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HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS, INC.
"GOOD NEWS YOU CAN USE"

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

COMMUNITY
QUEENS NEWS
"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 31 No. 20 May 15, 2025 - May 21, 2025 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

Pope Leo XIV—formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost of Chicago—has Black and Creole roots. The new Pope has stated in his address that he aims to continue furthering the work of Francis, who was known for his commitment to social justice. (see page 13)

The legendary Phil Young is offering a musical experience at the home of Langston Hughes in Harlem. The Thursday night events include poetry from Hughes intermingled with music from some very talented local Harlem musicians. Phil has been playing the drums professionally since he was 15 for some well known groups. It is indeed an experience and a night of entertainment you will enjoy. Plan to visit on Thursday. Suggsted donation is $20. (see page 9)

The Eastern Area Links held their 48th Conference last month, which included a Community Day of Health and Wellness at Mother AME Zion Church in Harlem. (see page 12)

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Pat Stevenson
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PONDER THIS! Health, Wellness and Art in Harlem

By Hazel Rosetta Smith

Good mental health is as important to survivorship as is the overall treatment of diseases. Having a passion or a hobby that brings personal joy and distraction from dwelling on the fears of illness is urgent throughout recovery.

The Children's Art Carnival on Hamilton Terrace is the home base for the most unique artistic handiwork of Wilhelmina Grant Cooper, Founder of SISTAAH Studio. Wilhelmina has intentionally allowed her light to shine through art every moment of the thirty-one years she has been a cancer survivor.

April was National Minority Cancer Awareness Month and once again Wilhelmina opened her studio and her heart to celebrate and recognize those who have sojourned the road through cancer and are thriving in their individual endeavors.

"We are proud to celebrate the resilience of our community and raise awareness around the importance of early cancer detection particularly in communities that face systemic health inequities. Through art, conversation, and wellness practices, we offer space for healing and empowerment," says Sistaah Wilhelmina.

As a cancer survivor, I was honored to accept the invitation to speak, hoping my words would be a source of inspiration. I was in grand company on a program that included: Mistress of Ceremonies Margratta Samuel, Gratitude Blessing & Remembrance of Ancestors by Rev. Iya Karen Stowe.

Andrea Cleveland, PhD of Urban Healing Circle presented a remarkable Sound Bath Relaxation Experience. Poignant words of hope by Faterneh Parvin, MD Breast Surgical Oncology Fellow from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Care offered words of hope and informative information on the latest breast cancer treatments and prognosis. Sabrina Sahara led the group singing a heartfelt rendition of "Lean on Me."

An exhibit of the diverse artwork created by participants of SISTAAH Studio's weekly O.Y.E. (Open Your Eyes) art workshops was unveiled, Chef Brandy Cochrane presented a plant-based dessert demo and tasting and presented copies of her book, The Plant-Based Handbook (Improve Your Health with Plants) as a raffle prize, in addition to a grand prize raffle drawing of a fully stacked basket of healthy products and in-depth cancer literature.

Andrea Cleveland, PhD, Urban Healing Circle

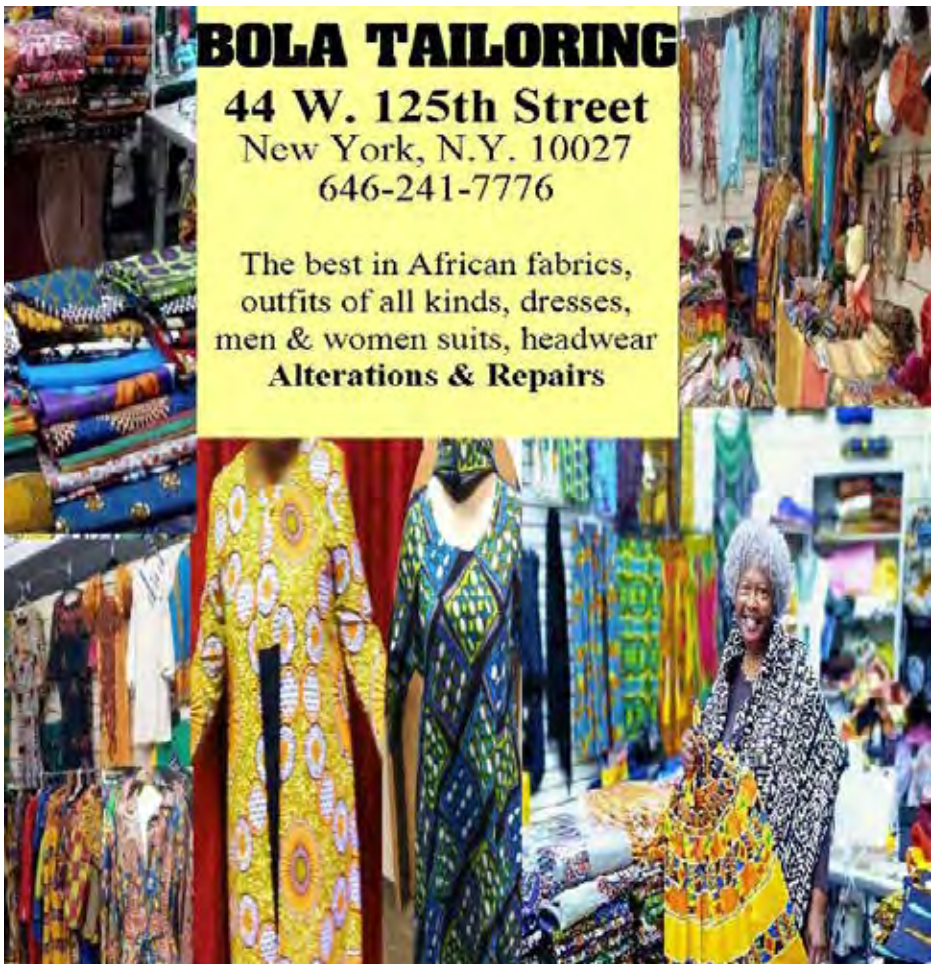
Support is necessary on the totem pole of survivorship and this event provided an afternoon of fellowship with those who have a passion for life. To be in the company of those who fought the fight after a cancer diagnosis and continue to grow stronger in number with a profound understanding that knowledge is power, was time well spent.

