

SCOOP USA

North Philly community fight to save their Post Office - page 3

African American Museum 35th Anniversary

Last week, The African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP) hosted the 35th Anniversary Gala at the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel. The year 2011 marked an important milestone for AAMP. A host of events, activities and acknowledgements began in January and will continue throughout the year in celebration of 35 years of serving the Philadelphia region through art, history and culture.

The Annual Heritage Gala is an opportunity for Museum stakehold-



ers to come together in celebration of a year of achievement and to honor persons who exemplify a commitment to Philadelphia, its citizens and the greater good.

AAMP Heritage Gala Honorees (left to right) landmark educator Dr. Edward Robinson; internationally acclaimed poet Sonia Sanchez; Academy Award nominated filmmaker Spike Lee and renowned artist Moe Booker.

Donald Terry photo

New in arts ed

Using the arts to transform school culture and improve learning, Grover Washington, Jr. Middle School recently hosted two events to mark its debut as Philadelphia's newest ArtsRising ArtsZone Hub School. A Community-wide 'ArtSee' featured an Open House with student writing, drawing, painting, puppetry and photography – merged with reading, math, and science learning.

More than 50 Middle School Students performed and participated in the school's first-ever theatrical presentation: The Musical - "Once Upon and Island."

ArtsRising has implemented ArtsZones – anchored by schools that are linked integrally to their surrounding neighborhoods and arts resources in the communities and the larger city, to improve and expand equitable access to arts education for the children in Greater Philadelphia.



After the play, one of the actors "Jhalil King." takes time out to pose with his family. Pictured (left to right): Jordan Chaulk; Sharon Engle; Jhalil King; Dwayne Sterling (Jhalil's father); and Kacee Sterling.

Mr. Webb photo

*Reach One,
Teach One
Let's Save
the Children*

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O.I.C.-10

thera martin milling



Under a clear sky, right outside in the parking lot of the Progress Plaza Shopping Mall, leaders of O.I.C. of America and some of its partners announced a wonderful new program created to assist African Americans who are already in business and desiring to grow their business, or to assist African Americans who have a goal

to become a business owner in the near future. The official name of the new project is "the Entrepreneurial Mindset Initiative and the goal is that through this project, the creators of the concept will be able to assist a million people in becoming self employed. What was announced on Tuesday, March 15th at the Progress Plaza in North Philadelphia was that this focused initiative is designed to encourage more African Americans to think like and become entrepreneurs. The Entrepreneurial Mindset Initiative will be funded perpetually by an endowment, raised in two parts. The first \$10 million will come from the community nationwide through "O.I.C.-10," a funding initiative designed to turn one million, one-time, ten dollar contributions into a \$10 million endowment. The remaining \$90 million will come through "challenge grants" from foundations and interested individuals.

The endowment will fund grassroots programs that encourage, train and support individuals in their quest to become successful business owners. OIC of America has trained over two million people nationwide since its origin. OICA's visionary founder, the late Rev. Dr. Leon H. Sullivan, was a force in African American entrepreneurship and self help when, in 1968, he started Progress Plaza. Philadelphia Citizens, who invested in Reverend Sullivan's 10/36 Plan, funded the project. The plan involved thousands of individuals and families contributing small sums of money to accomplish a goal.

Since we live in the age of all kinds of exciting technology and what not, keeping up with the times, OIC leadership decided one of the easy, smooth ways to get people engaged in this fund raising effort for money, to "grow" entrepreneurs from our community would be by using cell phone text donations. Cell phone users can make their donation by texting the keyword, "OIC" to "41010" form their mobile phone. This of course is a very simple way to step up to the plate and make that \$10 contribution to OIC.

Distinguished local business executive Stanley H. Greene has been named the National Director of this OICA Entrepreneurial Mindset Initiative. He will oversee both the fund raising initiative and the implementation of the training initiative. "He commented, "I am excited to take on this important initiative. I have been



Mayor Nutter shown at the podium with many of the OIC supporters who attended the press conference introducing the OIC-10 fundraising initiative

involved in many projects over the years, and this is the most challenging and potentially rewarding for communities nationwide."

"Constant with our history, OIC of America will not wait for someone to wave a magic wand and eliminate the economic disparities for African Americans. It has not happened in the past and will not happen in the future," said OIC of America Chairman, Art Taylor. "We are happy to have Stanley Greene on board as we make a big and bold move to help people make it in this economy." President and CEO, Howard Sullivan added, "The Foundation for economic success for African Americans was built close to 50 years ago. It is especially gratifying to me that we are launching this initiative today and using the simple but powerful principles my father put in place to help move African Americans forward." Go to OIC of America website at www.oicofamerica.org and click on "OIC-10" to make your \$10 donation today.

The Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, (O.I.C.) was founded by Reverend Dr. Leon H. Sullivan back in 1964. OICA is a national non-profit network of employment and training programs bound together by a common commitment, to help the disadvantaged realize their true potential. O.I.C. is in twenty-two states and the District of Columbia and today serves over two million people, with forty-four affiliated programs.

FYI--- This Saturday, March 19, 2011, If you want to learn about the energy choices available for you, (you can choose to have another energy choice aside from PECO), then you want to come to a "Wise Energy Choice Seminar" being sponsored in part by State Representative Vanessa Lowery brown and the Coalition of West Philadelphia neighborhoods and Businesses, headed by Lee Tolbert, amongst other supporters. The "Be Energy Wise" Seminar will take place at the High School of the Future at 42nd and Parkside and it starts at 10am-3pm. It's free and open to the public. So come on out and learn about the 20- different energy companies in the Philadelphia area who you can choose from to supply your electricity, if you want to change from PECO. Also be sure to listen to WURD Magazine, hosted by yours truly, SCOOP Columnist Thera Martin

Milling every Saturday, 1pm-3pm exclusively at 900am WURD. Listen and watch the radio program on line at www.900amwurd.com.

Parent Workshops

Philadelphia BAEO (Black Alliance for Educational Options) will host two free workshops in March for parents.

Learn how to effectively communicate with your child's teacher at BAEO's "Win-Win Relationships" workshop on **Tuesday, March 22** at 6:30pm, Hardy Williams Academy Charter School, 1712 South 56th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143.

BAEO will kick off its second year of a campaign to empower parents/caregivers of Black boys about quality educational options to help boys graduate from high school. The campaign is called "Parents, Power, and Purpose (P3) Advocacy Institute," and will take place Wednesday, March 30 at 3:30pm, Northeast Parent & Family Resource Center, 4101 Chalfont Drive (behind Fitzpatrick Elementary School), Philadelphia, PA 19154.

Through advocacy and education at the P3 Advocacy Institute, parents/caregivers will be able to learn strategies to

help their sons, including:

- What quality Educational Options, schools and afterschool programs are available
 - Importance of a positive parent teacher relationship
 - How to advocate for your son in the classroom, district and at a political level
 - Your rights in the special education determination process
 - How to engage in your son's education in/out of school
- Admission is free. A light meal and children's activities (ages 4 to 12) will be provided for those who RSVP. Call 215-851-1795 or email phillyinfo@baeo.org to reserve your seat.

Philadelphia BAEO's mission is to increase access to high-quality educational options for Black children by actively supporting parental choice policies and programs that empower low-income and working class Black families. Visit the website philadelphia.baeo.org.

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Workplace Wednesdays features new Workshop and Annual Entry Level job fair

The Free Library of Philadelphia's Parkway Central Library is pleased to offer a new series of Workplace Wednesday workshops This series will introduce a new workshop, The Art and Science of Managing Your Career. In addition, the annual Entry level Job Fair will be held on April 27th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Mark the date in your calendar. Offered in two-month series from September through June, the free workshops teach participants about all aspects of job hunting. A resource center for job seekers, the Workplace on the second floor of Parkway Central offers public-access computers, print materials, and knowledgeable librarians to help customers.

"Workplace Wednesdays continue to be a valuable service for the Philadelphia community," said Siobhan A. Reardon, Free Library President and Director. "As the Free Library of Opportunity, we are proud to equip customers with the tools and knowledge necessary to transform their lives as they look for their next job!"

During Workplace Wednesdays, instructors work with participants to help them identify skills and find the right job "fit"—from there, classes focus on résumé writing, internet resources for job hunters, and interviewing skills. The new series line-up is: How to Write a Résumé (March 23); Résumé Critique (March 30); Job Hunting Tips and Techniques (April 6); Interviewing Skills (April 13); Preparing for a Job Fair (April 20) and Annual Entry Level Job Fair (April 27 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.).

Workplace Wednesdays are designed for adult job seekers and are held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Director's Dining Room (Rm. 406) on the fourth floor of Parkway Central. The annual Entry Level Job Fair will be held on the main floor from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. For more information on the workshops and the Workplace, as well as sign-up details, please call 215-686-5436.

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The comments made by the columnists of SCOOP U.S.A. are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper or of its staff.

Childwatch

The New Jim Crow

marian wright edelman



"Jarvious Cotton cannot vote. Like his father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather, he has been denied the right to participate in our electoral democracy...

Cotton's great-great-grandfather could not vote as a slave. His great-grandfather was beaten to death by the Ku Klux Klan for attempting to vote. His grandfather was prevented from voting by Klan intimidation. His father was barred from voting by poll taxes and literacy tests. Today, Jarvious Cotton cannot vote because he, like many black men in the United States, has been labeled a felon and is currently on parole."

"Cotton's story illustrates, in many respects, the old adage 'The more things change, the more they remain the same'... In the era of colorblindness, it is no longer socially permissible to use race, explicitly, as a justification for discrimination, exclusion, and social contempt. So we don't. Rather than rely on race, we use our criminal justice system to label people of color 'criminals' and then engage in all the practices we supposedly left behind... Once you're labeled a felon, the old forms of discrimination—employment discrimination, housing discrimination, denial of the right to vote, denial of educational opportunity, denial of food stamps and other public benefits, and exclusion from jury service—are suddenly legal. As a criminal, you have scarcely more rights, and arguably less respect, than a black man living in Alabama at the height of Jim Crow. We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it."

So begins the introduction to legal scholar and former litigator Michelle Alexander's extraordinary book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The *New Jim Crow* has been praised for documenting in compelling detail how the current historic levels of incarceration in the United States have disproportionately targeted communities of color and function as a means of controlling people of color, just as slavery and Jim Crow did in their time.

Alexander acknowledges that many people find this argument hard to believe in the "age of colorblindness." Many Americans wanted to see President Obama's historic election as the final hopeful sign our nation has moved "past race," and many believe the millions of other Black Americans who are imprisoned and disenfranchised are in that condition only because of individual bad choices. When we are confronted with the facts that our nation's incarceration rates have quintupled over the last several decades and the United States has the largest prison population and imprisons the highest numbers of its minority population in the world, Alexander says many Americans simply accept the prevailing myth that "there is, of course, a colorblind explanation for all this: crime rates. Our prison population has exploded from about 300,000 to more than 2 million in a few short decades, it is said, because of rampant crime. We're told that the reason so many black and brown men find themselves behind bars and ushered into a permanent, second-class status is because they happen to be the bad guys." But as *The New Jim Crow* argues, the

data show this is simply not true.

