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

# COMMUNITY BRONX NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 31 No. 23

June 5, 2025 - June 11, 2025

FREE



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of Congressman  
Charles B. Rangel**

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**June is Black Music  
Month:**

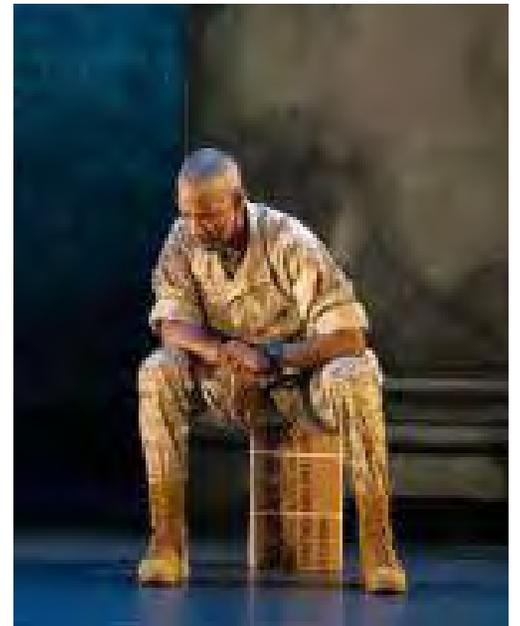
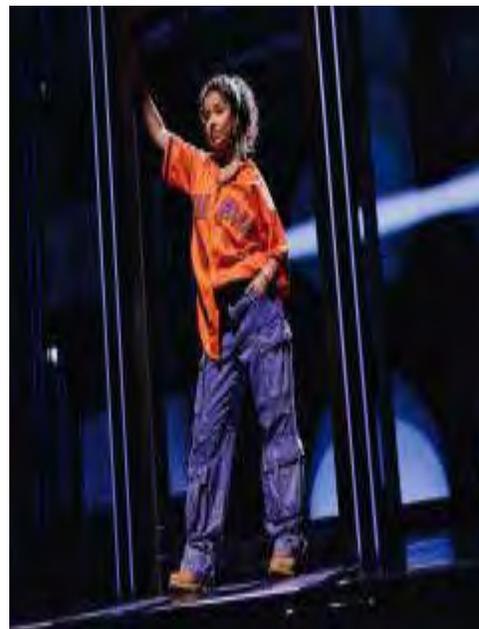
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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

Free copies distributed in your community weekly

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PAT STEVENSON

Enjoy our “Blacks on Broadway” issue. We have been featuring Black actors on Broadway for almost 30 years. We hope you will support our Black actors on Broadway now being featured in more than 30 shows. You can also go to our website throughout the year for updates at [www.harlemcommunitynews.com](http://www.harlemcommunitynews.com).

(see pages 10-21)

Condolences to the family and friends of Congressman Charles B. Rangel. Public activities and the funeral arrangements are stated on page 3.

June is “Black Music Month.” Community Works and New Heritage Theatre Group is presenting Harlem is . . . Music ALIVE! on June 16th. (see page 25)

On June 19th we will celebrate Juneteenth. Our book reviewer is presenting a Juneteenth Alphabet book for children to help them learn about Juneteenth.

(see page 31)

Go to our website and subscribe to our daily newsletter that will come direct to your email. It is free!.Go to: [www.harlemcommunitynews.com](http://www.harlemcommunitynews.com)

Pat Stevenson  
Celebrating  
31 Years Publishing

# Honoring the Legacy of Congressman Charles H. Rangel

The family of retired Congressman Charles B. Rangel announces a series of activities to honor his remarkable life and legacy leading up to his funeral service at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Congressman Rangel, a steadfast champion for Harlem and the nation, as well as a distinguished figure in American politics, will be memorialized in the coming days, with opportunities for the public to pay their respects.

**Public Activities:**

**June 9 & June 10,  
12:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Congressman Rangel will lie in repose at St. Aloysius Church, 219 W 132nd St, New York, NY 10027. Members of the public, especially his be-

loved Harlem community, are invited to visit the Church to pay their respects.

**June 11 & June 12**

Congressman Rangel will lie in state at City Hall, offering the community and dignitaries a formal opportunity to honor his service and dedication to the nation.

**June 13, 9:45 am**

Funeral Service (Mass) St. Patrick's Cathedral, 5th Ave between 50th St. and 51st St., New York, NY 10022. This Mass is open to the public, celebrating the life of Congressman Rangel. Seating will be limited, but the public is welcome to join the family in remembering a leader who dedicated his life to service.

"It is fitting that my great friend and senior mentor, the Honorable Congressman Charles B. Rangel, who was awarded the historic U.S. Army "Purple Heart" for his Outstanding Leadership during The Korean War in the 1950's, would determine to transition on Memorial Day, May 25th. Rangel, who was known to thousands as the "Lion of Lenox Ave" was truly one of the most effective and productive member of the U.S. Congress over the past half century.

Rangel will be missed and remembered internationally in South Africa, the Caribbean Basin, Urban America, Washington D.C., New York, Korea, South & Latin America, and wherever people of color reside in the U.S. But most especially, he will be remembered for decades to come in his beloved home "The Village Of Harlem."

The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce in concert with Harlem Community News and others will celebrate "Our Congressman" this year during HARLEM WEEK On Sunday, August 17th. We will keep you informed."

-Lloyd Williams

CEO, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce



"My condolences and prayers to the family of Congressman Charles Rangel. Thank you for sharing your father with us. He was a Lion, not just on Lenox Ave, but throughout the world. We especially thank him for establishing the Congressional Black Caucus, and personally for his support in my becoming US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, the Obama administration, and for the countless opportunities he gave young men and women interested in entering the foreign service, through his Rangel Fellowships, as well as for young students interested in working in the political arena, through his summer internship programs on Capitol Hill.

**Rev. Dr. Ambassador  
Suzan Johnson Cook**



"Harlem has lost the last of our fiercest warriors in the passing of our magnificent - the beloved "Lion of Lenox Avenue" Congressman Charles B. Rangel. When the strong dominant leader of the pride lion departs the savanna trembles, knowing that leadership is shifting and new and great strength must emerge. Likewise, Congressman Rangel's passing signals to us that we now stand entrusted to continue his legacy, protecting and nurturing the community he fiercely loved and fought for. As the first African-American Chair of the influential House Ways and Means Committee and a founding pillar of the Congressional Black Caucus, Charles Rangel opened doors long shut to communities of color, courageously fighting for equality, economic justice and human dignity throughout his more than 55 extraordinary years between Congress and the NYS Assembly. His shoes are enormous, his achievements monumental, and his legacy will echo through the corridors of power and the streets of Harlem for generations to come. To the Dickens family, Congressman Rangel was more than a legendary statesman - he was family, a confidant, and a cherished friend of more than 75 years where his phenomenal political career took seed with my father, the late Assemblyman Lloyd E. Dickens. We deeply mourn his passing but remain inspired to carry forward the roaring legacy of this mighty Lion. The Gang of Four are one again and forever united as one driven force. May that spirit of unity and forcefulness live on."

-Inez E. Dickens

Former Assembly Member, NY State

from pages of Harlem News..... Photos by Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor



# PONDER THIS! The Throes of Schlepping Stuff



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

a steady flow of committed energy. To understand the meaning of schlepping, we must first look at the word's definition in its original context.

The root Yiddish word 'shlepn' means 'to drag.' In German, 'schleppen' also means to drag, while the Danish word 'slæbe' means to haul. So, the root words in different languages point to movement of an object in some specific way and means.

Multiple adjustments have been made over time to ensure the best and convenient mechanics for schlepping your heavy loads when travelling and on daily errands. The best in roller luggage have been created with smooth, swirling wheels to schlepp garments in world travel.

Whether you choose to use terms such as tote or carrier, they are forms of schlep bags.

There has been a significant evolution for us to enjoy using schlep bags today as elegant solutions for carrying the multitude of items we believe are necessary assets away from home. It is important to have a high-quality schlep bag.

There are many designs, prints, and sizes of schlep bags. To ensure that your schlep bag is of the highest quality, it is essential to choose a bag with a sturdy and durable bottom that can withstand the weight of diverse items. Additionally, the bag should have two strong handles for lifting.

I invite you to think of the human body as the most amazing schlep bag. Within

the framework of the body, wonders prevail. We consume food stock and fill our stomachs with nutritious and nonacceptable stuff, believing they are needed to sustain our well-being. Lots of what we ingest is simply stash for schlepping around and we wonder why we feel bloated and overweight.

The mechanics of sorting, dissolving, storing, and hauling and dragging of stuff, heading for disposal day and night, is the ongoing activity of the human body.

We are carrying the load of physical schlepp bags on our shoulders and backs and too much fat is schlepping around inside filling every crevice and crack between the vital organs that struggle for workable space. No wonder there

are manufactured weight reduction chemicals hitting the markets offering instant weight loss. The desire and the goal to be slim is great.

The mind is another form of a schlep bag that can carry items that we deem to be of importance, yet they ultimately boggle our thoughts with chatter of matters that are of little importance to our wholeness and well-being. Put down the bags that are weighing you down. The stuff that you have been schlepping around for far too long, must go. Become the person you can be, right now.

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

The act of schlepping refers to moving heavy objects, dragging, and hauling something. It can also imply that the action is conducted clumsily, lazily, or carelessly.

Needless to say, schlepping is difficult because it entails action to move something that necessitates

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## BRONX EVENTS

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

## HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS



Jun 18 Spring 2025 Teen Council Exhibition Celebration

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation Act, MCK, UNCONSOLIDATED LAWS, SECTION 7385.6, the NYC Health + Hospitals Board will hold a

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Monday July 1, 2025 - 6:00 PM

NYC Health + Hospitals | Lincoln  
234 Eugenio Maria de Hostos (149<sup>th</sup> Street) - Main Floor Auditorium  
Bronx, New York 10451

Concerning the proposed lease by the NYC Health + Hospitals Corporation to River Commons Owners LLC for the development of "River Commons," a new mixed-use building on a 42,000 square foot parcel at NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Morrisania located at 1225 Gerard Avenue in the Bronx. The new building will include approximately 328 units of affordable and supportive residential housing for both the community and patients, as well as a live-in super's unit, community facility space, and approximately 41,000 square foot healthcare facility and a 75-car parking garage for use by NYC Health + Hospitals, and a public plaza.

Speakers will be allotted five minutes to present. We ask speakers to register in advanced by:

**Phone:** 212- 788-3359

**Writing:** Ms. Colicia Hercules, Secretary to the Corporation  
NYC Health + Hospitals  
50 Water Street - Suite 1702, New York, New York 10004

**Online:**  
<https://innovations.nychhc.org/publichearings>



Advance Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025 at 2pm

In-person registration at the hearing site on July 1, 2025 begins at 5:30 pm and closes at 6:30 pm

Language Interpretation services will be available upon request.



