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

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

COMMUNITY
QUEENS NEWS
"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 32 No. 39 September 25, 2025 - October 1, 2025 Free

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

In this week's issue, we proudly showcase a vibrant photo recap of the 56th Annual African American Day Parade, a celebration of culture, pride, and resilience. (see pages 12-13)

We also highlight the Mid-Manhattan NAACP's 21st Annual Freedom Fund Luncheon, a powerful gathering that honored community leaders and reaffirmed our collective commitment to justice and equity. (see page 10)

As efforts intensify to diminish or erase Black History from public discourse, the Black Press stands firm—documenting our present, honoring our past, and amplifying the voices of our heroes and heroines. Yet, while our mission remains vital, the financial challenges facing Black-owned media threaten our survival. The question looms: who will save us? The Black Press is not just a witness to history—it is a guardian of legacy. If we lose it, we risk losing the stories that shaped us. Let this be a call to action: to uplift, to invest, and to ensure that our stories continue to be told. (see page 3)

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Pat Stevenson
Celebrating
32 years Publishing

The Black Press: Two Centuries of Truth - But Who Will Save It?

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Senior
National Correspondent

The Black Press is two years away from its 200th anniversary. Two centuries of carrying our story when others denied us a voice. Two centuries of fighting mobs, resisting Jim Crow, surviving fire, and standing against lies. And now, in its hour of need, as corporate America cuts ties and Washington turns away, the silence of Black America's billionaires is as loud as the betrayals of history.

We know their names. David Steward, Robert F. Smith, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan, Jay-Z, Rihanna, LeBron James, Magic Johnson, Tyler Perry, Tope Awotona, Sheila Johnson, and Tiger Woods. Add to them Aliko Dangote, Mike Adenuga, Patrice Motsepe, Strive Masiyiwa, Abdulsamad Rabiu—giants whose fortunes shape nations. Together, they command nearly $100 billion in wealth. Yet the institution that once defended its very humanity now struggles to keep its doors open. We are not begging for handouts; we are asking you to stand with the very press that once stood for you. When you unveil a new film or a book, when you seek to raise a cause, when your friends or your ventures deserve the light, do not look only to the white press. Bring your ads here, bring your stories here. Share us as you share yourselves, for the truth is simple: if the Black Press falls, the story of who we are falls with it.

White men like Mark Cuban have reached into their pockets. Organizations like the New York Islanders have stepped forward. But the very institution that gave this nation Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells, Ethel Payne and Daisy Bates, the Chicago Defender, the New Pittsburgh Courier, the Baltimore AFRO, EBONY, and the Amsterdam News—now gasps for breath without the lifeline it deserves.

The Black Press has never been an abstraction. It has always been the frontline. In 1921, when white supremacists torched Tulsa, they burned down Black-owned newspapers to silence the truth. During Jim Crow, it was the Black Press that funneled guidance to families navigating terror. When Mamie Till thrust her son's mutilated body before the world, it was the Black Press that carried the pictures. When Dr. King and Malcolm X needed their words to reach their people, when the white press dismissed them as agitators, it was the Black Press that published their vision.

And today, it is still more than 200 family-owned newspapers, many of them run by Black women. These women carry the weight of history, fighting to keep their presses alive. Yet in Trump's America, while policies drive Black women's unemployment to the highest levels in modern history, their institutions are being starved of the resources that sustain them. That double assault—on their livelihoods and their legacies—should haunt this nation.

blackpressUSA
The Voice of the Black Community

To our billionaires: this is not a call to shame, but a call to conscience. You rose from the communities that these pages sustained. Your names and fortunes live because the Black Press fought to keep the truth alive when no one else would. And while some may ask, "Where are you?"—we instead ask, "Will you stand with us now?" Because if the Black Press falls, so too falls the memory of our people. This is not charity. It is survival. It is legacy. It is standing on the right side of history.

Those who wish to answer this call can do so today—through our sponsorship opportunities as the Black Press prepares for its 200th anniversary, or directly through a GoFundMe at https://gofund.me/240152783. The door remains open. The need is urgent.

If the Black Press dies, no tribute, no hashtag, no brand campaign will erase the record: that when the institution that carried Black America for two centuries cried out, those with the power to save it stayed silent.

And so, the question remains: Who among you will step forward? Or will the flowers laid on the Black Press's grave be bought with the coins of indifference?

Harlem STAGE

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Music by **Arden Altino**, **Daniel Bernard Roumain**, and **Divinity Roxx**.

HarlemStage.org

GET TIX

PONDER THIS! Getting Old Is Not Easy

By Hazel Rosetta Smith

Has anyone ever told you that getting old is easy? My Granny was the most outspoken person I have ever met. She would not bite her tongue or hold back her opinion, but she never said getting old was easy.

I remember watching her movements getting slower and more pronounced as she stepped gingerly as if on eggs, making her way to Birthday 101. Thanks to God, she never suffered a fall, never used a cane, or needed a walker.

She had a steady routine. She would rub her knees and twirl her ankles for circulation at every sitting, yet she never complained. She just did not discuss it. Her back was straight at a mere four feet five, her thick bifocals allowed her to see all that she wanted to see. No hearing aids, she heard what she thought was worthwhile.

Those hands that rubbed her knees for warmth and comfort were the same hands that she used to braid her hair into the cornrows she wore all my life. She kept her fingers busy, along with her mind.

Granny was quick to offer a piece of scripture from the family Bible that was always open and close by to resolve an issue or remind us that God's grace is sufficient.

She never said getting old was easy, but I could see the struggle. She did say, "you'll understand it by and by." I often asked Granny when by and by would be and the slow shake of her head from side to side was all to be said about it. I understood I would have to wait until it came to be.

The answer came with truth; expect the unexpected today - by and by has arrived. The truth is our knees, hips and back have carried the load for a long time. The time will come when each joint of our body will have its way, whether to participate or not. Movement is not always at our will.

Some days I am more like my Granny, lowering myself down to a seat intentionally slow and rubbing my knees. We will all have to face the truth; the body is sending messages of the aging process loud and clear.

There is a humorous cartoon that I received that says, I am not lonely because I have four men in my life. I get up with Charlie Horse, and I spend the day with Arthur Itis, I cook dinner with Will Power and go to bed with Ben Gay.

Stay steady but keep moving while you can, drink lots of water as they say and even though getting old is not easy, life is good and there is lots of fun and roads yet to travel.

