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"GOOD NEWS YOU CAN USE"

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

# HARLEM NEWS

COMMUNITY

"Good News You Can Use"

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November 13, 2025 - November 19, 2025

Free



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

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**PAT STEVENSON**

In this week’s issue, we proudly congratulate Pastor Waldron of First Corinthian Church in Harlem, who was recently honored with the Legacy Award by the 125th Street Business Improvement District.

(see page 10)

We also celebrate Misty Copeland, who received an electrifying farewell from the American Ballet Theatre as she retires from an extraordinary career.

(see page 9)

Looking ahead, the 125th Street BID will host the annual Holiday Lights Parade on Tuesday, November 18th. Don’t miss the dazzling floats and festive vehicles lighting up 125th Street to usher in the holiday season. (see pages 11-14)

This past Tuesday, we observed Veterans Day—a moment of reflection and gratitude. I take this time to honor my father, who served in the Army for over 30 years, along with several uncles and cousins who also wore the uniform with pride. Their dedication and sacrifice remind us of the true meaning of service. We thank all veterans for their courage and commitment.

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**Pat Stevenson  
Celebrating  
32 Years Publishing**

# Affirming Black Children Through Books: Stories That Help Them See Their Light

By Aundre Tabbs Smth, Emotional Well-being Literacy and Curriculum Coordinator, Friends Center for Children

I spent my earliest years as an educator searching for books that reflected my students' experiences; I wanted to introduce them to books that reflected not just the colors of their skin, but also the textures of their lives. I wanted them to see themselves as I saw them: loved, powerful, and full of potential. Too often, those stories were missing from the shelves.

As the Emotional Well-being Literacy and Curriculum Coordinator at Friends Center for Children in New Haven, Conn., I lead programming for the organization's new Books with Friends Trolley – a mobile library that provides professional development and age- and culturally-appropriate books to family, and center-based childcare providers across New Haven. I spend my days working with young chil-

dren, teaching them to name their feelings, build confidence, and understand that every part of who they are deserves to be celebrated. Books are one of our best tools to do that work. When a child hears a story that reflects their truth, something shifts fundamentally. They feel seen. Their eyes light up, their shoulders relax, and their minds open to the possibilities that await them. Below are just a few of my favorite affirming books for Black children, which will help them build that sense of belonging and possibility from their earliest moments.

*Homemade Love* by bell hooks  
Appropriate for ages birth through 3-years-old

The celebrated poet and feminist thinker bell hooks teamed up with illustrator Shane W. Evans to create a lyrical, love-soaked board book that reminds children

that they are loved, cherished and supported, even when they make mistakes or feel afraid.

I love this book because it's a gentle affirmation of unconditional love, perfect for bedtime or any moment a child needs reassurance. The text is simple yet lyrical, filled with affectionate nicknames and rhythmic phrasing that makes it perfect for reading aloud. This book is a tender anthem for secure attachment, which is something every young child needs to thrive.

*Bedtime Bonnet*  
by Nancy Redd  
Appropriate for 2- through 6-years-old

This joyful tribute to family is the first picture book to shine a light on nighttime hair rituals for Black people, an experience familiar to many young girls who've misplaced their bonnet before bed. *Bedtime Bonnet* offers a tender

glimpse into cherished hair care traditions and honors the deep bonds shared across generations in a loving, close-knit Black family.

This book showcases the importance of hair care in Black culture, making it both relatable and educational. It also reinforces the idea that these small acts are part of a shared experience. For any child with a nighttime hair routine, it's a validating and joyful reflection of their lives.

*I Am Every Good Thing*  
by Derrick Barnes  
Appropriate for 3- through 8-years-old

The bold and self-assured narrator in this story dreams big and embraces every part of who he is. He is imaginative, daring, intelligent, humorous, and loyal. He stumbles at times, but when the fear creeps in, he never stops showing the world his true self.

This book is powerful because it centers a confident young Black boy who celebrates his identity, dreams, and resilience. It offers a counter-narrative to stereotypes, showing Black children as joyful, brilliant, and full of promise. And the prose is beautiful, rhythmic and bold; this reads like a spoken word poem.

*Jayden's Impossible Garden*  
by Mélina Mangal  
Appropriate for 4- through 9-years-old

Jayden finds beauty and life all around him in the city, from squirrels foraging to cardinals singing and dandelions blooming. But when his mom isn't convinced that nature exists in such a busy place, Jayden is determined to change her mind. Jayden teams up with his friend Mr. Curtis to start a community garden. As the garden grows, so does a sense of

connection among neighbors, and soon his mom begins to see the wonder of nature through Jayden's eyes. This book gently challenges the idea that nature only exists in rural spaces. It shows how even in a bustling city, life flourishes. It inspires young readers to notice and care for the natural world around them, wherever they live.

Emotional well-being starts early and is built on the foundations of connection, reflection and love. When we read stories that affirm who children are, we teach them pride, compassion and belonging. These books aren't just stories; they're tools for building identity and healing. Some of my most powerful experiences working with young children have been reading to children who see themselves in a book for the first time, smiling as someone whispers, "That looks like me."

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## PONDER THIS! Yield Not to Temptations



They are the months that bring celebration, and succulent decadent delights to our purses and palates.

Temptations weave a wicked spell. They induce, entice, and invite thoughts and actions that may not seem dangerous at first. We make excuses for temptations that we know are pulling at us and leading to poor decision-making.

Holiday invitations are inclusive occasions that we do not want to decline. It is a joyful time to meet with family and friends and of course, food is the highlight of every gathering. Yet, as easy as it is to

accept the invitation, it is profoundly difficult to deny ourselves the overwhelming desire to taste every bit of whatever will be served. The invitation alone induces immediate salivation.

Dietary constrictions go down the drain, as we attempt to justify the consumption and mix of meals that are not healthy choices. How many times have we said these words, "I'll eat this today and worry about it tomorrow." Or worse, when we think elevated salt and sugar can get flushed out, by doubling up on our water intake later. Keep in mind that prescribed

medication is for maintenance, not prevention. No pill can override our responsibility to follow precautionary measures.

Anything that is taken to the hilt can be a jolt to the body, mind, and spirit. The body reacts when it is subjected to sudden change. Salt will increase blood pressure levels, and glucose numbers can rise from that oversized slice of mama's sweet potato pie, along with cholesterol from starches. Our mind is subjected to the guilt of the extra pounds accumulated and the spirit is wounded by the disappointment we created in going against

the good we thought we were practicing just a few months prior. Thinking about a gym membership?

