

2015-09-10

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# The Weekly Challenger

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## Brian Ligon continues family legacy



Dr. Brian Ligon

BY JOYCE N. JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — This is a time of transition, memories, high expectations and obtaining the life-long dream of retirement for the dental team of Drs. Reginald and Mendee Ligon. They will soon pass the baton of leadership of their dental practice, Ligon & Ligon DDS, PA, to their son, Dr. Brian Ligon.

“Wow is my first thought when I think of the transition of Ligon and Ligon DDS, PA. to our son Dr. Brian Ligon,” said Reginald.

He spoke of the history of the practice from its beginning in 1975 when he partnered with his brother the late Dr. Julius Ligon. Afterwards Mendee became his partner in life and joined the practice in 1981.

“Now after 34 years we are blessed to turn the family business over to Dr. Brian Ligon,” he stated proudly. “There is great joy in having my son follow in my footsteps but there is also sadness knowing that I am approaching the end of a great career,” said Reginald.

He knows that in his heart having worked with his son,

See **LIGON**, page 4



FAMU gave out more than \$500,000 in scholarships to high-achieving students at Gibbs High School Fri., Sept. 4.

## FAMU partners with Gibbs

BY CINDY CARTER  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Gibbs High School, located at 850 34th St. S, was buzzing with excitement last Fri., Sept. 4. Not only were students revved up to show their school spirit, but some were granted early acceptance into Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) with some major scholarships.

“This year we’re starting things out on a different note,” said Gibbs High School Principal Reuben Hepburn at their school

kickoff pep rally. It was hot and humid outside, but students didn’t seem to mind. They looked to their academic leader as if he were a rock star on stage.

“Are you with me,” he asked the crowd to a loud roar of approval. Hepburn wants the usual naysayers that tend to put down the school to sing a different tune this year and he wants students at the school to make it happen.

“The negative publicity this school has received has been unfair. And right now the culture of the school, the faculty,

the parents are just so beaten down by the reputation of the school so this is a way of addressing that culture and that reputation in a positive way,” said Hepburn.

He encouraged everyone at the rally to believe in themselves and to make the year about demonstrating respect and pride for the school as well.

Gibbs was spotlighted last year by local businesses as worthy of a VIP Spirit Package, which boiled down to \$35,000 being lavished upon them. The money was used to

beef up school spirit, which makes the students proud of showing up every day to class with the ultimate goal of higher graduating rates. The finishing touches were made over the summer and Gibbs now boasts avenue banners, wall murals and windscreens.

“Our students were already texting and on Facebook they were telling their friends about what is happening at Gibbs,” said Hepburn. Many students have commented on their love for the updated cam-

See **SCHOOL**, pages 6

## Ya La’ ford brings sunshine to St. Pete



Ya La’ ford

BY FRANK DROUZAS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The walls of downtown St. Pete are getting a makeover.

With the SHINE Mural Festival in its inaugural year, multiple artists are contributing their stylistic strokes and fanciful flourishes to the exterior walls in the Central Avenue corridor. The public art project, which started Sept. 1 and will run until Sept. 12, aims to revitalize the area through the power of vibrant and illuminating art.

One of the participating artists, Ya La’ ford, has added her own personal touch to the tunnel next to Ferg’s Sports Bar, which travels under First Avenue and empties out at the parking lot at Tropicana Field.

Since we’re in the sunshine state, she pointed out, La’ ford decided to create a metaphor of the sun rising, with a series of various “symbolisms” and geometric patterns. When the LED lights illuminate the artwork, the interconnecting geometric designs come alive. She’s christening the new-look tunnel the “Sunnel.”

“Where you find that a

See **ARTIST**, page 8

## Old School dance-off finale

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Old School Summer Party, held over the last six weeks, culminated its activities with a Grand Dance-Off competition at the historic Manhattan Casino last Sun., Sept. 6.

“If you want to compete for the Old School Summer grand prize, now is the time to get up and get on the dance floor,”

said DJ Bake.

Approximately 20-25 dancers strutted on to the dance floor to compete for the grand prize of \$500. One the dance floor could be found the ethnic diversity of St. Petersburg as the dancers from 20 somethings to 70 plus cheerfully filled the center of the ballroom.

Four songs later, Steve Scott, a retired employee of HARTLINE

See **DANCE**, page 5



DJ Bake with winner Steve Scott.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## St. Pete’s new radio station ‘Black Power 96’ seeks community support

ST. PETERSBURG – Burning Spear Media will host a day-long event Sept. 20 at the Uhuru House in St. Petersburg to raise funds for Black Power 96, the new radio station that will begin broadcasting on the FM dial in January 2016.

Black Power 96 is radio by and for the black community! The new community station is owned by the non-profit African People’s Education and Defense Fund. It will deliver a fresh sound featuring locally produced music and neighborhood news, as well as news and information from the Caribbean, Africa and the world.

96.3 LPFM will stand tall as a non-commercial radio station owned and controlled by the black community of south St. Pete where 70 percent live under the poverty level and full access to employment, housing, healthcare and quality education is routinely denied.



Today over 90 percent of the airwaves are controlled by six corporations: Comcast, News Corp, Disney, Viacom, Time Warner and CBS. Clear Channel alone owns more than 1000 radio stations and 80 percent of the music playlists in the U.S. are identical. Black journalists are severely underrepresented in newsrooms throughout the U.S.

Black Power 96 will address these disparities by serving as a hub for the training and employment of broadcast professionals, musicians and engineers.

The Sept. 20 event is free and open to the public and will include brunch, tours of the new studio

space, participation in the studio audience for a live broadcast and a Karamu (African feast).

A special round-table discussion on the importance of independent black media will feature Charles Barron, New York State Assemblyman; Glen Ford, executive editor of Black Agenda Report; Gazi Kodzo, popular video blogger; James Cole, WTMP host; Connie Burton, Tampa radio host and Dan Davis, St. Petersburg entrepreneur.

All those who want to support or get involved in community radio in south St. Pete are invited to come to the Uhuru House at 1245 18th Ave. S. Sept 20. From 10-6 p.m. you can meet and greet the organizers of this new radio station and learn how to lend your support.