Touche to those focused on health, on wellness, and spiritual wholeness through the arts. Kudos to Wilhelmina and the SISTAAH Studio.

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

Chef Brandy Cochrane

(L-r) Wilhelmina Grant Cooper and Fatemeh Parvin-Nejad, MD



May 17 Run Walk at Roy Wilkins Park

June 21 Caribbean Fiesta at Allen AM

Jul 7 Black Spectrum

Destroying Guns, Protecting Our City

By Mayor Eric Adams

The Adams administration has been committed to public safety from the start, and getting illegal guns off our streets and out of our lives is core to that mission. Since the day I took office, the NYPD has seized more than 21,400 illegal firearms — and last week, I was able to help send many of these confiscated weapons to their final destination — a wood chipper that destroyed these guns so they can never be used to cause harm again.

The Reworld facility in Westbury is where the NYPD sends evidence, including illegal firearms, to be disposed of after it is no longer needed in a case. Members of our administration and the NYPD gathered there last Thursday with violence interrupters, anti-gun advocates, faith leaders, and the families of victims to help put these dangerous weapons into the gun chipper to be destroyed forever — ensuring they will never again endanger another child, terrify another New Yorker, or destroy another precious life. The destroyed guns will be turned into scrap metal, recycled, and sent to the School of Cooperative Technical Education, where students in the welding vocational program will finally make use of these products and create a memorial to honor victims of gun violence.

It was a bittersweet occasion. Each gun we destroy closes a door on a future act of violence — but also reminds us of the precious lives we have already lost — including the life of Excenia Mette, the beloved Harlem bodega owner and grandmother who was shot dead in a crossfire just last week.

Excenia's death is tragic reminder of how gun violence tears apart lives and entire communities. This is the issue that keeps me up at night — and gets me up every day as your mayor. We must get criminals off our streets and illegal guns out of their hands. We must enforce our laws, prosecute wrongdoers, and fight recidivism. Every New Yorker must be safe and feel safe, confident that their city is looking out for them and their families, no matter where they live.

Over three years ago, we came into office determined to make this city safer. And each one of these guns we have confiscated is making good on that promise. Each gun we destroy saves lives, damming up one more river that leads to the sea of violence, and sending a message that these weapons have no place in our city or in our society.

I am proud to say that our administration has made significant strides in creating safer streets, safer subways, and a safer city for New York families. We have had five straight quarters of declining crime, and the first three months of this year saw the lowest number of shootings in recorded history. This is a direct result of our anti-gun efforts and major win for the NYPD and our city. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch is already leading this department into a new era of safety and success, along with Deputy Mayor Kaz Daughtry and the brave men and women of the NYPD, who run towards danger rather than away from it.

We can never forget the countless number of men and women who have placed their lives on the line to defend and protect the City of New York. Every day, our team is out there doing this dangerous work, interacting with violent and, far too often, armed recidivists who have made up their mind to wreak havoc on our city. As your mayor, I want every one of them to know how grateful this city is for their courage and dedication.

Because of our steadfast focus on eradicating gun violence, New York City continues to be the safest big city in America. But we will keep pressing for more — more officers, more safety, more results. This administration is all about going the distance, with long-term plans to ensure that New York City remains the greatest city on the globe and a safe place for our families, our children, and our grandmothers.

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Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now

By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

Springtime is now upon us and not a minute too soon. Prospective first-time home buyers are finding themselves right in the middle of the 'open house' season. You will be able to find in Harlem and other neighborhoods several beautiful homes on the market. Surprisingly the market prices are quite high, in fact higher than expected for most of these properties but that has not stopped the buying frenzy. The competition for available homes has exceeded expectations as buyers are now offering in many cases much more than the asking price!

To enter this housing market, you must be ready because the stakes are high! You must have an adequate amount of money saved for the down payment and closing costs, usually now somewhere between $30-35,000. Most lenders will also want to see a solid credit history, at least 3-4 active accounts and no late payments over the last 24 months.

Some lenders will use 'non-traditional' credit if you do not have the minimum number of trade lines. This will include proof of monthly on time payments on accounts such as your rent payments, cell phone, utility bills and perhaps payments on your student loan. The lenders will generally require a minimum of twelve months' payments on at least 3 non-traditional payment accounts and still prefer one major credit account.

HCCI offers a program called Lending Circles. This program is designed to increase your savings and to improve your credit score. It works similar to a 'susu except it is reported to all three credit bureaus as an instalment loan. There are three savings amounts $50, $100 and $200. If you are interested in learning more about this program, go to www.lendingcircles.org. and enter my zip code 10039.

Start assembling your home buying team of experts to assist you through the process. Your team will consist of the following professionals: a housing counselor, loan officer, real estate agent, home inspector, insurance agent and real estate attorney. Do your research as part of your selection process. Ask friends who recently purchased for recommendations. Start with completing the home buying education workshop to have a better understanding of the steps involved.

At the workshop you will learn the terminology related to the home buying industry. You will also learn about the various grant programs available to assist you in the purchase. There will be presentations on shopping for a home and learning about the different types of properties such as condominiums, cooperatives, single and multi-family homes. Start the pre-approval process to determine your maximum loan limit. The loan amounts will be the difference between the purchase price and your down payment. Use your budget to determine how much you can comfortably afford to spend for a monthly mortgage payment.

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.

HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HARLEM EVENTS

May 23 10am-3pm

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

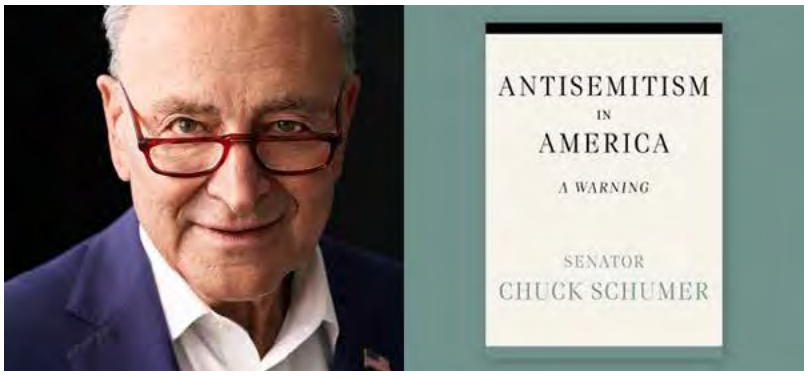
NYPL JOBS FAIR being held at Stephen A. Schwarzman Building located at 42nd Street & 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10018. Are you ready to start or grow your career? Sign up for The New York Public Library's Job Fair and Expo! Connect with hiring employers, career experts, and training programs—including 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

Phil Young Experience at Langston Hughes House

Every Thursday - $20 Suggested Donation

Phil Young Experience at Home of Langston Hughes on Thursdays in Harlem

By Lil Nickelson

On Thursday, April 24th, 2025, I made my way over to the second floor of Langston Hughes House located at 20 East 127th Street in East Harlem to handle some "Grown Folk's Business." That is the theme that master jazz drummer Phil Young has given to his events at this location every Thursday evening from 6pm to 9pm, and the first set begins at 6:30pm. The Phil Young Experience presents an evening of jazz, poetry, soulful vocals, and inspiring conversations.

Until the show began, I got the chance to soak up the old-world charm on Harlem brownstones. The rooms with soaring ceilings, tall windows with shutters to block out the sunlight, the tall antique glass mirror in between the two front windows. The walls had plain to very ornate crown moldings throughout the rooms, a fireplace, and hardwood floors throughout. Legend has it that the old piano that was near one of the front windows, and the typewriter from the 1920s on top of the fireplace mantel were property of Langston Hughes when he resided here. A larger-than-life head and shoulder black and white photo of Langston Hughes hangs over the fireplace, along with the remaining length of the wall displaying black and white post boards with commentary typed on them that discuss Mr. Hughes' life.

Phil Young engaging in conversation with the audience.

The male spoken word artist Tommie Thompson.

Audience listening to the musicians in The Phil Young Experience.

Once Phil Young got on the microphone to start the first or two sets all attention turned to the band and the music. Phil Young was on drums, Melissa Slocum on bass, Richard Clements on keyboard, and Tommy Morimoto on the saxophone. The musicians were giving the audience their best, and we grooved to the music. Every now and then Phil would get on the mic to let us know what tunes they had played. Four vocalists were featured at the performance I attended. Tina Fabrigue, Nikita White, Beverly Crosby, and Tommie Thompson. Tina was first up, and she began by reciting poetry, talking about relationships before she sang a jazzy rendition of My Funny Valentine. Nikita was next up, and her second tune ushered in some blues with I Got Bad News Baby. Tommie with his deep baritone voice sounding like Paul Robeson when he recited Old Man River and What is America to You. Beverly turned the audience on with some gospel music when she sang Amazing Grace.

The audience included grown folks young as well as seasoned by life. People in attendance were as diverse as the music, and the musicians; we hailed from Harlem, Europe, France, South America, and Australia. In between the two sets Phil offered his guests pizza, a tossed salad, a non-alcoholic beverage, along with stimulating conversation. What a treat for only $20 for three hours of music.

Harlem Wellness Festival Returnng to Marcus Garvey Park May 17th

By Uptown Grand Central

A celebration of the strong network of minority- and women-owned gyms, studios and spas that Harlem has built over the past decade, Harlem Wellness Fest is a move and stretch party where you can get to know Harlem's local fitness and wellness businesses. Plus, map out your wellness routine for spring and summer!

Meet the teachers and trainers who are expanding and energizing our community culture of fitness and self-care, including Harlem Cycle, Harlem Kettlebell Club, Harlem Yoga Studio, Harlem Wellness Center, Urban Yoga Foundation, Rokmil Fitness, Movement Harlem, Uptown Veg & The Juicery.

Save the date! Harlem Wellness Festival is returning to Marcus Garvey Park on Saturday, May 17.

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-Tuesday P. Brooks

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[1] **Down Payment program and America's Home Grant program:** Qualified borrowers must meet eligibility requirements such as being owner-occupants and purchasing a home within a certain geographical area. Maximum income and loan amount limits apply. Minimum combined loan-to-value must be greater than or equal to 80%. The home loan must fund with Bank of America. Bank of America may change or discontinue the Bank of America Down Payment Grant program or America's Home Grant program or any portion of either without notice. Not available with all loan products, please ask for details.

[2] **Additional information about the Down Payment program:** Down Payment program is available with one mortgage product. Program funds can be applied toward down payment only. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back in excess of earnest money deposits. Down Payment Grant program may be considered taxable income, and a 1099-MISC will be issued; consult with your tax advisor. May be combined with other offers. The Bank of America Down Payment Grant program may only be applied once to an eligible mortgage/property, regardless of the number of applicants. Homebuyer education is required.

[3] **Additional information about the America's Home Grant program:** The America's Home Grant program is a lender credit. Program funds can only be used for nonrecurring closing costs including title insurance, recording fees, and in certain situations, discount points which can be used to lower the interest rate. The grant cannot be applied toward down payment, prepaid items or recurring costs, such as property taxes and insurance. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back.

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

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Eastern Area Links Hosts 48th Conference featuring a Community Day of Health & Wellness at Mother AME Zion Church

The Eastern Area of The Links, Incorporated convened its 48th Area Conference in the vibrant heart of New York City, April 23rd to 27th, 2025, at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. Themed "Elevate with Excellence," the biennial gathering welcomed over 1,700 distinguished members representing 83 chapters from across the Eastern United States and the United Kingdom.

