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

COMMUNITY QUEENS NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

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FREE



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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.

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PAT STEVENSON

DID YOU VOTE?

My son and I have already cast our “early vote” for V.P. Kamala Harris. Harlem News normally does not endorse a candidate - however this election is too important. Democracy and a Woman’s Right to Choose are on the ballot. I am saying it out loud - “We endorse the Harris/Walz ticket,” and I look forward to having her as the cover of our next issue on November 7th as the elected 47th President of the United States. If you have not voted yet, please go out and vote early, Early voting polls are open from 8am to 8pm every day from now until November 3rd in NY.. The deadline for you to vote is November 5th at 9pm.

Don’t miss another copy of the Harlem Community News. You can subscribe and receive a copy mailed to you weekly - \$49.99 for one year. (see subscription form on page 18) or you can visit our website at www.harlemcommunitynews.com to see past issues or subscribe to our “free” daily newsletter.- Just go to our website and enter your email address.

Our next 30th Anniversary issue will be November 28th. You can show your support by running a congratulations ad or contributing to our go fund me.

Pat Stevenson
Celebrating
30 years Publishing

What's On Your Ballot? Prepared by the Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams Office

Election Day is November 5, 2024. This election will be critical, and voting is one of the most direct ways for people to raise their voices and create change.

When you are voting, remember to flip your ballot. In addition to individual candidates, New Yorkers will vote on six ballot proposals that will impact daily life in New York. The first of these measures is at the state level, while items 2-6 are city level charter revision proposals.

These votes are cast individually – meaning that a voter can approve one ballot proposal while voting against others. It's critical to consider the merits of each before casting your vote.

Before you step into the voting booth, or if you're already there, keep reading to learn more about what is on your ballot this election season.

Plan ahead before casting your ballot. Head to your poll site between 8 am - 8 pm. Visit [FindMyPollSite.vote.nyc](https://www.vote.nyc.gov/FindMyPollSite), to check your Election Day poll site. Remember, Tuesday, November 5, is the deadline to postmark your early mail or absentee ballot in the mail or drop it off at a poll site.

Proposals in this election are for one amendment to the State Constitution and five edits to the New York City Charter. Remember: ballot proposals are on the other side of your ballot! Here are the proposals for this fall:

Ballot Proposal 1: Adds Certain Protections to the State Bill of Rights

Adds anti-discrimination provisions to the State Constitution. Covers ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity and pregnancy. Also covers reproductive healthcare and autonomy.

A "YES" adds these protections against discrimination to the New York State Constitution.

A "NO" vote leaves these protections out of the State Constitution.

Ballot Proposal 2: Cleaning Public Property

This proposal would amend the City Charter to expand and clarify the Department of Sanitation's power to clean streets and other City property and require disposal of waste in containers.

Voting "Yes" will expand and clarify the Department of Sanitation's power to clean streets and other City property and require disposal of waste in containers. Voting "No" leaves laws unchanged.

Ballot Proposal 3: Additional Estimates of the Cost of Proposed Laws and Updates to Budget Deadlines

This proposal would amend the City Charter to require fiscal

analysis from the Council before hearings and votes on laws, authorize fiscal analysis from the Mayor, and update budget deadlines.

Voting "Yes" would amend the City Charter to require additional fiscal analysis prior to hearings and votes on local laws, and update budget deadlines. Voting "No" leaves laws unchanged.

Ballot Proposal 4: More Notice and Time Before Votes on Public Safety Legislation

This proposal would require additional public notice and time before the City Council votes on laws respecting the public safety operations of the Police, Correction, or Fire Departments.

Voting "Yes" will require additional notice and time before the Council votes on laws respecting public safety operations of the Police, Correction, or Fire Departments. Voting

"No" leaves laws unchanged.

Ballot Proposal 5: Capital Planning

This proposal would amend the City Charter to require more detail in the annual assessment of City facilities, mandate that facility needs inform capital planning, and update capital planning deadlines.

Voting "Yes" would require more detail when assessing maintenance needs of City facilities, mandate that facility needs inform capital planning, and update capital planning deadlines. Voting "No" leaves laws unchanged.

Ballot Proposal 6: Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBES), Film Permits, and Archive Review Boards

This proposal would amend the City Charter to establish the Chief Business Diversity Officer (CBDO), authorize the Mayor to



designate the office that issues film permits, and combine archive boards.

Voting "Yes" would establish the CBDO to support MWBES, authorize the Mayor to designate the office that issues film permits, and combine two boards. Voting "No" leaves laws unchanged.

Visit NYC Votes to learn more about each proposal. It's crucial in this moment for people to make their voices heard, to make their vote count, to help make our government reflective of and responsive to the needs of our communities.

WHEN WE VOTE, WE WIN.

When our rights are on the line **we fight** and when they're on the ballot **we vote**, because **we're not going back.**

The economy is on the ballot.
Health care is on the ballot.
Criminal justice reform is on the ballot.
Reproductive freedom is on the ballot.
Environmental justice is on the ballot.
The right to vote is on the ballot.

If we do our part and show up to the polls, we will make history (again)!

Let's vote for progress and the future we deserve. Vote for the leader who's been fighting for us for years.

Election Day is November 5th.
Vote for Kamala Harris.

Photo Credit: National Archives (Top)



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PONDER THIS! There is No Shame in Telling Your Story



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

er. It is good to share the good news through the word of God.

You may not be a breast cancer survivor, yet you may have a story to tell. We all have a story to tell. A testimony is a form of praise and honor to God for what He has done. It is an opportunity to tell somebody how God worked in you, through you, for you and would not let you go.

When you needed a savior, God showed up and showed out. When you have gone through trials and sufferings in life, that is an opportunity to share a testimony of how God kept you and brought you through.