For more information, call 727-824-5700 or email info@uhurunews.com.

## The next generation steps up to serve

Dear Editor,

Last week members of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) gathered to reactivate the St. Petersburg branch of the 106-year-old organization. A brand new panel of leaders was elected to serve in their respected capacities.

Maria Scruggs was chosen to lead the St. Petersburg branch as its new president. I was honored to have been nominated by School Board member Rene Flowers to serve as second vice president. I admit I was reluctant at first, but I was reminded by the words of my uncle, Clarence Givens: “Much is required by those who have so much to offer others.”

I couldn’t be another critic. I couldn’t be someone who delights in criticizing others, rather than offering a realistic solution. The reorganization of the NAACP is an opportunity for a new generation of activists to prove that we are ready to serve and more importantly, we are ready to fight for social justice and equality.

A lack of interest in minority related causes have weakened our voice within

our very own communities. We have become too dependent on outside resources and we’ve forgotten what it means to demand our fair share, even if it may require peaceful protest. As long as we hold one another accountable, I have faith that the new slate of NAACP officers will return to the core values of the organization: political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons. Eliminating race-based discrimination.

The new officers and executive committee will be a breath of fresh air for the City of St. Petersburg, offering new solutions to the problems plaguing our neighborhoods such as gun violence, drugs and a lack of quality schools. It’s important that we understand the work cannot be accomplished alone. It will require sacrifices and effort on everyone’s behalf.

Some change is good, but I acknowledge that some is not. We must go forward by hope and not backwards by fear. We must work with those who are more seasoned and mature while taking into account that the times have changed and the voices of the youth are more impera-



tive now than ever before. We must bridge the gap in the lack of communication between the two generations. Is it my hope that the new NAACP will be the change that we are in such desperate need of here in St. Petersburg.

I’d also implore all my fellow young brothers and sisters to get involved and help keep this organization going strong. Everybody wants to abandon the system, but nobody wants to stick around, roll up their sleeves and fix it, lest we forget the sacrifices made and the debts paid by those who came before us.

It’s time we stop waiting on someone to come along and save us; it’s time we take action and stand up for ourselves.

Corey Givens Jr.

## Remembering the Life of Mother Eloise B. Maxwell

“Every day since the Lord called you home we wake up with the knowledge, someone is missing. We go through our day and in the back of our minds we hear a whisper, someone is missing. We sit down to eat and in the back of our minds we hear a whisper, someone is missing.

We wake up and think, there should be a birthday to celebrate today and we hear clearly, someone is missing! We wake up and think, this is the day my whole world changed and we hear clearly, someone is missing! We wake up



July 18, 1928 - August 30, 2014

and the holiday season is here and we hear loudly, someone is missing!

We try to remain in good spirits and we hear a whisper, someone is missing. We gather with family

to celebrate the special occasions and we look around the room and inside our head we hear screaming, someone is missing!

Mama, we enjoy spending time reminiscing of your words, legacy and teachings, but this voice that we hear squeezes our hearts. We love you and know that God loved you best, but please understand, someone – no, you are missing!

~Love your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Legacy of Honorable Julian Bond

Dear Editor,  
August 15, 2015, the Honorable Julian Bond received his reward after a life-long fight for social justice when he transcended this life to his heavenly home.

In 1965, Bond was voted into the Georgia House of Representatives; however, the state congressional body refused to swear him into his seat as a result of his Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee endorsement denouncing the Vietnam War. Martin Luther King, Jr. organized a protest rally on Bond's behalf and as a result the U.S. Supreme Court made a unanimous decision on Bond's behalf, ruling that his comments fell under his constitutional right of freedom of speech.

Bond was finally able to take his seat in the Georgia House of Representatives in 1967. He served in the House until 1975, and went on to serve in the Georgia Senate from 1975 to 1986. During his tenure in the state legislature, Bond wrote over 60 bills that were ratified as law.

Bond attended the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago where he was nominated as a vice-

presidential candidate. He was the first African American to receive the honor, but withdrew his name because he was not old enough to hold the office according to constitutional guidelines.

From 1971 to 1979, Bond served as president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, an organization he also co-founded. In 1986, Bond entered a Democratic primary to run for the U.S. House of Representatives in Georgia. He lost the heavily contested race to John Lewis, another civil rights leader and former SNCC member.

Bond was president of Atlanta's branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) before becoming the chairman of the National NAACP Board of Directors, a position he held from 1998 until 2010. He continued to be a prominent voice in the media and was a commentator for NBC's *Today* show, wrote a national newspaper column and produced poems that have appeared in publications such as the *Nation* and the *New York Times*. He was also a professor of history at the University of Virginia and an adjunct pro-



fessor at American University.

He decreed that your membership to the NAACP was your voice, and in honor of Bond's legacy, the national Membership/Life Membership Chair, Ophelia Averitt, is challenging each local NAACP Branch to recruit 20 new and lapsed memberships between Sept. 7 and Oct. 31!

What a way for St. Petersburg to let the national office know we mean business by exceeding the goal of 20 to 75, which was the age in which Bond made his final transition.

To ensure the St. Petersburg Branch receives credit, please direct your memberships through the St. Petersburg membership chair, Harry Harvey who can be reached at: Harryciara@aol.com or (727) 385-3364.

Adult membership 18 and older is \$30.00; youth membership 17 and under is \$10.00.

*Maria L. Scruggs, President St. Petersburg Branch, NAACP*

## Charles Crowe Carlman goes home

Pastor Charles Crowe Carlman transitioned to his heavenly home Aug. 7.

He was born in the Cayman Islands, and raised in a single-parent home due to the loss of his father when he was just six months old.

Carlman was saved and called to serve at the early age of 12. He would ride his bicycle every week to preach to people in a town named Georgetown.

Educated in the Cayman Islands, he traveled to Jamaica to attend God's Bible School where he received a certificate in theology. He furthered his biblical training at Ameri-

can Bible Institute where he received his honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree.