Professionals in medicine, law, education, science, business, and the arts united under one roof to engage in transformational workshops, civic discussions, and celebrations of friendship and sisterhood.

In keeping with tradition, the conference began with a powerful community service project. On April 23, 2025, The Eastern Area Links, Incorporated hosted The Big Apple Cluster Community Day of Health and Wellness at the historic Mother AME Zion Church in Harlem—the oldest Black institution in New York State. The site holds deep historical significance, tracing its roots to Seneca Village, the original Black community displaced by the creation of Central Park.

Residents, healthcare professionals, and civic leaders gathered from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM for a dynamic day of wellness programming and community care.

Event Highlights included:A Healthy Breakfast to fuel the day's activities; Panel Discussions moderated by Cheryl Wills, TV Host and Emmy Award-winning Journalist, featuring the following distinguished panelists, including; Valeria Revolus, Dr. Thomasena Ellison, Dr. Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, Ph.D., Dr. Poroshat Shekarloo Dr. Bernadette Sheridan, Dr. Cardinale B. Smith, MD, Ph.D, and . Carla D. Brown.As well as a conversation with Rev. Dr. Malcolm J. Byrd, Pastor of Mother AME Zion, and Dr. Lisa Loury Lomas, Eastern Area Director of The Links, Incorporated

Complementary Health Screenings,were held, including: Blood pressure checks, Breast cancer screenings, Prostate cancer screenings.

Additional wellness resources and educational materials, included:

A Healthy Walking Tour of Central Harlem provided physical activity while spotlighting the neighborhood's cultural legacy, including Abyssinian Baptist Church, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the world-famous Apollo Theater.

This impactful day reinforced The Links' mission to empower and uplift communities of color through health equity, education, and direct service.

Following the Community Day of Health and Wellness, the conference continued with a full schedule of plenary sessions, civic luncheons, leadership workshops, and celebratory events such as the White Rose Gala. Sponsors at all levels—ranging from Marquee to Friend—contributed to the success of the conference through branded engagements and program support.

Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Lisa Loury Lomas, the Eastern Area continues to advance its mission to Elevate Friendship, Empower Families. The 48th Area Conference served not only as a time of reflection and celebration but also as a launchpad for new initiatives and enduring partnerships.

For more information about the Eastern Area of The Links, Incorporated and their ongoing work, visit www.ealinks.org.

Black America Celebrates African Descent Heritage of Pope Leo XIV

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior National Correspondent

Black America is taking pride in a truth shaking up the Vatican and resonating through the streets of New Orleans: Pope Leo XIV—formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost of Chicago—has Black and Creole roots. The Pope's factual anthropological roots are not just symbolic. According to genealogist Jari Honora, his maternal lineage traces directly to the Black community of New Orleans' 7th Ward, with family ties to Haiti, and census records identifying his ancestors as "Black" or "Mulatto." "By the Europeans' own '1/8th' rules, we have a Black Pope," noted author Elie Mystal declared. "Anyway, Pope's grandfather is Haitian. We kind of got a Black Pope. 'End Woke' is not gonna be happy about this." Further, New Orleans historian Jari Christopher Honora also speaking to the National Catholic Reporter and Black Catholic Messenger, detailed how the pope's grandparents married in 1887 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church on Annette Street in New Orleans before migrating north. His mother, Mildred Martínez, was the first child in the family born in Chicago. "The Holy Father's ancestors are identified as either Black or Mulatto," Honora said.

The Chicago Tribune and New York Times also reported on Pope Leo's mixed-race background and Creole lineage, noting that his election marks a defining moment in the Church's evolving identity. "As a Black man, a proud son of New Orleans, and the U.S. Congressman representing the very 7th Ward neighborhood where our new Pope's family hails from, I am bursting with pride today," said Rep. Troy Carter. "This is history! The first American Pope, with Creole and Haitian roots, rising from the streets of New Orleans to the Vatican. As a Xavier University alum, I know how deeply faith and resilience run in our community. We celebrate this moment—with joy, with prayers, and with pride." Former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial called Leo XIV's background "universal," saying, "Here's an American whose ministry was in Peru, who has roots in the American South and also ancestry in the American Black community." Leo XIV is a member of the Augustinian Order, named after the African theologian St. Augustine of Hippo. His election came from a conclave in which two other leading contenders—Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana and Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo Besungu of the Democratic Republic of Congo—were also men of African descent.

But Leo XIV stood apart—not just as the first pope from the U.S. but as one known for his outspokenness on racial justice, immigrant rights, gun reform, and the abolition of the death penalty. TIME Magazine reported that his selection represented a Vatican rebuke of efforts by wealthy Americans and political operatives aligned with Donald Trump to influence the papal outcome. Known in Rome as "The Latin Yankee," Leo XIV used his verified X account (@drprevost) to amplify criticism of Trump-era immigration policies, often reposting commentary from respected Catholic figures. The New York Post reported that his last post before his election was a retweet of Catholic journalist Rocco Palmo slamming Trump's alliance with El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele over migrant deportations. Back in 2017, the Roman Catholic leader also reposted a message quoting Chicago Archbishop Blase Cupich, calling Trump's refugee bans "a dark hour of US history."

Though Trump offered lukewarm congratulations from the White House driveway, his far-right allies were quick to lash out. Laura Loomer tweeted, "WOKE MARXIST POPE," calling Pope Leo "just another Marxist puppet in the Vatican."But outside the MAGA echo chamber, in Black communities across the globe, the emotion is pride. "The pope is Black," journalist Clarence Hill Jr. said bluntly. And that means something in the Black neighborhoods of Chicago and the Creole corridors of New Orleans. Many said it means representation, resilience, and the reshaping of history at the highest level of the Catholic Church. "We celebrate this moment—not because it erases the struggles of our past, but because it affirms that our faith, our heritage, and our presence matter," Rep. Carter said. "This is history, and it belongs to all of us." The. Rev-

erend Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. affirmed, "On behalf of the Black Press of America as the authentic voice of 50 million African Americans and millions more throughout the African diaspora, we join to celebrate Pope Leo XVI, a world leader of African descent who speaks truth to power with courage and grace."

