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NEWSPAPERS, INC.

"GOOD NEWS YOU CAN USE"

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

# COMMUNITY HARLEM NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 31 No. 25

June 19, 2025 - June 25, 2025

FREE



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to Congressman  
Charles B. Rangel**

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

Condolences to the family of Mark and Melissa Hortman who were killed in a senseless political shooting in Minnesota. Our prayers go out to John Hoffman and his wife who were also shot and recovering. This all happened on the eve of the “No Kings” protest where millions of Americans took to the streets in over 2,000 protests all over the country this past weekend. Our neighbors were marching for democracy and against a dictatorship in this country. In New York thousands also showed up for a peaceful demonstration. It is comforting to know there are millions of people who are willing to publicly say this is not “America” and stand up for democracy.

Harlem said a final farewell to our beloved Congressman Charles B. Rangel. R.I.P.

June 19th is Juneteenth, a celebration of African-Americans “Independence Day.” As we see attempts to roll back many of our gains, I say it is now time for “Plan B.” Black Newspaper publishers are calling for MAO to take the place of DEI. (see page 23). This would be what I mean by “Plan B.”

Election day for the Democratic Primary is June 24th. **Plan to VOTE.**

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# PONDER THIS! Hot Fun in the Summertime



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

I am a summertime baby. I was born on August 13, under the astrological sign of Leo. I receive the sun as a welcome hug from God. The warmth and brightness of this everlasting star is glorious as it makes its golden presentation day in and day out.

The summer season has come around again. Unofficially, most people regard

the summer season as beginning on Memorial Day when beaches open, to the Labor Day Weekend in September. Be not dismayed, when the days are hot and long and the nights are sticky, it is summer. So, what are you going to do?

First, accept the fact that it will be hot, hot, hot, and numbers like ninety and up are not unusual. This is what we waited for all winter. Whether or not the temperature soars folk will find something to complain about. Despite physical incapacities and inabilities, there are activities at hand to suit the creative prospector.

The senior centers provide lunch, classes, interesting programs, recreational opportunities, and more importantly, air conditioning.

Public pools are opening at Riverbank State Park on Riverside Drive and Jackie Robinson Park in Harlem.

If you would rather avoid the sun, consider sundown as the perfect time to take a stroll through the park and settle down on a tree-shaded bench, with an informative book. Central Park, Marcus Garvey, Riverbank State Park, and Morningside Parks will be listing their scheduled outdoor musical events, which are always bustling with people who have made their way to claim their favorite spot.

Vacationing in the city is a treat when budgets are tight, and money is short. The space and the grass are free. Gather up some friends; spread your blanket, or flip open your chair, sit back,

and relax. Sip your choice of brew and get your groove on to the music that taps your heartstrings.

The city will soon become a melting pot of street fairs offering culinary delights and thrifty cultural fanfare. Eating out with family and friends will become an outing sitting at tables on the sidewalks of restaurants. That is hanging out; shouting out to passing friends as you wait for your dinner to arrive. There was a time when this was the norm further downtown. Now, Harlem restaurants have captured the charm of dining by adding outdoor seating.

Seating is not permitted within a bus stop, bike lane, taxi stand or painted curb extension (fire hydrant).. A protective barrier must be on

all three sides of the seating perimeter that are in the roadway to separate seating from the travel lane and provide protection for patrons.

Whatever you choose to do during this outdoor season, take care, prepare, and participate in activities that are appropriate for your physical well-being. There can be fun and then some in the summertime for everyone.

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

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The A City Within A City initiative is designed to activate and engage this powerful local market. With over 100 restaurants, 50+ museums and historic landmarks, and a festival in nearly every season, Harlem is a thriving cultural destination ready to welcome the world.

On August 14th, join us for a dynamic Cultural Tourism Summit where cultural institutions, small businesses, tourism professionals, and public, civic, and private sector leaders will gather to explore strategies to increase and sustain tourism throughout the Greater Harlem Area.

Together, we'll spotlight Harlem as the cultural capital of New York City—and a global destination for heritage, history, and hospitality.



### Monday

Thursday August 14, 2025



### Time

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM



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# Record Low Shootings and Homicides in 2025



By Mayor Eric Adams

This National Gun Violence Awareness Month, where we honor and remember victims of gun crimes, our administration is making good on our promise to eradicate gun violence. From day one, we have worked to create safer streets, safer subways, and a safer city for all New York families.

We have listened to our communities and our neighbors and deployed resources where they are needed most. The numbers are in, and it is clear we are delivering a safer city for residents of the five boroughs. Thanks to our upstream and downstream investments, New York

City has seen record low shootings and homicides in 2025 already. Last month, we set the record for the fewest number of shooting incidents and homicides for the month of May in recorded history. And those massive declines in May led to New York City seeing the lowest number of shootings and homicides in recorded history for the first five months of the year.

But this is no accident, it is the result of our administration's clear and continuing focus on eradicating gun violence in New York City. Since the beginning of this year alone, the NYPD has taken over 2,200 illegal firearms off the streets. That is 2,200 weapons that no longer threaten the safety of our neighborhoods, our families, or our children. And since we came into office three years ago, we have now removed more than 22,000 illegal guns from our streets. Each illegal gun we take off our streets is saving lives and damming up one more

river that leads to the sea of violence. I have said it before: 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.

Shootings and homicides have consistently declined over the last three years thanks to our efforts. Since coming into office, shootings and homicides have declined 53.9 percent and 41.4 percent, respectively. These numbers show our comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence is making a difference, but it is just a piece of the massive drops in crime we are helping to achieve across our city. We are now in our sixth straight quarter of declining crime in our city, and most major crime categories, including homicides, robberies, felony assaults, burglaries, grand larceny, and grand larceny auto have declined year-to-

date. In fact, in May 2025, there was a 4.9 decrease in overall crime citywide.

Additionally, we are seeing promising decreases in shooting incidents and victims, transit crime, housing crime, retail theft, and hate crimes. Shooting incidents decreased by 38.6 percent compared to the previous year, representing 41 fewer shooting victims. And our subways are continuing to get safer, too. Transit crime was down by 5.6 percent last month across all boroughs.

While these numbers show real progress, we will not rest until all New Yorkers are safe — at home, on our subways, and on our streets. Because of our steadfast focus on public safety, and the hard work of the brave men and women of the NYPD, New York City remains the safest big city in America. We will continue to work tirelessly every day and everywhere to build a safer, more affordable city that is the best place to raise a family.



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Vol. 31 No. 25 June 19, 2025



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# Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

Can anyone afford to purchase a home in Harlem? Is Harlem still affordable for low to moderate income families? The question of what is affordable is still being debated in the community. The home market values in Harlem continue to soar at an astounding rate. Which has effectively left most potential buyers priced out of the market.

There is now hope! New York City's Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development (HPD) Home First Down Payment Assistance will now cover 20% of the purchase price up to \$100,000! This is a great opportunity to provide much needed financial assistance for low to moderate income perspective first-time home buyers.

There are 6 eligibility requirements for this program: (1) be a first-time home buyer; (2) purchase property in New York City's 5 boroughs; (3)

complete an HPD approved first-time home buyer workshop; (4) use an authorized lender for your mortgage; (5) meet the income and household guidelines and (6) the purchase price for the property cannot exceed the maximum amount.