When you felt the breath of life flowing through you, that was

God's loving spirit coming to you and that is a testimony to be shared. A testimony is not only the things that we say. Your testimony is insight into how you live.

Your story is the key that can unlock someone else's prison. God can turn a mess into a message, a trial into a triumph, a victim into a victor. And his only request is that you tell somebody.

As God did it for you, you must tell it to others. What you think is your misery, God can transform into a ministry. Your story can be what God uses to draw someone to faith in Jesus. Though your words are not biblically the written words of the gospels, they can be used to point

people to the gospel.

We are all survivors in our own way. We will all have a cross to carry along our life journey. We do not know what it shall be, but God will watch to see how we carry it.

Your prayer and your testimony are never to be taken lightly. When you check on someone or someone calls to say they are praying for you, that is a profession of faith. It is a confirmation of their trust and belief in God. Testifying is a validation of your relationship with God. If you boast at all, be certain to boast in what God has done for you.

There is a blessed story of redeeming love, how it keeps us thinking



of the joys above. How it lightens sorrow, trouble, grief, and care, let us tell it, sing it, shout it everywhere. Psalm 105: verses 1 and 2. "Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim His name; tell the nations what He has done. Sing praise to the Lord, tell all the wonderful things he

has done." [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries. Contact: misshazel@twc.com and www.hazelrosettasmith.com]

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Improving New Yorkers' Quality of Life Block by Block



By Mayor Eric Adams

Recently, I was with community leaders and senior officials in our administration on Roosevelt Avenue in Queens, one of our city's most diverse neighborhoods. It is where New Yorkers from all over the world come to live, work, raise their families, and strive for the American Dream. However, Roosevelt Avenue — a major thoroughfare with the 7 train running above it — has become a site of crime, disorder, and exploitation as illegal brothels, illicit vendors, and unlicensed food carts have taken over, and quality-of-life offenses have skyrocketed.

It was not my first-time visiting the neighborhood. In January, I

was there as we shut down 12 illegal brothels. And year to date, the NYPD has made over 3,000 arrests and issued over 9,500 summonses in the area. But we know arrests and summonses alone won't get the job done, and that we must bring together partners from across government to address the challenges on Roosevelt Avenue and deliver upstream solutions that tackle the problem at the source. That is why we answered the calls of residents and businesses by launching "Operation Restore Roosevelt," a massive cross-agency operation led by the NYPD.

Operation Restore Roosevelt draws on the expertise of more than a dozen city agencies, including the NYPD, FDNY, the Department of Buildings, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Homeless Services, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Parks, the

Department of Sanitation, the Department of Small Business Services, the Department of Transportation, the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, and the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health. The initiative also involves our partners at the MTA, the New York State Police, and the Queens County District Attorney's Office.

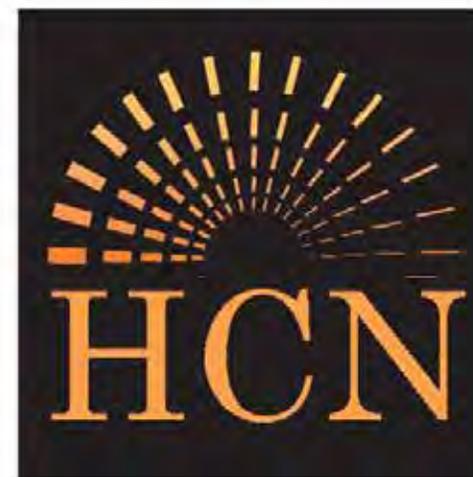
We know that it takes all of us, working together, to ensure that these illegal brothels are closed, that the victims of sex trafficking are supported, and that residents and businesses can live and work in an area that is not bombarded by theft and illegal vendors.

Operation Restore Roosevelt builds on our public safety and quality-of-life initiatives on 14th Street and in Midtown by expanding our efforts block by block and neighborhood by neighborhood to make sure our city continues to be a clean and safe

place where families can thrive.

I am proud to announce that thanks to our efforts, New York City has seen nine straight months of crime reduction, and overall crime continues to trend downward in New York City. Homicides, burglary, grand larceny, and grand larceny auto are all down year to date. And transit crime is also down year to date. These are significant achievements. But they are the result of continual hard work and coordinated action — like the work being done on Roosevelt Avenue.

We came into office with a clear mission: to make New York a safer, more affordable city. And we will not rest until we have accomplished that mission, block by block and street by street, with every agency giving their all for the people of New York City.



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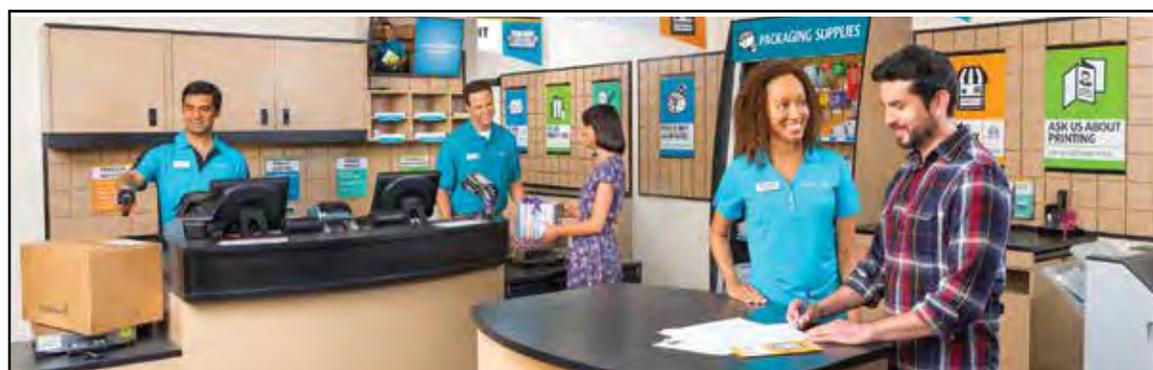
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Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

I received an alarming call from a prospective home buyer this week. She was working with a program that provided her with a loan officer, a real estate broker, a real estate attorney, and a home inspector. All these professionals were employed by one company. This is called a 'One Stop Home Buying Center.' I thought these organizations no longer existed, but I was wrong. They still exist and will try to steal your money!