"Divine Light Gala" at the Cathedral St John the Divine

The "Divine Light Gala," an evening to celebrate and support those who bring light to the world took place earlier this month at the Cathedral. The event included festive cocktails, dinner and performances. The Cathedral honored luminaries who inspire and celebrate their wide-spanning impact. All proceeds from this event go directly to support the Cathedral's mission to be a place of light and leadership and a space of belonging for all people.

This year, the Cathedral honored Judy Collins, who exemplifies the crossover between arts and activism. As a Cathedral artist-in-residence for over 40 years, Judy creates work that reminds us of the power of the arts to inspire, uplift, and connect us. In the 1960s, she evoked both idealism and steely determination of a generation united against social and environmental injustices. Five decades later, her luminescent presence shines as new generations learn her iconic 55-album body of work. Her rendition of Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" from her landmark 1967 album, Wildflowers, is in the Grammy Hall of Fame. Judy's version of Stephen Sondheim's "Send in the Clowns" won "Song of the Year" at the 1975 Grammy Awards.

Composer & Lyricist Jason Robert Brown, Judy Collins and Tony-Grammy Award winning actor J. Harrison Ghee at the Cathedral St. John the Divine

The Cathedral St. John the Divine's The Very Reverend Patrick Malloy, Former TV Journalist Harry Smith, and Honoree Judy Collins on the red carpet

The emcee of the evening was Broadway legend Patti LuPone. Remarks were made by Sidney Outlaw, The Very Reverend Patrick Malloy, Jason Robert Brown, J. Harrison Ghee and Harry Smith.

Feature performances were made by Sidney Outlaw including selections from Handel's Messiah, Jason Robert who performed "Morocco" (a Judy Collins song), J. Harrison Ghee who performed a song composed by Jason Robert Brown, Candice Hoyes, Art Bath, and Kent Tritle who wrapped the evening with Widor's Toccata on the Cathedral's Great Organ.

Also, during the evening, Judy Collins led guests in a performance of "Amazing Grace." It was hard not to find a dry eye in the Cathedral.

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The Hidden Gem of Harlem at Diversity Edible Farm Garden

By Larnez Kinsey

Okay, Harlem, listen up. There's a place right in the heart of our community that's been growing power, pride, and purpose—and you've probably never even noticed it. It's called Diversity Edible Farm Garden, and if you haven't been there yet, you're seriously missing out. Nestled at 1673 Madison Avenue, this is Harlem's hidden gem, and it's waiting for you to come and put your hands in the dirt.

Let me tell you—this garden is not just a space to grow vegetables. It's a place where roots run deep, where history and culture intertwine with the soil beneath our feet, and every seed we plant represents the future of our community. This isn't your average garden. This is a movement.

From the Ground Up: Power, Pride, and Purpose

This past weekend, Harlem came together for a Community Cleanup, and let me just say, it was everything. We rolled up our sleeves, shared stories, and worked side by side, not just to tidy up the garden, but to reclaim it. This garden isn't just about planting food—it's about planting community. It's about nourishing each other and this land that's been feeding us long before we were even born.

And here's the truth: the power of this garden goes beyond the vegetables. When you walk through these rows, you're stepping into a space where unity happens. You're walking on the same soil where generations have planted, grown, and fought for a better future. Every harvest tells a story—a story of resilience, culture, and connection. From the kale to the collard greens to the tomatoes, these plants aren't just for eating; they're for remembering who we are and where we came from.

This Garden Needs You, Harlem

But listen, if this garden is going to thrive, we need you. I'm talking about the collective power of Harlem. Whether you've got a green thumb or you've never touched dirt in your life, we want you here. This garden is for everyone—newcomers, elders, kids, artists, activists—every single person who calls Harlem home.

We're not just growing crops, we're growing community, and when you step into this space, you're part of something bigger than just your own backyard. Every weed we pull, every bed we prep, and every seed we plant is an act of empowerment. It's a reminder that we have control over our own destiny, that we can take care of each other and our space, and that when we come together, we transform.

Every Harvest Tells a Story

What makes this garden special isn't just the food—it's what that food represents. Every time we harvest a vegetable, it's a reflection of who we are as a people. When you bite into that fresh tomato or pick that bunch of collard greens, you're not just tasting the earth—you're tasting the

history, the resilience, and the love that runs through Harlem. This garden is a reflection of us—strong, proud, and deeply connected.

