

HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS, INC.

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HARLEM NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

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Jose Ferrer Honored at Sports Foundation, Inc. Gala

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WORLD PREMIERE OF 'MAYNARD', First Black Mayor of Atlanta, Ga.

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

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GOOD NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Happy Holidays!!!
The Holiday Doll
Show has been happening in Harlem for several years now.
These are collectible dolls. Hope you can see by the photos how creative our doll makers are. (see page 10).

The holiday spirit is definitely taking center stage in Harlem. 125th Street is lit with a colorful display of lights, the tree has been lit at the Harlem State Office Building and a number of small businesses have had their windows decorated by local fine artists. There are also a number of other businesses and residents who have outside decorations which has added to the holiday spirit. Thank vou.

Again, have a safe and happy holiday and remember to do some of that shopping and dine with small businesses in your community..

> Pat Stevenson Celebrating over 23 years Publishing











Flatiron Sprint Store











This year's theme was conceived by The Schomburg Center's immersive Teen Curator's Program to reflect the many cultural celebrations taking place throughout the Harlem community!

Inspired by seven Traditional Harlem Celebrations: Three Kings Day, Christmas, Hanuka, Loiza, Ramadan, Kwanzaa, and Harlem Week.

















Whole Foods This display was inspired by holiday meals and the aspect of togetherness that comes with this spectacular time of the year. Beans and lentils are a staple meal for nearly every holiday, and for some, they even symbolize prosperity and good luck. This fireplace, which is adorned with different types of beans and lentils represents the Whole Foods brand, togetherness, warmth and holiday foods.

Display by Lauren Fremgen and Giuliana Buono

Harlem Haberdashery The concept behind this Harlem Haberdashery holiday display is to showcase the artistic sides of the Harlem Renaissance, Jazz Music and the Strong Community Bond in Harlem. The presentation of a silhouetted figure represents a musician of the jazz era in Harlem. Dazzling with the bursting of lights, it represents the dreams of the people. Keeping culture authentic is one of the main challenges of our time, because trends everywhere have become generalized.

Display by Stephanie Lai and Cynthia Chandra

Grandma's Place This Holiday window is inspired by the elegance of a child's music box. It represents a frosted winter fantasy environment.

Display by Nora Mohamed and Iris Yang

Harlem Coffee Co. The Three Kings represent a story of hope, kindness and bearing gifts to the Christ Child. This window display adds a contemporary twist to the traditional story of the Three Kings. In this representation, the King's are delivering the gift of music. Instead of traveling through Bethlehem, they're traveling through Harlem.

Display by Patrick O'Connor and Shona Neary

Harlem Shake Five shake cups decorated with vintage holiday Jet magazine covers adorn the windows of Harlem Shake. The ornaments and lights bring them to life and all together represent "A Great Day in Harlem."

Display by Samantha Skopas and Maria Resavage

Settepani This display is titled Sounds of the Season, and is inspired by the music of our holiday celebrations. With familiar symbols and lyrics, we honor three holidays—Christmas, Hanukkah, and Loiza. All around the world, music is the common thread through which we celebrate the things we love. No matter where we are from, music unites us in our joy and brings us together.

Display by Katia Michalopoulos and Subin Oh

Valerie Signature Salon For this display it was important for the design to compliment the brand identity at Valerie Signature Salon. the five pedestals symbolize the roots of Harlem and the multiple cultures that have migrated to Harlem over the years.

Display by Asabea Ayres and Alyssa Moreno

Flatiron Sprint Store "No matter how you celebrate, New York stays connected." Imagine its the holidays and you are sitting to have dinner with your family and friends in New York City. Everyone celebrates a different holiday and you're a unique group of people. This is New York City every day—bustling with people of different holidays. This design features an abstracted Lady Liberty hosting an eclectic dinner party that encompasses the holiday spirit of New York. Everyone's invited!

Display by Joseph Klaus, Alexandra D'Alleva and YooJung Lee

Corner Social sends a message of love and inclusivity for the holidays through the festive display of many different cultural icons, along with symbols of love, unity and peace. "Live In Love" expresses the spirit of an establishment that wants everyone to feel welcome and represented through their holiday display.

Curated by Omo Misha



23rd St & 5th Ave

For more information on activities please visit www.harlemholidaywindows.com or call 212.866,7427









We have weekly special "limited time" featured additions to menu.

PS 161 STUDENTS JUMP THEIR WAY TO BETTER HEALTH

an advocate children's health, American Dairy Association North East (ADANE) supports programs that promote good nutrition and increased physical fitness. As a sponsor of the Annual Double Dutch Holiday Classic Competition held at the Apollo Theater, ADANE promotes the sport of Double Dutch to get kids moving and encourages chocolate milk as a recovery beverage.

This year, ADANE extended their Double Dutch sponsorship to introduce the sport to local students at PS 161 in Harlem who have enrolled in their Fuel Up to Play

60 program. A clinic conducted by National Double Dutch League instructors highlighted basic compulsory moves, stunts and freestyle fusion routines. Over 100 students from 3rd to 8th grade participated in the clinic and had the opportunity to jump between double ropes. ADANE also presented a check for \$500 to PS 161 Principal Pamela Price to support the school's Fuel Up to Play 60 activities.

Fuel Up to Play 60 is a child nutrition and fitness initiative created in partnership between the American Dairy Association North East and the NFL. It is currently being used in over 73,000



schools nationwide to motivate students to develop healthy habits through a playbook of nutrition and physical activity strategies.

The goal of Fuel Up

to Play 60 is to help youth. prepare students for academic success and strateg reverse the trend to-ward increased weight and sedentary life-styles among America's learning

youth. The program provides schools with strategies to increase access to healthy foods and increase exercise to fuel their minds for learning and decrease

their risk of developing chronic health issues. For more information about the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, contact dairyspot@milk4u. org.



A Closer Look Inside New York City Schools

Schools by Chancellor Carmen Fariña

s an educator for 52 years, I know that all of our schools' most important work happens in the classroom.

In my first four years as New York City Schools Chancellor, we've invested in our classrooms through our Equity and Excellence for All agenda – our belief that every child, no matter what zip code they live in or where their parents were born, deserves a great education.

By any measure, our schools are the strongest they've been, with record-high graduation rates, record-high numbers of students going on to college, record-low dropout rates, and improving test scores. We're building on this progress with 3-K for All, Computer Science for All, and Community Schools. Many of our investments in classrooms across the City - particularly in training teachers and improving classroom instruction - are less splashy and often overlooked, but are just as critical to our vision of Equity and Excellence for All.

Here are a few of those "under the radar" investments that are making an impact in our classrooms:

80 minutes of teacher training. Nearly four years ago, one of the first things I did was set aside 80 minutes at every school every week for teacher training. This is a game-changer for schools and the children and families we serve.



During the 80 minutes, teachers learn how to use new cutting-edge resources; plan for upcoming lessons; and look closely at students' performance on tests and essays to figure out what they're teaching well and what they need to do better.

Passport to Social Studies. Since I was a child and my father read Spanish books with me about the history of Spain (his native country), Social Studies has always been my favorite subject. Unfortunately, it was not seen as a priority in schools, but it has to be. We must prepare students to be thoughtful, productive citizens, and they absolutely have to understand history, civics and current events.