Food is not the only culprit in this season. There is the temptation to overspend. There is a deep sense of gift-giving consciousness during the Christmas holiday that is the cause of long suffering for many months after the tree has been composted.

Even those who proclaim their belief that Jesus is the reason for the season, find themselves in debt because they chose to celebrate others with gifts beyond their financial means.

What sacrifices will have to fall into place to resolve such heightened spending?

The gifts you give during this holy season must include you in the mix. Give yourself the gift of gratitude for good health and happiness. Do not let temptations put you in a place of dismay and depression in debt. Yield not to temptation, stay steady and true.

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

This is the time to stay true to what is best for you. Three months, November, December, and January can take a toll on our health and finances, because of the temptations that surface during the holiday season.

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# Adams Administration Accomplishments



By Mayor Eric Adams

For nearly four years, the Adams administration has worked every day to make New York City a safer, more affordable city for all, especially working-class families. We have made great progress on public safety, public health, and economic growth, and we continue to be the most pro-housing administration in modern city history. We are proud of our track record, and we know that the work we have done will keep our city's fundamentals strong in the years to come.

Nowhere is this more obvious than public safety, where we have hired nearly 10,000 new police officers and driven crime down to historic lows. Shootings are down by 54 percent and murders are down by 36 percent compared to the same period before the start of our administration. Thanks to our work — including removing over 24,000 illegal guns — shooting incidents and shooting victims are both at their lowest levels in our city's recorded history.

In addition to fighting violent crime, we have protected our neighborhoods and our quality of life by shutting down 1,500 illegal cannabis stores and seizing over \$100 million in illegal cannabis products. We have made our streets safer by confiscating more than 120,000 illegal e-bikes and mopeds, as well as implementing a 15-mph speed limit that will protect both pedestrians and riders. We have also made our streets cleaner, launching a “War on Trash” that has been an unqualified success. New rules requiring 70 percent of city trash to be moved into containers have been transformative, resulting in cleaner streets and fewer rats.

Protecting public safety means protecting public health, and we are proud that we have effectively done both, especially when it comes to helping those suffering from serious mental illness. Our “Subway Safety Plan” has moved 8,800 New Yorkers off our subways and streets and into shelters. We created a new PATH initiative to partner nurses and police officers and made over 20,000 engagements with unhoused New Yorkers living in the subway system in the first year alone. Most importantly, we changed the conversation on serious mental illness, emphasizing care and commitment instead of letting those in crisis suffer on our streets.

The economy reached new heights on our watch, shattering the record for the most jobs in city history 12 times in a row. We also broke the record for the most small businesses in city history, with 183,000 small businesses, and cut unemployment by 39 percent since start of our administration. At this moment, we are celebrating 4.9 million jobs in the city, another record-setting number.

New Yorkers work hard, and this administration is determined to put money back in their pockets. We passed our “Axe the Tax for the Working Class” plan to eliminate and cut city personal income taxes for working families, resulting in \$63 million in savings. We also partnered with Undue Medical Debt to forgive \$2 billion in medical debt for half a million New Yorkers and provided free internet and basic cable TV access to 330,000 New Yorkers in NYCHA through “Big Apple Connect.” These efforts and more have helped us put a total of more than \$30 billion back into the pockets of working-class New Yorkers.

We've known from day one that being pro-affordability meant needing to be pro-housing. That is why we mobilized to pass our “City of Yes” agenda, the first citywide rezoning initiative in six decades, to create up to 80,000 new homes and invest \$5 billion in housing and infrastructure.

We advanced five neighborhood plans to create more than 50,000 homes over the next 15 years, and we created, preserved, or planned 433,250 homes since the start of the administration — and we're not done yet. Thanks to our work, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers will have the key to affordable and abundant housing in the years to come.

We have also supported a major expansion of public space, creating over 74 football fields of new parks, greenways, and recreational spaces since the start of our administration.

Because of so much of what we accomplished, New York is a great city to raise a family in, and our world-class public schools support a diverse population of students and families from all over the world. We are committed to excellence, and by implementing new evidence-based reading and math instruction to half a million students, we were able to improve student test scores across the board. We are also supporting working families with the launch of our free “Afterschool for All” program thanks to a total investment of \$755 million, and we cut the average co-payment for subsidized childcare from \$55 per week in 2022 to less than \$5 per week today — that's an average savings of nearly \$1,300 per child each year!



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# Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

Can anyone afford to buy a home in Harlem? Apparently, the answer is not one that most prospective home buyers are looking forward to hearing. But the escalating home values and the limited home buying opportunities for first time home buyers is the reality that most of us are now facing.

So, you as a prospective home buyer must make a very tough decision regarding your home buying goal. Are you going to quit and forget your dream or are you going to use all your available resources to accomplish this goal? If you are willing to go forward with the process, you are going to have to establish an extremely aggressive spending plan. As we approach the beginning of the holiday season, this is an excellent time to start this plan.

You must immediately start to eliminate all exces-

sive and wasteful spending. It becomes imperative that you save as much as you possibly can towards the purchase of your home. Regardless of your income, you are now faced with a crisis of needing more money. That money is going to have to come from your assets. If necessary, consider using a portion of your retirement account.

Go to several lenders to determine who will offer you the best deal. Inquire about their mortgage products for first-time home buyers. Compare their available financial assistance package to determine how much of your closing costs they will offset. Today, lenders are becoming very competitive with their first-time mortgage products and the closing costs assistance. Also, remember not every lender will offer every type of mortgage product. Some will not offer FHA; others will not offer SONY-MA; still others will not write mortgages on new construction or HDFC cooperative units.

Another possible option to consider is receiving a gift from a family member or friend. I was recently counseling a young couple planning on becoming first-time

homeowners. They informed me that the husband's father was giving them a gift of \$250,000 towards the purchase of their home! Now most of us do not have wealthy, generous family members, but if you could get 10-20 family members to give you \$500-1000 that might be attainable. Every little bit will help you reach your goal.

Try to combine as many grant programs that you are eligible to use during this process. Find out which lenders are willing to write mortgages on Housing Development Fund Cooperative units (HDFC). These limited equity units are still the best bargain in Harlem.

It is important for low to moderate income prospective first-time home buyers to fully comprehend the challenges you are facing in your quest for homeownership. No one said this process would be easy, but if you are successful, homeownership will be well worth the effort.

