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The Weekly Challenger

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 52 NO. 39

FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 3, 2021

50¢



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St. Pete



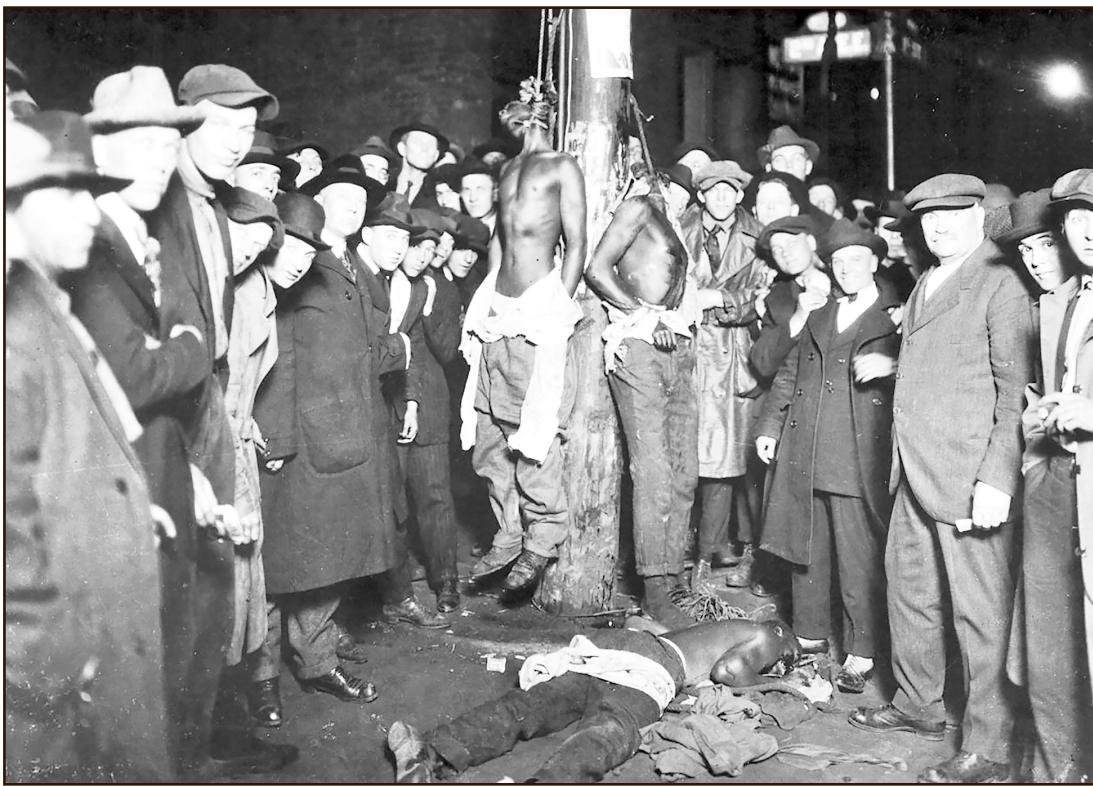
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Pictured here is a postcard of the 1920 Duluth, Minn., lynchings. Two of the victims are still hanging while the third is on the ground. Postcards of lynchings were popular souvenirs in the U.S.

Remembrance: A panel discussion on racial terror lynchings

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Eckerd College held a virtual panel discussion on Tuesday about the history of racial terror lynchings in the United States. The discussion, moderated by Judge Charles Williams, coincides with the unveiling of the Lynching Memorial next Tuesday.

During the period between the Civil War and World War II, thousands of African Americans were lynched in the United States. Lynchings were violent and public acts of torture that traumatized Black people throughout the country and were largely tolerated by state and federal officials.

Such “terror lynchings” peaked between 1880 and 1940 as Pinellas County and even St.

Pete was not spared from such terror against its citizens.

Attorney Jacqueline Hubbard, president of the St. Petersburg Chapter of Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), noted the during the Reconstruction, President Ulysses Grant was adamant in protecting the right to vote for African Americans, and sent federal

See **LYNCHED**, page 10

Overview of Benches, Beaches & Boycotts—the Civil Rights Movement in Tampa Bay

BY DEIRDRE O’LEARY
Staff Writer

Based on the Florida Holocaust Museum’s 2015 exhibit of the same name, the museum presented an overview of the exhibit on a February 10 Zoom in conjunction with St Pete College for Black History month. Erin Blankenship, Deputy Director of Florida Holocaust Museum led the presentation.

The history of the African American communities of Tampa Bay focused on Central Avenue in Tampa, Newtown in Sarasota, and the neighborhoods of St Petersburg including the Deuces. Sarasota’s Black business district was formerly in the district of Overtown. Whites complained they



One of St. Pete’s infamous green benches, where black people were not allowed to sit.

had to go through Overtown to get to downtown Sarasota so it was moved to Newtown.

John Donaldson was the first Black man to settle in St

Petersburg after the Civil War. He was an employee of Louis Bell Jr. In 1888 more Blacks came to work for the railroad

See **BENCH**, page 8

Lack of housing for HIV/AIDS patients



BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

TAMPA BAY — Stigma is clearly on view in the fight to provide more affordable housing throughout the country – and the Tampa Bay area reflects the struggle. According to The Sadowski Coalition’s 2020 “Home Matters” report, only 26 affordable and available homes are available for 100 renters seeking housing.

Whether this is caused in part by “nimbyism,” which comes from the acronym for “not in my backyard” – a sentiment displayed by homeowners that reject the idea of affordable housing being erected anywhere near their property – or by lack of political will by legislators to put affordable housing mandates in place — the situation doesn’t seem to be improving.

Add to these realities a health challenge, especially one as stigmatized as HIV/AIDS, and finding stable housing becomes even more difficult – and yet, there’s still only one Federal program designed to assist this population.

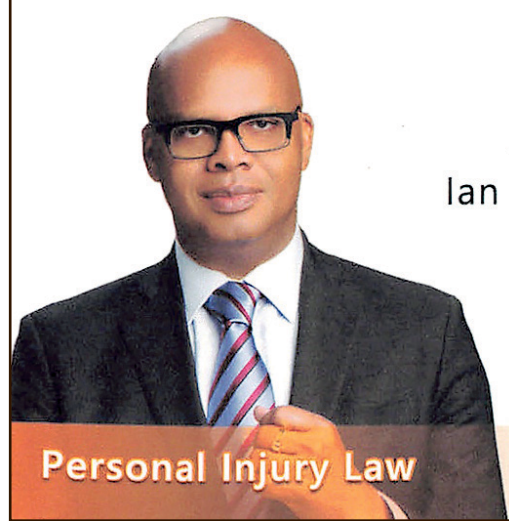
The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program is still the only Federal program addressing the housing needs of those living with HIV/AIDS. Under HOPWA, HUD supplies grant dollars to states, local communities, and nonprofit organizations to supply housing vouchers and support for low-income people with HIV/AIDS and their families.

The City of Tampa runs the HOPWA program for four counties — Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas. With a higher number of new infections annually than the other three counties, Hillsborough receives a larger share of funding.

Kayon Henderson, community development coordinator for the City of Tampa and a HOPWA program coordinator, shared, “We’ve certainly seen an uptick one from the number of those who are infected by HIV, as well as the infec-

See **HOPWA**, page 7

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Personal Injury Law



Are you interested in being a radio guest?

Radio Personality Princess Denise Wright of Matters of the Heart Radio Ministry is looking forward to you being a guest on her global radio broadcasting network on 99.1 FM JAMS. Matters of the Heart Radio

Ministry has been broadcasting for the past 16 years locally and internationally, all the way into Jamaica. For additional information about scheduling a guest interview or promoting your business, book, music CD or non-profit organization, please call 727-488-8818 or email princessdenise.8818@yahoo.com

Pay it forward by speaking to youth

Last year threw everyone a curve, especially students and families who were required to transition to online learning. For one group of students who have been accepted into the Take Stock in Children program, this has also impacted their opportunity to meet with a mentor over their school lunch period.

Each spring the Pinellas Education Foundation approves approximately 250 applications from students in Pinellas County Schools, grades 6-9. Once accepted into the program, scholars pledge to be drug and crime free, meet with a college success coach regularly, maintain good grades and

most importantly — meet with a mentor weekly. These meetings typically would occur on school campuses at lunchtime but this year, all mentoring is done virtually.