It is never a good idea for your home buying team to come from one source. You do not want anyone to choose the members of your team. You must do the research, interview, and select the members of your team. In this instance, her team used her lack of knowledge to work against her.

She signed a contract without proper legal counsel and lost most of her down payment. She called me seek-

ing assistance to recoup her money. I told her she could report them, but since she had signed the contract, little could be done.

This is the importance of attending the home buyer education workshop seminar series like the one offered by Harlem Congregations For Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI). Even if you are not eligible for the grant, the program could help you avoid making a costly mistake and losing your money. You should attend an approved housing counseling workshop at the beginning of the process.

The home buying workshop will give you insights on navigating through the dangerous and tricky waters of negotiating a purchase price, determining the right type for your specific needs, and selecting a team of professionals. You will learn about industry terminology, mortgage products, and available grant programs. You will acquire the confidence needed to complete the process and to successfully become a homeowner.

Here are some things you need to know: (1) Do not make an offer on a home until you have a pre-approval let-

ter from an authorized lender. Know how much you can comfortably afford to spend on a monthly mortgage payment. Investigate the various types of mortgage products and determine which one is most suitable for you. If you make an offer before getting a pre-approval, your deposit will be in jeopardy.

(2) Sign nothing until your attorney has reviewed the contract. Sit down with your attorney and go over the contract with him/her until you completely understand all legal ramifications. Once you have signed the contract, it is a legally binding document. It can be very difficult and/or costly to get out of the agreement.

(3) Get referrals from your housing counselor or people you trust who have just recently completed the home buying process. Under no circumstances should you do what is called "a one-stop shop," where your entire team is pre-selected.

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

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HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 2, 8pm
“Like It Like That” at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

The Musical in Concert “Like It Like That” Stars - George Lamond, Judy Torres, Michael Stuart, Obie Bermudez, Grizel del Valle, Flaco Navaja, Caridad de la Luz, Rossmery Almonte, Lee Burgos and Juan Ramirez, Jr. An electrifying concert tour, featuring an all-star band and original cast performing extended versions of both beloved classics and new hits. Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boule-

vard West, Bronx. Tickets (VIP \$125, \$95, \$75, \$60, \$50) can be purchased by calling the Lehman Center box office at 718-960-8833; Para Español: 718-960-8835 (Monday through Friday, 10 am–5 pm, and beginning 4 hours prior to showtime on weekends), or through online access at <https://www.lehmancenter.org/events/like-it-like-that>.

Nov 2, 8pm
Angélique Kidjo at Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium)

Global icon and five-time Grammy Award winner Angélique Kidjo returns to Carnegie Hall in

celebration of her incomparable 40-year (and counting!) career with a concert that includes selections from her latest project, African Symphony, as well as performances with her band of songs that have defined her career. Joining her for this special performance are Nile Rodgers, one of the most influential American guitarists, songwriters, and producers of the past 50 years; and Baaba Maal, a world-renowned, world-traveling Senegalese singer, guitarist, composer, and humanitarian. With arrangements by Derrick

Hodge, known for his work with Robert Glasper and Common, the evening features hits from legends like Miriam Makeba, Fela Kuti, and more, plus special appearances by additional artists from across the African diaspora and beyond. Experience an extraordinary evening with Kidjo, who continues to inspire a new generation of artists and audiences worldwide. Tickets start at \$23.50 (\$19.50 + \$4 fee)

Nov 13, 7pm-8:30pm
: When Black Women Speak at Harlem Stage

Harlem Stage and Urban Bush Women present “When Black Women Speak,” a convening of women+ of color leaders from world-class institutions across New York City to discuss the nuances of identity, community, values, support, and success among women+ producers of the Global Majority. Panelists are Black women leaders from across NYC arts and culture, including Harlem Stage CEO & Artistic Director, Dr. Indira Etwaroo and more. FREE with RSVP. Harlem Stage is located at 150 Convent Avenue.

Nov 14, 7pm
Liza Jessie Peterson’s SISTERLING at Harlem Stage

Back by popular demand, we have added a one-night only encore presentation of Liza Jessie Peterson’s SISTERLING The Ever-Present Presence of Angels. This breathtaking and unapologetic performance received a one-minute standing ovation at the October 14 premiere. If you missed the show, then now’s your chance to experience the continued evolution and the creative genius of Peterson’s work. (tickets: \$50.00, \$40.00, \$25.00;

Harlem Stage is located at 150 Convent Avenue,



Nov 3 Red Rooster



Nov 2 at Carnegie Hall



Nov 14 Harlem Stage



Nov 2 at Lehman



Nov 13 Harlem Stage.



Nov 2 Super Sabado at El Museo del Barrio

Harlem Stage Kicks Off New Season With New Leader and More

Sitting at the intersection of several diverse communities and providing a bridge between Harlem’s cultural legacy and contemporary artists, Harlem Stage, a 41-year-old socio-cultural artistic laboratory, continues to be the birthplace of world-class and innovative works by artists of color.

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “an invaluable incubator of talent,” Harlem Stage nurtured many visionaries at the beginning of their careers, including MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship awardees Vijay Iyar, Kyle Abraham, Bill T. Jones, Jason Moran, and Cecil Taylor.

