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1967

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

2017

The Weekly Challenger

BLACK MEN MUST SELL AS WELL AS BUY OR ELSE REMAIN A BEGGAR RACE.

VOL. 50 NO. 5

SEPTEMBER 21 - SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

50¢

IN THIS WEEK



PAGE 2
COMMUNITY NEWS
Visionary Brief -
Full circle



PAGE 3
COMMUNITY NEWS
Sickle Cell
Awareness Month



PAGE 5
COMMUNITY NEWS
Mo Bucket
visits JHOP

INDEX

COMMUNITY
NEWS
PAGES
2 - 5, 10 - 13

50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
PAGES 6 - 9

CHURCH
NEWS
PAGES 14 - 15



Join us October 27 at the Coliseum to celebrate the legacy of Cleveland Johnson and the history of the *Challenger*.

The Weekly Challenger turns 50!

BY LYN JOHNSON
Publisher

ST. PETERSBURG – Fifty years ago today, *The Weekly Challenger* came into existence. My father, Cleveland Johnson, Jr., borrowed \$40 from a friend to keep a months-old publication alive called the *Weekly Challenge* after the owner M.C. Fountain passed away. He added an “r” and the rest is history.

In the mid-1960s, Johnson began working in advertising for Fountain’s small publication called the *Weekly Advertiser*. He found that he had quite an aptitude for selling advertisement. Being a salesman was in his blood. His father was the first

African-American realtor in Pinellas County and sold homes to many of the leaders in the black community from his office on the Deuces.

Although born in Thomasville, Ga., in 1927, he considered himself a St. Pete native, moving here with his parents in 1934. He attended Davis Elementary and Gibbs High School. My father always said he graduated from Gibbs, but the truth be told, he dropped out before his senior year.

Another truth, he had a learning disability. If he were to be diagnosed today, doctors would probably call it dyslexia. This is probably why he constantly played hooky starting in

primary school, eventually giving up on the whole institution.

Before dropping out of high school, he got an older woman pregnant and my half-brother Bennie McCall was born. Later, he and Christine Childs sneaked off and got married behind their parent’s back, and from that union produced my other half-brother Tyrone Johnson.

All this happened before he dropped out of high school, before he was drafted and discharged from the United States Army and before meeting and marrying my mother, Ethel Johnson, née Burnett, in 1958.

In the early years of their marriage, he jumped from job to

job. He worked at a cafeteria in downtown St. Pete, sold dresses and jewelry out of the trunk of his car, opened a consignment shop and was even a pest control technician.

In the early 1960s, he found a friend and mentor in Fountain, who owned Fountain Printers on 16th Street South. He began selling advertisement for Fountain’s *Weekly Advertiser* in 1964. Here is where my father found his calling.

The two worked so well together that when Charlie Mann, a coordinator for the Community Service Foundation in Largo, suggested that a newspaper be created that focused

See **ANNIVERSARY**, page 6

My brother and sister’s keeper

BY GOLIATH J. DAVIS, III, PH.D
Contributor

ST. PETERSBURG – Data from the most recent mayoral race indicates those in the African-American community most at risk and desirous of reform voted for former Mayor Rick Baker or one of the other candidates on the ballot opposing the incumbent Mayor Rick Kriseman.

Baker is well known in the Midtown community and his accomplishments during his tenure as mayor were numerous and fueled the Midtown transformation with jobs, basic services, educational opportunities and business assistance.

Baker’s major opponent (Kriseman), on the other hand, was a stranger in Midtown prior to the recent electoral season and many of

Baker’s accomplishments have been lost under Kriseman’s administration.

Lacking a meaningful record of accomplishments, Kriseman and the Democratic Party have chosen to inject partisan politics into a non-partisan race and in doing so have managed to convince some to vote for a party rather than their interests and the interests of those still residing in areas ignored and underserved by Kriseman.

Those familiar with the history of 22nd Street and the historic African-American communities in St. Petersburg will remember the role integration played in dismantling community cohesiveness and economic diversity. Individuals and families capable of doing so moved out of segregated neighborhoods in search of greater opportunities and prosperity.

Those who could not move remained in previously segregated neighborhoods and continued to raise their families and fight for equality, basic services, jobs and economic growth. Some who were capable of moving on chose to stay given their commitment to the communities that nourished them and their ancestors.

Today, those of us who have moved on must answer the salient question: Are we our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers? During the civil rights era, doctors, lawyers, educators and other African-American professionals and middle-class families responded with a resounding: “Yes we are.”

Community activists responded affirmatively as well. In keeping with the principles of our Christian faith and their commitment to equality, diversity and



Goliath Davis

equal access, Joe Savage led the garbage strike, Dr. Fred Alsop led the effort to integrate Spa Beach, Dr. Robert Swain led the effort to remove racial housing covenants, Dr. Ralph Wimbush led the effort

See **KEEPER**, page 2

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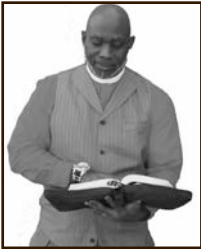
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Breaking the Cycle

REV. DR. ROBERT L. HARRISON, PH.D.
Men of S.T.E.E.L. Ministries
www.menofsteelministries.com

Praise the Lord Saints.
Today We hear of people testing the supernatural, by what they hear or see, by their experience, or by their feelings. If it feels good or right they “bear witness.” Another way is by just accepting it by faith, since whatever is happening is inside the church, and therefore must be from God. NONE of these are a biblical measure for Truth and has more in common with the way the world operates, than the Church.
John the Apostle agrees. He wrote in I Jn. 4:1-3: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”
1 John 4:1 tells us to try or “test the spirits.” Why? Because there are false prophecies given by false spirits not only outside the Church but inside. This mandate is for our protection. The way to test a false prophet was by doctrine, not by what they would actually say, because in Deut. 13 God says it can actually come to pass, but that he is testing you whether you love the Lord.
Jesus said, “If you love me you’ll continue in my word.” We need to be cautious in hearing spiritual”stuff”.
In Ezekiel there is an interesting Scripture Ezek. 13:2-3: “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, ‘Hear the word of the LORD!’” Thus says the Lord GOD: “Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!” God says one can actually say they are hearing from the Lord, but it really is their own spirit.
False prophets speak under a different spirit, to test them is for our own protection. 1 Jn.4- “Jesus has come in the flesh” means God came by Jesus as a man. He was raised in the same body and continues living in it. In 1 John 4, he is addressing those who denied that Christ (God) actually came as a human being, and has risen in the same body and will return in that same body. Those who deny this are anti-Christ. (see 2 Jn.7-9) this was one of the doctrinal tests applied to the prophets.
There is to be an order for prophecy, 1 Cor.14:29: “Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.” Prophecy is to be judged by others who

have the same gift or discernment. This guideline stresses accountability reduces the margin for error it also prevents someone from becoming a leader in prophecy. In the O.T. this is how they knew false prophets from true ones by those who really heard from the Lord and knew God and could discern whether they represented him correctly. Paul also writes in v.32 “And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.” Which seems to imply the old Testament prophets as well. Do they line up with the already revealed word.
1Thess. 5:19-22 V.19: “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies.2l Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” We are to be open to what God may have to say but not naive’. The word “prove” (Gr. doldmazo) means to discern or examine in order to prove whether or not a thing is acceptable. There is spiritual evil as well as a worldly evil. To Test all things means to test miracles as well as prophecy and teaching.
What I hear today is that only God heals the Devil destroys. This is nonsense! Would anyone say the true God healed someone in the Mormon church or in some cult? What about the gurus who boast of healings and great miracles? How do we discern that something is from God or not? Certainly to hold the position that God ONLY heals is disastrous for the reasons already mentioned. There are counterfeits and if they can take place outside the Church, there is no justification for anyone to say they can’t take place inside as well.
Mt. 7:1-2: “Do not judge lest you be judged. “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. “ Those who do not want to be tested in their teachings use this verse as immunization for any scrutiny of their faulty theology. Notice he says not to judge by our standard. Why? Because we all have different standards. But, there is a greater, more ultimate standard for all - God’s word. Vs.2 clarifies what Jesus is saying: if we make judgments on others, then we are to submit to be judged by the same standards. In other words if we judge another’s teaching by the word of God, then our teachings must also coincide with the truth of Gods word. How can we help another if we don’t receive correction or truth in our own life? We cannot judge another for their sin if we are guilty of the same. If we want to be a help, first remove our own sin. Then, we can operate on theirs.
Till next week, God Bless.
Rev. Dr. Robert L. Harrison, PhD



Visionary Brief
by Keisha Bell, Esq.

Full circle

Have you ever had a sense of déjà vu? Maybe such recognition was not a “sense” but an actual awareness of knowing that “Yes, in fact, I have been here before.”
How did it make you feel?
Meet Angela Yvonne Davis, known by many as simply Angela Davis. This powerhouse was born in Birmingham, Ala. on January 26, 1944. Being the child of a national organizer, Davis’ intellectual development was encouraged by communist organizers and thinkers. These early childhood influences are significant factors seen throughout her life.
In 1969, Davis was an acting assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). At that time, she gave her first lecture at UCLA’s Royce Hall to which then California Governor Ronald Reagan objected. He urged the university’s Board of Regents to fire Davis because of her membership in the Communist Party.
California Superior Court Judge Jerry Pacht forbade the Board of Regents from firing Davis solely because of her affiliation with the Communist Party. Davis’ employment was terminated during the following year, however, by the Board of Regents when they determined that she had used “inflammatory language” in four different speeches.
After her termination, Davis continued her work as a civil rights activist, an educator, author and lecturer. She has traveled and been embraced both nationally and internationally despite being charged in 1970 with aggravated kidnapping and first-degree murder in the death of Judge Harold Haley.
[Note: On August 18, 1970, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover listed Davis on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitive



Angela Yvonne Davis

List. On October 13, 1970, FBI agents arrested her. On June 4, 1972, a jury returned a verdict of not guilty.]
In 2014 an interesting thing happened. Things came full circle with one exception. Instead of being the object of disapproval, Davis was graciously welcomed. She returned to UCLA as a Board of Regents’ lecturer. In the same place where she had delivered her first speech 45 years earlier, Davis gave a public lecture in Royce Hall. Who would have guessed that?
Sometimes life will bring us to a place of unpleasantry, but those pit stops do not have to be our final destinations. Davis continued to do her life’s work no matter what her circumstance looked like and it brought her back to receive a gracious welcome where she once received a slap in the face. Davis persevered. May she be an example to us all.
Keisha Bell is an attorney, author, and public servant. www.emergingfree.com


My brother and sister’s keeper

KEEPER , from front page

to integrate the lunch counters, the Courageous Twelve integrated the police department and the list goes on.
Community activists who believe in African-American self-determination and police accountability fought then and now for African-American economic prosperity and safety. Omali Yeshitela and Chimueranga Waller continue this advocacy today and the self-proclaimed grass roots activist “Momma Tee” Lassiter remains committed to her advocacy as well.
I am my brother’s keeper and I have lived a life of service as proof of my commitment. I urge others to stop and think about the fact that while they may be able to go to a grocery store or pharmacy and easily access other basic services, many of our African-Ameri-

can brothers and sisters cannot.
Mayor Baker addressed these issues during his tenure with two grocery stores, pharmacies, a financial institution, Job Corp., renovated historical venues (Manhattan Casino, Royal Theatre, Jordan School, Mercy Hospital) jobs, 1,000 privately funded scholarships for free and reduced lunch students, etc.
Mayor Kriseman, on the other hand, lost the grocery store, lost Walgreens, lost Sylvia’s and shipped sewage to south St. Pete. He recently reminded us of his disregard for our history and culture with his attempt to give the Manhattan Casino to entities, not of the community and inconsistent with our heritage. The Sno-Peak site was awarded to individuals who will bring a BMW motorcycle shop to the 22nd Street Corridor.

Are we our brothers and sisters keepers? I firmly believe we are and know when we search our hearts we will vote for much-needed change on Nov. 7 and not be fooled by those who are trying to convince us that a man we know is Trump like.
Rick Baker is not Donald Trump. He has a proven record of commitment and accomplishment with African American-communities.
On the other hand, Rick Kriseman has a record of failure, neglect and indifference.
Those most in need of change have not been fooled by the Trump card Kriseman is trying play. They voted for a proven record and the man they know. Let’s support our brothers and sisters in search of change.




PICK OF THE WEEK!

39 22 6

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DOG DAYS



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

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All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted for publication on Thursday must be received no later than 4 p.m. Monday.

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THE BLACK PRESS believes that America can

best lead the world from racial antagonism when it accords to every man, regardless of race, creed or color, his human and legal rights. Hating no man, fearing no man... the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Assistance & cooperative education available

ST. PETERSBURG – Florida Cooperative Empowered Economic Development Corp. (Florida Ceed), a newly formed 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with the support of Workforce Innovation & Community Strategy and Local Food Park, Inc., has announced the launch of a cooperative development center located on the St. Pete campus of Pinellas Technical College (PTC).

“The engagement of these organizations with the development center creates a significant presence in our area for teaching and learning the skills needed to establish a larger, sustainable, cooperative economy,” said Florida Ceed’s Executive Director Judith Turner.

Florida Ceed operates as a Cooperative Business Development and Resource Center by providing education, training, and technical assistance to develop cooperative businesses through:

Community events that educate participants of all ages
Classroom and online technical and business education
One-on-one cooperative business technical assistance that allows access to specific resources



available to cooperatives
To achieve these goals, Florida Ceed will closely collaborate with PTC and programs in the community, including:

Workforce Innovation & Community Strategy at PTC

Local Food Project
Urban Agriculture
Local Time Banks

Planned classes at PTC and he St. Pete Green House, which provides counseling for local businesses, for fall 2017 and spring 2018 include a two-hour Introduction to Cooperatives and a six-week micro-course to help participants decide whether the cooperative business model is right for them. Micro-course topics will cover what legally defines a business as a cooperative, the different types of cooperatives, State statutes, IRS and accounting rules, by-

laws and governance.

Follow-up workshops will help teams develop their cooperative business model and connect them to the necessary resources for their specific type of co-op.

Upcoming events offered at the St. Petersburg Greenhouse, and at PTC will begin this month and include a variety of formats ranging from co-op cafe with discussions about co-op history, book club, readings about co-ops and how-to’s of creating a cooperative eco-system. For event information, dates and times, check our Facebook page, sign up for emails or visit our website.

For groups or individuals who wish to volunteer, assist, or intern for college credit, contact Judith Turner at floridaceed@gmail.com

National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month

ST. PETERSBURG – September is National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month which coincides with the Sickle Cell Disease Association St. Petersburg Chapter, Inc. 45th anniversary on Sept. 30 at the St. Petersburg Country Club, located at 2000 Country Club Way S.

The term sickle cell disease (SCD) describes a group of inherited red blood cell disorders. People with SCD have abnormal hemoglobin, called hemoglobin S or sickle hemoglobin, in their red blood cells.

Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body.

“Inherited” means that the disease is passed by genes from parents to their children. SCD is not contagious. A person cannot catch it, like a cold or infection, from someone else.

If a person has sickle cell disease (SCD), it is

present at birth. But most infants do not have any problems from the disease until they are about 5 or 6 months of age. Every state in the United States, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories requires that all newborn babies receive screening for SCD. When a child has SCD, parents are notified before the child has symptoms.

Some children with SCD will start to have problems early on and some later. Early symptoms of SCD may include:

Painful swelling of the hands and feet, known as dactylitis

Fatigue or fussiness from anemia

A yellowish color of the skin, known as jaundice, or whites of the eyes, known as icteris that occurs when a large number of red cells hemolyze

Sickle Cell Disease Association St. Petersburg Chapter has a new ambassador this year. Her name Antonesia Jackson and



Antonesia Jackson

she will be serving from 2017-19.

She is the eight-year-old daughter of Jasmine Jackson, who has been a very good advocate for the cause. As the new ambassador, Antonesia will assist in activities for September Sickle Cell Awareness month and in this chapter’s 45th anniversary celebration.

Medicare Advantage seminars Oct. 7 & 17

ST. PETERSBURG – SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is holding an informational seminar on Medicare Advantage Plans and Prescription Drug Plans at the St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 Ninth Avenue N, on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 11 a.m. The same FREE seminar will be at the South Community Library, 2300 Roy Hanna Drive South, on Tuesday, October 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Each seminar will provide attendees with more specifics about MA Plans including HMOs and PPOs. Attendees will learn what they are, how they work and when to join. The seminars are free and open to the public. Call the Main Library at (727) 893-7724, or South Community Library at (727) 893-7244, to reserve a seat.

If you are new to Medicare or have questions about your current Medicare programs, a SHINE counselor will also be available by appointment at the St Petersburg Main Library or the South Community Library for one-on-one counseling. The SHINE counselor can help answer your questions, assist with enrollment in Medicare Savings Programs, help resolve Medicare coverage issues and appeals, and



can help you determine which Medical and/or Medicare Prescription Drug Plan best fits your needs. The service is free and open to the public.

During the Medicare open enrollment period (Oct. 15 to Dec. 7), a SHINE counselor will be available at Main Library on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; call (727) 893-7724 to make an appointment.

And, a SHINE counselor will be available at South Community Library on the following dates: Oct. 19, Oct. 24, Oct. 31, Nov. 2, Nov. 7, Nov. 9, Nov. 14, Nov. 16, Nov. 21, Nov. 28, Nov. 30, and Dec. 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. during the Medicare open enrollment period (Oct. 15 to Dec. 7); call (727) 893-7244 to make an appointment.

You can also call the SHINE helpline for phone assistance at 1-800-963-5337.

The St. Petersburg

Library System is pleased to offer this service in partnership with SHINE and the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc., and as a part of its Community Development Initiative, a method to enhance the provision of resources, services, and programs focused on the Education, Economy, Ecology, Equity, Efficiency and Engagement of our community.

About Your St. Petersburg Library

St. Petersburg’s Library System provides library resources to meet the educational, recreational, cultural, intellectual and social needs of its diverse community. It operates seven community libraries, including the Main Library, North Community Library, South Community Library, West Community Library, Johnson Community Library, Mirror Lake Community Library and a micro-library at Childs Park. For more information, visit www.splibraries.org.



SICKLE CELL Motown / Jazzy BENEFIT DINNER



AND.....45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Join us for a special Lunch & Learn during Infant Mortality Awareness Month (September). Healthy Start, a program at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and the Tampa Bay HealthCare Collaborative will present a screening and discussion of **The Raising of America: DNA Is Not Destiny.** This event will provide an opportunity to discuss how early experiences get under the skin, altering which genes get switched on and which stay off- with possible lifetime consequences. Raising of America explores how a strong start for all of our children can lead to a healthier, stronger, and more equitable America. **This event is free to attend. Lunch will be provided. Registration is required.** Register to attend: www.HopkinsAllChildrens.org/LunchandLearn

Wednesday, September 27th from 11:30am-1:00pm
Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Education & Conference Center, Auditorium
701 4th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

For more Information, visit www.HopkinsAllChildrens.org/HealthyStart or call 727-767-6780.



Baby Photo Contest

Calling all parents and guardians!
Share your child's cutest photo for a chance to win a 2018 Healthy Start calendar cover spotlight and bragging rights that your baby is truly the cutest around!

- How to enter:
- Go to link online.
 - Complete form and submit your baby's most recent photo.

*Ages of entry are from birth up to two years of age.
There will only be one grand prize winner whose photo will be featured on the Healthy Start 2018 calendar cover and a framed photo of your child. Twelve runner-ups will be featured in the different months of the year. Calendar scheduled to be released Fall 2017.
Register and submit baby photos online at www.HopkinsAllChildrens.org/photocontest
Registration ends on October 1st.
FMI, please call 727-767-6780 or visit www.HopkinsAllChildrens.org/HealthyStart

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See! Trump Jr., Russians, orphan adoption meeting! \$\$\$\$\$, millions of dollars! Maybe conflicts of interest??

BY YVONNE SCRUGGS-LEFTWICH, PH.D.