*If you are interested in attending the workshop or have questions regarding the home buying process, contact Rev. Dr. Charles Butler at (212) 281 4887 ext. 231 or email at [cbutler@hcci.org](mailto:cbutler@hcci.org).*

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# HARLEM EVENTS

**Nov 20-Dec 14, Sat 7pm, Sat 2pm. Wed 3pm, Sun 3pm**

**"The Wash" by Kelundra Smith**

Woodie King Jr.'s New Federal Theatre to present a return engagement of "The Wash" by Kelundra, a play inspired by the Atlanta Washer women's Strike of 1881. Incredible, if little-known interracial labor uprising takes center stage. Being held at WP Theater - 2162 Broadway @ 76th St. Presented by Woodie King, Jr.'s New Federal Theatre, Elizabeth Van Dyke, Producing Artistic. Tickets \$30-\$45

**Dec 6**

**Harlem Fashion Week Pop-Up being held at Aloft Harlem**

Vendor showcase featuring local fashion, accessories, and beauty brands being held at 2296 Frederick Douglass Blvd., Free entry

**Dec 6, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Sana Sana Holiday Traditions Market**

Sana Sana Holiday Traditions Market Brings Culture, Creativity, and Community Healing to East Harlem being held at El Barrio's Artspace PS109, 215 E 99th St, New York, NY

This event will warm the season with joy, ancestral memory, and community healing. Featuring over 20 BIPOC and women-owned small businesses, the market is a festive celebration of culture, care, and creativity. Rooted in the traditions of our abuelas and the bold innovation of modern healers and makers, this event offers more than shopping — it's a space to connect, create, and celebrate. Local vendors offering handmade goods, spiritual tools, cultural foods, skincare, art & more. Low-cost wellness workshops including: Tincture blending, Wreath making with sustainable materials, Affirmation card making, Music to keep the energy high. A warm, welcoming space for all ages, backgrounds, and identities

**Nov 28-Dec 28 7-10PM**

**Make It a Night to Remember at the Holiday Train Show at Bronx Botanical Gardens**

Let roving train conductors welcome you to experience the Holiday Train Show® in a whole new light as we illuminate the exhibition for Holiday Train Nights—lively after-dark celebrations where you can sip seasonal cocktails and mocktails under the glass of the warm and twinkling Haupt Conservatory. Find card-worthy photo ops at every turn as you explore a miniature cityscape of familiar landmarks brought to life by model trains zipping to and fro. Bop along to holiday classics and Christmas pop favorites sung by performers, enjoy sweet and savory bites for purchase, or hop over to the "Bar Car"—back this year with a 21+ bar at the Hudson Garden Grill Patio. You can even get your holiday shopping done at NYBG Shop. It's the perfect night out, whether you're planning a memorable date or a wintertime gathering with friends! Tickets Non-Members – starting at \$43



Botanical Garden Bronx Holiday Train Show Nov-Dec

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# The American Ballet Theatre's Salute to Misty Copeland was Electric

By Audrey J. Bernard  
Society Editor

On Tuesday evening, October 22, 2025, the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) hosted its Fall Gala: A Celebration Honoring Misty Copeland whose trailblazing career has irrevocably changed the 85-year old institution. The celebration took place simultaneously with ABT's landmark 85th anniversary season which included a special program that highlighted Misty's extraordinary legacy spanning ten years when Copeland became the first Black woman to be named a principal at ABT and rocketed to icon status as a result. The Black-tie Gala raised \$6 million and will support ABT's mission to make ballet more inclusive, accessible, and modern.

The stellar evening featured a fabulous fusion of dance and video which followed her journey from her earliest influences on her defining performances and rise to Principal Dancer, and ultimately to her impact beyond the stage – as a cultural leader, advocate, and inspiration to the next generation. Her story is woven into the broader tapestry of ABT's history, celebrating the past while looking boldly toward the fu-



Misty Copeland.

ture. Honorary Grand Chair Caroline Kennedy welcomed guests to the theater before the performance. Debbie Allen and Honorary Grand Chair Oprah Winfrey also took the stage to share reflections on Misty's impact on dance and culture.

The phenomenal program included performance excerpts from Kenneth MacMillan's Romeo and Juliet, Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov's Swan Lake, George Balanchine's Theme and Variations, and Twyla Tharp's Sinatra Suite, alongside Wrecka Stow, a World Premiere by Kyle Abraham. Featured ABT dancers included: Calvin Royall III, Cory Stearns, Hee

Seo, Herman Cornejo, Catherine Hurlin, and Isaac Hernández. While enjoying a dinner of parmesan chicken and roasted purple potatoes, Copeland was announced as a member of ABT's Board of Trustees. Sotheby's auctioneer Kimberly Pirtle was also on hand to raise over \$1.5 million on the spot for a new Misty Copeland-named program that expands community access to live performance.

Her retirement performance at Wednesday evening's Fall gala, unsurprisingly, drew a crowd of equal stature, including Alessia Fendi, Alfre Woodard, Amy Astley, Amy Fine Collins, Amy Griffin, Amy

Sherald, Anne Imhof, Anh Duong, Andrew Rannells, B Michael, Beejan Land, Brooks Nader, Carys Zeta Douglas, CC & Amber Sabathia, Chai Vasarhelyi, Arielle Patrick, Chelsea Clinton, Christian Cowan, Clara Wu Tsai, Chloe Flower, Danielle Brooks, Dawn Porter, Debra Lee, Deborah Roberts, Derek Fordjour, Devin Finzer, Elizabeth Alexander, Gayle King, Hamish Bowles, Hannah Bronfman & Brendan Fallis, Ilana Glazer, Indre Rockefeller, Iman, Isaac Boots, Jaelin Howell, Jim Parsons, Jordan Roth & Richie Jackson, Julie Halston, Katie Couric & John Molner, Katie Lee & Ryan Bie-

gel, Leigh Fidler, Leo Villareal, Villareal, Zac Posen, Zara Tisch, ABT Artistic Director Susan Jaffe and Executive Director Barry Hughson.