HPD has also increased the maximum area median income guidelines from 80% to 120% AMI. So a single individual's income has increased from \$88,200 to \$130,400 and they will qualify for the program! More individuals and families are eligible to use this program. If property is subsidized the purchase price will be the subsidized price. The grant can be used to purchase cooperatives, condominiums, single and multi-family homes up to four units.

The purchased property must be your primary residence for a minimum of 10 or 15 years depending on the grant amount. For more information and specific details about the program visit the website [www.nyc.gov/hpd](http://www.nyc.gov/hpd).

This program will help leveling the home buying market. However, you cannot start the grant application process until you have a fully executed sales contract and a mortgage commitment letter from an

authorized lender. The grant application process has been streamlined and the entire application processing time has been significantly reduced to approximately 60-75 from submission to approval. You cannot close on the property until your grant has been approved. This time frame is generally acceptable for most sellers who are anxious to sell their property and are not willing to wait for the grant application to be processed.

HCCI offers an approved virtual 4-part seminar series on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. To register go to our website – [hcci.org](http://hcci.org) – at the top of the homepage click on the tab for program and services then home buyer education. Scroll down the page until you see the picture of a family. Under them you will see a link to register for the workshop. Once you complete and submit the registration form, you will receive an auto response email confirmation and a link for the workshop.

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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# HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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June 27 Dionne Warwick at the Apollo.

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## We Can't Talk About Freedom Without Talking About Food

By Thiane Samb, Population Health Complex Services Manager, MetroPlusHealth

When we talk about freedom, we often refer to the right to vote, to speak our minds, to build a better future for ourselves and our families. But what's commonly left out of that conversation is one of the most basic forms of freedom which is the ability to feed ourselves with nutritious food. What we're able (or unable) to put on the table each day is directly tied to our health, safety, and stability. And yet, in New York City, more than 1.2 million people struggle with food insecurity, with Black communities across the city disproportionately affected due to systemic racism and economic inequality. This Juneteenth, as we reflect on what freedom really means, we must recognize that true freedom includes the ability to nourish our bodies and care for our families' wellness to thrive.

As a Population Health Complex Service Manager at MetroPlusHealth, I help oversee food-related health benefit programs designed to support our most vulnerable members. These include comprehensive programs like the Hospital Discharge Benefit for Medicare recipients, the VBP Benefit for eligible Medicaid members, and ILS-MTM, a New York State initiative that provides medically tailored meals to people with chronic conditions. Since its launch in 2022, our ILS-MTM program alone has enrolled more than 1,600 members and that number continues to grow. We're seeing more people open to receiving medically tailored meals than ever before. For many, it's a practical decision in the face of rising grocery costs. These shifting attitudes reflect deeper economic strain and a growing awareness that access to nutritious food is fundamental.



### Freedom Starts at the Table

The right to eat well is slipping out of reach as households are forced to make tough choices between paying for food or paying rent. A dozen eggs costs more than some hourly workers earn in an hour, while millions of Americans could lose access to food stamps or see reductions in their monthly [SNAP](#) benefits. But if we want to talk about freedom in a meaningful way, we must start with the type of food available in our neighborhoods. In many areas where low-income families live, access to fresh produce is limited or significantly more expensive than canned or processed foods. As a result, items like chips and boxed macaroni and cheese are more readily available than fresh fruits and vegetables. This is more than just a nutritional imbalance. It's a structural one that's shaping the long-term health and futures of entire communities.

### The Health Toll of Hunger

In Black communities, where chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease are more common and deadly, accessing healthy food is not only important for sustenance, but necessary medicine to help manage and prevent some of these life-threatening diseases. There's a gap in understanding how food affects the body, and that kind of education is critical for the advancement of our communities. That's why eliminating barriers to food access must be a priority for

policymakers, healthcare systems, and community leaders alike. If we want different outcomes, we need different systems that place nutrition and holistic care at the center of how we support historically excluded communities.

### What Real Change Looks Like

Often overlooked and underserved, many communities carry a deep distrust of the healthcare system. Rebuilding that trust requires consistent, proactive outreach and empowering people with the knowledge that they can take control of their health. This starts with teaching how food directly impacts the body and long-term well-being. Preventive care doesn't start in the emergency room; it starts with annual checkups, culturally relevant health education, and access to resources that meet people where they are. That means healthcare providers, community organizations, and local leaders showing up to educate at local events, barbershops, churches, and neighborhood centers with information that resonates, delivered in a way that feels familiar and affirming.

Juneteenth calls us to remember the freedom that our ancestors fought for, while offering a reminder of the ongoing fight for equity. And as we work to eliminate barriers to health, we must recognize that access to nutritious food is a right, a remedy, and a powerful step toward collective liberation.



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# Juneteenth, A Celebration of Freedom and Progress -Juneteenth Celebrated in Harlem on June 15th

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, marks a pivotal moment in American history—the end of slavery in the United States. Though the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, enslaved African Americans in Texas remained unaware of their freedom for more than two years. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced General Order No. 3, that the last remaining enslaved individuals learned they were free. This day became known as Juneteenth, a fusion of "June" and "nineteenth," and has since grown into a powerful symbol of libera-

tion and African American resilience. For decades, Juneteenth was commemorated primarily within Black communities, especially in the South. Celebrations often included parades, music, storytelling, food, and prayer, honoring ancestors and reflecting on the long road from slavery to civil rights. In places like Harlem, New York, Juneteenth has been recognized and celebrated for generations. Harlem, with its deep cultural and historical significance in African American life, has hosted events ranging from street festivals to educational programs. These celebrations have helped keep the legacy of Juneteenth alive, promoting cultural pride and historical

awareness long before national recognition. The movement to make Juneteenth a national holiday gained momentum in the 21st century, driven by decades of advocacy and growing public awareness of racial injustice. Following the murder of George Floyd in 2020 and the nationwide protests that followed, support for Juneteenth as a federal holiday surged. It became a unifying call to not only honor the end of slavery but also confront the ongoing struggle for racial equity. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law, officially making Juneteenth a federal holiday. During the signing ceremony,

President Biden called Juneteenth "a day of profound weight and power," recognizing it as a moment for reflection, education, and celebration. Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black and South Asian Vice President, also emphasized the holiday's importance in understanding America's full history. The official recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday marked a significant milestone in American history. It gave national visibility to a story long celebrated in Black communities but often overlooked in mainstream narratives. It also provided an opportunity for Americans of all backgrounds to learn about the country's complex legacy of slavery and freedom.



Today, Juneteenth is celebrated across the United States with cultural festivals, community gatherings, concerts, and educational events. In Harlem and other historically Black communities, the day remains a vibrant expression of heritage, unity, and hope. As Juneteenth continues to

evolve, it stands not only as a commemoration of freedom delayed, but as a call to ensure that liberty, justice, and equality are truly enjoyed by all. Harlem celebrated Juneteenth with a parade and marketplace this past Sunday, June 15th. Photos by: Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor



## Legendary Funk Pioneer Sly Stone Dies at 82

By Stacy M. Brown

Black Press USA Senior  
National Correspondent

Sylvester “Sly” Stewart, known to the world as Sly Stone, frontman of the groundbreaking band Sly and the Family Stone—has died at the age of 82. His family confirmed that he passed away peacefully at his Los Angeles home, surrounded by loved ones, after battling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other health complications. Born March 15, 1943, in Denton, Texas, Stone moved with his family to Vallejo, California, as a child. He began recording gospel music at age eight with his siblings in a group called the Stewart Four. By his teenage years, he had mastered multiple instruments and was already pioneering racial integration in music—an ethos that would define his career.