As summer has transitioned to fall, this neigh-

bor to Columbia University and The City College of New York is opening its doors and welcoming audiences from all walks of life in its inaugural season for new CEO and Artistic Director, Dr. Indira Etwaroo. The 2024-2025 season, entitled “When We Are Heard,” is a multi-genre, multi-venue, multi-platform extravaganza filled with both free and ticketed events that unleash the transformative power of burgeoning artists and communities of the Global Majority which encompasses the African Diaspora, Latin Diaspora, Indigenous Peoples, and Asian and Pacific Islanders. The programming is designed to be a celebration of unique and diverse artistry

and the indelible impression Harlem has made on American culture. Dr. Etwaroo notes that one of the primary goals of Harlem Stage, in addition to providing opportunities for artists, is to make performances easily accessible to a wide array of audiences and to introduce children to the awe, excitement, and inspiration the performing arts provide and to respond to the ever-changing conditions and factors that shape American lives and communities.

“It is not lost on me that my inaugural season at Harlem Stage is happening at a time when the fundamental rights of so many are being threatened across the world,” Dr. Etwaroo notes. “Har-

lem, with its rich legacy, has been and will always be our home, but the entire world, with its cultural complexities, new technologies, and unfinished work of equity is our stage.”

With partnerships throughout the season with renowned institutions that include Classical Theatre of Harlem, Urban Bush Women, The New Press, and Carnegie Hall, some of Harlem Stage’s upcoming events over the next few weeks include a Community Halloween Party (October 31) with candy, prizes, ghost stories read by talented actors, and a costume contest for all ages as well as an Election Night Watch Party (November 5) for community members on



all points on the political spectrum to gather and engage in meaningful discourse. For more information about Harlem

Stage, upcoming events and performances, and ticket prices, visit harlemstage.org.

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Liberty Wins: Team Receives Key to City and Ticker Tape Parade

Last week, New York City Mayor Eric Adams awarded the Key to the City of New York to members of the New York Liberty, the 2024 Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) champions. This is the first time in the franchise’s history that the team has won the WNBA Championship. Earlier in the day, Mayor Adams hosted a ticker tape parade that led down the Canyon of Heroes and ended with a ceremony at City Hall, where he presented the members of the Liberty with Keys to the City.

“Keys to the City are reserved for those who know how to bring home the trophy — true champions — like the New York Liberty,” said Mayor Adams. “Every step of the way, the New York Liberty made our city

proud, from making franchise history to securing the best record in the league to inspiring all New Yorkers that our city is full of champions. I am proud to deliver the highest honor I can offer — a Key to the City — to each member of the New York Liberty, who have created a lasting legacy for our city.

“The Liberty are proud to bring the WNBA championship to New York, and we are honored to accept this Key to the City. We have been chasing this dream since 1997 and would not be here without this incredible team who showed grit and determination all season long, Joe Tsai and Clara Wu Tsai, and each and every Liberty legend who paved the way,” said Keia Clarke, CEO, New York Liberty. “We

take great pride in what the Liberty built during this historic season, and to all the Liberty fans celebrating across the city and around the world, we thank you. This championship is for you.

A Key to the City was presented to each of the New York Liberty’s 12 players: Kennedy Burke, Markeisha Davis, Ivana Dojkić, Leonie Fiebich, Sabrina Ionescu, Jonquel Jones, Betnijah Laney-Hamilton, Nyara Sabally, Jaylyn Sherrod, Breanna Stewart, Kayla Thornton, and Courtney Vandersloot. Keys were additionally presented to Head Coach Sandy Brondello; Assistant Coaches Roneeka Hodges, Olaf Lange, and Zach O’Brien; and Board of Governors Joe and Clara Wu Tsai.

Founded in 1997, the

New York Liberty were one of the eight original franchises of the WNBA. Led by Head Coach Sandy Brondello this year, the New York Liberty had the best record in the league this season, winning 32 games and only losing eight. They defeated the Minnesota Lynx in Game 5 of the WNBA finals on Sunday night to win their first-ever championship.

In addition to City Hall, the following city buildings were lit up to celebrate the Liberty’s national championship: Brooklyn Borough Hall: 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

The David N. Dinkins Manhattan Municipal Building: 1 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007

Queens Borough Hall: 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11424



Staten Island Borough Hall: 10 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301

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a direct symbol of the city’s wish that a guest feel free to come and go at will. Today, the Key to the City of New York is a beloved symbol of civic recognition and gratitude reserved for individuals whose service to the public and the common good rises to the highest level of achievement.

Photos by Seitu Oronde



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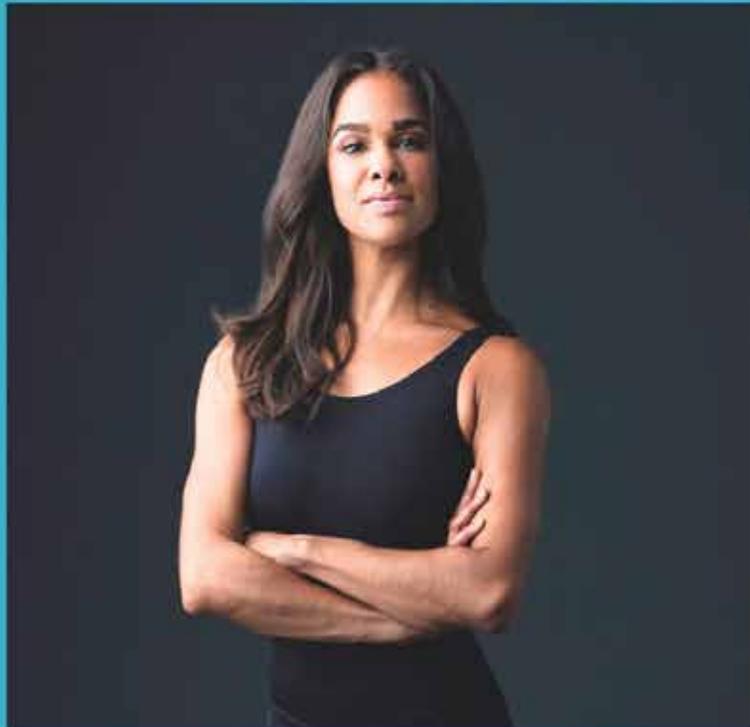