Like many other organizations, Take Stock in Children has worked to find innovative ways to adapt to provide increased virtual resources for students. This year, they launched “Take Stock Talks” group mentoring. These virtual sessions, similar to a Ted Talk have brought in guest speakers to present topics that are relevant and interesting to teens. The sky is the limit for these topics, the more diverse the better.

Guest speakers will

simply commit to a one-time, 30-minute session and do not need to register through the school system in advance. If you have a career, hobby, life lesson or activity to share with a small group of middle or high school students, please contact Dee Mortellaro, Mentor Manager at (727) 455-2529 or dee.mortellaro@pinellaseducation.org. The application is now open until February 28 for new students in grades 6-9. Parents can visit the Pinellas Education Foundation website for more information on eligibility and to apply. www.pinellaseducation.org/tsic.

St. Pete Deltas celebrate 60 years

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG - St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is celebrating 60 years of service locally and commemorates by launching a billboard advertisement along the highway. If you have driven on Interstate 275 this week going northbound near Tropicana Field, you have probably seen a bright crimson digital sign featuring current St. Petersburg Alumnae chapter (SPAC) Delta Sigma Theta President, Dr. Shameka S. Jones, along with SPAC's last two living charter members, Dr. Evie Welch and Apostle Clarice Pennington. The billboard is the first of many activities the chapter has planned in honor of their 60th anniversary.

“Delta is about love and service. I am honored to be a charter member of the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta. It has allowed me to reach out and encourage others. Providing service with love is important,” said Apostle Pennington.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is an organization of college-educated women committed to public service with the primary focus on the Black community. The Sorority was founded on January 13, 1913, by 22 collegiate women at Howard University to promote academic excel-

lence and provide needed assistance. According to the national website, more than 350,000 members of Delta Sigma Theta have been initiated in 1058 charter chapters in all 50 states and International. Delta has awarded \$5,600,000 in scholarships and grants since July 2019.

The St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter was chartered on February 19, 1961, by twenty dynamic young women. For the past sixty years, SPAC has served St. Petersburg, implementing programs under the sorority's Five Point Programmatic Thrust (Educational Development, Economic Development, International Awareness & Involvement, Physical & Mental Health, and Political Awareness & Involvement) and awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships to students.

“Some of the most memorable experiences of my youth occurred in high school as a ‘Del-Teen’...Delta provided so many unique opportunities, life-lessons, and opened many doors for me also igniting my inner leader,” said Dr. Shameka S. Jones, Regional Clinical Pharmacist with Florida Blue. “My Del-teen experience came full circle as I flourished from being the first past president of Del-teens to becoming President of the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter twenty-four years later!”

SPAC is heavily in-

volved in the St. Petersburg community hosting programs and fundraisers. Historical events include The Golden Ball and Mr. Wonderful Pageant. Modern events are the annual Prayer Breakfast, the Beautifillion Militaire, a character leadership program for boys, and their long-standing Breakfast with Santa. The sorority mentors girls in middle school with the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy and Delta GEMS (formerly Del-Teens) empower girls in high school.

The chapter has grown from 20 members in 1961 to 126 active members and remains steadfast in exemplifying their biennial theme, “Strengthening Our Community by Embracing O.N.E. – Opportunity. Network. Empowerment.” SPAC's 60th Anniversary Celebration is built upon a fundraising campaign to extend the sorority's capacity to give back more than ever in 2021. A “Diamonds Are Forever” virtual birthday party will be held this Friday, February 19th at 8 pm. The chapter will also hold “What's Poppin' DST,” an online popcorn fundraiser from February 25th to March 1st. A culminating virtual gala will be held in May. The public is encouraged to support the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter 60th Anniversary events. For more information on all events visit www.stpetedeltas.org.

Take Action and Invest in the Life of a Child. Become a Virtual Mentor.

SIGN UP HERE TO LEAD A SESSION



Take Stock in Children is Florida's flagship and most successful mentoring, college readiness and scholarship program for low-income, academically qualified students. Scholars in the program pledge to meet regularly with their mentor, maintain academic standards and remain drug and crime free on the way to achieving a high school diploma. The reward for fulfilling these commitments is a scholarship to attend college or technical school.

Guest presenters needed for Group Mentoring, one 30-minute session!

We have added virtual group mentoring this year and are looking for volunteers to speak or facilitate a group session. The sessions can be on any topic relevant to a middle or high school student including professions, hobbies, life skills, academic topics - anything. We love your fresh ideas and diversity of knowledge.

- Similar to a Ted Talk or Great American Teach-in
- Guest presenters will select just one (or more) 30-minute session, no long term commitment
- Speakers do not need to be registered as a mentor or Pinellas County School volunteer
- Guests can present a topic, have a discussion or lead an activity



GROUP MENTORING:

Mondays @ 3pm, 4 pm, 5 pm
Fridays @ 2pm, 3pm or 4pm
Saturdays @ 11am

For questions or to get started Dee Mortellaro, Mentor Manager, dee.mortellaro@pinellaseducation.org or call (727) 455-2529.

Pinellas Education Foundation's Take Stock in Children Scholarship program is proud to partner with St. Pete's Promise and Pinellas County Schools



Pinellas Education Foundation



Take Stock in Children



ST. PETE'S PROMISE



PCS

NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP # 21-001 Resident Moving Services

The St. Petersburg Housing Authority (SPHA), St. Petersburg, FL, is seeking proposals from qualified, licensed and bonded moving companies to provide resident moving services during a planned redevelopment at the Jordan Park Apartments in St. Petersburg in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A Virtual Pre-Proposal Conference shall be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 11:00 a.m., <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/308543949>, or via phone at using United States: +1 (872) 240-3311, Access Code: 308-543-949. Although not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that all interested Proposers attend. Deadline for questions is 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Proposals are due by 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Document packages will be available 02/09/21 online at www.stpeteha.org, under “Doing Business” on SPHA's website.



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PICK OF THE WEEK!
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DOG DAYS



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3-5
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DEADLINES

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 views expressed by The Weekly Challenger columnists/ advice columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of The Weekly Challenger. By publishing such columns, The Challenger is not advocating the following of any advice or suggestion expressed.

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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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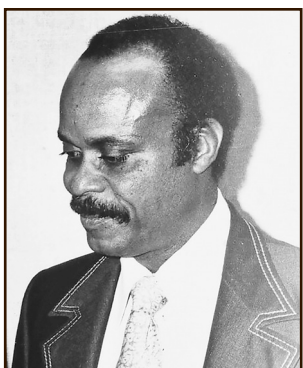
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I AM BLACK ST. PETE

The Weekly Challenger

www.theweeklychallenger.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021 **3**



Don McRae

I AM Don McRae, retired U.S. lieutenant colonel, helicopter pilot and one of the most formidable and controversial black leaders in St. Pete history. I was St. Petersburg's first African-American city manager and the highest-ranking African-American official in city government at that time. I presided during a period of racial unrest in the city and I did what I thought was best for the future of this city by firing Police Chief Curt Curtsinger amid allegations of racial insensitivity and poor management.

For the first time in the history of St. Petersburg, a city official had been fired for implementing discriminatory actions against African Americans. Moreover, this action was carried out by a black man. The following year voters decided to abolish the city manager form of government.



Johnnie Ruth Clarke

I AM Johnnie Ruth Clarke, educator and community worker. I was the first African American in St. Petersburg to attain a doctoral degree. I received my Ph.D. in education from the University of Florida and became an Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at St. Petersburg Junior College. The Johnnie Ruth Clark Health Center, at the historic Mercy Hospital, immortalizes my insatiable desire to help people.



Ralph Wimbish

I AM Ralph Wimbish, physician, civic leader, president of the St. Petersburg NAACP and founding president of the Ambassadors, a men's service organization. As president of the NAACP, I led efforts to desegregate lunch counter, theaters, hotels, golf courses, the Spa Beach and other downtown swimming spots.

I was probably the first African American to integrate a Howard Johnson's lunch counter on U.S. 19. In 1960, I led a boycott and legal action against

Webb's City to force the store to serve African Americans at the lunch counter. The boycott lasted nine months. On January 3, 1961, 14 lunch counters in St. Petersburg quietly integrated, ending weeks of sit-ins and picketing.