While incarceration may be rooted for some in poor individual choices, the glaring racial disparities in searches, arrests, convictions, and sentencing for the same crimes suggest our nation doesn't treat everyone's poor choices equally. What has skyrocketed over the years are not our nation's crime rates—which have actually fallen below the international norm—but the number of drug convictions in the U.S. as a result of our declared "War on Drugs." Many people assume next that of course Black criminals are being incarcerated for drug crimes at record rates because they are the ones committing them. In some states, Blacks comprise 80%-90% of all drug offenders sent to prison. But *The New Jim Crow* painstakingly outlines how media and political strategies manufactured the popular images of the War on Drugs as an assault on scary, violent Black male drug dealers, when in fact "[s]tudies show that people of all colors use and sell illegal drugs at remarkably similar rates. If there are significant differences in the surveys to be found, they frequently suggest that whites, particularly white youth, are more likely to engage in drug crime than people of color." Meanwhile, as *The New Jim Crow* clearly shows, the dramatic increases in mandatory sentence lengths even for nonviolent offenses and the far-reaching consequences that come with being classified as a felon

even after a sentence is completed have made incarceration today a historically punitive form of social control and social death—at exactly the same time as record numbers of African Americans are being confined.

This is how mass incarceration functions as the new Jim Crow, with predictably destructive results for Black communities and families. For those of us concerned about our nation's Cradle to Prison Pipeline® crisis, this latest danger threatens to overwhelm and destroy millions of our children's futures. By identifying it and giving it a name, Michelle Alexander has placed a critical spotlight on a reality our nation can't afford to deny. We ignore her careful research and stay silent about mass incarceration's devastating effects at our own and our nation's peril.

Marian Wright Edelman is a lifelong advocate for disadvantaged Americans and is the President of CDF. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families.

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Coalition to erect a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. life-size Bronze Sculpture at the entrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

The Artist Sculptor Rebecca-Rose tm (RMFAC Studio) Present Plans for a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Freedom Dream" Monument in Historic Philadelphia. The monument will be made a Gift to the City of Philadelphia as a Legacy and Symbol of International Human Rights and dignity for all people.

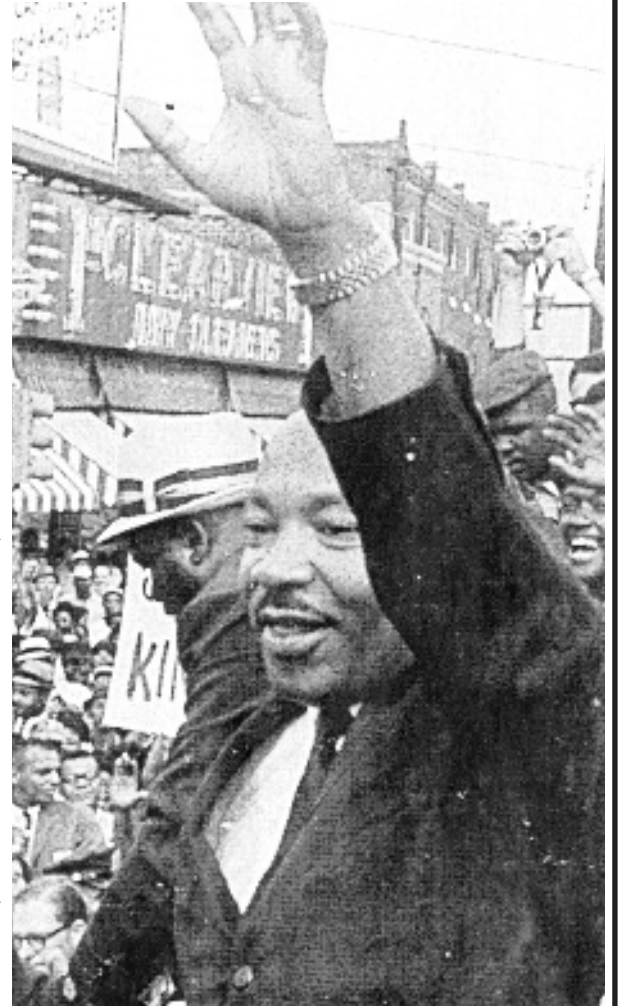
Ms. Rose, a fourth generation African-American sculptor revealed to the public her designs for the monument, as well as the Coalition's plans to bring visibility to the Drive, in Dr. King's honor.

This is a history in the making tribute in Philadelphia to Americas Renown Nobel Peace Laureate. This tribute honors Dr. King, the City of Philadelphia, and R. Sonny Driver, Publisher, SCOOP, USA Incorporated. Mr. Driver spearheaded the naming of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, with the support of the City of Philadelphia and over 60,000 citizens in petition.

Philadelphia's leaders, community organizations, cultural families and sponsors are being asked to support the Dr. King's "Freedom's Dream" Monument.

We ask your support at this time to provide us with a letter of interest if you are able and willing to make this tax-exempt donation. For your contribution of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.) dollars, your name or that of your organization's will be engraved on the granite base of the monument as a living legacy of your support. Neither deposits nor payments are required at this time.

Please forward to SCOOP USA, the enclosed Expression of Interest Pledge Form, so that we may gather and forward your letter along with others to the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition who have expressed an interest to be our Fiscal Agent for the project.



We welcome an opportunity to talk or meet with you regarding the details. Contacts: Rebecca Rose: (215) 833-9082 (cell), e-mail: /rebeccarosermfac@yahoo.com or SCOOP 215-232-5974

PLEDGE FORM

Please indicate your preliminary interest or pledge below to contribute to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument fund. No money is required at this time. We will include you in the Sponsors and Supporters Preview Reception. Our Fiscal agent will follow up for a 501c3 tax exemption for your contribution.

Check box:

- > Donor of \$1,000. / Name to be engraved on monument base as testament of support,
- > Sponsors call for Pledge Options and Return on Investment.
- > General contributions of any amount are welcomed.
- > I want to pledge in-kind support, call for details.

Name/Title: _____ Organization: _____

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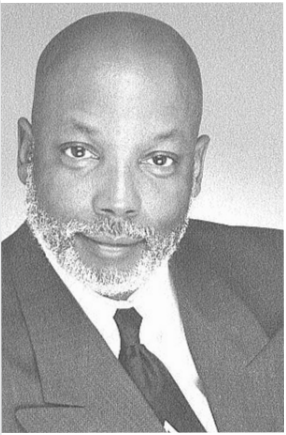
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ACHIEVEability celebrates thirty years

junious r. stanton



ACHIEVEability is a Philadelphia success story that has been in existence for thirty years yet is not widely known to the public at large. It is a program designed to break the cycle of poverty and dependence by facilitating and encouraging education, personal growth and accountability, self-sufficiency and sustenance. The program offers an

opportunity for homeless single mothers to acquire a home with the stipulation they must enroll and complete a post secondary education program in a college, accredited professional or trade school by taking at least fifteen hours a semester and be accountable to themselves, Achieveability's, life coaches, support and mentoring staff.

ACHIEVEability started when the Sisters of Mercy donated four houses to provide homes for homeless families in the Cobbs Creek and Haddington sections of West Philadelphia. Initially founded as Philadelphians Concerned About Housing in 1981 as purely a housing



Marcus Allen

program for the homeless, ACHIEVEability took on the challenge of affordable housing development and providing the comprehensive social services needed to break the generational cycle of poverty. Realizing many homeless mothers either come from backgrounds of multi-generational poverty or whose choices and circumstances have landed them in homelessness; they concluded the only way to break the cycle and transition them to self-sufficiency was through higher education and self-sustenance training. ACHIEVEability designed a multi year program which includes professional and volunteer support staff who help the women empower themselves by facilitating their transition from homelessness and destitution into a safe, newly renovated three to five bedroom home. The women are offered the guidance and follow up to challenge them to enroll in college, they are provided educational support for them and



ACHIEVEability family coat giveaway

their children, given pre-employment preparation and work readiness counseling, and provided with mentoring and life skills coaching. To participate in the ACHIEVEability program you have to be a homeless single mother, have a high school diploma or have prepped for a GED. Once the women get their degree, they remain in the program for an additional year while they are coached and prepped for self-sufficiency. The graduates who meet the requirements are offered the opportunity to buy a low to moderate income home.

From the initial four houses ACHIEVEability has grown to the point it now owns one hundred fifty-two houses scattered throughout the Cobbs Creek and Haddington neighborhoods of West Philadelphia. The program is in the process of acquiring or building more. In addition to their Family Self-Sufficiency Program, ACHIEVEability also has a real estate acquisition arm, a maintenance component to keep the houses in tip top shape as well as community involvement and economic development components. Despite their success over the years however, outside of regional homeless program circles, ACHIEVEability is not that well known.

Marcus Allen has been the CEO for one and a half years. He understands the only way to break the cycle of poverty is through an holistic approach that includes education, personal initiative, accountability, and the requisite support to help a single mother achieve her personal goals and become a self-sufficient productive citizen.

zen. He also realizes as a non-profit organization with ambitious goals, ACHIEVEability needs revenue and to get additional revenue in today's economy they have to raise their profile.

"The reason we have been under the radar for so many years is because our former Director Jack Ferber who was a very skilled man, took the approach 'Let's do something really good but keep our heads low while we are doing it.' which is how he operated it. When I came a year and a half ago the Executive Board wanted to increase the awareness of the organization for varying reasons, as you know the squeaky wheel gets the oil. If nobody

knows about you, you don't get a chance to get a piece of the pie. And we're not unlike any other non profit organization we need as much of the pie as we can get." Shared Allen.

To celebrate ACHIEVEability's thirtieth anniversary Allen and his Board are planning thirty events throughout the year. The first is called Food For Thought which will include the area's premier chefs sharing their best dishes. The event will take place this Saturday March 19th at Urban Outfitters 5000 S. Broad Street Building 543. Dr. Ion Smith the creator and founder of The 50 Million Pound Challenge will be the honoree. CNN's Ali Velshi will be the Master of Ceremonies for a fun filled evening for a great cause. ACHIEVEability is a 501C3 tax exempt organization, the \$150 tickets are tax deductible. For more information call (215) 748-8800 or go to www.achieveability.org/2011-spring-event/116.html

Applications for 2011 Urban League of Philadelphia Community Scholarship program

Now more than ever, securing scholarships to pursue the dream of higher education is extremely important. Understanding the need to offset the costs associated with tuition, room and board, and other expenses, the Urban League of Philadelphia is pleased to announce that applications for the 2011 Urban League of Philadelphia Community Scholarship Program are now available. To date, more than \$40,000 in scholarships has been secured with several local businesses, individuals and community organizations preparing to submit scholarships in their names. Over the last 5 years, the Urban League of Philadelphia has awarded nearly \$300,000 in scholarships to students from throughout Greater Philadelphia.

Applications must be postmarked by Friday, April 1, 2011 and selected recipients will be announced on or about April 22, 2011. Students may apply for as many scholarships as they wish and the Urban League of Philadelphia's Scholarship Committee will make the

selections. Awardees will be presented at the award the 2011 Empowerment Week Gala on Saturday, June 4 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Entitled "Get Connected: Together We Are a Stronger Community," the gala is the perfect opportunity to present our scholarship recipients to the public, showing our corporate partners and members the return on investments they make through contributions and membership dues.

Patricia A. Coulter, president and CEO of the Urban League of Philadelphia, said there is nothing more important to our country, region and city than providing opportunities to young people to pursue higher education.

"Ideally, our scholarship recipients will go off to college, earn a degree and return to our city and become important players in helping us to foster economic empowerment, advancement and achievement," Coulter

'See "Scholarships" page 13

Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity seeks students for college tour

The Philadelphia Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity is now accepting applicant registrations for its 2011 Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Tour. The HBCU Tour will take place Monday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 19, 2011. Schools to be visited are Norfolk State University, Hampton University, University of Maryland-

Eastern Shore and Delaware State University. The target audience for the tour is high school sophomores, juniors and seniors.