[Hazel Rosetta Smith is a Journalist, Playwright and Director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries. Contact: misshazel@twc.com]

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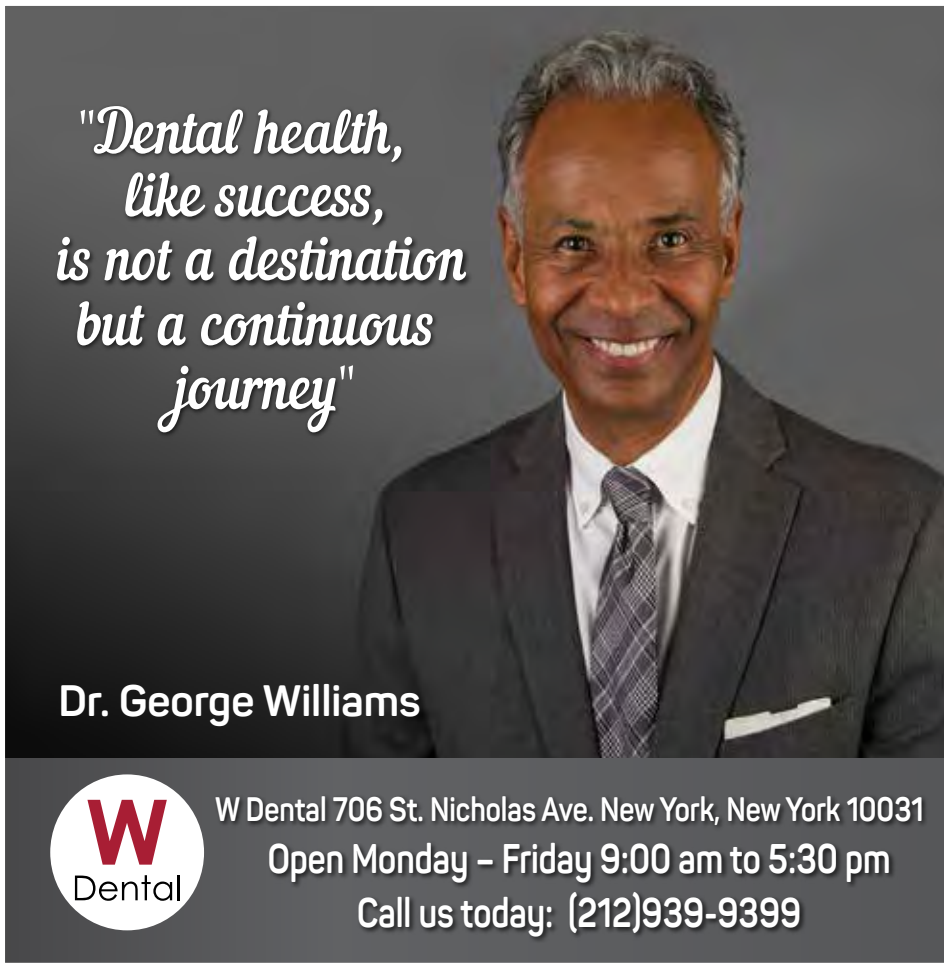

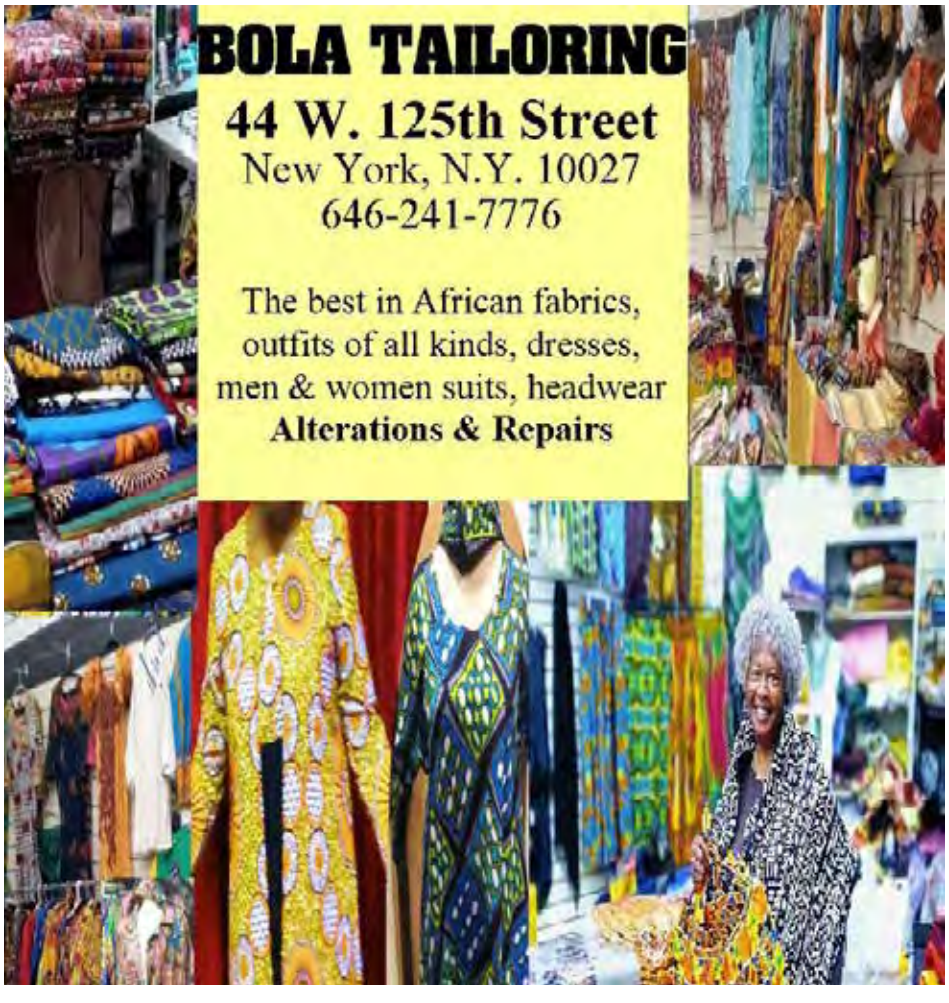

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“Bridge to Home” is Providing a Public Health Approach to Public Safety

By Mayor Eric Adams

From the start of our administration, we have been clear that the days of ignoring people in crisis — on our streets and in our subways — were over. It’s no secret that too many New Yorkers who suffer from severe mental illness cycle between hospitals and homelessness, and that we need a better way to help them get long-term care and stable housing.

That’s where taking a public health approach to public safety comes in, and what our new ‘Bridge to Home’ initiative will provide for our brothers and sisters in need, specifically for those who have been discharged from psychiatric facilities but do not have a home to return to and are not yet ready to live independently. The first facility opened last week in Midtown Manhattan, with individual rooms, three balanced meals a day, and wraparound mental health services for up to 46 residents. It will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by professionals from NYC Health + Hospitals, who will provide behavioral health services, medication management, and substance use disorder treatment, as well as regular social, therapeutic, and recreational opportunities.

By providing people managing severe mental illness with safe, clean rooms and dedicated on-site clinical support, our ‘Bridge to Home’ facilities will bridge the divide between critical hospital care and long-term housing solutions. The program will reduce emergency room visits and inpatient hospitalizations, as well as decrease street homelessness and reliance on shelters. This will help patients avoid unnecessary encounters with law enforcement and make our city safer while improving quality of life for all New Yorkers. That is what taking a public health approach to public safety actually looks like.