HARLEM HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2024

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RAIN DATE: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26TH



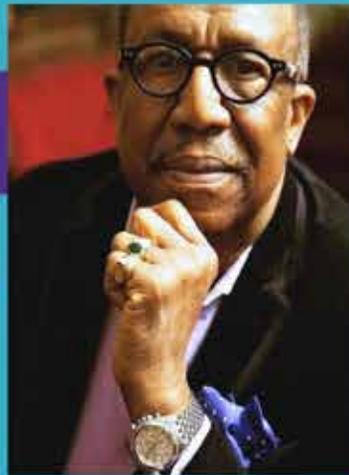
GRAND MARSHAL

Misty Copeland is a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theatre, and the first Black woman to be promoted to the position in the company's 75-year history in 2015. She is also Founder of The Misty Copeland Foundation, based in Harlem.

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The BID will pay special tribute to **George Faison**, Tony Award-winning choreographer renowned for his work on *The Wiz* and other landmark productions.



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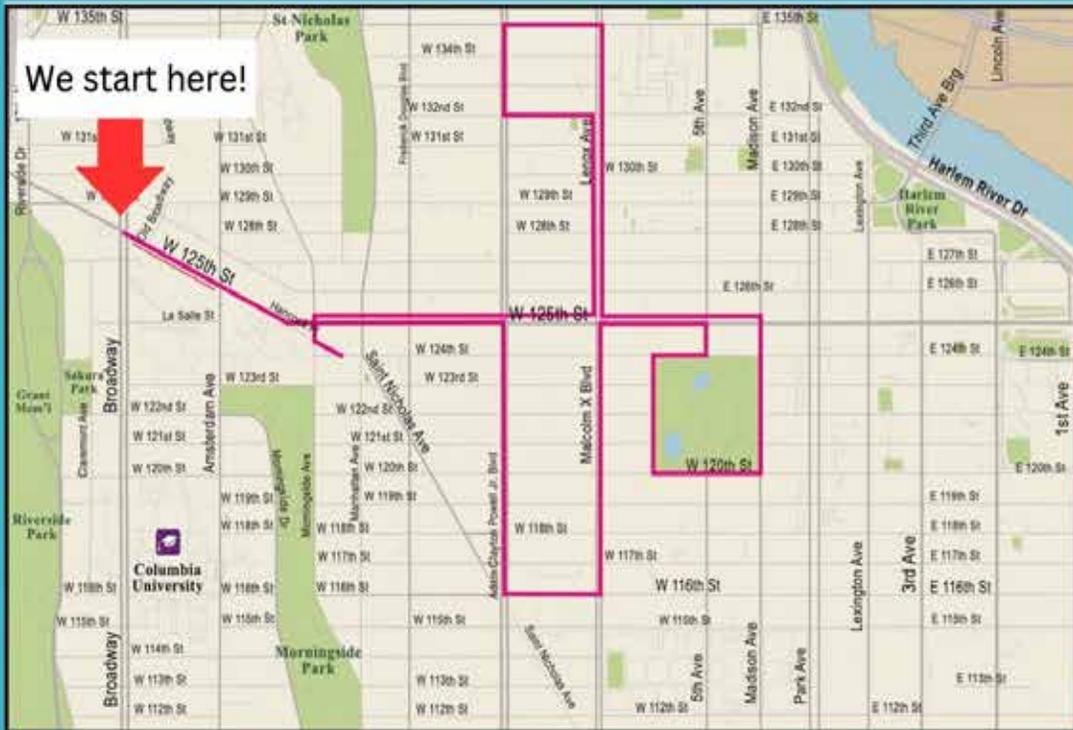
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Audrey's Society Whirl: Remembering Harlem's Beloved

Alma E. Rangel By Audrey J. Bernard, Society Editor

A memorial service for Alma E. Rangel, the beloved wife of the distinguished Charles B. Rangel, former United States Representative and Statesman-in-Residence at The City College of New York, took place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at the beautiful St. Aloysius Catholic Church, located at 219 West 132nd Street in Harlem, New York City.

Mrs. Rangel, a long-time activist and social worker, transitioned on Monday, September 16, 2024, surrounded by her family and loved ones. Harlem showed out for their Former First Lady's farewell service, which was packed with family, loved ones, community activists, political and social advocates, and her neighbors for the standing room only service which was live-streamed. A repass followed at the Alma Rangel Gardens, 55 West 137th Street, Harlem, New York. In lieu of gifts, the family requested that all donations be sent to the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens.

Alma E. Rangel was a woman of immense wisdom, compassion, and dedication. Educated and eloquent, she was always passionate about language and learning, often offering gentle corrections to those around her, including her beloved grandchildren. An avid reader, she filled her home with books and stories, nurturing a deep appreciation for knowledge about everyone she met. Through her actions, she showed love and encouraged growth. Visiting her many times as a child deepened my understanding of the city she loved.

Alma also instilled the value of giving back, urging me to spend time volunteering and

connecting with local communities. She believed that service was a key to personal and communal growth, a value that has carried on through the lives she touched.

Alma will be remembered not only for her professional accomplishments but for the deep love, wisdom, and encouragement she gave to her family. Her legacy of service, education, and kindness will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Family, friends and associates hailed Alma as passionate, socially conscious, and driven in all her endeavors. She was a woman of great vision whose long meritorious service included founder and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses, a social fundraising arm of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, which awards grants to college students nationwide.