The Fall Gala was streamed live to Alice Tully Hall. Simulcast guests who enjoyed the breathtaking performance from Alice Tully Hall included Executive Director of The Misty Copeland Foundation Caryn Campbell, Dean of Students and Director of ABT Wellness and ABT RISE Aubrey Lynch II, Lincoln Center Chief Artistic Officer Shanta Thake, and dance luminary Desmond Richardson. (Photo credit: Getty Images for ABT)



Arielle Patrick, Valentino Carloti, Susan Fales-Hill



Laurie A. Cumbo, Jody Arnhold



Alfre Woodard, LaTanya Richardson Jackson



Iman



Debbie Allen, Phylicia Rashad



Oprah Winfrey



Darren Walker, Amy Griffin



Thelma Golden

# Honoring a Harlem Luminary - Pastor Michael A. Walrond, Jr. Celebrated by the 125th Street BID

By Pat Stevenson

On Thursday, November 6, 2025, the 125th Street Business Improvement District (BID) hosted a heartfelt tribute to Pastor Michael A. Walrond Jr., Senior Pastor of First Corinthian Baptist Church, at The Forum at Columbia University. Community leaders,

125BID Bboard members and staff; residents, and supporters gathered to honor a man whose spiritual leadership and civic engagement have left an indelible mark on Harlem.

The evening was filled with warmth, reflection, and celebration. A highlight of the program was a dynamic performance

by the Thurgood Marshall Steppers, whose rhythmic precision and cultural pride electrified the room. Their presence underscored the vibrancy of Harlem's youth and the legacy of excellence that Pastor Walrond has long championed.

Pastor Walrond's journey is one of profound impact. Since assuming leadership of First Corinthian Baptist Church (FCBC), he has transformed the institution into a beacon of progressive faith and social justice. Under his guidance, FCBC has grown from a modest congregation into a thriving spiritual community known for its inclusivity, innovation, and outreach. His sermons, often infused with calls to action and empowerment, have resonated far beyond the pulpit, inspiring movements and mentoring leaders across the nation.

Beyond the church walls, Pastor Walrond has



Thurgood Marshall Steppers performed



Reverend Michael A Walrond (center) receives the 125th Street BID Legacy Award; Dr. Lena Green (left) WABC Ch 7's Chanteé Lans (right)

been a tireless advocate for equity, education, and economic development. His work intersects with the mission of the 125th Street BID, which has long served as a catalyst for revitalization and cultural preservation in Harlem. Founded to enhance the commercial corridor along 125th Street, the BID has spearheaded initiatives that support local businesses, promote tourism, and celebrate Harlem's rich heritage.

The decision to honor Pastor Walrond reflects the BID's commitment to recognizing individuals

who embody the spirit of Harlem - resilient, visionary, and community-centered. His leadership aligns with the BID's goals of fostering a thriving, inclusive neighborhood where commerce and culture coexist.

As the evening drew to a close, attendees were reminded of the upcoming Harlem Holiday Lighting Parade, scheduled for November 18th. This annual event, also organized by the 125th Street BID, transforms the iconic boulevard into a dazzling display of lights, music, and uni-

ty. It's a celebration that brings together families, artists, and entrepreneurs, illuminating not just the streets, but the soul of Harlem.

The tribute to Pastor Walrond was more than an event - it was a testament to the power of faith, leadership, and community. As Harlem continues to evolve, voices like his remain essential in guiding its path forward. The 125th Street BID's recognition of his contributions serves as a reminder that honoring our leaders is also a way of honoring ourselves.



Lew Rice, 125th St BID Board member; Reverend Michael A. Walrond, Jr., WABC Ch 7's Chanteé Lans; the Apollo's Billy Mitchell



Sabrina Brice, V.P. Industrial Bank; Pat Stevenson, CEO, Harlem News



WABC Ch 7's Chanteé Lans; Eutha Prince, Community Board 9



# HARLEM HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2025

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 AT 6PM  
125<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND OLD BROADWAY  
RAIN DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025

*NYC's only  
parade of  
holiday lights*



*Celebrating Culture,  
Community and Connections*

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# CULTURE, COMMUNITY, CONNECTIONS