As MSNBC's *Morning Joe* Co-Host, Mika Brzezinski said recently on the Show:

"It is time for us to see what we SEE!" Brzezinski means that, in our frustration to understand, clarify and analyze numerous slapstick side shows of Trump's presidency, we must also look beyond the obvious, under the cover-ups, to see deals for money-making in a different disguise from what we might expect. Thus, "Orphans" as the topic of the 2016 meeting which Trump Jr. held with Russians at New York's Trump Tower, is not "a red herring" or "fake news" or even "a witch hunt."

Trump Jr's dirt-collection errand, on the invitation of a "mysterious Russian operative" who offered to deliver dirty goods on candidate Hilary Clinton in the midst of the 2016 Presidential contest, is not all that counter-intuitive. Actually, the meeting could have been "Baiting" by the Russians, trying to achieve one of their very top priorities. They want to remove the obstacles of sanctions which have been debilitating the Russians' formerly active and lucrative Orphan Adoptions Industry.

The U.S.'s 2012 "Magnitsky Act" is seen as a major obstacle to restoration of formerly brisk participation by Americans in the heavily monetize, expensive and well resourced Russian Orphans Adoptions Industry. American claims of befuddlement - that the "Orphans" who were the Russians' alleged topic of that 2016 meeting involving Trump Jr. and his deal-making crew, had nothing to do with anything of importance, (Trump Jr. called it a "nothing-burger"), is dissembling. Here is what I "SEE" ... looking at real facts and real data, which is seldom actually the practice of the Trump White House core Team, who seem to prefer alternative facts and alternative data.

Recent reports about the "Orphan Adoption" crisis in Russia and the role of American sanctions' in that crisis, suggest that Orphans' adoptions probably were the Russians' primary meeting agenda priority. "Dirt on Clinton" probably was just a diversion to insure that undivided attention would be paid to the money-making "Adoption Industry" which can yield big-time brokers' fees, bribes and other palm-greasers and money transfers. If we follow the money, here's what we will see.

The Orphan Care Alliance* has gathered the following statistics which assess both the Russian supply, the potential opportunities for Russian Brokers, and as well, the Americans (deep pockets) adoption demand. Add the costs - of many "gratuities" for many facilitators at many junctions, to achieve adoption's end. (Just do the Math and see millions of dollars, to be made and paid.)

"By the Numbers: European & Russian Adoption*" Total European & Russian Adoptions: 1988-2011: 17,269
Estimated Number Orphaned Children in Russia: 900,000
Estimated Orphaned children: Central East Europe, Central Asia: 1.3 Million
Average # of days to process Adoptions: 30-45
Ave.Cost of Adopting one Russian child: \$25,000 to \$35,000
Added fees may also include other multipliers, regional variations and highly flexible costs for consultation-facilitation by local Russian "handlers" - who probably were represented by at least one of the Russians attending the Trump Jr and crew's meeting in June, 2016, which is currently leading U.S.news headlines.

Using Orphan Care Alliance's*data and "monetizing" effective January

2013, Russia placed a ban on adoptions by U.S. families."

Data published in the Annual Report on Inter-country Adoptions (2015), reveal: "Intercountry adoptions have dropped, from 22,884 in the peak year FY2004, to 6,441 in FY 2014. "Over those years from 2004 to 2014 Russia accounted for 34% of this reduction. Zero Russian children were adopted in 2015 into the United States. The decrease was attributed, in part, to the Magnitsky Act, passed in 2012 to punish Russia for Sergi Magnitsky's death in a Russian prison.... In part, Putin's Russian Federal Law 272 FZ, was passed in 2013, in retaliation against the U.S.'s 2012 Magnitsky's Act."

There is reasonable logic to conjecture that success in addressing this problem could be achieved, given the entrepreneurial reputations and mercantilistic instincts of the Trump JR Crew, which was the U.S. negotiation flank confronting the Russians and fellow-travelers. Since the Russians arrived for the meeting with portfolios, reportedly of no great value with regard to "dirt on candidate Clinton" (the "nothing-burger"), Trump Jr. and crew probably were the appropriate targets for those hoping to revive the Russian-United States adoption relationship. Did they represented the money side, or the U.S. government side of the table?? Who knows, since it is not known what was actually discussed.

The Russians, however, apparently pursued their priority of infinitely greater value and interest to themselves: lifting the persistent obstacles to Oligarchs and other collaborators, whose industry of facilitating deals, such as those involving Russians and Americans navigating the obstacles within the Russian Adoption Industry. Once the Magnitsky Act, and then, the Russian retaliatory Federal Law 272 FZ - both- are revoked and thus, neutralize each other, the lucrative Orphan Adoption Industry can return to status-quo anti - that is, back to business as usual.

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ing" actual adoption transactions which have occurred and been made possible through unfettered market activities (perhaps underlying the Trump Jr. crew's Russian discussions at the June 2016 meeting?). See examples of monetary outcomes! Those who reject this data-analysis, choose to ignore the nuanced patterns of deal-making by those fixated on money in general, and in particular, on how to increase their own money supply.

DO THE MATH !!
Below are examples of gross transactions, showing potential monetary gains when the transaction is monetized by benefits of the Russian Orphan Adoptions market:

1) Adoptions European/Russian : 1988 - 2011: # = 17,269, or: 17,269 Adoptions x \$35,000 Average Cost/ adoption = \$ 604,415,000, Monetary Yield or/costs;

2) Adoptions beginning @ peak-Year (FY2004) thru last year before Magnitsky Act - Minimum Average Cost per each Adoption: \$35,000 2004 Total American adoptions from Russia: 5,682 X \$35,000= \$198,870,000

3) Grand Total; 22,884 Adoptions of Russian children @ \$35,000/child = \$800,940,000!

These data emphasize the linkage between the adoption industry in Russia and an enterprising process of supply and demand, currently being obstructed by the barriers and the restrictions, on both the American side (Magnitsky Law), as well as the Russian retaliatory side (Russian Law 272 FZ). The experts say: "Russia's decrease has greatly contributed to the overall decline in the number of inter-country adoptions by U.S. families. In FY 2004, U.S. families adopted an historically high number of 5,682 Russian children, 25% of all intercountry adoptions to the United States that year."

Especially in view of the rich money-making potential and private sector nature of the Orphan Adoption Industry in Russia, the question is : who will benefit? Probably, NOT the United States government. But the Russians, who met with Trump JR and his posse, probably knew that all along. All of this looks like a familiar exchange, Bait and Switch, but is what My son, Jason, calls, "Cash AND Carry!"

About the Author:

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, Ph.D, is a Political Scientist, an award-winning writer (BWNG, Front Page Award; NABJ Griot Award), and is recognized as one of the most significant thinkers in the modern Civil Rights and government policy community. She has authored several books, countless articles, is a Library of Congress HistoryMaker; 113th Congressional Record Honoree; was a Fulbright Fellow in Germany; and was inducted into the St. Petersburg, Florida, Hall Of Fame. Website: www.yscruggs.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mo Bucket visits JHOP

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Marreese Speights, aka Mo Buckets, scored points with the students of John Hopkins Middle School (JHOP) during lunchtime as he continues his commitment to speak to schools as part of his motivational program. Standing 6 feet, 11 inches, he towered over the young energetic middle schoolers, but he made sure not to speak over their heads.

As a native of St. Pete, when Principal Dr. Dallas Jackson asked him to speak to the students, Speights quickly accepted the chance to give back to his hometown. Jackson brought Speights in for the students so they could see a walking success story and perhaps inspire them to “dream and achieve success toward that dream.”

“He represents a real life story and not a movie with a star that you never get to meet,” said Jackson. “The kids can identify with him because he grew up here and they see him in the grocery store or their neighborhood. He has made strides in life and somebody can learn from that.”

Speights, born August 4, 1987, is a professional basketball player for the Orlando Magic. He played college basketball at University of Florida, where he was a freshman member of the Florida Gators’ NCAA national championship team in 2007. The Philadelphia 76ers selected him with the 16th overall pick in the 2008 NBA draft. He has played with Memphis Grizzlies (2012–13), Cleveland Cavaliers (2013), the Golden State Warriors (2013–16) where he won his first NBA championship and the Los Angeles Clippers (2016–17).

Speights grew up in



the Childs Park area. He played basketball at Admiral Farragut Academy, where they retired his jersey number after one year. He also played basketball at Hargrave Military Academy and at Gibbs High School.

Considered a four-star recruit by Rivals.com, Speights was listed as the No. 13 power forward and the No. 51 player in the nation in 2006.

His journey wasn’t without challenges and much of it was his own doing. With others charting his projected fame and athletic prowess, it was challenging for Speights to stay focused on developing into what others saw as potential. This journey has framed his message to the youth on decision making.

“You have to stay focused on the thing that you want to become,” said Speights. “There are people out here who really do care about you. They are your parents, teachers, principal, people at the recreation center and me. I care! You have watch out for the people that you

hang out with, places that you go and the things that you do. These will determine how things turn out for you.”

Speights’ love for the youth prompted him to start a not-for-profit organization focusing on encouraging adolescence and giving them opportunities to excel.

Along with speaking at schools and youth organizations, the Marreese Speights Foundation, entitled mo4kids, has partnered with High Point Gamer to present the Stix to Glory Scholarship Tournament. The tournament is a way of rewarding kids through console gaming. Selected students will compete at NBA2k17 on the PS4. The winner receives a \$5K scholarship prize.

Mo Buckets found his passion and encouraged JHOP students to work hard and find their path to success. He showed them that success is attainable and never out of reach.

To reach Dexter McCree, email dmccree@theweeklychallenger.com



Visionary Brief by Keisha Bell, Esq.

Take a stand, Part 1

Are you the type of person to do something about racial injustice or are you a “go-along-to-get-along” type in the face of racism?

At times, the fight for racial equity can seem overwhelming. Still, what is your contribution for righting civil racial wrongs—not only for yourself— but for those generations coming after you?

Meet Septima Poinsette Clark. Clark was an educator and a civil rights activist.

Due to discriminatory laws and practices in South Carolina, Clark was barred from teaching in public schools in Charleston because she was African American. As a result, she landed a teaching position in a rural school district in Johns Island in Charleston County.

