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

COMMUNITY HARLEM NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

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FREE



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Warner, Beloved Star
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Dies at 54**

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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

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PAT STEVENSON

Harlem’s pulse beats with reflection and resolve this week as the National Urban League’s 2025 State of Black America report declares a “State of Emergency” for Black America. The report, unveiled in Cleveland, warns of sweeping rollbacks to civil rights, voting protections, and diversity initiatives under the current administration. Urban League President Marc Morial calls for “vigilance, mobilization, and solidarity,” urging communities to defend democracy and equity. (see pg 3)

In somber news, Harlem mourns the loss of Malcolm-Jamal Warner, beloved for his role as Theo Huxtable on The Cosby Show. Warner tragically drowned off the coast of Costa Rica at age 54. His legacy spans decades of television, music, and activism, remembered for his humility and cultural impact. (see pg 12)

On Broadway, Harlem’s own LaTanya Richardson Jackson took her final bow in Purpose, Tony-winning play. Directed by Phylicia Rashad, the production explores Black legacy and radicalism. Judge Glenda Hatchett and other luminaries gathered to honor Richardson’s powerful performance as matriarch Claudine Jasper, a role now passed to Brenda Pressley.(see pg 11)

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Pat Stevenson
Celebrating
31 years Publishing

National Urban League Declares “State of Emergency” for Black America in 2025 Report

By Stacy M. Brown,
Black Press USA

In its most urgent warning to date, the National Urban League has declared a “state of emergency” for democracy and civil rights in the United States. The organization’s 49th annual State of Black America report, unveiled at its conference in Cleveland, Ohio, outlines what it describes as a deliberate, coordinated campaign to reverse decades of progress for Black Americans. “A democracy willing to destroy itself rather than deliver justice is a democracy in crisis,” the report states. “The work is difficult. The road is long,” National Urban League President Marc H. Morial added. “But we know from experience that the arc of history does not bend toward justice on its own—it must be bent by those with the strength and will to see it through.”

This year’s report, titled “State of Emergency: Democracy, Civil Rights, and Progress Under Attack,” sounds the alarm over efforts to dismantle civil rights protections, suppress voting access, and strip away diversity initiatives. “The notion that we are living through a ‘state of emergency’ is not rhetorical flourish. It is an honest reckoning with a government increasingly determined to sacrifice its founding principles—equality, liberty, and justice—rather than accept the truth of a diversifying nation and deliver equitable opportunity to all,” Morial wrote in his foreword. Among the most pressing threats detailed in the report is the systemat-

ic rollback of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

“Almost daily, since January 20, 2025, the federal government, at the direction of the White House, has set fire to policies and entire departments dedicated to protecting civil and human rights, providing access to an equal education, fair housing, safe and effective healthcare, and ensuring that our democratic process is adhered to across the nation,” the report authors wrote. It also describes the radical transformation of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division. “Under its new leadership, the Civil Rights Division has been hollowed out and repurposed, transforming from a guardian of justice into a tool for political retribution,” the report said. Within weeks of the new administration taking power, “cases against election deniers who’ve tampered with the election equipment were dismissed and January 6th rioters were pardoned.”

The report also warns of a rise in digital extremism. “During the 2024 election cycle, accounts supporting progressive candidates also saw their accounts blocked and shadow-banned without explanation,” the report documented. It calls this “a digital rollback of rights mirroring what’s happening in courts and legislatures.” Describing the coordinated backlash against diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts, the report stated: “Following the murder of George Floyd, far-right extremists seized an opportunity to stop the calls for racial equity by reframing the policies as

‘woke’ and anti-American.” The American Alliance for Equal Rights, led by Edward Blum, “continued its assault on organizations with ‘unfair,’ ‘race-based’ diversity and equity programs.” In one high-profile case, the group sued the Fearless Fund, “forcing it to suspend its \$20,000 grant program for women of color entrepreneurs, claiming ‘anti-white’ bias.”

The National Urban League’s response, detailed in the report, includes a broad campaign of legal challenges, advocacy, and community organizing. It has launched the Equitable Justice and Strategic Initiatives division, established the 21 Pillars for Public Safety framework, and coordinated the Fair Budget Coalition to push for a “just and inclusive FY2026 federal budget.” The League also filed suit, alongside Lambda Legal and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, challenging executive orders that target diversity and equity. “This is not business as usual,” Morial said. “This is an emergency. The National Urban League urges vigilance, mobilization, solidarity, and support. This year’s State of Black America is a call to action to stand together as we defend our rights and the principles of American democracy in our courts, our communities, and our coalitions.”

Contributors to the report include civil rights leaders, attorneys, and elected officials such as Damon Hewitt, Kristen Clarke, Janai Nelson, LaTosha Brown, U.S. Representatives Steven Horsford and Hakeem Jeffries, and



others committed to defending democracy. “We are witnessing something more than policy shifts. We are watching an attempt to turn back the clock to an era when the full humanity of

all Americans was not recognized—when the idea of true equality was treated as a threat to the social order,” the report authors concluded. “What we face today is a deliberate, coordinated

effort to deny the future of a more just and inclusive America.”

The full report, essays, and resources are available at www.stateofblackamerica.org.

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PONDER THIS! Touching is Illegal in New York State



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

As of June 5th, there is a new “No Touch” law in [New York State](#). If you break this law, you could face some big fines. I know what you’re thinking, did that and done that process of no touching when COVID came to town and social distancing was mandated.

