can be a challenge, since prostate cancer can show no symptoms until it has spread to other parts of the body. Stay ahead of the game – get an annual check-up/prostate screening.

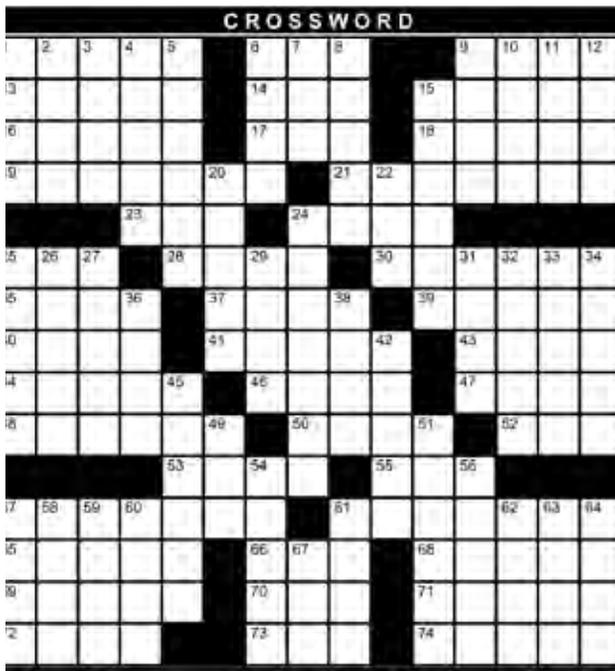
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# GAMES

See answers on pages 16



see answers on page 19

## Statepoint Crossword

THEME: MUSIC 101

### ACROSS

1. Meat chunks
6. Calendar square
9. \*\_\_\_ signature, or notation that describes #34 Down
13. Hiya or howdy
14. Down Under runner
15. West Point student
16. At full speed
17. Big Apple
18. Flounder's domain
19. \*Complementary notes sung simultaneously
21. \*Not sonata
23. Debate position
24. Painter Chagall
25. Munchausen's story
28. Casino chip
30. \*R in R&B
35. Spanish earthen pot
37. Lobed organs
39. Nest for an eagle
40. Bona fide
41. \*Adagio or moderato, e.g.

43. What a willow did?
44. \*Type of piano technician
46. Flock member description
47. Fill beyond full
48. Masters of ceremonies, colloquially speaking
50. Jon Krakauer's book "\_\_\_ the Wild"
52. High craggy hill
53. Church congregation
55. Hole punching tool
57. \*A \_\_\_\_, or without accompaniment
61. \*Fast
65. Not asleep
66. 2000 lbs.
68. Acquisition through marriage
69. Rubber tree product
70. Director's cry
71. \*Five lines
72. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
73. 168 in 1 week
74. Housed

### DOWN

1. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's title
2. Dharma teacher
3. Resembling wings
4. Good Year balloon, e.g.
5. Mexico City state
6. Say it isn't so
7. Winehouse or Schumer
8. New Mexico's state flower
9. Diplomat's asset
10. It comes to mind
11. Not in Impossible Burger
12. European erupter
15. Shell-like anatomical structure
20. \*Nine instruments, e.g.
22. Bobby of hockey
24. Halle Bailey's 2023 role
25. \*Loud or strong
26. Part of small intestine
27. Sometimes follows sauvignon
29. 1.3 ounces, in Asia
31. Coniferous trees
32. October 31 option
33. On top of trends (2 words)
34. \*Strong-weak-strong-weak, e.g.
36. Sheltered, nautically speaking
38. "Wheel of Fortune" move
42. Based on number 8
45. Automatic reaction
49. \*Fa follower
51. Solemn and wise?
54. Gate holder
56. \*Slow
57. Pay a visit
58. Not home
59. Goose liver dish
60. Augments, usually with effort
61. Social insects
62. Air of allure, slangily
63. Five-star review
64. Was in the hole
67. Possessive pronoun
68. Lusitania's last call

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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# College or Not? Books that Can Define Your Future

by Anna Eski-Smith and Karin Klein

REVIEW by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

Deep down inside In her new book “Make College Your Superpower” (Rowman & Littlefield, \$30.00), author Anna Eski-Smith says it’s a great time to be a student because, though life has been “weird” with the pandemic, shut-downs, and such, “Technology has changed everything.”

Today’s students know a lot about technology, for one thing – possibly more than do their professors, giving students “an edge.” Facial recognition on a variety of campuses have recently shown more “happy” faces than ever before.

To be one of those satisfied students, she says, don’t go by magazine rankings. Learn the smart ways to apply to the right college

for you. Play up what you do best, not what you love most. Take the quizzes and the workbook-like questionnaires in this book and know yourself. Be savvy about finances and the lack thereof.

And get out and meet people! That’s part of what college is for.

Then again, college is not for everyone.

In the new book “Rethinking College” by Karin Klein (Harper Horizon, \$29.99), you’ll learn that despite what you’ve been told for most of your high school career, you can thrive and succeed without a four-year degree.

Volunteer work is a valid way to gain experience that could open doors in environ-

mental groups, food pantries, and service groups that offer some paid positions within the organization. An apprenticeship may be a way to learn a trade through on-the-job instruction while also receiving a wage; an internship could accomplish the same. Exploring how one’s talents can be turned into a job is always possible, especially if what you love doing is in high demand. Or you could take your visionary skills and start your own business with surprisingly less money than you may have thought possible.

This is the kind of book you want to give the high schooler who’s not so-called college material or who chafes against what college has to offer. It also opens a whole world of possibility for anyone who’s older, with high school long behind

them.

If these books are different from what you or your high-school senior needs for the next few months and beyond, then ask your local librarian or bookseller for help. They’ll have books for you on surviving freshman year, knowing what to expect at college, homesickness and missing your teenager, and landing a great apprenticeship, non-profit position, or starting your own business.

“**Make College Your Superpower**” by Anna Eski-Smith c.2024, Rowman & Littlefield \$30.00 189 pages

“**Rethinking College: A Guide to Thriving without a Degree**” by Karin Klein c.2024, Harper Horizon \$29.99 256 pages



## SUDOKU ANSWERS

8	4	5	1	6	3	9	2	7
1	2	3	9	7	8	6	4	5
9	7	6	5	4	2	8	3	1
7	6	2	3	5	9	1	8	4
3	1	9	2	8	4	5	7	6
4	5	8	7	1	6	2	9	3
6	3	4	8	9	1	7	5	2
2	9	7	6	3	5	4	1	8
5	8	1	4	2	7	3	6	9

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# Pat Stevenson

## Celebrating 30 Years Publishing

**JOIN US** in the Celebration on the pages of Harlem Community News **September 5, 2024**

"It has been my honor and pleasure to present "Good News You Can Use" to the New York communities in Harlem, Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens for more than 29 years now. We have been blessed to have been able to continue to publish weekly during the Pandemic. Delivering the "good news" and covering the people and organizations doing "good works" can be financially challenging as we employ independent contractors who lend their expertise to produce our products. Therefore, we appreciate your support and donations as we continue this journey on the path God has set for us." Pat Stevenson

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