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BRONX NEWS

COMMUNITY

"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 31 No. 21

May 22, 2025 - May 28, 2025

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**Beware the Double
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**Flag Unveiling
Ceremony
Celebrates Haitian
Heritage Month**

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**New York Road
Runners welcomed
Nearly 28,500
Finishers**

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Malcolm X 100th Birthday Celebration

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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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A Publication of: Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc.
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PAT STEVENSON

“Good News You Can Use.” First of all, if you are reading this paper, that is good news that God gave you this day to continue in this life. I am now using a cane because I suffer from chronic knee and hip arthritis. However, the good news is, I am constantly approached by people, especially young people who go out of their way to open doors for me or offer to help me if they see I have a bag. I don’t consider myself disabled because I do work just about everyday, however, I know that I have limitations. But I am so grateful God has seen fit to give me more than 72 years of life, experiences, friends, good times, laughter and joy. As I look over my life, I have no regrets. I have had and continue to have great friends. I am from a huge family with more than 50 cousins. I am still able to publish community newspapers weekly and a daily digital newsletter. I am happy with my work and feel truly Blessed. So all I can say is “Thank you GOD”

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Pat Stevenson
Celebrating
31 years Publishing

Malcolm X 100 Birthday Celebration on May 19th

May 19th we commemorate what would have been Malcolm X 100th birthday.

“Malcolm was taken from us 60 years ago, but his legacy has only grown over that time, said Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of NAN. “He challenged the systems that prevented many Black Americans from accessing basic services, and fought until his final day for Black empowerment. As we mark 100 years since his birth this Monday, it is crucial we keep the torch he lit alive to ensure Black Americans have their seat at the table, the ability to speak, and the ability to lead.” “On what would have been Malcolm X’s 100th birthday, we honor a leader who boldly brought the struggle for Black justice in America to the global stage,” said Attorney Ben Crump. “In the final chapter of his life, he made the bold case to the United Nations that the fight for Black justice in America was part of a worldwide movement for dignity and liberation. Today, as we witness attacks on hard-earned progress, we must honor Malcolm’s legacy by continuing his mission here at home and in solidarity with oppressed people around the world.”

Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), will welcome Attorney Ben Crump and relatives of Malcolm X, including daughter Ilyasah Shabazz, to the NAN House of Justice located at 106 W 145th Street, at Malcolm X Boulevard. Later

Monday, the The 100th Birthday Celebration of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Malcolm X will be held at the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center (3940 Broadway New York, NY 10032).

In the months before his February 1965 assassination, Malcolm X increasingly focused on economic empowerment for both Black Americans and marginalized communities across the globe. Many barriers to economic justice remain in place today, which is why NAN has sought to hold accountable those who are committed to reversing the paradigm after George Floyd’s May 2025 murder.

There are many celebrations taking place to honor the legacy of Malcolm X on May 19th. Yale University held a celebration last week.

Harlem Academy’s Literary Speaker Series recently welcomed National Book Award-winning author and historian Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, who this summer will join Howard University as professor of history and director of its newly established Institute for Advanced Study. Dr. Kendi shared insights with middle school students from his new book “Malcolm Lives! The Official Biography of Malcolm X for Young Readers,” published 100 years after Malcolm X’s birth..

Statement from Senator Cleare Commemorating the 100th Birthday of Malcolm X, an advocate for human rights:

“On Monday, May 19th, 2025, I will join the Harlem residents of the

30th Senatorial District to celebrate Malcolm X’s 100th birthday, the singularly most important Black Liberation Leader of our times,” said Senator Cleare.

To honor the century in which he promoted and selflessly advocated for human and civil rights, I am introducing to the Legislative Body—Senate Resolution No. 962.

Malcolm X was a Muslim minister, public speaker, and human rights activist; to his admirers, he was a courageous advocate for the rights of African-Americans in the face of institutionalized racism.

He walked these streets of Harlem, spoke to attentive crowds, and encouraged the ongoing people’s fight for human rights in these United States and beyond.

He was a world leader indeed, but he was also a husband, a father, and a son, and we are fortunate that he devoted his time and, ultimately, his life to leaving this world a better place than when he found it.

Malcolm X was born in Nebraska, but called the Village of Harlem home. While he spent part of his transformative youth in Harlem in the 1940s, he was to return to Harlem in the 1950s, becoming a world-class leader and heading Temple Number 7 on 116th Street in Harlem, which today is known as Masjid Malcolm Shabazz.

On February 21, 1965, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz – Malcolm X was assassinated while giving a lecture in the Audubon Ballroom.

After a protracted campaign, it was designated as the landmarked Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center.

In 1987, we renamed Lenox Avenue in Harlem after Malcolm X.

We also have Malcolm X Plaza here in Harlem, and streets and boulevards are named after him nationwide.

After he left the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X founded Muslim Mosque Inc. and the Organization of Afro-American Unity. He then became a Sunni Muslim, and after his holy pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, he became El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. He shared his thoughts and beliefs with different cultures and found the response to be overwhelmingly positive.

Reinforced by his beliefs that mankind must do better for the humanity of



all, he has become an international icon.

Malcolm X’s birthday is one of the most significant annual events in my district and other parts of New York City.

Every year, the neighborhood honors the man Harlem’s adopted artistic phenom, Ossie Davis, called ‘Our Shining Black Prince.’