HOW TO ENJOY ALL THE NEW ACTIVATIONS FOR HARLEM HOLIDAY LIGHTS 2025



Grand Marshal  
**THE APOLLO**



Grand Marshal  
**MALIK YOBA**

## NEW WAYS TO CELEBRATE THIS YEAR'S FESTIVITIES

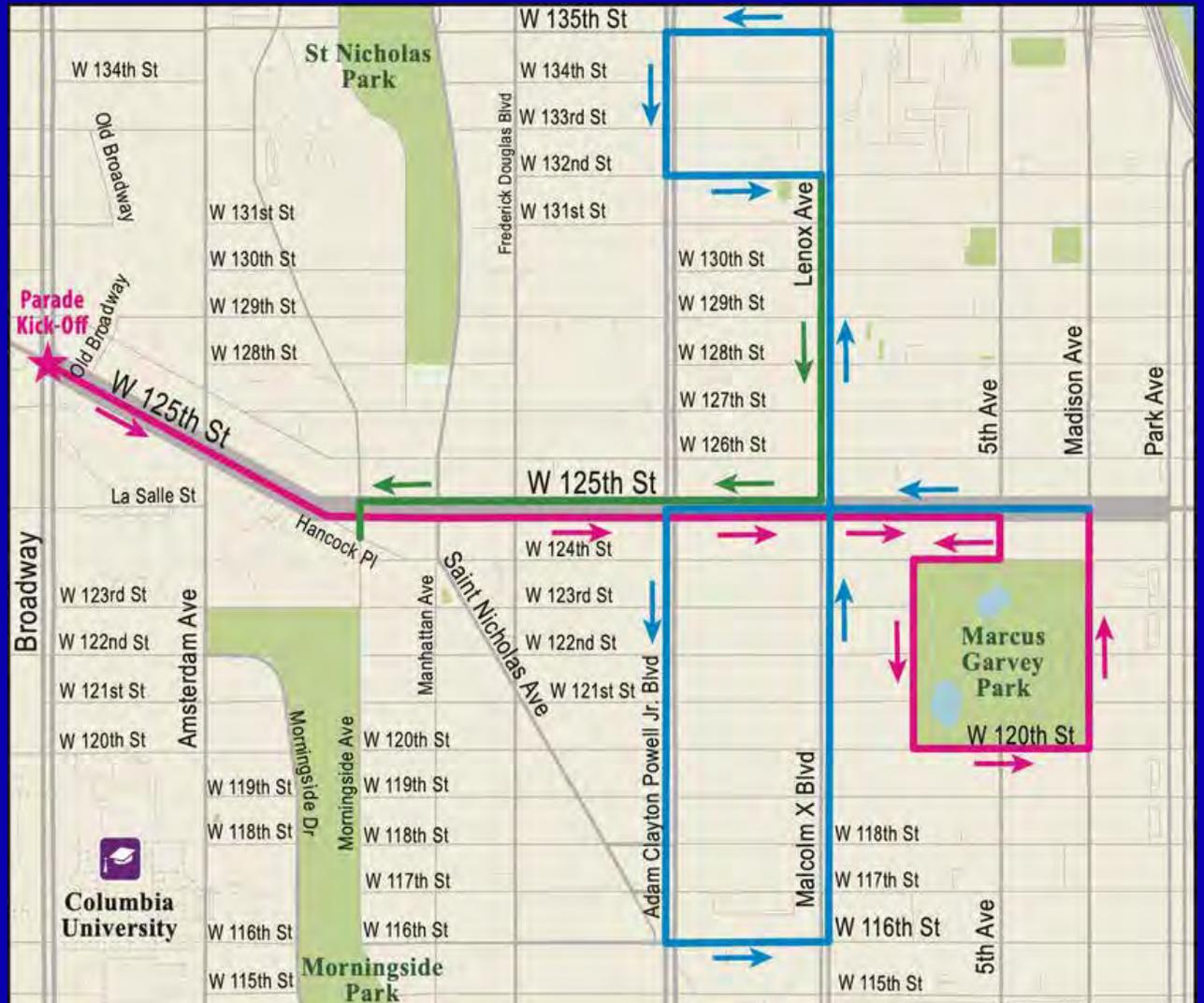
- TWO GRAND MARSHALS THAT REPRESENT THE PARADE THEME OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY, CONNECTIONS: THE APOLLO AND MALIK YOBA.
- 20+ MAGICALLY LIT UP FLOATS ALONG WITH TWO FIRETRUCKS AND A DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION VEHICLE, ASSEMBLING AT 125<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND BROADWAY, TRAVELING THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
- DOZENS OF WATCH AREAS PROVIDE HOLIDAY FUN FOR GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES.
- NEARLY 50 COMMUNITY ACTIVATIONS, INCLUDING FOUR TOY GIVEAWAY AREAS FOR LOCAL YOUTH, A CANNED FOOD DRIVE, LIVE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT & DANCE PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL GROUPS, HEALTH SERVICES, FOOD & BEVERAGE SAMPLINGS FROM LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD STAPLES, AND MORE.



**ROUTE DIRECTION | 6-8 PM**

**KICKOFF AT 125<sup>TH</sup> + OLD BROADWAY**

- 125<sup>TH</sup> ST TO 5<sup>TH</sup> AVE
- RIGHT ON 5<sup>TH</sup> AVE TO 124<sup>TH</sup> ST
- CONTINUE AROUND MARCUS GARVEY PARK
- LEFT ON MADISON AVE TO 125<sup>TH</sup> ST
- LEFT ON 125<sup>TH</sup> ST TO ADAM CLAYTON POWELL JR. (ACP JR.) BLVD
- LEFT ON ACP JR. BLVD TO 116<sup>TH</sup> ST
- LEFT ON 116<sup>TH</sup> ST TO MALCOLM X BLVD
- LEFT ON MALCOM X BLVD TO 135<sup>TH</sup> ST
- LEFT ON 135<sup>TH</sup> ST TO ACP JR. BLVD
- LEFT ON ACP JR. BLVD TO 132<sup>ND</sup> ST
- RIGHT ON 132<sup>ND</sup> ST TO LENOX AVE
- RIGHT ON LENOX AVE TO 125<sup>TH</sup> ST



- > **PARADE START**
- > **PARADE ROUTE**
- > **PARADE EXIT**

For more information on the parade including an interactive map of watch areas, use the QR code below or visit [harlemlightitup.org](http://harlemlightitup.org).



125th Street Broadway and Amsterdam, New York, NY

- Office of the Manhattan Borough President's Office
- NYC DOT
- The Harlem Heavenly Notes of the United House of Prayer for All People
- United House of Prayer for All People
- Boost Mobile - Store 1
- Portabella
- Chick-fil-A
- PICHC Perinatal and Infant Community Health Collaborative
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Ralph Lauren Center
- NYPD Toy Drive
- WHCR 90.3 FM - Harlem Community Broadcast & Engagement
- Raising Cane's
- Victoria's Secret
- Carver Federal Savings Bank
- Chase
- CUNY Graduate School of Public Health
- Mushtari Hardware & Garden
- Boost Mobile - Store 2
- Nike Unite - Harlem
- Marcus Garvey Park/Pelham Fritz Recreation Center
- Mt. Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church
- BID Toy Drive - Site 2
- Bethel Gospel Assembly Church
- Xtraordinary/Lion's Den
- BID Toy Drive! - Site 4
- Ryan Health
- Hope Center & First Corinthian Baptist Church
- FACES NY Inc. Community Support Center
- P.B. Brasserie
- WHCR 90.3 FM - Harlem Community Broadcast & Engagement - Station 3
- Settepani Restaurant
- Rokmil Fitness Studios
- First AME Bethel Church
- Seniors on the Boulevard - Harlem Dowling
- Iris House
- BID Toy Drive - Site 3
- WHCR 90.3 FM - Harlem Community Broadcast & Engagement - Station 2
- Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change
- Shrine - Harlem Holiday Lights
- Clayton & Co Merchant Association w/ Harlem Hops and Harlem Chocolate Factory
- Just Lorraine's Place 2
- Williams Institutional CME
- 132nd Street Stoop Parties
- Red Rooster
- Greedy Pot
- Archcare

# Harlem Holiday Lights Celebration, Tuesday, November 18th, 6:00pm - All Are Welcome

The holiday season kicks off in Harlem with the 125th Street Business Improvement District (125th St. BID), which has been re-energizing Harlem's cultural scene by promoting the arts, entertainment, dining, and business community for over 30 years, hosting New York City's only parade of holiday lights, Harlem Holiday Lights, a free public event on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (rain date Tuesday, November 25, 2025) at 6 p.m. at 125th Street and Broadway.

This year's Harlem Holiday Lights theme will celebrate "Culture, Community, Connections," and how the 125th St. BID has continued to grow as a place to work, live, visit and learn, and encompassing Harlem's evolution across generations, bridg-

ing Harlem's past, present and future through this year's Grand Marshals.