In 1966, Sly and his brother Freddie merged their bands to form Sly and the Family Stone, complete with a revolutionary interracial, mixed-gender lineup. The band quickly became a commercial and cultural force with hits such as “Dance to the Music,” “Everyday People,” and “Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)” —all penned by Stone himself. Their album *Stand!* (1969) and live performances—most notably at Woodstock—cemented their reputation, blend-

ing soul, funk, rock, gospel, and psychedelia to reflect the optimism and turmoil of their era. Sly Stone’s musical approach radically reshaped popular music. He transcended genre boundaries and empowered a new generation of artists. The band’s socially conscious message and infectious rhythms sparked a wave of influence, reaching artists as diverse as Miles Davis, George Clinton, Prince, Dr. Dre, and the Roots.

As the 1970s progressed, Stone confronted personal demons. His desire to use music as a response to war, racism, and societal change culminated in the intense album “There’s a Riot Goin’ On” (1971). But drug dependency began to undermine both his health and professional life, leading to erratic behavior and band decline through the early 1980s. Withdrawn from the public eye for much of the 1990s and early 2000s, Stone staged occasional comebacks. He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1993, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grammys in 2017, and captured public attention following the 2023 release of his memoir *Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)*—published under Questlove’s imprint. He also completed a biographical screenplay and was featured in Questlove’s



documentary *Sly Lives!* earlier this year.

His influence endured across generations. Critics and historians repeatedly credit him with perfecting funk and creating a “progressive soul,” shaping a path for racial integration both onstage and in the broader culture. “Rest in beats Sly Stone,” legendary Public Enemy frontman Chuck D posted on social media with an illustrative drawing of the artist. “We should thank Questlove of the Roots for keeping his fire blazing in this century.” Emmy-winning entertainment publicist Danny Deraney also paid homage. “Rest easy Sly Stone,” Deraney posted. “You changed music (and me) forever. The time he won over Ed Sullivan’s audience in 1968. Simply magical. Freelance music publicist and Sirius XM host Eric Alper also offered a tribute. “The funk pioneer who made the world dance, think, and get higher,” Alper wrote of Sly Stone. “His music changed everything—and it still does.” Sly Stone is survived by three children.

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# A Final Farewell to Congressman Charles B. Rangel

On June 13, 2025, a solemn and dignified funeral service was held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan to honor the life and legacy of former U.S. Representative Charles B. Rangel. The ceremony brought together political leaders, dignitaries, and community members to pay tribute to a man whose influence spanned nearly five decades in public service.

Born on June 11, 1930, in Harlem, New York, Charles B. Rangel rose from humble beginnings to become a towering figure in American politics. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, where he earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor, Rangel pursued higher education, earning a law degree from St. John's University. He began his political career in 1967 as a member of the New York State Assembly and made history in 1970 by defeating the legendary Adam Clayton Powell Jr. to represent Harlem in the U.S. House of Representatives.



During his tenure in Congress, Rangel was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the first African American to chair the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. He was also a member of the "Gang of Four," a group of influential African American political

leaders from Harlem, alongside David Dinkins, Basil Patterson, and Percy Sutton. Rangel's legislative achievements included efforts to combat apartheid in South Africa and initiatives to support minority and women veterans.

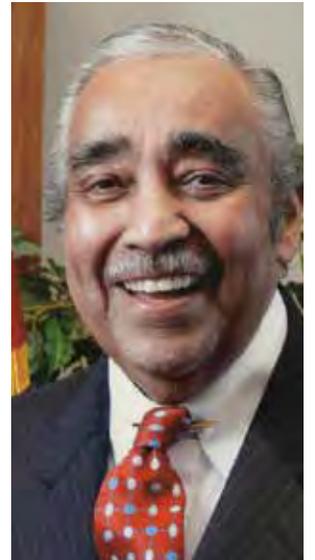
The funeral service featured heartfelt tributes from prominent figures who celebrated Rangel's contributions to public service and his unwavering commitment to Harlem and the nation. Former President Bill Clinton praised Rangel for his role in securing economic programs that significantly improved employment rates in Harlem. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries reflected on Rangel's mentorship and enduring influence on the Democratic Party. Senator Chuck Schumer honored Rangel as a "warrior" and a "lion of Harlem," acknowledging his tireless advocacy for underserved communities.

Prior to the funeral mass, Rangel lay in repose at his home church, St Aloysius Church on West 132nd Street



in Harlem from June 9-10th. On June 11-12th Rangel's casket lay in state at New York City Hall, an honor bestowed upon few public figures. The funeral procession to St. Patrick's Cathedral was marked by a powerful silence along Fifth Avenue, underscoring the profound impact of Rangel's life and work. Governor Kathy Hochul announced plans to commemorate Rangel's legacy by renaming a Harlem Street "Charlie Rangel Way," ensur-

ing that future generations will remember his contributions to the community and the nation. Charles Rangel's passing marks the end of an era in



Harlem and American politics. His legacy as a trailblazer, advocate, and public servant continues to inspire those who strive to make a difference in their communities and beyond. Harlem will truly miss our "warrior."

Photos at St Patrick Cathedral by:  
Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor



## Are Your College Savings on Track?

(StatePoint)

If you're like many Americans, college savings may be taking a back seat to other financial priorities right now. Financial advisors want you to know that there are options to maximize education savings that you may not be taking advantage of.

New research from Edward Jones, a leading North American financial services firm, and Morning Consult found that 52% of Americans don't know what 529 plans are, and only 14% note they have or intend to use one as part of their education savings strategy.

"As a parent myself and as a financial advisor, I've seen the impact that 529 plans have had for my family's and my clients' education savings," said Andy Esser, a financial advisor at Edward Jones. "With education costs and borrowing costs on the rise, it's more important than ever for Americans to understand the savings options available to them."

To help you get your education-specific and broader financial goals on track, Edward Jones is sharing these fast facts about 529 plans:

**529 plans, defined:** A 529 plan is an education savings investment account that offers federal and state tax benefits. Earnings grow tax free and distributions are tax free, when used for qualified education expenses, and many states plans offer state income tax deductions for contributions

**Distributions are flexible:** While 529 plans offer a variety of options for



how beneficiaries use the funds, this fact is widely misunderstood. In fact, the majority of surveyed Americans are not aware that 529 funds can be used for qualified apprenticeships (72%), K-12 expenses (65%), or possibly even for rollover funds to a Roth IRA (81%), among other options.

Account management offers options: If your family has multiple children, you may choose to open just one 529 account, or different accounts for each child. Either way, if a named beneficiary decides not to attend school, the account owner can change the beneficiary to another eligible family member.

Contributions are easy: 529 plans accept contributions from anyone, regardless of whether they are account holders, making it easy for loved ones—from grandparents to family friends—to contribute to tax-advantaged education savings.

Savings are falling short: Only 38% of Americans feel like they are saving enough to reach their education savings goals, meaning most families will likely need to

lean on student loans to meet costs. A 529 plan can offset what your family might need to borrow, helping position you for a debt-free future.

Financial advisors can help: The majority of respondents (78%) do not typically consult a financial advisor before making decisions related to education savings, but 21% say that working with a financial advisor would help them feel better about covering the costs of future education expenses. Financial advisors can act as impartial third-party experts to develop tailored strategies to meet your savings goals within the context of your big-picture financial goals.