Last school year, we released a brand-new Social Studies curriculum, the Passport to Social Studies. I'm happy to say it's now in over 70 percent of our elementary and middle schools, and I'm excited to see that number grow as more schools focus on Social Studies.

Investments in middle school. If we get middle school right, students can find hobbies and passions, and start carving their path to college and careers.

We need to make the investments to reach them and get them ready for high school, college, and beyond.

We now provide an after-school seat for ever middle-school student, and also started a program called "Teen Thursdays," where 7th-grade students can visit many local cultural institutions. It's not a given that kids and families feel welcome at their local museums and cultural centers; programs like this connect our students and parents with their City in a new way. We're also homing in on middle school math through our Algebra for All initiative - making sure students get the math instruction they need in 5th grade and middle school so they're ready to take on advanced math courses in high school.

Collaboration over competition. I've always been a believer in collaboration over competition. It is shameful when a school has great things that are helping kids and doesn't share those resources. Last school year, we tapped into that collaborative spirit and brought the "co-located campus initiative" to 20 campuses across all five boroughs.

Participating schools are on a single bell schedule so all students on the campus can share AP and enrichment courses, increasing access to more rigorous coursework. Teachers come together for shared professional development, there are family welcome centers to encourage all parents to get involved, and there have even been

campus-wide proms. By coming together, schools that would have been siloed are sharing best practices and strengthening campus culture – and students are benefiting.

Family engagement. None of our instructional work can achieve its potential without a strong partnership between families and schools, and increasing family engagement is a central priority.

We've increased the number of evening parent-teacher conferences to make them more convenient for families - resulting in a 40 percent increase in conference attendance - and provided additional training to parent coordinators on engaging parents in their school communities. We're looking at creative new ways to get more families involved in their children's education, like FaceLab, a robotics and technology course taught by parent volunteers, and the Family English Initiative, an English proficiency course that parents and students take together.

These "under the radar" efforts – and many like them – are making a real impact for children and families across the City. There's a lot of work our teachers and principals are doing every day to put us on the path to Equity and Excellence for All, and put our children on the path to success. I look forward to all the work we have ahead of us, and continuing to update you on these reforms and the progress we are making.

JERRY CRAFT



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REAL ESTATE



Home Buying In Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now

by Rev. Charles Butler

The home values in Harlem are steadily increasing. That, combined with the fact that most banks have adopted more conservative lending practices, it is easy to see why it is becoming difficult for low to moderate income families to purchase anything worthwhile.

However, there is some help for first time home buyers. There is a grant program offered through the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York called the First Home Club. This is a savings program that will give you \$4 for every \$1 you save! You can save a maximum of \$1,875 and the program will match it with \$7,500 to use for down payment and/or closing costs.

There are restrictions to the program that include:

- (1) you must be a first-time buyer and meet the household income guidelines, found on the first home club website.
- (2) You must use a participating lender. In New York City there are only four banks participating in the program. They are HSBC; M & T, Valley National Bank, and Astoria.
- (3) You must make regular monthly deposits for a minimum of 10 months. If you miss a month you will have to add that on to the back of the program.
- (4) You must be ready to purchase a home within 24 months of starting the program. This includes the 10 months of savings.

(5) You must complete

the Home Buyer Education Workshop such as the one offered at Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI).

This year each lender has a set number of applications that they can submit for this grant, so getting into the program is somewhat competitive. I have the applications for each lender and can help you start the process. With housing prices skyrocketing to the point of homes not being affordable, it is good to see there is still some help for first time buyers.

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



Revolution Books

About the world... For a radically different world.



7pm Tue. December 12 Otis Redding: An Unfinished Life with author Jonathan Gould



7pm Fri. December 15 The Night Language with author David Rocklin. Rich historical novel of forbidden gay love.



Sing, Unburied, Sing

by Jesmyn Ward A searing, urgent novel set in

Mississippi... spinning poetic tales... connect-ing slavery and Jim Crow with the present. 2017 Nat'l Book Award.



The New Communism: The science, the strategy, the leadership for an actual revolution,

and a radically new society on the road to real emancipation by **Bob Avakian**



Jean-Michel Basauiat by **D. Buchhart** and G. O'Brien Merging poetry

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HARLEM CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dec 7, 6pm **Conversations** Black Freedom Studies: The Strange Career of Jim Crow Midwest Our second installment of The Strange Career of the Jim Crow - Midwest reveals the many faces of white racism. The face of employment discrimination was unmasked by the March on Washington movement in Detroit's auto plants in the 1940s. The face of killer cops was revealed by Fred Hampton and the Black Panthers as well as by Cha Cha Jimenez and the Young Lords in Chicago. The face of religious discrimination was exposed by Reverend Albert Cleage and Black Christian Nationalism in Detroit. The face of cultural imperialism was exposed by the Black Arts Renaissance from Detroit to Chicago. And the faces of housing and employment discrimination were protested by the NAACP in Milwaukee. Join this conversation on Jim Crow in the Midwest with our panelists Nishani Frazier, Keona Ervin, and Patrick Jones. Free. Event located at

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Lenox Avenue. For more information, call (917) 275-6975

Dec 7, 10pm Apollo Comedy **Club** featuring Aldo Marachlian, Ms. Darkchild and Miles Green. Hosted by Freddie Ricks. The Apollo A-LIST advance price is \$15 until midnight December 6. Please note there is a \$10 drink/ food minimum. Sign up for the ALIST at apollotheater.org. Apollo Theater, 253 West 125th St. (212) 531-5305.

Dec 8, 10pm Apollo Music Café. Hosted by Jodine Dorce. Music by DJ Hard Hittin' Harry. Austin, TX native Tameca Jones is set to become the next break out star, similar to her friend Gary Clark Jr., who featured her honeyed vocals on his latest album "The Story Of Sonny Boy Slim." Please note there is a \$10 drink/food minimum. Sign up for the ALIST at apollotheater.org. Apollo Theater, 253 West 125th St. (212) 531-5305

Dec 9, 7:30pm Amateur Night Holiday Special

The Apollo Theater lights up this holiday season with the Apollo **Amateur Night Holiday** Special, the 7th Annual event under its signature program Amateur Night, showcasing recent winners and young alumni of the show's "Apollo Stars of Tomorrow" category. Hosted by Capone and cohosted by We' McDonald. Tickets start at just \$15. Apollo Theater, 253 West 125th St. (212) 531-5305

Dec 10, 10am-3pm (Weekly Event)

Gospel Brunch featuring Vy Higginsen's Gospel for Teens Choir and Red Rooster's famous soul food brunch. Reservations are encouraged. 310 Lenox Avenue (between 125th and 126th) 212.792.9001 info@redroosterharlem.com

Dec 10, 3pm Three on 3 Presents: Celebrate the Holidays. Gifted pianist, arranger and composer Phil Bingham plays classical, gospel and

jazz piano and has performed in cathedrals, clubs and concert halls internationally. La Fredrick Coaxner, versitile tenor, Juilliard Conservatory araduate who performs gospel, opera and jazz internationally also teaches and conducts workshops in gospel music. Mount Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church (15-19 Mount Morris Park West (corner 122nd and 5th Avenue)) Admission: \$20

Dec 13, 6:30pm Gwendolyn Brooks Centennial Celebration. 2017 marks the centennial year of genius poet Gwendolyn Brooks, born on June 7, 1917. Brooks was the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize for any literary genre. She had published 75 poems by the age of 16 and recalled "very early in life I became fascinated with the wonders lanauaae can achieve. And I began playing with words." This evening we celebrate the wonder of language as influenced by Brooks's life and compositions. Free. Event located at

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Lenox Avenue. For more information, call (917) 275-6975

Dec 13 and 14, 7:30pm UPTOWN NIGHTS.

Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah presents Stretch Music X Afro New Orleanian/Black Indian Music Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah returns with two nights of genre blind music that will Stretch jazz music's rhythmic, melodic and harmonic conventions to encompass a range of cultural influences from his own native New Orleans to West Africa and the Caribbean. Join us on a sonic journey that creates a bridge to liberation and freedom with some of music's most daring musicians and improvisers. Tickets start at \$20. Harlem Stage, 150 Convent Avenue.

Dec 16, 8pm HOLIDAY JOY: A Gospel Celebration featuring: Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin, and the Greater Allen Cathedral Choir. Hosted by Liz Black, The

Apollo stage is set for a night of soul stirring Holiday gospel music featuring multi-platinum superstar and five-time Grammy Award-winner Yolanda Adams ("Open My Heart", "The Battle is the Lord's") with Grammy Award-winner Donnie McClurkin ("We Fall Down," "Stand"). With their stunning voices, dazzling energy and unshakable faith, Yolanda Adams and Donnie McClurkin promise to lift your Holiday spirits and bless your Christmas season. Tickets start at \$35. Platinum Tickets include a pre-performance meet & greet with Yolanda Adams. Premium Tickets start at \$85 and include a glass of champagne or Coke product. Apollo Theater, 253 West 125th St. (212) 531-5305

All listings on this calendar are free of charge. To add your listing, please email 50 words or less in the format above to harlemnewsinc@aol.com. Deadline is Friday prior.

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WECOLOGISTICS

WORLD PREMIERE OF 'MAYNARD' First Black Mayor of Atalanta, at 'DOC NYC'. By Maria Grazia Cavenaghi

creening the World premiere of "MAYNARD", on November 16, at DOC NYC was a memorable way to conclude the 8th edition of this important Documentary Festival, the largest in the US. But who was Maynard Holbrook Jackson? He became the first black Mayor of a major southern city - Atlanta, Georgia in 1973 at age 35.. In 1968, outraged by the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy, he decided to run for the U.S. Senate against a known segregationist, Herman Talmadge. He lost, but his daring candidacy fueled a movement in the south that had started with Dr. King and that Maynard would take further.

For the historically and politically knowledgeable, this film will offer a very intimate take on Maynard's life achievements. For the unaware, it will be an eye opener on a charismatic trailblazer who

wrote a fundamental chapter in America's history and civil rights struggle.

Directed by Academy Award nominee, Emmy winner and four-time Peabody Award winner Sam Pollard ("Slavery by Another Name", "Sammy Davis Jr", "I've Gotta Be Me", "Two Trains Runnin") Maynard is produced by Maynard Jackson III and Wendy Eley Jackson -Maynard's son and daughter in law respectively. Also produced by Dolly Turner, Winsome Sinclair, Daphne McWilliams, Jason Orr, and Donald Jarmond with cinematography by Henry Adebonojo (Academy Award nominated documentary "I Am Not Your Negro").

This film is a portrait of a man who had dreams and ambitions - not to hold power for the sake of it, but to be a public servant for his people and a champion of racial equality. A man who served

for three terms (non - consecutive) and led his city through the traumatic Atlanta child murders period and achieved unthinkable goals: hosting the 1996 Olympics and building the international airport that now bears his name. The documentary shows rare archival footage and photographs and exclusive interviews with such figures as President Bill Clinton, Rev. Al Sharpton, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ambassador Andrew Young, Rev. Joseph Lowery, former Atlanta Mayors Sam Massell and Shirley Franklin, and current Mayor Kasim Reed. Together with them, family members and friends tell the extraordinary story of an extraordinary man, instrumental in advancing and transforming civil rights from protests to political action. A man who changed the reputation of Atlanta from the "heart of the confederate south" to a cosmopolitan world-class city.



The post screening Q&A featured Rev. Al Sharpton, Marc Morial - President and CEO of National Urban League, Wendy Eley Jackson and Director Sam Pollard as well as a contribution by Maynard Jackson III. In his customary strong, to-the-point dialectic, Reverend Sharpton painted a most accurate portrait of Maynard. "He was a very strong man and he was able to achieve what he did without losing his grace, his dignity and his integrity. It is a lesson and an in-

While waiting for the screening, I had the opportunity to interview Sam Pollard on the red carpet. I was interested in know-

spiration that we need right now."





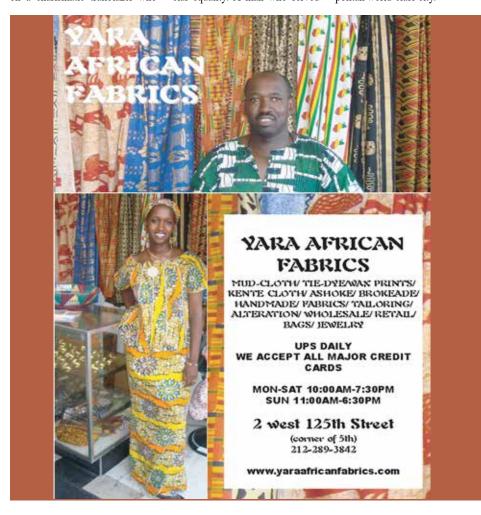


ing how he got involved with the project, how he felt now and what he would like the future to hold..." Maynard's son and daughter in law had seen my film 'Slavery by Another Name' and approached me to ask if I would direct the documentary they wanted to produce,"

"After I read a great book on Atlanta – with a large section on Maynard - I knew I wanted to be part of it. I am pretty satisfied with the result. This project was a labor of love that gave me the opportunity to get reacquainted with Maynard Jackson and I think he was one of the Great Americans. I would like for the movie to be seen

everywhere in the US and around the world."

I then asked him to send a message to the readers of Harlem News. He said "I would say to the folks of Harlem to come and watch this film because Mayor Jackson was one of the leaders in affirmative action and made sure that black people and black businesses got a piece of the pie in the City of Atlanta, after he became Mayor. Very important to see how you can use power to make positive things happen. And I would also say: use your power, use your voice and your vote to make things happen."





Harlem Holiday Doll Show and Sale

By Lil Nickelson

he Morrisania Doll Society held its annual holiday doll show and sale on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 11am to 6pm at the Dwyer Center located at 258 St. Nicholas Avenue on 123rd Street. The Morrisania Doll Society was formed by Ellen Ferebee, who decided to bring together collectors and artists to help preserve the history and culture of African American doll making. Their motto is "DOLLS ARE NOT JUST CHILD'S PLAY." For more info email: morrisaniadollsociety@gmail.com

When I reached the exhibit space I realized that their motto is so true. The creative works of six dollmakers were on display (five were in attendance) and one doll house maker. Where were these dolls and doll house when I was a little girl? Each woman's journey as artisans are personal and worth noting.