His 100th Birthday is on May 19th. His legacy lives on, his teachings live on, and his vision lives on, and hundreds of people line the blocks of 125th Street in Harlem, waving Black Liberation Flags and showing love and respect for Malcolm X on his birthday.



Malcolm Lives Book discussed at Harlem Academy

PONDER THIS! Who Do You Think You Are?



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

There are folk who primarily function on the premise that they are entitled to have what they want, when they want it, no matter how it may affect the wellbeing of others. Self-centered egomaniacs will look past you to get what they want. They will call you by every name, oth-

er than a child of God, to brand their name and secure their fame.

Self-confidence was always considered to be a good attribute in character building. It would strengthen a desire to achieve and enforce determination and aspiration. It is needed to survive in a world where the wind can knock you off your feet.

However, we are witnessing as a nation how hurtful and abusive inflated self-confidence can be in leadership. Publicly displayed disrespect and negative accusations are mean and disruptive, yet it has become a force of nature to get a president's personal point across.

Common sense ought to say wicked words will come back and bite you

in the butt. Shame ought to speak loudly from your heart, ringing the alarm that you have gone too far with thoughtless words that flow like volcanic lava lacking sympathy and empathy.

Six words, who do you think you are, should be contemplated as self-reflection. The best in you should be exemplified in the best and worst of times. Actions speak louder than words, but words are forever engraved in the annals of history.

Overindulgence in self-confidence and egotistical meanderings will eventually expose your inability to hold a position. When your success is grounded by demeaning the advancements of others to highlight your-

self, allotting time delving into trivial pursuits of needless assets that show your desire for attention, there is a problem at hand.

This nation is in the throes of profound political and civil unrest, and it is dangerous. Evil saturations of fear and terror are spread about without any discernment of the ramifications that come when the fire of hate is ignited in people waiting for the call. Hopefully, as citizens, we all seek what is just and fair, but today we witness what happens when someone or a multitude of people believe they are above the law of the land and God's spiritual laws that govern the universe.

Eventually truth will prevail and the hands of

those who hung in there with you supporting the heartless policies of an administration that could have and should have done more will fall by the wayside and make space for hope and renewal to step up to the plate. A change must come. Wrong and strong is not acceptable. Tell me, who do you think you are?

[Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries, retired former Woman's Editor and Managing Editor of the New York Beacon News. Contact: misshazel@twc.com and www.hazelrosettasmith.com]

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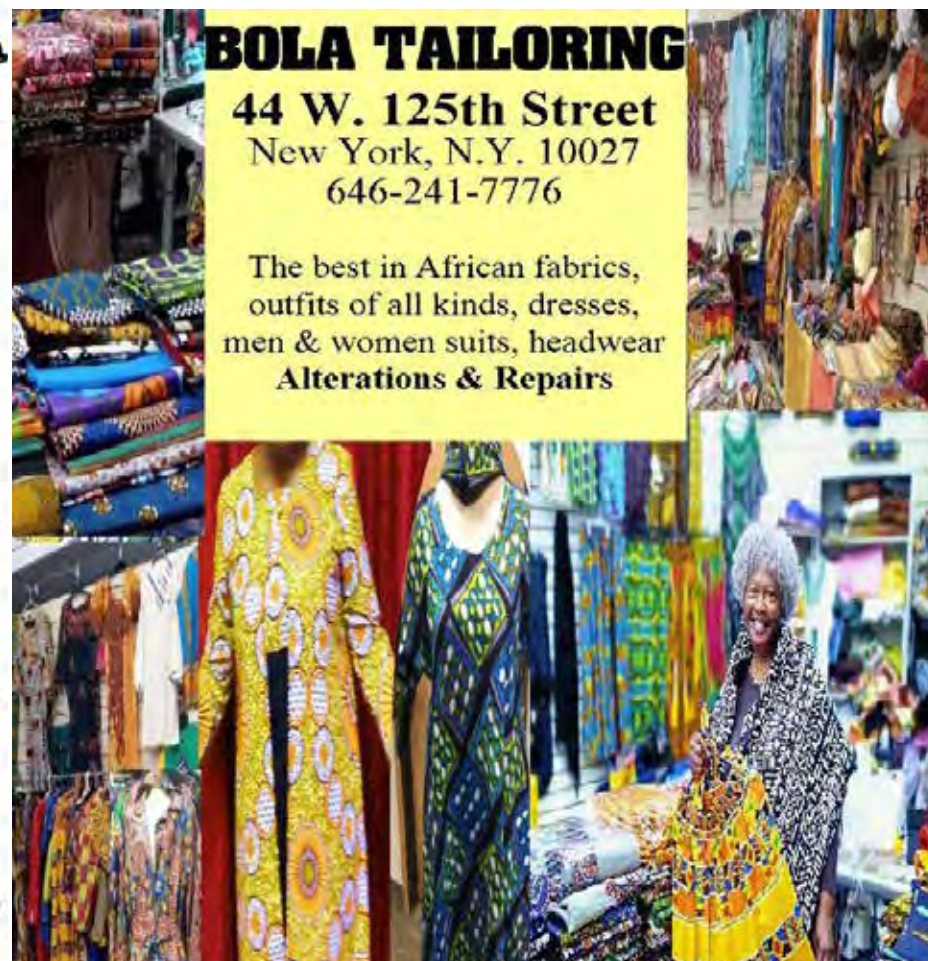
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BRONX EVENTS