The purpose of the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter's HBCU Tour is to encourage high school students to further their education and seek higher learning, which is vital to their futures. The cost of the trip is \$150 per student, which covers trans-

portation, meals and lodging. The tour bus will depart from the Kappa Alpha Psi Achievement Center (5521-29 Germantown Avenue in Germantown) at 5 AM on Monday, April 18 and return at approximately 7 PM on Tuesday, April 19. The deadline to register and pay is March 31, 2011, or until the bus is at full capacity. Male and female adult

chaperones for the 2011 HBCU Tour will be provided by the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter. Students interested in registering for the Tour should contact any member of the chapter or download an application from the Philadelphia Alumni Chapter's web site www.phillykappas.org.

For further information, call (973)

My little Mom

harry polis



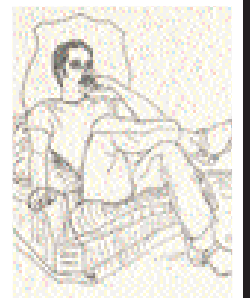
On March 5th, my mother was 90 years old. Jaynee and I, Brian and his wife Christina, our daughter and her fiance, and my brother Bernie, all went to see her and have a party. We brought her loads of flowers and birthday balloons. Mom's choice of food was a lobster tail dinner from the Red Lobster, including french fries and drawn butter, and a big piece of New York cheesecake for dessert from Famous Deli at 4th and South.

Mom was dressed up, her hair and fingernails were done. She was excited to see all of us as we marched into her room with her goodies. We took Mom downstairs to a special dining/visiting room for our celebration. We had a big round table where all of us could sit and Mom could eat. And did she eat! Usually, Mom eats very little preferring her Pepsi, potato chips, and Hershey's chocolate bars. That day, she had an appetite and a big smile. She was animated, clear, and very happy.

Of her grandchildren, she has only one girl, and Mom loves her like a daughter. Our daughter was Mom's first grandchild, one who she was young enough to have been involved actively with. Mom told our daughter's fiance what a wonderful person our daughter is, and how lucky he is. She grabbed his chin affectionately, taking to him. We all took photos and Mom will want to see them. We are very lucky to still have Mom at 90. At almost 67 myself, I know how difficult old age is. Mom doesn't complain and she likes her nursing home, for which we are grateful.

March 5th was a lovely day for the whole Polis clan, including our most senior member. Mom thanked us and told us what a good time she had. She wanted to know where we were going for dinner and everything else in our lives. She likes to know what her grandchildren are doing and loves seeing them and we enjoy seeing Mom happy. Mom at 90 is a blessing and I'm glad we could make her special birthday special for her.

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Harlem is everywhere: Discovering contributions of African American women during the Civil War and beyond

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The young African American author, Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts, has been receiving praise for her first book, *Harlem is Nowhere: A Journey To The Mecca of Black America*, Little Brown & Co., 2011. Harvard trained, Fulbright scholar to the United Kingdom in Creative Writing, Radcliffe Research Fellowship, Harvard Minority Mentored Research Fellowship and more recently, a 'Changing Landscape', A Studio in the Woods, New Orleans, Louisiana. Sharifa is a writer who you will be hearing more about in the future.

Harlem's Blank Disavowed Spaces Labeled as Blight

Sharifa writes, "When I came to live in Harlem, the fenced-off, overgrown empty lots here also attracted my eye. At first, they were evidence: I had indeed arrived in the place I'd heard of. The empty lot held some significance, it was similar to the feeling I'd had when, riding from the airport in New Delhi, I first saw cows on the road. Yes, this is the place I have heard about, I'd thought. There are cows all over the road exactly as they were in the guidebook pictures. The empty lots of Harlem had the same verifying quality. Later, those empty lots provided something beyond veracity. They were a place for the eyes to rest. This was not some romance for ruins. These blank, disavowed spaces had been labeled as blight, but they provided a visual and mental break from the clamor of the buildings and people. There was a hint of the horizon."

Underexplored African American Women in the Civil War

May those whose holy task it is
To guide impulsive youth
Fall not to cherish in their souls
A-reverence for truth
For teachings which the lip impart
Must have their source within the heart
... From The Journal of Charlotte L. Forten

This year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History has as its theme, "African Americans and The Civil War." Writing in a recent issue of *Black History Bulletin* (still an important resource for teachers), Dr. Jennifer Herring writes, "Many African American women are recorded as having made a significant impact during the Civil War. However most students learn about only two of them: Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth. Despite their omission from the educational curriculum, there were countless others, such as Susan Baker King Taylor, Mary Elizabeth Bowser, Charlotte Forten, and Elizabeth Keckley, who were key figures in the Civil War era."

Mary Elizabeth Bowser Educated in Philadelphia Before Embarking On Career as Intelligence Officer During Civil War

Born into a system of slavocracy in the 1830's, Mary Elizabeth Bowser was educated in the well known Quaker School for Negroes in Philadelphia. Upon graduation, she returned to Richmond, Virginia and married a free Black man, William Bowser on the eve of the Civil War in April, 1861. Keenly aware of her intelligence and acute observational skills and discipline, she was asked by the wife of her former 'slave owner' to 'help her in the elaborate spying system she had established in the Confederate capitol.'

According to an account, Despite Elizabeth being a staunch abolitionist and loyal to the Union, she was a prominent member of Richmond because of her father's wealth and status. But her views and actions (attending to Union soldiers at Libby Prison with food and medi-

cine, in particular) earned her enmity of her community. Elizabeth used this to her advantage--taking on a slightly crazy, muttering, slovenly personae that earned her the nickname 'Crazy Bet' to cover up her serious efforts to help the Union. ... She wrote her information in cipher code, hid the messages in the soles of servant's shoes or hollowed egg shells, then had the notes relayed to Union officers through several helpers and agents."



Mary Elizabeth Bowser

Moving in Silence in Jefferson Davis' "White House"

She chose this Black woman, Mary Elizabeth Bowser, to carry out some of the most dangerous missions, including conducting high risk intelligence in the very home of Jefferson Davis. This is a case where blacks assumed stupidity worked to their advantage. The historical account states, "Mary had considerable intelligence, as well as some acting skills. In order to get access to top-secret information, Mary became 'Ellen Bond,' a dim-witted, also slightly crazy, but able servant. Elizabeth had a friend take Mary along to help at functions held by Varina Davis, the wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Mary Bowser proved herself well and was eventually taken on full-time, working in the Confederate White House until just before the end of the war. Of course, they assumed she was a slave. With the racial prejudice of the day, the assumption that slaves were illiterate and not intelligent, and the way slave servants were trained to seem invisible, Mary was able to glean considerable information simply by doing her job.. While serving meals and cleaning up after, she

overheard conversations about troop strategy and movement between the president and his advisors and military officers." Being literate and having received an excellent education in Philadelphia before taking on this serious intelligence mission 'she was able to read letters and documents that were left out in the president's private study. She memorized everything word for word.'

More than one hundred years later, this African American woman received the following commendation when she was inducted into the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame:

"Ms. Bowser certainly succeeded in a highly dangerous mission to the great benefit of the Union effort. She was one of the highest placed and most productive espionage agents of the Civil War...(Her) information greatly enhanced the Union's conduct of the war... Jefferson Davis never discovered the leak in his household staff, although he knew the Union somehow kept discovering Confederate plans."

Throughout history, African Americans moved in silence while keenly observing all around them.

Their 'invisibility' became a strategic act of survival. Whether they were in some Harlem club or on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, they knew how to move. We know much more about the Sojourner Truths and Harriett Tubman than the Charlotte Fortens, Elizabeth Keckleys and Mary Elizabeth Bowsters. All these women played a crucial role in freeing enslaved Africans.

Agape Or A Gap in the Sequence

Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts returns to the MIC: "Back then in Texas, I relied on an imaginary map of upper Manhattan. The directions it gave suited me, for I could think of no gap greater than between what I knew of Columbia University and what I believed I knew of Harlem. It was a gap that corresponded precisely with the distance between my private Episcopalian high school and the house where I'd write my own theme.' I guess I'm what I feel and see and hear, Harlem, I hear you... wrote Hughes. I pictured the poet looking down from his perch onto the streets of Harlem below. Finding the sounds of Hughes's Harlem more intriguing than the noise in my own neighborhood. I tried to hear Harlem, too."

In reading Rhodes-Pitts' Harlem, one is reminded of the distance Barack Obama describes between Harlem and Columbia. And yet, it was not so distant. Memories carry us back to a time in history when African American students at Columbia formed a mighty alliance with Kwame Ture and members of the Harlem community to assure democratic rights and erase demagogic wrongs. It was not many years before Obama enrolled as an undergraduate at Columbia. And even in the more recent history, there have been Columbia students of color who found a way to link the two communities through their research in Hip Hop Culture and its roots in the Black Arts and Black Power Movements.

Students of history in 2011 may find it useful to travel through Harlem with Sharifa. At times they will see another Harlem, a kind of Tolson Harlem Gaze instead of being in Harlem and moving along Lenox Avenue with Larry Neal. Why not have your students write about an imagined Harlem? Finally, once they've discussed their papers, take them on a field trip to Harlem and teach them to conduct ethnographic studies of what they observe.

See "Harlem" page 12

Public forum to learn more about School Choice

State Sen. Anthony H. Williams invites families and the community to attend an upcoming informational event on school choice.

The event, which is hosted by the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and Bright Hope Baptist Church Senior Pastor Kevin Johnson, will take place on Thursday, March 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bright Hope Baptist Church Youth Center, located at 12th Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue in Philadelphia.

Attendees will hear an overview of the Opportunity Scholarship and Educational Improvement Tax Credit Act (Senate Bill 1), listen to a panel discussion on the pros and cons of school choice and participate in a question-and-answer session. Williams will be participating as a panelist.

"Providing every child with an opportunity to receive a quality education is the lynchpin of nearly everything we seek to accomplish throughout the state, and I believe that opportunity scholarships and EITC are key elements in reaching that goal," Williams said. "If enacted, this legislation will have a big effect on students, families and school systems, so I welcome everyone to attend this event to learn more

about how school choice will impact Pennsylvania."

Williams is a co-sponsor and a leading proponent of Senate Bill 1, which would provide families with a chance to send their children to a public, private, parochial or charter school of their choice, as well as increase Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) funding by \$25 million.

For more information, visit the senator's website at www.senatoranthonyh-williams.com

A Place Like Home Adult Day Care



sherri y. johnson

We take great pride in featuring projects, artists and events that glorify the name of Jesus by showing His love. This week we wanted to highlight the services of another organization that literally is putting into action what the scripture says "And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God." (Hebrews 13:16).

A Place Like Home Adult Day Care is a subsidiary of the Human Interest Group of PA L.L.C. (HIG), a for-profit corporation whose stated mission is to assist in the health and wellness of underserved communities, create wealth and distribute contributions to needy non-profit organizations. It opened in 2006 and its main purpose is to create adult day centers in under served communities in states such as Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey and to empower and partner with neighborhood non-profit groups to assist in the improvement of health and well being of families, seniors and adults with disabilities.

We spoke with the administrator of A Place Like Home, Ms. Janet Glenn, and she shared with us the reason for starting the adult daycare and its mission from her perspective. Ms. Glenn stated that the reason for opening the facility for the elderly was because she kept meeting people that voiced concern about possibly having to put their loved one in institutional care. That

bothered many people because they did not feel comfortable with leaving their parent, grandparent or family member in short or long term overnight environment.