Rosa was one of 11 children and her family was too poor to buy gifts, so Rosa made her own dolls from scraps of her grandmother's sewing materials. She made dolls as gifts for family members and when she retired from the US Postal Service five years ago she started making her dolls on a fulltime basis. Her prices range from \$5 to \$100. Rosa can be reached at 646-946-7680 or find her dolls at www.Etsy. com/LaDona Dolls

Bobbie is a nurse at New York Presbyterian Hospital who began making her dolls when a niece told her she didn't like chocolate dolls. Her first doll was named Kenya, and someone stole her concept and started marketing it. It discouraged her for a while, however, when God has blessed you with these



Ellen Ferebee, Founder and Director of Morrisiania Doll Society



Rosa's dolls



Bobbie's dolls



loyce's doll:



Shaquora's dolls



Goldie's dolls



Kellan's dollhouse

gifts you can't suppress them. Her latest dolls are named Kiosha and Gail and her prices run from \$40 to \$45.

Joyce works for a bank regulator, and she got serious 15 years ago. Making the dolls is therapy for her and her prices range from \$26 for the magnet/coat pin up to \$300 for the doll with the dreadlocks whose face is made from a wooden spoon.

Shaquora started crocheting as therapy in 1994 after the birth of her fifth child, Jabriel, who has cerebral palsy, during her long waits in hospitals. Crocheting led to her making her dolls that range in price from \$45 for

small dolls, \$125 for mid-size dolls to \$300 for the long, fabulous girls. Jabriel is high functioning and will be 23 years old this month.

Tanya started making her dolls nine years ago as something to do when she retired as a Captain of Department of Corrections. She didn't even know how to sew, but you couldn't tell from her use of wool, tweeded corduroy, suede and textured leather for the bodies, clothes and boots for her dolls. Her dolls are Available On Etsy https://www.etsy.com/shop/Dolls-ByMonTQ

Goldie was the only doll maker not in attendance; she



Tanya's dolls

lives in Loris, South Carolina, but she sent her dolls up for display and she too sells them on etsy.com.

Kellan never stopped playing with dolls as a hobby, but she started making the doll houses about 10 years ago. The rooms inside the house are so intricate and "blinged" out that she should be viewed as a home designer; the houses run from \$100 to \$125.



Manahattan Borough President

Our Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer was coming into the show as I exited; I had to snap her picture because she is truly supportive of small businesses and our "everywhere woman."

Caring for the Caregiver: A Forum sponsored by The Greater New **York Links, Inc. & Elder Community**

Partnership

By: Michelle D. Stent

he Greater New York (GNY) Chapter of the Links Incorporated, Health & Human Services (HHS) in conjunction with their community partners, AARP, Esplanade Gardens, Health Advocates for Older People, Caringkind, The Carter Burden Network, Harlem Advocates for Seniors (H.A.S.) and the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens (NYFSC) and host Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, Hunter College/CUNY sponsored a forum/discussion for seniors on The Many Faces of Caregiving: Caring for the Caregiver. The very important and current topic of caregiving and how we approach it has become a major issue as our community ages. While there are many resources in place to care for our elderly, increasingly, we find that the well-being of the caregiver is often overlooked. The Community Partnership spoke to several member organizations regarding the many facets of caregiving and the challenges faced by the caregiver was a recurring theme. Since this "silent" group is rarely discussed, the Partnership felt it was timely to sponsor a panel of experts to explore this issue.

Dr. Marcella Maxwell, Co-Chair of the GNY The Links Inc., HHS and Dr. Daniel S. Gardner, Interim Director, Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, welcomed the participants and presenters; Vivian Fox, GNY Links and President, 1199SEIU Child Care Corporation, introduced the panelists; Rossmery Dais, MPA, Director of Programs, 1199SEIU Child Care Funds, Diane Cooper, Geriatric RN, founder and CEO, Caregiver's Outreach Ministry Empowerment and Reggie Nance, Associate State Director, Multicultural Engagement, AARP.

Each panelist gave an in-depth presentation on a different aspect of the caregiver issue, emphasizing novel ways for the caregiver to recognize the challenges and begin to help themselves as the primary caregiver.



Presenter Minta Spain



Michelle Stent, Carolyn McBain, Paul Fleischman, Marcella Maxwell William Hamer



Minta Spain, Rossmery Dais, Michelle Stent, Vivian Fox, Diane Cooper Marcella Maxwell, William Hamer, Guest, Carolyn McBain

Rossmery Dias discussed in-depth the new 1199 program that focuses on member care for those who are daily caregivers in the family home. She reviewed 1199's support programs for members, grandparents and others who are primary caretakers for home-bound seniors. In addition, she distributed a "Caregivers Support Kit" booklet as a guide for attendees' use.

Vivian Fox conducted a lively question and answer session and encouraged all to speak up, speak out and feel empowered to ask for help in their role as a caregiver.

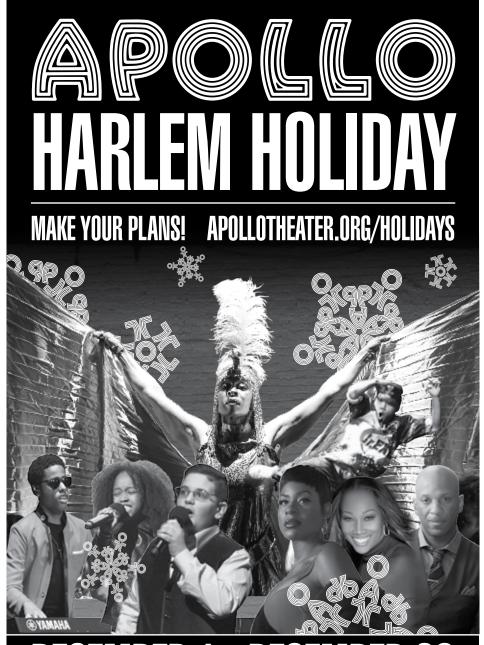
Diane Cooper's topic, Self-Care for the Caregiver: Caregivers Need Caring too!, asked the question, how are you as you walk this journey of a family caregiver? She pointed out that often times you are so busy caring for others that you do not have time to think about how you are feeling. She acknowledged that the role of a family caregiver is rewarding but can often lead to feelings of frustration, guilt and unappreciation. She emphasized, "selfcare is not a privilege but vital to the success of a caregiver's journey".

The final presenter, Reggie Nance reviewed what he defined as the four kinds of people in the caregiver world:

- (1) those who have been caregivers;
- (2) those who are currently caregivers;
- (3) those who will be caregivers; and
- (4) those who will need caregivers.

Many in the audience fit one of these categories and their feelings, concerns and questions supported a lively and substantive discussion. The GNY Links Community Partnership Educational Seminars are designed to inform and empower seniors to recognize and cope with the problems of the senior service community of West, East and Central Harlem. Their primary objective is to target community-based elder African American, Caribbean, and Latino women and men, ages fifty-five plus whose health and well-being might be compromised by domestic violence and its complexities as they find themselves aging with diminishing support and access to services.

The Links, Incorporated is a volunteer service organization of concerned, committed, and talented women who, linked in friendship, enhance the quality of life in the larger community.