To learn more about 529 plans, visit [www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com).

"Amid inflation and high interest rates, a growing number of young people are considering skipping higher education altogether. Understanding the many savings options available can help them make an informed decision about whether college is within reach," says Esser.

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# The 53rd Annual Harlem Skyscraper “Father’s Day” Cycling Classic in Harlem

The 53rd Annual Harlem Skyscraper Cycling Classic took place on Sunday, June 15, 2025, at the historic Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem. Held each year on Father’s Day, this iconic event, founded in 1973 by NYPD Community Affairs Detective David Walker stands as the second-longest running cycling race in the United States and the longest-running criterium organized by the BIPOC community.

More than just a race, the Harlem Skyscraper Cycling Classic is a vibrant cultural celebration rooted in community, history, and athletic excellence. The event draws elite amateur and professional cyclists from across the country and around the world, transforming Harlem into an international hub of competitive cycling and community pride.

At its heart, the Classic remains deeply committed to youth engagement and

local participation. Organizations such as the Bahati Foundation, Black Girls Do Bike NYC, K.R.T/QRT Cycling and Major Taylor Iron Riders NYC have played a critical role in introducing young people of color to the sport of cycling.

This year’s event was made possible thanks to the generous support of numerous sponsors and partners. Foxworth Realty, led by long-time Harlem business leader and cultural advocate

Eugenia Foxworth, served as the main sponsor. Ms. Foxworth’s unwavering support for Harlem’s arts, culture, and community development has helped sustain and expand this landmark event.

Quinn Lemley, actress/singer, the star of the acclaimed, “The Heat is On! A life in Concert” celebrating Rita Hayworth, sang before each of the professional women and men races began.

Spearheading the organization and production of the event is UNITYSports Productions, a division of Team Unity, Inc., a Harlem-based nonprofit dedicated to cultural preservation, youth empowerment, and community building through the arts and athletics. Under the leadership of Race Director Richard Cox, Team Unity continues to champion inclusive access to sporting experiences while preserving the historic legacy of

Harlem’s role in American cycling.

The Harlem Skyscraper Cycling Classic continues to thrive as an international sporting event with deep local roots. More than a race, it is a celebration of Harlem’s resilience, history, and future—bringing together generations of families, athletes, artists, and advocates in a shared spirit of unity and pride.

photos by: marcoquezada.com



# Harlem Skyscraper ..cont'd...



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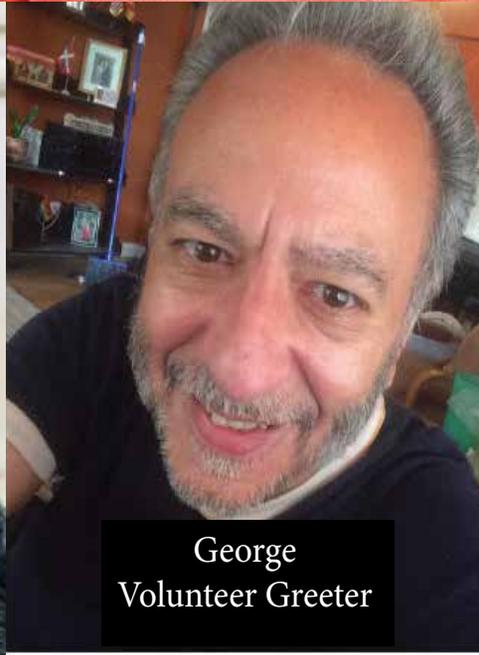
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**Women In the Black “Rise & Thrive” Conference to Empower Women Business Owners**



(l-r) Ralph McDaniel - Video Music Box., Music and film producer and Hip-Hop Cultural Icon; Reginald Williams Sales Manager Ford - Lincoln of Queens;



On June 12, 2025, the Women In the Black New York Inc. organization hosted its annual “Who’s The Boss” Women’s Business Conference at the Renaissance New York Harlem Hotel. This year’s theme, “Rise & Thrive,” resonated deeply with the attendees, emphasizing empowerment, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence among women entrepreneurs.

Founded in 1998 by President Princess Jen-

kins, Women In the Black is dedicated to supporting and uplifting women business owners, particularly women of color. The organization provides resources, education, and a supportive community to help these entrepreneurs overcome challenges and achieve success. Princess Jenkins, an award-winning business owner and motivational speaker, has been instrumental in creating spaces where women can connect, learn, and grow together.

The conference featured a series of dynamic workshops and inspirational speakers who shared their expertise and personal journeys. These sessions covered a range of topics, including leadership, financial literacy, marketing strategies, and personal development. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with industry leaders, gain practical insights, and build meaningful connections that will support their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Held at the Renaissance New York Harlem Hotel, the venue provided a fitting backdrop for the event. Situated on 125th Street, the hotel stands atop the historic Victoria Theater, blending Harlem’s rich cultural heritage with contemporary elegance. The hotel’s design pays homage to the area’s legacy while embracing its vibrant present, making it an ideal setting for a conference dedicated to the empowerment of women in business.

The “Rise & Thrive” conference not only offered valuable knowledge and skills but also fostered a sense of community among women entrepreneurs. Participants left the event feeling inspired and equipped to take their businesses to new heights. The success of the conference underscores the importance of platforms that support and celebrate the achievements of women in the business world.

Looking ahead, Women In the Black continues its

mission to empower women entrepreneurs through various programs and events. The organization remains committed to providing the tools and resources necessary for women to start, build, and grow successful businesses, thereby contributing to the economic and social vitality of their communities. For more information and to join the organization if you are a woman who owns a business, go to [womenintheblack.org](http://womenintheblack.org)

Photos by Debi Jackson



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# Down Payment Options Are Unlocking Homeownership for More Americans

(StatePoint)

Saving for a down payment is one of the biggest barriers to buying a home, but it doesn't have to be. Not only are down payment assistance programs helping people unlock homeownership, but some mortgage programs make it possible to put down as little as 3%. Here's what to know:

## Navigating PMI

Contrary to the popular belief that down payments must be 20% or more, the typical homebuyer makes a down payment between 5% and 20%. However, if you make a down payment of less than 20%, you may have to pay private mortgage insurance (PMI). PMI, which protects the lender if

you are unable to pay your mortgage, is a monthly fee rolled into your mortgage payment. If it's required, you'll only need this insurance until you've built up 20% equity in your home.

## Securing the Right Loan

There are many types of private and government-sponsored low down payment loan options available. For example, some private lenders have options designed specifically for low- to moderate-income borrowers. Freddie Mac's Home Possible mortgage provides down payment options as low as 3%, financial flexibility and reduced PMI. Some qualified buyers can even attain this mortgage without a credit score. Likewise, Freddie Mac's

HomeOne loans, meant for first-time homebuyers and borrowers who need flexible financing, offer similar benefits.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) offers down payment options as low as 3.5%. Obtained through lenders but insured by the federal government, they allow lower credit scores than most conventional loans. However, they require PMI and tend to be more expensive.

Looking to build or buy a home in a rural area? The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) two loan types make doing so more affordable for eligible low- and moderate-income buyers. The Single-Family Housing

Guaranteed Loan Program has a PMI premium but no down payment, whereas the Single-Family Housing Direct Home Loan Program provides down payment assistance to increase applicants' repayment ability.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Loans are made to eligible members of the military community. VA loans may not require a down payment or PMI and have additional features that can make homebuying more affordable for military families.