The “No Touching” is about technology and screens while driving, not avoiding contact with other human beings. The new law, also known as the hands-free law, makes it illegal to touch your phone or any other smart device when driving your vehicle.

That means even if you are stopped in traffic or at a red light, you could get fined if you pick up your phone to look at directions or send a text. The best and safest action would be to pull over, then pursue whatever is the most important messages or calls to take care of on your devices.

New York State, along with 30 other states in America, passed the new law back on June 5th, 2025.

In December 2001,

Albany banned handheld calls while driving. Eight years later lawmakers added texting, emailing, and scrolling. Today the first ticket runs \$50 to \$200, plus a \$93 surcharge and five DMV points. A third strike within eighteen months can draw a fine as high as \$450 and raise insurance coverage.

That attempt to keep drivers from using devices while driving has not solved the ongoing dilemma of the distraction crisis. NHTSA counted 3,275 deaths and nearly 325,000 injuries nationwide last year that involved a distracted driver. It has been reported that New York wrote more than 90,000 tickets for electronic device violations in 2024.

I had a recent confron-

tation with the driver of the Access A Ride vehicle, in which I was travelling. He was consistently having conversations holding his cell phone. Hard as I tried, my stress about his possible distraction of talking while driving made it necessary for me to confront him about it.

His excuse was that he needed to get information, and his mounted phone holder was broken. I told him the condition of his mounted holder was not my concern, but rather the possibility of his distraction while driving. He decided to do the right thing – pull into a parking spot and handle his business.

There are drivers who know the law and may still take the chance of making a

call or texting while driving, holding the device. Do not feel that you must go along with whatever the driver of any car service wants to do behind the wheel. If they are holding the cell phone or device in their hand while driving, the law is on your side.

Your destination is important; however, a dangerous, haphazard journey is not what you are paying for. Speak up before it is too late.

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

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The Most Pro-Housing Administration in City History



By Mayor Eric Adams

Ask any young person, senior citizen, or working-class New Yorker about the biggest issues facing our city and you'll hear the same response: affordable housing. When our administration came into office, we were clear that our city could not afford to keep kicking the can down the road on housing; it was not enough to tinker around the edges of our housing crisis, and we could not pass the buck off to a future administration. We had to undertake ambitious initiatives to build hundreds of thousands of new homes as soon as possible — and that is exactly what we have done for three years.

From the Bronx to Staten

Island, across every borough and neighborhood in New York City, our administration has created record amounts of affordable housing year after year. We passed the first citywide zoning reform in 60 years to build a little more housing in every neighborhood and advanced five ambitious neighborhood plans to scrap outdated zoning in neighborhoods like Jamaica and Bronx Metro North. Rezoning is the lever that moves the boulders of bureaucracy out of the way, especially when it comes to building new housing. That is why our rezoning strategy has been such a success, helping clear the way to create an incredible 130,000 new homes across the five boroughs — more than all the rezonings under the Bloomberg and de Blasio administrations combined.

Because of these historic efforts, we are proud to call ourselves the most pro-housing administration in city history.

But our administration is not going to rest on these accomplishments. We are con-

tinuing to commit ourselves to the fight for more housing on every block, in every neighborhood, and across every borough.

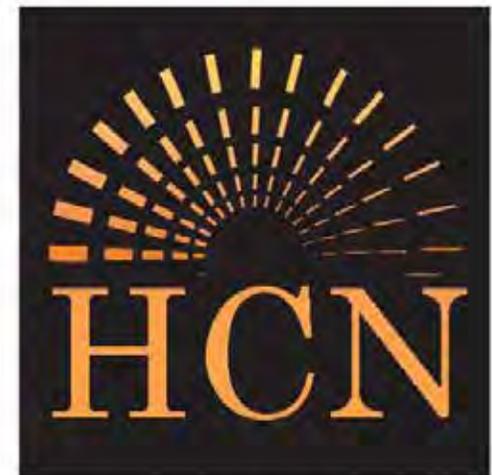
This past week alone, we brought hundreds of new homes across the city closer to reality. In Brownsville, we advanced our ambitious Brownsville Arts Center & Apartments project to create 283 new homes and a 28,000 square-foot state of the art cultural center. On the Lower East Side, we helped finance 190 affordable rental apartments for seniors with extra social services, outdoor spaces, and specialized amenities to support our older New Yorkers and help them remain in the city they have contributed so much to. And in Clinton Hill, we announced the redevelopment of 103 supportive and affordable homes that will help parents living with serious mental illness or substance use disorder reunite with their children and build their futures together.

But we didn't stop there either. In East New York, we broke ground on the first phase of the "Innovative Ur-

ban Village," which will create over 2,000 new homes, build a fresh food grocery store, and deliver social services, child care, and more. All of these projects are not just about creating new housing; they are about creating a holistic community that cares for and uplifts our fellow New Yorkers.

Previous administrations have talked about tackling our housing crisis, but our administration has gotten it done. These four projects are just the latest examples of the work we are doing every day to reach our moonshot goal of 500,000 new homes for New Yorkers by 2032.

When it comes to building new housing, New Yorkers deserve nothing less than an administration that thinks outside the box and pursues every avenue and opportunity to build, redevelop, and convert city spaces into homes. That is the more affordable city we are delivering, each and every day, as we continue to make New York City the best place to live and raise a family.