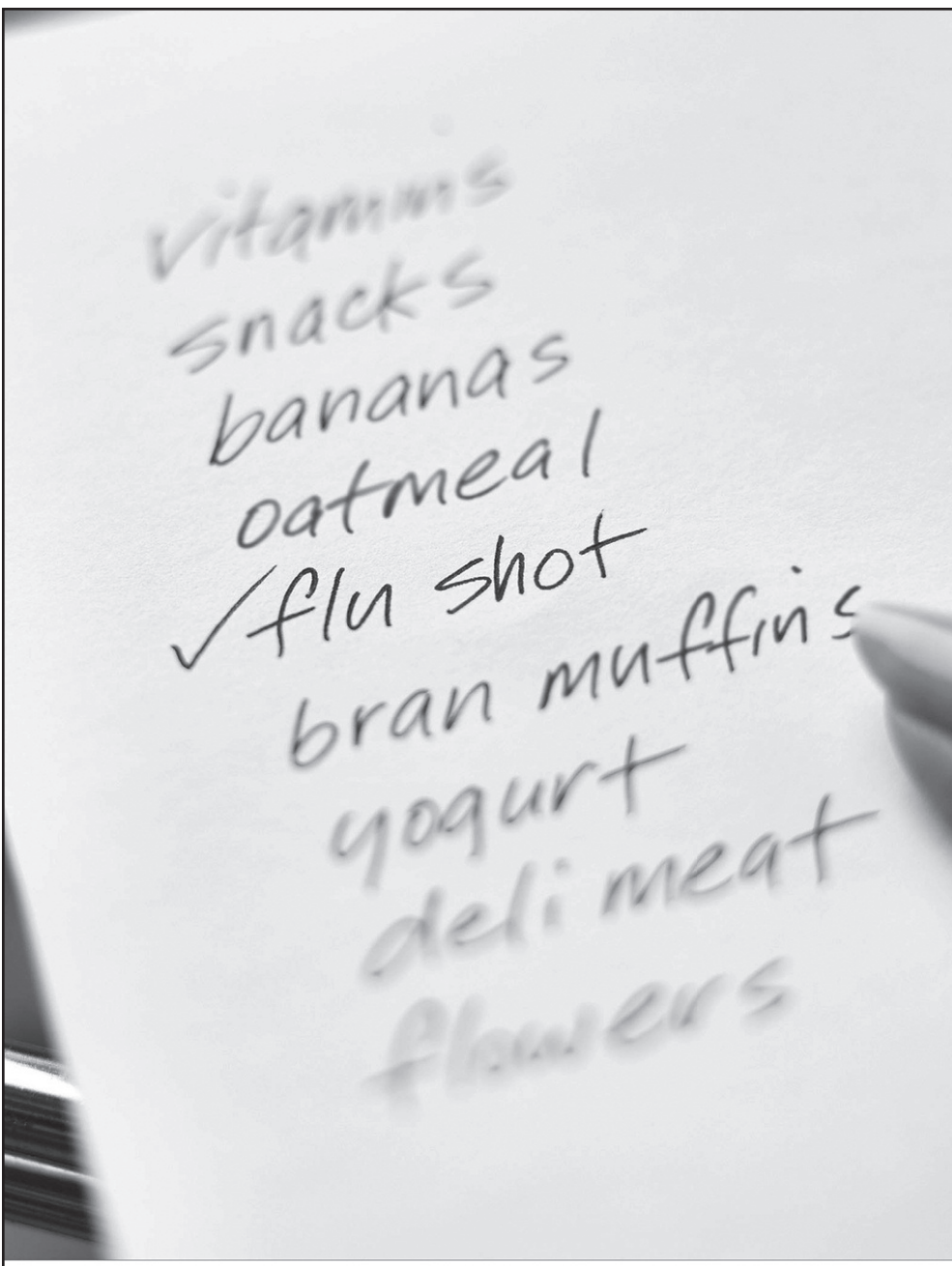
He pastored several churches in the Cayman Islands in the 1950s. Carlman later became the director of a mission to help Christian children, medical clinics and teachers in Haiti. He later extended the fundraising to cover damages from hurricane, floods, fire and any area in dire need.

Carlman leaves to cherish his memories his loving, caring and devoted wife, Phylis; two daughters, Peggy Saunders and Judith Lankford; his son, Charles Carlman, Jr.; a sis-



ter-in-law Angie McLaughlin; two Goddaughters, Crystal Reed and Eboni Huggins and other nieces, nephews and many sorrowing friends.

Carlman was interred at Garden of Memories in Tampa.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

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### Passing the torch

From *LIGON*, page 1

observing his skills and listening to his interactions with patients that they will be well cared for. This proud father knows his son is a competent and compassionate young man.

"I am blessed to be able to do this and I hope and pray that our patients and this community will continue to trust and support him and his partner Dr. Erika King Ligon," said Reginald.

"We made it a point when our children were growing up to present dentistry as an option not as an expectation," Mendee stated. "Brian is well-trained and has a great demeanor for this profession."

Mendee feels that her son has the "good hands factor" that their profession requires, which cannot be taught. "It's something you have naturally," said Mendee.

She is impressed with her son's willingness to continue extensive training to provide dental services in complex and medically compromised patients, and feels truly blessed that Brian made the decision to become a dentist and continue the legacy.

Mendee couldn't stop gushing over her son. She and Reginald both are so proud of his recent marriage to Erika, a beautiful and talented dentist herself. History is repeating itself.

Brian graduated from Lakewood High School, attended Butler University in Indianapolis and graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 2011. He completed a one-year dental specialty program at Bay Pines Veterans Hospi-



tal, Advanced Education General Dentistry, which is a residency program specializing in restorative, surgical and implant dentistry. He joined the family practice shortly thereafter.

His wife Erika graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta in 2006 with a B.S. in Biology. She also attended Meharry Medical College, and upon graduating with a doctorate of dental surgery degree in 2014, she completed a General Practice Residency with Columbia University at Harlem Hospital Center in New York. She is currently working for the Community Health Center of Pinellas as a general dentist.

Dr. Brian, as he's known to the staff and patients, feels that there are no negative issues by coming to the helm of his parents' established practice. He acknowledges that it is a plus to enter into an established practice that is already equipped. "I'm not starting at ground zero," said Brian.