Speak with your lender to learn more about these loan options.

## Finding Assistance

If you're short on cash for your down payment, help may be available.



Many state, county and city governments provide financial assistance for well-qualified people in their communities ready for homeownership. This help can come in the form of grants, second mortgage loans that come with low or no interest rates and deferred payments, as well as tax credits that free up more of your money for your down payment or closing costs. Having a certain kind of job, such as

being a teacher or firefighter, or moving to a specific neighborhood, such as one that has been identified as needing economic growth, could also qualify you for down payment assistance. Your housing counselor or lender can help determine which programs you are eligible for.

For more homebuying insights and information about affordable homeownership, visit [myhome.freddiemac.com](http://myhome.freddiemac.com).

## Public Notice Fact Sheet

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application and Draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan from 2335 12 Avenue, LLC for a site known as 2335 12th Avenue, site ID #C231159. This site is located in the Harlem neighborhood of the Borough of Manhattan, and is located at 2335 12th Avenue. Comments regarding this application and work plan must be submitted no later than July 25, 2025. Access the application, work plan and other relevant documents online through the DECinfo Locator: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C231159/>. The documents also are available at the document repository located at New York Public Library-George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027 and Manhattan Community Board 9, 3291 Broadway, New York, NY 10027. Information regarding the site and how to submit comments can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html> or send comments to Jennifer Gonzalez, Project Manager, NYSDEC, 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101; [Jennifer.gonzalez@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Jennifer.gonzalez@dec.ny.gov); or call 718-482-4508.

To have information such as this notice sent right to your email, sign up with county email listservs available at <https://nydecprod.prod.acquia-sites.com/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

## Avisio Público Hoja Informativa

El Departamento de Conservación Ambiental del Estado de Nueva York (DEC) ha recibido una solicitud para el Programa de Limpieza de Áreas Abandonadas (BCP) y un Borrador del Plan de Trabajo de Investigación de Remediación de 2335 12th Avenue, LLC para el sitio conocido como 2335 12th Avenue, ID de sitio n.º C231159. Este sitio se encuentra en el barrio de Harlem del distrito de Manhattan, en 2335 12th Avenue. Los comentarios sobre esta solicitud y el plan de trabajo deben enviarse a más tardar el 25 de Julio de 2025. Acceda a la solicitud, el plan de trabajo y otros documentos relevantes en línea a través del localizador de DECinfo: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C231159/>. Los documentos también están disponibles en el repositorio de documentos ubicado en la Biblioteca Pública de Nueva York - Biblioteca George Bruce, 518 West 125th Street, Nueva York, NY 10027, y en la Junta Comunitaria de Manhattan 9, 3291 Broadway, Nueva York, NY 10027. Puede encontrar información sobre el sitio y cómo enviar comentarios en <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html> o enviar sus comentarios a Jennifer Gonzalez, Gerente de Proyecto, NYSDEC, 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101; [Jennifer.gonzalez@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Jennifer.gonzalez@dec.ny.gov); o llamar al 718-482-4508.

Para recibir información como este aviso directamente en su correo electrónico, suscríbese a las listas de correo electrónico del condado disponibles en <https://nydecprod.prod.acquia-sites.com/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/environmental-cleanup-email-newsletters>

# Schomburg Kicks off 100th Year-long Celebration with a Festival held on June 14th



The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, New York, celebrated its 100th anniversary on June 14, 2025, with a vibrant community festival that merged its annual

Black Comic Book and Literary Festivals. The day featured readings, panel discussions, workshops, children's storytimes, cosplay, and a vendor marketplace, transforming 135th Street between Malcolm X

and Adam Clayton Powell boulevards into a lively cultural hub.

Founded in 1925 as the Division of Negro Literature, History, and Prints at the New York Public Library's 135th Street Branch, the Schomburg Center was established to meet the needs of Harlem's growing African American community. In 1926, the library acquired the personal collection of Afro-Puerto Rican scholar Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, which included over 4,000 books and pamphlets. This acquisition was funded by the Carnegie Corporation and marked the beginning of the institution's transformation into a premier repository of Black history and culture

Schomburg served as

the curator of the collection from 1932 until his death in 1938. Under his leadership, the collection expanded significantly. In 1940, it was renamed the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature, History, and Prints in his honor. By 1972, it was designated as one of the Research Libraries of The New York Public Library and became known as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

To commemorate its centennial, the Schomburg Center launched "100: A Century of Collections, Community, and Creativity," an exhibition showcasing over 100 curated items from its extensive collection. Highlights include artifacts from literary icons like Zora Neale Hurston

and Langston Hughes, materials documenting the early days of hip-hop from Fab 5 Freddy's collection, and actor Ossie Davis's copy of the "Purlie Victorious" stage play script. An audio guide for the exhibition was narrated by actor and literacy advocate LeVar Burton

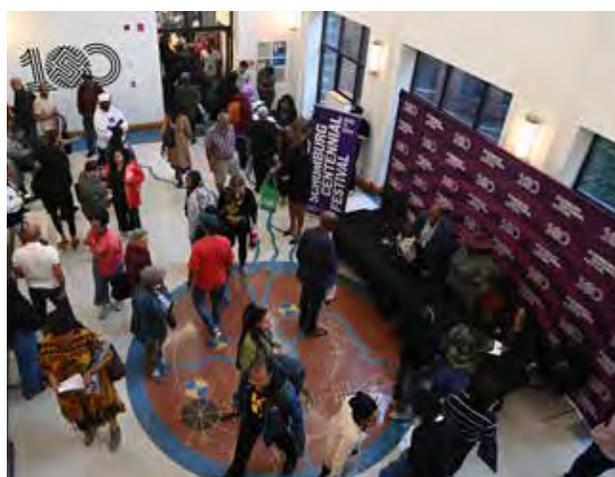
The Schomburg Center's holdings now encompass more than 11 million items, including manuscripts, photographs, rare books, and audiovisual materials. These resources illuminate the richness of global Black history, arts, and culture. The center continues to serve as a vital space for research, education, and cultural engagement, offering a wide range of programs and exhibitions that explore the history and culture of

people of African descent throughout the world

In a time when discussions around race and history are increasingly contentious, the Schomburg Center stands as a beacon of resilience and commitment to preserving and sharing the stories of Black communities. Its centennial celebration not only honors a century of achievements but also reaffirms its mission to educate, inspire, and empower future generations.

For more information about the Schomburg Center's programs and collections, visit their official website.

Photos by: Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor



## Recognizing Stroke Signs and Symptoms Could Save a Life

(StatePoint)

Stroke continues to remain a leading cause of death and disability worldwide. With over 12.2 million new strokes occurring each year, experts at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke say that every minute counts, as fast treatment may lessen the brain damage that a stroke can cause.

Stroke can affect anyone at any age, at any time, making it critical that everyone, especially those with known risk factors, understand and recognize the signs and symptoms of stroke, as well as their options as patients.

The signs of stroke can be subtle and hard to recognize, so educating

yourself and others is key to noticing and responding quickly. One easy way to remember the signs of stroke is with the acronym FAST from the American Stroke Association. This stands for:

- F - Face Drooping
- A - Arm Weakness
- S - Speech Difficulty
- T - Time to call 911

The sudden onset of any of these signs, as well as confusion, severe headaches and vision problems, could mean that someone is having a stroke, which is why it's important to call 911 immediately when a stroke is suspected.