Ms. Glenn figured that providing an alternative where the elderly could come all day and enjoy inspirational music, games and dance in a safe environment would be something of great value to the community. A Place like Home caters to a more cultural flavor for our seniors. Their seniors set the tone of the center. With a variety of music, a live DJ, Tai Chi, Chair Yogas, BINGO, Bible Study/Witness Meeting, and arts, crafts and sign language the seniors never run out of things to do.

Ms. Glenn and her staff take great pride in ensuring that each senior is treated with love and respect. They show tenderness by listening to what seniors are saying and show reverence for God as they care for ones that need more hands on attention.

A Place Like Home has highly experienced staff and is well respect by community and church leaders alike. Prices for adult day care are competitive and worth every cent as it provides peace of mind for care givers and families during the day. For more information on this adult day care center, please call 215.473.1864. A Place Like Home is located 5610 Lancaster Avenue | Suite 1600 | Philadelphia, PA 19131.

We wish the staff and Ms. Glenn at A Place Like Home the very best as they continue to show God's love by helping those who may not be able to help themselves as efficiently any longer. If you would like for us to come by your facility and feature your business or promote your project, please call 866.659.8132 or email us at promo@supremegospel.org. Until the next column, remain encouraged!



Staff, A Place Like Home

PBPRS and PECO honor Philadelphia's Leading African American Women in Media

In honor of Women's History Month, the Philadelphia Black Public Relations Society (PBPRS), in partnership with PECO and Dress for Success, will host the 9th annual Milestones: A Celebration of African-American Women in the Media, a panel discussion that honors notable women in the communications industry. This year's discussion takes place Tuesday, March 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at PECO's Energy Hall, located at 2301 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Moderated by Karin Phillips, community affairs reporter at KYW Newsradio/1060-AM; this year's panelists include Pamela Browner-White, senior vice president,

Public Affairs & Government Relations for the Philadelphia Eagles; Berlinda Garnett, planning editor and producer at Fox 29/WTXF-TV, Sara Lomax-Reese, president of WURD Radio, LLC and Desiree Peterkin-Bell, director of communications and strategic partnerships for the City of Philadelphia.

PBPRS understands the importance of recognizing women who have contributed to the development of the communications industry. "Our annual Milestones celebration gives us the opportunity to not only celebrate the accomplishments of notable women in media, but also learn from their experiences," said PBPRS' president,

Shalimar Blakely. "This is information that you can't get from a textbook."

This year's theme, "The Unconventional Road to Success," will highlight African-American women who challenge traditional norms and are successful in fields that are uncommon for them to explore.

A portion of the proceeds for this event will go towards Dress for Success Philadelphia, a non-profit organization promoting the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire and other assistance for professional growth.

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CD Spotlight



Top CDs & DVDs

1. R. Kelly "Love Letter" (Jive)
2. El DeBarge "Second Chance" (Geffen)
3. Kayne West "My Beautiful Dark" ... (Roc-A-Fella)
4. Charlie Wilson "Just Charlie" (Jive)
5. Nicky Minaj "Pink Friday" (Cash Money)
6. Nicky Minaj "Pink Friday" (Cash Money)
7. Kem "Intimacy" Vol. III (Uni Motown)
8. Mike Phillips "M.P.3." (Hidden Beach)
9. Jazmine Sullivan "Love Me Back" (J. Records)
10. Chrisette Michele "AET" (DefJam)
11. Nelly "Just A Dream" (Derrty)
12. Keri Hilson "No Boys Allowed" (Mosley)
13. Ne-Yo "Livbascale" (PolyG)
14. Fantasia "Back to Me" (J Records)
15. Michael Jackson "Michael" (Epic)
16. Res "Black.Girls.Rock!" (The 1 Res)
17. Jaheim "Another Round" (Atlantic)
18. Jamie Foxx ... "Best Night of My Life" ... (J. Records)
19. John Legend & The Roots ... "Wake Up" ... (Home School)
20. T.I. "No Mercy" (LaFace)
21. Keisha Cole "Call All Hearts" (Geffen)
22. Black-Eyed Peas "Beginning" (Atlantic)
23. Lil' Wayne "I Am Not a Human Being" (Cash Money)
24. Ron Isley "Screwed" (Sony)
25. Ciara "Basic Instinct" (LaFace)

Top Gospel CDs & DVDs

1. William McDowell ... "As We Worship"/"Live" ... (Verity)
2. Smokie Norful "Presents Victory Cathedral Choir" ... (EMI)
3. Vashawn Mitchell "Triumphant" (EMI)
4. Forever Jones "Get Ready" (EMI)
5. Byron Cage "Faithful to Believe" (Verity)
6. Marvin Sapp "Here I Am" (Verity)
7. Kirk Franklin "Hello Fear" (Fo Yo Soul)
8. James Fortune "I Believe" (Black Smoke)
9. Keith "Wonder Boy" Johnson/Spiritual Voice Back 2 Basics (Black Smoke)
10. Wes Morgan "Under An Open Heaven" ... (Flip Side)
11. Lee Williams & QC - "Gospel Quartet" "Praise & Worship ... (MCG)
12. Tye Tribbett "Fresh" (Integrity)
13. Earnest Pugh "Rain On Us" "Live" (Uni)
14. Bishop Morton ... "Celebrates 25 Years of Music" (Verity)
15. J. Moss "Just James" (PAJAM)
16. CeeCee Winans "For Always" "The Best of CeeCee" (EMI)
17. Clarence Fountain, Sam Butler & The Boys ... "Stepping Up & Stepping Out (Word)
18. Hezekiah Walker & LFC "Souled Out" "God Favored Me"... (Verity)
19. Karen Clark Sheard "All In One" (Karen)
20. Jay Caldwell & The Gospel Ambassadors ... "Victory"..... (RTG)

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Film Review

janet walters levite



Battle L.A. Loses

The only thing worse than this film was having to watch one of the industry's worst Actors star in it. Aaron Eckhart (The Dark Knight / Rabbit Hole) is one of those Actors who should be good-looking and yet there's something about him that's just plain funny-looking instead, and that funny-looking is compounded by a lack of charisma that renders him an on-screen dud.



Ne-yo in Battle L.A.

He has watered somebody's flower garden - I just don't know who it is. By December 2011, I'm pretty certain that this film will remain at the top of my worst film list. I can't imagine another production this year being as monumentally bromidic as Battle L.A.

Eckhart stars in this film as Sergeant Nantz, a career soldier who is now ready to retire. His papers are in order but a national emergency halts his retreat and he is directed to serve as second in command on a rescue mission to save civilians from what is at first thought to be an onslaught of fiery meteors. As it turns out there are no meteors but hostile alien invaders hell bent annihilating LA and other cities across the globe. Doesn't sound bad so far does it? Not until you realize that this film is far less about an alien invasion than it is the chronicling of a Marine combat mission. For 116 minutes you will observe a crew of about 8 U.S. Marines engaged in combat. Ducking for cover. Screaming instructions at each other and uttering schmaltzy cinematic combat cliches that leave you impatiently fidgeting in your seat for the ending. You don't know who the aliens are. There is no chronicling of their arrival. No ensuing suspense has been penned that will walk you through the menacing arrival of the Aliens and the utter fear, helplessness and hopelessness of the civilians. This film simply opens with the Marines dropping in on LA right in the middle of the invasion. We don't know what the Aliens want.

It's mentioned in the film that they want our water.. but we see nothing from their perspective. We never experience any close-up observance of what they really look like or how they communicate with each other. Apparently that just wasn't important. We don't know where they are from and you wont see any stoic commentary from some fictitious U.S. President providing the nation with broadcast reports of progress or lack thereof. Why? Because - don't be misled - this film is not about them. This is a film about combat. What you will see is NOTHING outside of combat. Explosions, running. More explosions, some yelling and more running. And in the end the aliens are not thwarted... they have only lost this one particular battle against

Nantz and his crew. Ah... yes... it's called BATTLE L.A....and make no mistake about it... this is all you will see in this film... a battle. The title does not lie or deceive you. You only deceive yourself via presumptions based on prior Alien invasion films. The combat goes on and on and on and on, to the point that I care neither about the Aliens, nor about the testosteroneic Marines.

The film co-stars Michele "Yeah-I'm-playing-another-he-chick" Rodriguez. Bridgett "I don't do-anything-in-this-film-but-sit-around-and-vexed" Moynahan also co-stars and must have needed a quick paycheck. R&B singer Ne-yo co-stars as Corporal Kevin Harris - a man whose acting and appearance as a Marine isn't nearly as big and menacing as the thick black-rimmed glasses he dons throughout the film. You can't wait for the camera to get off of this guy.. Its just plain chafing.

Directed by Jonathan Leibesman and Written/Produced by Christopher Bertolina; both of these men, albeit film professionals, remain fairly new to Writing, Directing and Producing for film... and it

See "Battle L.A" page 11

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CEFN teams up with Health Journeys 2011

CEFN partners with Health Journeys 2011 to help Philadelphians get fit for spring and beyond

by Shari DaCosta

It's almost spring, and once again Americans are trying to get into shape. Since the enthusiasm from many people's New Year's resolution to get fit in 2011 is long gone, one Philadelphia program is trying to get people excited about fitness for spring and beyond.

The Community Enrichment Fitness Network, a grassroots nonprofit organization, has teamed up with Health Journeys 2011 to help Philadelphians get into shape not just for spring, but for life.

Health Journeys 2011 is Philadelphia's former health czar Gwen Foster's Mount Airy based health and fitness initiative. The yearlong program features weekly exercise sessions, cooking demonstrations on the fifth of every month and monthly movies about the dangers of consuming unhealthy foods. The program runs Sundays at 2 p.m. until December at Germantown Seventh Day Adventist Church located at 200 East Cliveden Street.

Instructors from CEFN's six weeks health and fitness workshops and "Focus on Fitness" television program, such as Linda Taylor, Sara Lomax Reese, and Parri Frazier serve as cooking and exercise instructors for the program. The program serves as an off shoot program of Foster's 40 Day Journey program. The Health Journeys program is not limited to those who participated in the 40 Day Journey that runs approximately three times a year at various churches throughout Philadelphia and Delaware.

"CEFN is an avid supporter of Gwen Foster's 40 Day Journey program, and is happy to assist with providing CEFN's resources and contacts with this initiative," said CEFN Board President Rev. Jesse Brown, Jr. "Our missions are very similar, we want to help people implement healthy foods and exercise into their life so they can make a permanent healthy lifestyle change."

Gwen Foster said the program helps people stay on their journey to good health by teaming up each person with a "tour guide/travel agent." The tour guide/travel agent shares similar health needs or challenges as the person he/she is paired up with, allowing them to act as each other's support system. By designing the program like this she said it not only keeps people engaged, but also accountable.

"Faulty genes may load the gun, but lifestyle pulls the trigger," said Foster, adding that the program provides credible information that empowers people so they can make a sustainable healthy lifestyle change.

Jennifer Beaumont, CEFN consultant and a Health Journeys program coordinator also said, "The 2011 Health Journey is making concrete the principles Gwen Foster teaches, while providing the tangible supports for those of us who are working at making the lifestyle changes that will help us lose weight and live without medications."

"Most importantly the 2011 Health Journey is a shared trip that allows us to create and deepen friendships with our fellow travelers."

Health Journeys traveler Francica Taylor said the program has been encouraging with the support of the women involved, helping her to steadily lose weight and lower her blood pressure.