**A Safe and Fun Summer in the Greatest City in the World**



By Mayor Eric Adams

Summer in the city has begun, and we want all New Yorkers to enjoy the season in the greatest city in the world. We have so much to offer in terms of activities and outdoor space. But we also want to make sure that everyone is safe wherever they are: in the sun, on the beach, on the streets, at home, or at work.

Our multi-agency summer safety plan is designed to keep you safe and improve quality life across the board. We are expanding beach and water patrols, preparing for heat waves and extreme weather events, expanding youth programming, protecting against fires, and stopping impaired driving.

And we are determined to keep New York the safest big city in America, even during the summer months — when crime rates often increase. We are boosting NYPD presence on the subways, on the water, and in the air, and we will be extra vigilant in removing im-

paired drivers from our streets. The NYPD's new Quality of Life Division is also ramping up enforcement related to noise complaints, illegal mopeds and ATVs, and other common summer concerns.

But public safety is more than just policing. We want to make sure our youth are having fun — and that our upstream solutions provide them with things to do this summer. We are expanding youth programs during summer evenings, particularly through the 'Saturday Night Lights' initiative. Now, 136 sports sites operate on both Saturdays and Sundays, including extended hours until 11:00 PM.

We have also kicked off the season at our public beaches. Lifeguards are on duty every day from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and swimming is prohibited when lifeguards are not on duty and in closed sections. Rip currents are always possible, and we urge everyone to respect the rules. We are also deploying aerial drone teams to monitor the water for shark activity.

As you know, summer is a time for heat waves and extreme heat is our city's deadliest weather-related hazard, with an average of more than 500 New Yorkers dying from heat-related causes each year. We urge New Yorkers to be aware and informed of the dangers of extreme heat. Locate a nearby cooling option before you need it, whether it

is an air-conditioned space, such as the home of a friend or family member, a mall, museum, or an official New York City cooling center — like your local public library. There are also pet-friendly cooling centers in every borough, so please plan ahead to make sure everyone is safe.

Last summer, we saw how quickly dangerous wildfire smoke blanketed our city, even from fires thousands of miles away. Please sign up for Notify NYC, the city's free emergency notification system, which will keep you updated about weather and air-quality issues. Notify NYC is also the best way to prepare for other extreme weather events, including hurricanes, tropical storms, and heavy rainfall that can result in flash floods. You can also visit [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) for up-to-date information on air quality in your area.

Fire safety is another important part of summer safety. Every year, barbeque grills cause thousands of fires, and many of these fires occur when a propane grill was used for the first time after winter storage. So, before you grill, do a pre-season safety check on your equipment. Remember, grills are banned on rooftops and in multi-unit buildings, and portable outdoor patio fireplaces, patio hearths, fire pits, and chimneys are strictly prohibited in New York City, as are all

fireworks, which are a major safety hazard as well as a quality-of-life issue.

Overloaded electrical outlets are one of the major causes of residential fires. These occur when too many appliances are attached to the electrical system, so stay safe and use only the appliances you need.

And to prevent power outages that can happen during the hot summer months, conserve energy by setting air conditioning to 78°, closing blinds, avoiding large appliance use, and unplugging any electrical appliances not in use.

We know one of the best ways to stay cool is in the water, and our public pools will open starting June 27th. The New York City tradition of playing in a fire hydrant remains popular, but it MUST be done with an approved spray cap from your local firehouse. The improper opening of hydrants can waste 1,000 gallons of water per minute or more. Spray caps reduce hydrant output to a safe 25 gallons per minute while still providing relief from the heat. To obtain a spray cap, an adult, 18 years or older with proper identification, can go to their local firehouse and request one.

We know that these are a lot of warnings for one day, but we want to make sure New Yorkers can have a safe and enjoyable summer season in the greatest city in the world.



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# Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

With home values in the Harlem community rising at such a rapid rate the question that remains in the hearts of every prospective first-time home buyer continues to be one of a reality check. Can anyone afford to purchase a home in Harlem? Are there any affordable properties available in Harlem? Is Harlem quickly becoming a community only for the rich and famous? What is going to become of those long time Harlem renters who are now discovering homeownership no longer an attainable goal?

Some people might say that Harlem is not strictly a minority community anymore. The statistical data will certainly bear out this fact. The truth of the matter is although Harlem was at one time a predominately minority community most of the residents did not own property. They were renting apartments and owning a home was only a remote dream.

For many years homeownership was considered an option only for the financially affluent members in the community. However, even those community members who were financially able to purchase their own homes found strong opposition through banks and government creating an insidious plan known as 'Red lining.' This was a conspiracy prohibiting minority families from purchasing homes in specifically targeted neighborhoods such as Harlem.

This egregious plan was implemented on a national level. It was designed to prevent minorities from creating intergenerational wealth through investing in property. In the early 1980's when the city was trying to give away the boarded-up brownstones, only a few people seemed interested in purchasing them. However, they still found challenges in securing mortgages. Unfortunately, that is when we should have come together as a community and purchased every vacant home in the neighborhood.

Just think about the investment opportunity that was missed. Of course, at that time the interest rates were about 15% and it would have been a challenge to identify a lender

willing to extend mortgages in this community. But by working together as a community, we could overcome those obstacles. That remains our biggest obstacle today, working together as a cohesive community rather than independently. Now the prices have skyrocketed to a level that makes owning a home just about impossible to achieve. So, the question remains who can afford to buy in Harlem?

HCCI's Home Buyer Education Workshop can show you the steps involved and how to successfully navigate through an extremely complicated process. But you still need to accumulate an adequate amount of money for the down payment and closing costs. These are the biggest challenges confronting most prospective first-time buyers today. I'm not saying to give up on your dream of homeownership. No, you must continue your quest, but understand it will take more than a notion to buy anything today in Harlem.

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](mailto:cbutler@hcci.org).

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# “MJ DELIVERS ONE ROUSING NUMBER AFTER ANOTHER!”

—Naveen Kumar, *Variety*



Photo by Matthew Murphy

# Black Excellence Is Beautiful on Broadway

By Linda Armstrong

There are 32 shows, the majority currently on Broadway and one other coming, that will feature the greatness which is the Black performer. Six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald is killing it every show as she superbly delivers the role of Rose in “Gypsy.” Denzel Washington is stunning audiences as Othello. “Purpose” is a splendid play where Black is triumphant as it features a Black playwright, director and all-Black cast that will leave you speechless. As always Disney’s “The Lion King” and “MJ” are a great source of employment for us, as well as “Gypsy”. I am so thrilled every time I go to the theater and see our people letting their gorgeous creative lights shine.

“& Juliet” playing at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre asks what would happen next if Juliet didn’t end it all over Romeo? She gets a second chance at life and love her way. It stars Maya Boyd (Juliet) and features Mackenzie Meadows (Lady Capulet/Nell); Khailah Johnson (Judith); Darien Daah Van Renssaler (Augustine); Jeannette Bayardelle (Angelique);

and Michael Ivan Carrier (Thomas). As of June 10, Gianna Harris will take on the role of Juliet and on August 7, Cheryl Porter will be Angelique.

“Aladdin” playing at the New Amsterdam Theatre is Disney’s movie story come to life and shares the story of Aladdin, a poor boy, falling in love with Princess Jasmine. The musical features Michael James Scott (the Genie); JC Montgomery (Sultan); and Dennis Stowe (Jafar).

“BOOP! The Musical” playing at the Broadhurst Theatre tells of a story about Betty’s dream of an ordinary day off from the super-celebrity in her Black-and-white world, which leads her to an extraordinary adventure of color, music and finding love. Jasmine Amy Rogers stars as Betty Boop. The musical features Anastacia McCleskey (Carol Evans).

“The Book of Mormon” playing at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre, is a musical that deals with the Mormon faith. Derrick Williams (the General); Jacques C. Smith (Mafala Hatimbi), and Keziah Johnson (Nabulungi).

“Buena Vista Social Club,” playing at the

Schoefeld Theatre is inspired by true events and shows you the heart of Cuba, telling the story of the legends who lived and created the musical sounds of Havana. The cast features Wesley Wray (Young Ibrahim); Isa Antonetti (Young Omara); Leonardo Reyna (Young Ruben); Da’Von T. Moody (Company); Ashley De La Rosa (Young Haydee); Julio Monge (Young Company); Mel Seme (Ibrahim); and Jainardo Batiste Sterling (Ruben).

“Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club” playing at the August Wilson Theatre tells the story of the Emcee and the toast of Mayfair “Sally Bowles” who work at the Cabaret. It features Calvin Leon Smith (Cliff Bradshaw); Jada Simone Clark (Helga); Julian Ramos (Bobby) and Kayla Jenson (Rosie).

“Chicago,” playing at the Ambassador Theatre, tells the delightful, sexy stories of the women of murderess row. It features Rema Webb as Matron “Mama” Morton and Jermaine R. Rembert as Martin Harrison.

“Death Becomes Her” playing at the Lunt Fontanne Theatre is a musical comedy based on the 1992

film of the same name, about two women who want to stay young and workout an unholy alliance to stay beautiful, so of course it backfires. It stars Michelle Williams (Viola Van Horn) and features Taareen Everett (Chagall).

“Floyd Collins” playing at the Vivian Beaumont Theater, tells the true story of Floyd Collins, a cave explorer in Kentucky in 1925, who got trapped in a cave 200 feet underground and the media circus that happened as rescue effort occurred. The production features Clyde Voce (Ed Bishop) and Kevyn Morrow (Dr. Hazlett/Ensemble) and Dwayne Cooper (Reporter/Ensemble).

“GlenGarry Glen Ross” playing at the Palace Theatre is a hilarious comedy about some real estate salesmen that are totally heartless and compete for how many people they can victimize. It features Donald Webber Jr. (John Williamson) and Howard W. Overshown (Baylen).

“The Great Gatsby” playing at The Broadway Theatre is an amazing musical telling of the classic novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald. As of June 16, it will star Aisha Jackson (Daisy



Buchanan).

“Gypsy” playing at the Majestic Theatre tells the story of Gypsy Rose Lee and stars Audra McDonald (Rose). It features Joy Woods (Louise) and Jordan Tyson (June).

“Hadestown” playing at the Walter Kerr Theatre, tells the mythical story of Orpheus trying to overcome Hades and get back to his love. The cast is led by Daniel Breaker (Hermes); Phillip Boykin (Hades) and features Merle Dandridge (Persephone); and Marla Louissaint (Fate).