Disability is common post-stroke, and recovery periods can be lengthy. This highlights the im-

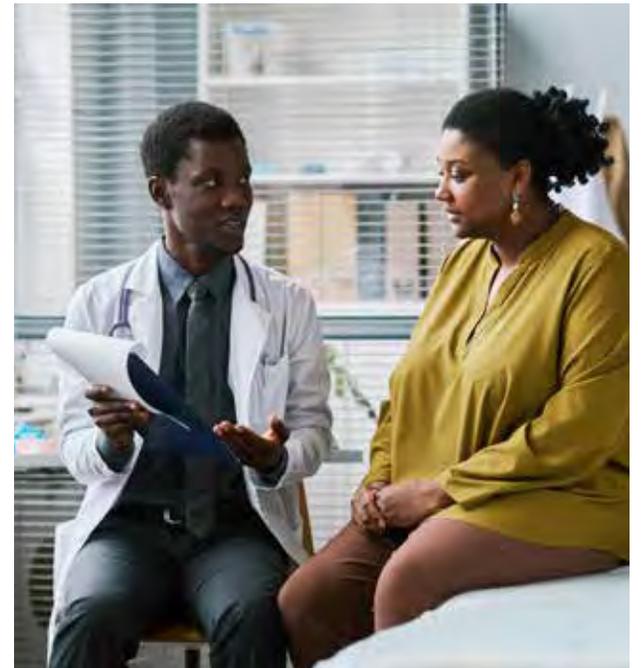
portance of speedy emergency care, which can help prevent disability and death, and may lead to a better quality of life post-stroke. It's also important to understand that 25% (1 in 4) of stroke patients will experience a second stroke within the first five years. However, with lifestyle changes and proper care, patients can reduce their risk.

"Everyone should be familiar with the signs and symptoms of stroke to ensure that they or a loved one receive appropriate and timely care. Going to the emergency room at the onset of symptoms can impact the care a patient receives, including their eligibility to enroll in a clinical

trial, so it's vital to seek immediate medical attention at the first sign of stroke," says Clay Johnston, PhD, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder, Harbor Health.

One particular clinical trial, Librexia STROKE, is currently recruiting patients to evaluate an investigational medication for recurrent stroke prevention, but eligibility is time-sensitive and participants must enroll within 48 hours after the onset of their stroke symptoms. Delays in seeking care following the initial symptoms of a stroke can limit access to these types of innovative treatment options.

Learn life-saving facts



about stroke prevention and treatment by visiting <https://www.stroke.org/en/about-stroke/stroke-symptoms>.

"The opportunity to receive the best possible treatment and care begins

with widespread awareness of the signs and symptoms of stroke and the urgency of seeking immediate emergency

medical attention when a stroke is suspected," says Dr. Johnston.

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# New York Urban League's 59th Annual Frederick Douglass Gala

The New York Urban League (NYUL) is proud to share the success of its 59th Annual Frederick Douglass Dinner and Gala, held on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at the elegant Ziegfeld Ballroom. The signature black-tie event, themed "Ignite The Future," brought together leaders, philanthropists, and community advocates for an evening dedicated to celebrating modern-day heroes who embody Frederick Douglass's enduring commitment to equality for all, while raising vital funds for NYUL's transformative mission.

The gala commenced with a vibrant reception before guests were seated for a powerful program, which included an invocation led by Pastor Desiree Elder from First Corinthians Baptist Church and an instrumental rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing". The evening was hosted by renowned Comedian Chuck Nice.

The evening opened with a welcome from Malcolm Ellis, Chairman of the New York Urban League Board who introduced surprise guest Wyclef Jean. The presence of Grammy

Award-winning Haitian rapper, singer, and songwriter deepened the event's resonance.

Arva Rice, President and CEO of the New York Urban League took stage next and extended heartfelt gratitude to the Gala Co-Chairs—Gregory Belinfanti, Tom Halloran, Nnamdi Orakwue, Suzanne Shank, and McCullough Williams—for their leadership, and to the generous sponsors, including lead supporters Diageo, Sibert Williams Shank, Xponance, Fidelis, UBER, and Airbnb. Vice-Chairs such as Bloomberg, Charter Communications, Deloitte, Doug and Wendy Eisenberg, Great Performances, National Basketball Association, New York Jets, Proskauer, UPS, and Wells Fargo were also acknowledged for their sustained support. Ms. Rice also thanked NBC4 for helping bring honoree stories to life and expressed appreciation to her board, led by Malcolm Ellis and her dedicated staff for turning her vision for black excellence into reality everyday.

This year's gala honored three distinguished individuals for their profound impact and unwavering

dedication to justice and opportunity:

Honorable Alvin Bragg, Manhattan District Attorney: Praised as a "Harlem native son and Urban Leaguer".

Liz Neumark, Founder & CEO, Great Performances: Recognized as "New York City's food equity advocate and entrepreneur" and recipient of the Ann S. Kheel Award.

Tina Byles Williams, Founder, CEO & CIO, Xponance: Celebrated for not only managing money but also being personally committed to making sure the next generation can manage as well.

A powerful highlight of the program included remarks by Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League. Other distinguished guests in attendance included Kevin Lyles, Loida Lewis, James Rhee, and Markuann Smith, Executive Producer of Godfather of Harlem.

The Gala's success was elevated by its Host Committee, led by Chair Sybil St. Germain, and included Kenneth Ebie, Esq., RaVal Davis, Nick Arrington, Jasmine and Silas Cooper, and Denora & A. Mark Ge-

tachew.

Ms. Rice highlighted NYUL's legacy, noting its pivotal role in integrating New York City public hospitals, creating the first sleep-away camps for Black children, and providing opportunities for high school drop-outs through Street Academies. Looking to the future, she announced NYUL's plans to transform its brownstones into a Center for Black Excellence and Innovation, a space that will hold current and future operations, including the Small Business Solutions Center, afterschool programming, and workforce development, with a fundraising goal of an additional \$3 million to complete the \$11 million effort.

"We have no choice but to spark inspiration, fuel passion, and activate collective action to safeguard and advance civil rights – why because we are the ones we have been waiting for...Tonight I invite you to join me and IGNITE. Get on fire for social justice, get on fire for economic empowerment, get on fire for educational opportunity – get on fire for preserving who we are and what we contributed. Join me to Ignite the Future."



(l-r) Arva Rice, Liz Neumark (Honoree) and Malcolm Ellis



The Honorable Alvin Bragg accepts Frederick Douglass Award

Arva Rice urged as she concluded with a powerful call to action.

Proceeds from the 59th Annual Frederick Douglass Dinner and Gala directly support new and expanded programming and community services, enabling the

New York Urban League to continue its critical work. Donations are still being accepted and you can make a contribution by visiting, <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/newyorkurbanleague>.