"It's a lifestyle change," Francica said. "It has helped me to realize that I don't need to eat meat in order to enjoy a meal. I've given up meat for almost six months."

Another participant in the program is Sherry Hill. Not



Phil Simmons is seen in a pair of pants he used to wear when he was over 300 pounds. He lost over 150 pounds following the 30 Day Diabetes Miracle Cookbook program with Gwen Foster's 40 Day Journey program. Gwen Foster and Doreen Simmons (Phil's wife) are holding up the pants.

only has she contributed CEFN's resources to the program, but it has also helped her on her own journey to good health.

"As a participant of the 40 Day Journey program, I have benefitted immensely and I am pleased about the results I am beginning to see," said Hill. "It's been very rewarding and a challenge to adhere to making a permanent healthy lifestyle change; it's becoming my lifelong mission."

Not only do participants like Francica and Hill enjoy participating in the program, but so does health ministries' leader Sara Osi.

Osi said, "In Oct/Nov 2010 our church also hosted the 40-day Health Journey class under the leadership of Gwen Foster...which had a phenomenal turnout."

"Those classes were filled with enthusiasm, support and hope of a "brand new you." These weekly exercise classes are no different."

One of the instructors helping to facilitate such feedback is WURD 900 AM radio President Sara Lomax Reese, who is a yoga/stretching instructor for Healthy Journeys.

Lomax, who served as a healthy eating food consultant at CEFN's health and fitness programs, said she enjoys partnering with programs like CEFN and Health Journeys 2011 that help personalize fitness.

"Programs like CEFN help people understand what they can do [to get fit and stay fit]," said Health Quest

radio show host Lomax.

"I try to integrate whatever information [I learn about] health and wellness into my family life," said Lomax, who encourages people looking to get fit and stay fit to surround themselves with positive and supportive people.

Another CEFN contact helping with the program is Linda Taylor, co-host of "Focus on Fitness" and CEFN volunteer. Linda will serve as a cooking instructor for an upcoming food demonstration.

Linda said, "I think it's a great idea to continue the 40 Day Journey [program]."

"[Healthy eating and exercise habits] ha[ve] to be reinforced over and over in order for us to get it."

Linda will continue her work with CEFN for its upcoming Fit Kids 4 Life TV special. CEFN is currently filming the six episodes series on childhood obesity set to air April on PhillyCAM on Comcast channels 66/966 and Verizon FiOS channels 29/30.

For more information on Healthy Journeys 2011 contact Gwen Foster at 215-906-2074. For up to date information on CEFN programs visit cefn.org, send an e-mail to cefnphila@gmail.com or call 215-858-4957.

Shari DaCosta is a Communications major at Temple University. She is a staff member of Temple University's student run PROWL Public Relations firm, and a member of Public Relations Student Society of America. She also written for the Temple News.

Art in the Afternoon



This is OUR FUTURE. Students from Friends Select spend the afternoon at the Marian Anderson Residence Museum

Phyllis Simms photo

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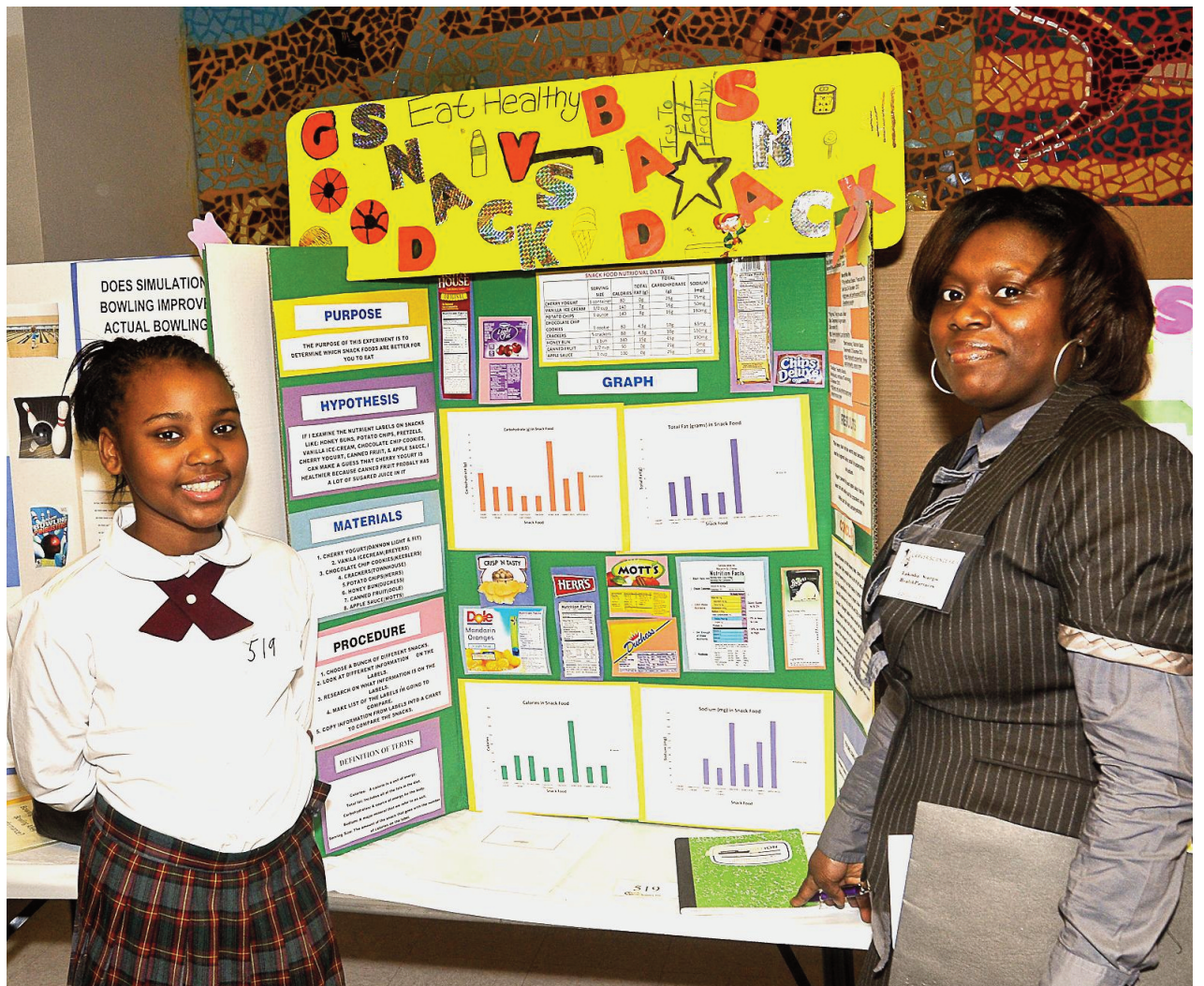
Sixth grader puts the Science in Snacking

Blair Christian Academy 6th grader, Anisa Allen earned the Health Partners Foundation's "Healthy Advances" award for her stellar, nutrition-focused science project at the 32nd annual George Washington Carver Science Fair held recently at the Academy of Natural Sciences. This award, presented for the sixth straight year by the Health Partners Foundation, includes a \$100 check for the winner and a \$200 check to support the advancement of her school's science program.

Her project, Eating Healthy: Good Snacks vs. Bad Snacks demonstrated the importance of reading food labels and evaluating snack choices based on their nutrition content, rather than just what tastes good. Using www.mypyramid.gov as her guide, Anisa compared a variety of snacks commonly eaten by kids, including yogurt, apple sauce, fruit cups, chips, cookies, ice cream and honey buns. Looking carefully at fat and sodium levels as well as calorie count, she assessed the merits of each tasty snack, concluding low fat yogurt and apple sauce were clearly the healthiest for growing kids.

"Anisa was very methodical in her approach and did an excellent job explaining the differences between healthy and unhealthy snacks," says contest judge, Lakisha Sturgis, manager of high medical needs outreach programs at Health Partners. "Her nutrition-focused project aligns with Health Partners' goal to prevent obesity in the community and improve the health outcomes of our members."

The George Washington Carver Science Fair is named in honor of the late Dr. George Washington Carver, accomplished African-American scientist, painter, musician, and humanitarian. Founded by a group of educators and businesspersons in 1979, the annual fair seeks to encourage urban youth to pursue academic excellence and careers in science.



At the 32nd annual George Washington Carver Science Fair, this year's "Healthy Advances" award recipient, Anisa Allen, a 6th grader at Blair Christian Academy, is congratulated by Lakisha Sturgis, manager of high medical needs outreach programs at Health Partners. This award, presented for the sixth straight year by the Health Partners Foundation, includes a \$100 check for the winner and a \$200 check to support the advancement of her school's science program. Leaping Lion photo

Plug into electric choice at Lowery Brown's March 19 energy summit

State Rep. Vanessa Lowery Brown's annual energy seminar will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 19 at the School of the Future, 4021 Parkside Ave, and will focus on the removal of the electric rate caps and the opportunity for consumers to choose their electric supplier.

"The energy summit is an opportunity for my constituents to learn how to shop for energy suppliers and how to make their homes energy efficient," said Brown, D-Phila. "Come out and learn how to plug into electric choice."

A panel discussion will be from 10 a.m. to noon where electric supplier representatives will discuss their rate plans and take questions from the audience. From noon to 2 p.m., consumers can discuss their energy bills with representatives from electric, gas and water companies and switch to a new electric supplier.

Lowery Brown is hosting the meeting in partnership with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

and West Philadelphia Coalition of Neighborhoods and Businesses. Energy-related literature will be available. Light refreshments will be served, and there will be giveaways.

Lowery Brown encourages constituents who cannot attend the meeting to visit the Pennsylvania Office of the Consumer Advocate's website, www.oca.state.pa.us, which offers a residential electric shopping guide on how to shop and compare prices for electricity and natural gas.

She said consumers also should visit the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission website, www.puc.state.pa.us, which offers tips on decreasing energy consumption and saving money, including information on budget billing, low-income heating assistance and efficient home heating equipment.

Residents may call Lowery Brown's constituent service office at 215-879-6615 for help with other state-related programs and services.

Black History March 18-19

Cultivate your self confidence, be less restless and anxious; you have abilities. You love your home life and your circle of friends, though small, is a strong force in your life. You will always be happy.

1895-Two hundred African Americans set sail from Savannah, GA to Monrovia, Liberia a West African colony founded by freed slaves.

1901-William Henry Johnson the first African American artist to be given a retrospective by the National Museum of American Art is born in Florence, SC.

1935-Frances Cress Welsing, psychiatrist and author (The Isis Paper: The Keys to The Colors) is born in Chicago, IL.

1936-Robert Lee Smith, singer with The Tams (Hey Girl Don't Bother Me) is born.

1938-Charley Frank Pride, American country singer is born in Sledge, MS.

1941-Wilson Pickett, singer and songwriter (In the Midnight Hour) is born in Prattville, AL.

1945-John H. White photojournalist for the Chicago Daily News and Chicago Sun Times is born in Lexington, NC.

1959-Irene Cara, singer and songwriter (Flash dance - Oh What a Feeling) is born in The Bronx, NY.

1963-Vanessa Lynn Williams, actress and the first African American Miss America is born in New York, NY.

1970-(Dana Elaine Owens) Queen Latifah, singer, rat artist and actor is born in East Orange, NJ.

Birthday: Rev. Cleophus Robinson, gospel singer with The Sensational Nightingales.