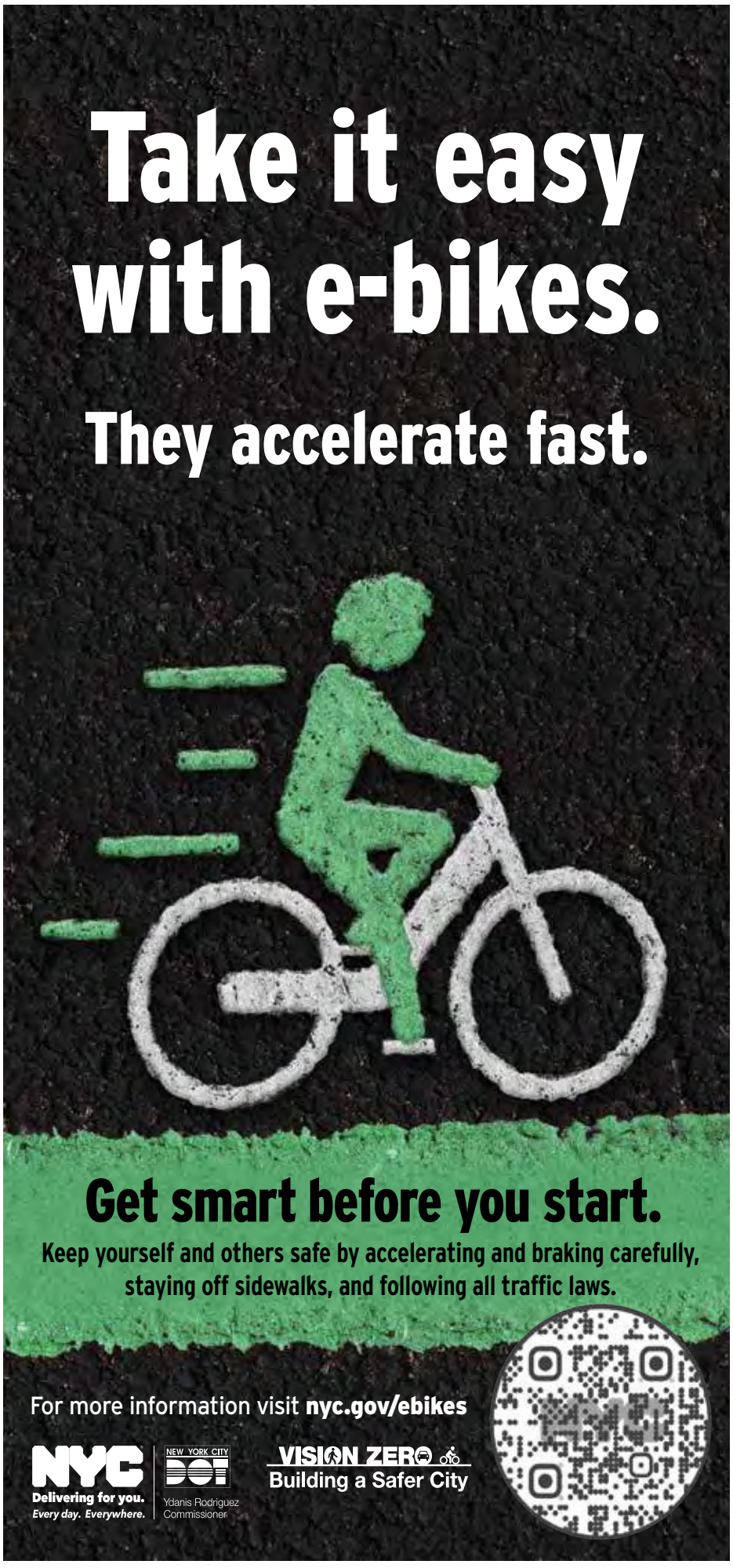
So, What's Next?

Now, I know you're thinking, "I've got to be a part of this." And I'm here to tell you, you can. Whether you come for a Community Cleanup, help plant seeds, or just show up to water the plants, you're contributing to something that's going to leave a lasting impact on Harlem. This is your chance to dig in, not just to the soil, but into the heartbeat of Harlem itself.

This garden is your garden, and it's waiting for you to step into it. Harlem, let's show up, let's show out, and let's grow together.

For more information, email diversityediblefarmgarden@gmail.com.

This isn't just a garden—it's a movement. And trust me, you don't want to miss out. Let's grow. Let's connect. Let's rise.



Urbanology: The Mind of the Universe

By William A. Rogers

Is there a greater power? If there is, how do you tap into it? Many of the great prophets said we should look inside of self for the answer. Most of those prophets, were put in prison, put in exile, or put to death by the powers that developed philosophies based on controlled versions of their teachings. After a time, the philosophies became a religion, and in time many of the religions became more political then spiritual.

The spiritual science movement has started to develop evidence that supports the teachings of the early prophets. "Know Thy Self," was a statement the early Egyptians used to provide a clue to the question we still cannot answer concerning their scientific and architectural accomplishments. In ancient Kemet (today known as Egypt) every academic and scientific learning center had the phrase "Know Thy Self" placed on the entrance.

I now firmly believe that there is a greater power, many call it the mind of the universe, it is a part of us and we are a part of it. Taoist Master and author Wu Wei explains this clearly in the following statement: "It is of utmost importance that you become aware that you and your Universe are in constant communication. Some of us communicate knowingly, others unknowingly.

Wei goes on to say: We speak to the Universe with our words, thoughts and actions. The Universe speaks to us with events. Events are the language of the Universe". What we think can manifest into reality. Everything that exists in the material world is a manifestation of a thought. We should always be aware of the power of our thoughts. We all communicate with a greater power, some of us knowingly some of us unknowingly.

You must have faith to knowingly communicate with the Mind of the Universe. You must first believe that you have the ability and that you are a part of a greater power. You must also believe that this power within you can manifest a material reality from your thought. Following this thought there is a reason that you are reading this dialog. The Mind of the Universe is communicating with you.

You cannot truly knowingly communicate with the Mind of the Universe, that greater power, without deactivating the matrix energy of the material world. Only then can you tap into the energy of the Mind of the Universe internally. Meditation, Tai Chi, Ki Training are vehicles that can help you tap into the energy of the Universal Mind.

We are all connected to the energy of the Universal Mind, it is part of us and we are part of it. Energy is the best example of it; energy is the foundation of all things. Science tells us that all things in our universe is a form of vibrating energy it seems that only humans have unknowingly separated themselves from the vibrating energy of the Universal Mind.

I am optimistic about the idea that the next stage of human development has begun. All things move in cycles, day to night, young to old, summer to winter. I find it interesting that the foundation of the next stage of human development will be the ancient wisdom of tapping into a greater universal power by knowing Thy Self. Author Wayne Chandler calls it the Ancient Future.

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HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY

OPEN REGISTRATION -
Our Next Cycle of our MASTER COURSE

By Zakiyyah

You can change your family and loved ones' health narrative from 'passing down cycles of illness,' to "passing down cycles of health and vitality."

If you never imagined that you can actually heal your own health imbalances, or control your own stress triggers – YOU CAN! Join our upcoming herb course to participate in our interactive classes of blending herbs and essential oils, and creating crystal elixirs, to eliminate disease and restore vitality for your whole family.

With a focus on **HELPING THE BODY HEAL ITSELF**, join us to gain diverse perspectives utilizing holistic modalities from different cultures, to heal disorders, and chronic pain. Acupuncture meridians are easily accessed with herbal/essential oil blends to correct blood and vascular disorders, lung weaknesses, and to resolve digestive issues.