He is also thrilled that his parents are so proud of his accomplishments. He broke into a wide grin and said: "Now they can call me doctor and I can see the smiles on their faces."

Brian looks forward to soon adding new procedures and technology to the dental

office. He would like to expand the services to include laser treatments and digital radiology that will aid in teeth restoration, soft tissue procedures and implants.

"A lot of stuff is computer driven," he explained. "Dentistry is always evolving. My main concern is to make sure they [patients] get the best treatment possible and be as pain free as possible."

He speaks proudly of the legacy of good dental care and community outreach that both parents have performed throughout the years, and says that each parent has distinct styles from which he has learned invaluable lessons.

Brian credits his father for allowing him to shadow him in the community at outreach forums and health fairs, while crediting his mother for her savvy business style.

"They did a good job by leading by example," Brian stated. His favorite quotes from his father are: "Every tub has to sit on its own bottom," "You have to hold yourself accountable" and "Do not rely on someone else."

Dr. Brian smiles as he speaks on his new life venture with his wife and is excited about their future.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Dancin’ at the Manhattan

From **DANCE**, page 1

emerged victorious as he received the loudest roar of the crowd when DJ Bake held his hand over the dancer’s head.

Scott came up to the front of the stage for pic-

tures and, of course, to collect five 100 dollar bills. After receiving his prize, the after-party began in full force like only the baby-boomer generation could do it!



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## School spirit reins king at Gibbs

From **SCHOOL**, page 1

pus and how it looks like college. “They were overjoyed with the transformation.”

But the big news of the day was more than evoking school spirit via a pep rally. The junior and senior classes were invited to their own personal celebration with FAMU as the main attraction.

After a college fair where different school programs were explained to the high schoolers such as the School of Allied Health Sciences, School of the Environment and the School of Business and Industry, there was an electrifying special performance by current FAMU students.

Entitled “Passport to Success: #RattlersStrike-Worldwide,” FAMU hopefuls learned all about the university through song and dance. Performers dressed up as stewards and stewardesses while navigating the students through the 128-year history of the university.

After the performance, the students knew what was coming next. Some students were going to be offered scholarships to FAMU, and all were excited to find out who would be chosen.

For years Gibbs has been working toward building a gateway for its graduating seniors so that they can continue their studies, and everything fell into place for the 2015-16 school year.

“It was not an easy partnership,” admits the Business Economics, Technology Academy (BETA) Principal Ija Hawthorne. They just found out on Monday that everything was a go. “This was about two years in the making.”

Since the beginning of last week, students fervently researched FAMU to see if it would be a good fit, got their ACT and SAT scores in order along with their GPA and applied to the college. Logan Caraballo, a 16-year-old senior, has been on the right track from the very beginning. Although family members have attended college, no one in his immediate family has ever graduated from college. He hopes to be the first.

“If my nieces and nephews want to go to college they’re not going to look back and say, ‘Oh no one else went.’” They’ll say, ‘Oh my Uncle Logan went,’ and they’ll do that too,”

said Caraballo who was honored to be chosen as a front runner for acceptance to FAMU.

Peyton McGuigan, a senior and Junior ROTC Battalion Commander, hoped to land a scholarship. “I’ve worked hard every day of my life to do that,” he said. McGuigan was chosen to take the trip to FAMU this past summer with Gibbs’ faculty to scope out the possibilities.

Raven Wiggins feels the same. Involved with the Pep Squad and student government president, Wiggins would love to make FAMU her home after high school. After all, her brother graduated from there. “I’ve been doing what he’s been telling me to do,” she said speaking of Hepburn and his push to help students apply and secure their futures early.

But at the end of the afternoon when Dr. William Hudson Jr., FAMU Vice President of Student Affairs, took the stage not everyone who applied, not everyone who has put in the hard work day after day for the past three years received an instant spot.

He made his point quickly. “I’ve got some money to give out,” he announced to screams of anticipation.

All in all some 13 students received early acceptance and scholarships to boot. Some more than others. Caraballo earned top notch honors going home with a \$65,000 free ride to FAMU. McGuigan and Wiggins did not.

But although not every student who applied was chosen early, Dr. Hudson promised to hold scholarships until May of 2016 to give those overlooked on Friday another chance. “So that you have the opportunity to improve your GPA or your test scores,” said Dr. Hudson.

So the final message? Don’t give up, there’s still an entire school year left for Gibbs High students to reach their goals. Good luck seniors!

*In 2014, FAMU was recognized among the 2014 U.S. News & World Report’s “Best National Universities.” It also lists FAMU as the top public historically black college or university in the nation for 2015. It is also listed among The Princeton Review’s “Best in the Southeast” colleges and is one of the top picks for providing a high quality education at an affordable price in Florida, according to The College Database (2013).*



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# COMMUNITY NEWS



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## La' ford's Sunnel brightens the Sunshine City

From **ARTIST**, page 1



tunnel is a dark place, this becomes a place of hope,” she said. “There’s light, there’s hope!”

The artist said she aims to change the notion of what art-making means by pulling it off the canvas and making it something that people walk through. So it becomes “something transformative, so as opposed to becoming a piece on the wall, it becomes something that you actually can immerse into.”

“It’s activated by you, my viewer,” La’ ford said. “You become then the heartbeat, the pulse of my artwork.”

La’ ford hopes it will not be merely a stretch of art but a “conversation space” where people will actually spend time taking it in. She loves that with the mural she can reach those who are out and about and not necessarily seeking to absorb a piece of art.

“I started to exhibit some of my artwork at jails, homeless shelters and I could see the power of what art could do to a space,” La’ ford explained. “So I decided that it needed to be bigger and better and hit people that would not typically be hit. Right now I’m able to serve a clientele who are going to a Rays baseball game or people who are exercising.”

With a team of four others, La’ ford speculated that about 190 hours have gone into the work to transform the tunnel. She designed it on paper about 20 times, she said, then

went out to the tunnel to “sit with the space,” which is her process.

“I always work with geometric shapes,” La’ ford said, “which is referencing this notion that we’re all interconnected. I look at civilization—where we’ve come from to where we are today—and try to remind people that we need to get back to this space where we’re actually thinking about how we’re more alike. I like to play with your mind space, shift what’s going on and alter your perception.”