March 19th

You are domestic, kind, extremely generous, gentle and sensitive. If you are not in harmonious surroundings you are completely miserable. You need an unusual amount of love and understanding. Your sweet and adoring disposition will undoubtedly or probably win this affection.

1872-T.J Byrd is awarded patent 124,790 for an apparatus for detaching horses from carriages.



1894-(Loretta Mary Aikens) Jackie 'Moms' Mabley, the first African American comedian to have a best selling record, is born in Brevard, NC.

1895-Clatonia Joaquin Dorticus is awarded patent 535,820 for a device for applying coloring liquids to sides of soles of heels of shoes.

1930-Ornette Coleman, saxophonist and first jazz musician to have his music recorded on RCA's Red Label, is born in Fort Worth, TX.

1937-Clarence 'Frogman' Henry, singer (Ain't Got No Home) is born in Algiers, LA.

1946-Ruth Pointer, singer with the Pointer Sisters is born in Oakland, CA.

1981-(Hudson Woodbridge) Tampa Red, slide guitarist (Let Me Play With Your Poodle) dies in Chicago, IL.

2007-Luther Thomas Ingram, singer (If Loving You is Wrong I Don't Want to be Right) dies in Belleville, IL.

Birthday: Melvin Gentry singer with Midnight Star (No Parking on the Dance Floor).

March 20th

You are studious, intellectual and a logical thinker. You are fond of travel and gaiety and your retrospective tendency makes your pleasures and observations permanent. You will love deeply, work diligently and play with child-like abandon.

1883-Jan Ernest Matzeliger is awarded patent 274,207 for the shoe lasting machine which allowed for the first mass production of shoes.

1910-David Welford Williams, the first African American judge West of the Mississippi is born in Atlanta, GA.

1915-(Rosetta Nubin) Sister Rosetta Tharpe the first African American to take gospel music into a secular setting is born in Cotton Plant, AR.

1926-Andrew Billingsley, educator and author (Mighty Like a River: The Black Church and Social Reform) is born.

1934-Willie Brown politician (Mayor of San Francisco, CA) is born in Mineola, TX.

1957-(Shelton) Spike Lee, filmmaker and director is born in Atlanta, GA.



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Salon News



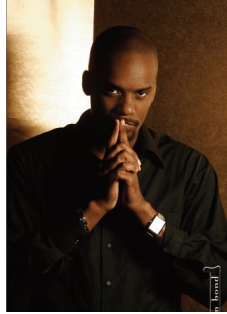
Sadina Davis

Weldon Germaine Bond has been in the beauty business for over 15 years. Well-known around the world for Fashion, Beauty publications, Photography and Trade shows; Weldon will host his 2nd Annual Virginia Beauty Show at the Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Virginia on March 20, 2011.

This one day Beauty Empowerment Forum will have information for Salon owners and consumers. There will be classes for students and seminars for beauty professionals to teach the latest on new hair cutting techniques, coloring, natural hair care and styling trends.

Attendees will have a chance to visit exhibitor's booths and purchase new products from different hair care and beauty companies. The Virginia Hair Show will end with a fashion show and hair competition by Dee's Couture.

If you think you are the best of the best and want to be apart of this spectacular event go to the web and check out last year's show or register for the up-coming hair show at: www.virginiabeautyshow.com.



Weldon Germaine Bond

Beauty Bits

"Ladies", are you embarrassed to let a man touch your chin? Tired of plucking stubborn chin hair? Shaving only leads to faster facial hair growth! There are products on the market to help with facial hair. There is a product by Sally Hansen called Tweeze less waxing and you can find it at any Rite Aide or CVS Store.

Create the Look will host its 2nd annual Job Fair for

IRS Philadelphia office taxpayer assistance open house

Taxpayers who may have difficulty scheduling a visit to an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center during normal weekday business hours can visit the IRS office located at 600 Arch Street on Saturday, February 26 and Saturday, March 26, 2011, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The IRS will host two Saturday Open Houses during the income tax filing season to provide free

assistance to taxpayers who need help getting information required to file their tax returns. Help with account questions, such as collection or examination issues, is also available during Open House. In some instances virtual assistance will be offered, taxpayers will be assisted over the telephone by IRS employees who are working in other offices around the country.

"We know some people

are facing challenging economic times and we want to provide extra assistance on these Saturdays," said IRS spokesperson David Stewart. "Our goal is to help them get what they need from the IRS."

In addition to the normal array of services, limited help preparing tax forms is available on a first-come, first-served basis in most locations. Over 35,000 taxpayers

attended similar Open House events last year. In addition to here in Philadelphia, the IRS is offering assistance at 96 other locations around the country. A complete list of Open House locations is available on www.irs.gov. You can check the listing of local offices (<http://www.irs.gov/local-contacts/index.html>) to see which offices show hours of service on Saturday.

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Open

Toby Rich



This week's rap from the Mayor of Girard Avenue, Toby Rich is called "Open". Yes, all pools will be open this year in Philly - North, West, G-Town and South. Speaking about South Philly, as I told you briefly last week, The Philadelphia Association of Former Gang Members and Friends had their South Philly meeting at the Marion

Anderson Recreation Center. It was a very good show if I must say so. However there were many from the political world that were noticeably absent. D.A. Seth Williams and Cutis Jones were both no shows. I don't know why. Deputy Mayor Everett Gillison of Public Safety was there and I know that their jobs can't be anymore demanding than his. Also Ms. Shirley Gregory from Congressman Bob Brady's office was there and she came by herself so my hat goes off to her and Mr. Bob Brady. At least he sent someone. I mean after all, this is about our children. If you want people to vote for you, you should care a little bit. Anyway, Mr. Gillison really gave of himself once again. He even stayed longer than he really had to but that's the kind of person he is. It's a shame that we do not vote for him because he would get a lot of votes.

Mr. Amos from the Recreations Department was there. I must say that the whole Recreation Department from

Commissioner to Supervisor are great. We were first supposed to use Brother Kenny Gamble's place but something happened. Anyway, special thanks to Amos Strawn and Steve Goldman from the Recreation Department. You see sometimes when you are doing the right thing; someone with a good heart will help you.

Well Naim and Rafiq; Kaseem, Eddie Shaw and others from 15th & Clymer; 13th & South; 5th, 7th, 20th, 18th, 16th and others from across the tracks came out because they love their children and all of them of tired of seeing them kill each other and going to funerals and seeing the pain in families that they all know. Who is going to take the weight? We must do something. We just cannot sit by and let our children ruin their lives. There is something wrong with us just sitting by and saying, "Oh, it's not my business" or "I'm not in that game." Life ain't no game. It's real and people are dying for real. So with God's help we will try and do something. If you do not want to help, then just get out of the way and don't say anything because what could you say anyway that anybody would really want to listen to.

Anyway, South Philly is with us. The next time we go to G-Town for a meeting it will be at Enon (my cuz's church) sometime in late April or early May. I will keep you posted. I know

G-Town is ready. They have told us. In June we will be coming to West and Southwest Philly. We are trying to help ourselves but we need local officials to be on the same "save our children" page. So if you really care, just be there No rap. And if you are no on board, don't get mad when you do not get the votes that you think you should get because if you do not care about us, we do not care about you.

Speaking of politicians who care about us, Vote for Jewell Williams for Sheriff.

With love, honor and respect from your Mayor of Girard Avenue, Toby Rich. Peace.

P.S. Get ready for the Summerville Cabaret on Saturday, April 12 at St. Raymond's Hall, Vernon Road and Williams Avenue from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Battle L.A.

Continued from page 7

showed. An embarrassing production.

Battle LA however was indeed a rude awakening for me. I've always thought I rather enjoyed a good testosterone flick. Splattered blood, guts, firearms, profanity, explosions, cars wrecks ... Bring it on. But the difference between myself and a man is that while I seek rhyme and reason within a good action flick, 'Mr. American Manly-Man' doesn't need rhyme or reason. He just needs the action plain and simple. He's not concerned with acting, character development, plot development, or direction. He does not think beyond the here and now of the action at hand. He just doesn't care. He doesn't seem to want his brain to work that hard. After all, it's just a movie. While I'm certain there are exceptions to this assertion.. it seems to be true based upon the warm reception Battle LA received by a number men in the theater during the finale.

I could find nothing redeeming about this film. A boat load of money (100 Million I believe) thrown at explosives, Poor acting, writing, casting and direction. A nauseating production that I can only believe looks and feels satisfying to a particular demographic (males) during a period of dire financial times where they find themselves

craving, more than usual, the untamed release of adrenaline and pacification of escape.


A really, really bad film.
One and a half SCOOPS.

Janet Walters Levite is an *Optioned Screenwriter*.
Read more of her reviews at JanetWaltersLevite.com


rating



"1.5 out of 5" scoops




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We need to stay with Jesus



rev. dr. wm. rocky brown, 3rd

One day our Master, Jesus Christ was received into a village home in Bethany by Martha, the sister of Lazarus. As we read this eventful account in the Gospel of Luke we are impressed with the fact that Martha seems to also be the older sister and no doubt was the supervisor of the home. She was a woman of standing in the community. Yet, she had

the warmth of spirit to openly make it possible for Jesus and surely some disciples with him to come into her home. Yes she invited the Master home.

How many of us today are anxious to invite the Master home? How many of us are living lives that are both respectful and humble, holy and human so that Jesus could find comfort and lodging in our homes?

Now, being the woman of the house it would be up to her to prepare a meal. And the custom of the day tells us that it was a great honor to be able to prepare a meal for important guest or dignitaries. Martha had gone to make bread and prepare a meal. But it seems that Martha's troubles developed when she began to worry about Mary. As long as Martha was doing what she could do best, all was well. As soon as anxiety rose and her tensions increased, Martha wanted her sister, Mary to know what she was going through.

I suspect she wanted Mary in the kitchen with her. Perhaps Martha felt Mary was out of place being with the men. For she had been cooking for a long time believing that her sister would finally come to her place of duty in the kitchen. But Mary never did. You know so much trouble develops because we are forever worried about someone else. Most of us spend more time in

other folks business than our own.

Then we get worried that we are or will be doing all the work. We are concerned that someone will not be aware of the sacrifices we are making, but God knows.

Without a doubt, Martha could have finished the meal without Mary, but she let her emotions run away with her. Martha was concerned about everything but the most important thing which was to spend as much time as possible with Jesus.

She was more concerned about giving Jesus what she felt he needed rather than asking Him what He wanted. And surely all He wanted was some peace and quiet away from the hustle and bustle of the multitude! With the cross before Him and with the inner tension in His heart, He had turned aside to Bethany to find an oasis of calm away from the demanding crowds, if only for an hour or two. That is what Mary gave Him and what Martha even in her kindness did her best to destroy. It was simply that Mary understood and that Martha did not.

Now, don't get me wrong Jesus loved Martha and Martha loved Him, but when Martha set out to be kind it had to be her way of being kind which was really being

unkind to Him, whose heart cried out for quiet. Jesus loved Mary and Mary loved Him, but the difference in the two was the basic fact that Mary understood.

We must admire Mary for staying with Jesus. She must have known that as a woman, tradition would put her in the kitchen but she stayed with Jesus. She must have known that the critics of Jesus might have mistaken her motives but she stayed with Jesus. She must have known that her sister, Martha would become angry, but she stayed with Jesus.

Therefore, the main lesson of this message is that: We Need To Stay With Jesus!

And the good thing about our faith is that whenever anyone makes up his or her mind to stay with Jesus, He will not turn us away. We need to stay with Jesus to the point that folk say: "We look, walk, talk, act, live, serve, think, and love like Jesus!"