Alma also served as President and CEO of the Ralph J. Rangel Foundation, which provides scholarships to students, and vice chair of the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens' Board of Directors. Her hard work in the latter position resulted in the construction of the Alma Rangel Gardens, an 89-unit apartment building that provides housing and support services for low and middle-income seniors in Harlem.

During her time as a social worker and trips abroad to visit imprisoned Americans, rural villages, soup kitchens, and Peace Corps projects on many continents, she developed an interest in speaking with women's organizations on issues that affect women in developing countries. Specifically, Alma became interested in the role of the Cuban economy as it relates to women and

the human rights of women in Cuba after her visit to Cuba in 2002. She will be deeply missed, but her spirit lives on in the hearts of her loved ones and the many lives she improved through her tireless dedication.

Congressman Rangel said: "To those who had the pleasure of knowing my beautiful wife, Alma, let me take this time to thank you for sharing your condolences and sympathy for our family's loss. We have been so fortunate to have enjoyed Alma's love, affection, and support over these many, many years that we can only thank God for having her with us for so long. On behalf of my children, Steven and Alicia, and my family, let me sincerely thank all of you for your words of support during this time of our loss. Your thoughts are sincerely and deeply appreciated."

"My thoughts and prayers are with my friend and former Congressman Charles Rangel as we laid to rest his beloved wife, Alma Rangel," said Mayor Eric Adams. "She was a force in the Harlem community and was well known for her work helping New Yorkers, including our youth. May she rest in peace."

CCNY President Vincent G. Boudreau commented, "Mrs. Rangel will be fondly remembered for her strong commitment to her family and community and as an inspira-

tion to many. The City College extends its deepest condolences to the Rangel family."

Family, friends, and associates hailed Mrs. Rangel as passionate, socially conscious, and driven in all her endeavors. She was a woman of great vision whose long meritorious service included founder and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses, a social fundraising arm of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, which awards grants to college students around the country.

"The Board of Directors and staff of New York Foundation for Senior Citizens deeply mourn the passing of our beloved Vice Chairman of over 46 years, Alma Rangel, and we extend our sympathy to her husband, The Honorable Charles Rangel and family. We are truly grateful for her staunch support and help in fulfilling the Foundation's mission of providing the highest quality social service programs and housing for older New Yorkers. A beautiful, elegant, genuinely caring, dedicated, and supportive advocate of exemplary integrity, Alma was a true and cherished friend to so many who loved her in return. She will be greatly missed, and lovingly remembered," concluded William N. Hubbard III, Chairman; Linda Hoffman, President, in a joint statement.

Photos by Seitu Oronde



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The Right to Vote is Protective of all Other Rights

By Colin Allred

Voting is one of our most fundamental rights. It's not just about having a say in the future of our country, it's about honoring the legacy of those who fought and sacrificed so that we could have a voice. As a voting rights lawyer, I've seen the impacts of voter suppression firsthand and how deeply un-American it is when folks cannot vote because of arbitrary barriers put in place to make it harder.

I became a voting rights attorney because I believe the right to vote is preservative of all oth-

er rights. That's why we cannot afford to sit on the sidelines. In Congress, I've been working to reinstate and modernize the Voting Rights Act to stop harmful voter suppression laws here in Texas and across the country. I've introduced legislation that would ensure integrity in our elections and protect our election workers. I stand by the words of my hero, Congressman John Lewis, who said, "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy."

Despite these efforts, laws like S.B. 1 in Texas make it harder for Texans to vote by mail, limit the hours of early voting and have burdensome voter registration, and voter ID provisions. This isn't who we are as Texans. The Voting Rights Act, championed by the civil rights movement, was signed into law by a great Texan, President Lyndon B. Johnson.

I think about other Texas icons like the late, great Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who fought fearlessly for our democracy. She never



shied away from challenging those who wanted to silence our communities and take away folks' voices in our democracy. She said it best: "What the people want is very simple, they want an America as

good as its promise." To live up to that promise, we must do better. I often say if you're not at the table, you're on the menu. Voting is our power and our voice. Let's use it.

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Brooklyn Educator Spearheads Initiative to Donate Care Packages to Chemo Patients

By Cynthia Horner

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and beyond, Brooklyn educator Carla Chatelain-Joseph spearheaded an initiative in which female cancer patients at Mt. Sinai West (formerly known as St. Luke's/Roosevelt) received Chemo Care Packages to patients undergoing chemotherapy. Needless to say, the sight of the gift-wrapped packages of Mary Kay products put smiles on the faces of the women who were recipients of the welcomed gifts.

According to Joseph,

a member and one of the former presidents of the Eta Nu Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., "In 2018, my mom was diagnosed with Stage 3 Breast Cancer. During that time, her chemo treatments started in the summer, and since I was off, I initially accompanied her to her appointments. She did six rounds of chemo, surgery, and radiation for a month. If I couldn't attend, then one of my siblings took her. During that time, I noticed some patients were in good spirits while others

were sad and alone. My mom was lucky to have someone with her. Though I usually volunteer to do registration for the Breast Cancer Walk with the American Cancer Society, I wanted to figure out a way to directly impact a patient's life.

"Last year, I teamed up with my cousin and donated lotions to the hospital where her mom was treated. This year, I decided to donate to Mount Sinai West Hospital, where my mom was treated. She still sees her oncologist at least once a year and has a di-

rect connection there, so I thought it would be nice to bring some sunshine to those patients. When patients go through chemo and radiation, their skin is extremely dry, and this package that I put together includes Mary Kay Hydrating lotion and the Extra Emollient Night Cream. Both are proven to provide moisture during this difficult time. As a Mary Kay consultant, I am able to purchase the lotions at a considerable discount and give them away without making a profit. My compensation is

the smile, along with the softer skin I hope to help the recipients achieve. My goal was to donate 200 packages. I am thankful for the numerous volunteers who assisted me in this endeavor."