BALLET HISPANICO FRI, DEC 1 & SAT, DEC 2 AT 8PM

DOUBLE DUTCH HOLIDAY CLASSIC SUN, DEC 3 AT 1PM

COCA-COLA WINTER WONDERLAND - FREE EVENT! SAT, DEC 9 2:00 -6:00PM

AMATEUR NIGHT: HOLIDAY SPECIAL SAT, DEC 9 AT 7:30PM

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THU, DEC 7 - SAT, DEC 9 AT 10:00PM

FANTASIA CHRISTMAS AFTER MIDNIGHT: CELEBRATING HER HITS WED, DEC 13 AT 8PM

APOLLO LIVE WIRE - FREE EVENT! HOW I GOT OVER: THE SPIRIT OF GOSPEL MUSIC SUN, DEC 10 AT 3PM

HOLIDAY JOY: A GOSPEL CELEBRATION FEATURING: YOLANDA ADAMS & DONNIE MCCLURKIN SAT, DEC 16 AT 8PM

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Jose Ferrer Honored at Sports Foundation, Inc. Gala

n November 29th the Sports Foundation, Inc. held its annual Gala. Jose Ferrer was honored with the "Community Leadership Award." Other honorees included Adonis Long, "Silent Hero Award;" Evelyn Hey "Educator of the Year;" Jose Torres, "Entrepreneur of the Year;" Manny Rivera "Humanitarian of the Year;" and Sobeida Cruz, "Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Trailblazer Award."

The "Community Leadership Award" presented to Jose stated "In appreciation of your commitment and dedication to the future of our children." Jose expressed he was grateful to receive this award especially on the eve of the one year anniversary of receiving a kidney transplant from his daughter, Malikah. Jose's family including his wife Ayishah, his daughters, son and grandchildren attended the event. Jose was previously Executive Director of the Sports Foundation, Inc.

The Sports Foundation was

founded in 1969 by Robert (Bob) A. Williams, a community activist, humanitarian and pioneering leader in the areas of sports and education. Mr. Williams's original intent was to use sports, coupled with targeted education and mentorship as a way to push young Bronxites out of a life of poverty and violence. In the early 70's the South Bronx was a desolate and dangerous place where rival gangs terrorized the community. The economy was grim and espe-



Ferrer Family



Alcee L. James.SFI Executive Director: Honoree Jose Ferrer; Delmas Cole, SFI Board Member; Aureo I Cardona, SFI Chairman of the Board



Jose and Ayishsh Ferrer

cially hard hit was the South Bronx which became a venerable waste land with block after block of abandoned buildings where children played amongst muffled sounds of gunfire in

the background.

Fast forward forty years later and you will find that we are living in an ever changing, more complex environment. In order to have a more far

reaching social impact, SFI (Sports Foundation Inc.) has shifted its focus to Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Education, Career Development and Life Skill Workshops. SFI offers community services such as summer programs, recreation and sports activities.

SFI is almost wholly funded by New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) which is both federally and state funded. OA-SAS is the nations 2nd largest addiction service system whose mission is to improve the lives of all New Yorkers by leading a premier system of addiction services through prevention, treatment and recovery and is considered the Gold Standard by most addiction experts. In addition SFI is fortunate to have a committed, active and supportive group of Staff Counselors, Specialists and Board of Directors with deep expertise in areas of education, substance abuse, business and finance. They are a not-for-profit committed to improving the mental and physical health of the young people in the South Bronx.

For more information go to www.sportsfoundationnyc.org

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December 7 & 28 January 20 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Medical Library, 3rd Floor

Morrisania Diagnostic & Treatment Center

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December 13 & 27 January 12 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM First Floor Administration Conference Room

Ron Brown Center

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December 14 & 28, January 10 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Fourth Floor Conference Room

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12:00 PM to 3:00 PM 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

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December 13 December 27
4:30 PM to 6:30 PM 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Conference Room 5

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PONDER THIS! Tis the Season to be Thankful, Joyful and Grateful

By Hazel Rosetta Smith



Thanksgiving Day as a day of feasting was noted in 1621 between the Pilgrims and tribesmen of the Wampanoag. George Washington was the first President to proclaim a public day of thanksgiving in 1789.

A picturesque table with platters of mama's succulent specialties; grandma's rolls, sweet potato pies and peach

cobbler might be the way you and your family gather on Thanksgiving Day. However, in many more households, the turkey has been replaced by chicken and canned goods from a community pantry. Under those circumstances, remembering how it used to be invites the ghosts of the past and the lack in their present day. Years have passed and the family has dwindled to a few. It is painful to try to mask the hurt as thankful.

When being alone and feeling lonely join forces in the heads of the disenfranchised, the displaced, those in fractured relationships and those mourning the loss of loved ones, either one can manifest into deep depression and they are magnified in such a time as this.

Before the fixings of the meal, such as it was, are barely digested, the next holiday was already laid out. The following day was Black Friday and Christmas came rolling in full steam ahead. Notice was hereby given when Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade ushered in Santa Claus on his sleigh.

The shelves were stocked; employees reported to work at the break of dawn to open the doors of stores across the nation to those early seekers of items and devices they could hardly afford. There is no joy

in the conundrum when Christmas is based on the plastic in your wallet and not on the birth of Jesus, the reason for the season.

Joyful turns quickly to sadness when there is no family, no funds and no friends. That brings attention to the conclusion of this holiday season, New Year's Eve is the night some consider to be the saddest of them all.

Far too many are fighting deep depressive thoughts of another year ending and no signs of change in the coming New Year. They are trying to tread water in sinking sand and that is more profound than watching the ball fall on Times

Square at the stroke of mas is a gift of love that midnight. came down from the

Medical professionals agree the holiday season is the most difficult time of the year and that is catastrophic to good mental health. A friend of mine has adamantly voiced her feelings, "I want to get in bed, pull the covers over my head until it's all over."

A host of good folk will have to fight the good fight with all their might to make it through this holiday season. New insight and another focus might be helpful.

Thanksgiving is a reminder to be thankful every day for what we have, not to dwell on what we don't. Christ-

mas is a gift of love that came down from the Creator. New Year's Eve, with all of its revelry, can instill hope in the dawning of a new year.

Wave your victory flag in the face of adversity. Love yourself more than anyone could or would. Receive and believe in God's goodness and mercy and that is how we can be thankful, joyful and grateful all year long.

[Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, play-wright and director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries and former Woman's Editor and Managing Editor of The New York Beacon News. Contact: misshazel@twc.com]



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5 Surprising Facts about Pneumonia

(Statepoint)

Pneumonia can strike anywhere and anytime, the American Lung Association reminds us. A serious, potentially life-threatening lung infection, pneumonia is primarily caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi that are transmitted from one person to another. The most common type of bacterial pneumonia is pneumococcal pneumonia.

1. Pneumococcal pneumonia can be serious. If you are 65 or older, your risk of being hospitalized after getting pneumococcal pneumonia is 13 times greater than for younger adults aged 18 - 49, and for those requiring hospitalization, they have an average hospital stay of six days. In severe cas-



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) FatCamera - iStock

es, pneumococcal pneumonia can lead to death. Symptoms typically have an abrupt onset and may include coughing, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain, high fever, excessive sweating and shaking chills.