“Hamilton” playing at the Richard Rodgers Theatre, is a beloved musical that focuses on the life of

Alexander Hamilton. The cast stars Trey Curtis (Alexander Hamilton), and features Stephanie Umoh (Angelica Schuyler); Morgan Anita Wood (Eliza Hamilton); Bryson Bruce (Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson); and Tamar Greene (George Washington); Ebrin R. Stanley (Hercules Mulligan/James Madison); Cherry Torres (Peggy Schuyler) and Jared Dixon (Aaron Burr).

“Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” playing at the Lyric Theatre tells an engaging story of Harry Potter and other students at Hogwarts. It’s a magical time at the theatre! It features Ayanna Nicole Thom-



## BLACKS ON BROADWAY

Black Excellence is Beautiful on Broadway, cont'd....

as (Rose Granger-Weasley) and Rachel Christopher (Hermoine Granger).

“Hell’s Kitchen” playing at the Shubert Theatre features Alicia Keys songs and is a loosely based autobiographical story on her life growing up in Hell’s Kitchen. The musical stars Amanda Reid (Ali) and features Phillip Johnson Richardson (Knuck); Jackie Leon (Jessica); Vanessa Ferguson (Tiny); Rema Webb (Crystal); Chad Carstarphen (Ray); Lamont Walker II (Riq); and Jakeim Hart (Q).

“Just In Time” playing at Circle In The Square Theatre is about the life of singer Bobby Darin. It features Lance Roberts (Ahmet Kirshner).

“The Last Five Years” playing at the Hudson Theatre, follows the story of two New Yorkers who fall in and out of love over a five-year period. It stars Adrienne Warren (Cathy Hiatt).

“The Lion King” playing at the Minskoff Theatre, is the beloved Disney musical that brings the movie version of the same name to glorious life with lifestyle puppets, a captivating storyline, powerful, meaningful songs, and it will help one to appreciate the circle of life. It stars L. Steven Taylor (Mufasa); Sidney Nicole Wilson (Sarabi); Vincent Jamal Hooper (Simba); Pearl Khwezi (Nala); Albert Rhodes Jr. (Young Simba); Juliana Martinez (Young Nala at certain performances) and Bonita Hamilton (Shenzi).

“MJ The Musical” playing at the Neil Simon Theatre, tells the story of Michael Jackson’s life and features 25 of his biggest

hits. Elijah Rhea Johnson plays the lead role of MJ. Tavon Olds-Sample (Michael); Apollo Levine (Rob/Joseph Jackson); Sasha Allen (Katherine Jackson); Christopher Sean Cooper Jr. and Emjay Roa alternate as Little Michael; Julius Raymond Weems IV (Little Marlon); Matthew Frederick Harris (Tito Jackson/Quincy Jones); Antoine L. Smith (Berry Gordy/Nick); Lloyd A. Boyd III (Randy Jackson); John Edwards (Jackie Jackson); Nick T. Daly (Jermaine Jackson); and Brion Marquis Watson (Marlon Jackson).

“Mamma Mia!” will begin performances on August 2 at the Winter Garden Theatre and will feature the marvelous music of ABBA. It will feature Jalynn Steele (Tanya).

“Moulin Rouge” is playing at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre. As Bohemians and Aristocrats mingle, this musical is a celebration of truth, beauty, freedom, and love. It features Jordan Fisher (Christian); Austin Durant (Harold Zidler); Andre Ward (Toulouse-Lautrec); Solea Pfeiffer (Satine); Rayven Bailey (Arabia) and Donnie Hammond (La Chocolat).

“Othello” playing at the Barrymore Theatre tells the William Shakespeare story of love and jealousy. The production stars Denzel Washington (Othello) and features Ezra Knight (Montano) and Kimber Elayne Sprawl (Emilia).

“The Outsiders” playing at the Jacobs Theatre is a musical that tells a story of the haves and the have nots, as the poor and rich kids battle. It stars Alex Joseph Grayson (Dallas Winston); and features Sky Lako-

ta-Lynch (Johnny Cade); Tilly Evan-Krueger (Ace); and Renni Anthony Magee (Steve).

“Pirates! The Penzance Musical” playing at the Todd Haimes Theatre is an incredibly funny musical about some of the most hilarious pirates you would ever want to meet. It features Samantha Williams (Mable).

“Purpose” playing at the Helen Hayes Theater, tells the story of the Jasper family, a pillar of Black American politics: civil rights leaders, pastors, and congressman. But the family also has cracks and secrets. This production features LaTanya Richardson Jackson (Claudine Jasper); Harry Lennix (Solomon “Sonny” Jasper); Glenn Davis (Solomon “Junior” Jasper); Alana Arenas (Morgan Jasper); Jon Michael Hill (Nazareth “Naz” Jasper), and Kara Young (Aziza Houston).

“Real Women Have Curves” playing at the James Earl Jones Theatre tells a marvelous musical story of the struggles that a group of Latina women have as they work in a

sewing company and try to survive in the United States though they are here illegally. It features Mason Reeves (Henry).

“Six” is playing at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre. A British pop musical, it goes into the lives of the six ex-wives of King Henry VIII. The cast features Najah Hetsberger (Catherine of Aragon) and Taylor Marie Daniel (Catherine Parr).

“SMASH” playing at the Imperial Theatre, is a roller-coaster ride on the making of a Marilyn Monroe musical called “Bombshell.” It features Jacqueline B. Arnold (Anita).

“Stranger Things: The First Shadow” playing at the Marquis Theatre is based on the Netflix tv show, the story captivates on Broadway. The production features Gabrielle Nevaeh (Patty Newby) and Ayana Cymone (Sue Anderson).

“Sunset Blvd.” playing at the St. James Theatre tells the story of Norma Desmond, a star of yesterday trying to get back into pictures. The cast features Grace Hodgett Young (Betty Schaefer).

“Wicked” playing at the



Gershwin Theatre tells the story of the wicked witch and Glinda in a way you have never heard before and will not soon forget. It stars Lencia Kebede (Elphaba), the first time a Black actress has done this role and Natasha Yvette Williams (Madame Morrible).

Broadway has so many delightful moments of Black excellence and our brightest lights shining, go and have your heart and soul warmed and enriched by our people performing their hearts out! I hope to see you at the theater, it truly means a lot to the Black thespians on that stage!



# Blacks on Broadway 2025

**& Juliet**



Cheryl Porter



Darien Daah Van Rensalier



Gianna Harris



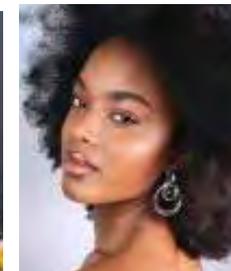
Jeannette Bayardelle



Khailah Johnson



Mackenzie Meadows



Maya Boyd



Michael Ivan Carrier

**Aladdin**



Albert Jennings



Anju Cloud



April Holloway



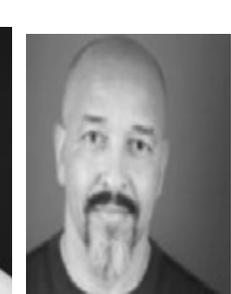
Caleb B. Barnett



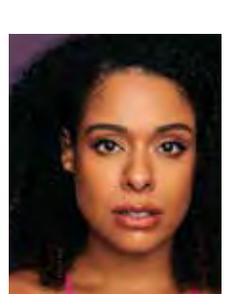
Dennis Stowe



Jaz Sealey



JC Montgomery



Keely Beirne



Marcus M. Martin



Michael Everett



Michael James Scott



Arica Jackson



Darius Nichols



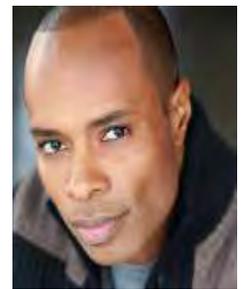
Derrick Williams



Garfield Hammonds



Isaiah Tyrelle Boyd



Jacques C. Smith



Jamard Richardson



Jasmin Richardson



Jevares Myrick



John Eric Parker



Keziah John-Paul



Kristen Jeter



Leonard Sullivan



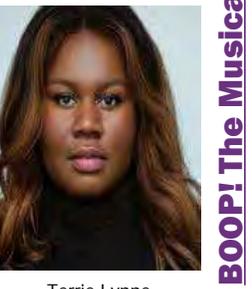
Racquel Williams



Randy Aaron



Rosharra Francis



Terrie Lynne



Anastacia McClesley



Damani Van Rensalier



David Wright Jr



Derek Jordan Taylor



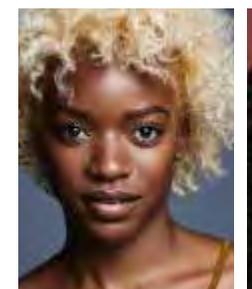
Jasmine Amy Rogers



Lawrence Alexander



Lizzy Tucker



Morgan McGhee



Victoria Byrd



Andrew Montgomery Coleman



Angelica Beliard



Anthony Santo

**Book of Mormon**

**BOOP! The Musical**

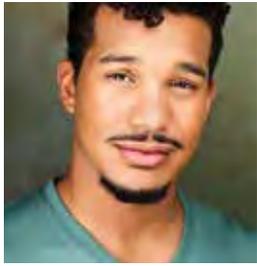
**Buena Vista**

# Blacks on Broadway 2025

**Buena Vista**



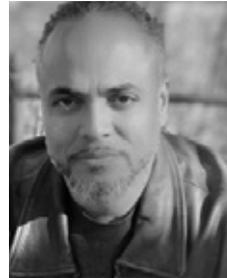
Ashley De La Rosa



Da'Von T. Moody



Isa Antonetti



Jainardo Batista Sterling



Julio Monge



Leonardo Reyna's



Mel Seme



Sophia Ramos



Wesley Wray

**Cabaret Kit Kat Club**



Calvin Leon Smith



Christian Kidd



Deja McNair-Kyles



Jada Simone Clarke



Julian Ramos



Kayla Jenerson



Maya Bowles



Paige Smallwood

**Chicago**



Jermaine R. Rembert



Rema Webb



Sharon Moore



Tia Altinay

**Death Becomes Her**



Johanna Moise



Marija Abney



Michelle Williams



Sarita Colo



Sir Brock Warren



Ximone Rose



**Floyd Collins**



Dwayne Cooper



Justin Showell



Kevin Morrow



Donald Webber



Howard W. Overshown

**The Great Gatsby**



Aisha Jackson



Curtis Holland



Kayla Pecchioni



Mariah Reeves



Nathaniel Hunt



Runako Campbell



Tracie Elaine Lee

**GYPSY**



Aiah James



Audra McDonald



Brandon Burks



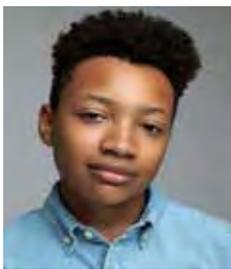
Dori Waymer



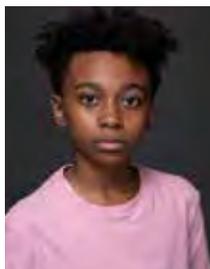
# HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

## Blacks on Broadway 2025

**GYPSY**



Ethan Joseph



Hunter Capellan



Jace Bentley



Jacob Ming-Trent



Jayden Theophile



Jordan Tyson.