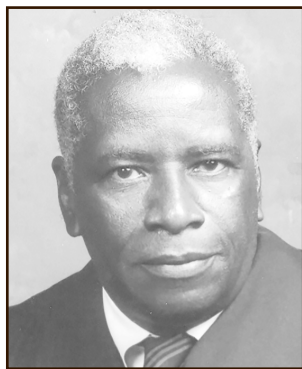


David T. Welch

I AM David T. Welch, educator, businessman and elected official. My election to the St. Petersburg City Council in 1981 made me the second African-American council member in the city's history and I served for more than three terms. I was also a long-time educator and an administrator at what is now Pinellas Technical College. I served in an Army Airborne Division during the Korean War, one of the many toughening experiences that prepared me for arguing forcefully for unpopular positions during my era on city council.

Entrepreneurship flourished in segregated communities from the 1920s to the 1960s. By 1940, a local chapter of the Negro Business League had formed in St. Petersburg. Methodist Town documented 68 businesses and 22nd Street "the Deuces" boasted 110 thriving businesses during this time. There were also businesses in the Gas Plant area.

These businesses reduced the need for African Americans to shop downtown where many times they were not allowed to try on the shoes or apparel they were purchasing. Some successful black businesses were harassed, attacked, and sometimes put out of business by white competitors, yet black businesses continued to grow and thrive.



James B. Sanderlin

I AM James B. Sanderlin, attorney and judge. I became the first Pinellas County African-American judge in 1972 and the first African-American circuit court judge in 1976. In 1985, I was appointed to the Second District Court of Appeals by then Governor Bob Graham.

I successfully sued Pinellas County School system to desegregate the schools, making integration a reality in Hillsborough and Sarasota Counties as well. In 1965, I waged a successful suit for the 12 black police officers, who were rele-

gated to serving only the black community, to serve the entire city and in 1968, I defended the sanitation workers striking for increased wages and better working conditions when they were fired by the City.

The James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center and James B. Sanderlin Preschool, Elementary and Middle School are named in my honor.

I AM Fannye Ayer Ponder, educator and community worker. I directed my limitless energy toward the advancement of women on the local, state and national levels working alongside such nationally prominent activists as Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt. When the call came in 1942 from founder Mary McLeod Bethune, I organized the St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women and provided its home at 1845 Ninth Avenue South. It bears my name.



Fannye Ayer Ponder



James Maxie Ponder

I AM James Maxie Ponder. I was a physician in WWI and received a Presidential Citation for "meritorious service in the field of epidemic medicine" that prepared me to lead almost single-handedly a fight against a smallpox epidemic in south St. Petersburg during the late 1920s.

In 1926, I was appointed city physician for the African-American community and I spearheaded the creation of Mercy Hospital and a prenatal clinic to serve its residents. It is said that I wrote the first prescription for Webb's Drug Store.

When I died in 1958, the flag at City Hall was flown at half-staff during my funeral and a bronze plaque rests in my memory in the new wing of Bayfront Medical Center.

I AM Morris W. Milton, attorney and political activist. I worked tirelessly to repeal the "fleeing felon" law, which allowed the police to shoot an unarmed running person in the back, even if there was not a life-threatening situation and also in seeking relief from police brutality.

My most significant achievement was the creation of single-member districts that allowed candidates to be elected from their own district rather

than the entire community. This led to the election of the first African American from Pinellas County to the Florida State Legislature. The post office on Sixteenth Street is named in my honor.



Morris W. Milton



Peggy Mitchell Peterman

I AM Peggy Mitchell Peterman, a minister, civil right activist and a ground-breaking reporter, columnist and editorial writer at the St. Pete Times for 31 years. At the Times, I first wrote for, and a few years later called for, the demise of the "Negro news" page, which was distributed only to black neighborhoods.

In my earliest days at the newspaper, starting in 1965, I would receive letters laced with the racial epithet "nigger" and more than 30 years later, just a few months before my retirement in 1996, I received a letter that also used that word. After 20 years, I became a columnist and joined the editorial board. In 1999, I received the International Women's Media Achievement Award. I founded the Annual Black History Pageant in 1978 and served as organizer, writer and director for more than 25 years.

Though I graduated with a law degree, I passed up the courtroom for the newsroom, arguing my case for justice from the perspective of a black female journalist.

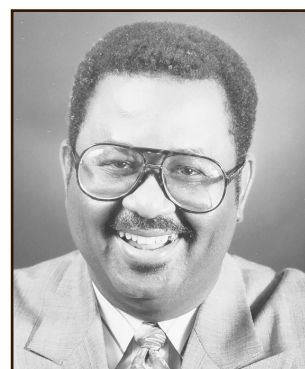
Social and civic clubs were also a core of African-American life during segregation.

Newspaper articles frequently highlighted the activities of these diverse associations. Various reasons motivated the founding of these social and civic clubs; some were founded to reinforce and support a Christian lifestyle, some to offer emotional comfort and companionship, some were established to improve the status of women and their image in a white world and others to promote civic, cultural, educational and social activities.

Whether stimulated by personal need or societal conditions, these organizations reinforced relationships among African Americans.

I AM Douglas "Tim" Jamerson, consummate trailblazer. In 1982, I was the first African American

to be elected to the Florida Legislature from Pinellas County. I represented District 55 in the House of Representatives for 11 years. In 1993, Governor Lawton Chiles appointed me as State Commissioner of Education. I was the first African American to hold this position. I also served as State Secretary of the Department of Labor from 1995-98. The Douglas L. Jamerson Jr. Elementary School is named in my honor.



Douglas 'Tim' Jamerson



Adelle Vaughn-Jemison

I AM Adelle Vaughn-Jemison, educator, social worker, and warrior who attacked the inequalities in education from many battlefronts. For almost 40 years, I worked in public roles helping children. I started as a school social worker and worked my way up to the district's assistant superintendent for the office of equal opportunity.

After the sanitation workers' strike in 1968, I, working with others, founded the Chamber's Community Alliance. I am one of the co-founders of the Concerned Organizations for Quality Education for Black Students.



Vyrle Davis

I AM Vyrle Davis, iconic advocate for education. Teaching was in my blood. My grandfather established the first school for black children in Jackson County. I began teaching at 16th Street Elementary and Junior High in 1960. I was named assistant principal at Gibbs High in 1971 and two years later became principal at St. Petersburg High School.

In 1986, I became the county's first black area superintendent, a job I held until my retirement in 1995. I founded the Ebony Scholars program in 1984 and raised thousands every year to support it. I also co-founded the African-American Voters Registration and Education Committee and the Concerned Organizations for Quality Education for Black Students.

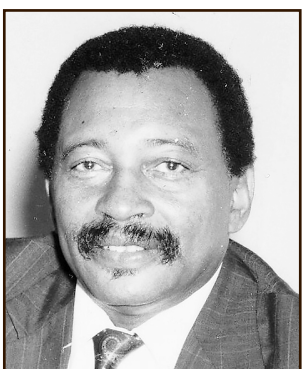
I AM Olive B. McLin, educator, community activist, cultural arbitrator and accomplished pianist. As a teacher of English and literature for over 40 years, my influence extended to more than three generations of St. Petersburg students. I founded the acclaimed St. Cecilia Choir, the first

choral group at Gibbs High School in 1932. This group won distinction and honors for their performance on the local, district and state levels.

I served as president of the Metropolitan Council of the National Council of Negro Women and was a founder of the Greater St. Petersburg Council on Human Relations. I was always in the forefront for the great equalization fight and was one of the crusaders for equal salaries for black and white teachers. The Black Box Theatre at Gibbs High School bears my name as does the Olive B. McLin Community History Project at USFSP and Operation PAR's Olive B. McLin Center.