2. It doesn't happen only during winter. Pneumococcal pneumonia is

not a cold or the flu; you can get it any time of the year. Although rates of pneumococcal pneumonia tend to increase in the fall and winter months, cold air does not cause pneumonia, including pneumococcal pneumonia. Pneumococcal pneumonia can be spread by coughing or close contact with an in-

fected person, no matter the season.

- 3. Even healthy adults are at increased risk. One of the most important things to know is that for adults, risk increases with age as our immune system weakens and can't respond as effectively to infection. Which means that otherwise healthy and active adults are at increased risk for pneumococcal pneumonia.
- 4. Chronic health conditions can also lead to increased risk. Other factors, like your lifestyle and certain chronic health conditions, can also increase your risk. Smoking, alcoholism and certain chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

or a suppressed immune system, increase your risk for pneumococcal pneumonia. In fact, for adults 65 and older living with COPD, the risk for contracting pneumococcal pneumonia is 7.7 times higher than their healthy counterparts, and those with asthma are at 5.9 times greater risk.

5. The good news: You may be able to reduce your personal risk. As a preventive healthcare measure, vaccines work by teaching the body's immune system to recognize and defend against harmful viruses or bacteria before getting an infection, and reduce the chance of getting certain infectious diseases. But rates of vaccination among U.S. adults remain low,

lagging well behind expert recommendations and federal goals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that all adults 65 years or older receive pneumococcal vaccination.

If you are 65 or older, talk to your doctor to see if you are up to date on your CDC-recommended adult vaccinations, and take a personal risk assessment at Lung.org/pneumococcal, developed by the American Lung Association in partnership with Pfizer.

This year, brush up on the signs and risk factors of pneumococcal pneumonia, as well as strategies for prevention, particularly as you age.



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Memory Maintenance



often associate memory loss with aging but memory lapses are normal and should not be considered in most cases warning signs of dementia or Alzheimer's. While forgetfulness is common among older adults, this age-related memory change is not the same as dementia. Scientific research now tells us that the brain is capable of producing new brain cells at any age. The new science of Neuroplasticity has produced many case studies proving the brains capability of repairing and producing new neurons (nerve cells in the

Psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Dr. Norman Doidge highlights many of these cases in his bestselling book "The Brain that

standing of how the brain works has allowed for new approaches that use memory maintenance programs to improve common memory loss, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), even Alzheimer's disease, which is another type of dementia. As the saying goes, there is nothing new under the sun, natural herbs and spices have been used to improve memory and the overall well-being of the brain in Asia and Africa for centuries. The following three are the best known.

Bacopa Monnieri

While studying to become a certified Ayurvedic practitioner, I learned that bacopa Monnieri, a natural brain tonic made from the Bacopa plant, could be used to improve memory, nerve cell repair and mental focus. Ayurveda is a natural healing science whose foundation is in Eastern India where bacopa is also known as Brahmi, after Brahma the creator God of the Hindu pantheon. History tells us that ancient Vedic scholars used the Bacopa herb to help them memorize lengthy sacred hymns and scriptures. Bacopa Monnieri is also used as a blood pressure regulator and to treat Epilepsy, Asthma, Ulcers and Inflammations.

Huperzine

Huperzine is a natural memory remedy extract taken from the Firmoss plant that can be found in India and Southern Asia. In China, practitioners of Chinese medicine use Huperzine to fight Alzheimer's disease. It is also used for age-related memory repair, and to prevent or slow cognitive decline as the brain ages. Studies have shown that Huperzine has the ability to increase blood flow to the brain. A leading cause of memory loss is a decrease of blood flow to the brain

Saffron Extract

Saffron Extract, a spice made from the Crocus Sativus plant, has long been a spice used to improve memory and to address depression, Asthma and Insomnia. Saffron studies have shown that the extract has also been successful in weight loss, improvement of mental fatigue, mood, stress, forgetfulness and premenstrual syndrome

If you would like to improve your

by William A Rogers

memory, alertness, mental focus and the overall maintenance of your brain, you have to use it or lose it. Productive ontions can be meditation, and energy movement exercises like Tai Chi, Ki movements and Oi Gone can be helpful.

I also recommend "Total Recall", a

memory booster natural supplement formula made with Bacopa Monnieri, Huperzine, saffron Extract and Korean Red Ginseng, If you visit www.nowuno.info you can learn more about and even purchase this amazing memory maintenance natural product.

For more information on memory maintenance options send an email to onuwon@gmail.com, call 646 329-6727. I will also give Ki Energy stress management treatments at Gale and Ben Armstead's second Fall 2017 Psychic Fair on Sunday, December 10 from 3pm to 7pm at the Dwyer Cultural Center located at 258 West 123rd Street between Frederick Douglass Blvd. and Saint Nicholas Avenue. For additional information about this event call 212 410-

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Answers to Puzzle on page 20





Herbs Are Nature's Medicine...

By Zakiyyah

HEALING OUR EMOTIONS with HERBS and CHAKRA **BALANCING**

CROWN CHAKRA, Part 3 The highest chakra, at the crown of the head, is depicted by a "thousandfold" petaled lotus flower. Its color is violet or white (being an amalgamation of all colors).

For the Soul to gain its highest spiritual potential while incarnated in a physical form, the great mass of Kundalini energy locked in the root chakra must be released to travel up to the crown chakra. Yoga is one of the most popular ways to work with the chakras - hatha yoga, kundalini yoga,

and tantra yoga.

The Crown is the place where life animates the physical body: that silver cord that connects the aura bodies extends from the Crown Chakra. Soul comes into the body through the Crown at birth and leaves through the Crown at death.

When out of balance, illnesses may include migraine headaches and depression.

balanced Α crown chakra will manifest the ability to open-up to the Divine, and total access to the unconscious and subconscious. To help maintain a good balanced crown chakra, one should meditate, reach out to others,

have regular eating habits, get a pet, and get involved in something. Practice gratitude, create an altar. Do anything that makes you feel peaceful and harmonious.

... MAKE NATURE'S MEDICINE YOUR OWN

This information is to help you balance your natural healing energies and is not intended as diagnosis nor as a substitute for medical supervision. To pre-order my book: booklaunch.io/Zakiyyah/ theenergeticsofherbs; 347-407-4312, phone: email: theherbalist1750@ gmail.com; website: www. sacredhealing7.com, blog: www.herbsarenaturesmedicine.blogspot.com.

THE ADAMS REPORT Holiday Stress Management 101

post-Thanksgiving? Well, join the party. It seems as though life goes into hyper-drive long before you've polished off the last of the leftovers! And now with just a little more than three weeks before Christmas, hyper-drive doesn't even begin to adequately describe the intense flurry of activity during the holiday season. There is a long list of things to accomplish because it isn't just the holiday that creates a major "to do" list, it's also the realization that a new year is on the horizon shortly thereafter . . . I don't know about you, but at times I feel overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the tasks at hand! Why is it then that even though you know it's coming that it seems near impossible to prepare for it? I wish I had the answer, but of course, I had a few thoughts . . .



By Audrey Adams

Is the pressure real? Is it self-imposed? If you are solely responsible for creating a pleasurable holiday environment for everyone in your immediate family, then perhaps it's time to delegate. Give up the notion that you and you alone can do it all if you want some relief. You're thinking that it works in theory, right? Okay, I hear you, but I also offer that if you keep all the details to yourself, you don't allow others to add their creativity to the pro-

cess. It just may be that they will help to enhance a "long-standing tradition" with a memorable component. Be willing to pass on the responsibility for maintaining tradition to another and in doing so, relieve some of the pressure.