May 28, 6:00-8:00pm

Transformative Impact at Longwood Art Gallery

The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) is pleased to announce the opening of its new exhibition, Transformative Impact at the Longwood Art Gallery, now located at BCA Headquarters (2700 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10461). Curated by BCA’s Gallery Director Lucia Warck-Meister, Transformative Impact is a group exhibition featuring four contemporary Bronx artists, Maya Ciarrocchi, Ghislaine Sabiti, dan keith williams, and Natalie C. Wood, who engage with their communities through socially and environmentally conscious art making. Transformative Impact is part of the 2025 Longwood Art Gallery season titled The World We Want To Live In, which examines art’s role in social and political movements—not only raising awareness but catalyzing public discourse and bringing new audiences into activism. The act of imagining alternate ways of being is the beginning of creating the many worlds we want to live in. The artists in Transformative Impact work across a wide range of mediums, including glassblowing, painting, video, performance, and terrarium-based work, to confront urgent issues, such as environmental migration, gender equality, and systemic injustice, transforming creative practice into a catalyst for awareness, dialogue, and meaningful change. Transformative Impact not only examines the role of art in shaping public discourse but also underscores its potential to inspire collective action toward a more just and inclusive world. For more information about this exhibition and the Longwood Art Gallery, please visit www.bronxarts.org/programs/connector/longwood-art-project/longwood-art-gallery.

June 18, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Spring 2025 Teen Council Exhibition at Bronx Museum

All are invited to join us at The Bronx Museum to celebrate this exhibition of NYC teens’ artwork curated by participants in the Museum’s Teen Council—a paid internship for NYC high school students focused on contemporary art and art organizations. No RSVP is needed to attend the celebration; just come on by the Museum! The Spring 2025 Teen Council Exhibition is focused on teens’ perspectives on issues that affect them. For All Ages. Free! Drop-In



June 6 First Fridays Salsa at Bronx Museum

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Jun 18 Spring 2025 Teen Council Exhibition Celebration

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Our Bodegas Were a Lifeline During COVID-19, Now We are Providing a Lifeline to Them



By Mayor Eric Adams

Bodegas are on every corner of New York City, there for us at all hours, and the bodegueros who service them become our family. So, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit our city, our bodegas were a lifeline to our local communities. We relied on them for toilet paper, snacks, diapers, and a sense of community at a time of extreme uncertainty.

And while New York City has seen declines in major crimes, it's important that we take additional steps to address the crimes our

bodegueros continue to face and give them a way to contact 911 during an emergency without having to find their phone or fear being attacked by a criminal. Now, thanks to the partnership of the Adams administration and the United Bodegas of America, our bodegueros will be able to click a button during emergencies and NYPD will be on their way without anyone knowing.

New York City will be investing \$1.6 million to fund "SilentShields" buttons at 500 bodegas that will instantly call the NYPD during emergencies. These buttons will immediately direct city resources to these small businesses so that New York City can be a lifeline for them, just like bodegas were a lifeline for us during

COVID.

We are starting by distributing these buttons to bodegas in the areas with the highest levels of crime so that workers and customers, in communities who need them the most, will be safe and, more importantly, feel safe.

Now, workers will have more peace of mind if an armed criminal comes into a bodega to ransack their products or steal their cash and we will ensure that our small business owners can continue to make a living and stay open for the neighborhood.

And that's not all: last year, we announced a program that lets local businesses voluntarily share surveillance video in real-time with the NYPD through their closed-circuit televi-

sion cameras as they seek to solve crimes.

By allowing bodegas to integrate their security cameras with their local NYPD precinct, we can gather real-time intelligence on crimes and swiftly apprehend individuals who are responsible, while making NYPD more efficient and involving the local community in improving quality of life.

Adding to all this, thanks to the city expanding eligibility requirements for new officers and continued city funding, the Adams administration is on path to reaching 35,000 uniformed NYPD officers by the fall of 2026. That means that we will have more police officers available to respond to calls coming from bodegas, too.



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Vol. 31 No. 21

May 22, 2025



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Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

I am surprised by the number of Harlem residents who have accepted the challenge to become first time homeowners. These prospective buyers have realized the financial benefits of owning a home are far greater than paying a monthly rent. They have decided even in this highly competitive housing market to make an all-out effort to complete the home buying process.

There are some basic advantages to renting an apartment (1) you need a place to stay; (2) the landlord generally is responsible for making repairs to the unit and (3) you do not need as much money to secure the unit (usually just security deposit and first month rent).

But consider this one disadvantage: if you have been living in your apartment for 10 years and paying approximately \$2000 per month, you have already paid over \$240,000!

Do the calculations on your apartment to see how much rent you have paid. You get no investment return.

The advantages of homeownership are as follows: (1) you are creating an equity investment as you pay off the mortgage. The equity is the difference in the amount owed and the current value of the property. (2) The mortgage interest is and the property taxes are deductible expenses. These deductions will help reduce your living expenses because a portion of your monthly housing cost will be recovered through your tax returns. (3) You are creating intergenerational wealth for your family as the value of your home continues to increase. Many first-time homeowners are increasing their net worth because their homes are appreciating in value.