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Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

Sometimes the first step in a journey can be the most difficult to complete. It is the same way with the home buying process. Just getting started can be painful and frightening. Most people do not know where to begin. How to get started? What steps are involved? How long will it take?

How much money will I need and so forth? Yes, the home buying process can be a daunting, complex, and confusing task.

But this process does not have to be so difficult because help is available through Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. HCCI's Home Buyer Education Workshop. This workshop will assist you in understanding the steps involved in the home buying process. You will learn how to prepare for homeownership by creating a monthly household budget for manag-

ing your money, improving your credit, and establishing a team of home buying professions to help you.

Once you start attending this workshop and gaining a better understanding of the entire home buying process, you will realize that is not as difficult as you initially imagined. The housing counseling staff at HCCI will assist you every step of the way to remove as much of the doubt and eliminate the stress associated with homeownership. Each step that you successfully complete in this process will help you gain more confidence in realizing that you can make it all the way to achieving your dream of homeownership.

One of the most satisfying conversations I had this year was with a single mother recently completing the home buying workshop. She told me with a great deal of excitement on her face that now she honestly believed owning a home was a possibility. She did not feel that way when starting the process, but now after completing the workshop she can see the finish line in sight!

I thought what a marvelous testimony. Her fears were gone. The doubt was

gone and all that remained was finding affordable property. That in and of itself will be a challenge but at least now she knows becoming a homeowner is possible. This young woman now feels empowered through attending the home buyer workshop. She has the determination to complete what started as a dream several months ago. She has complete assurance in knowing homeownership is possible if you trust God to remove barriers and open the door.

Remember what Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you." There is power in prayer. God will provide everything needed to complete the task of homeownership. Go forth with the believe that you can achieve your goal. It will not be easy, but it can be done.

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 cbutler@hcci.org.

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HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 24, 5 PM–7 PM

Summer Stage in Harlem – Gospel Night

Free gospel concert in the Summer Stage. Event to be held at ACP State Office Building Plaza, 163 W 125th St.

July 25, 6 PM–7:30 PM

Jazz Series in Historic Harlem Parks

Free jazz concert series continuing through August. Event being held at St. Nicholas Park, James Baldwin Lawn.

July 25, 7 PM–8 PM

Sugar Hill Salon Park Concert

Free summer concert in the historic park setting.

July 27, 2 PM–4 PM

Harlem Meer Performance Festival – M.A.R. Quintet

Jazz quintet performance in the park’s summer concert series being held at Charles A. Dana Discovery Center, Harlem Meer

July 31, 5 PM–7 PM

Summer Stage in Harlem – R&B Night

Free R&B night as part of the weekly summer concert series. Being held at ACP State Office Building Plaza, 163 W 125th St

August 1, 6 PM–7:30 PM

Jazz Series in Historic Harlem Parks

Free concluding summer jazz concert at Jackie Robinson Park Bandshell.

Phil Young Experience at Langston Hughes House, 20 W. 127th St
Every Thursday - \$20 Suggested Donation

UniverSoul Circus Returns September 5th-28th at Roy Wilkins in Jamaica

Flying acrobats, gravity-defying stunts, fire breathers, stilt dancers and the coolest clowns around! UniverSoul Circus returns to New York City with its new Rhythm of the World production from Friday, Sept. 5, through Sunday, Sept. 28, under the big top tent at Roy Wilkins Park (Baisley Blvd. and Merrick Blvd. in Jamaica, Queens 11434). The waitlist is now open at UniverSoulCircus.com, offering early access to the best seats before they go on sale to the public on Friday, July 25, at 10 a.m.

Celebrating 31 years as one of America’s top family events, UniverSoul Circus brings together the best international performers in a high-energy, interactive spectacle featuring world-class talent, vibrant

costumes and music from across the globe. Audiences will experience a cultural celebration filled with rhythm, soul and extraordinary performances.

A family favorite with global appeal.

Rated as one of Ticketmaster’s “Top 10 Most Requested Family Events,” UniverSoul Circus has entertained over 25 million people with its unique blend of circus arts, theater and live music. The show spans genres including R&B, Latin, hip hop, jazz, gospel, pop and the infectious beats of world music. The diverse cast of performers, representing five continents, promises to dazzle and entertain with their acrobatic feats, comedic antics and cultural displays.

More than a performance, UniverSoul is a shared experience – an exhilarating, all-ages celebration where audiences from every background come together and feel like one big global family.

“Our Rhythm of the World production celebrates not only the world’s top circus performers, but also the unity of people from all walks of life. It’s a powerful reminder of the universal values of love, respect and togetherness,” said Cedric Walker, founder and CEO of UniverSoul Circus.

A beloved, budget-friendly, interactive experience.

Described as “not your grandfather’s circus,” UniverSoul is known for its engaging and interactive



experience, where audience members of all ages become part of the show. Whether it’s participating in a game of Simon Says, showing off dance moves during the Swag Surf or joining the Soul Karaoke spotlight, the crowd is always in the spotlight. Kids are invited to join Fresh the Clowns in the Big Top Kids Dance contest, while everyone enjoys the high-energy music and playful atmosphere.