Carla Chatelain-Joseph is a NYC Public School Educator and NY State certified Literacy Specialist. She is also a Mary Kay Consultant specializing in Skin Care and Women's Empowerment. For more information, contact <https://www.marykay.com/CChatelain1>.

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Urbanology: The Celebration of Halloween



By William A. Rogers

I believe it is safe to say that if you were born and raised in America, you have heard of and perhaps taken part in Halloween activities. Yet most people are not aware why October 31 is a celebration of mystery and disguise. I thought it might be of interest for you to know a little history of this now-com-

mercialized American event and how it started, so I am publishing this previously written article.

Halloween's origins can be traced back to an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain. The festival marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. The Celts lived in Ireland, the United Kingdom, and parts of France. The festival was always celebrated on October 31.

It was believed that on the night of the 31st, the boundary between the living and the dead was blurred, allowing the spirits of the dead to return to earth. As Christianity grew throughout the Roman Empire, The Church sought to replace pagan festivals with Christian holidays.

In the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV declared November 1 as All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows Day, honoring saints and martyrs. The night before All Hallows Day became known as All Hallows Eve, which eventually became Halloween. When the Irish, Scottish, and Welsh came to America in the 19th century, they brought Halloween traditions with them.

There was a significant number of Irish and Scottish slave owners and overseers in southern colonies. Halloween was a festive time even for many slaves, where a mixture of African, European, and indigenous customs and beliefs influenced Halloween celebrations.

African Americans in the South incorporated

elements of their culture and heritage into Halloween celebrations by using dance, music, masks, and storytelling. In the Deep South, many African communities practiced African customs such as "Haint Blue" paint.

On October 31, the Haint Blue paint custom meant that porch ceilings and door frames were painted blue to ward off evil spirits. This practice has its roots in African spiritual beliefs related to protection and warding off negative energies. Growing up in South Carolina, I remember many ghost stories and supernatural beliefs that were intertwined with the Halloween celebration.

In the mid-20th century, Halloween became more commercialized. The

holiday became more focused on entertainment and fun rather than religious or spiritual beliefs. Today, Halloween is one of the most popular holidays in the United States: trick-or-treating, costume parties, horror movies, haunted houses, and a celebration of all things spooky.

I feel that the popularity of Halloween is due to the desire for many to escape reality if only for one night. There will be several adult Halloween parties, starting this weekend and ending with the traditional 51st annual Halloween parade in the Village on October 31.

Have fun, and be safe.

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Answers to Crossword on page 21

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HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY The Elements in Nature and your Zodiac Sign

By Zakiyyah

Our understanding of "As Above - So Below" continues as we learn more about our physical connection to the earth and its cycles. Your Zodiac sign holds profound insight into circumventing illness and disease while guiding you to maintain optimum health and vitality.

Each of the twelve signs anchors the properties of specific plants, as they assist the body's inherent ability to heal itself and restore vitality.

Herbs for the Earth Signs: Marjoram, Rosemary, Tarragon, Mint, Marshmallow, Horehound

Taurus Health Concerns - Taurus governs the Endocrine System. Though persistent and committed, Taureans' urge to

enjoy the rewards of high-living may lead to bouts of over-indulging, obesity, tonsillitis and goiters, and should be a reminder that moderation of most everything can help them maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Virgo Health Concerns - Virgo governs the Digestive System. When nervous tension is not controlled, bowel diseases, indigestion, colic, and intestinal infection may result from undue stress and anxiety. Relaxation, meditation, regular stretching, and deep breathing should help ease tension. Sticking to a healthy diet and relaxing will be of great benefit.

Capricorn Health Concerns - Capricorn rules over the skeletal system,

skin, and joints. Some medical concerns are arthritis, rheumatism, eczema, bone diseases, and depression. Capricorn's competitiveness, tempered with a defined diet and exercise regimen, can avoid fatigue, which tends to drag their immune system down.

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GAMES

See answers on pages 20

CROSSWORD

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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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Statepoint Crossword
THEME:
FAMOUS BUILDINGS

ACROSS

1. Performer's time to shine
5. Selfie, e.g.
8. One of five Ws
11. Très _____, or very stylish
12. Mandolin's cousin
13. Knitter's unit
15. Aren't, colloquially
16. Mimicked
17. *Like House with Oval Office
18. *The Hunchback's home (2 words)
20. Listening devices
21. Flirtatious stares
22. Salt, in Spanish
23. *_____ State Building
26. TV shows, e.g.
30. Will Ferrell's "Funny or _____"
31. Steve McQueen's "The Great _____" (1963)
34. Toss a coin

35. _____ & Young financial services company
37. Kimono tie
38. Sweating room
39. Short skirt
40. Batter (2 words)
42. Lake, in French
43. Anise seed (1 word)
45. *_____ of Versailles or Buckingham _____
47. _____ of war
48. Sinbad the Sailor's home
50. Not good
52. *St. Basil's in Moscow or St. Paul's in London
56. *The Parthenon in Athens is made of this
57. Capital of Norway
58. Aeneas' lover
59. More slippery
60. Animal protein
61. Independent chieftain
62. High degree
63. TV program i nterruptions
64. Retired, abbr.