Olive B. McLin



Lew Williams

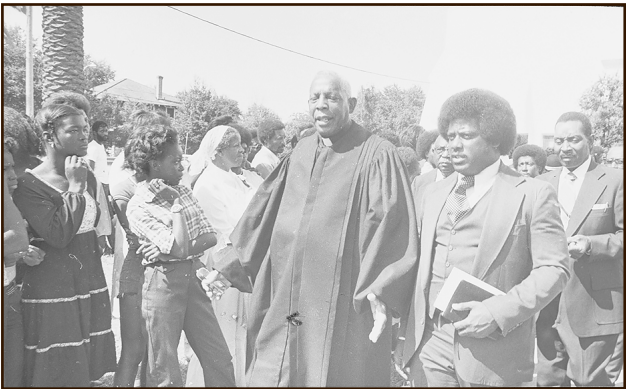
I AM Lew Williams, teacher, administrator and school board member. I came to Pinellas County in 1970. My first job was as a social studies teacher at Dunedin Middle. In the next 35 years, I went on to teach and lead schools at every level. I also worked as the district's director of school operations, was an associate superintendent for pupil assignment and retired as a regional superintendent in 2005. In 2010, I was elected to the District 7 seat on the Pinellas County School Board. The Lew Williams Center for Early Learning bears my name.

Churches and Pastors -Throughout St. Petersburg's history, black churches have served as symbols of hope in the community. The church was so essential to African-American life that it was the first institution established in St. Petersburg. The church not only served the spiritual needs of African Americans, it became a platform for ministers to confront social inequalities. Individual church ministers have been active in civil rights activities since the 1930s and ministers remain powerful initiators of change.



Cleveland Johnson, Sr.

I AM Cleveland Johnson, Sr. I was the first African-American realtor in Pinellas County and sold homes to many of the leaders in the black community from my office on what is now affectionately called the Deuces.





AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FRONT AND CENTER

BY ATTORNEY JACQUELINE WILLIAMS HUBBARD President, ASALH

When the Tampa Bay Buccaneers played the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LV, they were led by 11 Black coaches, including three Black coordinators: Todd Bowles, defensive coordinator, Byron Leftwich, offensive coordinator and Keith Armstrong, special teams coordinator. These three Black men played major roles in the decisive win by Buccaneers over the Chiefs, 31-9.

As the defensive, offensive and special teams coordinators, they were responsible for planning the game's defensive and offensive plays. Bowles shared with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers website, TheUndeclared.com, "It shows that we're good at our jobs ... and it gives younger people inspiration, hopefully, to see us as coaches and to see that we can be one of these type of people [head coaches] if we put our mind to it."

The defensive and offensive coordinators are second only to a football team's head coach. The

defensive coordinator manages the group of defensive players in a particular game. The defense comes on the field when the quarterback for their team does not control the ball.

They defend the team's position. The defensive coordinator supervises all of the assistant coaches during and before a game and is also a team "coach," responsible for making sure the team has a strong defensive plan in place.

Bowles called the plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' defense during the Super Bowl. The multiple assistant coaches he managed during the game were responsible for implementing the team's various defensive strategies.

In 2018, the Buccaneers' defense ranked last in the league. Bowles was hired at the end of the 2018 season to rectify this weakness. By 2019, he moved the Bucs' defense from 32nd to 6th. By 2020, he was ranked as one of the very best defensive coordinators in the NFL.

Formerly the quarterback for the Jacksonville Jaguars for four seasons before sustain-

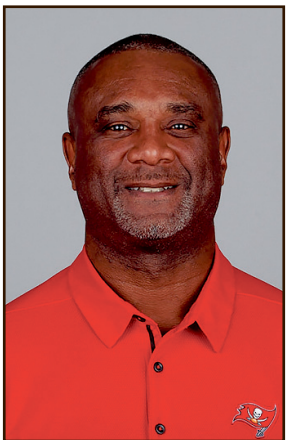


Harold Goodwin

ing a sidelining ankle injury, Leftwich became the Bucs' offensive coordinator in 2019. He played a prominent role in the team's success against the Chiefs.

While Head Coach Bruce Arians also called some of the plays, as coordinator Leftwich was in charge of the team's offensive maneuvers during the Super Bowl. He called the offensive plays carried out by Brady and the offensive team from the sidelines.

From Leftwich, the quarterback, wide receivers, running backs and tight ends took their cues. There is no question the Buccaneers' offense dominated the Super Bowl. Brady executed plays like magic, but the offensive coordi-



Keith Armstrong

nator had his back throughout the game. Armstrong, another African-American playmaker for the Bucs, served as special teams coordinator. He was responsible for ensuring individual specialized players performed optimally: the kickers, punters, kick return team, field goal protection team, and the punt return team.

These are usually the youngest players on a team who need quite a bit of guidance and instruction to perform well. Coach Armstrong had a heavy mission, which he handled with self-confidence.

Bucs assistant head coach and running game coordinator



Byron Leftwich

Harold Goodwin previously served as the assistant coach for the Arizona Cardinals, Indianapolis Colts, Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Bears. He brought a long record of great experience to the team. His talent was really at play in the Super Bowl win.

Bowles, Leftwich, Armstrong and Goodwin are in good company. The other Black coaches include:

- Mike Caldwell, inside linebackers coach
- Antwaan Randle El, offensive assistant
- Larry Foote, outside linebacker coach
- Roger Kingdom, speed and conditioning coach
- Todd McNair, running backs coach



Todd Bowles

- Kacy Rodgers, defensive line coach
- Kevin Ross, cornerbacks coach

Fans should take pride in these 11 Black coaches and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, indeed the most racially diverse team in the NFL. One cannot even estimate the importance of these 11 African Americans to the Super Bowl win. While we all celebrate Super Bowl LV, let us cheer on the Black coaches who helped secure the win.

Attorney Jacqueline Hubbard graduated from the Boston University Law School. She is currently the president of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc.

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Mamie Lloyd turns 100 years young

BY KARIN DAVIS-THOMPSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – It was a typical Sunday morning for Mamie Lloyd. She woke up and went about her normal routine, getting ready for church. Her faith has always been important to her, so after moving to St. Petersburg from New York in the early 1990s, she immediately found a church to attend.

But this particular Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, was no ordinary day because Mrs. Mamie was turning 100 years old.

Her son, Carl Lloyd, said that attending church was top on her mind even on such an important day. With the help of their church, Bethel Community Baptist, her son was planning a big birthday surprise – one that required him to stay home to prepare. But when his mother realized he wasn’t attending service, she wasn’t happy.

“She was angry with me because I wasn’t staying for service,” he said. “Of course,

I couldn’t tell her why.”

Hours later, when his mother, a retired public schools food service employee, returned home, she realized just what her son had been up to – a birthday parade.

“I was so surprised,” she said. “I had no idea. It was so nice.”

Born in South Carolina, Mrs. Mamie moved north at a young age and spent nearly 70 years in New York until moving to Florida on her doctor’s advice.

“He said the warm weather would be better for me,” Mrs. Mamie stated. “It was a big decision to make.”

But after moving and



finding a church home, she loved just as much as her church in

New York, she was able to settle in and enjoy her new home state.

“I love my church,” she said. “I always tell the young people to put God first in everything that they do.”

Her son said their church had embraced them both, and members worked hard to get decorations and gifts ready for his mother for the parade.

“I would guess there were more than 50 people at the parade,” he said. “Some of our neighbors came over to celebrate with us as well.”

Along with her Bethel church family, Mrs. Mamie was showered with birthday wishes from her former church in New York, Berean Baptist Church.

“The church bought her a tablet so she could participate in the virtual services and keep track of what is happening,” Carl Lloyd stated. “I have to help her with the tablet, though.”

Mamie Lloyd said

both churches truly made her big day special, especially her family at Bethel.

“I just love Bethel,” she said. “They just showered me with gifts.”

Her son said she is still on cloud nine from her big day.

“I catch her sitting on the side of the bed, just looking at the birthday cards,” he said.

Making it to 100 means Mrs. Mamie has witnessed a lot in history. She said the one thing she never thought she would see was the election of a Black man as president.

“When Barack Obama was elected, I saved all of the newspapers for the kids,” she said.

“It’s important that they have a record of that. It’s history. Things are changing.”

And although it may seem amazing to some that she is celebrating her 100th birthday, Mrs. Mamie isn’t surprised.

“My mother lived a long time too,” she said. “All I can say is, it’s only God.”