Jordan Wynn



Joy Woods



Ken Robinson



Krystal Mackie



Kyleigh Vickers



Marley Lianne Gomes



Mila Jaymes



Natalie Wachen.



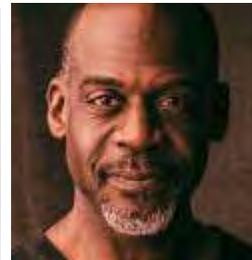
Sasha Hutchings



Shanel Bailey



Summer Rae Daney



Thomas Silcott



Tryphena Wade



Alex Lugo



Brandon Cameron



Daniel Breaker



Marie Louissaint

**Hadestown**



Malcolm Armwood



Max Kumangai



Philip Boykin



Adam Ali-Perez



Bryson Bruce



Cherry Torres



Chloe Campbell



Desmond Nunn

**Hamilton**



Ebrin R Stanley



Jared Dixon



Jonathan Butler-Duplessis



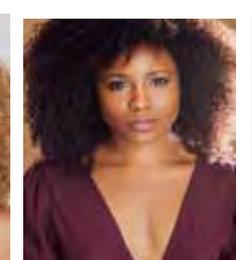
Kamille Upshaw



Malik Shabazz Kitchen



Morgan Anita Wood.



Shonica Gooden



Stephanie Umoh

**Harry Potter**



Tamar Greene



Trey Curtis



Willie Smith III



Alexandra Peter



Ayanna Nicole Thomas



Chadd Alexander



Chance Marshaun



Eleasha Gamble

# Blacks on Broadway 2025

**Harry Potter**



Gabrielle Reid



Gary-Kayi Fletcher



Janae Hammond



Jay Mack



Julius Williams



Khadija Tarilyn



Kira Player



Rachel Christopher

**Hell's Kitchen**



Amanda Reid



Benjamin H. Moore



Badia Farha



Chad Carstarphen



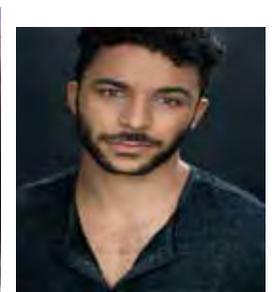
Eric Parra



Gabriel Hyman



Jackie Leon



Jakeim Hart



Lamont Walker II



Lindsey Jolyn Jackson



Miki Michelle



Onyxx Noel



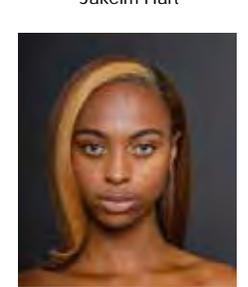
Oscar Whitney Jr



Phillip Johnson Richardson



Reid Clarke



Takia Hopson



Vanessa Ferguson



William Roberson



**Just In Time**

Khori Petinaud



Lance Roberts



**Last Five Years**

Adrienne Warren



**Lion King**

Albert Rhodes Jr



Alia Kache



Amanda Kunene



Andrew Arrington



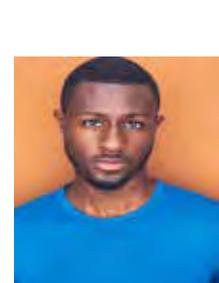
Antonia Raye



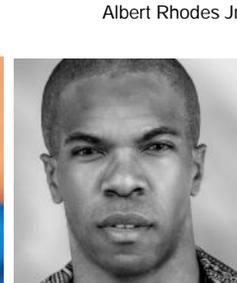
Bongsi Duma



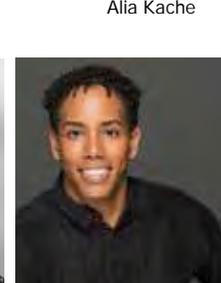
Bonita J. Hamilton



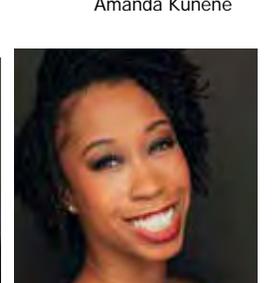
Cameron Amandus Jones



Christopher L. McKenzie



Daniel Harder



Dylan Santos



Gilbert Domally



Jacqueline Rene'



Jamaris Mitchell



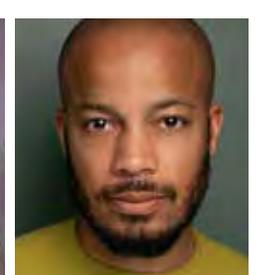
James Vessell



Jaysin McCollum



Juliana Martinez



Kyle Lamar Mitchell

# HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

## Blacks on Broadway 2025

**Lion King**



L. Steven Taylor



Lindiwe Dlamini



Nteliseng Nkhela



Paige Fraser-Hoffman



Pearl Khwezi



Phylicia Pearl Mpasi



Ray Mercer



Shawn Alynda Fisher



Sidney Nicole Wilson



Tshidi-Manye



TyNia René Brandon



Vincent Jamal Hooper



Zaki A'Jani Marshall

**MJ The Musical**



Antoine L. Smith



Apollo Levine

Brett Gray  
(photo missing)

Brett Gray



Brion Marquis Watson



Blu Allen



Chelsea Mitchell-Bonsu



Christopher Sean



Dasia Amos



Elijah Rhea Johnson



Emjay Roa



John Edwards



Joshua Kenneth Allen



Julius-Raymond Weems IV



Kyle DuPree



Lloyd A. Boyd III



Matte Martinez



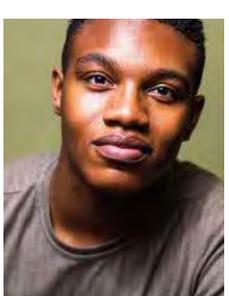
Matthew Frederick Harris



Michael Andreaus



Michael Harmon



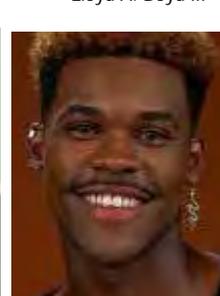
Nick T. Daly



Nyla Sostre



Oyoyo Joi



Sage Lee



Sarah Sigman



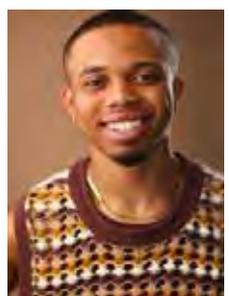
Sasha Allen



Tavon Olds-Sample



Tre Frazier



Tyrone Reese



Adia Olanethia Be



George Vickers



Jalynn Steele



Jasmine Overbaugh



Nico DiPrimio

**MOULIN ROUGE**



Adea Michelle Sessoms



Andre Ward

**Mamma Mia!**

# Blacks on Broadway 2025

**MOULIN ROUGE**



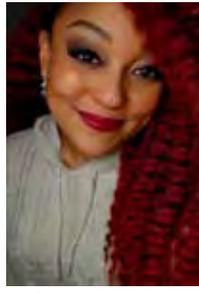
Austin Durant



Bahiyah Hibah



Brooke Taylor



Donnie Hammond



Frank Viveros



Hailee Kaleem Wright



Janaye McAlpine



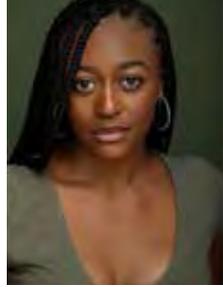
Jordan Fisher



Kamal Lado



Patrick Clanton



Rayven Bailey



Ricardo A. Zayas



Shaun-Avery Williams



Solea Pfeiffer



Tamrin Goldberg



Abiola Obatolu

**OTHELLO**

**OTHELLO**



Christina Sajous



Denzel Washington



Ezra Knight



Kimber Elayne Sprawl

**Outsiders**



Alex Joseph Grayson



Andre Malcolm



Aramie Payton



Cameron Burke



Jordan Chin



Renni Anthony Magee



Sky Lakota-Lynch



Tilly Evans-Krueger

**Pirates!**



Afra Hines



Cicily Daniels



Niani Feelings



Samantha Williams



Shina Ann Morris



Tatiana Lofton



Tyrone L. Robinson



Alana Arenas

**Purpose**



Esau Pritchett



Glenn Davis



Harry Lennix



Jon Michael Hill



Kara Young



LaTanya Richardson Jackson

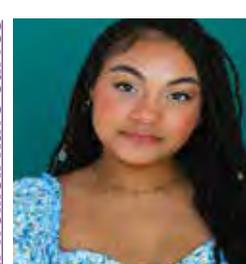


Petronia Paley



Sojourner Brown

**Real Women Have Curves**



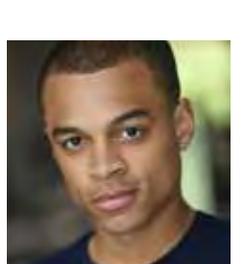
Ariana Burks



Quincy John Hampton



Mason Reeves



Omar Madden

# Blacks on Broadway 2025

**Six**



Jana Larell Glover



Jenny Mollet



Najah Hetsberger



Taylor Marie Daniel

**Smash**



Daniel Gaymon



Deanna Cudjoe



Jacqueline B. Arnold



Ndaya Dream Hoskins

**Stranger Things**



Antoinette Comer



Ayana Cymone



Gabrielle Nevaeh



Malcolm Callender



Maya West



Robert T. Cunningham



Sean Mikesh



Ta'Rea Campbell

**Sunset Blvd**



Brandon LaVar



Brandon Mel Borkowsky



Cydney Clark



E. J. Hamilton



Grace Hodgett Young



Justice Moore



Olivia Lacie Andrews



Rashdra Scott

**Wicked**



Shayna McPherson



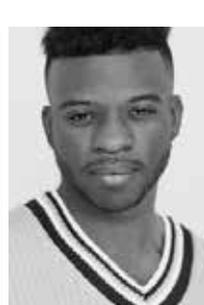
Shavey Brown



Cajai Kennedy



Dashi Mitchell



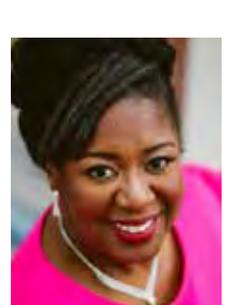
Matthew Deloch.