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The Bowery Mission hosted its 9th “Inspiring Hope” Spring Benefit Lunch

by Audrey J. Bernard, Society Editor

The Bowery Mission has been doing God’s work for over 150 years. The beloved organization was established on New York City’s Lower East Side in the 1870s providing a safe haven of welcome, care, and healing to the underserved. The famous red doors are always open for a hot meal, a warm bed, and a genuine conversation while welcoming a sense of home and family for those with nowhere to turn through the power of Jesus Christ. Each year the mission hosts the Inspiring Hope Spring Benefit Lunch to honor women from their residential programs whose transitional home has taken them from homelessness to independence. This year the mission celebrated the 9th Inspiring Hope Benefit Lunch on Wednesday afternoon, May 21, 2025, at the legendary Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center hosted by Jeannie Gaffigan, Producer, writer, philanthropist, mother of five and New York Times best-selling author who was intro-

duced by her husband, actor Jim Gaffigan.

The luncheon kicked off with a vibrant networking reception followed by warm welcoming greetings from The Bowery Mission’s President and Chief Executive Officer, James Winans, who gave a brief talk about the important work of the organization’s programs, in particular, the Women’s Residential Programs and the successful impact it has had. During a delightful seated lunch with impeccable service, guests enjoyed a video presentation featuring the work of the mission followed by an intimate conversation facilitated by Gaffigan, highlighting how they support women on a journey to a renewed sense of purpose from poverty to stability. Guests heard from special guest speakers from The Bowery Mission: Jacqueline Soriano, Clinical Manager, Choose Help Programs; Summer Ellis, Certified Public Accountant, Retired, Board of Directors; and Funmi Adebayo, Clinical Supervisor, Wom-

en’s Residential Programs, whose powerful affirmation addressed the importance of being in the room. “...support from our broader community is so essential. The women see our faces every day, but when volunteers and supporters come in — who don’t have to be here but are choosing to show up — it sends a powerful message: You matter.”

Although the conversations were thought-provoking, engaging and incredibly inspiring, the final speaker, Edna Zuniga, 2016 Graduate, The Bowery Mission Residential Programs for Women, delivered a phenomenally poignant Story of Hope. There was not a dry eye in the house as she explained her transformation, which reflected on the care and healing she experienced while at The Bowery Mission. She is now enjoying new life and independence by God’s grace. “At my lowest point, I was alone in a city that didn’t see me. But at The Bowery Mission, I wasn’t invisible anymore,” she



Rainbow Room

stated. “Through morning prayer circles, group sessions, and shared meals, I began to understand the power of the community.”

After a thunderous ovation and fundraising moment, Winans returned to the stage and thanked Gaffigan for her support. “We are grateful for such a partner and friend who cares so deeply for The Bowery Mission community,” expressed Winans. “We also celebrate Edna, who courageously shared her story and reflected on the

care and healing she experienced while at The Bowery Mission — and how she is enjoying new life and independence now by God’s grace.” He then thanked the guests. “With the help of our Residential Programs for Women, the help of friends like you, we raised more than \$210,000 of critical funds for our programs for women. Donations will benefit women like Edna providing a caring and safe environment where they can experience God’s love and heal from past tra-

uma, overcome barriers to independence and achieve personal goals for life and work.” Many thanks to those who made this event possible! Philanthropic committee: Nannette Adams Hendel, Jeannie Gaffigan, Wilma H Jordan, Anna Lee-Winans, Pamela Leggett and Anonymous. Sponsors: KeyBank, J.F. Lehman & Company, MCU Foundation, and TP ICAP.

Photos by:
FRAME Studios2025)



President & CEO, James Winans, welcoming guests to the event



(l-r): Edna Zuniga, Story of Hope (2016 Graduate, The Bowery Mission Residential Programs for Women), Jacqueline Soriano, Panelist (Clinical Manager, The Bowery Mission), Jeannie Gaffigan, Event Host (Producer, Writer, Philanthropist), Funmi Adebayo, Panelist (Clinical Supervisor, The Bowery Mission) and Summer Ellis, Panelist (Certified Public Accountant, Retired, Board of Directors, The Bowery Mission)



Jeannie Gaffigan (middle black floral dress) along with husband Jim Gaffigan and friends

Judge Glenda Hatchett and others celebrate Latanya Richardson's final performance in "Purpose"

Beloved television personality, author, activist, women's health advocate and practicing attorney **Judge Glenda Hatchett** was in New York recently for a mini reunion with lifelong friend **Latanya Richardson**, star of *Purpose* on Broadway. The get-together marked Richardson's final performance in the critically acclaimed play, directed by **Phylicia Rashad**. Also in attendance were **Samuel L. Jackson**, **Smokey Robinson**, Los Angeles Mayor **Karen Bass**, and members of the cast. Currently gearing up for the new season of her eponymous court reality show, *The Verdict with Judge Hatchett* – produced by **Byron Allen's** Allen Media Group Byron – Judge Hatchett is also planning the fall leg of her popular and timely *Faith & Justice Tour*, a series of free, church-based legal clinics.



Latanya Richardson signs cap for lifelong friend Judge Glenda Hatchett



Judge Glenda Hatchett, Latanya Richardson, and Samuel L. Jackson



Judge Glenda Hatchett and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass



Judge Glenda Hatchett, Latanya Richardson, and the Purpose cast at New York's Helen Hayes Theater.

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“Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Beloved Star of The Cosby Show,” Dies at 54

By Stacy M. Brown, Black Press USA

Malcolm-Jamal Warner, the actor best known for his role as Theo Huxtable on the groundbreaking NBC sitcom The Cosby Show, has died at the age of 54. Warner reportedly drowned while on a family vacation in Costa Rica, according to a family source cited by People magazine. His death was confirmed on Sunday, July 21. Warner’s sudden passing has stunned fans and colleagues alike. He is survived by his wife and daughter, whose identities have been kept private throughout his career. Authorities in Costa Rica have not released additional details, but Warner’s death is being described as a tragic accident.