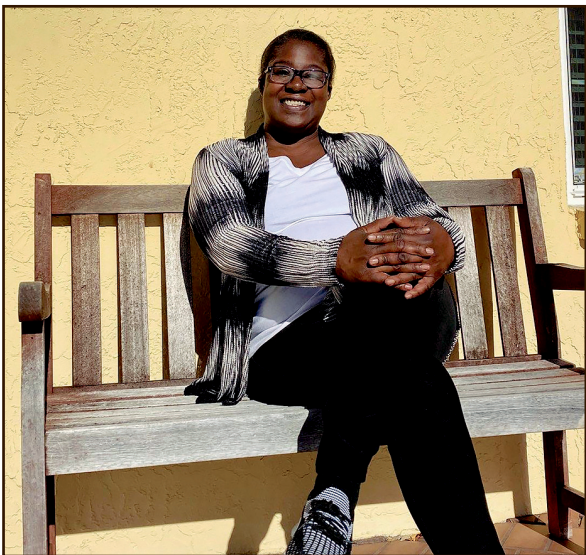
SPC Student Finds her Purpose in the Struggle

ST. PETERSBURG – Tanya Glover-Carter, 46, came to Florida in 2015 after she and her husband inherited a home in Clearwater from his late mother. She was pregnant and sober after years of substance abuse and the illness and heartbreak that come with it. In 2016, her husband died in a car accident on the Memorial Causeway Bridge, leaving her a widow and single mom. She soon relapsed and spiraled back into addiction. Three years later, she was sober again and living in a halfway house, when a housemate offered up a dare that would change her life.

“I would wake up early and read my Bible and meditate every day,” Glover-Carter remembered. “My roommate said, ‘You always have your head stuck in a book – you should go back to school!’”

The next day, Glover-Carter, who dropped out of school in ninth grade, eventually earning a General Education Diploma, enrolled in St. Petersburg College’s Addiction Studies certificate program. Sober now “two years and some change,” she graduates this May.

“I chose Addiction Studies because I’ve been trying to stay clean



since I was 18,” she said. “It has been challenging, but I was hell bent to finish because the only things I’d ever finished were a jail sentence and childbirth.”

Glover-Carter wasn’t just challenged by the program. She completed her studies while, at the same time, the widow with a young child was completing probation requirements, taking a two-hour bus ride each way from home to classes, and in the middle of the program, she suffered a stroke. Even with the extraordinary obstacles, she maintained a 3.4 GPA.

Her sponsor encouraged her to join SPC’s Women on the Way, where she says she gained emotional support. She also complimented her professors,

who were supportive, and the Financial Aid office, which helped her figure out how to pay for her classes. She also received two scholarships, the Joseph and Vilma Zalupski Endowed Scholarship, and the Florence Cole Bellenger Scholarship.

Glover-Carter said when she finishes in May, she hopes her new credentials, combined with her life experiences, will help her land a job at a treatment center. But she’s not done: She has her eye on SPC’s Community Healthcare Worker Certificate.

“I don’t know what doors God is going to open,” she said, “But now I have a purpose, and it’s a do or die situation, if I’m going to reach my full potential.”



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Anti-Protest Bill is Anti-American

BY PATRICIA BRIGHAM & JUSTICE PEGGY A. QUINCE
Contributors

STATEWIDE – Floridians, your First Amendment right to peacefully protest is under attack. Not by extremist groups, but by our very own Florida Legislature. The vehicle is a bill known as HB 1 and its Senate companion, SB 484.

Gov. Ron DeSantis announced plans for this bill following the largely peaceful Black Lives Matter protests, which took place throughout the United States and around the world after the brutal murder of George Floyd. Now the legislation has cynically been rebranded as an attempt to address the insurrection that took place at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6; in fact, it was filed that very night.

HB 1, at its core, would dilute the rights that this country and this state were founded upon. This legislation includes enhanced criminal penalties for offenses already codified by law.

Innocent bystanders caught in a protest gone unruly could find themselves arrested and thrown in jail for the night, their bail eliminated before a first court appearance after their ar-

rest. The state could preempt local government authority when law enforcement budgets are cut, allowing the governor and cabinet to force local governments to cut other needed local services.

This proposed legislation is entirely unnecessary. There are already criminal laws - both state and federal - that address rioting, insurrection, treason, assault, and battery. In fact, it would chill the exercise of the right to peaceably assemble, made abundantly clear when no provision takes into account the granting of permits authorizing peaceful gatherings.

Even more alarming is granting an affirmative defense to persons who may deliberately injure innocent protesters that peaceably protest when a gathering is designated a “riot” under the vague standards of the legislation.

Since the founding of these United States and the establishment of the State of Florida, We, the People, have enjoyed the right to peaceably assemble and the coordinated right to petition the government for redress of grievances. Article I, section 5 of the Florida Constitution provides: “The people shall have the

right to assemble, to instruct their representatives, and to petition for redress of grievances.” This right derives from Amendment I, of the United States Constitution.

The First Amendment specifically provides that Congress cannot make a law that abridges the right of the people to peacefully assemble. Likewise, no state legislature can deprive the people of this basic and fundamental right. This was made clear by the United States Supreme Court in *De Jonge v. Oregon*, 299 U.S. 353 (1937).

Writing for a unanimous court, Chief Justice Charles Hughes said the state laws that interfere with a group’s right to gather and discuss political issues was “repugnant to the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.” HB 1, like the bill denounced in the *De Jonge* case, would abridge the right of the citizens of the State of Florida to the free exercise of their right to assemble and petition their government.

HB 1, or as its sponsors have named it, “Combating Public Disorder” is not just anti-protest and anti-1st Amendment; it is outright anti-American.

We the People have



Justice Peggy A. Quince



Patricia Brigham

seen the power of the right to assemble from the days of William Penn to the modern civil rights movements. Abolitionists took to the streets to raise the nation’s awareness of the evils of slavery. Suffragists used the power of protest to redress the grievance of voter disenfranchisement for a large segment of the population – women. Labor activists, religious organizations, LGBTQ communities, and other groups throughout our nation have gathered, with their collective voices, to call for redress of problems that plague our democracy.

As a result, Americans of all racial, ethnic, cul-

tural, and religious backgrounds have peaceably protested and made positive changes. This is the essence of democracy. This is the essence of a government as described by Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address, “[a] government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

The Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Rights in the Florida Constitution form the foundations for this democracy. Each right is a pillar that keeps the house, our democracy, steady. When we tear down one pillar of the house, the foundation begins to shift. The house is

then subject to collapse. We must not allow this house, our precious democracy, to fall.

We urge our legislators, both representatives and senators, to reject HB 1 and its Senate companion. By doing so, we preserve the right to peaceably assemble, and we preserve a necessary pillar of our democracy.

Patricia Brigham is president of the League of Women Voters of Florida and Justice Peggy A. Quince served on the Florida Supreme Court from 1999-2019 and is a current board director of the League of Women Voters of Florida

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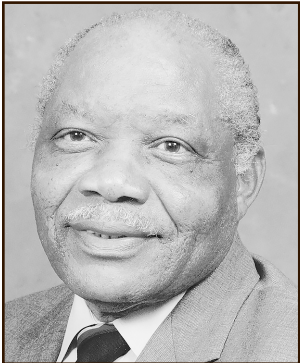
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I am Black in St. Pete

BLACK, from page 3



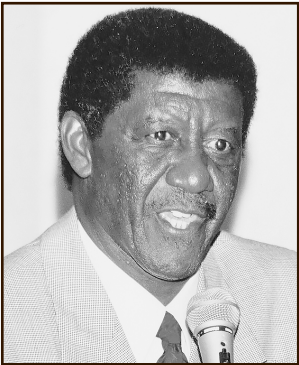
Robert James Swain, Jr.

I AM Robert James Swain, Jr., a pioneering oral surgeon who led drives to break down racial segregation barriers, most notably for African-American Major League Baseball players. I began practicing dentistry in St. Petersburg in 1947 and built the first African-American dental clinic in St. Petersburg in 1954.

My first noted action against local segregation was my challenge to Section 3 of the City Charter which established separate residential limits or districts for whites and African Americans. My second and most noted contribution to the advancement of desegregation was related to the construction of the Swain Apartments in 1956, which would house African-American Major League Baseball players denied housing with their white teammates during spring training from 1957 through 1961. This action would provide the catalyst toward desegregation of major league baseball's spring training sites.