Grand Marshals include Actor and Philanthropist Malik Yoba, born in the Bronx and raised in Harlem, along with the Apollo Theater which is celebrating nine decades of bringing world class arts and culture to 125th St.

Yoba, who starred in New York Undercover, has close ties to the community and is the connection between The Apollo where he recently performed a one-man stage play Harlem to Hollywood. Beyond his many acting achievements, Yoba has been a champion for community empowerment. He is the founder and CEO of the Yoba Development Foundation Corporation, the non-profit arm of Yoba Devel-

opment Firm, which is dedicated to empowering individuals and communities through education, community engagement, and sustainable development, to build a better future.

The legendary Apollo Theater has played a vital role in cultivating emerging artists and launching legends. Since its founding, The Apollo has served as a center of innovation and a creative catalyst for Harlem, the city of New York, and the world. This past summer, the theater broke ground on a historic renovation and modernization project that will provide upgraded amenities while honoring the theater's cultural legacy, in line with the theme of Harlem Holiday Lights in celebrating culture, community, connections. Apollo programs contin-

ue at The Apollo Stages at The Victoria and at partner locations while the Historic Theater undergoes its largest renovation and restoration in history, which began on July 1.

Highlights and updated activations for this year's Harlem Holiday Lights parade include:

Two Grand Marshals that represent the parade theme of Culture, Community, Connections.

More than 20 magically lit up floats along with two fire trucks and a Department of Sanitation vehicle, assembling at 125th Street and Broadway, traveling throughout the neighborhood.

Dozens of watch areas provide holiday fun for generations of families.

Nearly 50 community activations, including four toy giveaway areas along the route for local youth, a



Grand Marshal Malik Yoba



canned food drive to serve those in need, live musical performances featuring local groups including the Thurgood Marshall Academy Steppers and a children's choir, Seniors on the Boulevard, health services, food and beverage samplings from local neighborhood staples and more.

The parade will also celebrate its Legacy Award recipient Michael A. Walrond, Jr., the Senior Pastor of First Corinthian Baptist Church (FCBC) in Harlem.

Community partners and sponsors of the parade of lights and activation festivities include Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, CB9, CB10, Apollo Theater, Colum-

bia University, Settepani Restaurant, Metro Plus Health, Toys of Hope, Ryan Health, A. Philip Randolph Senior Center, Hope Center, Mushtari, Living Redemption Harlem-Dowling West Side Center, Harlem Community Development Corporation, Central Harlem Senior Citizen's Centers, Inc., W. 135th St. Apartments Tenant Association, Inc., Harlem Advocates for Seniors, Fata Realty, United House of Prayer, FDNY, NYPD, and others.

For more information on the holiday festivities including a full list of activations, please visit <https://www.harlemlightitup.org/> and follow on Instagram at HarlemHolidayLights.

# Hip Hop Church Honors Fred Buggs of WBLS and Elai Tubo of the Hip Hop Museum

(photo by Seitu Oronde)

On Thursday evening, November 6, 2025, the Hip Hop Church Harlem gathered at Greater Hood Memorial AME Zion Church in New York City for a powerful night of praise, music, and celebration, honoring two giants of culture and community - Fred "Bugsy" Buggs of WBLS 107.5 FM, and Elai Tubo, Technical Director of the Hip Hop Museum Bronx.

The service, normally led by Pastor Wendell Lancaster, who was out for surgery, was replaced by Minister Tykym Stallings. Tykym, Rev Omar Owens, Kendra Hardy, Crossover TV (BRONX-NET), brought together

clergy, artists, and fans from across the Hip Hop community. With uplifting performances by Gospel Gabe, Malachi Da Truth, and Txai, heartfelt testimonies, and a spirit of unity, the evening exemplified the mission of the Hip Hop Church, blending faith and culture to uplift the people and inspire the next generation.

Fred Buggs, a pioneering voice in New York radio and a cornerstone of WBLS for decades, was recognized for his lifelong dedication to broadcasting, mentorship, and his enduring support for Hip Hop and R&B artists. Elai Tubo was honored for his innovative leadership in

advancing the digital and technical excellence of Hip Hop and the Hip Hop Museum in the Bronx, helping to preserve the legacy of the culture for generations to come.

"It's an honor to celebrate these two brothers who have both served Hip Hop with passion and purpose," said Rev. Dr. Kurtis Blow Walker, founder of the Hip Hop Church. "They represent the heart and soul of our community, service, creativity, and love for the culture."

The event featured live gospel and Hip Hop performances, prayers for unity, and words of encouragement from community leaders and fellow artists. As the night drew to a close, the congregation joined together in a joyful altar call and benediction, affirming the Hip Hop



Church's continuing mission: to uplift souls through rhythm, faith, and knowledge.

The Hip Hop Church Harlem has delivered monthly gatherings at Greater Hood Memorial AME Zion Church, located at 160 West 146th Street, New York,

NY 10039, celebrating faith through the universal language of Hip Hop.

Founded by Rev. Dr. Kurtis Blow Walker, Rev Dr Stephen Pogue, Big John, Bishop Darren Ferguson, and others. The Hip Hop Church Harlem is a spiritual movement that fuses the power of

Hip Hop with the message of the Gospel. Through worship, music, and community outreach, it seeks to bring healing, unity, and empowerment to people of all generations. [Hiphopchurch.com](http://Hiphopchurch.com)

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	4	2		9			
7	8				3		

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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.

answers on page 19

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## URBANOLOGY: MITOCHONDRIA- The Powerhouse of our Cells



By William A. Rogers

**M**itochondrion or mitochondria is a small membrane-bound organelle found in the cells of most organisms. They are often described as the “powerhouses” of the cell. They provide the cell’s adenosine triphosphate {ATP}, the molecule that provides energy for cellular processes.

Being central to cellular energy. Healthy Mitochondria can contribute to overall health, reduce fatigue, improve metabolic efficiency and support aging with fewer cellular stresses.

Scientist and formulator for More Mito products Dr. Bevan Elliott, states that what affects health the most is the health of the mitochondria. Dr. Elliott goes on to say that you can’t be your healthiest unless your mitochondria are at their best.

I became interested in Dr. Elliott’s work of developing natural holistic products that have proved useful in strengthening and developing mitochondria in seniors.