Warner became a household name in the 1980s as the wisecracking middle child of Cliff and Clair Huxtable on The Cosby Show, one of the most successful and influential sitcoms in television history. His portrayal of Theo earned him an Emmy nomination and endeared him to millions of viewers during the show’s eight-season run from 1984 to 1992. After The Cosby Show, Warner continued to build a diverse and acclaimed career. He starred in the UPN sitcom Malcolm & Eddie from 1996 to 2000, and held recurring roles in numerous TV dramas and comedies, includ-

ing Major Crimes, Suits, Community, The Resident, Reed Between the Lines, Jeremiah, and 9-1-1. He also voiced “The Producer” on the popular animated series The Magic School Bus and served as an executive producer on the show.

Warner’s talents extended well beyond acting. In 2015, he won a Grammy Award for Best Traditional R&B Performance for his work on the song “Jesus Children” with Robert Glasper Experiment and Lalah Hathaway. He was also a published poet, musician, and director, and in recent years had become an outspoken advocate for mental health, par-

ticularly in the Black community. Just days before his death, Warner released what would be his final episode of his podcast Not All Hood, a series focused on unpacking generational trauma, wellness, and healing within marginalized communities.

Fans and celebrities flooded social media on Sunday, expressing shock and heartbreak. One longtime fan, 43-year-old Jalen Cooper of Washington, D.C., said, “He was more than Theo to us—he represented a generation of young Black men who finally saw themselves reflected on TV. His voice will be missed.” Warner’s endur-



ing presence in American pop culture spanned four decades, and he remained active in film, television, music, and podcasting until his final days. As tributes continue to pour in from across the entertainment industry and beyond, many are remembering Warner as a trailblazer who helped

redefine Black manhood on screen. Actor and director Keegan-Michael Key posted simply, “Rest easy, King. You gave us more than you know.”

Warner’s family has asked for privacy during this time of grief. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made public.



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Black Americans Still Face Deep Retirement Gaps Despite Higher Incomes

By Stacy M. Brown, Black Press USA

A report from the Employee Benefit Research Institute shows that Black Americans continue to face serious challenges in saving for retirement, even as their incomes grow.

The 2025 Retirement Confidence Survey, which included a special oversample of Black workers and retirees, found that the wealth gap remains wide at every income level. Among households earning \$75,000 or more, only 33% of Black Americans reported having \$250,000 or more in savings and investments, compared with 63% of non-Black Americans. Debt re-

mains a significant barrier. 63% of higher-income Black households said debt is a problem, while just 45% of non-Black households at the same income level said the same. Nearly half of upper-income Black respondents said debt affects their ability to save or live comfortably in retirement.

While many Black Americans expressed confidence managing day-to-day budgets, fewer felt prepared to invest or plan for the long term. The study showed that Black Americans with higher incomes were less likely to have personally saved for retirement, 77%, com-

pared with 87% of non-Black Americans. Retirement experiences also differed sharply. Forty-four percent of Black retirees said they retired earlier than planned because of a health problem or disability, compared with 32% of non-Black retirees. After leaving their main jobs, Black retirees were more likely to work for pay to make ends meet, and more often said their retirement lifestyle was worse than expected. Access to financial advice and planning remains uneven. Just 31% of Black respondents reported currently working with a financial advisor, although

nearly half expect to do so in the future. Black Americans were more likely to seek help with reducing debt, creating wills or estate plans, and arranging life insurance than simply determining if they had saved enough to retire.

Researchers Craig Copeland and Lisa Greenwald wrote, “Black Americans reported disproportionately lower financial resources, and how they feel about retirement and financial security is clearly impacted by having less resources.” They continued, “In particular, Black retirees are struggling with higher likelihoods of their retirement lifestyle being



worse than expected and having to retire earlier than planned because of a health problem or disability.” “Still,” the researchers concluded, “there are some modifications in the financial system that could help improve their prospects, such as increased assistance in balancing competing financial priorities like debt reduction, supporting family, and building long-term savings.”

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Women Helping Women: The Role of Women Financial Planners

(Statepoint)
Women today control more money than ever before and are expected to inherit \$30 trillion in wealth over the next decade. As women reshape the financial picture in the United States, demand will grow for financial planners who can better meet their needs. One way to fulfill that demand? Bring more women into the financial services profession.

Here are several reasons why now is the right time for women to get their CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® certification.

Women are hitting roadblocks: Women are taking the financial reins in most households, with more than 2 in 3 women serving as their household's primary decision-maker for investments. Yet many are hitting roadblocks when it comes to their confidence in topics such as managing investments and creating diversified portfolios. Women financial planners are uniquely qualified to help other women build knowledge in these areas and achieve their financial goals.

Women clientele value people over machines: Despite the rise of automated financial

planning tools, 56% of women say a financial planner who provides a broad, comprehensive perspective and expertise is the resource they trust the most to help them meet their financial goals. More specifically, women clients seek empathetic financial planners who communicate complex concepts clearly and craft tailored solutions. Firms that want to stay competitive in today's climate are focusing on attracting and retaining women planners, who research shows tend to excel in these very areas.