‘Bridge to Home’ is part of our $650 million plan, that we announced in this year’s State of the City address. The plan builds on over three years of dedicated work to help New Yorkers struggling with homelessness and mental illness, and is changing the way we care for those in crisis.

From expanding our SCOUT and PATH outreach models that pair social workers with police officers to do outreach on the subways, to increasing the number of community clubhouses that provide safe spaces for people with severe mental illness, to expanding Safe Haven beds that make it easier for homeless New Yorkers to get off the street, we have used every possible tool and method to help New Yorkers in need get care and services, no matter what issues they are struggling with. More importantly, we are investing in the social services that take a public health approach to keeping all New Yorkers safe. Our administration has changed the conversation around mental health, homelessness, and quality-of-life issues. We have successfully advocated for improved legal options, particularly the ‘Supportive Interventions Act,’ which helped us get Albany to give us the ability to expand access to care and increase involuntary treatment options this year.

Our work over the last three and a half years has been the right thing to do, the compassionate thing to do, and it has had broad support from a majority of New Yorkers. We are delivering real solutions that work, not catch-phrases that will never become reality.

I have seen both sides of this issue, from living on the verge of homelessness as a child to patrolling our subways as a transit officer. As mayor, I am determined to help break the cycle of dysfunction and build a better future; a future where all New Yorkers have a chance for grace, guidance, and long-term recovery. We all know that no matter how lost you may be, there is always a way home, but sometimes you need a little help to get there.

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Vol. 32 No. 39 September 25, 2025

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Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now

By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

How can anyone afford to buy a home in Harlem? This is indeed a tough question. Many Harlem residents are extremely frustrated over the asking prices of homes currently on the market in our community. This frustration is to an extent justified because the area median income (AMI) for most of the Harlem residents is estimated to be in the low to moderate range. What this simply means is most Harlem community residents do not earn enough money to purchase a brownstone for 2 – 3 million dollars. So, in effect the community Harlem residents are conveniently being priced out of the market.

Obviously, there is a need for more affordable housing in communities such as Harlem. This is why the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Department (HPD) housing lottery programs are so important to maintaining and preserving the integrity of our neighborhoods. The lottery programs are subsidized by the city and will afford low to moderate income individuals and families with the opportunity to purchase either new or renovated construction condominiums and cooperative apartment units below market value.

Usually with lottery properties the unit must be your primary residence for a specified time. This period may range from ten to fifteen years, sometimes longer depending on the property. You can purchase a second and even a third home, but the lottery property must remain your primary residence. This address must be used for your voter registration, federal tax return, and state identification. Every year HPD will seek verification that you are still at this residential address.

The purpose for the property remaining as your primary residence is to discourage private investors from purchasing the property below market value and shortly after reselling the home at market rate and realizing a huge profit. However, you can sell the property before the specified period has expired but beware you will pay a hefty fine resulting in losing most of the profit.

The true beauty of the lottery program is that buyers will immediately start building up a fair amount of equity through the purchase. Equity is the difference between what you owe (mortgage amount) on the property and the market value of the property. Once you have become a homeowner and you are investing in your future as well as being committed to the upkeep of the community which will increase your property value.

As a homeowner, you are no longer obligated to pay rent and get nothing in return except a roof over your head. Now as you pay down the mortgage balance, you are building a financial inheritance for your children and breaking the cycle of poverty by narrowing the wealth gap. For more information on the New York City Housing Lottery program, you can go to their website www.nyc.gov/hpd.

For more information on 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

HARLEM EVENTS

Sept 26, 7pm
Concert by Harlem Chambers Arvo Pärt Summa
String Quartet David Baker "Roots II" Piano Trio, Arnold Schoenberg Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night), Op. 4 for String Sextet Being held at Broadway Presbyterian Church601 West 114th StreetNew York, TICKETS $20 General Admission, $15 Students/Seniors, Children 12 and under admitted FREE! For more information. Go to www.harlemchamberplayers.org

Sept 28
Harlem Girls in Sports Day!
Participants ages 9-12 years old will have the unique opportunity to explore non-traditional sports through a hands-on experience, including basketball, flag football, tennis, soccer and thanks to the Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation, gymnastics. Held in partnership with Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park, the event is expected to feature 100-150 participants, and will celebrate health, fitness, and sports while inspiring and empowering urban girls.

Oct 7,8,10,11,15,16,17,10 at 7PM
Freedom Riders: A Journey with No End in Sight
Don't miss the 10-year anniversary of the groundbreaking theatrical concert reading, and the reimagining of 12 Angry Men and Women. Buy 1, Give 1: Every ticket you buy sends an NYC student to the show for FREE. Harlem Stage is located at 150 Convent Ave, Harlem. To buy tickets go to: https://tickets.harlemstage.org/events

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Nation's Report Card Shows Drop in Reading, Math and Science Scores

By Stacy M. Brown
Black Press USA Sr
National Correspondent

The latest results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reveal troubling declines in academic performance among U.S. students, with twelfth-graders posting lower scores in reading and mathematics and eighth-graders showing setbacks in science.In reading, the 2024 national average for twelfth-graders was three points lower than in 2019, and ten points lower than when the assessment was first administered in 1992. Scores fell across nearly all percentiles, with only the highest-performing students at the 90th percentile holding steady. The percentage of students performing at or above the NAEP Proficient level declined to 35 percent in 2024, compared to 37 percent in 2019, while 32 percent of students scored below the NAEP Basic level.

Mathematics results tell a similar story. The average score for twelfth graders in 2024 dropped three points from 2019 and stood three points lower than in 2005, the year the current trend line began. Scores declined across nearly all percentiles except the 90th. Just 24 percent of twelfth graders scored at or above Proficient in 2024, while 40 percent scored below Basic, up from 37 percent in 2019. Eighth-grade science results also fell sharply. The 2024 average score was four points lower than in 2019, with declines across all five reported percentiles. Thirty-eight percent of eighth graders scored below the Basic level, compared to 33 percent in 2019. Students from nearly every demographic and parental education group saw declines, particularly at the lower percentiles. Confidence in science ability also fell, with fewer students reporting that they "definitely" could perform key science tasks.

Further, African American students remain disproportionately represented among lower performers nationally. Across reading, mathematics, and science, they continue to score below the overall national average, with larger percentages falling below the NAEP Basic level and fewer reaching Proficient or Advanced. Although overall national scores declined in 2024, the long-standing gap between African American students and their White and Asian peers has not narrowed.

The assessments, administered between January and March 2024, covered tens of thousands of students nationwide. Reading and math were given to twelfth graders, while science was assessed at the eighth-grade level. In addition to academic content, students completed questionnaires about learning opportunities, absenteeism, and engagement, data that NAEP officials say may help explain trends. NAEP, often referred to as the Nation's Report Card, is the largest continuing and nationally representative measure of U.S. student achievement. The results are closely watched by educators, policymakers, and researchers as indicators of how students are faring and where learning gaps are widening.