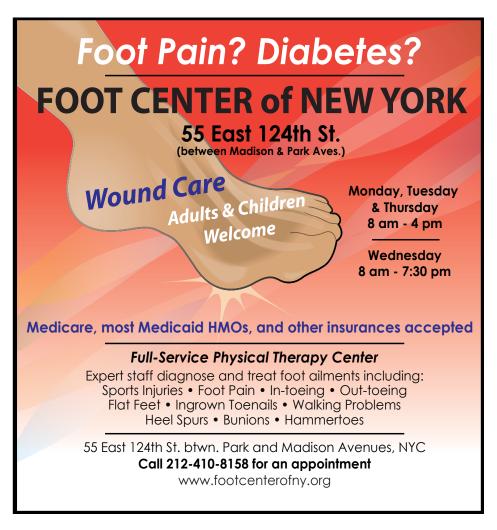
Food and meal preparation is another area of potential stress. I can remember waking up one Thanksgiving morning expecting to smell the scent of the turkey, stuffing, cakes and pies in the air. Well, I ran downstairs to see what was up. My father sat reading the newspaper and my mom was reading a book. When I asked about dinner, they told me that they decided not to cook this year! How dare they, I thought; parents always cook holiday dinners. They hadn't even bought the makings for dinner. I panicked and after I got over it, I took matters into my own hands and rushed out to buy everything so that I could have Thanksgiving dinner as I remembered it. It was a good thing too, because it was a first for me and my parents were impressed with all that I learned from them each year just hanging out in the kitchen when they cooked. Me too. But what I learned from that experience was that sometimes people take on the responsibility out of habit. The dinner that I prepared was different, I substituted Cornish hens for turkey and canned green beans instead of fresh snapped beans, a purchased sweet potato pie for home made . . . and a new memory was created, along with the story of how my parents sat out Thanksgiving! We still laugh about it. If you have been cooking year after year, eat out or let another family member show off his or her culinary skills.

Then there is shopping. There are those of us who shop all year long and then there are

those that love adding themselves to the crush of holiday shoppers. Last-minute sales and staying up all night to wrap presents are tradition to some, but if it means being tired and cranky Christmas morning then why hold on to that? If traditionally you have a holiday party at your house for 50 people, why not have it every other year instead? I could go on and on citing examples of potentially stressful situations we encounter each year; but instead I'll leave it up to you to identify your own areas, or if the pressure is real or self-imposed. Why start the New Year frazzled? Give yourself a break and take time to think of the possibilities that lie ahead. Enjoy reconnecting and celebrating with family and friends. Ease into letting go of the need to control the outcome of tradition. Pass the stress around. Think about it. See you next week.

Visit my website, TALK-WITHAUDREY.com and checkout my online radio show, Talk! with Audrey for a series of interviews that will inform, motivate and inspire you.

Audrey Adams is the host of TALK! with AUDREY, a weekly radio and television show about issues that empower women, featuring entertaining and inspiring interviews with experts and authors from the health, fitness, financial, and travel industries. In New York, listen to TALK! with AUDREY every Monday at 5:30 p.m. on WPAT 930 AM and watch every Friday at 6:30 a.m. on RNN . . . FIOS Channel 6; RCN Channel 16: Cablevision Channels 19. 48, 6 and 19; Direct TV Channel 48 and Comcast Channels 13, 19 and 713. For more information and on demand content TALKWITHAUDREY. com ©The Adams Report







Spiritually Speaking

By Bro. Bill De Fossett -Radio Personality and host of The 3G Experience radio program on WHCR-90.3 FM (www.whcr.org)

opefully you spent your LThanksgiving gathering WITHOUT your cell phone or other devices. The need for communication among us is imperative in this season of turbulence and despair. Put down the phones and talk to each other! Watch for the signs of depression as your family and friends gather for the upcoming Christmas celebrations!

The appropriate greeting this season is Merry Christmas. We

must maintain the spirit of this season as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Keep Christ in Christmas!

Think about the current slavery conditions that have enslaved hundreds of people in Libya.

We mourn the tran-

sition of Rev. Prince Davis, Pastor of 2nd Prince of Peace Baptist Church in the Bronx. The home going service for Rev. Davis was held at Metropolitan Baptist Church, in Harlem.

Faith Memorial Baptist Church celebrated their beloved Pastor, the Rev. Raymond L. Mickens in his 20 years of pastoral care. The guest preacher for this event was the Rev. Lois Giles, Pastor of the Seven Light Baptist Church. Faith Memorial B.C. is located at 1435 Prospect Ave in the Bronx. The well-attended event was a fitting tribute to this man of god. God bless!

Happy Birthday to Rev. Wanda Page, Pastor of Saints of Jesus Christ Church in the Bronx.

Rev. Terrance Kennedy was the keynote speaker at the World Aids Day event held at the Morris Heights Health Center in the Bronx.

Rev. Keith Branch and the Branch Singers presented a live recording session at New Life Cathedral. 110 Junius Street, Brooklyn, on December 6. Archbishop Robert Rochford is the Pastor.

Minister Denz

Wallace hosted a book signing on Saturday, December 9 from 4-6 pm. The address is 1946 Amsterdam Avenue. The title of the book is Joseph's Angels. Minister Wallace was a guest on The 3G Experience at WHCR-90.3 FM. During that interview, he discussed the characters in the book and how they mirror our spiritual lives.

bishop We were talking is the about the Ministers in Harlem and the Bronx Denzil that are "Generation"

Builders."
S e e i n g
Rev. Henry Bolden at the

home going for Rev. Fletcher Crawford started the mind ticking. How many of that group of preachers are still pastoring and/or still here? Let me give you a hint - Rev. D'Eugene Rodgers, Pastor of Solomon Temple Baptist Church is the youngest of the group. Rev. William L. Watkins, Jr. and Rev. Henry Bolden are the oldest. I encourage your input on this discussion.

Thanks to all of you that view The 3G Experience on Facebook Live and www.whcr.org. Follow the 3G Experience every Thursday from 6am-10am. Watch/listen on Facebook Live or www.whcr.org. Send mail and other comments to Bro. Bill, PO box 446, New York, NY 10039.





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"Blessed Life" by Kim Fields with Todd Gold

REVIEW by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

ou have much to be thankful for this year.

There's a roof over your head, for beginners. You know where your next meal will come from. You can read, obviously. Running water, electricity, friends, and family, the list goes on. Author Kim Fields (with Todd Gold) counts those happy things, too, and in her new book "Blessed Life," she knows who gets credit.

Born in Harlem with a pedigree in performing – her grandmother was a dancer; her mother, an actress - Kim Fields recalls how much she loved Harlem, but she says she "would not trade growing up in Hollywood," which is where she moved with her mother when Fields was six.

At age eight, as her mother's L.A. star was on the rise,

Fields tried out for her first role in a TV ad, later appearing in other commercials. She met Janet Jackson and they often played together, a friendship that led Fields to an appearance on Good Times, as a friend of Jackson's character.