Support is here: Only 24% of CFP® professionals today

are women, but CFP Board's multi-faceted initiative, Accelerate & WIN, aims to boost these numbers while fast-tracking women's influence in the profession. In addition to conducting ongoing research to uncover the barriers to gender diversity in the field, CFP Board administers scholarships to qualified candidates to widen access to CFP® certification and empowers women and girls to enter the field through career fairs and other events.

The right credentials help: CFP® certification helps women advance their careers, boost earning potential



and open new opportunities. According to a report from the Aite Group, women CFP® professionals report higher career satisfaction than other women advisors and are more likely to own their own firms. Learn more about the CFP® certifi-

cation journey at CFP.net.

As more women gain economic power, women financial planners are uniquely positioned to help them grow and protect their wealth.

“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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By William A. Rogers

overall self-health strategies than others.

I believe the best water to drink to maximize your health is ionized alkaline water. On a pH scale from 3.0 to 10, ionized alkaline water is between 9.0 and 10. Most commercial bottled water is in the 5.0pH range; New York tap water is around 7.0 the higher the pH value in your drinking water the better it is for your health.

New York City has some of the best tap water in the country but the many chemicals used to make it safe has taken away much of its natural health value. Many of the chemicals used in our water system have been found to be harmful and toxic; chlorine is one of those controversial chemicals. There is a strong movement currently trying to get New York to reduce or

eliminate the use of chlorine in the treatment of the cities tap water due to research showing harmful health reactions to chlorine treated water.

Ionized water machines will filter out chemicals and toxins in regular tap water transforming normal tap water into healthy ionized alkaline water with a point 9.0 or better pH value. The best machines will produce the highest pH value of 10 in the ionized alkaline water that they transform from tap water. The reason why the high pH value is so important in preserving health is its ability to reduce the acidity in the body. Excess acids in the body will attack and destroy healthy body tissue, the body protects itself from this by creating fat cells.

Alkaline water can neutralize the acidity of the body and the high pH value in alkaline water will reduce the bodies need to produce fat and cholesterol to protect itself from harmful acids. Most people who drink and cook with ionized alkaline water will experience weight loss another benefit. When detoxing the use of alkaline water can address the toxic effects of mercury and other harmful metals found in the body due to the air that we breathe and our diet.

As we grow older stress caused by the aging process can increase the acidity in our body one of the ways our immune system defends itself is to take calcium from our bones to develop an alkaline buffer to naturalize the acidity. Once the calcium in our bones becomes depleted os-

teoporosis will develop.

Osteoporosis is a silent disease because bone damage can occur without outward signs or symptoms until something brakes. There is a great deal of research that shows drinking alkaline water can reduce bone loss and become a useful tool in addressing osteoporosis.

My family has used water ionizers for years. We currently use the Ionic Oasis Water Ionizer (www.waterworks4u.com 561 790-2004) at our Ki wellness center. A good water ionizer is an investment in your health and in time you will find it more cost effective to make your own drinking water. for additional information on this dialog send me an email at onuwon@gmail.com

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Summer will be here soon, and we will drink a lot of water, so I thought to update this article about Alkaline Water. We all know that water is very important for our health; the lack of water can be deadly. There are many types of drinking water options available but it is important to understand some drinking water can be more helpful to your



By Zakiyyah

HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY

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Yarrow EO can be used to stem blood oozing from a wound, as it can be poured neat into the wound to stop the blood flow. You can dilute yarrow essential oil with water and then use it to wash the wound. It should also be applied after the blood flow has stopped. Yarrow EO is an astringent and **cicatrissant: it shrinks**

the skin and promotes wound healing. This helps with cuts, scrapes, and wounds, **but not with major injuries with significant bleeding.**

As a great remedy for varicose veins, add 5 drops yarrow EO into a carrier oil like olive oil. Massage onto the varicose veins to reduce the engorgement and strengthen the surrounding skin.

CAUTION: Most essential oils should never be applied directly to the skin without adding to some other medium, e.g. carrier oil, lotion, water, etc., unless stated otherwise.

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Answers to Crossword on page 17

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

GAMES

See answers on pages 16

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

See answers on pages 19

HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Statepoint Crossword THEME: IN THE KITCHEN

ACROSS

- Basilica feature
- Cameron, to friends
- ___ and flow
- One of the Bridges
- Have the blues
- Op-ed piece
- Blondie's hit "___ Me"
- Certain something
- *Granny Smith
- *Broth-making container
- Big name in mapmaking
- Inexperienced
- *Group of dishes or pots
- Deprived of ovaries
- Medusae
- Got an Oscar, e.g.
- Kind of license
- Crescent
- Description for twins
- "___ the season!"