Celebrating Legacy and Progress: The 21st Annual Freedom Fund Luncheon by Mid-Manhattan NAACP

On September 13, 2025, the Mid-Manhattan Branch of the NAACP hosted its 21st Annual Freedom Fund Luncheon at the elegant Marina Del Rey in the Bronx. The event brought together community leaders, activists, elected officials, and supporters in a powerful celebration of civil rights, resilience, and the ongoing fight for racial justice.

President of the Mid-Manhattan NAACP, Kyndell A. Reid in opening remarks said, "We honor the legacy of Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, a trailblazing leader and past president of the New York State Conference, whose over fifty years of dedication to the NAACP have left an indelible mark on our organization and community. Her tireless efforts remind us that the fight for justice and equality is ongoing. At our 116th national convention, the NAACP adopted the powerful slogan "The Fierce Urgency of Now," a call to action that resonates deeply in these times. Our democracy, dignity, and security hang in the balance, and the issue of voting rights stands at the forefront of our struggle. We must continue to march, register, protest, and mobilize, ensuring that our voices are heard and our rights are protected. Today, as we celebrate freedom and progress, we also recommit ourselves to the work that lies ahead."

Honorees included; the Reverend Doctor Malcolm Byrd, Senior Pastor of Mother AME Zion Church, Rodney Capel, Vice President of Government Affairs at Charter Communications, Wendy Hill, CEO of the Wendy Hill Gymnastics Foundation, and Dr. Gregory H. Hopkins, Minister of Music at Convent Avenue Baptist Church, Mariah Washington, Director, Community Engagement NYC Emergency Management

Guests were treated to live performances that blended gospel, jazz, and spoken word, creating a vibrant atmosphere of celebration and reflection. The Marina Del Rey venue, with its waterfront views and refined ambiance, provided a fitting backdrop for the occasion. Attendees enjoyed a gourmet lunch while networking with fellow changemakers and reaffirming their commitment to justice.

Proceeds from the luncheon support the Mid-Manhattan NAACP's year-round programming, including youth scholarships, voter registration drives, legal advocacy, and community outreach. The event also served as a call to action for attendees to deepen their involvement, whether through volunteering, donating, or joining the branch's initiatives.

As the NAACP continues to confront systemic racism and advocate for policy reform, events like the Freedom Fund Luncheon remind us of the power of community and the importance of sustained activism. The Mid-Manhattan Branch remains a vital force in New York City's fight for equality, and its annual luncheon is both a celebration of progress and a rallying cry for the work ahead.

For more information about the Mid-Manhattan NAACP and upcoming events, visit their website:

https://www.midmanhattannaacp.org/

Photos by Seitu Oronde

Jean Dixon West, Dee Brinkley, Wendy Hilliard, Pres. Kyndell A. Reid

Kyndell A. Reid, Esq. Rodney Capel, Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkin

Keynote Speaker Atty Gen Leticia James, NAACP Mid-Mahn President Kyndell Reid

Fundraising Committee:
(l-r) Marion Bell, Rayne Dorsey, Dee Brinkley, Kyndell Reid, Jean Dixon West, Edith Matthews, Mary Redd, Claire Theobalds, Denise Hamilton

The NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch Executive Committee

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FALL CONCERTS

Friday, September 26, 2025 at 7 PM
Season Opening Concert "Iconic Classics"
Broadway Presbyterian Church at 601 West 114th Street
$20 General Admission | $15 Students/Seniors

Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 6 PM
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month
The Hispanic Society Museum & Library at 3741 Broadway
Free and open to the public. RSVP required.

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 7 PM
NYC Composers Concert
Harlem School of the Arts at 645 Saint Nicholas Avenue
Free and open to the public. RSVP required.

Friday, November 21, 2025 at 7 PM
Annual Bach Concert (The Harlem Bach Project)
Broadway Presbyterian Church at 601 West 114th Street
$20 General Admission | $15 Students/Seniors

Visit our website for more info and to get tickets.
Join our email list for concert announcements and other news.

www.HarlemChamberPlayers.org

Harlem Celebrated Heritage and Education at the 56th Annual African American Day Parade

On Sunday, September 21, 2025, the heart of Harlem pulsed with pride, rhythm, and unity as thousands gathered for the 56th Annual African American Day Parade. Stretching along Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard from 111th to 137th Street, the parade was a vibrant celebration of Black culture, excellence, and community empowerment.

This year's theme, **"Education is Our #1 Priority,"** spotlighted the transformative power of learning and honored educators and leaders who uplift the African American community through academic achievement and advocacy. The parade served not only as a cultural showcase but also as a call to action - urging families, mentors, and institutions to invest in education as a cornerstone of progress.

Leading the parade were distinguished Grand Marshals including Dr. Tony Allen, President of Delaware State University; Dr. Martin Lemelle Jr., President of Grambling State University; Dr. Patricia Ramsey, President of Medgar Evers College; and media personalities Sandra Bookman of ABC7 and Dr. Bob Lee of WBLS. Their presence underscored the event's commitment to celebrating those who champion educational equity and community development.

The festivities began with a pre-parade show at 11 a.m., featuring dynamic performances and tributes at the Elbert & Darlene Shamsid-Deen Reviewing Stand on West 125th Street. By 12:30 p.m., the main parade rolled out with a dazzling array of marching bands, youth dance troupes, civic organizations, fraternities, sororities, and elaborately decorated floats. Spectators lined the streets, waving flags, cheering, and dancing to the beat of drums and horns that echoed Harlem's rich musical legacy.

The weekend also included the third annual "Get Involved" Literacy, Health, and Culture Celebration held on Saturday, September 20, at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Plaza. This community event offered free health screenings, resume assistance, voter registration, and live performances. Tai Chi sessions and surprise guests added to the holistic celebration of wellness and empowerment.

WABC-TV Channel 7 streamed the parade live, allowing viewers across the city and beyond to join the celebration virtually. The broadcast featured interviews with honorees and community leaders, amplifying the voices of those working tirelessly to uplift Harlem and the broader African American community.

For over five decades, the African American Day Parade has stood as a beacon of pride, resilience, and unity. This year's focus on education reaffirmed the belief that knowledge is power—and that through learning, communities can rise, thrive, and shape a brighter future.

As the final float passed and the music faded into the evening, Harlem remained energized, inspired, and ready to continue the work of building a legacy rooted in excellence and collective strength.

Photos by Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor

The Shamsid-Deens - Those Who Do Service Awardees

By Hazel Rosetta Smith

Darlene and Elbert Shamsid-Deen

There are those who work hard and there are those who serve hard from the heart. Such is the case with Darlene and Elbert Shamsid-Deen and their more than 13 years of helping hand assistance to the African American Day Parade.

As you wonder why I point attention to this couple, keep in mind that there is a lot of work done in the background to make the African American Day Parade the success that it has achieved for 56 years by people who are the unsung heroes and sheroes of this endeavor.