Host Committee Member DeNora Getachew, Jamila Pantou Bragg and LaJwanne Louis



(l-r) Dennis Walcott, Arva Rice, Harriet Michel - Current and Former New York Urban League CEOs



Event Guest, Wyclef Jean, Marc Morial, Kevin Lyles and Malcolm Ellis



Arva Rice and Suzanne Shank

# The Black Press Redefines Equity Goals, Introduces MAO to Replace DEI

By Stacy M. Brown,  
Black Press USA Sr  
National Correspondent

**D**r. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), is calling for a major shift in how Black America and its allies frame the ongoing pursuit of equality. In a new push led by the Black Press, Chavis announced that “Merit, Advancement, and Opportunity” – or M.A.O. – will replace Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as the movement’s guiding language. “The Black Press is proudly moving forward with new wording and nomenclature that more accurately describes our goals and adjectives with respect to corporate

America and governmental agencies,” Chavis said. “Merit, Advancement, and Opportunity are taking the place of DE&I as a matter of self-determination by Black America. We cannot permit people who do not have our interest to define our reality.”

Chavis said the DEI framework, once embraced as a path to equity, has been manipulated and weaponized by far-right forces to “undermine the progress of communities of color in America.” In both public statements and a recent op-ed, Chavis outlined the logic behind replacing DEI with MAO. “Words matter,” he wrote, recalling the backlash to affirmative action and critical race theory—terms that, like DEI, have

been twisted into targets by conservative politicians and media. “In America today, it is time to move forward.” Rooted in history and collective family wisdom, the term MAO emerged from an intergenerational discussion within the Chavis family in Oxford, North Carolina—home to the family for over 200 years. Recalling the evolution of the freedom movement, Chavis asserted that Black Americans have always “worked hard to attain excellence and respect,” and that merit has been an integral part of their identity.

“MAO is a transcended and elevated way of describing the current goal of our struggle for freedom, justice, and equality,” Chavis explained. “The Black

Press has always had a history and legacy of re-definition and re-articulation of the interest of Black America and of the interest of all those who cry out for freedom and justice.” The components of MAO are straightforward. Merit, Chavis said, is about recognizing and rewarding ability and achievement. Advancement ties progress to measurable contributions, and opportunity ensures that everyone has access to the resources necessary to succeed—without bias tied to race, gender, or identity.

“MAO promotes a fair, objective, and efficient system where individuals succeed based on their merits,” he wrote in the op-ed. “MAO is aspirational without limitations to take ad-



vantage of opportunities and greater societal good for all.” As some corporate executives backpedal on DEI, Chavis said none have proposed viable alternatives that both honor merit and ensure access. MAO, he argued, bridges that gap and offers a new framework for decision-makers in Congress, statehouses,

and boardrooms. “We look forward to continuing the national dialogue and refinement of the conceptual framework of Merit, Advancement, and Opportunity,” Chavis said. “It is an urgent time to move our democracy forward and to reclaim the oneness of humanity.”

“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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Tuesday P. Brooks

# URBANOLOGY: Juneteenth



By William A. Rogers

special date for celebration in African American history. So here is a brief overview.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> of 1865, Union army general Gordon Granger read orders in Galveston, Texas stating that all previously enslaved people in Texas were free. The Emancipation Proclamation was formally issued on January 1, 1863, freeing all enslaved Africans in the Confederate States of America.

Texas was the most “remote” of the slave states. Because of this, enforcement of the proclamation took over two years before general Granger, along with union troops {many who were African American also known as Buffalo Soldiers} arrived in Galveston on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1865 to enforce it,

June 19<sup>th</sup> became the true date for the end of slavery. Also known as “Juneteenth,” “Freedom Day,” “Jubilee Day,” or “Cel-Libration” Day, it became the focus of celebrations for church-center communities in Texas and then across the nation. “Juneteenth” is now recognized as a special day of observance in 47 states. Juneteenth Independence Day’. Juneteenth became a national holiday in June 2021.

Let’s hope that it will remain, there has been a push to erase Black history from American history, not that it has ever been fully embraced. That is why it is now time to support African and Caribbean businesses. This was done very successfully in many cities during the Jim Crow era

where Black businesses, politics and education were successful, when we helped each other

Many freed Africans became successful in business and politics. Schools and colleges were built which allowed more educational opportunities for African communities. The Greenwood District in Tulsa, Oklahoma was the most well-known. Greenwood is commonly known as the “Black Wall Street” due to the number of multimillionaires living there at the time.

The Greenwood community had its own hotels, banks, movie theaters and an outstanding school system. Many Greenwood homes had indoor plumbing which was something that neighboring white commu-

nities did not have.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> of 1921, an accusation was made by a white woman that an African man assaulted her. The widespread accusation resulted in the destruction of the Greenwood District of Tulsa by gangs of white men leaving all the homes and businesses burned to the ground. Tulsa might have been the best-known affluent Black community destroyed by white gangs, however, over 80 affluent African communities were destroyed between 1918 and 1921.

We have always found a way to overcome racial obstacles and will continue to overcome them, as long as we continue to support each other. Happy Juneteenth which is also my Birthday

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“It’s Free”



By Zakiyyah

## HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY

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Nettle has mild laxative properties that help improve digestion and relieve constipation. It can also soothe inflammation in the digestive tract, making it helpful for those with con-

ditions like irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) or gastritis.

Nettle is a natural remedy for seasonal allergies and hay fever due to its anti-histamine properties. It helps reduce symptoms like sneezing, runny nose, and itching by inhibiting the release of histamine in the body.

Nettle has been shown to help reduce swelling and pain in the joints, often being used in conjunction with other herbs for conditions like osteoarthritis and gout.

It is often included in detox protocols to support liver function and facilitate the removal of waste prod-

ucts from the bloodstream.

Nettle can be used as a tea of the leaves, powdered in capsules, or as a tincture or compress (with other herbs).

MAKE NATURE'S MEDICINE YOUR OWN  
*This information is to help balance your body's natural healing energies, and is not intended as diagnosis, treatment or cure. Please do your own research. Email: [theherbalist1750@gmail.com](mailto:theherbalist1750@gmail.com); phone: 347-407-4312; blog: [www.herbsarenaturemedicine.blogspot.com](http://www.herbsarenaturemedicine.blogspot.com).*

Answers to Crossword on page 25

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

# GAMES

See answers on pages 24

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
	18			19				20			
			21				22				
23	24	25				26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34	
35			36			37				38	
39					40			41			42
43				44				45			46
			47				48	49			
	50	51				52				53	54
55						56				57	58
59						60				61	
62						63				64	

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

© StatePoint Media  
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 27

# HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

**Statepoint Crossword**  
THEME:  
FOURTH OF JULY

- ACROSS**
- Croat, e.g.
  - Reverential respect mixed with wonder
  - Island near Java
  - From where to eternity?
  - \*"Land of the \_\_\_\_"
  - Rowed
  - Diabolical
  - Mideast bigwig
  - Unleashes
  - \*Star-spangled banner (2 words)
  - Type of ski lift
  - \*Day before Independence Day
  - Quilting party
  - Sherlock Holmes' confidant
  - Formal dinner
  - U.N. working-conditions agency
  - Sextet plus one
  - Cancel

- Holey confection
- Electric swimmer
- Frame job
- Comparison word
- Type of deodorant
- Skater's field
- \*Like "America the Beautiful" skies
- Covered with a ceiling
- Tennis do-over
- Surfer's stops
- Not guilty, e.g.
- \*Yankee Doodle's feather
- \*"To Freedom!", e.g.
- Tel \_\_\_\_, Israel
- Bébé's mother
- Pseudonym
- \*Cup at a picnic
- Do like exhaust pipe
- Late George Wendt on "Cheers"
- Give it a go
- \*Betsy of #18 Across-related fame