Michael Williams



Lencia Kebede



Natasha Yvette



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**KRISTOFFER DIAZ**

CHOREOGRAPHY BY  
**CAMILLE A. BROWN**

DIRECTED BY  
**MICHAEL GREIF**

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# Theater Listings

**“& Juliet”**

Stephen Sondheim  
Theatre  
124 W 43rd St.

**“Aladdin”**

New Amsterdam  
Theatre  
B’way & 42nd St.

**“The Book of Mormon”**

Eugene O’Neill Theatre  
230 W 49th St.

**“BOOP: The Musical”**

Broadhurst Theatre  
235 W 44th St.

**“Buena Vista  
Social Club”**

Schoenfeld Theatre  
236 W 45th St.

**“Cabaret At The  
Kit Kat Club”**

August Wilson Theatre  
245 W 52nd St.

**“Chicago”**

Ambassador Theatre  
219 W 49th St.

**“Death Becomes Her”**

The Lunt Fontanne  
Theatre  
205 W 46th Street

**“Floyd Collins”**

Vivian Beaumont  
Theater  
150 W 65th Street

**“GlenGarry Glen Ross”**

Palace Theatre  
160 W 47th St.

**“The Great Gatsby”**

The Broadway Theatre  
53rd St. and Broadway

**“Gypsy”**

Majestic Theatre  
245 W 44th Street

**“Hadestown”**

Walter Kerr Theatre  
219 W 48th St.

**“Hamilton”**

Richard Rodgers  
Theatre  
226 W 46th St.

**“Harry Potter and  
the Cursed Child”**

Lyric Theatre  
214 W 43rd St.

**“Hell’s Kitchen”**

Shubert Theatre  
225 W 44th St.

**“Just In Time”**

Circle In The Square  
235 W 50th St.

**“The Last Five Years”**

Hudson Theatre  
141 W 44th St.

**“The Lion King”**

Minskoff Theatre  
Broadway and 45th St.

**“MJ The Musical”**

Neil Simon Theatre  
250 W 52nd St.

**“Mamma Mia!”**

The Winter Garden  
Theatre  
1634 Broadway

**“Moulin Rouge”**

Al Hirschfeld Theatre  
302 W 45th St.

**“Othello”**

Barrymore Theatre  
243 W 47th St.

**“The Outsiders”**

Jacobs Theatre  
242 W 45th St.

**“Pirates! The  
Penzance Musical”**

The Todd Haimes  
Theatre  
227 W 42nd St.

**“PURPOSE”**

Helen Hayes Theatre  
240 W 44th St.

**“Real Women  
Have Curves”**

James Earl Jones  
Theatre  
138 W 48th St.

**“Six”**

Brooks Atkinson  
Theatre  
256 W 47th St.

**“SMASH”**

Imperial Theatre  
249 W 45th St.

**“Stranger Things:  
The First Shadow”**

Marquis Theatre  
210 W 46th St.

**“Sunset Blvd.”**

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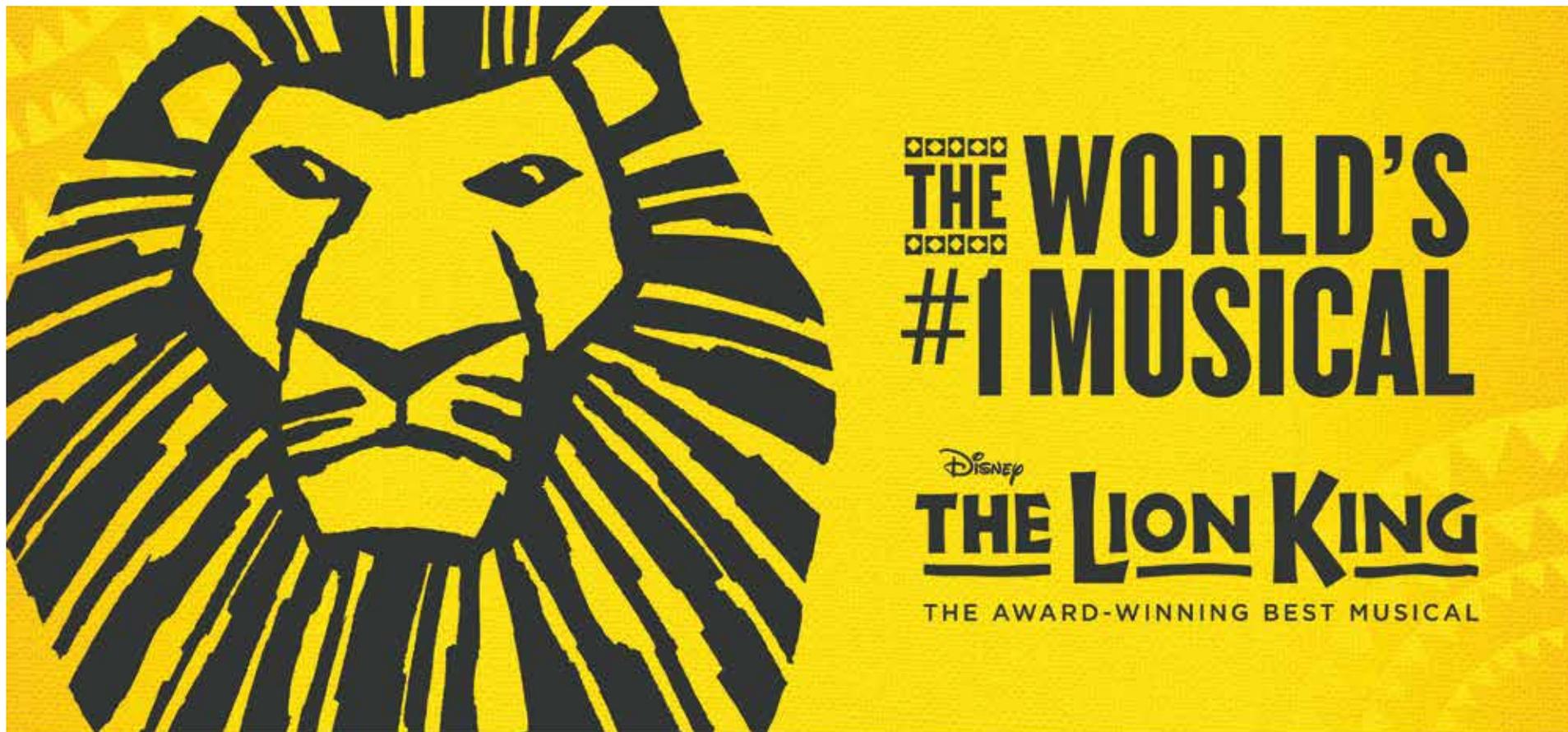
Tuesday P. Brooks

“I was a Greeter for many years in the 90’s, showing visitors Harlem. I am still friends with visitors from Australia and the UK, who I spent time with on a greet.”

-Tuesday P. Brooks

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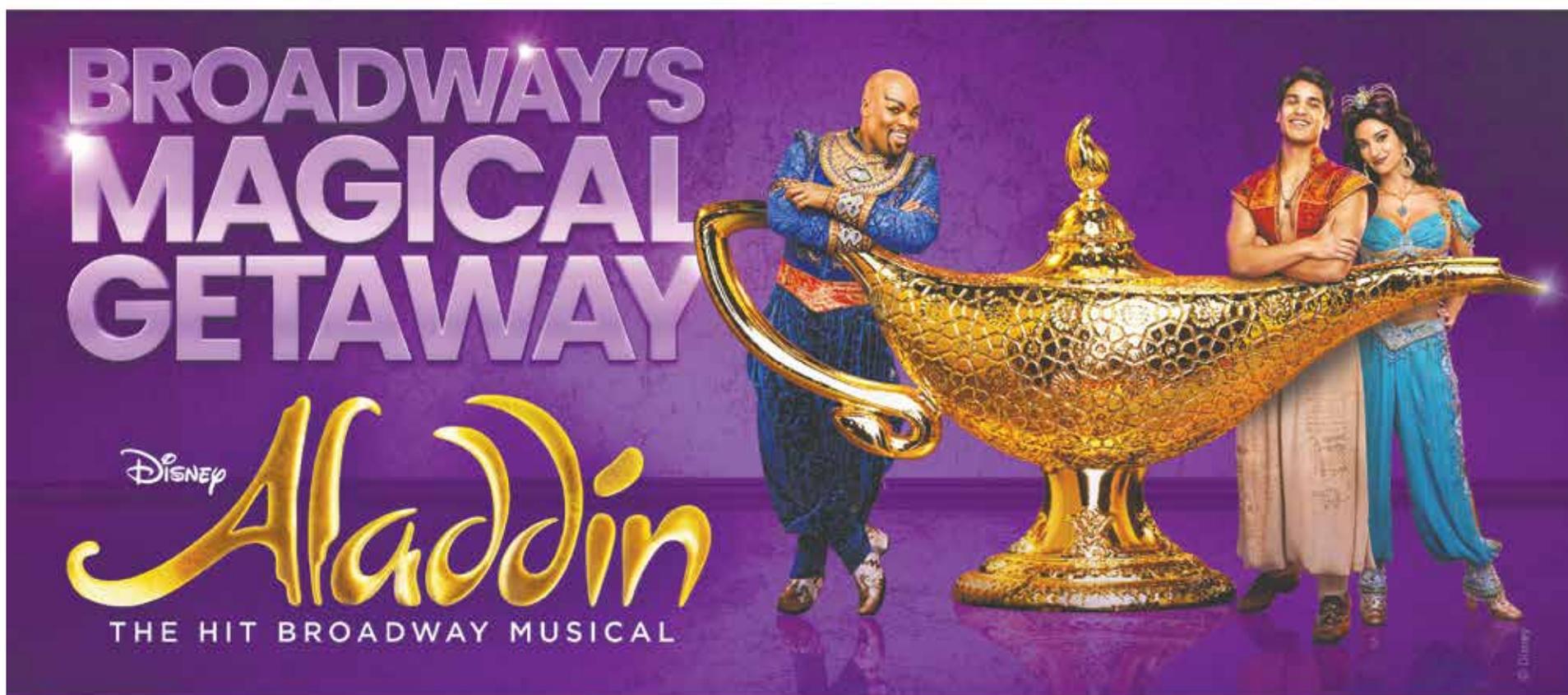




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# Older New Yorkers Gather for National Older Adult Health and Fitness Day Event

**M**ovement is medicine, and for older New Yorkers, staying active took center stage at NYC Department for the Aging’s (NYC Aging) National Older Adult Health and Fitness Day celebration at Foley Square. The event brought older adults together for a joyful day of movement, laughter, and community.