It was during this time that Clark developed innovative methods to rapidly teach adults how to read and write using everyday items such as the Sears catalog.

Not only was Clark denied an opportunity to teach within the city of Charleston, but she also was impacted by the gross discrepancies in pay as well as the student-to-teacher classroom ratio that existed between her school and the white school across the street.

Because of these inequalities, Clark became actively involved in pay equalization for teachers. In 1919, her pay equalization work, as well as, her experiences of growing up in a racially discriminatory Charleston motivated her to participate in the Civil Rights Movement.

Clark returned to the city of Charleston and took part in her first political action with its NAACP chapter. She led her students and got 10,000 signatures in one day to allow black principals at Avery Normal Institute, a private school for black students. In 1920, Clark enjoyed her first legal victory when blacks were given the right to become principals in Charleston’s public schools.

In 1945, Clark worked with Thurgood Marshall on a case that was about equal pay for white and black teachers led by the NAACP in Columbia, S.C. Their work was victorious.

In 1956, Clark obtained the position of vice president of the Charleston NAACP branch. Interestingly, that same year the South Carolina legislature



Septima Poinsette Clark

passed a law banning city or state employees from being involved with civil rights organizations. Clark refused to leave the NAACP. As a result, she was fired from her job by the Charleston City School Board and lost her pension after 40 years employment.

Not surprisingly, no school in Charleston would hire her. She did, however, find support from a black teachers’ sorority that held a fundraiser for her benefit, but its members feared losing their jobs and all refused to have their picture taken with her.

[Note: Later, Clark won her fight for the reinstatement of her pension and back pay. In addition, she served two terms on the Charleston County School Board. Who would have predicted that?]

Everyone will not make the same decision that Clark made if faced with conscious awareness about the overt racism that affects their livelihood. That expectation is unfair. Some people will assist from “behind the scenes” as did the black teachers’ sorority.

The question to those of us who say that we are against various/all forms of discrimination — whether the discriminatory practice is against one’s race/color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, personal association, political belief, pregnancy status, sex, etc. — is: “Will you take a stand, in your own way, for what you say you believe?” Your answer will have a national ripple.

Keisha Bell is an attorney, author, and public servant. www.emergingfree.com

THE ‘BURG VOTES

Visit www.TheBurgVotes.com as your central information station about the black vote in St. Petersburg's Nov. 7 General Election by the Power Broker Magazine, The Weekly Challenger Newspaper & partners.

50th YEAR CELEBRATION

Celebrate 50 years of community Oct. 27

ANNIVERSARY, from front page

strictly on African-American news, Fountain and my father jumped at the offer for an interest-free loan from the foundation to get the ball rolling.

Unlike the *Weekly Advertiser* that ceased publication in 1966, the *Weekly Challenge* would feature actual news articles with *St. Petersburg Times* reporter Mamie Brown heading up the reporting. The first publication date was Sept. 21, 1967. It would have been printed at Fountain's print shop, but he was hospitalized the week before so the *Dunedin Times* printed the first 4,000 copies of the new publication.

Fountain never regained his health so my father completed the paperwork and paid the \$40 fee to have the business put in his name. He successfully built a newspaper on spotlighting the positives in the black community.

Up until 1967, African Americans in Pinellas County were hard pressed to find positive and uplifting news about themselves. *The St. Petersburg Times* had the "Negro news page" in which they featured stories about weddings, clubs and schools, but other than that, African Americans made the news as criminals or oddities.

In a history written about the *Times'* first 100 years of existence, then deputy metropolitan editor Robert Hooker wrote: "The *Times* treated blacks like most American newspapers did: When it didn't ignore them altogether, it exaggerated their deficiencies. Occasionally in the late 1890s and early 1900s, the paper had a column of "colored news." It was short-lived, however. For the next 40 years, the city's black residents virtually disappeared from the paper, except when they were involved in crime. That was covered so thoroughly that the word "Negro" (usually not capitalized in a headline) became synonymous with "criminal."

Hooker wrote that the words "nigger," "darkies," or "burr heads" were often used. The only positive news about African Americans was relegated to the "Negro news page" that was only circulated in black neighborhoods. By the time 1967 rolled around and integration began to take hold, the page was discontinued.

"Black news now competed with the rest of the news, and an event that once warranted a few paragraphs on the Negro page rarely made the paper anymore," wrote Hooker.

The *Weekly Challenger* stepped in and filled the void. Instead of one page of positive news, the *Challenger* started off printing four to eight pages weekly, growing to a 32-page publication by the 1980s.

Never did you see a negative story about black people, and never will you see one. He always said, "If you want to read about black people doing something bad, pick up the *St. Pete Times*, but if you want to read about black people doing something positive, pick up a *Challenger*."

Black men must sell as well as buy or else remain a beggar race

That tagline remained on the front page of *The Weekly Challenger* until my father's death in 2001. That was his credo and he believed every word of it too.

He lent money to countless numbers of people in hopes that would become business owners. Many times he never saw a dime of that money returned, but he was aware of that going in.

In the early 1970s, my father met a young man by the name of Aaron Williams. He knew Williams had a sharp mind and should be in business for himself. In typical Cleveland Johnson fashion, he told Williams to "leave them damn niggas alone" at the economic development department of the city.

"I said, 'Well Cleve, I have nothing to ... you know ... for collateral.' He says, 'OK, I'll do \$10,000 and you pay me back.'"

Little by little, Williams paid him back every penny, and his business, Suncoast Hair Care Center, still sits on 34th Street South almost 40 years later.

"I would go to him for counseling ... this man had a knack that very few people had. I don't mean with a business degree, just a go-get-'em to maintain and sustain his business," said Williams, who took my father's creed to heart.

My father mentored Williams in a way that Fountain mentored him. He'd hang around the office and my father would put him to work. Williams shared a story I've heard all of my life.

"We went to get an ad from JCPenney's over in Tampa. They kept us waiting a long time. We sat there and finally somebody came out and said, 'Sorry, but we don't see how we can do business with you.' Cleve said to him, 'I'll tell you what, if I

made available for research or awareness.

This was unacceptable to Murph. Her two daughters had been diagnosed and she made it her life's mission to learn how to manage the disease and spread awareness.

She eventually appointed Martin Rainey as chairman of the organization in the early 1980s, and that is when he came in contact with my father. They struck up a deal that every time something noteworthy happened pertaining to the disease, it would be published.

Once my father became chairman of the Southeast Black Publishers Association, he arranged for Rainey to be placed on the agenda at one of their meetings. From that moment on, any news about sickle cell could be seen in papers all throughout the state of Florida.

Sickle cell awareness began to spread. Other Florida chapters popped up and by the end of Rainey's seven-year administration, 22 sickle cell foundations had come into existence from Pensacola to Key West.

"Your father was the catalyst for bringing sickle cell to the forefront in the state of Florida," Rainey said.

By working together to spread awareness of sickle cell, Rainey and my father became fast friends. They both shared a love of music and ended up sponsoring and promoting jazz jam sessions together.

My father lived for jazz. From a small child, I can remember listening daily to the collaboration of songs sung by Ella Fitzgerald with Duke

was the only music he was interested in.

His love of jazz led him to team up with jazz great Al Downing and form a supergroup. With the exception of Rainey, all 18 members were band directors. For about five years, this group delighted audiences around Tampa Bay.

My father didn't perform with any of the bands, promoting them was good enough for him. He was just happy to be around the music.

"I mean, everywhere we went all you could hear was jazz. He played nothing but jazz on his radio," recalled Williams, who said he was first introduced to the genre by my father.

A sharp dressed man

Since I became publisher of *The Weekly Challenger* in 2012, I've had scads of people approach me to tell me about their experience with my father. There are always two common topics of conversation: his clothes and his Cadillacs.



During the 1980s, his favorite tailor was Angres Chapman, who set up shop in downtown St. Petersburg in 1947. As a black man living in segregated St. Pete, Chapman became one of the first African Americans to set up business in the area.

After leaving the city for 29 years, Chapman returned and my father became one of his biggest clients and closes friends.



He had a custom-made suit for any and every occasion, with shoes to match. My mother had to have a separate closet because his clothes and shoes overtook the master bedroom walk in.

"He walked around the corner in a canary yellow suit," laughed Harry Harvey, his friend of 30 years. "You don't find many dark-skinned men wearing yellow and look good."

Harvey became friends with my father in the early 1970s. He worked as a juvenile parole officer at an office down from *The Weekly Challenger* on Ninth Street (Martin Luther King Jr. Street).

"He would go and buy food and would come back and say, 'let's eat, let's eat.' I'd sit there and we'd eat and talk. I can get talking about that and get tears in my eyes because he made you feel like you were somebody," he recalled.

Harvey and my father both entered the Mr. Wonderful Contest sponsored by the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Neither one of them won.

"I was always messing with him about his dress," Harvey said, noting that my father would always talk it down.

That man spent more time in front of the mirror than anyone in the house, especially when a newly tailored suit arrived.



Aaron Williams

don't have an ad in my office by the time I get back there, I'll have 100 niggas in front of every JCPenney's you got, picketing."

Williams said my father walked out of that office just as confident as he walked in, and by the time the two of them got back to St. Pete, the advertising agency for JCPenney's had called.

One story Williams relayed that I had never heard before was about his side project called the *Inflation Fighter*. For reasons unknown to Williams, my father started up a free publication separate from *The Weekly Challenger*.

For about five years, the *Inflation Fighter* hit the streets with Williams' name on the masthead as editor-in-chief.

"We'd lay it out right there in that office like we laid out the *Challenger*. We'd take it to the printer, and then I'd throw them."

"I've survived 37 years following some of Cleve's advice," Williams said.

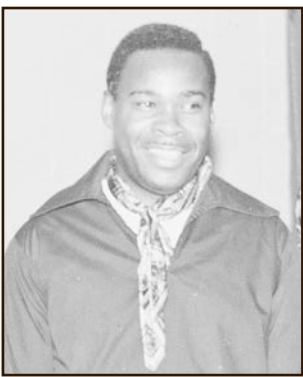
Lifelong friendships
Forty-five years ago, Mary Murph founded the Sickle Cell Disease Association St. Petersburg Chapter in response to the lack of information available. Considered a black person's disease, money was not readily

Ellington and his orchestra in accompaniment. "Take the "A" Train," "Mood Indigo" and "It Don't Mean a Thing" became a part of my everyday soundtrack.