As we grow older many of the cells in our body die. When you think of the many health issues that Baby Boomers have such as hypertension, arthritis, memory loss, lack of energy, and other health related issues; studies now show that there is a direct link to the loss of healthy mitochondria.

The More Mito product’s {[www.moremito.com/tonyrogers](http://www.moremito.com/tonyrogers)} ability to regenerate healthy mitochondria can be a great health option for individuals of all ages. If you take time to listen to a few of the testimonials on my site above, it will give you an idea of the healing that can happen when the body’s mitochondria are healthy.

I have tried the More Mito products, and I have found them to be very useful in my journey of improving my health and quality of life naturally. When I discover natural health products, I try them first and if I feel that they work I write about them.

I would like to provide as many natural holistic options for those wishing to reduce the need and dependency on pharmaceuticals. I focus on seniors because I am a senior. We have the ability to choose how we want to live. Many of the health issues that are common in Urban communities can be addressed by a change of lifestyle.

I recommend doing research on ways to keep

healthy and energized mitochondria, it can improve the quality of your life. There are many ways to do this I believe using More Mito products is one of the best.

I plan to update my [onuwon.com](http://onuwon.com) wellness site to provide more detailed information about wellness products like More Mito. This can provide options for people interested in finding natural ways to live and reduce stress. I even created a health and wellness E-Store {[www.shopnaturalholisticlife.com](http://www.shopnaturalholisticlife.com)}

*If you would like additional information on the above subject send me an email at [onuwon@gmail.com](mailto:onuwon@gmail.com)*

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By Zakiyyah

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**CAUTION:** this essential oil should only be used as an external application, in a diffuser and/or through sustained inhalation, as it is toxic, can cause irritations and miscarriages when taken internally.

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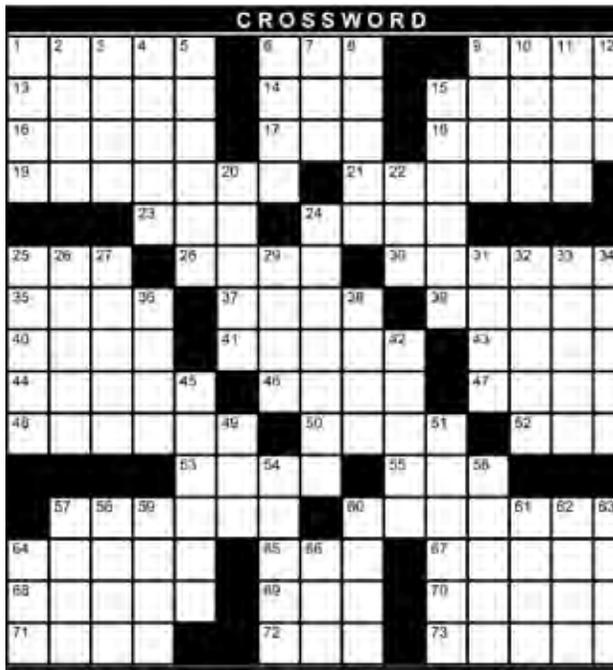
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### Answers to Crossword on page 17

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

See answers on pages 16



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**ACROSS**

1. Fresh Prince: “\_\_\_ ya later!”
6. Say “no”
9. “Nana” author Émile \_\_\_
13. Capital of Vietnam
14. The home of the brave, acr.
15. Increase rpms (2 words)
16. Like yesteryear
17. Rejuvenating spot
18. Like a solder at attention
19. \*Pumpkin pie or pecan pie, e.g.
21. \*Plymouth \_\_\_
23. Seek damages
24. Light on one’s feet
25. Like The Beatles
28. Certain blast’s origins
30. \*What tom said
35. Iranian money

37. Precedes GPT
39. Water nymph
40. Wisconsin’s western neighbor
41. One tenth
43. Mountain, in Germany
44. The Statue of Liberty island
46. Cat sound
47. Instinctive motive
48. 1970s dance clubs
50. Do like buffaloes
52. Distress acronym
53. Opposite of genuine
55. Bow or bolo
57. \*Moisturizing kitchen tool
60. \*Turkey prepared certain way
64. Bottom line
65. Pub offering
67. Alley cat, e.g.
68. Extreme suffering
69. International help, e.g.
70. Bullwinkle J. \_\_\_
71. Fitness facilities
72. July-August sign of

Zodiac  
73. More so than #12 Down

**DOWN**

1. Not barefoot
2. Gender checkbox
3. Peters out
4. Loamy deposit
5. Form a queue (2 words)
6. Head and shoulder sculpture
7. Venomous snake
8. Civil rights organization, acr.
9. Whole number between -1 and 1
10. \*Biscuit baker
11. \*She took away the football from Charlie Brown
12. Mentally quick, e.g.
15. Put trust in (2 words)
20. Respond
22. Website address ending
24. Eminence
25. \*Deep-\_\_\_, turkey
26. White condiment
27. Sheds tears
29. \*Mayflower
31. Hindi courtesy title
32. Coffin holders
33. One of Florida Keys
34. Ruler sides, e.g.
36. Not of the cloth
38. Through, to a poet
42. Muse of love poetry
45. “Killing Me \_\_\_ with His Song”
49. Fraternity letters
51. Unwholesome atmosphere
54. Cattle enclosure in African village
56. Bar, legally
57. Unidentified aircraft
58. Niels Bohr’s study object
59. Without, à Paris
60. Overhaul
61. \*Turkey \_\_\_, 5K run
62. “At \_\_\_!” military command
63. Indigo user

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# "Black-Owned: The Revolutionary Life of the Black Bookstore" by Char Adams

Review by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

You're not planning on being selfish.

But seriously, you've been waiting months for the release of your favorite author's newest book and it's in stores NOW. You have your copy, you'll be the first one to open it, your easy chair is ready, no book-marks needed. As in the new book "Black-Owned" by Char Adams, you knew just where to find it.

For many people, it's a dream: owning a bookstore, talking about books all day, putting good reads into people's hands. These are the kinds of stories Char Adams says she likes telling, and she was surprised when she started researching for this book. The tales

of Black bookstore owners is one that's rarely told.

David Ruggles, for instance, was a Black abolitionist in New York, and he had quite a reputation for his ability to "inspire almost any crowd to action." In 1834, he opened what would be America's first Black bookstore, using it "as a home for both anti-slavery literature and his activism."