In 2012, Darlene and Elbert volunteered to work with Yusuf Hasan to assist in any way they could to keep the parade moving along, under its founder Abe Snyder. The parade was established in 1968 to promote African American culture and pride when there was an overabundance of negative press about Harlem.

Snyder's vision was to show the heritage and accomplishments of the Black community in a way that would capture the hearts of the residents in positive representation.

Snyder lived his dream for the African American Parade until his passing in 2023. Darlene and Elbert Shamsid-Deen continued to support this groundbreaking effort under the leadership of Yusuf Hasan who carries admirably the title of Chairperson.

Though I had been acquainted with the good work of Abe Snyder for many years and covered the parade as Managing Editor of the New York Beacon, it has only been in the past several years that I have had the pleasure of sitting in the senior viewing section, watching the parade from this advantage spot adjacent to the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building at 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard.

The AADP provides a large tent that seats a multitude of seniors who wait for this day annually and come assured that they are cared for and respected by the crew of volunteers assigned to make it comfy and safe.

Two of the most popular volunteers are Darlene and Elbert Shamsid-Deen who know the ropes of how to work with varied personalities and their individual disabilities and seating concerns with loving kindness.

A healthy boxed lunch is served to every seat, donated by Ali Murtaza Caters, organized by Darlene, which makes minimal movement easier in the viewing section. Darlene is always available to manage any misunderstanding or upset, so that the viewing of the parade is met with joy and happiness throughout the day.

Elbert's eyes are alerted to interject what is needed. As a double businessperson, owner of Thru-Way Insurance Brokers, Inc. and Thru-Way Builders Construction Company, he knows how things work well when people work well together.

Darlene and Elbert Shamsid-Deen work well together and their unselfish volunteerism to the African American Day Parade has not gone unnoticed.

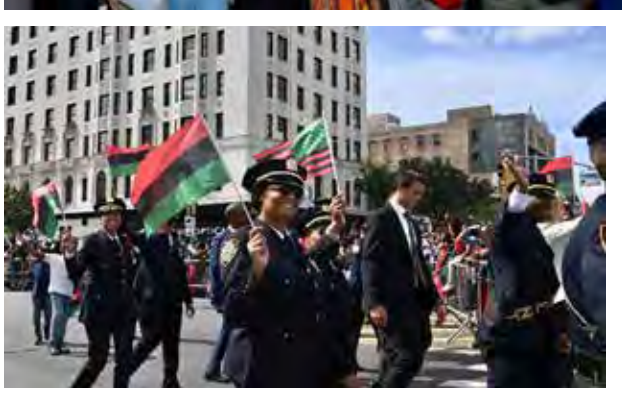
Their due credit was given on June 21, when they received the "Those Who Do Service" award from the African American Day Parade Committee, current Chairperson Yusuf Hasan and were congratulated for their devotion by NY State Senator Cordell Cleare at the State Office Building.

To add further icing to the cake of their congratulations for longtime service, on Sunday, September 21, 2025, the African American Day Parade Senior Section was named the Darlene and Elbert Shamsid-Deen Reviewing Section.

Kudos to an effective team and touché to an outstanding display of Black pride and cultural awareness taken to the streets of Harlem.

To my count, there was more than one hundred and ten individual groups that participated in the 2025 parade, celebrating 56 years that included floats representing unions, civic and social organizations, Black cowboys on horses, motorcycles, classic cars, Masons and Eastern Stars, fraternities and sororities, Catholic Charities, fire, police and sanitation, bands and marchers of all ages. It was Black joy to behold, a job well done by all, see you next year.

Photos by Nadezda Tavodova Tezgor



Saheem Ali directs Free Shakespere in the Park

by Audrey J. Bernard, Society Editor

FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park is one of the cornerstones of The Public Theater's mission. Since 1962, over six million people have enjoyed more than 160 free productions of Shakespeare and other classical works and musicals. Conceived by founder Joseph Papp as a way to make great theater accessible to all, The Public's Free Shakespeare in the Park continues to be the bedrock of the Company's mission to increase access and engage the community. "Twelfth Night" opened on August 7 and ended its successful run on September 14, 2025.

The new production stars Lupita Nyong'o, Sandra Oh, and Peter Dinklage.

The magical midsummer madness continues as twins Sebastian and Viola survive shipwreck, revenge plots, and the trick doors of love.

The Public's Associate Artistic Director and Resident Director, Tony Award nominee Saheem Ali directs this joyful romp welcoming all of New York back to the magic of Central Park's beloved theater. Be there when the stage lights turn on again at The Delacorte—a New York City classic—with this high-powered production of the Bard's classic comedy.

The magnificent cast of Free Shakespeare in the Park's TWELFTH NIGHT includes Dario Alvarez (Ensemble), b (Antonio), John Ellison Conlee (Sir Toby Belch), Khris Davis (Orsino), Peter Dinklage (Malvolio), Jesse Tyler Ferguson (Andrew Aguecheek), Jaina Rose Jallow (Ensemble), Ariyan Kassam (Curio/Ensemble), Valentino Musumeci (Ensemble), Junior Nyong'o (Sebastian), Lupita Nyong'o (Viola), Chinna Palmer (Ensemble), Sandra Oh (Olivia), Precious Omigie (Ensemble), Nathan M. Ramsey (Ensemble), Daphne Rubin-Vega (Maria), Jasmine Sharma (Ensemble), Moses Sumney (Feste), Kapil Talwakar (Ensemble), Joe Tapper (Sea Captain/Priest), Julian Tushabe (Ensemble), Adrian Villegas (Ensemble), Ada Westfall (Ensemble), and Mia Wurgaft (Ensemble). Many top stars attended the Opening Night performance which commanded a long standing ovation.

(Photos by Tricia Baron & Kristina Bumphrey)

Erika Woods, Wendel Pierce

Siblings Junior Nyong'o and Lupita Nyong'o

Sandra Oh

Peter Dinklage-

Alexa Smith

The Public's executive director Patrick Willingham, director of Twelfth Night Saheem Ali, Public's artistic director Oskar Eustis

Jaina Rose Jallow

José M. Serrano

Lorraine Toussaint

CCH Pounder

Moses Sumney

3 Things Every Older Adult Should Do for Their Health This Fall

(StatePoint)

For older adults, fall is an important time to focus on health and wellness.

According to Ryan Kocher, who leads Medicare growth for HealthSpring, the new brand for Health Care Service Corporation's Medicare business, formerly owned by the Cigna Group, the following three tasks are essential for seniors to complete as cool weather sets in.

Get a Flu Shot

An influenza vaccine can help prevent serious illness due to flu. As immune defense diminishes with age, older adults are increasingly susceptible to flu complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of higher dose flu vaccines for people 65 years and older. This fall, in advance of flu season, visit your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get the right vaccine for you. This is also a good time to catch up on any other immunizations that your provider recommends.