You can make the decision to empower yourself by gaining the tools you need to change your own health narrative by stopping the cycles of poor health – utilizing reflexology points to stimulate energy for direct and immediate healing – and develop new and powerful cycles of improved health and vitality for your whole family.

On Saturday, June 7th you can become part of our dynamic learning experience: to become the Holistic Healer in your family. Send an email to inquire about joining our next cycle, June 7th.

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Answers to Crossword on page 17

O	F	F	S			C	E	P				F	D	A
P	A	R	T		S	A	L	E		S	P	I	E	S
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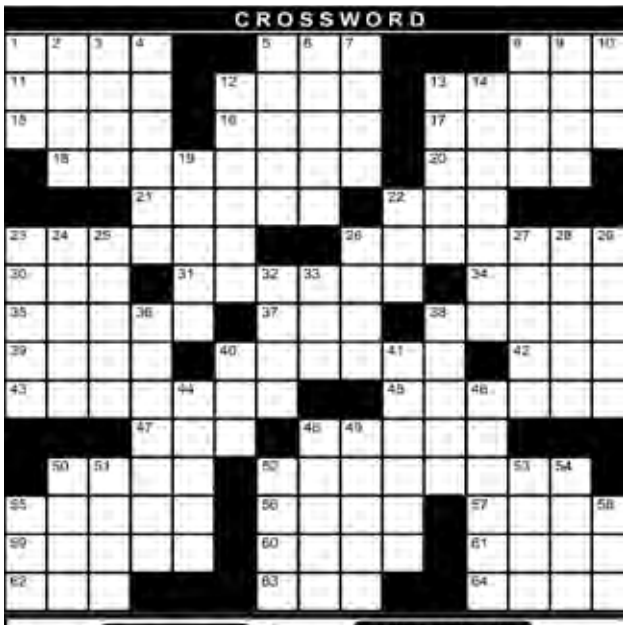
See answers on pages 20

CROSSWORD



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Statepoint Crossword
THEME:
THE 1950s

ACROSS
1. Deals a death blow
5. Large edible mushroom
8. Food safety agency, acr.
11. Auditioner's hope
12. Closing act
13. *Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, supposedly
15. Corset rod
16. Therefore
17. *"Lord of the Flies" shell
18. *Ed of TV
20. Sty sound
21. Pillow filler
22. Gastrointestinal tract
23. *Pooch on a 1950s skirt
26. Most cautious
30. Go wrong
31. Camels' relatives
34. Lake north of Cleveland
35. Wide open
37. Kind of conifer
38. Spectrum maker
39. Better than never
40. Portable stairs
42. Headdress
43. Tennis shoe
45. Triage nurse's measurements
47. Old horse
48. Film director Sergio
50. Band's work-related trip
52. *Slicked men's hairstyle
55. Does like a hot dog
56. Rod for a hot rod
57. Winter forecast
59. Be
60. Measurement, abbr.
61. U2 guitarist
62. *Clearasil target
63. Ballpark fig.
64. Wine choice

DOWN
1. Roman goddess of fertility
2. *Domino's nickname
3. German Mrs.
4. Coiffed
5. Turn pumpkin into Jack-o-Lantern
6. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
7. Low-ranking worker
8. Certain Scandinavian
9. 52 cards
10. Fireplace mess
12. Beer mug
13. Use elbow grease
14. *First Black nominee of Oscar for Best Actor
19. City in Northern France
22. Neon or radon, e.g.
23. Church bell sounds
24. Liturgy instrument
25. Speak like Pericles
26. *June Cleaver's husband
27. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
28. Type of rug
29. Christmas help, pl.
32. Way, way off
33. *___-Century Modern
36. *Charles Schulz creation
38. Newspapers and such
40. Chicken order
41. Calls forth
44. Eroded limestone landscape
46. Movie trailer, e.g.
48. Lumen per square meter, pl.
49. "Bravo! Bravo!", e.g.
50. Yellow ride
51. The Fonz: "Sit ____ ____!"
52. Female equivalent of sir
53. ____-European language
54. Fireplace fodder
55. *Candy in dispenser
58. Itsy-bitsy____ none
66. Beluga yield

SUDOKU

	7	6		9	5	2		
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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.

See answers on pages 19

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PAGE 18

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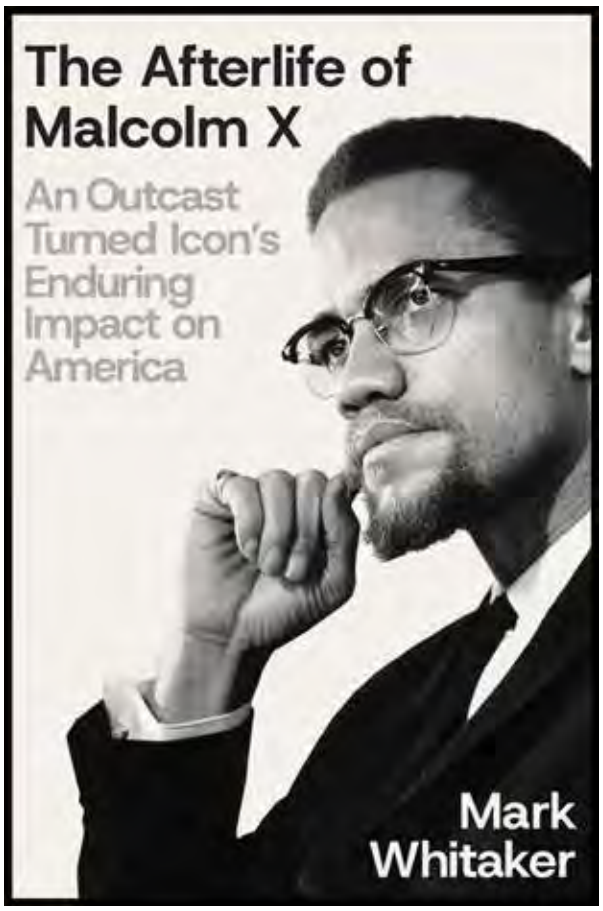
"The Afterlife of Malcolm X: An Outcast Turned Icon's Enduring Impact on America" by Mark Whitaker

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor



Who will remember you in fifty years' time?