There are some disadvantages also: (1) Higher initial costs – Your down payment will be somewhere between 3 – 10% of the purchase price, with some coop units it could be as high as 20%. Your closing costs would run an estimated 7-15%. So, depending on the price of the property you could be looking at an initial expense of \$30-50 thousand dollars! (2) Decreased mobility – once you have purchased a home your mobility will be reduced. You will not be moving every two or three years. The average homeowner will now reside in their home for at least ten-fifteen years before moving. (3) Responsible for home repairs. You must be prepared to cover the cost of home maintenance. You can purchase appliance insurance to help cover these expenses. But this will add another monthly expense, plus you will still have a deductible fee.

Once you consider the advantages of renting versus owning it stands to reason homeownership is the best choice. However, homeownership is not for everyone, you must be ready to make many financial sacrifices both before purchasing and after closing on your home. Explore your options to see if it is right for you then decide.

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

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HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HARLEM EVENTS

May 23 10am-3pm

NYPL's Job Fair & Expo: Connect, Learn, Get Hired

NYPL JOBS FAIR being held at Stephen A. Schwarzman Building located at 42nd Street & 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10018. Are you ready to start or grow your career? Sign up for The New York Public Library's Job Fair and Expo! Connect with hiring employers, career experts, and training programs—including in tech! Explore job openings, boost your skills with workforce resources, and get advice from industry experts. Plus, enjoy giveaways and chances to win exciting prizes, print your resume for free, get professional headshots taken, and more.

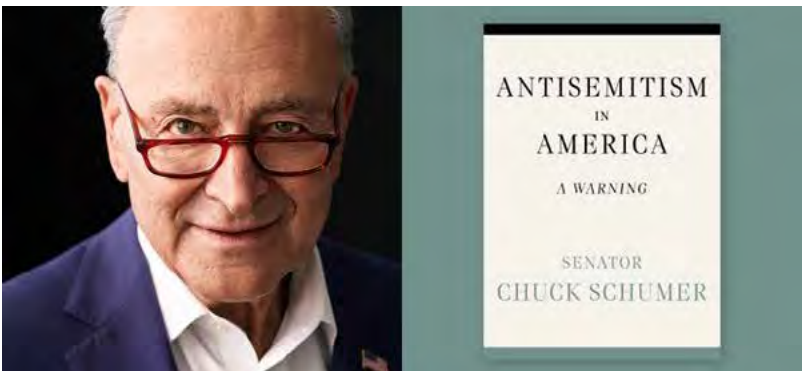
May 29 7pm-8pm

Senator Chuck Schumer: Antisemitism in America

The New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, located at 42nd Street & 5th Avenue will present the Senate Minority Leader Senator Chuck Schumer who will shed light on the Jewish American experience and sounds the alarm about the troubling resurgence of antisemitism. Chuck Schumer's new book, Antisemitism in America: A Warning, is an urgent and personal work of nonfiction that illuminates the prejudices, both hidden and overt, that have led to the chronic persecution of Jewish people. Drawing from Schumer's own life, the book places antisemitism in a larger historical context, providing a deeper understanding of the causes behind the recent swell of antisemitic rhetoric and violence in the United States, and offering a call to action on the steps needed to combat rising hate. Pre-order your copy of Antisemitism in America: A Warning and get your free ticket. Go to nypl.org. To join the event in person | Doors will open 45 minutes before the program begins. Purchase a drink from the NYPL bar and a snack from Amy's Bread while you mingle before the event. For LIVE from NYPL events, we generally overbook to ensure a full house. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment; we will do our best to accommodate everyone. Booked seats that have not been claimed will be released shortly before start time, and seats may become available then. A standby line will form 45 minutes before the program.



May 23 NYPL Job Fair & Expo at Stephen A. Schwarzman Building 42nd St



May 29 Senator Chuck Schumer on Antisemitism in America at Stephen A. Schwarzman Building 42nd Street



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32nd New York African Film Festival

African Film Festival, Inc. (AFF) and the Maysles Documentary Center (MDC) have again joined forces for the New York African Film Festival (NYAFF). The 32nd

NYAFF will present 29 features and shorts films at the MDC in Harlem, with more than 125 contemporary and classic films from Africa and its diaspora screening throughout the full festival.

Many filmmakers will be in attendance for post-screening Q&As. This year's theme, "Fluid Horizons: A Shifting Lens on a Hopeful World," honors the resilience of African youth and the

forebearers who paved the way for them. Since its inception in 1993, the festival has been at the forefront of showcasing African and diaspora filmmakers' unique storytelling through the moving

image. The Opening Night selection at MDC was the New York premiere of *Ebrohimie Road: A Museum of Memory*, a documentary about Wole Soyinka, Africa's first Nobel Prizewinner

in Literature, complete with a Q&A with its director Kólá Túbòsún. The screening was followed by an Opening Night Party.



A still from *At All Kosti* by Joseph Hillel screening during the New York African Film Festival on May 18



A still from *Ebrohimie Road: A Museum of Memory* by Kólá Túbòsún, a documentary about Wole Soyinka screening during the New York African Film Festival on May 15



A still from *The Last Shore* by Jean-françois Ravagnan. The film will have its North American premiere during the New York African Film Festival on May 17



Kidnappin, Inc. by Bruno Mourral a feature film screening on May 18

Foundation for the Revival of Classical Culture

2025 MUSIC SCIENCE SUMMER PROGRAM

July 14th to August 1st, 2025. REGISTRATION CLOSES JUNE 15.