Review Medicare Coverage

Medicare is the government health insurance program for Americans 65 and older and others who qualify. Many Medicare beneficiaries choose or change their plans during the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP), which takes place between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7. HealthSpring is offering a host of Medicare options for 2026. The company provides these tips for selecting a plan:

• Check for plan changes: Review your plan every AEP, especially if you've experienced changes to your health, lifestyle or finances. It's especially important to read your Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) letter – delivered every September – to find out about any modifications to your current plan.

• Dig into the details: A good plan is one that includes your favorite providers and specialists and covers the medications you currently take. When reviewing plans, take these factors into consideration.

• Consider all your options: Medicare Advantage plans cover everything Original Medicare does, so do your research to see if these plans will work for you.

• Learn more: Before enrolling in a particular plan, be sure you understand the details. Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. Or, visit the Medicare Plan Finder website at Medicare.gov/plan-compare. For local assistance, refer to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program website at www.shiptacenter.org. You can also visit individual Medicare plans' websites for more information. For example, HealthSpring's website is www.healthspring.com.

Use Your Health Care Benefits

Annual enrollment also serves as a good reminder to take advantage of all your Medicare benefits. Preventive care and a healthy lifestyle can help you maintain your independence and vitality as you age. Tap into what your plan offers so you can actively engage in your health and well-being.

By checking a few important items off your to-do list during autumn, you can ensure you're well-positioned for a healthy winter and 2026.

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URBANOLOGY: Agreement of Truth

By William A. Rogers

What we understand and believe to be true is based upon an agreement. When that agreement of what is true changes. what was believed to be true may also change. There was a time in Europe where there was an agreement that the world was flat. The truth was based upon a collective agreement and belief. When it was proven that the world was not flat, the agreement changed and so did the understanding of the truth about the world.

Governments create laws based upon agreement, when the numbers of individuals that disagree with a current law is greater than those that agree; the law will change, due to a change in agreement by the majority. This will also create a change in what many will understand and believe to be true. Trying to change an agreement of truth in organized religion was always a dangerous business though-out history.

During the time of Galileo the leaders of the Catholic Church agreed that the sun revolved around the earth. This agreement was understood and believed to be true. Galileo tried to change the agreement about the earth and the sun. Even after the agreement changed and the truth about the sun and the earth changed, it took the church 300 years to forgive Galileo for trying to change their agreement of the truth.

History also tells us that the Catholic Church also sanctioned the colonization and enslavement of Africans creating an agreement of European superiority and African inferiority for economical reason. Like most agreements that become a collective truth, when the collective agreement changes the truth will change.

We are moving into a time of clarity and a change in many of the agreements that people considered to be true. I may seem overly optimistic by many when I say that I believe a greater number of individuals throughout the world are starting to embrace a spiritual oneness within themselves and their external environment now more than ever before in modern history.

I believe the future will bring a change in many agreements that have long been considered true about, wellness, politics, religion, wealth, and race. Agreements are hard to change but the truth about anything is based on an individual or group agreement. Some will never change what they agree to be true individually or as a group. There are some who still argue that the world is flat.

What does all this mean to you? What you understand to be true about yourself, your environment, and your abilities are agreed upon truths that can change if your agreement about yourself changes.

It is important to understand that you most have faith to change your agreement of truth about yourself and others. What many believe to be true about themselves and others is based on individual and or collective agreements; agreements that can be changed.

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HERBS ARE NATURE'S MEDICINE

HEALING the LIVER with MILK THISTLE

By Zakiyyah

There are many herbs that grow by the wayside, in the parks and empty lots, and growing up between the concrete that people try to kill off as weeds. These are some of the most potent herbal medicines at your fingertips. You will find burdock, yellow dock, comfrey, marshmallow, Queen Ann's Lace, mullein, jimson weed, Echinacea, milk thistle in all these places.

Milk Thistle is most often used to treat liver problems, which run the gamut from cirrhosis, jaundice, hepatitis, and gallbladder disorders. Silymarin is the active ingredient in milk thistle that makes it an effective herb that also helps our body fight against diabetes, as it is both anti-inflammatory and antioxidant. A poor diet (which can damage the liver), toxic environment (which over-taxes the liver) and other related stressors: job, home, and emotional factors, all of which contribute to the creation of free radicals in our body. Milk thistle helps protect our body tissue from damage by these free radicals, and inhibits infection and disease.

Because silymarin is not soluble in water (tea), milk thistle it is more effective in capsule or tincture form to help enhance your liver's efforts to detox your internal environment.

MAKE NATURE'S MEDICINE YOUR OWN

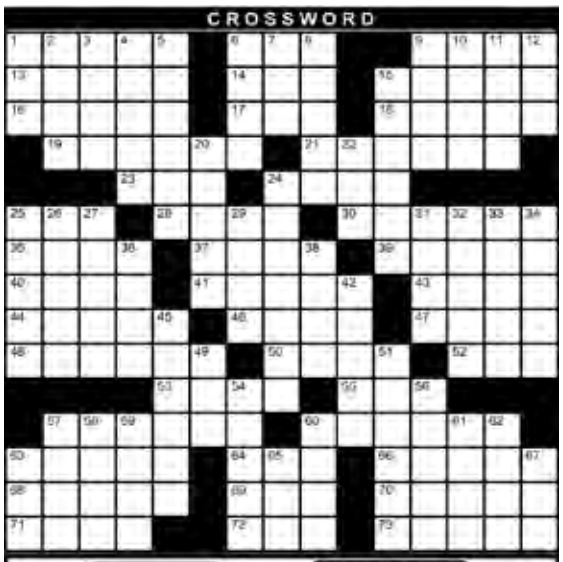
This information is to help balance your body's natural healing energies, and is not intended as diagnosis, treatment or cure. Email: theherbalist1750@gmail.com; phone: 347-407-4312; blog: www.herbsarenaturesmedicine.blogspot.com.

Answers to Crossword on page 17

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

See answers on pages 16

CROSSWORD



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME:PERIODIC TABLE ELEMENTS

ACROSS

1. "____ of New York," 2002 movie
6. That guy
9. Extinguish birthday candles
13. Impolite dinner sound
14. Division of time
15. Forgo
16. On the move
17. Lake, in France
18. Alaska native
19. *The heaviest metal
21. *Inert gas of balloon fame
23. "Jersey Shore" network, acr.
24. Move like parasailor
25. Pick up, as in a criminal
28. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet
30. "A ship without ____," or one without purpose
35. Paella pot
37. Nessie's turf
39. Sweating room
40. Cyberspace soliloquy
41. *Gold
43. Foul substance
44. Ruled
46. Dish out
47. Belgium's currency
48. Lands (2 words)
50. Indira Gandhi's dress
52. ____ Without Hats, band
53. Sheltered nook
55. Gross National Product
57. *Majority of elements on periodic table
60. *Iron
63. Fortune teller's card
64. Anger
66. Saharan rest stop, e.g.
68. Venerated paintings
69. Acquired
70. Beside, archaic
71. Curious
72. Professional basketball league, acr.
73. Paterfamilias, tenderly