La’ ford, who has a background in law, said an analytical aspect appears in her artwork. She cited Los Angeles artist Mark Bradford, known for his urban landscapes, as an influence as well as Julie Mehretu, known for her “Landscape Allegories.” She described the various sunrises in her work that are shining down and shooting up as representing the “yin and the yang.”

“It becomes something magical and mystical in here,” La’ ford mused.

Explaining that the project has truly been a

community affair, she is thankful to everyone who helped make it possible, including Tes One, the curator of SHINE; St. Petersburg Art Alliance; Ferg’s; the Deuces and Mayor Rick Kriseman, among others.

“I feel just so blessed to be able to communicate not only what’s inside of me and in my heart, but I feel like I’m unlocking all sorts of codes, too,” La’ ford said, noting that slaves during the days of the Underground Railroad would try to find routes to freedom, and hang up quilts as a sort of code. “A lot of my work started there, because I quilt, too. So these codes and patterns, it’s just like I’m trying to create over-all what is a universal language.”

La’ ford is the only African-American artist in the festival, and aims to show people that an artist can come in any shape, form or fashion.

For more information on the festival, go to [stpetemuraltour.com](http://stpetemuraltour.com).

To reach Frank Drouzas, email [fdrouzas@theweekly-challenger.com](mailto:fdrouzas@theweekly-challenger.com)



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## ‘Intimate Apparel’ at American Stage

BY FRANK DROUZAS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — American Stage opens its 2015-16 season Sept. 18 with the revealing “Intimate Apparel” by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenwriter Lynn Nottage. It will run through Oct. 11, with preview nights Sept. 16 and 17.

Set in New York in 1905, it tells the story of Esther, an African-American seamstress who creates exquisite lingerie for clients who range from wealthy white patrons to prostitutes. One by one the denizens of the women’s boarding house where she lives get married and move away, yet the 35-year-old Esther remains, longing for a husband and future of her own.

She begins a correspondence with George, a Caribbean man, who is working on the Panama Canal yet attempts to woo her with his beautiful letters before ultimately coming to New York. In her journey to find love, Esther discovers unexpected friendships that defy race, class and religion.

“Intimate Apparel” will mark the debut of Stephanie Gularte as producing artistic director at American Stage. Gularte said what appeals to her personally about this work is the relationships of the characters and what they all have in common despite how very different their lives and experiences are.

She noted that the play’s

six different characters, who have all brought themselves to New York from somewhere else to pursue a better life, struggle with barriers and oppression.

“There’s a lot in the play that draws parallels between different kinds of struggles that people experience, and they’re all told through the central character of Esther,” said Gularte, who is also the play’s director.

The cast features a host of American Stage newcomers such as Nikole Williams, playing the role of Esther. Her credits include roles at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company and in numerous films, while Eddie Ray Jackson takes on the part of George. Rounding out the cast is ZZ Moor as a prostitute and ragtime pianist Mayme; Katrina Stevenson as Southern belle Mrs. Van Buren; Fredena J. Williams as Mrs. Dickson, the operator of Esther’s boarding house and Daniel Capote as Mr. Marks, the Orthodox Jewish fabric merchant with whom Esther shares a special bond.

With the exception of directing actress Moor in the past, this production marks the first time Gularte has worked with any of the other cast members. But she pointed out that it is a very talented cast and they all work very well together.

“In the rehearsal room it’s very exciting and positive!” Gularte said.

Though the action of this 2003 work takes place

over a century ago, Gularte believes it is rife with timeless themes, as it deals with all the “superficial boundaries” that people still encounter and still build around themselves and one another.

“The title of the play, ‘Intimate Apparel,’ is a metaphor for looking at what’s really underneath, that kind of surprise that we still experience when we realize how alike so many of us are,” Gularte explained, “and that really human need to connect and have one’s life acknowledged and valued by another. I think those are absolutely some timeless issues that we’re certainly still wrestling with today.”

Gularte, who noted she has long been a fan of Nottage’s work, was formerly the founding artistic director of Capital Stage Company in Sacramento, Calif., a position she held for over a decade. One of the reasons she decided to make the cross-country haul to be a part of American Stage this year is that the Tampa Bay area and St. Pete in particular seemed to be going through something of a renaissance, she said.

“I was looking for a new challenge,” Gularte stated. “I was looking to move to a new community where the arts are really embraced but also where there’s a real opportunity for growth and some kind of development, and a company that had already a real strong hold in the community, which American Stage cer-

tainly does.”

Calling it an inspiring, surprising and heart-warming play filled with rich characters, Gularte believes this production may astonish some people at what lies underneath the layers of “Intimate Apparel.”

“I think that this is a play that will surprise people in how fulfilling it is as a piece of entertainment,” she asserted, adding that it is a very socially conscious play that is funny and emotional. “It’s just a really great journey. I think people will come to this play and be drawn into the lives of these characters and leave very, very fulfilled.”

For complete show times and ticket information, visit [americanstage.org](http://americanstage.org) or call (727) 823-7529.

To reach Frank Drouzas, email [fdrouzas@theweekly-challenger.com](mailto:fdrouzas@theweekly-challenger.com)



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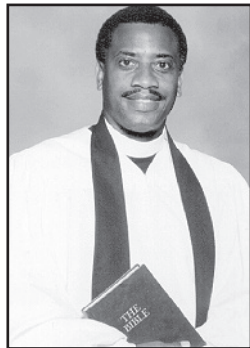
## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
9:10 a.m. Breakfast (First Sunday only)  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. / Devotion 10:15 a.m.  
Praise & Worship 10:20 a.m. / Worship Services 10:30 a.m.  
Saints of Prayer - Monday 12:00 noon  
Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  
Adult Choir Rehearsals - Thursday 6:30 p.m.

*Van service is available by calling: (727) 327-0015*

**THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:**  
**3940 - 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida**  
**Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021**  
**Email: [rojmbe@knology.net](mailto:rojmbe@knology.net)**  
**Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



**Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.**  
**Pastor**

# CHURCH NEWS

## St. Mark MBC

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, its pastor, the Reverend Brian K. Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation, extends to the community at large, its wish that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central core, the belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a lost world hungry and thirsty for the word of God. At St. Mark, we as a body of believers are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for the awesome gift of His son, Jesus Christ.