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Our Foundation Summer Program for 2025 focuses on “the principle of discovery.” Students will be encouraged and prepared to investigate, and to determine for themselves, whether there is a connection between the thought processes underlying what are often separated as “science” and “art.” An intensive three-week course of study will help the student re-live the thought-experiments of scientists like Johannes Kepler and composers like J. S. Bach. We seek to pose, and at least in part, to answer the question: Is the source of creativity in art and science the same, and can we understand it?



Dates: July 14 - August 1, 2025

Time: Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3 PM

Age: Requirement: Grades 6-12 ages 12 and above)

Location: 1125 Grand Concourse, Bronx

Subway B, D, 4; Bus BX35, BX1, BX2, BXM4

Registration and Tuition: \$300 due by June 15

Early Registration — \$250 if paid by May 31

Scholarships: Available as needed.

For more information: (929)551-9171; www.ffrcc.org, email:

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Flag Unveiling Ceremony Celebrates Haitian Heritage Month

Westchester County proudly commemorated Haitian Heritage Month with a flag unveiling ceremony at the Michaelian Office Building in White Plains. The event was hosted by County Executive Ken Jenkins and NYS Senator Shelley B. Mayer, and brought together members of the community to recognize the Haitian-American community and its many contributions to Westchester and beyond.

Jenkins said: "In a time where diversity is under attack, Westchester County is proud to continue celebrating it. The Haitian-American community is a vital part

of Westchester County's culture and story. We are proud to honor their history and the determination that has shaped their journey. Haitian Heritage Month provides an important opportunity to recognize their lasting contributions to our community and to celebrate their enduring spirit of resilience."

Mayer said: I am pleased to join the Haitian community and County Executive Ken Jenkins for a flag raising ceremony in honor of Haitian Heritage Month. This month, we recognize and celebrate the vibrant cultures, history, traditions, and contributions of our Haitian and Haitian-American neighbors."



bors."

Haitian Heritage Month is celebrated each May and expands on the annual observance of

Haitian Flag Day on May 18. The Haitian flag, first adopted in 1803, symbolizes the determination and pride of Haiti's strug-

gle for independence. Westchester County is proud to join in this commemoration, recognizing the enduring contribu-

tions of the Haitian community and their role in enriching the County's diversity and culture.



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The Power of Black Visionaries: Moving from Resistance to Reconstruction to Reimagining



By LaTosha Brown

“Our politics will not save us, but it will be our humanity. Our silence will not protect us, it will be our resistance. Our fears will never advance or evolve our nation, it will only keep us stuck and moving backwards.”

In this moment of national reckoning, Black people must see ourselves not just as defenders of our humanity, but as the visionaries and architects of a world yet to be born. For too long, we have pleaded with a nation to recognize what should never have been in question – our fundamental humanity. Today, I am calling for a shift in consciousness that moves us from defense to creation, from resistance to reconstruction, from surviving to reimagining.

We are witnessing an intense anti-Black campaign disguised as opposition to DEI, Critical Race Theory, and Black history. This is an attempt to erase us, our history, and our collective memory. But those who seek to silence us forget something fundamental – we have been meeting, gathering,

strategizing, and convening for our freedom ever since we reached the shores of this nation.

Make no mistake: We are the architects of democracy in America. From Black visionary W.E.B. Du Bois’s pioneering scholarship to Black visionary Ida B. Well’s fearless anti-lynching crusade, we have always been at the forefront of expanding what democracy means. We pushed this nation to make what exists on paper real and sustainable. But it’s not paper that gives us our value. We have value just by our presence on this planet.

We are builders of a dream that has yet to be realized. We believed in this nation when she was unable to believe in herself. There is no America without the 14th Amendment. There is no justice when racism shapes public policy.

As we embark on what Rev. Dr. William Barber calls “America’s third reconstruction,” we must ground ourselves in five essential pillars: Vision, Voice, Values, Victory, and Vote.

Vision: Black people have always been the visionaries, seeing beyond systems designed to limit us. From Black visionary Sojourner Truth speaking truth to power to the Black visionaries of the Movement for Black Lives reimagining public safety, we have consistently imagined societies more just and inclusive than what existed.

Voice: Once we have vision, we must speak it into existence with authenticity and the full authority of our lived experience. Too many of us have been told our

voices don’t matter. This moment requires our full-throated truth-telling.

Values: Values are our compass when the path is unclear. Do we value people over profit? Community over competition? Justice over convenience? When our actions align with our values, we become unstoppable.

Victory: We must claim victories along the journey. Victory is when a first-time voter casts their ballot, when a community stops environmental racism, when a young Black girl finds her voice.

Vote: Look to the 1963 Freedom Vote in Mississippi, when over 80,000 Black Mississippians participated in a mock election in response to their disenfranchisement. This powerful act laid the groundwork for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, led by Fannie Lou Hamer. They didn’t wait for permission to claim their democratic power; they asserted it.

Some suggest we are tired of protesting, marching, and fighting. Let me be clear: **We aren’t tired of action—we’re tired of insufficient progress.** We’re exhausted by trying to reform systems deliberately designed to create inequality, rooted in racism and white supremacy. We’re exhausted by constantly having to prove our humanity or justify our worthiness of equity and justice.