I AM Freddie Dyles, educator and basketball coach. In 1964, I joined Gibbs High School as a teacher and a coach. In 1966, Gibbs became the first all-black school to compete in the all-white Florida High Schools Athletic Association. One of the most electrifying sports events in St. Pe-

tersburg history occurred on December 30, 1966. All-black Gibbs played all-white Clearwater in the final game of a holiday tournament at the Bayfront Center to a crowd of about 7,500 spectators. At the time it was said to be the largest crowd ever to attend a high school game in Florida. We won 70-66. In 1967, the Florida Constitution barred blacks and whites from associating in the same classroom. But it didn't say anything about the basketball court, and it was on the courts where we waged our own battle for integration.



Freddie Dyles



Fred Alsup

I AM Fred Alsup, physician and community activist. In 1952, I became the first black person in Pinellas County to gain membership to the Pinellas County Medical Society. I admitted the first black patient to Mound Park Hospital (now

Bayfront Medical Center) in 1961.

Working with the NAACP and the Citizens Cooperative Committee, I was the plaintiff in several famous civil rights cases among them was Alsup v. City of St. Petersburg filed by six blacks in 1955 who declared their constitutional rights were violated when they were not allowed to use Spa Beach and Pool. This case resulted in the opening of city-owned public beaches to African Americans.

A community of caring. African-American midwives were among the first to bring medical care to a growing community. They assumed many responsibilities that were generally reserved for physicians. The opening of Mercy Hospital, in 1923 on 22nd Street, continued in a formalized way the community's tradition of caring for its own. Dr. James Ponder, staff physician, and other black pioneer physicians: Doctors Ayer, Alsup, Taliaferro, Wimbish and Rose along with a few white physicians cared for their patients at Mercy Hospital.

The community of caring involved much more than healthcare. Elected officials, activists, community leaders and others cared about the community and pursued various avenues to strike at the very roots of "Jim Crow" and the long arm of racism. They fought the fight for justice and equality on every front: the street, schools, strikes, courts, churches, lunch counters, department stores, and even city hall.

I AM Willie Lee McAdams, first lady of Trinity Presbyterian Church. I was the prime mover behind the establishment of Happy Workers Child Care Center, which is credited with

being the oldest social service agency in Pinellas County. I decided such a place was needed after I saw toddlers running unsupervised in the street while their parents worked. We opened in 1929 to take care of the children of working Negro mothers. There



Willie Lee McAdams



Chester James, Sr.

were five children in our first class and their parents paid 25 cents a week.

I AM Chester James, Sr., minister and community activist. I came to St. Petersburg in 1911 and worked tirelessly for people for decades. On the civil rights front, I campaigned to register voters. President Lyndon Johnson honored me for registering a thousand voters. In 1968 at the age of 84, I marched with the sanitation workers when they went on strike for better wages.

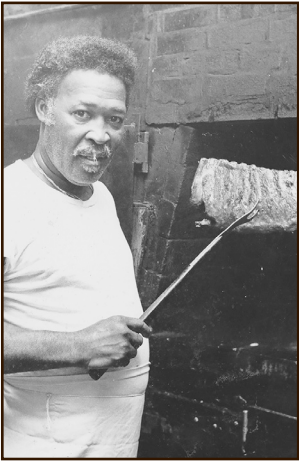
My life exemplified concern, dedication, service and integrity so much so that the city council changed the name of Methodist Town to Jamestown when redevelopment work began there in 1974 and named me its unofficial mayor.

I AM Officers Baker, Holland, Crawford, Nero, King, Styles, Lewis, Jackson, Wooten, Killen, DeLoach and Keys and we are the Courageous 12. During the 1960s, there were only 15 black officers on the St. Petersburg Police Department and they were forced to work under a different set of rules than their white counterparts.

Black officers were

neither allowed to work in white neighborhoods nor could they arrest whites. They could not work behind the front desk and blacks on the force were forbidden from taking the sergeant's exam to move up the ranks.

Then, in 1965, 12 of the 15 officers decided enough was enough and turned to the courts. They enlisted the help of civil rights attorney James B. Sanderlin, who took the case without hesitation but only after warning the 12 officers of the potential fallout. Speaking out could have cost them their jobs, or worse, their lives. But it was a risk they were willing to take – a bold step that led the men to become known as the Courageous 12.



Entrepreneurship



Courageous 12 Officers Baker, Holland, Crawford, Nero, King, Styles, Lewis, Jackson, Wooten, Killen, DeLoach and Keys

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HOPWA program helps HIV/AIDS patients pay for housing, but lack of affordable rentals still a problem

HOPWA, from front page

tious rate." Henderson said that while they track people who are homeless who enter the program, most of their clients are already renting but can no longer afford to pay the rent.

"We get might be someone who is in a rented apartment, but it's become really hard for them to continue to work because with this disease sometimes you can be really well today, and really sick tomorrow...and they're just needing some assistance to be stably housed," she noted.

When asked whether funding for the program was an issue, Henderson acknowledged there were still residents who needed help. "We certainly could use more funding because we have unmet needs. We have agencies who do offer that tenant-based rental assistance program for individuals but who have a waiting list. As long as we have a waiting list, we don't have enough funding."

Henderson pointed out that this was also due to rising rents — because rental units are going up in

price, some agencies weren't able to as many households.

Jack Humburg is director of Housing Development at Boley Centers, Inc., which oversees the HOPWA program in Pinellas. Humburg said that while they currently have 121 clients in the program, the Boley waiting list is closed.

"At the moment, we haven't been able to grow unfortunately as much as we would like to," Humburg relayed, saying that the annual renewals received from the city of Tampa only enable the program to continue to fund the people that we are already assisting. "We hope folks will get self-sufficient and not need our assistance, but that doesn't happen often," he said, noting that Boley will continue to support clients as long as they are able.

He also added that it's often difficult for HIV and AIDS clients to even find housing, with rents going up, along with the stigma of being in a voucher program. "Rents are rising every year, and housing availability is challenging

for an individual who has a voucher; landlords are not required to accept a voucher. So there certainly are some landlords who will not participate in the program."

Danielle Husband is the senior director of programs for Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg, which runs their HOPWA program with the City of Tampa through three levels of care — Mercy Apartments, Mercy House, and a tenant-based rental assistance. After a woman applies and is accepted into one of their programs, Husband said, "We'll work with somebody, but they have to be willing to live in Hillsborough County because everything is centered there."

A 25-year-old mother and Mercy House resident who spoke on condition of anonymity said the program had helped her turn her life around. "I've been HIV positive my whole life, and I'd never heard of this program until my daughter was born in 2020. It's actually very helpful," she noted,



stating that as well as offering temporary housing, the program helps financially with rent, meals, and medical.

"It's actually a really good program," shared the young mother, who has been living at Mercy House for seven months. "They told me the two-year-program, and I was okay with that," she continued, stating that Mercy House counselors were helping her on the search for an apartment of her own.

The 25-year-old mom, who contracted HIV from her mother in utero, said that she wished there were more education and less ignorance about HIV

and AIDS — revealing that she was bullied at school when she was young after other students found out she was living with HIV.

"I was teased and bullied because I have it, and people thought they could get it just by holding hands or hugging me — you know, simple things that people do every day with their family or their spouse. I just wish there were more programs that explained the correct way of protecting yourself. A lot of people judge and are very hypocritical about the situation of people having HIV."

Today she is feeling optimistic about her life, the help she has received

through HOPWA, and even living with HIV, saying, "Maybe God put me this way for a reason — to help other people understand it."

Visit HOPWA's website, housingforbetterhealth.com, to learn more about partner organizations, like Empath Partners in Care (EPIC), which also runs a tenant-based rental assistance program for those with HIV/AIDS and their affected family members. You can call EPIC in Pinellas at 727-467-7423 and in Hillsborough at 813-237-3066.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklychallenger.com

Legislature must fully appropriate the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Dear Editor:
COVID-19 remains an issue, hundreds of thousands of Floridians are out of work, there is a looming eviction crisis and Florida is staring down the barrel of billions of dollars in budget deficits. When the Florida Legislature convenes for the 2021 legislative session, there won't be too many easy options. Tough decisions will need to be made, including budget cuts, cuts to services, and other cuts in discretionary spending. However, this year unlike any other years in recent history, the legislature must fully appropriate the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

For the uninitiated, the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund was created in the early 1990s after successful lobbying efforts from both the Florida Home Builder Association and the Florida Realtor Association. The goal of both associations and other supporters was to create a dedicated trust fund that would support either the construction or

preservation of affordable housing throughout the state.