We need to stay with Jesus

In our Joys,
In our Sorrows,
In our high moments,
In our low moments.
For He will never leave us or forsake us.

*This is Rev. Wm. Rocky Brown, 3rd, asking you to:
Please Join Today to Change Tomorrow!!!!*

Harlem

Continued from page 5

and teach them to conduct ethnographic studies of what they observe.

Why not beginning with them reading Langston Hughes

"What Happens to a dream deferred?":

Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun
Or fester like a sore---
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over
like a syrupy sweet?

Rhodes-Pitts: " We weren't required to imitate this poem, answer its successive questions, or may its rhyme scheme. The poem was an object for our study of figurative language.. We were instructed to pay special attention to the similes embedded in each line; the dream that dries up festers, stinks, crusts over, and sags. Each action ws a tiny metamorphosis, in which the subject of Hughes' inquiry darts across the space of language, from the concrete and observable to the realm of imagination

and emotion."

Schoolly D provides No Exit in the final poem to be evaluated by your class:

Yeah, education of a Black Man, and his people
Gather around School like School was a steeple
Black minds, and black rights and black fights
Supernatural black men and my black might
Some sqy that rap is just madness
I say I'm glad that I had this
Urge and the courage, submerge
a dope beat and super dope poem
Sit on down and get a slap in the dome
Yeah, it's School. That's my name
Rap, uh-huh , that's my game
Love for my brother,
Black baby, that's my color
I'm a Black Man.

Now it's time for the whole class to write rap lyrics about Sojourner Truth, Harriett Tubman, Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts, Mary Bowser, Schoolly D, Eve, Beans, MC Lyte, Harlem, The Civil War, Japan Tsunami and their own neighborhoods in Philly.

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2011 Celebrate Arts and Aging

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) is seeking artists to participate in three art exhibits as part of its "Celebrate Arts and Aging" festivities during May, Older Americans Month. Artists must be at least 55 years of age and their work created within the last three years.

PCA's ninth annual "Celebrate Arts and Aging" (formerly known as "Seniors Celebrate the Arts") will offer a myriad of arts and cultural opportunities for seniors and highlight the creativity of older adults. The festivities will include three exhibits of senior artwork: at Center on the Hill ... the place for active adults, located at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, 8855 Germantown Avenue; at the Free Library of Philadelphia's Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine Street; and at Philadelphia Senior Center, 509 South Broad Street.

Photo or slides of artwork, accompanied by an art submission form, should be sent to Amanda Buonomo, PCA special events manager, at PCA, 642 North Broad St., Phila., PA 19130 by Monday, March 28. One submission per applicant will be accepted for review. For more informa-

tion on art submission criteria and an application to exhibit, visit www.pcaCares.org/senior-art; call 215-765-9000, ext. 5052; or email abuonomo@pcaphl.org.

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Electronic payments are a must



patrick I. robinson, sr.

For years, Social Security has stressed the convenience, security, and safety of getting benefit payments electronically. Soon, direct deposit (or Direct Express) will not only be the best way to receive Federal benefit payments — it will be the only way. That's because the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced a new rule that

will phase out paper checks for Federal benefit and non-tax payments by March 1, 2013. Here is how the transition will work. Anyone applying for Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits on or after May 1, 2011, will receive their payments electronically, while those already receiving paper

checks will need to switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013. Anyone already receiving their benefit payments electronically will continue to receive their payment as usual on their payment day. People receiving benefits have the option of direct deposit to a bank or credit union account (of their choice) or into a Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card account (a Treasury-recommended prepaid card option). You can visit www.GoDirect.org to learn more. Social Security, SSI, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management benefits, and other non-tax payments are included. For most people getting monthly benefits, this won't really be a change; already 8 out of 10 beneficiaries receive payments electronically. Why the push for electronic payments instead of paper checks received in the mail? It's safer: no risk of checks being lost or stolen; It's easy and reliable: no need to wait for the mail or go to the bank to cash a check; It saves tax-

payers money: no cost for postage and paper and printing; It saves you money: no check-cashing fees or bank fees; and It's good for the environment: it saves paper and eliminates transportation costs. If you still get your check in the mail, you don't need to wait for the new rule to go into effect to enjoy the benefits of electronic payments. Please visit www.godirect.org today and begin getting your Social Security and SSI payments the safe, easy, inexpensive, and green way — electronically.

March is Women's History Month. Celebrate our Mothers, Grandmothers, Sisters, and Daughters.

Opportunities of a lifetime must be seized during the lifetime of the Opportunity

Scholarships

Continued from page 4

said. Awards in the Urban League of Philadelphia Community Scholarship Program are funded through contributions from our corporate partners like ARA-MARK and Enterprise Holdings; Black-owned businesses like Jo-Dan Enterprises and PRWT Services, Inc.; professional organizations such as the American Association of Blacks in Energy; former Urban League of Philadelphia board members such as Wanda Paul and Bill Ribble; and our Affinity Groups, the Urban League Guild of Philadelphia and NExT Philadelphia: Network of Extraordinary Talent. The following awards are available, to date:

- Bernard C. Watson, PhD, scholarship \$2,500 each
- The Urban League of Philadelphia Robert Sorrell Community Service Scholarship \$1,000
- Wanda Paul Scholarship \$1,000
- Bill and Joanne Ribble Urban League of Philadelphia Scholarship to Kutztown University \$5,000
- NExT Philadelphia Scholarship \$1,000
- Urban League Guild Education Scholarship \$1,000
- Urban League Enterprise Holdings Scholarship \$2,000 each

- Anne's Child Memorial Scholarship \$2,000
- PRWT Services Inc. Scholarship \$2,500
- U.S. Facilities Inc. Scholarship, \$2,500
- Thomas & Mikhal Monson Scholship \$2,500 each
- Jo-Dan Madalisse, LTD, LLC Scholarship \$1,000
- Barbara Dawkins Scholarship \$1,000
- Johnny Dawkins Scholarship \$1,000
- AABE Scholarship \$1,000 each

Eligibility requirements and a complete application can be found on our website www.urbanleaguephila.org. The Urban League of Philadelphia reserves the right to discard any application submitted by an individual who does not meet all requirements or any submissions received after the deadline, which is Friday, April 1, 2011. Applicants for the AABE Scholarship must have their completed applications in by Friday, March 11, 2011. Awardees will be notified on or about Friday, April 22, 2011 and must attend the 2011 Empowerment Week Gala, which will take place on Saturday, June 4 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Awardees will receive two complimentary tickets, one for themselves and the other for a parent/guardian. If you have questions, please call 215-985-3220, ext. 208.

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 Saturday, March 26 ~ 9 pm until

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SCOOP Women's History Month Feature

Women of The Harlem Renaissance



A'lelia Walker (1885 - 1931)

In opening her home as a meeting place for artists and writers, A'lelia Walker, fortune heiress and socialite, played an important role in the Harlem Renaissance. She was the daughter of Madame C.J. Waller, the self-made millionaire who made her fortune selling hair care products. A'lelia Walker's mansion on the Hudson, Villa Lewaro, was the scene of Harlem's elite parties, attended by European royalty as well as the Harlem Renaissance artists. Her townhouse on 136th Street became a cultural gathering place dubbed "The Dark Tower" after Countee Cullen's famous poem of the same name. Walker was the grand hostess of the Harlem Renaissance, and her recognition and support of the era's artistic and intellectual leaders were vital to its emergence.



Jessie Fauset (1882 - 1961)

Jessie Fauset is best known as the editor of the Harlem Renaissance periodical *The Crisis*. She was born in Camden, New Jersey, and attended Cornell University, where she studied education and became the first black woman Phi Beta Kappa. After college, Fauset taught foreign languages in public schools in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. In 1919 she moved to the New York NAACP offices to relieve W.E.B. DuBois of his editing duties on *The Crisis*. Fauset is responsible for publishing some of the greatest literary figures of the Harlem Renaissance, including Langston Hughes, Jean Toomer, Claude McKay and Countee Cullen. She also completed four novels within ten years: *There is Confusion* (1924), *Plum Bun* (1928), *The Chinaberry Tree* (1931) and *Comedy: American Style* (1933).

The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's and early 1930's marked an unprecedented period of expression by Blacks in music, literature, art, politics and economics. Never before had America seen such a rich, diverse explosion of black culture. Centered in Harlem, the movement ushered in an era of self-discovery and individual expression that was national in origin and international in scope. The creative efforts of the artists and writers of the Harlem Renaissance laid a powerful foundation that effectively altered the standards of artistic and literary excellence.

Ivie Anderson (1905 -1949)

"Ivie was our good luck charm," said Duke Ellington of his featured singer. Her addition to the orchestra was a boon to the sound and the popularity of Ellington's ensemble. Slim and beautiful, always dressed in white on stage, Anderson quickly became a favorite of the fans. According to Duke, "In London at the Palladium she stopped the show. While she was singing 'Stormy Weather,' the audience and all the management brass broke down crying and applauding." Ivie Anderson was born in Gilroy, California and began performing in nightclubs and in a touring version of *Shuffle Along* as a teenager. In 1928 she sang with the Anson Weeks Orchestra, becoming the first black woman to sing with a white orchestra. She joined Ellington in 1931 and stayed with the group until asthma forced her to retire in 1942. She made numerous recordings with Ellington, including *It Don't Mean a Thing, I Got It Bad* and *All Star Blues*.



Alberta Hunter (1895 - 1984)

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Alberta Hunter was a licensed practical nurse when she began performing in Chicago in several small clubs. She got her biggest break at the Panama Cafe, an elite club with a largely white clientele. After she became popular in Chicago, Hunter started working in New York in the 1920s. She replaced Bessie Smith in the musical comedy *How Come* in 1923, and she recorded with the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra and Louis Armstrong's Red Onion Jazz Babies, among others. In the 1920s and 1930s she was one of America's premier blues singers, and she toured Europe in the 1930s with much success (Hunter re-placed Josephine Baker at the Casino de Paris in 1934--1935). In 1957 Hunter returned to nursing at Goldwater Memorial Hospital in Harlem, but she continued to record and perform into her eighties.



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claudelle evans

ZamZuu Compensation - Compensation Plan: In today's world, it's all about staying fresh in the marketplace. That's why we're proud to announce a brand new opportunity. Pre-launch will begin on January 15, 2010, and with it will be an exciting new way to make money that you'll find distinctly familiar. Here's how it works!

Getting Started as an Associate: Everyone has to start somewhere. And in our marketing business, one does so by registering for the Associate Referral Program. For every referral that purchases an E-Commerce Business Solution, the Associate will receive \$25. That's it! All Associates work with their PowerTeam Leaders on providing referrals and receive a check every time one makes a purchase.

The Rep Opportunity: All Associates who have referred at least three sales to their PowerTeam Leader will be given the option to continue as a Rep. (They may continue as an Associate if they choose.) As long as the sales, or any three personal sales remain active, you will be qualified to override. Should you elect to become a Rep, you'll start working toward completing your 1st Team. As a Rep, you will earn: - The 50% Match on all personally sponsored Associates and Reps.* - A \$25 Direct Sale commission for every personal sale. Plus for every month you maintain six active personal sales, you'll receive a \$50 monthly bonus! *Must be qualified to override.

Fast Start Bonus: If an Associate elects to become a Rep, they have 14 days from the time the third sale is made by their PowerTeam Leader to make six personal sales. In addition to earning \$25 for each sale, they are paid a \$1,000 Bonus! If they do this in the first two weeks, that's a minimum of \$1,150! A Rep's 1st Team is considered complete when: A total of six team sales with at least three being personally made by you. All items are subject to tax where applicable.