A handful of friends – at least those who are still around – might recall you. Your offspring, grandkids, and greats, maybe people who stumble upon your tombstone. Think about it: who will remember you in 2075? And then read **"The Afterlife of Malcolm X" by Mark Whitaker** and learn about a legacy that still resonates a half-century later.

Betty Shabazz didn't like to go to her husband's speeches, but on that February night in 1965, he asked her to come with their daughters to the Audubon Ballroom in New York. Did Malcolm X sense that something bad would happen on that night? Surely he was fully aware of the possibility, knowing that he'd been "a marked man" for months because of his very public break with the Nation of Islam.

As the news of his murder spread around New York and around the world, his followers and admirers reacted in many ways. His friend, journalist Peter Goldman, was "hardly shocked" because he also knew that Malcolm's life was in danger, but the arrest of three men accused of the crime didn't add up. It ultimately became Goldman's "obsession."

Malcolm's co-writer for *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Alex Haley, quietly finished the book he started with Malcolm, and a small upstart publishing house snatched it up. A diverse group of magazines got in line to run articles about Malcolm X's life, finally sensing that white America "'needed his voice even more than blacks did.'"

But though Malcolm X was gone, he continued to leave an impact.

He didn't live long enough to see the official founding of the Black Panther Party, but he was influential on its beginning. He never knew the first Kwanzaa or the triumphs of a convert named Muhammad Ali.

Malcolm left his mark on music. He influenced at least three major athletes.

He was a "touchstone" for a president…

While it's true that "The Afterlife of Malcolm X" is an eye-opening book, one that works as a great companion to the autobiography, it's also a fact that it's somewhat scattered. Is it a look at Malcolm's life, his legacy, or is it a "murder mystery"?

Turns out, it's all three but the timeline for it isn't always smooth and that may take some getting used-to. Just when you're immersed, even *absorbed* in this book, to the point where you forget about your surroundings, author Mark Whitaker abruptly moves to a different part of the story. It may be jarring.

And yet, it's a big part of this book, and it's essential for readers to know the investigation's outcome and what we know today. It doesn't change Malcolm X's legacy, but it adds another frame around it.

If you've read the autobiography, if you haven't thought about Malcolm X in awhile, or if you think you know all there is to know, then you owe it to yourself to find "The Afterlife of Malcolm X." For you, this is a book you won't easily forget.

"The Afterlife of Malcolm X: An Outcast Turned Icon's Enduring Impact on America" by Mark Whitaker

c.2025,
Simon & Schuster
$30.99
448 pages

Answers to Sudoku on page 19

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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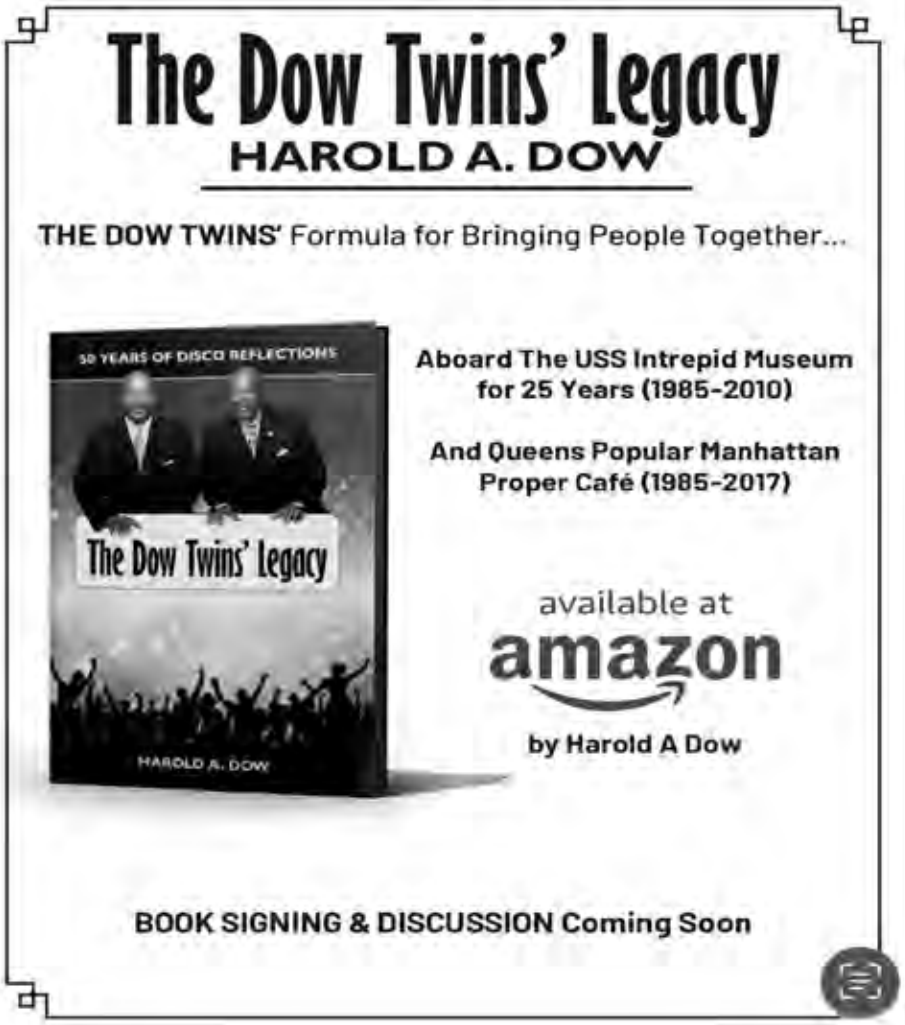

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