Nearly 1,000 older adults celebrated the importance of physical activity in supporting healthy aging. The event was part of NYC Aging’s ongoing 50th anniversary celebration. As the agency continues its mission to implement programs and educate the public about the services available to help New Yorkers age

in place, today’s activities reminded participants that staying active is not only essential but also easier — and more fun — than many realize.

“It is vital that our older adults have every opportunity to stay healthy and active, but also, to have fun,” said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. “Every year, we look forward to bringing out more of our older adults for ‘National Older Adult Health and Fitness Day’ as we move, dance, and laugh. We are laser-focused on delivering resources and supports to older New Yorkers as we work to ensure that they are able to live and thrive in New York City.”

“This event is a celebration of movement, connection,

and possibility,” said NYC Aging Commissioner Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez. “Exercise is essential to aging well. Whether it’s stretching, walking, or laughing with neighbors, every step supports independence and well-being. As we mark 50 years of service to older New Yorkers, we remain committed to providing opportunities for healthy aging in every neighborhood through our centers, programs, and partnerships.”

After receiving red noses and pom poms, participants began with bend and stretch exercises designed to improve flexibility and mobility. These movements help expand range of motion for daily tasks, such as

reaching overhead or turning to look both ways before crossing the street.

The event also featured a Laughter Yoga session, which combines breathing and movement techniques.

This approach has been shown to reduce stress, reduce social isolation, and boost overall mental and physical well-being.

“A healthy lifestyle should be accessible and enjoyable for everyone at any age,” said Daniel Baker, MD, President of Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital. “We’re honored to have joined New York City’s Department for the Aging in empowering older adults through movement and community connection.”



National Older Adult Health and Fitness Day is one of several events NYC Aging is hosting this year in celebration of five decades of service and advocacy on behalf of older New Yorkers. As part of the agency’s

mission to educate the public about aging issues and provide services to help New Yorkers age in place, today’s celebration showed that staying active is not only important, but also fun.

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## MWBE Advocacy Day in Albany



On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, hundreds of Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) leaders, legislators, industry experts, and stakeholders from across New York State convened in Albany for a powerful and inspiring 2025 MWBE Advocacy Day.

The annual event, co-hosted by Assemblymember Rodney Bichotte Hermelyn, Senator James Sanders, Jr., Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Assemblymembers Amanda Septimo, Clyde Vanel, Jenifer Rajkumar, Rebecca Seawright, Carrie Woerner, and Jodi Giglio aimed at expanding opportunity and equity for MWBEs, especially in State and City contracting, under the theme 'Beyond the Disparity.'

The event builds on historic, back-to-back record-breaking years of M/WBE spending and support in New York City - with over \$6.4 billion contracts awarded in 2024. And New York State

surpassed its 30% MWBE utilization goal for the fourth consecutive year, achieving a 32.21% rate, representing nearly \$3 billion in contracts awarded.

Assemblymember Bichotte Hermelyn, who serves as Chair of the Assembly's Subcommittee on Oversight of MWBEs started the conference with a powerful call:

"We are no longer asking to be included—we are demanding fairness.

MWBEs are not looking for handouts, we are looking for a fair shot to compete and succeed. Advocacy Day is about showing up, speaking out, and moving from performative promises to transformative policy."

Senator James Sanders Jr. a leading voice for MWBE equity, stated:

"We've come a long way, but the gap still exists. We must continue to refine and enforce policies that empower minority and women-owned businesses. Equity is not a favor—it's a right."

MWBE Advocacy Day culminated with a power-

ful Resolution in the Assembly Chamber memorializing May 21 as MWBE Advocacy Day in New York State.

Throughout the day, MWBE owners met directly with lawmakers and agency leaders, sharing their stories and offering crucial feedback on how policies impact their businesses and communities.

Key agency leaders, including Michael Garner, New York City's first Chief Business Diversity Officer, and Jason Clark, Executive Director of Empire State Development also participated in the event.

Senator James Sanders, often referred to as the "father of the MWBE program," praised the collective strength of the movement, emphasizing the power of unity across state and city lines.

The event served as both a celebration of the MWBE community's growth and a rallying cry for continued advocacy and action.

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

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**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

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**Early Registration** – \$250 if paid by May 31

**Scholarships:** Available as needed.

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[klebes@yahoo.com](mailto:klebes@yahoo.com)

**QR Code --REGISTRATION FORM**



## June is Black Music Month: harlem is...Music ALIVE!



In honor of Black Music month, Community Works/New Heritage Theatre Group is presenting harlem is . . . Music ALIVE!, this once-in-a-lifetime community celebration of music in Harlem from its African roots to gospel to classical to jazz and hip hop and music now.

The Monday, June 16 performances at Harlem Hospital Center will feature 2024 Apollo Amateur Night winner Cruz Angel, the sounds of the New York African Chorus Ensemble, and actor/writer Daniel Carlton. Cruz sings about love and relationships. The African Chorus will present pieces from its Experience Africa work including an interactive call and response with the audience. Carlton will present excerpts from his verse play When Small Had It All, tracing 80 years of music in Harlem.

The event will honor two longtime music legacy-keepers, Joyce Adewumi, President and Founder of the African Chorus Ensemble and the NYC Multicultural Festival, and George Harrell, Founder of

Harrell Community Outreach.

The free celebration will include a tour of the harlem is . . . Music, Theater & Dance exhibit on the second floor of the hospital and performances in the Mural Pavilion on the hospital's first floor, home to a harlem timeline as well as to historic WPA-era murals that depict Black workers.

To attend the free program, please register at <https://forms.gle/DkDpYd-Cv6peRrQpCA>.

About the honorees: Joyce Adewumi, Nigerian-born vocalist, dancer, choreographer and scholar, seeks to preserve African musical heritage and to foster cultural unity. The Harlem-based New York African Chorus Ensemble promotes African music across the city. The annual NYC Multicultural Festival this year runs from June 7-June 21. (Details at <https://multiculturalfestival.nyc>)

Music producer George Harrell, founding member of Uptown Records, founded Harrell Community Outreach to empower aspiring artists with the knowledge,

skills, and connections to succeed in the arts and music industry. (Learn more at <https://www.harrellcommunityoutreach.com/about>)

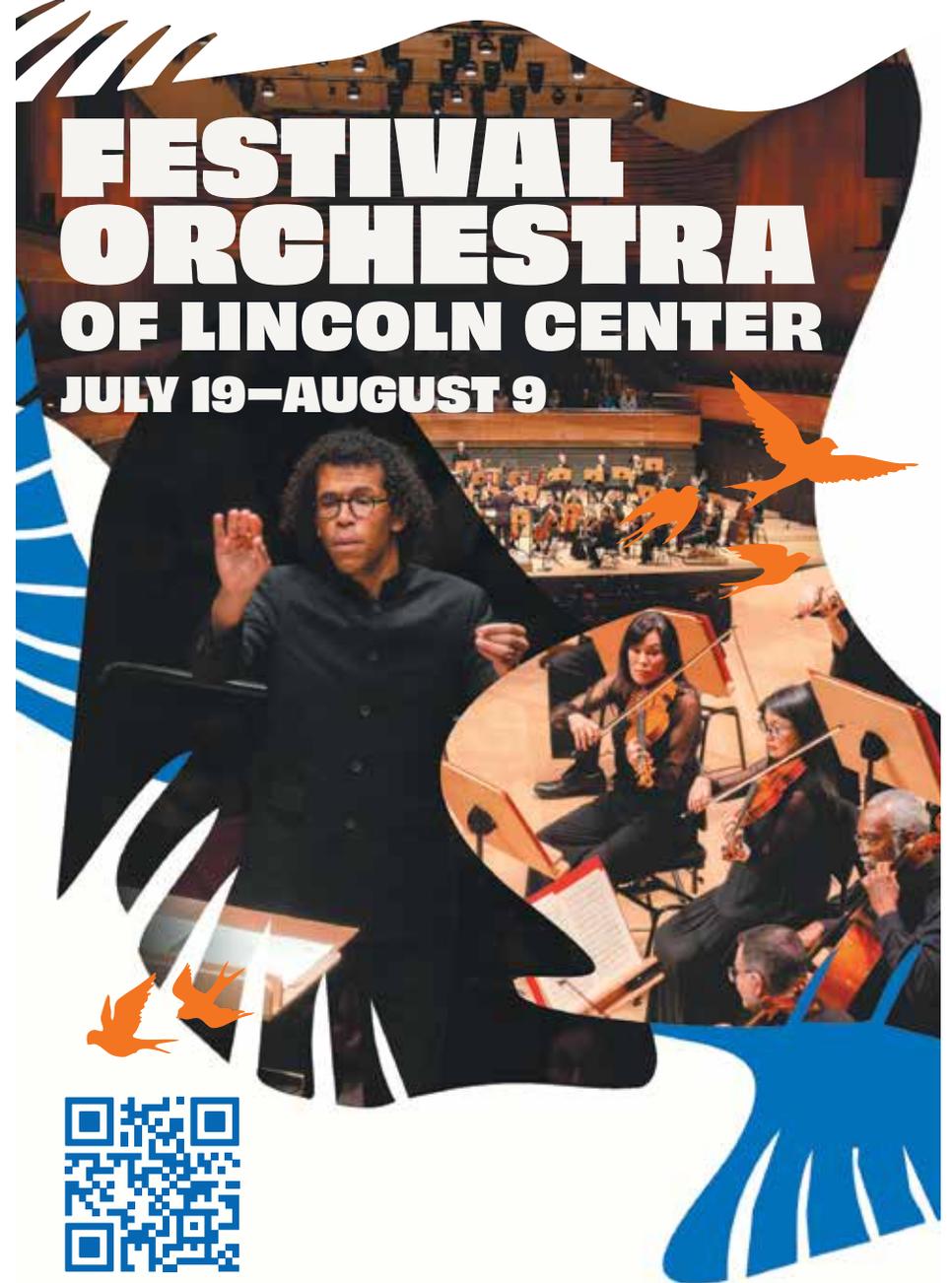
The harlem is . . . Music, Theater & Dance exhibit, a permanent installation at Harlem Hospital Center, 506 Lenox Ave. between 135th and 136 Streets, opened a year ago and offers free tours to students and community groups with images, videos and timelines about 100 years of cultural blossoming in Harlem. The harlem is . . . project also sponsors programming, including Saturdays@harlem, that build on the exhibition themes.

The free exhibit is open Tuesdays 10 am to 2 pm and Thursdays and Saturdays 12 pm to 4 pm. School and community groups may visit only by appointment by calling 917-757-2242 or emailing [bh@communityworksny.org](mailto:bh@communityworksny.org).

A program of Community Works/New Heritage Theater with funding from Harlem Community Development Corporation.

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# Answers for Parents of Children with Disabilities By Maurine Samms-Vaughan

**A**s a parent, what can I do to support my child with a disability? Why is it important to focus on a child's abilities?