Trust fund revenues come from an incremental increase of taxes paid on all property transactions. Recently, the trust fund generated over \$300 million annually for affordable housing throughout the state. However, the trust fund can be 'swept' by the legislature to fill budget gaps or meet other needs throughout the State. In fact, since 2001, the trust fund has only been fully-funded 3 times and was last fully appropriated in 2007.

During this time, almost \$3 billion has been diverted into non-housing related items. Although \$3 billion alone would not have solved the affordable housing crisis our state is currently experiencing, it most certainly would have helped alleviate some of the issues we're facing today.

This brings us to the present day. Before this global pandemic was completely understood by most, during the 2020 legislative session, for the

first time in 13 years, the legislature fully funded the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund. At the time, housing advocates, such as myself rejoiced.

Locally, the Tampa Bay Region would have realized over \$30 million in funding to support a litany of housing programs. However, faced with such economic uncertainty, Governor DeSantis, who supported full funding, ultimately vetoed \$225 million of appropriations, instead opting to replace much of the funding with rental and mortgage assistance programs provided by the federal CARES Act Funding.

Yet, there is still hope. Governor DeSantis recently released his 2021 budget proposal which would provide \$423 million for affordable housing. However, this is just the start of negotiations between the Governor, House, and Senate. Now, the 2021 Florida Legislature will decide how to appropriate an anticipated \$600 million earmarked for affordable housing.

A newly released economic analysis prepared by the Regional Economic Consulting Group concluded fully funding the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund would provide \$3.5 billion in total development, see 30,473 units newly constructed or rehabilitated, 48,199 jobs created, and an economic impact of more than \$7.3 billion. With the economic activity created, \$245 million taxes would be generated, with \$127.2 million going back to the state. Housing is an economic engine and a smart investment.

During these unprecedented times, we must remember that housing is essential. Now, more than ever, is the time to make the investments we failed to make in the past. Housing provides safety, stability and shelter. Housing is also an integral part of healthcare. The ability to stay "safer at home" relies on the condition that one has a safe and adequate place to shelter in. Many of us take this for granted, however, many of our fellow



**Mike Sutton, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties**

community members lack access to safe, decent and affordable housing.

Given these trying times, when health and wellness are of paramount concern; safe, decent, and affordable housing is essential to individual's and family's wellbeing as well as our community as a whole. It is also a smart investment and will help restart our economy and

get people back to work.

We all must urge our State Legislators to have the courage to again fully-fund the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund because livelihoods depend on it.

*Mike Sutton, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties*

Overview of Benches, Beaches & Boycotts—the Civil Rights Movement in Tampa Bay

BENCH, from front page

and settled in Peppertown. Soon after the Methodist Town and Gas Plant neighborhoods became established. All were Black neighborhoods and Blacks were prohibited from living elsewhere. Even today, St Petersburg is one of the most segregated cities in the country according to Blankenship.

Churches were, then as now, important community centers in the different areas of Tampa Bay. Prominently featured were St Paul's AME in Tampa, Bethel AME Church in St Petersburg and Payne Chapel AME in Sarasota.

The Chitlin Circuit was a group of nightclubs, restaurants and halls that allowed African American performers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Cab Calloway and James Brown. In St Petersburg the Manhattan Casino on 22nd St. S. was built in 1925. James Brown may have had his start there. In 1961 Ray Charles performed in Campbell Park in St Petersburg. Hank Ballard in Tampa wrote the popular song The Twist after performing in Tampa and

seeing people doing the dance.

In 1868 the 14th Amendment afforded Blacks citizenship and equal protection under the law. When the federal troops left the south however, segregationists took over and passed Jim Crow laws. The term "Jim Crow" was a derogatory term for Blacks that came from a minstrel show. Tampa Bay was known as a retirement and vacation destination, then as now, and was segregated. Jim Crow was alive and well here.

In St Petersburg, Blacks were not allowed to sit on the famous green benches downtown or sit at the lunch counter at McCrory's department store. For Beulah May Perry of St Petersburg, who lived here at the time, the green benches represented racism and she would still rather avoid them today.

The KKK originated in Tennessee and by 1925 had 3 million members in the U.S. Jim Code, a staff member of the local Chamber of Commerce, helped to organize St Pete's KKK chapter. This

was commonplace in communities as local leaders were KKK members and organizers.

In 1937 over 200 Klansmen marched in Black neighborhoods to intimidate people from voting in the police chief election. That same year, they kidnapped and murdered union organizer Joseph Shoemaker of Tampa.

Lynching was common in Tampa Bay as elsewhere. More than 4000 Blacks were lynched in the US between 1877 and 1950, including 160 in the state of Florida. Of those 19 took place in Tampa Bay. This only represents the number of recorded lynchings; since local officials were often involved the total number is likely much higher.

John Evans was lynched in St Petersburg in 1914. He was accused of murdering his white employer. He was lynched at the corner of Second Avenue South and Ninth Street, witnessed by a huge crowd of 1500 white residents. A plaque marks the place today.

Spa Beach in St Pete, Lido Beach in Sarasota and Ben T Davis Beach in Tampa were white only in practice despite being open to the public. In 1955 a group of civil rights activists with the Civil Coordinating Committee attempted to go to Spa Beach. They were not allowed and directed to South Mole beach, now Demens Landing, where Blacks were allowed to go. A lawsuit was filed by Fred Alsop and others against the City; even though they won, the city workers would close the pool when Blacks tried to swim. In 1959 the pool and beach at Spa Beach were finally integrated.

In Sarasota, on October 3, 1955 a group of 100 Blacks went to Lido Beach and waded into the water. —son Grimes of Sarasota recounted what happened. The NAACP made it their mission to integrate the beaches there. They gathered a convoy after church on a Sunday and everyone went into the water for a "wade in" in their good Sunday clothes. They en-



Black people were only allowed in downtown St. Petersburg except to go to work. Dr. Ralph Wimbush integrated the downtown Mass Brothers lunch counter 1961.

dured bricks thrown at them, epithets and more. After several more wade in actions, it still took over two years to integrate the beaches.

Mayor Julian Lane in Tampa created the first Bi-Racial Committee in the area in order to address integration issues.

One of the area's first lunch counter sit-ins was on February 29, 1960 in Tampa. The Bi-Racial commission became involved to avoid national media coverage according to Blankenship. The local newspapers were notified in advance and police provided security for the activists. As a result there was no violence and no national coverage.

In March 1960, the downtown St Petersburg stores including William Henry, Maas Brothers and Kress had sit-ins. Rather than serve the African Americans there the stores closed. Pickets resulted and a Christmas boycott was put in place. The boycotts led to a loss of revenue for Webb City who in turn sued the NAACP in an attempt to recover.

A turning point occurred in 1966 when an offensive mural was ripped off the wall from St Pete City Hall. Joe Waller, now known as Omali Yeshitela, became frustrated after writing letters and protesting with others yielded no results. He served prison time and drew attention to the civil

rights struggle.

The Courageous 12 was another turning point. On May 11, 1965 James Sanderlin, a Black attorney, filed suit on behalf of 12 Black police officers in St Pete. They could only patrol black neighborhoods and could not arrest whites. The case was thrown out but was won on appeal in 1968. In 1969 the 12 officers were assigned to white areas. This resulted in changes to police departments throughout the south.

It wasn't until 1972 that schools were integrated in Tampa Bay, though the Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Ed decision was held in 1954. Robert Saunders Jr, the son of Tampa NAACP president Robert Saunders Sr, was the first Black student to integrate the Tampa schools.

In Sarasota, young children often had to ride buses for 45 minutes to get to school following the closing of neighborhood Black schools. Students boycotted the schools and the loss of revenue resulted in schools reopening.

In June 1967 a black man was shot by a Tampa police officer. Riots broke out for three days in the Central Ave business district. Local, state and Federal officers came to the scene. More than seven buildings were completely destroyed.