- DOWN**
- "He said, \_\_\_\_ said"
  - Russian left
  - Pomegranate seed
  - South African grasslands
  - Knight's protection
  - Odd and unusual
  - Like ghostly howls
  - \*July 4th culinary tradition
  - \_\_\_\_ 51 in Nevada
  - Lecherous look
  - Dog tags
  - Felidae family member
  - As a rule
  - Casper, e.g.
  - Cricket club
  - Measurement
  - Hello, to Mr. Hand
  - Opposite of atonal
  - \*Philadelphia's Liberty \_\_\_\_
  - "\_\_\_\_ death do u part"
  - Draw out a conclusion
  - Drank too much
  - Lowly laborer
  - What lintel and mantel have in common
  - \*Personification of the U.S. (2 words)
  - Show contempt
  - Decompose
  - In eighth, book format
  - "The Second Coming" poet
  - Chemical cousin
  - Relish
  - In an unfriendly manner
  - Horseback sport
  - Bear's hang-out
  - Sail holder
  - "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" captain
  - Part of an eye
  - Sun kiss
  - "The Extra-Terrestrial"-inspired toys

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- Requesting it by email at: [lexingtontemp@shpmanagment.com](mailto:lexingtontemp@shpmanagment.com)

If you or anyone assisting you cannot use this method to obtain an application, please contact the Mgmt. office at f the numbers listed above and ask that an application be mailed to you. **Your place on the waiting list will be decided by lottery so there is no need to come in person, come early, or wait in a long line.**

**Returning completed applications and lottery selection:** Applications may be returned by mailing or emailing it to [lexingtontemp@shpmanagement.com](mailto:lexingtontemp@shpmanagement.com). Applications received between June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from the program eligible applicants will be placed onto the waitlist by a lottery held on June 19,2025, at 7 Thomas Drive, Cumberland Foreside, ME 04110.

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# "That's How They Get You" edited by Damon Young

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

Bust a gut. Laugh your rear-end off. Laugh yourself silly, until you almost cried, it's the best medicine. Had you rolling in the aisles, holding your sides coz they hurt. When something's funny, you know it but what does humor look like across racial lines? In the new book, **"That's How They Get You,"** edited by Damon Young, it might get the last laugh.

When he was a kid in Pittsburgh, Damon Young thought his friend, Var Butler "was the funniest person I'd ever met." Var didn't go for nasty humor and he didn't hurt people who couldn't defend themselves. Instead, says Young,

Var "intuitively knew the power dynamics baked into humor..." And, as he understands now, Var's humor was honest, homegrown, and not "A rich-white-person thing."

Says Young, "What makes Black humor *Black* ain't the subject matter, because not all humor involving Black people is Black. Sometimes, it's just humor."

You don't have to be Eddie or Martin or Cedric to be funny. You could be like the many authors of the stories in this book.

In **"No One Makes 'Yo Mama' Jokes After the Funeral"** by Hanif Abdurraqib, bad timing can be awkward – but it can also be wholly, perfectly Mama "sung back to life..."

If you've ever wanted to change what folks call you, **"The Karen Rights Act"** by Mateo Askaripour is your story. That woman's name says it all. Too much, in fact, but only for offending white females.

Nobody but Miss Ruby cooks in Miss Ruby's kitchen – until Alex Hardy convinces his grandma that he's capable with a spoon. In **"Unmurdered in Grandma's Kitchen,"** his meals for the family hasn't killed anyone yet.

And if you've ever been irritated by a co-worker, then you need to read **"The Necessary Changes Have Been Made"** by Nafissa Thompson-Spires. When Randolph gets a new job, it seems perfect, until he's told that his perfect office must now be shared. But his new co-worker definitely doesn't share his opinions...

Chances are that if you see "That's How They Get You" on a shelf somewhere, you might grab it, expecting to spend the rest of your day laughing.

And you'd be wrong. While the personal essays and fiction inside this book are good – *very good*, in fact; some of them are downright excellent and you'll want to turn around and read them again on the spot – many of them are not funny.

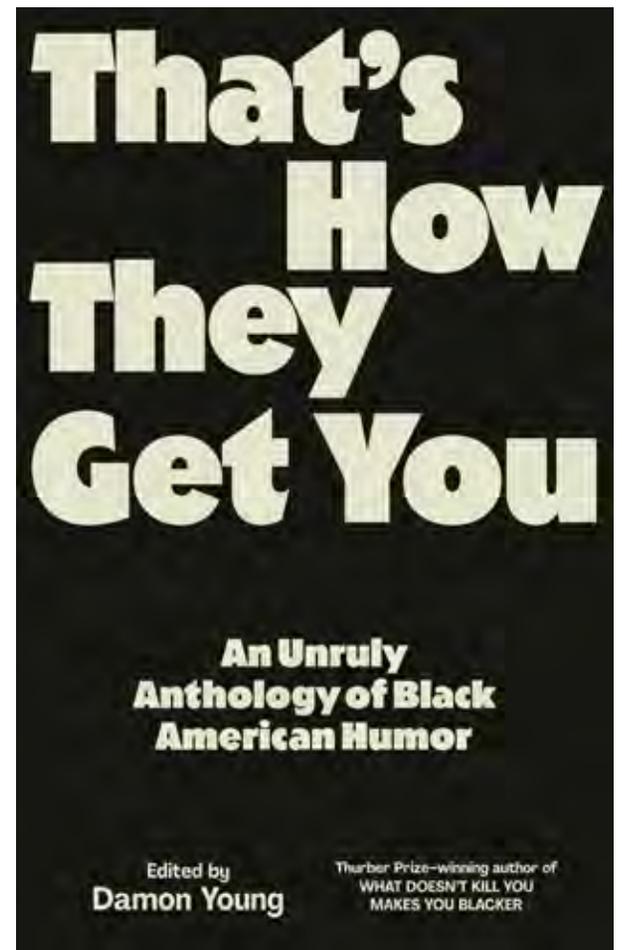
One essayist even says it: "It's funny, really. *Not ha-ha funny.*"

The stories might be about humor or situations that will make you snort. There's a theme here and it's clever, sometimes sweet, written in perfectly cynical tones. But will you take off your glasses, wipe

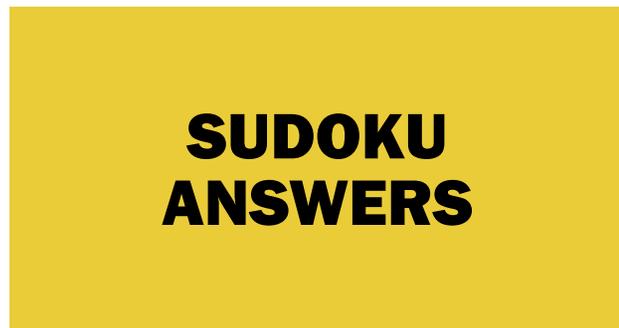
your eyes, and call someone to share? Not so much.

Absolutely, read this book. It's an excellent collection, you'll enjoy what you find inside "That's How They Get You," and you'll find a whole new group of writers to follow. Just be aware that if you're looking for ROFL kinds of laughs, it could be a bust.

**"That's How They Get You: An Unruly Anthology of Black American Humor,"** edited by Damon Young c.2025, Pantheon \$28.00 256 pages



## Answers to Sudoku on page 21



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

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