Rainey and the Downbeats were booked solid in venues throughout Pinellas County. My father enjoyed promoting the band, especially when his son Tyrone would pick up the saxophone or the flute and join in.

His love of music started at a very early age. He took private piano lessons here in St. Pete throughout the school year, and when his parents would follow the tourism industry to New York for jobs, his mother, Evie Johnson, née Rhodes, enrolled him in summer courses at The Juilliard School.

He was trained classically at Juilliard, but jazz



A young Martin Rainey

Those flamboyant canary yellow and lime green suits all came from his shop.

My father loved clothes. As a young man, he sold women's clothing in Miami out of the trunk of his car. He did so well



Frances Pinckney

that the wholesale dealer he worked for told him if he'd been a white man, he'd be rich.

When he moved back to St. Pete, he'd still make Miami runs to pick up the latest fashions and continued selling them out of his trunk. In the 70s and 80s, during the height of the newspaper, he continued to sell clothes, costume jewelry and even opened a wig shop. He was really into fashion.

He was also really into his Cadillacs. He bought his first used Cadillac in the late 1950s.

"He told me," said Williams, "my first Cadillac, boy, I had to tie the door with a clothes hanger, but it was a Cadillac."

My mother remembers those days when he would ride in on fumes to the gas station and only have 50 cents to put in the tank.

"Boy, I could just put enough gas in there to get to the next gas station sometimes," he told Williams.

Every other year, he upgraded to a barely used car until he bought his first brand spanking new Cadillac in 1977.

During the process of writing this article, I found out that I'm actually a distant cousin of Murph. She and my father are second cousins. So I asked her for a funny story and she delivered.

When Murph went into labor with her oldest daughter, her husband, Amuel Murph, was overseas in the army. My father was the only one around with a car. He wasn't about to let her give birth in his car, so he went speeding through the streets of St. Pete.

"He was trying to hurry up and get me out of there," laughed Murph. ***

Many of his former employees have retired, moved away or passed on. His office manager and right hand Cynthia Armstrong passed away in 2002, advertising guru William Blackshear retired and left the area and political genius and ad man Lonnie Donaldson also passed away.

There are still a few around such as Jeanie Blue, who helped me tremendously when I took over in 2012. Harrison Nash kept his role as cir-

ulation manager until he fell ill, columnist Deanie Victor, reporter turned general manager Dianne Speights and columnist Frances Pinckney are a few still in the area.

Pinckney wrote for the paper for more than 40 years. During that time she had several columns. His one stipulation was for his writers not to offend, especially not the advertisers.

And that is exactly what Pinckney did. She wrote a piece on an article written in a Catholic newspaper that she felt was bias. Being Catholic herself, her pastor wrote a letter to my father.

ANNIVERSARY, continued on page 7

50th YEAR CELEBRATION

ANNIVERSARY, from page 6

"I had to write a letter, kind of an apology. It didn't turn out to be an apology, though," Pinckney said.

"He called and told me, 'Well, Frances,' he said, 'your letter was worse than the column.'"

As it turns out, her pastor was on the board of directors at Mass Brothers, a high-end retail store comparable to Dillard's, and her letter caused a stir.

"I got laid off for a while. I had to lay low, and I understood....," she said.

Reporter Winnie Foster, on the other hand, was not as understanding. My father told her to kill a story she'd been working on about how the city was not following federal law in their hiring practices.

According to Foster, "three white men in suits"

visited my father and told him the city's legal advertisement would be pulled if they went ahead with the story.

Foster refused to back down and quit.

The legacy continues

My father always had a menthol cigarette in his hand. Even when he was diagnosed with lung cancer, he continued to smoke. He passed away July 29, 2001, 11 days before his 74th birthday. His funeral was held at Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church where Rev. Louis Murphy Sr. tends his flock. His old friend Pastor Rainey officiated over the service.

He left behind to cherish his memory, his wife Ethel Johnson; daughters Wanda, Lyn and Sakia Johnson. Sons Bennie

McCall and Cyrille Johnson; granddaughters Traci Mayes and Keirsten Johnson and grandson Tyrone Cleveland Johnson, Jr. Son Tyrone Cleveland Johnson, Sr. proceeded him in death.

My father also left behind a legacy of community empowerment and entrepreneurship. He was known not only for his business acumen but also for his generosity. He contributed regularly to scholarship funds, gave interest-free loans and many times he gave knowing he would never see a dime in return.

He often gave paper routes to youngsters and made it a stipulation that they helped buy their own school clothes. One such former paperboy is now Senator Darryl Rouson.

My father influenced generations of people, and his legacy continues.

Please join us in honoring the legacy of Cleveland Johnson, Jr. while celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *The Weekly Challenger* newspaper. From stories of local heroes to legends and leaders within our community – we've made history together!

Due to Hurricane Irma, the legacy team members postponed the celebration until Oct. 27. It will still be held at the historic Coliseum. Tickets to the celebration are available to purchase directly on our website (www.theweeklychallenger.com), on the Sanderlin Center's website (www.sanderlinfamilycenter.org) and locally at the Coliseum, Gallerie

909 and Kidz World Preschool.

\$50 Per Person | \$500 Table of 8 | Table Sponsorships are Available

For more information or to sponsor, contact Deborah Figgs-Sanders (727) 420-2819 or email us

at Celebrate50@theweeklychallenger.com.

Not only do we invite you to take a walk through history with us, we'd like to continue making history together – a new narrative for the legacy of our community.



Cleveland Johnson with members of the Orange Blossom Beautician Association

Another point of view

BY PAMELA DAVIS
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION: A SPECIAL WEEKLY PAGE

Originally published Feb. 16, 1998

This month's theme: Florida's Black History

When you look at a newspaper, do you see yourself?

Representing all readers is a continuing challenge for newspapers. In the past, some white newspaper editors chose to ignore the African-American community while others, including the *St. Petersburg Times*, put African-American news in separate sections of the paper.

That second-class treatment led black citizens to publish their own

newspapers and fill them with news that focused solely on the black community. Until the end of the Civil War in 1865, most of those black-oriented newspapers were published in the north.

The first newspaper in Florida under African-American ownership was the *New Era* in Gainesville. Josiah Walls, Florida's first black member of Congress, purchased the paper in 1873. Later, Walls joined fellow lawyer Matthew M. Lewey to publish the *Farmer's Journal*.

In 1887, Lewey became the state's first black newspaper editor with the publication of the *Sentinel Bulletin*. The paper's stated purpose was: "the enlightenment

of Negroes and the development of pride in themselves, their state, their heritage, and faith in their own abilities."

Evolution of news for black readers

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, the *St. Petersburg Times* published a short-lived column of "colored news." When the column ended, black people virtually disappeared from the paper unless they were involved in crimes.

A black newspaper called *The Public Informer* started publishing in St. Petersburg in 1938 and continued for several years. Another black-oriented paper, *The Pinellas Negro Weekly*, had at least one issue in 1944, but local historians are still

seeking more information about that publication.

It wasn't until the *Times* offered a Negro news page that St. Petersburg's black residents received favorable coverage. The page included births, obituaries, weddings, sports and church news and was circulated only in black neighborhoods.

St. Petersburg resident Mamie Brown was hired in 1952 as the *Times*' first full-time black society writer.

"I used to go downtown to the Greyhound bus station to see who was coming into town so I'd have some social notes. That's how I started out," says Brown. "I was 21 years old and my father made me a little

mail box to leave on my front door step for people who had news items to drop in."

In 1948 the Negro news page began daily publication. By 1967 it was abolished.

The page "was considered to be very progressive at the time they were doing this, but it became a kind of anachronism by the '60s," says St. Petersburg historian Ray Arsenault. "In 1939 it may have been interpreted as a step in the right direction, but by 1966 it was embarrassing."

After the *Times* stopped running its Negro page, Brown found another publication to write for – a new paper that published stories specifically about St. Petersburg's black commu-

nity. She found *The Weekly Challenger*.