Events for the Month of September 2015

Sept. 12 General Mission Meeting @ 9:30 a.m. St. Mark JOY Mime Team performance at Word of Life Fellowship Church @ 5:00 p.m.  
Sept. 14-17 National

Baptist Convention - Innisbrook, FL  
Sept. 25 Body Builders Ministry-Round 2 of Ministry Feud @ 7:00 p.m.

Coming Events for October 2015

Oct. 5 South Florida 100th Centennial Celebration - Banquet Gala & Black Tie Affair@ 7:00 p.m. Orange Blossom Catering, 220 4th St. N, Downtown St. Petersburg, FL

Oct. 6-10 South Florida Progressive Baptist Association Convening at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

Oct. 9-10 "Com-missioned and Committed" Conference for Pastors, Ministers, Brotherhood and the Sisterhood. Sunday school held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday school starts each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come out and join

us. Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) Every Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Baptist Training Union is each Sunday 5 p.m. Members and the general public are invited to come out to study the Bible with us, and learn "What Baptists Believe".

Children and Youth Ministry Meetings are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.

Mime/Praise Dance Rehearsal on Sundays 2-4 p.m.

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting is held every Tuesday: 7 p.m.

Senior Hour of Power Bible Study is held every Wednesday: 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study every Wednesday evening: 7 p.m.

Children Youth Ministry Bible Study 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month: 7:30 p.m.

## Friendship MBC

NEED A PLACE TO CALL HOME? LOOKING FOR A CHURCH THAT IS "FIRED UP?" The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, the Pastor, Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Official Family and the entire Church Family extend to you a cordial invitation to join "THE SHIP" in fellowship at our 7:45 am or the 10:45 am worship service, and Sunday Church School at 9:30 am. Pray for our Sick, Shut-in, Children, Men/Women in Uniform, and Bereaved Families. Wednesday night at 7 the community is welcomed to join us in something really great - Bible study, studying from 1st John, Chapt. 4.

September at a glance  
Sept. 7-11 - NBCUSA, Inc., 135th Annual Session, Memphis Tenn.

"Wednesday Nite Live" has been CANCELLED until Dec. 9. Regular Prayer and Bible Study, Sept. 9 at 7 pm.

Sun., Sept. 13 - After Both Worship Services - Ministries Open House.

Mon., Sept. 14 - 7 pm - First 18/38 Planning/Prayer Meeting for Pastor and First Family Appreciation Celebration Meet - Interested Members desiring to

be a part of this Committee are invited to attend.

Tues., Sept. 15 - 7 pm - Evangelism Meeting

Sept. 16-18 - 7 pm - PASTOR EVANS IN REVIVAL - Holy Christian Church, Bishop Lewis Sherman, Pastor, 4371 34th St. S.

Sat., Sept. 19 - 9 am - PCUL 30th Annual Community Festival & Fitness Walk/Run - This is a free event. Lake Vista Recreation Center, 1401 62nd Ave. S.

Sun., Sept. 20 - Both Services - Single Recognition Sunday, 4 pm - Fellowship with New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 2120 19th St. S, Rev. Carlos L. Senior Pastor.

Fri., Sept. 25 - 7 PM - Church conference.

Sat., Sept. 26 - 9 am - Singles/New ERA Youth Ministries will be sailing for Christ - workshop - cruise - luncheon. Donation is \$30 per person - Registration Form located in the Atrium - See Sharon Wilson, Singles Ministry Leader - Community Churches Singles Ministries are invited to participate. Contact the Church at (727) 906-8300.

SAVE THE DATE IN OCT.  
Oct. 23-24 - The Leadership

Fall Retreat, held at Camp Yale Baptist Conference Retreat, Leesburg. Ministry Leaders please see Sis. Penny Williams ASAP. Sign-up sheets located in the Atrium.

Thought for the Week: It seems God is limited by our prayer life - that He can do nothing for humanity unless someone asks Him. Are you limiting God in delivering you?

Don't let "The Ship" sail without you! For additional information on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st St. S, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 Church Office: (727) 906-8300 E-Mail: [fmbsc3300@verizon.net](mailto:fmbsc3300@verizon.net)

NOW "LIVE STREAMING": Visit Our Website: [www.fmbc-theship.net](http://www.fmbc-theship.net) & CLICK on the PASTOR'S IMAGE at the top of the Page. Also, USTREAM - Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: [www.expericencethecoast.com](http://www.expericencethecoast.com)

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 and LEAVE YOUR INFORMATION.

## The National Baptist Convention is coming to Innisbrook

The National Baptist Convention of America Int'l., Inc., (NBCA) is coming to Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort, 36750 Highway 19, Palm Harbor, from Sept. 13-18.

This fellowship of historically African-American Baptist Churches with over 3.5 million members will be hosted by State President Dr. Bartholomew Banks and the Progressive M&E Baptist State Convention of Florida.

Major convention highlights and speakers includes the following:

Sun., Sept. 13 @ 7 p.m. - Senior Women's Missionary Auxiliary Program "Women Lifting the Least." Dr. C.T. Kirkland of Tampa, speaker

Mon., Sept. 14 @ 8 a.m. - A Presidential Golf Tournament

Mon. evening, Sept. 14 @ 7 p.m. - Foreign Mission Banquet with Reverend John R. Adolph of Beaumont, Texas as speaker

Tues. morning, Sept. 15 - 2014 host pastor, Reverend S.C. Dixon of Mt. Olive MBC, Baton Rouge, La. as speaker

Tues. evening, Sept. 15 @ 7 p.m. - Gospel Musical by the Progressive M&E Baptist Convention Youth Choir and Adult Choir

Wed., Sept. 16 - Social Justice Commission

Wed., Sept. 16 - Reverend Dr. J. Michael Sanders, pastor of Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, N.J.

Wed., evening Sept. 16 - Reverend Dr. Harry Blake, pastor of Mt. Canaan Baptist Church in Shreveport, La.