We never tire of taking care of our families, creating lives of safety, security, and joy. What we are tired of is systems that extract our brilliance while marginalizing us, institutions that proclaim justice while implementing barriers to advancement.

The real question isn’t whether to continue struggling – it’s how to transform our struggle from defense to innovation and creation. Black people must be visionaries, not just survivors. We must unapologetically stand in the fullness of our humanity, citizenship, and power.

We must be institution builders like Black visionary Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, who founded a college with \$1.50 and faith. We must be healers like Black visionary Fannie Lou Hamer, who established the Freedom Farm Cooperative. We must think differently about harm reduction like Black visionary Alicia Garza and the founders of Black Lives Matter. We must be the first line of defense for each other, like the Black visionaries

of the Black Panther Party with their community programs.

We can no longer think just as citizens of a nation that we’ve pleaded with for 400 years to recognize our humanity. **Instead, we must see ourselves as founders of a new nation yet unborn – one that understands that diversity is our strength, inclusion is our goal, and justice is our birthright.**

This is not separatism but transformation. We are not leaving America; we are becoming the America that has always existed in our freedom dreams – the America that Black visionary Marcus Garvey envisioned through Black ownership, that Black visionary Ella Baker glimpsed when she empowered ordinary people to lead

themselves.

The time has come to move beyond defending what should never have needed defense. On the dawn of America’s sesquicentennial (250th birthday), we will not accept anything less than what we deserve. We must build new systems and explore new ways of thinking, not just reform those designed to oppress us. The real opportunity is to assert our power and build something better for all of humanity.

LaTosha Brown is the co-founder of Black Voters Matter, which is dedicated to expanding Black voter engagement and increasing progressive power through grassroots movement-building.

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Beware the Double Click! Evaluate QR Codes to Protect Against Fraud

(StatePoint)

Ancient civilizations had hieroglyphics, we have QR codes: the patterned graphic boxes prompting you to access restaurant menus, pay for parking, find out information about a package and more.

Generally, quick response (QR) codes are safe, but they can be used to redirect you to malicious websites, so caution is important. Here's how it works.

- You get prompted to use your device's camera.
- You scan the code and a link pops up.
- You click the link, exposing you to threat actors.
- You're directed to apps, websites, locations using your maps and much more.

Bad actors understand peo-

ple are in a rush, so this is an appealing form of attack. It's a cost-efficient scam because these codes are easy to generate and distribute. And they are creative in finding new ways to make them appear legitimate. In public places, criminals can cover an official code with a sticker or printout showing a fraudulent code. Some of the more prevalent and convincing scams include:

- **Parking Ticket Scams.** Criminals place fake parking tickets with QR codes on windshields, causing unsuspecting victims to scan the code and click the link to learn of their offense and digitally pay the alleged fine.

- **Brushing Scams.** A criminal will ship goods you never ordered, then require you to scan the QR code and click the link to see who sent you the gift.

- **Payment Scams.** Criminals cover a legitimate QR code with a sticker that has a fraudulent code that directs to a malicious site. This can happen at gas pumps, bank windows, parking lots, etc.

- **Crypto Scams.** Crypto transactions are often made through QR codes associated with crypto accounts, making this an appealing target for fraudsters, especially since once crypto payments are made, it's unlikely those funds will be recovered.

To stay safe when using QR codes:

- **Check the URL:** Once you scan and the link pops up, stop! Examine it for unusual domain names or shortened URLs before clicking.

- **Verify the source:** Only scan QR codes from trusted sources, like official websites or apps. Codes from unfamiliar

sources are more likely to be malicious.

- **Check for tampering:** Look for signs of tampering, like altered graphics, design flaws or stickers placed atop original codes.

- **Be suspicious:** Treat sites asking for a password or login information as a red flag.

- **Be wary of promotions:** Be cautious of offers that seem too good to be true.

- **Use a secure connection:** Look for a secure connection (HTTPS) or padlock.

- **Confirm validity of request:** Before taking action, like making a payment or entering personal information, confirm a request to scan with the company. If you receive a QR code from someone you know, reach out to them through a known number or email to verify they sent it.

- **Protect your device:** Use



antivirus and antimalware software.

- **Report.** If you identify a suspicious QR code or fall victim to a QR code scam, notify your bank and report it to law enforcement and the Federal Trade Commission.

If you scan a fake QR code, your bank account, email and

identity could all be at risk. For actions to take, consult PNC Bank's Reporting Fraud page on pnc.com.

Cyber criminals are always finding new ways to defraud their victims, and QR codes are no exception. With a little caution however, you can better protect yourself.

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New York Road Runners Welcomed Nearly 28,500 Finishers

New York Road Runners (NYRR), the nonprofit that “runs” New York City producing 60 annual adult and youth races including the TCS New York City Marathon, hosted nearly 28,500 athletes during the sold-out RBC Brooklyn Half, the original, premier running event in the borough and one of the country’s largest and most anticipated half marathons, Saturday, May 17.

With the second-largest field in RBC Brooklyn Half event history participating, the course took athletes on a 13.1-mile journey from Prospect Park to the iconic Coney Island Boardwalk. On the way to the finish, athletes raced alongside the largest Boardwalk Kids Run in event history, with more than 1,200 kids ages two to 18 participating in free youth races and dashes.