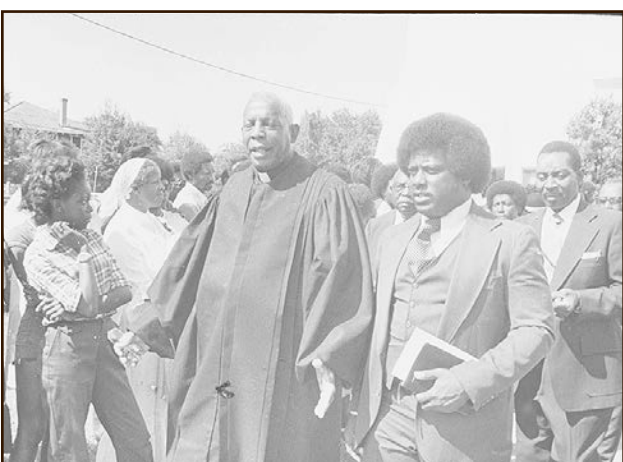
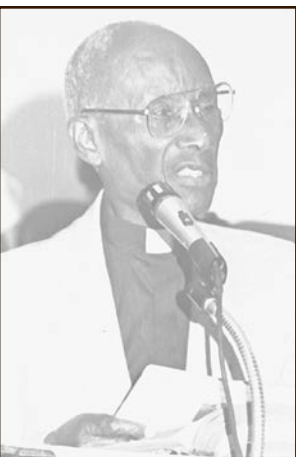
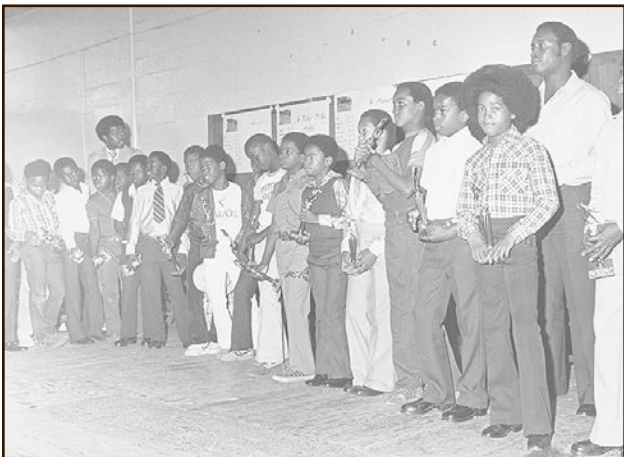
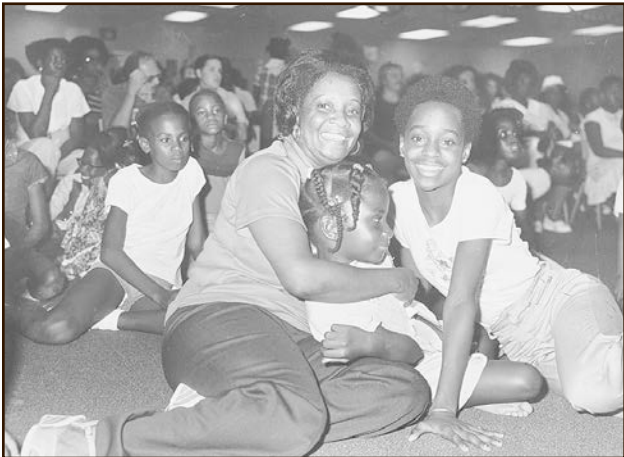
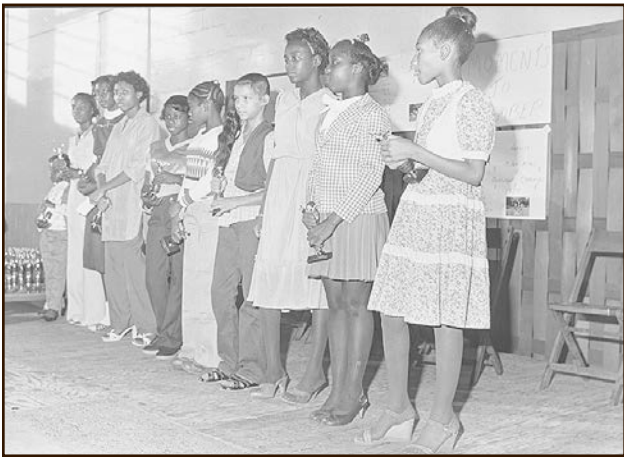
The 30-year-old *Weekly Challenger* is published by St. Petersburg resident Cleveland Johnson. The paper is St. Petersburg's main source of news about its black residents, offering advertising and favorable coverage of special interest to black readers.

In Tampa, the *Florida Sentinel Bulletin* has been publishing for more than 75 years under African-American ownership. Florida now has about 15 African-American newspapers, including the *Miami Times* and *Capital Outlook* in Tallahassee.

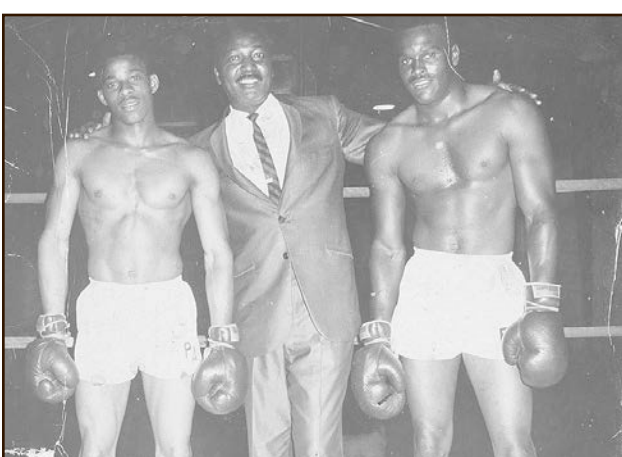
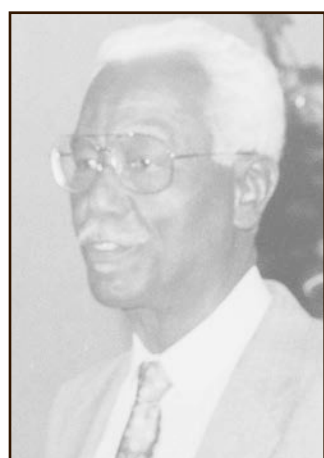
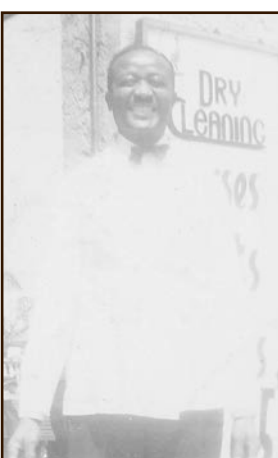
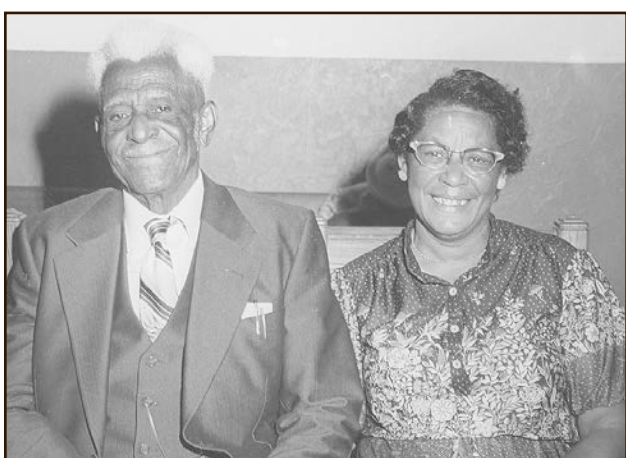
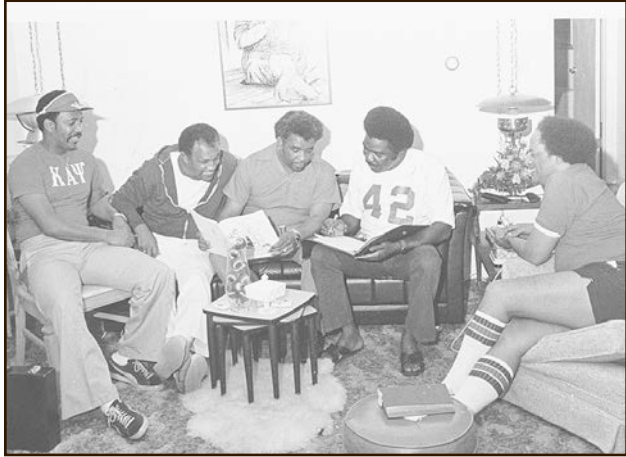
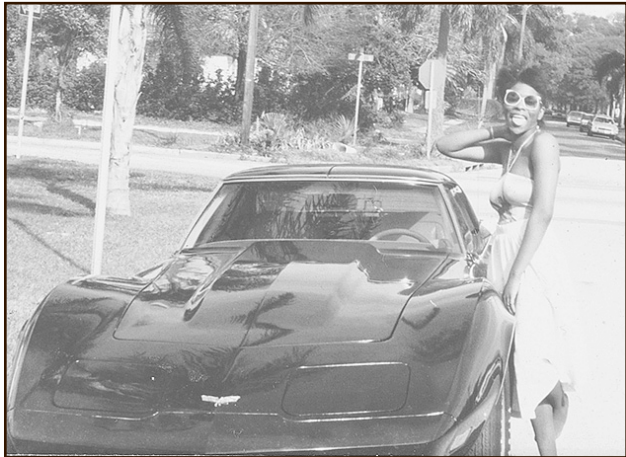
Information from *Twelve Black Floridians* and *African Americans in Florida* was used in this report.



50th YEAR CELEBRATION



50th YEAR CELEBRATION



COMMUNITY NEWS

New home for the Mills family

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Habitat for Humanity presented the Mills family with their new home in Midtown last Thursday, Aug. 31 while sponsoring partners, family members and well-wishers cheered.

The home, located at 1221 Union St. S, was built in partnership with the Mills family and was generously sponsored by Steve and Nancy Westphal through their 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House restaurant.

“We were joined at the hip and heart on this,” said Beach Seafood and Tap General Manager John Ruetz.

A little over a year ago, Audrey Mills and her family realized that their original home on the same site had reached the end of its life as a family dwelling.

“The repairs would cost too much so my dad decided to just tear it down,” said Mills.

Her son, Quan Hamma, introduced her to Habitat for Humanity.

After being accepted into the program, volunteers and family members helped build a brand new three-bedroom home on the same property where the original wood-frame house stood for 30 years.

The son also contributed the necessary 150-volunteer hours in place of his grandfather. In order to be eligible for a Habitat home, the primary family who would be residing in the home must complete at least 400-450 volunteer hours of sweat equity before acquiring their new home.

The volunteer hours include watching safety videos, learning about waivers, instruction on home maintenance and repairs, and signing in and out on volunteer workdays. Although children under the age of 16 are not allowed on the construction site for insurance reasons, they may earn sweat equity hours in other ways.

While the repairs were being done, Mills said that she along with her father and granddaughter lived around the corner in

her grandmother’s house.

In addition to the physical labor involved in the Habitat homeownership program, Mills talked about the courses that she took to fulfill part of the requirements.

“It’s a 17-course step that you have to take from planting to nailing, parenting classes to financial aid classes and home study classes.”

All of the home ownership courses empowered Mills to believe that she could handle any situation related to her new home.

“At least if anything goes wrong in my home, I can pretty much fix anything myself now before I have to call a repairman.”

Gibbs High School senior Emonie Tarver did not sit idly by while her grandmother put in her sweat equity.

“It was hard work but fun though,” said Emonie, who helped her grandmother as much as she could with one exception.

“Me and a hammer did not get along too well!”

Chief Executive Officer Michael Sutton

praised his staff for the role they played to ensure families such as the Mills experience affordable home ownership from the ground up.

“I have the amazing pleasure and privilege of working alongside some amazing individuals that call Habitat their work home,” said Sutton.