A century later, Harlem's Lewis Michaux became the first person to make a career with a bricks-and-mortar bookstore when he opened National Memorial African Book Store in 1933. He was a man of determination, having gotten his start "selling periodicals... with a bullhorn outside his shop"

every day.

During the Civil Rights Movement, Black-owned bookstores such as the Drum and Spear in Washington, D.C., Vaughn's Bookstore in Detroit, and Liberation Bookstore in Harlem hand-picked their stock to reflect the battle for Black rights – and sometimes, that meant violence visited their stores. Hue-Man Experience in L.A. became a home for Black authors to launch new books and nurture careers; in the 1970s through the 1990s, Black publishers began to partner with America's Black bookstores to further those careers and mainstream publishers eventually followed suit.

Today, Black-owned bookstores likely have a digital footprint to reach readers. Digital, however, "will not be the end of Black-owned bookstores..." says Adams.

"As long as the fight for Black liberation exists, so will these shops."

Before you start reading "Black-Owned," be sure you have a pen and notebook close. You'll need them to write down all the bookstores you'll want to visit, places you'll regret missing and places you'll learn about inside this fascinating volume.

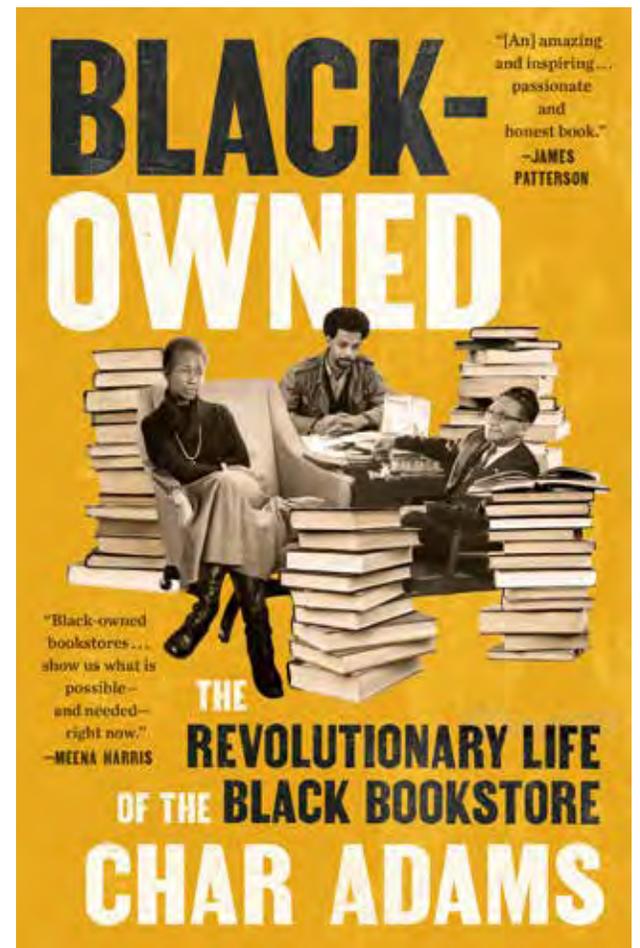
But that's just a part of what you'll find here. Author Char Adams also tells the long story of Black authors and publishers, and the struggles both had – and sometimes still have – to get their books into readers' hands. It's a surprising journey that seems intuitive now, but it wasn't so

in the not-so-distant past. Bookstores and authors had to learn, by necessity, how to work together, which was an offshoot of the activism found in 1960s-era bookstores and which still continues today. It's a nice, round circle of time that readers will appreciate.

Absolutely, this is a book meant for anyone who has a sky-high TBR pile and who's heading to the bookstore this week. Find "Black-Owned." It's just what you want when you have a need for read.

"Black-Owned: The Revolutionary Life of the Black Bookstore" by Char Adams

c.2025, Tiny Rep Books  
\$32.00  
291 pages



## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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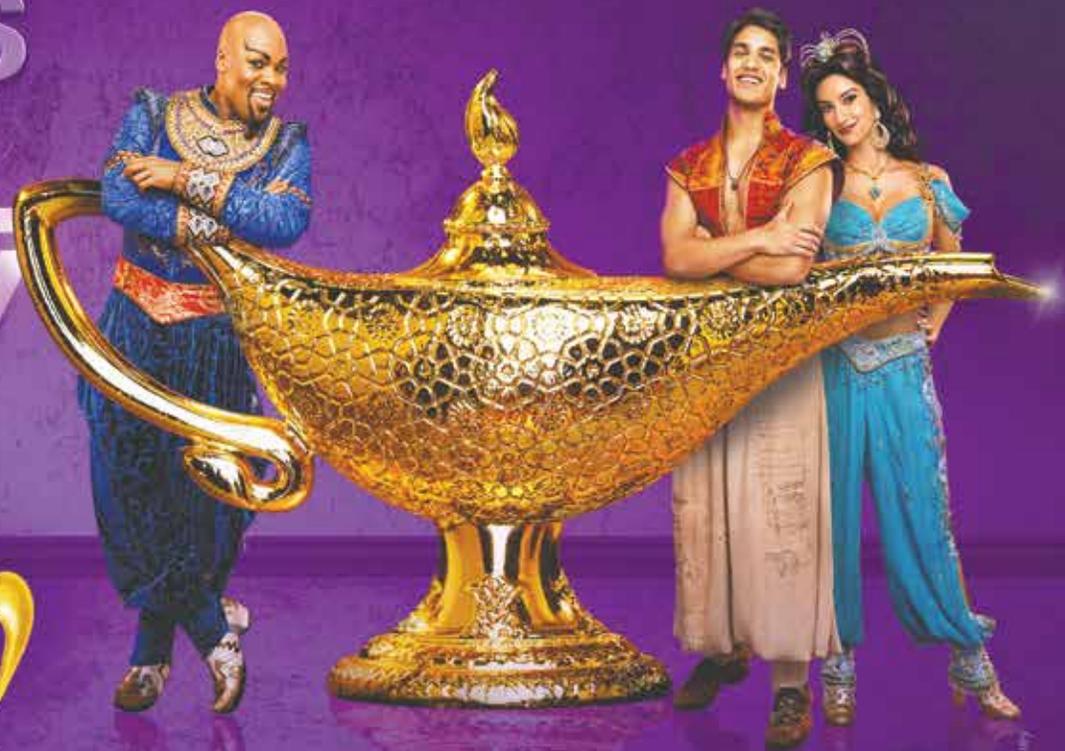
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