DOWN

1. CAT or PET, e.g.
2. *Key Tower, tallest building in this Buckeye state
3. Laundry room fire hazard
4. Type of local tax
5. Pupa, pl.
6. Things
7. Give up a state
8. Dam-like structure
9. Not misses
10. Football's extra point
12. Soup scoopers
13. Make a solemn promise
14. *Burj _____, tallest building in the world
19. Wading bird
22. "Monkey _____, monkey do"
23. Bodily swelling
24. Rice wine
25. 1/100th of Finnish markka
26. Rotisserie skewer
27. Spurious wing
28. Cancer-treating

- machine, acr.
29. *_____ Needle, Seattle
32. For boys and girls
33. Lawyers' org.
36. *_____ Chapel, Vatican City
38. Flat replacement
40. "_____, borrow or steal"
41. Eventual outcome
44. Leonhard _____, Swiss mathematician (1707-1783)
46. Portable stairs
48. Headquartered
49. Road-tripping guide
50. Carve in stone
51. Emptiness
52. Vegetative state
53. Ice crystals
54. Passage in a coal mine
55. Voldemort's title
56. Small amount of drink

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"Lead Bigger: The Transformative Power of Inclusion" By Anne Chow

REVIEW by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

The last kid picked. If you were ever in that position, you probably remember what it was like. Being out of the loop, the last person tapped, the one left out, none of this feels good – whether you're a kid or an adult and an employee. So how do you ensure that your team belongs? Read the new book "Lead Bigger" by Anne Chow, and choose it.

When Anne Chow started working at AT&T years ago, she was often the only woman in the room, the only woman in the department, the only Asian-American in the building. Because of that, as she moved up the ladder to a better position, she decided that old ways of leadership in business just didn't work anymore.

She began to expand her outlook into what she calls

"leading bigger," which is "really about inclusive leadership..." DEI leadership, she says, is "more narrow" than leading bigger, and the latter seems to work better for employees and stakeholders (a term Chow prefers). Leading bigger isn't a "task," but "a refreshing and revitalizing way to approach work."

The first step to leading bigger is to know your company's purpose and identify those who have a stake in its success. Bring your team together and be curious about their viewpoints. Define the values you want your company to reflect. Look hard at the places in which you're selling, including online and on social media.

Be flexible, but intentional.

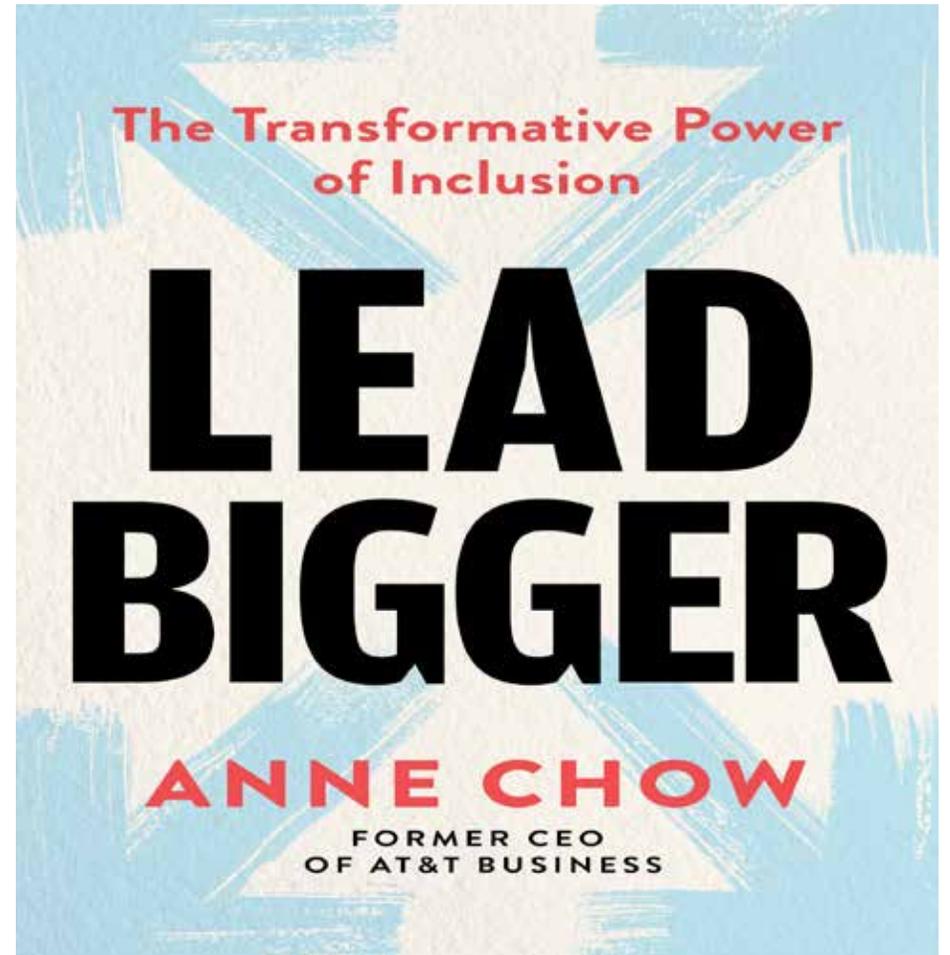
Knowing that you may lead several generations of workers, be aware of the dif-

ferences you'll face, including their well-being, physically and mentally. Know that inclusive support is more than just for LGBTQ individuals and those of other races, but also for those needing childcare and eldercare. Connect with your employees often and ask for feedback but don't allow derogatory comments. Remember that we all have unconscious bias. Give employees room to be authentic. And finally, remember that you're not just leading today's workers. You're setting up employees for the future.

Author Anne Chow offers useful, usable guidelines that may need some outside buy-in but that can be implemented right now, *today*. Her ideas are carefully curated and may surprise readers who aren't used to thinking in a bigger circle; they cover a wide variety of concerns and cautions, and present things to think about. This gives the savviest of readers the chance to take the process further by tailoring it to their business and by including cultures and issues that aren't addressed.

If an old-school style of management isn't working, or if you're struggling with inclusion or being included, you may find the solutions you seek here. If you need a book to help, "Lead Bigger" should be the first one picked.

"Lead Bigger: The Transformative Power of Inclusion" by Anne Chow c.2024, Simon & Schuster \$28.99 272 pages



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