DOWN

1. General Services Administration
2. Additionally
3. Common allergens
4. Tale-spinning brother
5. Prosecco cocktail
6. Position of leadership
7. George Gershwin's brother
8. Village People's "____ Man"
9. Island near Java
10. Stead
11. Reproductive cell
12. Kind of nurse
15. The Beatles' "I Am the ____"
20. Throat lobe
22. "Lend me your ____"
24. Glucose+fructose
25. *Like Ar, Xe and Ne
26. Completely dedicated (2 words)
27. Hair color
29. High in decibels
31. Small European freshwater fish
32. Pasta wheat
33. Accustom
34. *Rn, known for seeping into homes
36. Forever and a day
38. Dance with leis
42. Join companies
45. Old European coins
49. D.C. mover and shaker, for short
51. Encroachment
54. Victory hand gesture
56. Life force, in Sanskrit
57. Type of shark
58. Aphrodite's son
59. Broadway recognition
60. Greek salad ingredient
61. Not mint
62. This over matter?
63. *Sn, element in bronze
65. "To ____ Peter to pay Paul"

SUDOKU

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

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

See answers on pages 19

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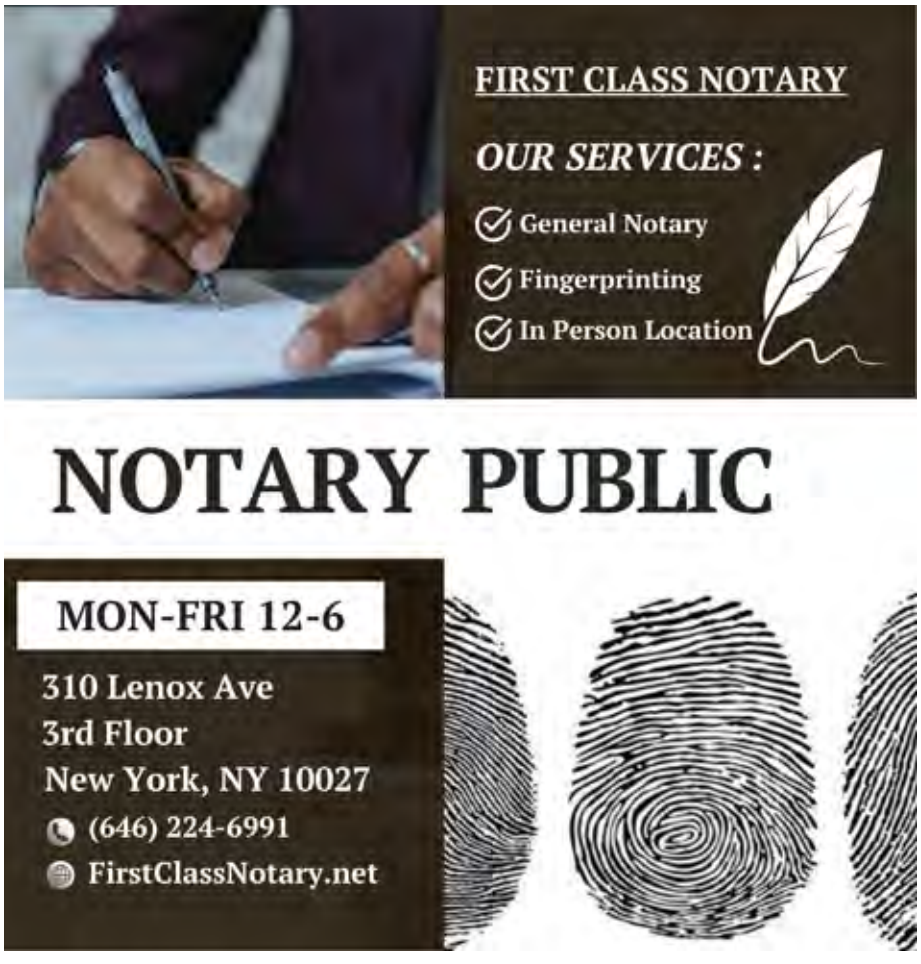

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Public Notice
Fact Sheet

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application and Draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan from S & F 126 ST. LLC for a site known as 260 West 126th Street, site ID #C231164. This site is in the Borough of Manhattan, within the County of New York and is located at 260 West 126th Street. Comments regarding this application and work plan must be submitted no later than October 24, 2025. Access the application, work plan and other relevant documents online through the DECinfo Locator: https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C231164/. 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 10, 215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor, 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 Marlen Salazar, Project Manager, NYSDEC, 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101; marlen.salazar@dec.ny.gov; or call 718-482-7129.

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"The Double Tax: How Women of Color are Overcharged and Underpaid" By Anna Gifty Opokuagyeman, Forwarded by Chelsea Clinton

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

Your favorite Uncle will want to hear from you in about six months, maybe sooner.

He'll want to talk about your wallet, first and foremost. He'll be interested in your home and your workplace and he'll check your memory and your math skills. Nice guy, he'll probably ask after your family, too. You can't avoid Uncle Sam's inquisitiveness but with "The Double Tax" by Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman, you'll see how to stop the "pink tax" from being worse if you're black.

When she was a young child, Anna Gifty Opoku-Ageyman noticed that when it was time to leave for church, the women in her family struggled to get ready on time. Hair, make-up, dressing, it all took more effort for her mother and sisters than it did for the menfolk.

Generally speaking, women have social requirements they must follow that manufacturers have seized upon, leading to "pink taxes," or extra costs placed on things for women that are identical to products made for men. Unfair, yes, and in the case of Black women and life, she says, there's often a double-tax.

Take, for instance, hair.

Studies show that a woman's looks are linked to her checkbook, and hair and beauty products matter. Products marketed to women cost more than that which is marketed to men, and the cost is even higher for Black women's products. That's if they can find them nearby.

Women go up against gender stereotypes when applying for jobs; Black women go up against stereotypes of gender and race – which can also lead to "tokenism" and wage gaps. Women get stuck in lower-paying jobs and are often discouraged from reaching for STEM-related careers, but studies show that Black women suffer higher rates of this discrimination.

So what can be done?

Fund minority businesses, Opoku-Ageyman says. Change how your business uses resumes. Support better access to education for Black women. Be transparent in your organization's pay scale. Revisit your company's policy on motherhood.

Finally, identify gaps in the system and close them. Doing so will help now, and later.

Sometimes, it seems like life is all uphill. And that may be twice as apt for women of color, as you'll see in "The Double Tax."