The Manhattan-based West Side Runners led a

1-2 punch in the men’s race, with Mulgeta Birhanu Feyissa taking victory in 1:04:57, 14 seconds ahead of his run club teammate Tilihun Ayele Tariku.

In her first-ever RBC Brooklyn Half, Felicia Pasadyn broke the tape in 1:15:37, ahead of last year’s winner and U.S. Olympian Kim Conley.

Galo Vasquez of Westchester Track Club won the nonbinary division in 1:13:18, their second title in as many months, after also winning the division at the 2025 United Airlines NYC Half in March.

After the race, Bersten appeared as a featured guest on a live taping of the NYRR Set the Pace Podcast Presented by Peloton during the RBC Brooklyn Half After-Party at Maimonides Park in Coney Island.

“I’ve always wanted to push my body,” said Bersten. “A lot of people don’t consider dancers as athletes,

but I think this is a great opportunity ... to prove to myself that I’m more than just a dancer.”

“The only thing that got me through the finish was everyone else passing me and encouraging me,” James said after running a new personal best. “That’s the best thing about running these New York Road Runners races.”

In addition to the adult half marathon, more than 1,200 kids ages two to 18 finished the free Boardwalk Kids Run, one of more than 20 free Rising New York Road Runners youth events the nonprofit hosts during the year to encourage kids to be physically active and build their confidence to cross any finish line. The Boardwalk Kids Run took place near mile 12 of the adult race and included members of Rising New York Road Runners, the free running-based youth program for more than



100,000 kids across the five boroughs, including 35,000+ in Brooklyn.

A New York City-based nonprofit, New York Road Runners’ vision is to build healthier lives and stronger communities through the transformative power of running – serving nearly a half a million people annually through its races, free community events,

youth running initiatives, and school-based programs across the five boroughs. During its nearly 70 years, New York Road Runners has grown from a local running club to the world’s premier community running organization, producing more than 60 adult and youth races each year, including the TCS New York City Marathon. Held the

first Sunday each November, the TCS New York City Marathon features more than 50,000 runners—from the world’s best professional athletes to a vast range of runners across experience levels, ages, genders, abilities, and backgrounds. To learn more, visit www.nyrr.org.



A portrait of a middle-aged Black man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

How many times have you said that you have to do something? The fact is there is always a choice. J. Martin Kohe wrote a book about choice title “Your Greatest Power”. Personal development expert Bob Proctor considers your ability to choose

In his book “The ABCs of Success” Bob Proctor writes that “life is too short to be spent doing something or going somewhere you have not chosen to do or go. Proctor goes on to say that “no” can be a complete sentence. Don’t blame others for

Fear and doubt will always keep you from reaching your true potential if you allow them to. As stated, before most of our fears are illusionary. We all are programed into believ-

I believe that most bad choices come from allowing the influence of external people, places and things to overcome internal intuitive thought. Nothing outside of you can truly make you happy. The thoughts that you attach to anything outside of self is at best illusionary due to social

We can choose to accept our current conditions, or we can choose not to; the power to choose is truly a wonderful ability that no one can take away unless you choose to let them.

“It’s Free”



By Zakiyyah

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GAMES

HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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.

Statepoint Crossword
THEME:
ON BROADWAY

- ACROSS
- 1. Benatar and Morita
 - 5. Certain tray contents
 - 8. In custody
 - 12. *Main character in "Shrek the Musical," based on 2001 flick
 - 13. Soreness
 - 14. Wore (2 words)
 - 15. Street in Anytown, USA
 - 16. Burn to a crisp
 - 17. Opposite of alpha
 - 18. *Musical with most Tony Awards, with The
 - 20. Grape holder
 - 21. Entertain
 - 22. ___ Aviv
 - 23. Unrhymed Japanese poem, pl.
 - 26. Snakebirds
 - 30. Opposite of hence
 - 31. Shooting star
 - 34. Milk's favorite cookie

- 35. Zoroaster follower
- 37. A Beatle bride
- 38. Mix-up
- 39. Type of cotton
- 40. * ___ Lloyd Webber
- 42. Dog command
- 43. Inference of similarity
- 45. 4th letter of Hebrew alphabet
- 47. "But I heard him exclaim, ___ he drove out of sight..."
- 48. Pool table fabric
- 50. Altar location
- 52. *Last year's Tony Award winner for Best Musical, with The
- 56. Santa Anna's target
- 57. To, archaic
- 58. Small cave
- 59. Cocaine-producing plant, pl.
- 60. Diagnostic test
- 61. Biblical Isaac's firstborn
- 62. Not quite an adult
- 63. Craggy peak
- 64. Tear