Thurs. morning, Sept. 17 - Reverend N.S. Sanders, pastor of Greater St. Paul MB Institutional Church in Lakeland (Golden Hour)

Thursday evening, 9/17/2015 - Reverend Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., Pastor of Greater St. Mary MB Church of Lake Charles, La. and President of NBCA will present his 2015 Annual Address to the Convention (The President's hour)

For more information, please call (727) 867-1899 or 800-543-4019



## Pastor's Corner

BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY,  
SPIRITUAL LEADER  
Unity of Midtown

### Relationships matter - Part 3

We are called to Love God, Love Ourselves and Love Everyone Else in that order (Matthew 22:34-40). It is just that simple! Love is more than talk; it is action. "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deeds and in truth (1 John 3:18)."

We demonstrate our love for God through the Seven Spiritual Disciplines of prayer and meditation, fasting and releasing, praise and worship (individual and corporate), reading and studying the scripture, stewardship (tithing our time, talents and

treasure), fellowship with positive people and witnessing/sharing our testimony with others. We demonstrate our love for ourselves through the Eight Self-Care Strategies: diet, intimacy, rest, exercise, check-ups (doctors and dentists), treating ourselves, outward appearance and recreation.

Everyone is our neighbor. Every man is our brother. Every woman is our sister. Therefore, we demonstrate our love for others through the Nine Neighbor Networking Principles:

Mutual Respect (Luke 6:31)  
Acceptance (Romans 13:8)  
Communication (Colossians 3:16)

Openness (Philippians 4:8-9)  
Honesty (1 Timothy 2:2)  
Forgiveness (Luke 11:4)  
Sharing (Luke 6:38)  
Unity (Ephesians 4:13)  
Equality (Galatians 3:28)

Relationships matter. Following these nine principles will lead to a successful relationship in any setting: home, work, church, community, school, etc.

## The Pastor's Aide Ministry of The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church Rev. Frank W. Peterman Jr., Pastor presents Annual Hattitude & Fashion Extravaganza Featuring Four Seasons'

Saturday, October 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Orange Blossom

220 4th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Donation: \$25.00

Please contact the following  
for your tickets and if you  
are interested in modeling.

Ruth Smith (727) 867-8609

Leann Yates (727) 542-3384

Church Office (727) 327-0015



New Faith  
Free Methodist Church



### Celebrating 25 years...

**New Faith Free Methodist Church**  
cordially invites you to fellowship with us at our  
**25th Anniversary Banquet**  
**Saturday, September 12**

This formal affair will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room  
of Pinellas Technical College,  
901 34th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711



The keynote speaker will be  
Dr. Frita McRae Fisher, MD,  
daughter of local surgeon  
Dr. Freddie L. & Mrs. Inez Van McRae

Tickets are \$40 each and are available  
for purchase by calling  
813-816-0353 or online  
at [www.newfaithfmc.org/banquet](http://www.newfaithfmc.org/banquet)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Sisterhood Project shares the power & wealth of words

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Dr. Cynthia P. White and associates hosted the Sisterhood Project book signing for their recent publication “Lessons In Living: Ordinary Women, Extraordinary God” at the James Weldon Johnson Library last Sat., Sept. 5. The yearlong project involved the collaboration of nine extraordinary women from around the United States. The five women writers who live here in St. Petersburg include Magenta Black (chapter four), Amelia Neal (chapter nine), Valerie Dorn-Roberts (chapter 12), Sharion Thurman Reeves (chapter three) and White (chapters 1, 7 & 10).

**Dr. Cynthia P. White**  
The chapters of the book highlight challenging situations each woman faced and eventually overcame through strengthening their connection with God. White said that her chapter “What I Learned From My Toro” is parallel to what people do in life when they take matters into their own hands. “It was supposed to be a self-propelled lawnmower, but I was having the toughest time with it from the very beginning trying to get it started, putting in the gas and cutting the grass,” said White. She also stated that she could have saved herself a lot of frustration by reading the Toro manual first instead of trying to operate the equipment without informed instructions. She “zigzagged”

around what she needed to know until she had no other choice but to pick up the manual and follow its directions. White said many worshippers do this in life. They “zigzag” through the challenges of life because “we do not follow the will and intent of God.”  
**Valerie Dorn-Roberts**  
For Dorn-Roberts, writing chapter 12 was a spiritual catharsis. “I feel I didn’t fit in... wasn’t played with and picked on by kids because of my left eye,” she said. She also shared that she experienced the divorce of her parents as well as her own with her husband as an adult. The childhood bullying made Dorn-Roberts very unsure of herself as an adult. “I had a complex about my left eye. There were times I didn’t want to face the world. Having that complex didn’t give me the right way to deal with who I am and who I have become now.” Dorn-Roberts feels that the book is extraordinary and is to be “read and enjoyed by all.”  
**Magenta Black**  
Black said that writing her chapter renewed and strengthened her faith in God. This Boynton Beach native was the youngest of 11 children, and the name of her chapter “I Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me” speaks volumes. “I was abused by my father and I took all that bitterness into my marriage,” said Black.