Every child with a disability has strengths. These may be in doing artwork, in their personality, or in their motor skills. Every child has strength. It's more important for us to focus on what children can do, and their abilities, rather than their disability. We can use children's abilities to assist the areas that they have most challenges with right now.

How can I communicate with my child with a disability and how do I know when he/she wants to communicate with me?

Some children with disabilities will be able to

speak with you. Others will not be able to speak. But they do communicate, even though they don't speak. For example, when a newborn baby comes into a family that baby communicates without speaking. You learn the baby's likes and dislikes by whether they smile, laugh, or whether they cry. The same occurs with children with disabilities who can't speak. They tell you what they like by smiling or laughing, and they tell you what they don't like by crying or making an upset face.

What can I do in my day-to-day to make sure I'm stimulating my child and his/her brain development?

Children are stimulated by everything in their environment: by the sounds, by the interactions, by your

smile. So, if your child with a disability is around you, you should make sure that you spend time talking with them, explaining in simple language what it is you're doing, smiling with them, telling them all about their environment, making noises around them so they can respond to noises. Everything that you do, as you are moving about the house, as you are doing your housework, involve and include your child in it. Move your child into the room in which you are working. Tell them what you are doing: you are washing the dishes, you're dipping the dishes in the water. Tell them exactly what you are doing. All of that will stimulate them. You can also stimulate them by directly playing with them, by making little



toys in the home, putting stones in a bottle and shaking it, by waving ribbons in front of their eyes, different colored ribbons. There are many things that you can do with just things around your house.

Can I breastfeed my child if he/she has a disability?

Breastfeeding is important for all children but is especially important for children with disabilities. Breastfeeding is important for children's growth, nutrition, and brain development. Many children with disabilities can breastfeed, but only a few are not able to breastfeed. And those who can't and can be fed expressed breastmilk, because breastmilk is the best.

Why are the early years of every child's life so critical?

The early years of every child, whether they have a disability or not, are critical because when we stimulate the brain during these early years we are ensuring that the brain develops to its full potential. We are making sure that children have the best development that they can have and this happens

for children with disabilities and children without disabilities.

How do I play with my child with a disability?

Children with disabilities enjoy being played with just like any other child. They enjoy you reading to them, showing them pictures, tickling them, hugging them, cuddling them. They respond to you with laughter and smiles. If they don't like a particular play that you are doing, they will tell you. They will stop laughing, they'll stop smiling. Try something else. You will find something because you know them best.

If I don't have time to play or money to afford toys, what can I do?

If you don't have a lot of time to play with your child, there may be other family members in your home who will be able to play with your child with a disability. Brothers and sisters are great around children with disabilities. They stimulate them because they talk to them a lot and they play with them. They don't seem to be concerned about whether a sibling has a disability. They play with

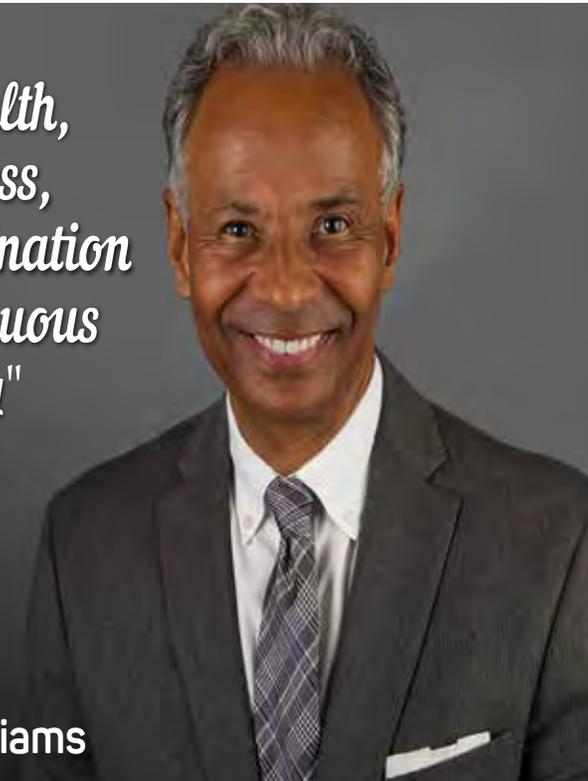
them just like anyone else.

What is your advice to parents who suspect that their child has a disability?

If you have a concern that your child has a disability, go to your nearest health provider and let them know your concerns. Some concerns may turn out not to be a problem at all, but some may, and your child may be identified as having a disability. It's just as important to provide children with disabilities with a loving environment. Children who are shown warmth and love grow up to be loving, warm people. A child with a disability who is shown warmth and love will grow up to be an adult who may have a disability, but who is a wonderful person to be around.

Maureen Samms-Vaughan is a Professor of Child Health, Child Development, and Behavior at the University of West Indies in Jamaica. She is an advocate for vulnerable children, particularly children with disabilities and those impacted by violence, and has published significant research in these areas.

*"Dental health, like success, is not a destination but a continuous journey"*



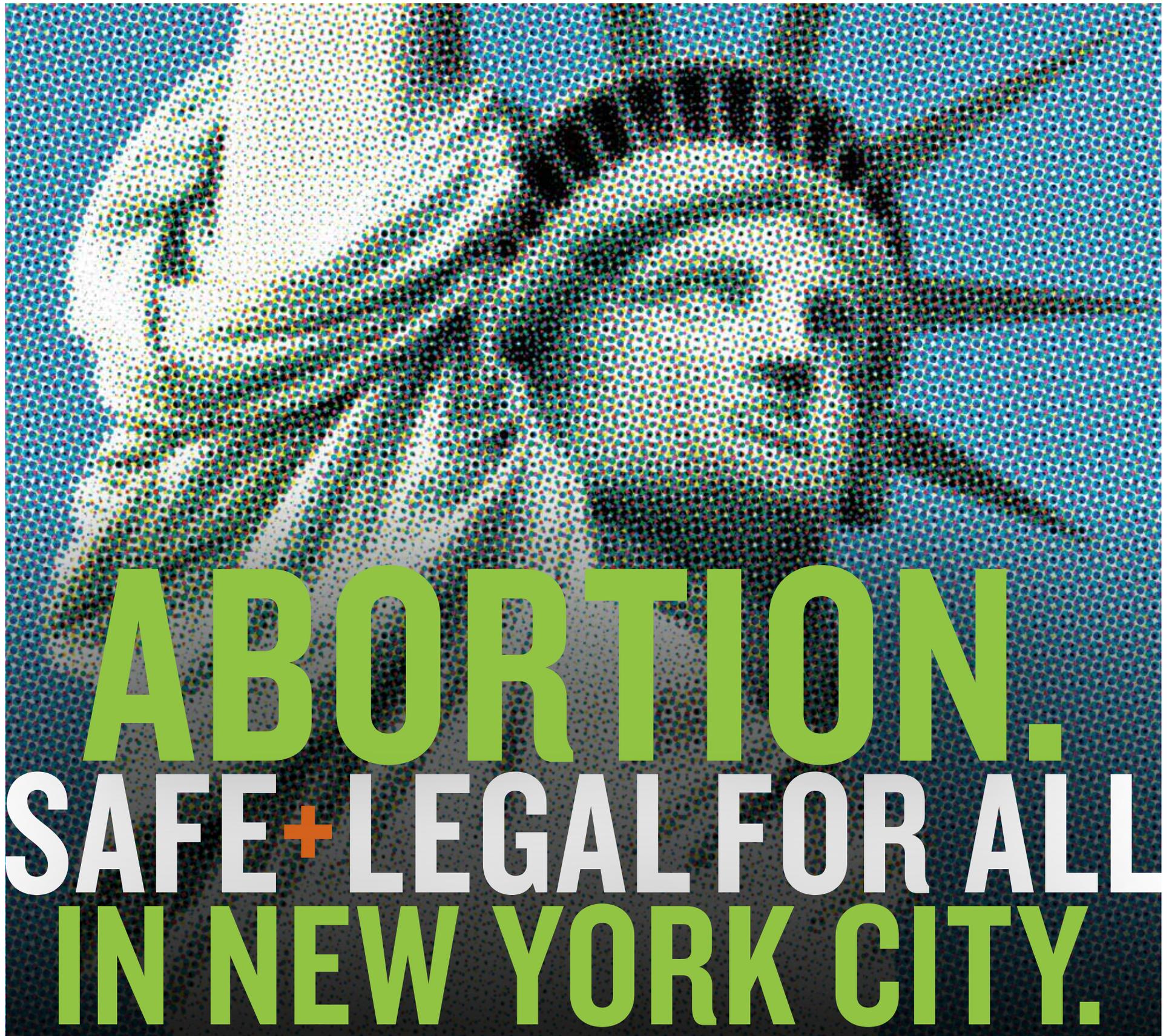
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# Urbanology: The Father of Medicine



By William A. Rogers

Hippocrates has long been considered the “Father of Medicine” the Hippocratic Oath is an ethical code that each new physician pledges to uphold, in tribute to the spirit of the founding father. Scientific research now shows that the origin of the recorded history of medicine can be dated over one thousand years before the

birth of Hippocrates.

There are about eight major ancient medical papyri that show the scientific approach to medicine in ancient Egypt, the Edwin Smith papyrus for example entails details focused on surgery, a medical practice that early European religious political laws considered a crime.

The discovery of these ancient Egyptian texts written on papyrus gave details on medical knowledge in the areas such as surgery, dentistry, gynecological conditions and migraines. The first recorded founder of Egyptian medicine was Imhotep also known as the Prince of Peace.

Imhotep was not only considered the father of medicine he was an astrologer and chief Vizier to the Pharaoh. Imhotep was also the father of Egyptian architecture he

built Egypt’s first pyramid. The Djoser Step Pyramid in Saqqara Egypt still stands and is considered the world’s first monumental stone.

An illustration taken from the Physician’s Tomb which is also in Saqqara shows practitioners using the therapeutic benefits of foot and hand manipulation; (what we now call reflexology or chunsoo Ki treatments). This was more than 4000 years ago. Ann Gillanders has a picture of this illustration in her book “The Joy of Reflexology”. The practitioners were dark skin with short wooly textured hair.

Imhotep used medicine from plants and herbs, practiced meditation, energy healing techniques, diagnosed and treated over 200 diseases, 2000 years before Hippocrates was born. The early Greek temples dedicated to

Imhotep whom they called “Imouthes” were centers of medical teachings. History also tells us that the Third Dynasty and the court of Pharaoh Zoser were Nubian decedents from the Kingdom of Kush; this was the time of Imhotep a high priest and the advisor to the Pharaoh.