Getting to your PowerTeam: Once your 1st Team is complete, the very next Associate you personally register starts your PowerTeam. Now, you're at the top pay level of the company. Your PowerTeam will include the 1st Team of every Associate and Rep in your PowerTeam through infinity.

In addition to earning the 50% Match on all personal Associates and Reps and a \$25 Direct Sale commission on new sales, you'll also earn...

\$25 PowerTeam commission on all personal sales, Associate referred sales, and sales made by all Reps in your PowerTeam.

\$2 Residual commission of the monthly Web site hosting fee on all active sites in your PowerTeam.

Right to earn \$250 Leadership and \$5,000 Bonuses.

The PowerTeam Bonuses: Once you have started your PowerTeam and are qualified to override, there are many bonuses that you can earn! And the best part? There are no time limits! So, get to work because you may earn them as quickly and as often as you wish. They are limitless. Once you qualify for a bonus, you must keep all sales active until that bonus is paid.

Leadership Bonuses: Every PowerTeam sale of \$249.95 equals one sale toward a Leadership Bonus. For every three sales, you'll earn \$250! *YTB Travel opportunity sales (\$499.90) will count as two sales toward the Leadership Bonus only.

\$5,000 Bonus: Once you have 50 active PowerTeam sales, you will earn a \$5,000 Bonus! Grow to 100 active PowerTeam sales, and you'll earn another \$5,000 Bonus! Once you reach 100 active PowerTeam sales, those sales will lock in. (This is separate from the Leadership Bonus.) All items are subject to tax where applicable.

PowerTeam Generations: A PowerTeam Generation will start when one of your PowerTeam Reps starts their own PowerTeam. Their PowerTeam is considered 1st Generation to you. When a Rep in your 1st Generation starts their PowerTeam, that PowerTeam is 2nd Generation to you. This continues for six generations. Commissions on PowerTeam Generations are as follows:

1st Generation: \$15 for every 1st Generation sale plus \$2 Residual commission of the monthly Website hosting fee on all active sites in your 1st Generation.

2nd Generation: \$10 for every 2nd Generation sale plus \$2 Residual commission of the monthly Web site hosting fee on all active sites in your 2nd Generation.

3rd Generation: \$5 for every 3rd Generation sale plus \$2 Residual commission of the monthly Website hosting fee on all active sites in your 3rd Generation.

4th, 5th and 6th Generation: \$2.50 for every 4th, 5th and 6th Generation sale plus \$1 Residual commission of the monthly Web site hosting fee on all active sites in your 4th, 5th or 6th Generation.

Quick Definitions - Referral Fee (\$25): A Referral Fee is paid to an Associate when a referral given to their PowerTeam Leader purchases a site.

Direct Sale Commission (\$25): A Direct Sale Commission is paid to a Rep when one makes a personal sale. This commission is paid whether the Rep is in his or her 1st Team or PowerTeam.

PowerTeam Commission (\$25): A PowerTeam commission is paid to a Rep when a sale is made in their PowerTeam either by the Rep or one of his or her PowerTeam Reps.

Qualified to Override: Being qualified to override allows you to earn a 50% commission match, overrides and bonuses on your PowerTeam, PowerTeam Generation commissions, and Director compensation. In order to qualify to override, you must have three active personal sales. You must maintain three active personal sales to continue to qualify to override.

50% Match: As long as you qualify to override, you will earn a 50% commission match on all of your personally sponsored Reps and Associates. If one of your personally sponsored Reps earns a \$25 Direct Sale commission, you earn \$12.50. It's the same for all marketing commissions. (Please note: There will not be a match paid on bonuses or the 50% Match.)

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P.S. Hope that the past five articles has been a help to you in some way. Please know that I truly care, and may God bless you and His Peace be with you, and may heaven smile upon you.

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HELP THE FRANCISVILLE PLAYGROUND RECREATION CENTER
On **Saturday, March 19**, The Francisville Playground Recreation Center, 1800 Block of Wylie St., needs volunteers to help paint the fence surrounding the recreation center to help make it a brighter place for the community to enjoy and the Francisville A's youth baseball team to play.

NOTE: Please bring volunteers who are able to paint neatly and reach high. This event is not suited for small children. Thank you for your understanding! Schedule for the Day: 9:00 am-Registration; 9:45 am- Opening Program; 10:00 am- Service Begins

THE BROCKINGTON ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT
On **Sunday, March 20**, 4:00 p.m. The Brockington Ensemble will appear in Concert at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 2119 W. Diamond St. Free will offering. For information see www.newjerusalem baptistonline.com or call 215- 236-0789.

MASTBAUM CLASS OF 1974 REUNION
Jules E. Mastbaum Area Voc-Tech High School, Class of 1974 will hold a reunion on August 13, on the Spirit of Philadelphia, Penns Landing. Contacts Debbie Black Jacobs 609-889-1918 or Jean Blackstock 610-608-8657. **Please respond by March 18.**

FREE TAX PLANNING SEMINAR
As the deadline nears for individuals and families to file their 2010 taxes, state Sen. Shirley Kitchen and the Financial Freedom Network invite the public to a free Tax Planning Seminar on **Thursday, March 24** from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Beloved St. John Evangelistic Church, 4541 N. Broad St. (Broad and Belfield streets).

Thane C. Martin, a certified public accountant, will teach participants strategies to reduce their tax burden; what it means to be audited by the IRS; what deductions they qualify for; how filing for bankruptcy affects their taxes; and more.

Additionally, participants who qualify can make an appointment to have an IRS trained preparer file their taxes and the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

Participants should bring this year's tax package and/or label, all forms, W-2 and 1099, information for other income, information for all deductions and credits and a copy of last year's tax return.

For more information and to make an appointment to file your taxes, call Beloved St. John at 215-329-5140.

WILEY COLLEGE A CAPPELLA CHOIR IN CONCERT
On **Thursday, March 24**, Zoar United Methodist Church, 1204 Melon St., will present in Concert the Wiley College A Cappella

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Choir. This acclaimed choir will be performing at 7 p.m. For information call 215-769-3899.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
Minds of Men present the First Annual Women's Conference on **Friday, March 25** from 6 to 8 p.m. at New Freedom Theatre, 1346 N. Broad Street. Come Witness this spiritual, truthful, powerful Women's Conference. Free admission. Free Food. Vendors. Information will be provided on Employment; Health; Housing; Child Care; Anger Management; Finance and more. For information contact Derrick McKnight at 215-410-8035.

INSPIRATION MUSIC CONFERENCE
Praise 103.9, Philadelphia's Inspiration Station, is bringing the first and biggest Inspiration Conference in the country to Philadelphia with blackbuster names such as Yolanda Adams, Mathew Knowles, Donald Lawrence, James Fortune, Vickie Winans, Tye Tribbett and others on **Sunday, March 27** at the Philadelphia Convention Center. This conference will not only be designed for the City of Philadelphia but for the entire country.

The conference provides six workshops designed to help people see their dreams become a reality. For more information call: 610-276-1033.

LOCAL CHURCH MARKS HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY
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Down Memory Lane



That's Howard Williams (up front) former member of "The Men in Blue" and Promoter of the Annual Hobo Hop some years ago, pictured with some of his "Roadies". Howard is one of the remaining members of the once popular Club 40.

NOTE: Reproductions of all Memory Lane Pictures are available. Call SCOOP 215-232-5974

St., is gearing up to celebrate 185 years of the historic church's existence. The celebration will culminate on **Sunday, March 27** The morning worship service is scheduled to be held at 10:30 a.m. and the afternoon service is scheduled to be held at 4 p.m. at St. James Pentecostal Church, 4101 Ludlow Street.

For more information, please contact the church office at 215-747-1414 or churchoffice@monumentalbc.org.


SIMON GRATZ REUNION
The Simon Gratz High Classes of June 1960 January 1961 & June 1961 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on **Friday May 6** at Romano's Catering 1523 E. Wingohocking Ave. from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Tickets \$50.00. The celebration will be a Black & White Formal Attire. Please contact Bonnie Cobb 267-320-0515 or cobbobo@aol.com; Charlotte Hatcher Conway 215-927-1079 or conway7828@juno.com. For tickets or more information. All other classes are welcome to attend this milestone celebration.





OBSCOP


by Judy Renay


Opportunity knocks Friday 9:50pm to Saturday 1:10pm E.S.T
Full Moon in Virgo Saturday 1:10pm E.S.T
Opportunity knocks Sunday 2:27pm to Monday 1:35pm E.S.T
Sun enters Aries Sunday 6:21pm E.S.T


 **ARIES - March 21- April 19**
This is a good time for health check-ups, study diet, and nutrition. Try to improve your employment situation. Look for opportunities to lighten the burdens of others. Best numbers for you are 0 and 5.


 **TAURUS - April 20 - May 20**
Express yourself creatively; give attention to children's interests. Explore speculative possibilities, attend the theater, or engage in sports. Enjoy social pleasures. Best numbers for you are 8 and 6.


 **GEMINI - May 21 - June 21**
Attend to your family, home, and property interests. Concentrate on private life issues. Keep the welfare of parents in mind. Best numbers for you are 4 and 2.


 **CANCER - June 22 - July 22**
Catch up on reading and correspondence; expand your intellectual horizon. Study, deal with relatives, and/or neighbors. Make short journeys. Best numbers for you are 7 and 0.


 **LEO - July 23 - August 22**
Concentrate on finances, check extravagance, economize, and budget. Open or add to a savings account. Study investment possibilities and consolidate security. Best numbers for you are 9 and 5.


 **VIRGO - August 23 - September 22**
Start new ventures and watch for opportunities to push for personal and business advantages. Proceed with reasonable moderation and restraint. Best numbers for you are 1 and 3.


 **LIBRA - September 23 - October 22**
Avoid daydreaming and be realistic; especially in financial and business transactions. Keep your feet on the ground. Artistic and mystical interests are well supported. Best numbers for you are 2 and 8.

 **SCORPIO - October 23 - November 21**
Cultivate friendships; engage in community activities; give attention to original and inventive ideas. The humanitarian spirit prevails. Adjust to circumstance and restrain rebellious urges. Best numbers for you are 4 and 0.

 **SAGITTARIUS - November 22 - December 21**
Concentrate on practical business problems; push for career gains and goals. Handle employers and authorities with tact and understanding. Protect your reputation. Minimize inordinate ambitions. Best numbers for you are 8 and 7.

 **CAPRICORN - December 22 - January 19**
Long journeys, philosophical, and religious interests are favored. Study self improvement literature and look within for spiritual light and guidance. Best numbers for you are 5 and 3.

 **AQUARIUS - January 20 - February 18**
Study your financial situation; pay bills and get insurance policies up to date. Practice self discipline and curb your temper. Watch your enemies. Best numbers for you are 1 and 6.

 **PISCES - February 19 - March 20**
Engage in cooperative activities, settle your differences, and make your mate happy with a gift. Enjoy social functions. Best numbers for you are 9 and 1.

I RECOGNIZE ASTROLOGY AS GOD'S NEWS LETTER. I'M A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE UNIVERSAL IMPRINTS. I'VE STUDIED WITH THE ROSICRUCIAN'S AND AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ASTROLOGERS WHICH I'M ALSO A MEMBER. YOU MAY CONTACT ME AT RAHMING000@VERIZON.NET NOW IS THE TIME TO KNOW THYSELF.