- DOWN
- 1. Circumstance's partner
 - 2. Lab gel
 - 3. Domingo, Pavarotti and Carreras, e.g.
 - 4. "Where the Wild Things Are" author
 - 5. Plural of #13 Across
 - 6. Social media button
 - 7. Not his
 - 8. *Musical with most Tony nominations
 - 9. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
 - 10. *Private box
 - 11. Double helix-shaped structure
 - 13. Emile Zola's "J" ___!"
 - 14. What helicopter parents do
 - 19. Savory taste sensation
 - 22. Black gunk
 - 23. Tapa, alt. sp.
 - 24. "Encore!"
 - 25. ___ Jean, a.k.a. Marilyn Monroe
 - 26. Don't let this hit you on the way out
 - 27. Use the other end of a pencil
 - 28. Re-equip
 - 29. *Rodgers' and Hammerstein's " ___ Pacific"
 - 32. *Award nickname, short for Antoinette
 - 33. Finish line
 - 36. *Arthur Miller's "Death of a ___"
 - 38. Swaziland native
 - 40. * ___ of Aquarius," song from "Hair"
 - 41. a.k.a. the Wizard of Menlo Park
 - 44. Plural of #34 Across
 - 46. Late actor Heath
 - 48. Social dice game
 - 49. Rose oil
 - 50. Medicinal house plant
 - 51. Tempo
 - 52. Give a boot
 - 53. Gaelic
 - 54. Multicolored horse
 - 55. Wall support
 - 56. *Part of a play

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Blair Underwood Presents: "Sins of Survivors"

by Jee McClean

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

Mom never had to worry.

After she reminded you to look out for your siblings, she didn't have to tell you again. From then on, you had one another's backs, you were a team that nobody messed with. And all these years later, today, you still watch out for them because, in your house and in "Blair Underwood Presents Sins of Survivors," by Joe McClean, family comes first.

Every now and then, Benjamin Carter woke up, remembering.

He was a youngster when white men killed his father in a way that still caused the nightmares. It'd been decades since then,

decades since his oldest brother, Jasper, took charge and moved Benjamin, their sister, and their half-brother away from Alabama to the safety of Ohio, then to Detroit. *Decades*, but the memories never went away.

Still, Benjamin and Jasper had done well for themselves. It was 1937, the Detroit suburb of Black Bottom was mostly thriving despite hard times, and the Carter brothers were important men in the areas of business, industry, and entertainment.

As long as they paid the bribes required to the police force and to the other powerful organized crime groups that ruled the Black Bottom section of Detroit,

there'd be no trouble. As long as Benjamin's sons and Jasper's children could keep the family businesses running smoothly, everything was good.

Still, there was trouble. Tensions were heating up between the automakers and the unions, and Benjamin's connections with corrupt politicians were complicated by racism and grift from outside forces. His son, the one who ran the Carter brother's most profitable business, a night club, was involved with a Russian prostitute at a brothel run by a woman who Benjamin didn't want to admit was his cousin. His youngest son was a dreamer. His daughter was fast becoming invested in women's rights. And it was possible that his half-brother, Lance, a man Benjamin hated, might not be on the Carter brother's side...

Starting about thirty pages in, "Sins of Survivors" is rough. There are way too many characters in it – some come and go on a page and never return – and there are large chunks of book in which you may not completely know what's going on. It's a struggle.

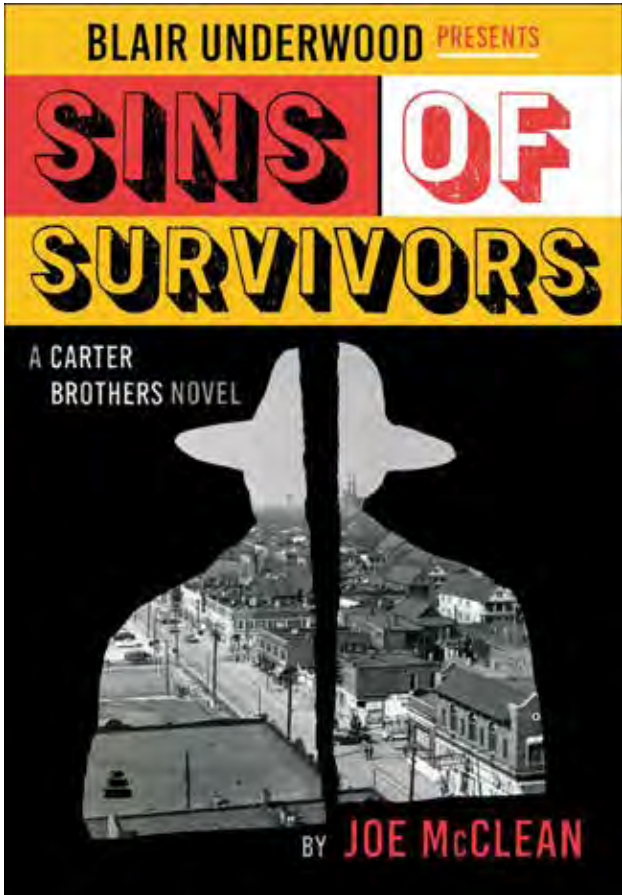
That doesn't mean that it's a total waste of your time, though.

As the screenwriter-director that he is, author Joe McClean offers an action-packed story that's based in part on real history, with touches of crime and corruption that will appeal to readers of 1930s-type noir fiction or fans of the Francis Ford Coppola trilogy. The side-stories in which the Carter brothers'

children partake is a nice touch, too, because plot-threads like those don't often appear in gangster novels.

But do those good things overshadow the roughness? That'll be determined by your need for clarity, because it's not always here in this novel. "Blair Underwood Presents Sins of Survivors" isn't all bad but it's not a *Tennyson Hardwick* novel, if that's what you want. Keep that in mind before you look out for it.

Blair Underwood Presents
"Sins of Survivors"
by Joe McClean
c.2025, Amistad



Answers to Sudoku on page 19

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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