Home Owner Services Coordinator Ally Beausir presented the family with the keys to their new home.

“Today, it’s all about the Mills family,” said Beausir. “Once Audrey and her father were accepted into the program, we were able to make it possible for their new home to be built on the same property that held so many of their memories.”

The former wood frame three-bedroom house was replaced with steel, reinforced concrete walls for hurricane resistance and energy efficiency. The Mills were able to personalize their dwelling by selecting their kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities along

with countertops and the exterior color of their home.

Dave Gerald of Anona United Methodist Church in Largo presented the Mills family with a basket of essentials to help them get started in their new home.

“In your new home, we hope you find a place for private prayer, a place to teach the word of God to your granddaughter and to provide hospitality for all who are going to come across that new welcome mat in just a few minutes,” said Gerald.

Habitat’s Kebron Mason presented the Mills family with a check to help them purchase furniture and appliances for their new home as the family’s cheering committee let loose again.

Mayor Rick Kriseman was on hand to thank Habitat for Humanity and the Westphals for their major contribution in building a home for the Mills family.

Rep. Wengay Newton grew up in the same community where the Mills have their family roots.

He said when three or four old homes are torn down that one or two new homes must take their place.

To help secure funding to build a new home for the Mills, Sutton partnered with Ruetz and the Westphals, who contributed over \$60,000 towards the construction of the new house.

After the house blessing, Mills opened the door for her new home for the first time after its total completion for a tour.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, please contact one of the following:

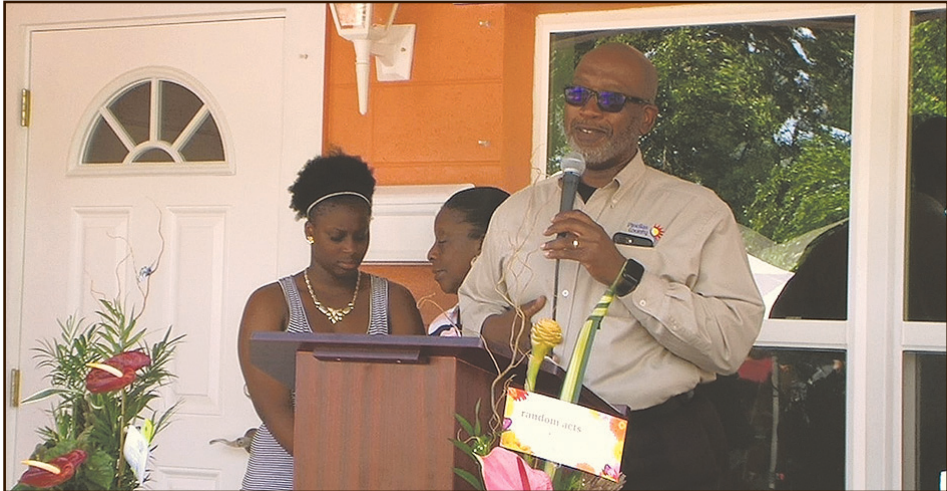
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Development Questions: lwilson@habitatpinellas.org

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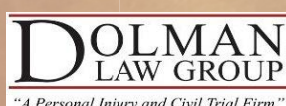
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Newton, Edwards and Baker put FEMA at citizens' fingertips

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Filing FEMA applications for relief funds became a lot easier last Wednesday and Thursday when former Rep. Wengay Newton, former Mayor Rick Baker and businessman Bill Edwards teamed up to open a makeshift FEMA station. Volunteers were on hand to guide local residents through the application process both days of the event.

"What we're doing here is giving people internet access to computers so they can register for FEMA relief," said Newton.

Newton mentioned that he and his partners opened the facility on Tuesday night.

"Tuesday night we fed people and Rick Baker and I had a conversation that we needed to do more because we saw people coming in out of the dark, and they were at their worse. They had been in the dark for so long and they just wanted someone to help them."

Over 400 people filed claims on Wednesday

evening, and then were treated to a warm dinner from Heavy's Food Truck.

"Making sure that their answers to their questions are clear, getting submitted correctly and making sure that if there's something that requires assistance that it happens as soon as possible," volunteer assistant Marcel Dolke said about the application process.

Baker stated that Tuesday was more of a pulse-taking session with citizens to find out how they were doing and what they needed exactly. His next step was putting a team put together.

"We got the NAACP to help with us. We got Bill Edwards who put the building into play and the computers. We got a lot of volunteers from Wengay Newton, our state representative, and some of my friends from the campaign helped to volunteer as well."

Edwards is a well-known businessman who owns of the Rowdies, Sundial and the building that was being used to help people register for FEMA assistance.

The FEMA registration center was an excellent place to start again for Gloria Francine Maxwell from Clearwater.

"I had no idea it was going to be as frightening as it was," said Maxwell who lived in a non-evacuation area. "I've been there 40 years in that home. I never expected any damage to come inside the house and to be without power for five days."

Maxwell said the wind was the most frightening part and not knowing what to expect when you're in the middle of the house trying to stay away from the windows. Water came in through the roof of her garage, through the front door and onto her carpeting. Her fence was also knocked down.

Newton, Baker and Edwards provided the gateway to federal assistance. Now it's just a matter of how fast the bureaucratic wheel will turn.

To reach Allen Buchanan, email abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com

Community helping community

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Enoch Davis Community Center reopened last Thursday after being closed for the initial cleanup that took place at recreational facilities around the city. By noon, a conglomerate of organizations and city volunteers opened the auditorium as a community-dining hall for citizens to have a warm meal.

"We are really grateful that we did not get what we were expecting from Hurricane Irma," said Women's March Pinellas County Chair Lisa Perry.

From noon until 6:30 p.m., the center's auditorium was buzzing with conversations while everyone enjoyed a warm meal. Some citizens had not eaten anything warm

since their power went off days before.

"We realized people lost a lot of their refrigerated goods and are without work now...so we're just trying to bring them together and relax. It's been a very stressful week. We are grateful that we are here and still functioning," Perry added.

During the peak period of Irma, many people who stayed in their homes questioned their decision like Perry.

"I was at home, and was wishing that I would have evacuated."

Kitchen supervisor Barbara Scott said that she was just doing her part in sharing her gift as a chief.

"I'm here as a member of this community, of Pinellas County, of the human race," said Scott.

Scott, who worked

alongside Kofi Hunt, Lisa Perry and several sorority and fraternity volunteers enjoyed cooking for the community. But she was not alone in preparing meals.

"Many people from the community donated food," said Perry. "Hot meals help bring some comfort and help make you realize that everything's going to be alright."

Perry and her team of volunteers served warm food both Thursday and Friday afternoon. They passed the baton of service to the community over to the Pamper St. Pete Celebration that was held last Saturday from 10-1 p.m.

To reach Allen Buchanan, email abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com



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Putting neighbor back in the hood

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Last month, the Childs Park Neighborhood Association teamed up with Rental 2 Depot and other local neighborhood businesses to treat residents of all ages to a fun day of games, conversation, good food and a chance to enjoy each other's company.

"We've been on a campaign to put neighbor back in the hood," said Bro. John Muhammad, president of the Childs Park Neighborhood Association.

Muhammad went door to door throughout the Childs Park neighborhood to inform neighbors about the event. Several of the businesses donated gift cards that were raffled off.

During the fun, Muhammad encouraged everyone to sit next to

people they weren't familiar with so that they would get a chance to meet all of their neighbors.

There were plenty of vendors present and even a petition table collecting signatures for Say Yes To Second Chances.

"The petition is a drive to restore the full rights of those returning citizens who have committed felonies to get their right to vote," said Muhammad.

Steve Dondero and Brandon Huggins of Rental 2 Depot opened their business on 49th Street South three months ago. Already they've gotten into the spirit of community by providing food, drinks and their parking lot for the day of fun.

"We rent anything for your house to be improved," said Dondero. "Our goal for the community is to not take from it but to give back to it."

Rodrick Green of

Clear Captions Telephone Service was also available at the neighborhood gathering. His goal for coming to the event fit in with what he likes to do in the community.

"We try to make sure we get out into the community and support any endeavor that provides a better service related to social and health matters," said Green.

Childs Park resident Clifford Pitts provided delicious barbeque chicken and ribs for free to help feed the crowd.

If one had heard enough negative news, tweets and bigoted laced remarks over the week, this event was the place to be. Surely, the Childs Park Neighborhood Association put the neighbor back in the hood with good vibes for everyone involved.

To reach Allen Buchanan, email abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Jack & Jill’s Historically Black College Fair connects students to a variety of higher learning opportunities

ST. PETERSBURG – On Sunday, September 17, more than 250 students from Tampa bay communities participated in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Fair. The inaugural event was hosted by the Suncoast Chapter Teens of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. at Shorecrest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg.

The purpose of the fair was to provide students an opportunity to speak face-to-face with college recruiters and alumni to help them decide which school they might attend. The affair was also a chance to increase community awareness about the value of Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as inform participants about the variety of financial aid programs and available scholarships.

“Support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities is part of Jack and Jill’s national program thrust which aims to help students explore a variety of higher learning opportunities and increase cultural awareness,” says Jack and Jill of America Teen Sponsor, Dr. Nathalia Jeffrey-Fort.

The event featured 20+ HBCU college recruiters and alumni including Spelman College, Howard University, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Fisk University, Tennessee State University, South Carolina State University, Tuskegee University, and Florida A&M University.

During the event, attendees heard from a panel of current and recent HBCU graduates. Panelists discussed their college experience, while highlighting the importance of higher education at an HBCU.

Lawanda Johnson credits her undergraduate

education at a historically black college for shaping who she is as a person.

“Everything about Florida A&M University and my experience there helped motivate me to become the woman I am today,” said Johnson, one of the alumni on hand to represent her alma mater during the panel conversation. Johnson graduated from Florida A&M University and earned her Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at Argosy University. She is currently an Assistant Principal at Seminole Middle School.

The gym was filled with dozens of students who were eager to meet with recruiters. Many students traveled as far as Orlando and flooded the FAMU recruiter table, peppering him with questions about their college experience and taking home literature touting the school’s history and admissions statistics.