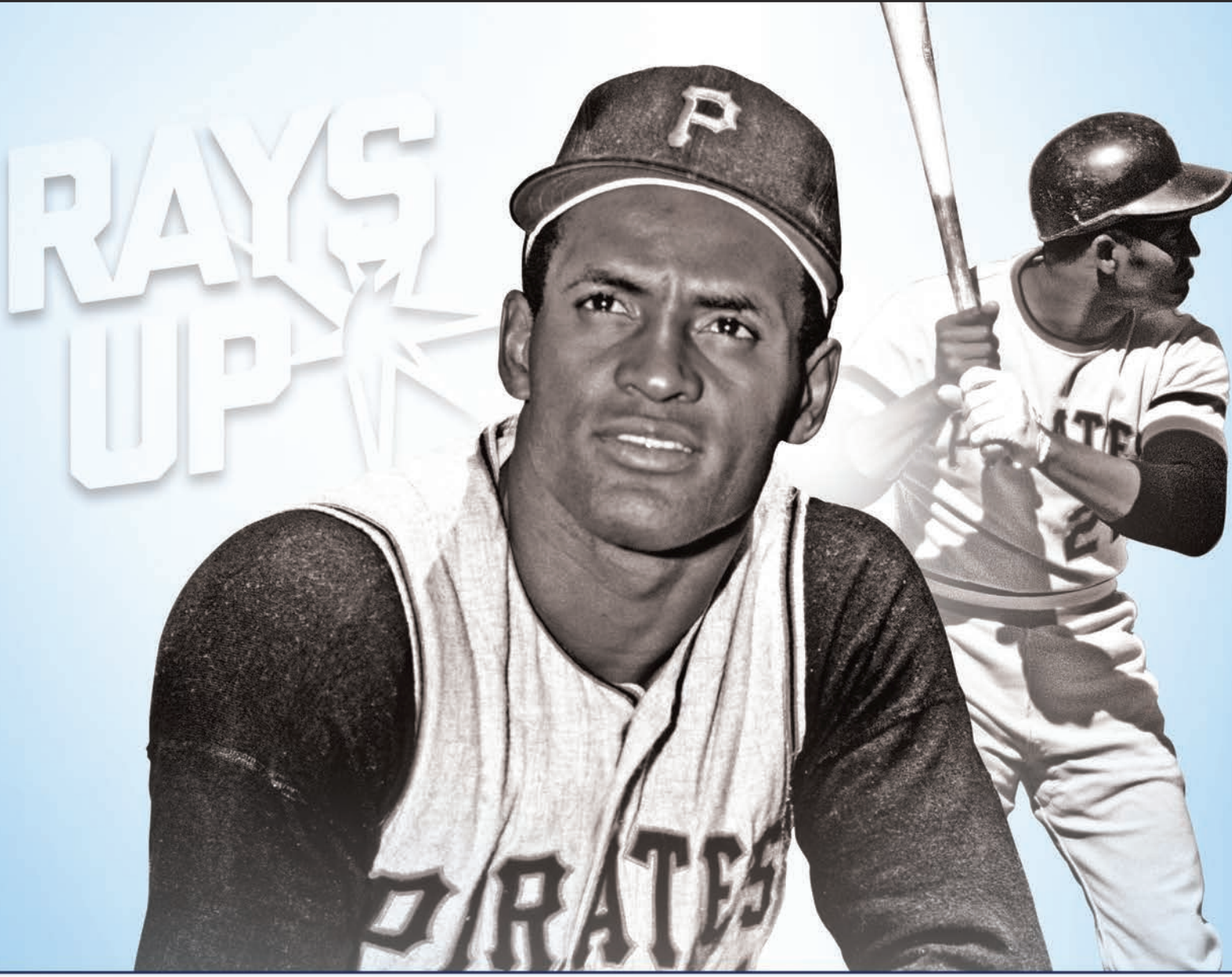
Black’s anger issues that grew out of being sexually molested by her father made her feel like God had abandoned her. “Why did he allow my father to abuse me? Why was my life the way it was?” The hideous attacks that she and her sisters faced were like living with a monster, the monster that was supposed to be the protector, provider and spiritual anchor. “I used to have to hide in a well to keep my daddy from bothering me!” Black was at such a dark point in her life that she admitted she wanted to kill her father and she even tried to commit suicide. “Why are you keeping me here,” said Black who questioned God’s intentions. During a particularly hard time in her marriage when she was pregnant, jobless, living in a home with no electricity and at times no running water and her husband working sporadically, she used this time to come to terms with her past. “We’re still dysfunctional—my brothers and sisters—because of our past. Nobody wants to talk about what happened. They feel that what happened in the past should stay in the past.” When Black was writing her first book entitled “What Makes You Fat,” one of her sister’s stopped speaking to her because a lot of the author’s past was in the book. “It was therapeutic for me and now I can heal and I hoped she could too because she’s in denial about it.” Today, Black is the proud




mom of four adult children, and has 16 grandchildren.  
**Amelia Neal**  
Neal faces a unique challenge in her life. The title of her chapter “White Woman’s Disease: An African-American Woman and Her Anti-Depressants” reveals her dependence on anti-depressant medication to help keep her functioning normally in the never-ending cycle of stress in the new millennium. “The calling for me writing the story was for my healing,” said Neal. Neal pointed out that taking anti-depressants to help her get through the pressures of being a working mom with three beautiful daughters might be seen as taboo among black people since her solution is what many white women do. “Where normally our culture would call on the strength of the Lord in order to make it through, just being able to accept that this may be God’s answer for you also was okay.” To find out more about

Amelia’s psychological and spiritual coming to terms with managing stress and depression, you would have to read her chapter.  
**Sharion Thurman Reeves**  
Reeves’ chapter, “A Time to Rend and A Time to Mend,” dealt with the grief she experienced after losing her parents. “I lost my parents, both my parents within seven weeks of each other,” said Reeves. She added that the experience was a devastated time for her. “In going through it, the Lord gave me a way to deal with it, a healing process. Quite simply it was in the making of a quilt.” Reeves emphasized her lack of knowledge of the process and her process of learning in order to create her family quilt of memories. “I am no friend of a needle,” said Reeves. “Sewing, picking out the fabric, everything got me through the different phrases and phases of grief. And it taught me some-

thing about my heritage, both as an African-American woman and as a Thurman. It taught me something about my parents, about my mom and my dad and the heritage that comes from them.” As a result of Reeves experience with the quilt, she grew so much as a cultural being and had the opportunity, with her chapter in the book, to write it down. Reeves used African fabric to make her family quilt. “It has pictures of my family—my parents, my brothers and sister. It’s patches that I put together all by hand.” The four other women writer who contributed chapters to the book from other states are Janice Parker Watson (chapter eight), Mona Stallworth (chapter six), Cheryl Williams (chapters 2 & 5) and Kathleen Williams (chapter 11). For more information about purchasing the book, please email [info@cynthiaparkerwhite.com](mailto:info@cynthiaparkerwhite.com).



PIRATES



**ROBERTO CLEMENTE DAY**  
Join us to celebrate the life and legacy of a baseball legend.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 7:10 P.M.**

**RAYSBASEBALL.COM** **888-FAN-RAYS**