The true father of medicine was a “Black Man” yet when we think of brilliant medical professionals many do not see a person of African descent although there are many. There is a strange and sad story about a leading African American surgeon who was rushed to a southern hospital’s emergency room in the mid 50’s due to a heart attack. When word that this famous doctor was in the hospital’s emergency room, the operating room was set up with the hospital’s best doctors ready

to go.

Two attendants were sent to bring this famous doctor to the operating room; they found two patients, one a well-dressed Blackman and a white homeless drunk; guess who they brought up to the operating room. As we move into this current time of change it is important to understand many of the things we have been programed to believe about ourselves, and others are illusionary.

Holistic and natural wellness options like energy treatments and movement exercises are now becoming accepted options in many of today’s medical communities yet the true father of medicine and inspiration to Hippocrates understood their benefits thousands of years ago.

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## Answers to Crossword on page 29

A	G	R	A		C	W	T			L	S	D						
P	R	O	D		A	R	Y	A		E	D	U	C	E				
R	O	S	A		G	E	A	R		N	A	T	A	L				
	G	E	P	P	E	T	T	O		D	R	E	G					
					T	E	N	E	T		P	O	L					
M	A	S	S	E	D					M	I	N	I	B	A	R		
I	V	Y			L	A	C	E	U	P		N	O	N	O			
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	S	H	O	O						T	U	R	G	E	N	E	V	
C	H	E	A	P						A	L	O	E		E	L	A	N
H	O	R	D	E						P	E	R	E		T	U	N	A
A	P	E								E	R	E			Y	L	E	M

## HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY



### Mullein - Helping the Body Heal the Lungs

By Zakiyyah

Mullein leaves have a long history of use in traditional herbal medicine, particularly for respiratory conditions. It also happens to be at the top of my list of favorite herbs. It is a very powerful expectorant, astringent, nervine and antispasmodic. Combined with pain reducing herbs (i.e., plantain), it can treat injuries where there is pain, swelling and inflammation.

The versatility of mullein, allows you to be able to use it in capsules, teas, tinctures and as a hot compress. You can even make a pot of hot tea, put a towel over your head, leaning over the steam and inhale the mist

to relieve lung congestion. Combined with other expectorant herbs (i.e., yerba Santa, wild cherry bark, elecampane, Irish moss, horehound, marshmallow, and licorice), mullein will be more effective in treating colds, coughs, bronchitis, and lung congestion.

An oil made from mullein flowers makes a potent remedy for earaches (a few warm drops in the ears overnight, held in place with a cotton ball), or prepared as a tea for its nervine and antispasmodic properties. The root can be used to treat lung and lymphatic congestion.

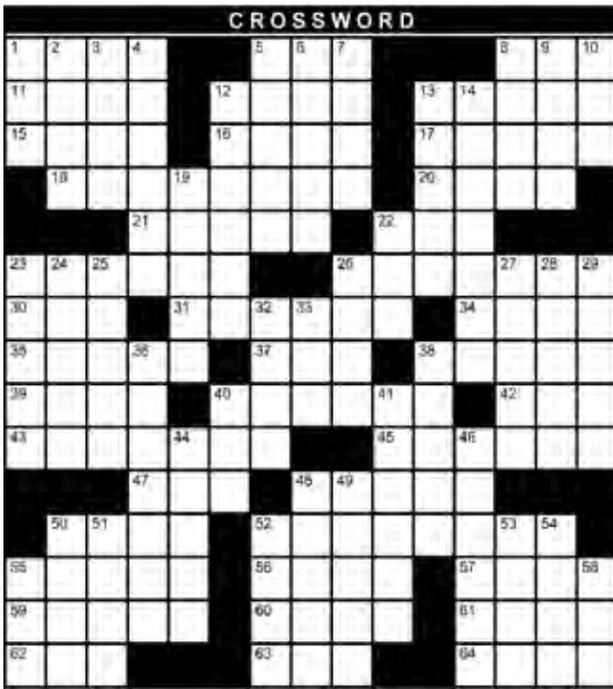
**QUESTIONS?** If you have an area of concern about your health, or an herb or essential oil you would like to learn more about, send me an email and I’ll cover it in upcoming articles (anonymously).

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# GAMES

See answers on pages 28



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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 31

# HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: FATHER'S DAY

### ACROSS

1. Home to Taj Mahal
5. Centum weight, acr.
8. Psychedelic drug, acr.
11. Elephant trainer's poker
12. \*Ned Stark's youngest daughter
13. Draw out a conclusion
15. Parks of Civil Rights fame
16. Toothy wheel
17. Birth-related
18. \*Pinocchio's father
20. Fortune-telling coffee remnant
21. Religious doctrine
22. D.C. mover and shaker, abbr.
23. Assembled
26. Raidable hotel room amenity

30. Evergreen creeper
31. "Fasten" a shoe (2 words)
34. Nay, to a baby
35. Dryer accumulation, pl.
37. Expose to moisture
38. White heron
39. Sodium hydroxide
40. Same as battle-ax
42. UN labor grp.
43. Like localized disease
45. Crab's grabber
47. Catcher in the what?
48. Food-borne bacteria
50. Begone!
52. \*"Fathers and Sons" author
55. Not expensive
56. Medicinal plant
57. Joie de vivre
59. Batu Khan's posse
60. \*Fils' father
61. Chicken of the sea
62. \*Tarzan's adoptive

- dad
63. Before, poetically
64. Big Bang's original matter

### DOWN

1. Financing acronym
2. Hot rum drink
3. \*Official flower of Father's Day
4. Adjusts
5. Minotaur's island
6. \*Kurt Russell's son of "Thunderbolts" fame
7. Tropical tuber
8. Stringed instrument
9. Slang for heroin
10. Marina \_\_\_\_\_ Rey, CA
12. "To do" list
13. "\_\_\_\_\_ a high note"
14. \*Fictional Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ who banished children's nanny to a doghouse
19. Banana refuse, pl.
22. Gladys Knight's band member
23. \*Christopher Robin's father A.A. \_\_\_\_\_
24. Like certain flu
25. Church assembly
26. Speechless
27. Gabriel of Chile
28. Administer ceremonial oil
29. Chopper blade
32. Nile dweller, for short
33. Snake-like reef dweller
36. \*Cormac McCarthy's post-apocalyptic father/son novel (2 words)
38. Expatriate
40. Dream in the sky
41. Climactic stage
44. Nearsited one
46. Degrees in right angle
48. Prolific Swiss mathematician
49. Ten million, in India
50. Mercantile

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**GO TO PAGE 14**

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# "The Juneteenth Alphabet"

By Andrea Underwood Petifer, Illustrated by Ana Latese

REVIEW by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

Your parents both hate being late.

It's never bad to be where you're supposed to be, you know: on time, ready, and eager for whatever's next. A party, your church service, lunch at Grandma's house, it's always best to arrive at the start with a smile. Being prompt is just good manners or, as you'll see in "The Juneteenth Alphabet" by Andrea Underwood Petifer, pictures by Ana Latese, it could become a much bigger matter.

After the Civil War ended in April of 1865, four million formerly enslaved people embraced the end of bondage, but enslaved people in Texas did not. They weren't informed of emancipation until much later, not un-

til June 19, 1865. On that day, the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas, to spread the good news and there was a jubilee. That was the first Juneteenth.

There are A-B-Cs for that.

A is for album, a homemade book of memories and clippings so that kids in the future can understand their history. B is for Black and for Beautiful. C is for culture and celebration and community, three very important things to remember on Juneteenth, which began in America but is celebrated in many countries.

G is for Galveston, the city where the celebration was born. H is for healing, but also for HBCUs, or Historically Black Colleges and Universities. K

is for secrets being kept, and for families that were kept apart during slavery. And L is for laws – the good ones that made Juneteenth possible; and the bad ones, like Jim Crow laws.

O is for Opal Lee, a real person who worked hard to make Juneteenth a national holiday; she is known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth." R and S are both important parts of the celebration, **Red** for the food and drink that are traditional at Juneteenth celebrations, and **Sounds** and **Songs** that make the holiday great!

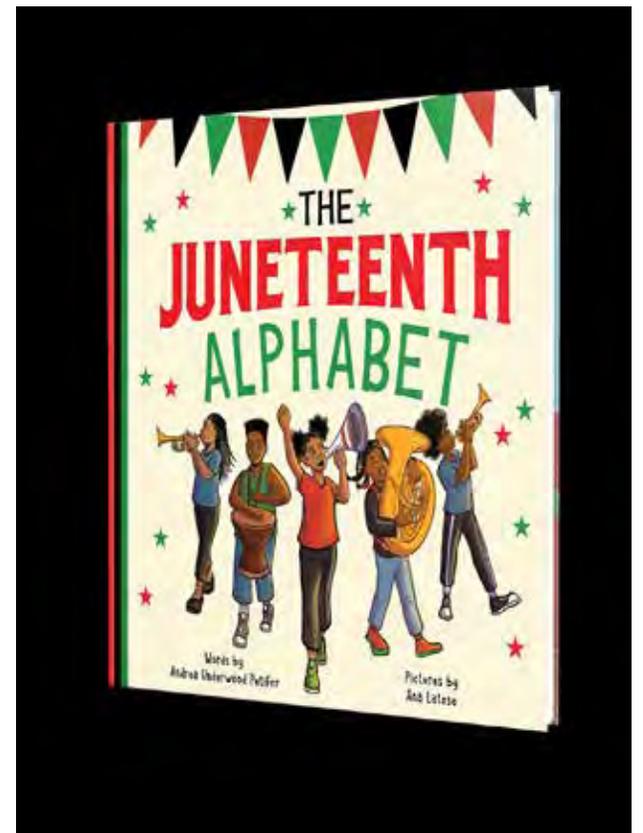
As an adult, you can probably think of many, many other representations for letters of the alphabet that are not inside "The Juneteenth Alphabet." Civil War, notification, enslavement, parade, your list may be long and what's here is often a stretch. As an adult, you may think that author Andrea Underwood Petifer missed a few points.

And that's okay because you're an adult and this book isn't for you.

Kids who love to celebrate Juneteenth will enjoy the narrative inside this book, and children who are just learning about the holiday will get a nice, rounded education for it here. Petifer's A-B-Cs include many sidebars meant to launch discussion with older kids, while Ana Latese's illustrations will keep younger children interested – and if you still notice omissions, there's room in both word and photo for parents to make additions. What fun!

This is a great book for kids ages three to five, and it gently leads six- and seven-year-olds to learn more on their own. If your family has Juneteenth plans this summer, you'll want "The Juneteenth Alphabet." Find it now, soon, or better late than never.

"The Juneteenth Alphabet" by Andrea Underwood Petifer, illustrated by Ana Latese c.2025, Duopress / Sourcebooks \$14.99 40 pages



## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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