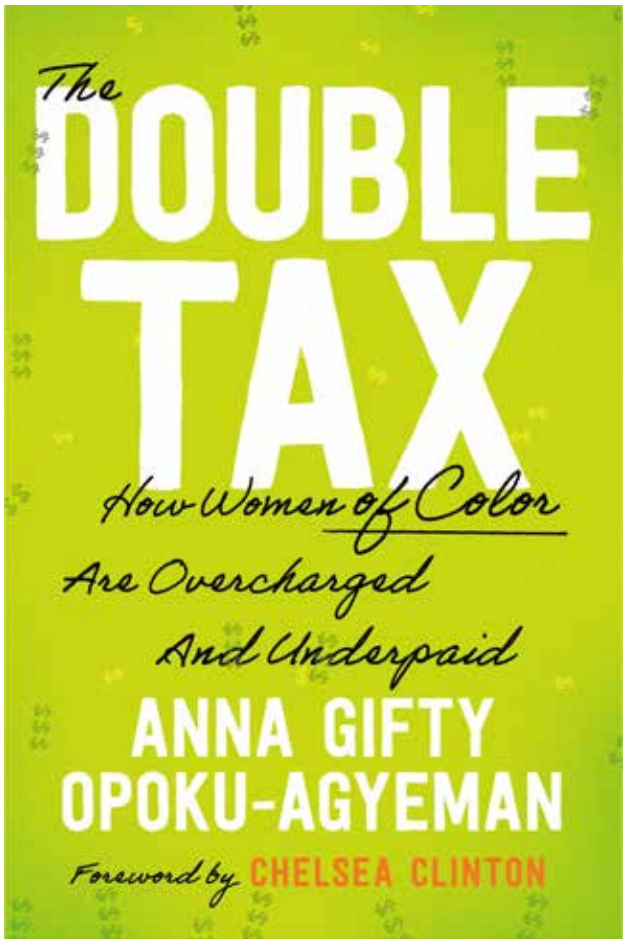
But is this a book you need?

Read a little, think about its first few pages, and you may decide that author Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman isn't talking to you. If you're a woman of color, what's here is old news; instead, she seems to be talking more to male supervisors, bosses, and CEOs of all races with personal stories that underscore her points. That doesn't mean white woman won't learn a few things – raising another woman up is always a good action - but men who don't pay the pink tax will surely get more from it.

Although what you'll find here is a bit broad, this book will open eyes to what's hidden in plain sight and you'll find ideas for change that can affect the status quo. For that, "The Double Tax" is a singularly helpful book.

"The Double Tax: How Women of Color are Overcharged and Underpaid" by Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman, foreword by Chelsea Clinton

c.2025, Portfolio
$29.00
256 pages



Answers to puzzle on page 17

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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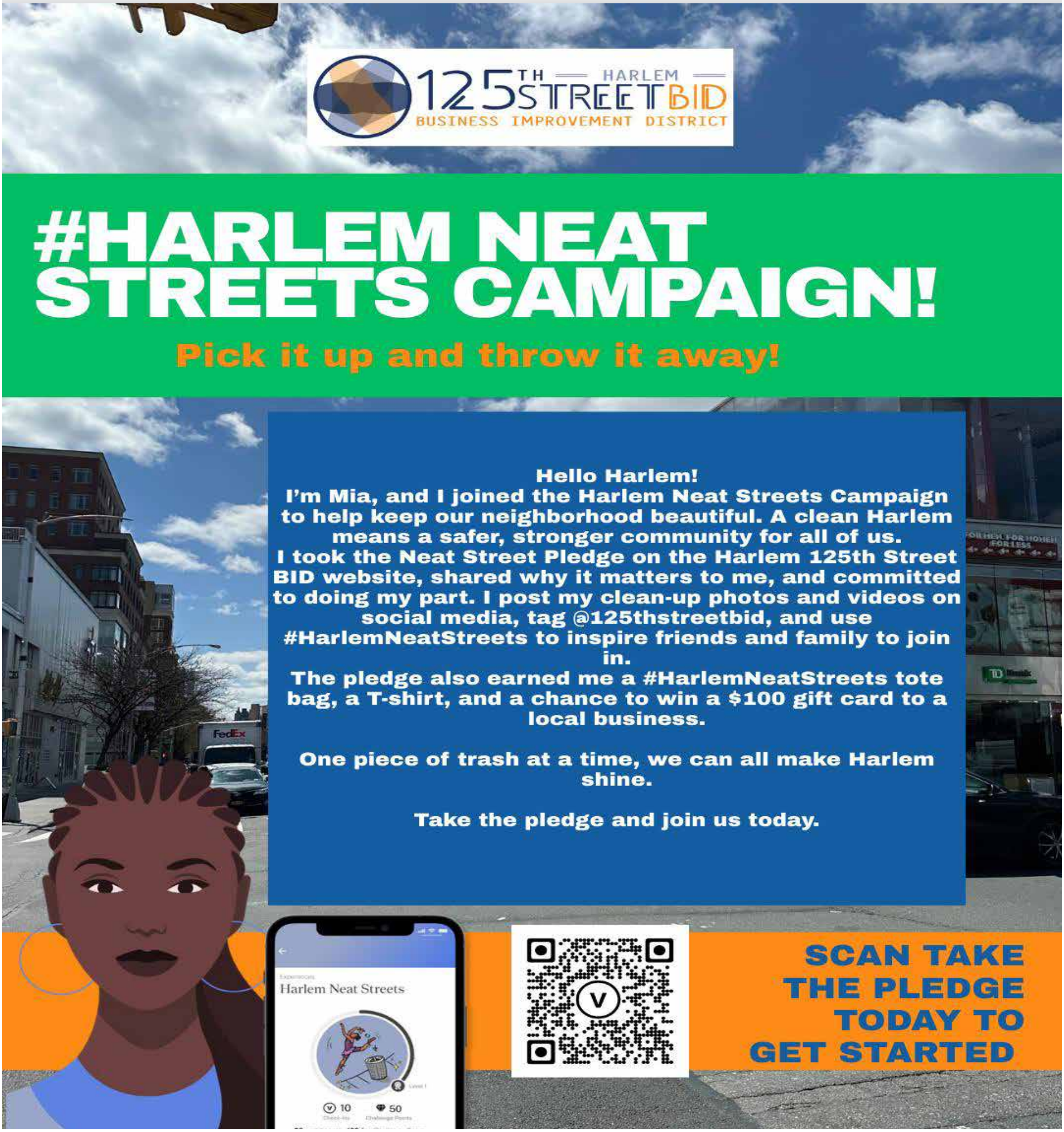
125TH STREET HARLEM BID
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
#HARLEM NEAT STREETS CAMPAIGN!
Pick it up and throw it away!
Hello Harlem!
I'm Mia, and I joined the Harlem Neat Streets Campaign to help keep our neighborhood beautiful. A clean Harlem means a safer, stronger community for all of us.
I took the Neat Street Pledge on the Harlem 125th Street BID website, shared why it matters to me, and committed to doing my part. I post my clean-up photos and videos on social media, tag @125thstreetbid, and use #HarlemNeatStreets to inspire friends and family to join in.
The pledge also earned me a #HarlemNeatStreets tote bag, a T-shirt, and a chance to win a $100 gift card to a local business.
One piece of trash at a time, we can all make Harlem shine.
Take the pledge and join us today.
Harlem Neat Streets
10
50
SCAN TAKE THE PLEDGE TODAY TO GET STARTED