- Orthodox Judaism adherent
- Class roster item
- Between lights and action
- Source of pork
- *Shredding devices
- Bear-like
- Florida key
- French farewell
- Physicist Niels ___
- *Kitchen hand protector (2 words)
- Holey confection
- Track event
- ___ of the trade, sing.
- 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
- Charlie Parker's nickname
- Shrek or Fiona, e.g.
- Word of compliance
- Actor Stallone
- *Spice ___ or pot ___

DOWN

- Beginning of the alphabet
- *Often go with carrots
- *NaCl
- Speech at a funeral
- *Flute alternative
- *Cook's garb
- *Veal or veniso, e.g.
- Sport spectator's TV acronym
- Like white-headed eagle
- "Farewell" to Birdie
- Manage (2 words)
- Like cornstalks
- *Flat-edged utensil
- *Flapjac alternative
- Blink of an ey, abbr.
- Swing, ___, swung
- Like Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station location
- Carl Jung's inner self
- *___ en place
- *Seaweed-wrapped dish
- Opposite of cation
- Swamp plant
- Estimated arrival times, acr.
- Timothy, to friends
- *Popular condiment
- Sheik's bevy
- Alan Paton's novel "___, The Beloved Country"
- Broken, e.g.
- Third planet from the sun
- Bachelor on "The e Bachelorette," e.g.
- Be of use
- Condemn
- Bantu language
- Change for a five
- Globes and eyeballs, e.g.
- "Animal House" garb
- Rigid necklace
- Calendar square
- Albanian money

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"Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance" by A'Lelia Bundles

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

Mama said. Mama said to be nice to others. Stand up for yourself, she said. You can do whatever you put your mind to. Stay out of trouble. Take care of yourself and those you love. Mama said a lot of things that shaped your life, and in the new book "Joy Goddess" by A'Lelia Bundles, Mama left a huge legacy.

She remembered a time before, and a time after.

In the before, Lelia Walker and her mother had little-to-nothing. Lelia's father had died when she was very young, and it was up to her mother, Sarah, to put food on the table and a roof over their heads with her hard work.

There was simply no room for extras.

In the after – after Sarah had become Madame C.J. Walker, head of a beauty empire that catered to Black women – there was money, mansions, and a certain kind of fame. There was still hard work, too, but Lelia embraced it because she was proud of her mother's acumen – maybe more so, in fact, after Madame made young Lelia a "full partner" with the responsibility to run some of the farther-flung accounts.

It was true that mother and daughter didn't always see eye-to-eye. Because she'd worked away from Madame for years, Lelia felt emboldened to

speak her mind but Madame often shut her down. Lelia wanted to choose her own husband, but Madame let her feelings about the beau be known. They argued fiercely, then acted like there was never any problem. They loved one another, says Bundles, but they were "fire and ice."

Lelia, Bundles says, sought her mother's opinion on all matters, but she didn't often heed her mother's words. Madame didn't like that but as the years passed, she gave more and more of the business up, confident that Lelia (later, A'Lelia) would take care of things – and she was, overseas, as her mother's health began to fail...

Filled with lush word-painted images of opulence and wealth and a sometimes-reverential tone, "Joy Goddess" is a biography that covers a lot of territory: because author A'Lelia Bundles is A'Lelia Walker's great-granddaughter, it's part family history, as well as Black history. It's a business biography, too, in a large way. And it's a love story, pure and simple, one that will appeal to any headstrong mother-daughter pair.

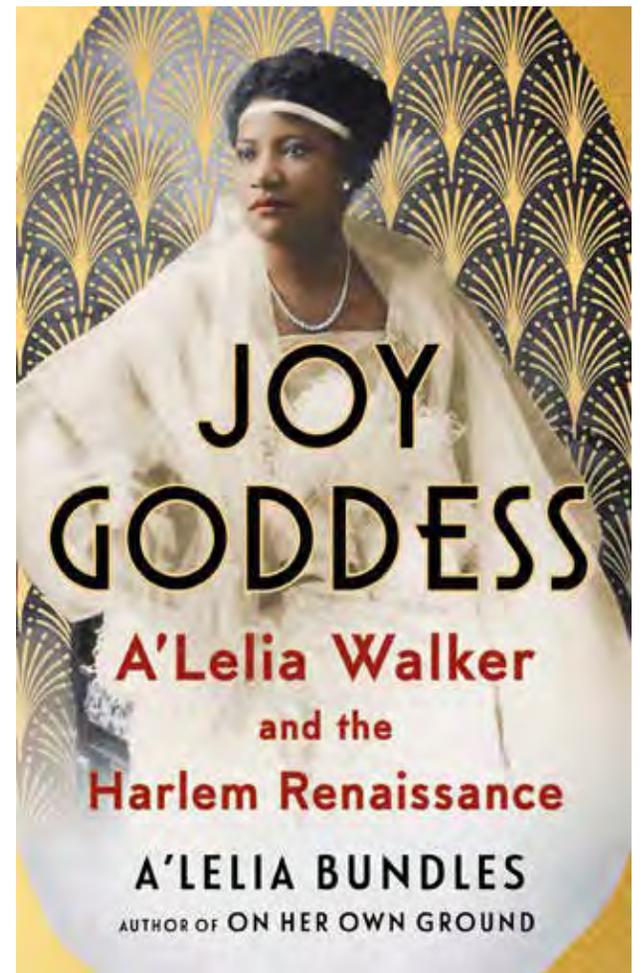
It's that last part that features most strongly and builds to break hearts, even though readers are never unaware of what's to come. Bundles is honest about how the Walker women changed surrounding lives – Madame had "adopted" a daughter with mixed outcome – and how their beauty empire

positively affected Black business and culture for decades but she seems to push racism aside somewhat in the telling here. Instead, Madame and A'Lelia's accomplishments and the world they lived in take front-and-center, and you'll appreciate that.

This is a book for readers who want a wide-reaching biography with hints of inspiration. It'll make a great book club book or mother-and-daughter tale to share. Read "Joy Goddess."

"Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance"

by A'Lelia Bundles
c.2025,
Scribner

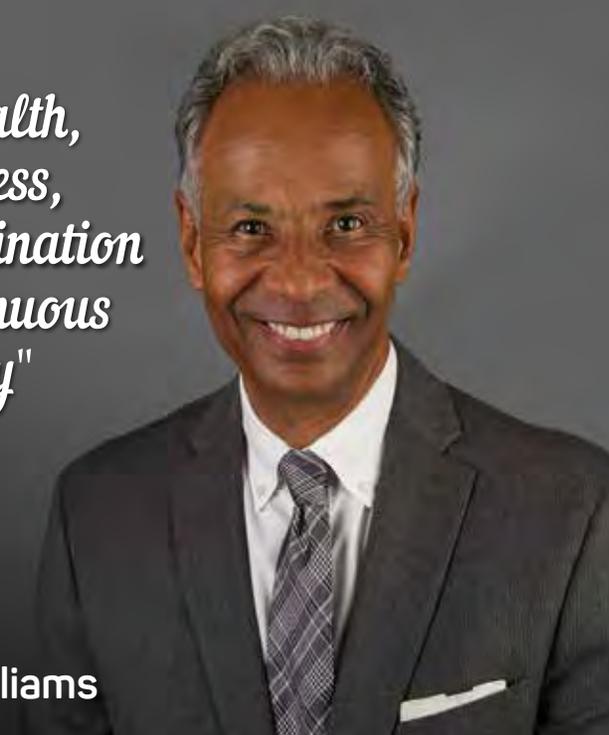


Answers to Sudoku on page 17

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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



Dr. George Williams

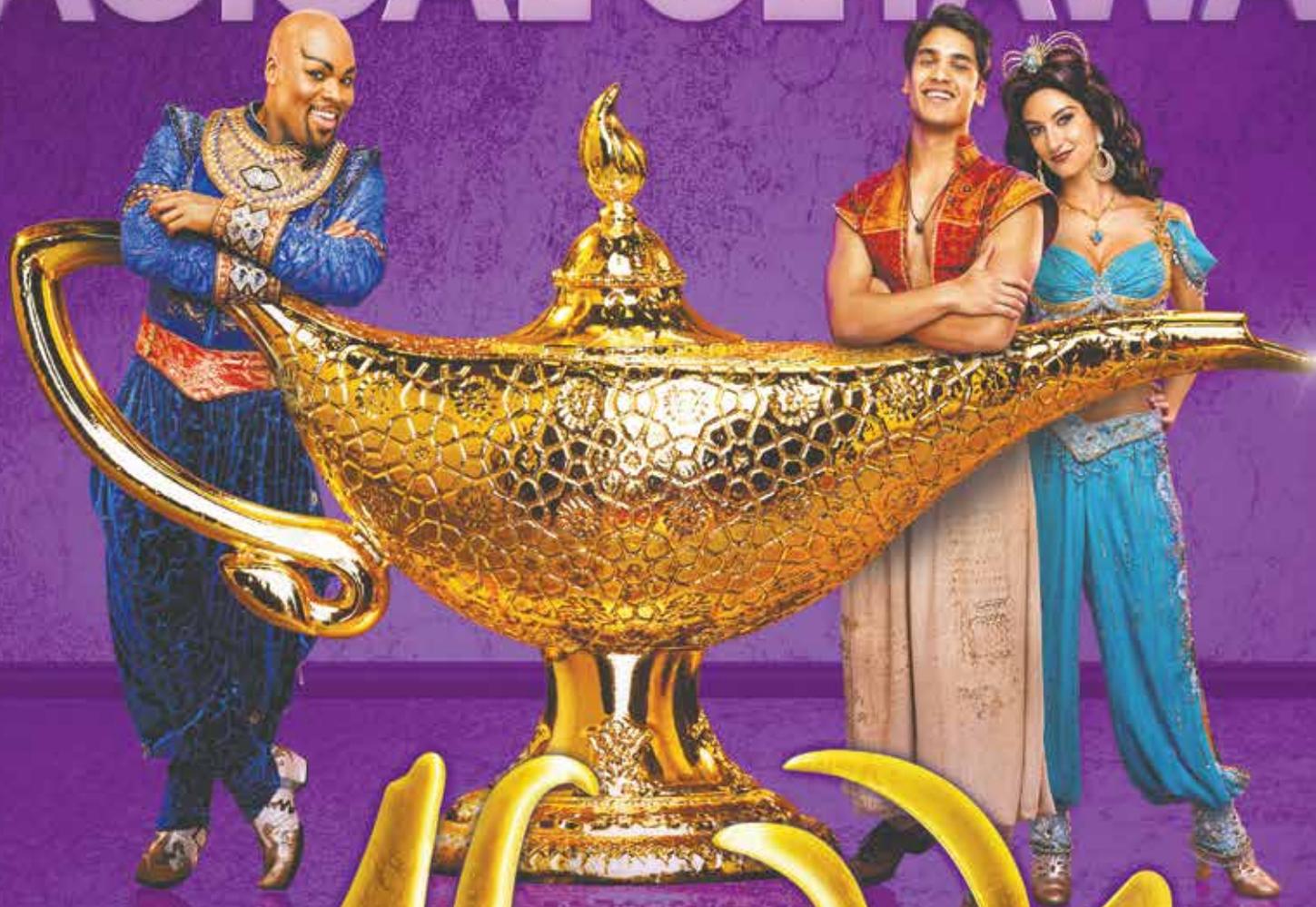


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