Shortly after that first quick appearance, Fields was hired for a new spin-off television show, in part because she could roller skate. The show wasn't a hit with audiences at first, but NBC had faith in The Facts of Life

"Going through puberty on television was not fun," says Fields but she "handled" things. It helped that her mother kept her grounded; finding a church and connecting with God at age 14 also made a difference.

Those things helped Fields during her trials and lifted her

higher when things were good. Friends helped her search for love, introducing her to men and offering support when love went wrong. Professionally, work came and went in large roles and small projects. Fields went to college, worked behind-the-scenes in the film industry, fell in love, and got married. When that relationship fell apart, she became depressed and stayed in bed for weeks, asking God if he "still got a plan, right?"

He did. It involved a new love, a family, more work, new focus, and maturity.

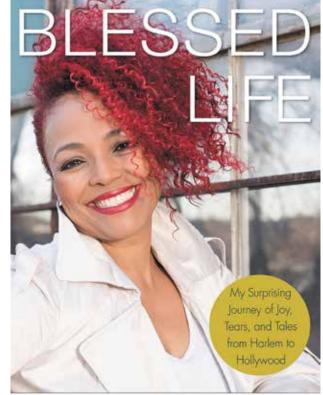
"What I've come to terms with," says Fields, "is that as long as I'm moving forward.... I'm winning at least half the battle."

"Blessed Life" is a bit of fresh air in the star-biography genre. While so many H'wood memoirs get oversaturated with chummy shouts of Look-Who-I-Know, author Kim Fields' ubiquitous (in star bios) name-dropping feels incidental and totally natural here. Fields (with Todd Gold) doesn't seem to be reaching to impress anyone; rather, her anecdotes are breezy and fun and pretty matter-of-fact, but she's also open to laying out the ups and downs of being a child-star, grown up.

Even that is told simply, but with just a little embellishment and a lot of gratitude.

Overall, we take the good, we take the bad, and we get a sense that the best aspects of Fields' TV characters reflected the best of her, too. Most happily, this peek at stardom isn't heavy on the drama and for that, reading "Blessed Life" is something to be thankful for.

"Blessed Life" by Kim



KIM FIELDS

Fields with Todd Gold c.2017, Faith Words

\$22.00 / \$26.50 Canada 215 pages

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS **ACROSS** 1. Oscar, e.g.

6. Debate position 9. Judicial document

13. Hawaiian veranda

14. Deadeye's forte

15. Capital of Egypt 16. Lumps of something soft

17. Beluga yield 18. Ar on table of ele-

ments 19. *First state to officially recognize Christ-

21. *Country which produced first artificial Christmas trees

23. Boiling emotion 24. Grain in "The

House That Jack Built" 25. Equinox mo.

28. *On Christmas it often includes ham or goose

30. In style 35. Twelfth month of Jewish year

37. *Max and Santa's

Little Helper

39. Jack Black's Libre 40. Saturnalia's place of origin

41. Rat's world

43. Movie spool

44. Actress ____ Perlman, pl.

46. Angler's decoy

47. Partner of "void"

48. "A Connecticut in King Arthur's

Court"

50. Speed of object divided by speed of sound

52. A layer in plywood 53. Please do not delay

the season to be jolly...

57. *Beloved Montgomery Ward creation 61. *"Christmas Carol" author

65. Avoid, as in taxes 66. ENT's first concern? 68. Alfred Hitchcock in

his own movie, e.g 69. What tailor did

70. #19 Across abbreviation

71. Driver's 180 72. Sin over cos, pl. 73. Blade drops 74. Mexican coins

DOWN

1. Aquarium dweller

2. Room border

3. Dwarf buffalo

4. Torah teacher

5. Divest one of a gun

6. "For" in Spanish

7. Orinoco or Grande 8. Opposite of alpha

9. *Like holiday memories?

10. Capital of Latvia 11. Wedge in a golfer's

bag, e.g. 12. Broadway recogni-

15. Dairy aisle package

20. Bribes of rewards, in the olden days

22. Liberty Tree, e.g. 24. "Naked Lunch"

creatures 25. *Like Christmas

26. Greeting in the land of "Mele Kalikimaka"

27. Part of cow's stomach

29. *Yuletide

31. Repair, as in socks

32. Freeze over

33. Conch, e.g.

34. *Poisonous Christmas berry

36. Plumbing problem

38. Red Cross supplies

42. Abdominal muscles

45. *Like a letter mailed to Santa

49. Sixth sense

51. Diaphragm spasm

54. Best way to shop?

56. *The kids do it in openng of "A Charlie

Brown Christmas"

57. Catch your breath 58. Iris holder

59. Dracula's bane

60. Words from Wordsworth

61. Big attraction

62. Outback birds

63. Infamous emperor of #40 Across

64. Daughters' broth-

67. Belgian brew



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

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Immigration Does Not Equal Slavery



By Elektra B. Yao, Esq.

lavery in the US ended on December 18, 1865, as the Thirteenth Amendment was adopted in the United States Constitution. The amendment officially abolished slavery, and freed more than 100,000 slaves. In most of West-

ern Europe, it was abolished between 1761 and 1875.

Sub-saharan slavery was forced migration, where innocent families were uprooted from their home, their language, and their country. Today, sub-saharan West Africans are fleeing their devastating country conditions in search of prosperity. They are fleeing unstable governments, dictatorships, famine, female mutilation, forced marriages, and many other destructive country conditions. They are crossing from West Africa to Northern East Africa in Libya in hopes of emigrating to Libya or Europe (through Italy) for a better, more dignified existence.

Today's West Africans are Africa's modern-day immigrants and at the very least could qualify for asylee or refugee status.

But that is not happening. Instead a horrific pattern of slavery, which was abolished in the 19th century in

the US, is re-emerging. West African immigrants are now being sold as slaves in modern-day slave markets in Libya, just like the abominable slave trade in the US.

Shortly after the death of former Libyan Prime Minister Muammar Gadhafi in 2011, political power in Libya became split into three rival governments. The slave trade was able to prosper in Libya because there is no rule of law or due process.

Estimates from the United Nations put the number of immigrants in Libya at 700,000. West African immigrants are being auctioned off in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, for as little as \$400. They are the modern-day slavery chattel and are referred to in Libva as "merchandise." West African men are offered up for sale as part of a group of "big strong boys for farm work". CNN was told of auctions at nine locations across Libya, but many more are believed to take place each month. This means that each month, families are ripped apart; men, women, and children are treated as chattel; and slavery is continuing.

When will it stop? Immigrants are vulnerable and the criminals who rob, rape, and murder them (along with government officials) should be held accountable for these egregious and unforgivable acts.

In Abidjan, the economic capital of Cote d'Ivoire, during the



African and European Summit, South African President Zuma has echoed other leaders in saying "we are haunted by images of many of our continent's citizens plunged in the watery grave of the Mediterranean and the scenes of a slave trade continuing on this very continent."

This abominable crime against humanity, known as slavery, has no place in our modern world where men, women, and children of all nationalities and colors should enjoy the dignity and freedom afforded to every human being.

Immigration does not equal slavery.

Elektra B. Yao is a multilingual Immigration Attorney and the owner of The Law Office of Elektra B. Yao located in Harlem. She is the daughter of an Ivorian Father and an Italian Mother. You can contact her at Elektra@yaofirm.com. Please visit her website at www. yaofirm.com

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

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