Representatives from Shorecrest Preparatory School were also in attendance to answer questions and provide families in attendance with information about its PK-12 program. Other community partners included members of the Divine Nine, St. Petersburg Chapter of The Links, Inc., AKA AKAdemy, Mt. Zion Prep 101, and sponsors Dr. Nathalia Jeffrey-Fort and Dr. Kenyon Fort.

The event culminated with a panel conversation hosted by the AKA AKAdemy. James Jackson, Jr., Howard University alumni and Evyan Williams, South Carolina State alumni moderated the discussion about black college lifestyle. Panelists included: Keonna Welch, Florida A&M University alumni, Brandi Williams-Miller, Bethune Cookman College alumni, Mara Brody, Bethune Cookman

College student, Maiya Fudge, Bethune Cookman College student, James Jackson, III, South Carolina State University alumni, Tenesha Bryan, Florida A&M University alumni, and Lawanda Johnson, Florida A&M University alumni.

Cheryl Bradbury, president of Suncoast Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. acknowledged event participants, partners and sponsors. She graciously closed out the program asking the audience to participate in a special moment of silence to honor and remember Carol Robertson, one of the four girls killed during the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. “This has been an exceptional event. We will continue to provide the community with service programs like the HBCU College Fair to help meet the needs of local students and families, said Bradbury.

About Suncoast Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated is an African-American organization of mothers who nurture future leaders by strengthening children through chapter programming, community service, legislative advocacy and philanthropic giving. The mothers believe every child, with proper guidance and opportunity can be a leader.

The Suncoast Chapter of Jack and Jill of America is composed of 27 dedicated mothers and 86 children between the ages of 2-18 years old. The Chapter is uniquely positioned and committed to making a difference in the lives of families residing in Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. For more information, visit JackandJill-Suncoast.org.



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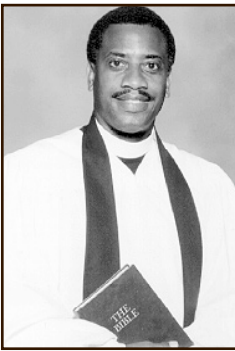
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Call: 727-896-2922

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300 www.fmbctheship.net
Email: fmbc3300@verizon.net



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday Worship7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
WednesdayNoonday Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life
7:00 p.m. Prayer and Wednesday in the Word
7:00 p.m. Youth Enrichment

Our Mission: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is a family of believers in Christ, reaching out to the world, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and teaching the saved to serve by demonstrating the Love of Christ.

CHURCH NEWS

Friendship MBC

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO THE CHURCH WHERE WE KNOW "IT'S JUST NICE TO BE NICE" - COME TO THE SHIP AND SEE FOR YOURSELF -

September at the Ship
Join US at "The Ship" at the 7:45 am or 10:45 am Worship Service, 9:30 am Church School, a Real place to be for these Real time.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - KEEP PRAYING FOR FLORIDA, GEORGIA AND CAROLINA

September 17, 2017 at 3:00 pm - Faith and Deliverance Full Gospel Church, Pastor Robert Coleman, 2427 Erving Avenue South in St. Petersburg, Florida. Pastor Evans is asking the Male Chorus, 3rd Sunday Ushers and Nurses to Serve. The entire Friendship family is asked to share in this momentous occasion.

Sept. 23-24 - Friendship is taking a Road Trip to Fellowship with our Sister Church, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church - The Ship - Miami, please see Sis. Penny Williams, Travel Ministry Leader to secure your seat on the bus and finalize your arrangement.

Sept. 24 - Special Worship Experience Sunday: 8:00 am - Church Sunday School and 8:45 am - Worship Service. Breakfast will not be served this Sunday.

REVIVAL - REVIVAL - REVIVAL

Sept. 27-29 at 7 pm - The Holy Christian Church, Bishop Lewis Sherman, Annual Revival. Pastor Evans is asking the entire Music and Ushers Ministries to serve nightly. Wednesday - Youth Choir & Youth Ushers; Thursday - Adult Mass Choir &

First Sunday Ushers; Friday - (Holy Communion) Deacons, Deaconess, Male Chorus & 2nd Sunday Ushers Ministries: Theme: Trouble, Revival & Salvation (Psalm 138:7).

OCTOBER AT THE SHIP - PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS....

Fourth Quarter Leadership Conference - Monday, Oct. 9 at 7:00 pm.

Church Conference - October 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

WEST COAST BAPTIST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION TAKING ACTION - HURRICANES HARVEY AND IRMA

Moderator Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., and Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church advises that the NBCUSA, Inc., Disaster Re-trive Ministry that what is needed in Texas is the following: Volunteers, Carpenters, Electricians, and Case Workers. Hurricane Irma needs are still being assessed, and those needs will be given as soon as possible to the Churches. Meanwhile, President John F. Kennedy's voice of compassion still lingers in our hearts. "Ask not what your country can do for you; but ask what you can do for your country. prepare our hearts and minds for the task ahead, keeping in mind, it could have been us having this need at this moment. Thanking you all in advance for your acts of Kindness.

SECOND SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, YOUR HOST CHURCH AND REV. MARVIN SCOTT, YOUR HOST PASTOR FOR THE UPCOMING ANNUAL SESSION OF THE WEST COAST BAPTIST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION -

NOVEMBER 8-11, 2017 - IS PROVIDING THE HOTEL INFORMATION. SHOULD YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR HAVE ISSUES WITH BOOKING, PLEASE CONTACT SIS. TERRICKA BRADWELL - SPRINGHILL SUITES ORLANDO NORTH / SANFORD, 201 NORTH TOWNE ROAD, SANFORD, FLORIDA 32771, (407) 995-1000. BOOK UNDER "WCBA" BY CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY THE TELEPHONE NUMBER PROVIDED. WE HAVE BLOCKED 20 SUITES (WITH 1 KING OR 2 QUEENS). RATE \$105.00/NIGHT PLUS TAX (UNLESS YOU BRING YOUR TAX EXEMPTION). CHECK-IN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017 - CHECK-OUT, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017. DEADLINE TO BOOK YOUR ROOM IS OCTOBER 15, 2017.

"THE SHIP" won't 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, FL 33712 Church Office: 727-906-8300 E-Mail: fmbc3300@verizon.net

Now "Live Streaming": Visit Our Website: www.fmbctheship.net Visit Our Facebook page Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: www.expericencethecoast.com

Need a ride to church? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 - Mon. - Fri. from 9 am - 3 pm.

"Remember and pray for our men and women in uniform as well as our veterans this new year!"

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 in September
Sept 24 - St. Mark Talent Show: 4:00 p.m. at St. Mark M. B. Church. All invited to

attend
Sept 27 - Church Outing: St. John Primitive Church of Clearwater, Elder Ben Adams, Jr., Pastor at 7 p.m.
Sept 30 - South Florida Progressive Baptist Association Senior Women's Missions Brunch: 10:00 a.m. at St. Mark M. B. Church. Theme: Strong Refuge (Psalms 71: 7). Speaker, Sister Bennie Smith of Macedonia M.B. Church in Safety Harbor, FL.
Events in October
Oct 3-7 - South Florida Progressive Baptist Association 102nd Annual Session. Reverend Brian K. Brown, Moderator. For more information visit: www.sofla16.com
Oct 28 - Y.A.M.S. (Young Adult Ministry) presents its Annual Fall Festival from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. as an al-

ternative to Halloween. More details to come.

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.

Mime/Praise Dance Rehearsal on Sundays: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

St. Mark Tutoring Program: Tutoring every Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting: held every Tuesday: 7:00 p.m.

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

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study: every Wednesday evening: 7:00 p.m.

114 Years standing on God's promises

ST. PETERSBURG — Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church will be celebrating their 114th church anniversary. The Women of Grace Ministry is honored and blessed to chair this special milestone. We are inviting Bethel family

and friends to take part in the scheduled activities for the month of September.
Psalms 84:11 "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk up-

rightly."
Calendar of Events
Sept. 23, 6:00 P.M. Men in Praise Concert
Sept. 24, 10:15 A.M. Anniversary Proper Worship Service
Sept. 26-28, 7:15 P.M. Church Revival



Pastor's Corner

BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY, SPIRITUAL LEADER
Unity Temple of Truth Church

Remember your internal organs - Luke 8:44

Many times, when we think about physical fitness we only think about the external (I Samuel 16:7). Our ideas of physical fitness are often limited to how much we weigh or how much we can lift. It is time for us to expand our thinking about fitness beyond the distance and pace that we walk/jog/run and if our biceps and triceps protrude.

Physical fit is not just about the external; it includes the internal as well (I Corinthians 12:24). Sometimes people appear healthy on the outside but inside they are facing several health challenges. God desires our physical bodies to be healthy inside and out.

The woman with the issue of blood had an internal issue that manifested externally. Her

internal organs were not functioning according to the purpose that God made them. After she exhausted all other resources, she connected with the healing power of God by touching Jesus Christ's garment.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalms 139:14). Our bodies are complex and have the ability to heal themselves with proper rest, diet and exercise. The cells of the body also have the ability to reproduce themselves. I pray that every organ, cell, bone, muscle, issue, tendon and atom of your body cell function according to the purpose that God made it. I stand in agreement with each of you that your brain, heart, liver, lungs, spleen, kidneys all function in divine right order to the glory and honor of God.



Healing BOWL
MEDITATION WORKSHOP
Come experience the Sound of Healing!
Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 10 am
Rev. Catherine & James Brooks Fellowship Hall | 511 Prescott Street South | St. Petersburg, FL 33712
WWW.UNITYTRUTH.ORG | 727.898.2457

SEVEN X7 TEND REVIVAL
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 @ 7:00PM
A CRUSADE FOR PEACE IN ST. PETERSBURG
Special Guest Speaker
DR. DORAL R. PULLEY
Wear your Church T-shirt!
19TH STREET SOUTH & 18TH AVENUE SOUTH



50 CELEBRATING YEARS

SPC St. Petersburg College

Congratulates

The Weekly Challenger

on

50 YEARS of EXCELLENCE

serving and informing the residents of Pinellas County.



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