On May 6, 1968 St

Pete Sanitation workers called a strike for better wages. They were joined by 150 workers; all were fired and replaced. As a result, the mostly Black sanitation department became nearly all white. This led to a three month long standoff led by Joe Savage of the Sanitation Department and attorney James Sanderlin. National civil rights and labor leaders came to help but city officials refused to negotiate. A group of business leaders negotiated a settlement and the strike ended in September 1968.

The exhibit and presentation is not a comprehensive history of the local struggle for civil rights; it is meant to capture the important period of the 1960s and 1970s.

More resources:
St Petersburg: The African American Heritage Trail <https://www.afamheritagestpete.org>
Sarasota: Newtown Alive <https://www.newtownalive.org>
Tampa Bay History Center Walking Tours <https://www.tampabay-historycenter.org/tampa-history-walking-tours>
Florida Holocaust Museum: Beaches, Benches and Boycotts Online at theffhm.org <https://www.tour.ffhm.org/cultureconnect.com/e/beaches-benches-and-boycotts-the-civil-rights-movement-of-st-petersburg>



In 1937, more than 200 Klansmen marched through the black neighborhoods of St. Pete to discourage its citizens from voting in the police chief election and during the same year, kidnapped and "tar and feathered" union organizer Joseph Shoemaker of Tampa.

Don't let racism off the hook

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

Donald Trump's recent acquittal in the Senate impeachment trial should worry us all for many reasons —race relations in this country among them. Even though the majority of senators voted to hold the former president accountable for inciting an insurrection that threatened not only human lives but the life of our very democracy itself, he was acquitted because too many of them were afraid to vote their conscience. Before and after the election, Trump beat his drum loudly and incessantly, shouting and ALL-CAP tweeting false and baseless accusations of voter fraud occurring in cities throughout the country. But not just any cities, mind you. By singling out cities such as Detroit, Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Atlanta, it is no secret whom he was trying to blame. Without even bothering to lower his voice to a whisper, Trump "implied" that urban Black people were responsible for stealing the election from honest, rural-dwelling white folks. Even after the votes were in and Joe Biden had clearly won, Trump waved his arms and screamed

about how he'd been wronged. What's more, he made sure his base of bigots was hanging on to every tweeted word. When the courts ruled against him, and election officials refused to be swayed by his threats, and even his own vice president wanted no part of any shady interference with the electoral votes, he turned to what he saw as his last option: blowing up our democracy. After gathering a mob in Washington and firing them up, he rolled this human powder keg down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol, lit the fuse from a safe distance away, and ran home to watch his handiwork on TV. We all saw the chaos, terror and violence that occurred next. We watched as the insurrectionists, foaming at the mouth and wielding makeshift weapons, overwhelmed Capitol law enforcement members and smashed their way in. In putting their own lives on the line to protect others, some Black officers said afterward that they were beaten and called "n——" multiple times by members of the mostly white insurrectionists. In one of the many images from that terrible day, Black officer Eugene Goodman single-handedly

held off the mob in a stairwell, even directing them away from fleeing lawmakers. During a pause in the impeachment trial, Goodman was honored as members of both parties gave him a standing ovation and voted to unanimously to award him a Congressional Gold Medal for his heroics. Then they resumed the short trial that would end in an acquittal for the man responsible for the deadly insurrection. I can only wonder what Goodman and his fellow officers must have thought about that result. These contradictory actions were akin to hugging the man who saved your life from a bloodthirsty mob then spinning around and shaking hands with the man who SENT THAT VERY MOB to get you and saying, "Even if you did direct a battalion of Confederate flag-waving nut jobs to come after us, don't worry, I've got your back." And why, when presented with damning, unequivocal evidence that our "Inciter-in-Chief" authored that attack on the Capitol, did these same lawmakers refuse to hold him accountable? Too many senators didn't want to upset the former president's base, which they thought would become THEIR base should they run for re-election. Plain

and simple, they'd rather cozy up to white nationalists than condemn them. Some of them will try to ram a healthy spoonful of whataboutism down our throats when they compare this failed coup of our government—let's call it exactly what it was—to the protests last summer following the death of George Floyd and other African Americans. To that, I can only say this: show me a list of mayors, governors, or any elected officials that gathered hate-filled mobs to any city then directed them to march to a government building and wreak havoc and violence in the name of racial equality. Last year's protests were largely peaceful, and their purpose was to bring awareness to the reality of this nation's systemic racism. Yes, some extremists decided to hijack the movement by rioting, looting, attacking, and burning. But do these same Republican senators who voted to acquit Trump really believe that their Democrat colleagues just dismissed the rioting and looting as a matter of course? This is hardly the case, as they have all condemned those despicable actions and believe those who committed them should be held account-



Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock (Left) wrote on Twitter, "Honored to meet Eugene Goodman, a true American hero who put his life in harm's way to help protect others."

able. Just like the Capitol rioters. It's hard not to think that this is yet another thinly-disguised allegation that Black people are to more to blame when things turn violent. During the Minneapolis riots, Trump famously tweeted, "When the looting starts, the shooting starts." Yet he was awfully quiet when white rioters who had donned tactical gear and armed themselves with bear spray carried out a full-fledged attack on the Capitol. (It goes without saying that had it been an unruly Black mob that gathered anywhere in Washington, it would've been surrounded by law enforcement and military alike in no time, guns leveled.) Now with white domestic terrorists among those actually celebrating his acquittal, how can this be anything but a setback to better race relations in this country? It's apparent too many politicians want to inherit this base of bigoted groups and are afraid of upsetting them by voting to hold Trump accountable. Then how can we believe they TRULY care about bridging the gaps—educational, economic, social, etc.—between whites and people of color in their respective states? So too, with the regular folks who find champions in these congressmen and congresswomen who let Trump off the hook. So many of us marched countless miles in the streets last summer with the hope that we were moving forward. Yet now it feels like we're going backward. To reach Frank Drouzas, email fdrouzas@theweeklychallenger.com



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FRONT AND CENTER

BY ATTORNEY JACQUELINE HUBBARD
President, ASALH

Ten years after the Civil War ended in 1865, Northern support for the civil rights of Black people in the South was declining. Many people who had supported the civil rights of Black people through the egalitarian policies of Reconstruction were beginning to disappear. Northerners complained of "being tired" of supporting Black Americans in their quest for equality. For four years, the United States fought a highly destructive Civil War, resulting in the estimated deaths of 750,000 people. There had been fights in Congress to enact a series of laws after the Civil War to protect the newly emancipated rights, including President Ulysses Grant's deployment of Union troops throughout the South for their protection. This resulted in the short-lived but highly productive Reconstruction Era (1865-1877). President Grant was unrelenting in his efforts to ensure the previously enslaved their civil rights, especially the right to vote. Reconstruction required the heavy hand of federal protection. Grant understood as much as anyone that the right to vote would be the saving grace for Black people in a democracy and was unrelenting in his quest to protect the vote for Black Americans. He sent federal troops to the South to ensure compliance. The concept was called "Radical Reconstruction." In 1867, Congress passed the "Reconstruction Acts." As early as

1873, a series of Supreme Court decisions limited the scope of Reconstruction-era laws and federal support for the so-called Reconstruction Amendments and the Civil Rights Act of 1867. The United States Supreme Court did not rule upon the Constitutionality of the Reconstruction Acts themselves but gradually acceded to the disablement of them due largely to the lack of enforcement of both these acts and the Civil War Amendments: 13th, 14th, and 15th. For instance, in 1873, the Supreme Court held, among other things, "...the (14th) Amendment protected privileges and immunities of persons as citizens of the United States but not as citizens of states." After losing the war over the institution of slavery, angry southern whites resorted to intimidation and violence to keep Blacks from voting. This was an effort to restore white supremacy. The lack of support from the judiciary, and other factors such as the inability of Grant to run for re-election in 1876 because of cancer, led to the "Compromise of 1877," considered by most historians to be the date Reconstruction ended and open, governmental support of racial oppression began again. There were accusations of corruption within Grant's administration, and economic depression led to discontent within the Republican Party, which had been in the White House since 1861. As the 1876 presidential election approached, Grant declined to seek a third term. The Democrats chose

Governor Samuel B. Tilden of New York as their candidate, while the Republicans nominated Rutherford B. Hayes, governor of Ohio. In his acceptance of the nomination, however, Hayes wrote that if elected, he would bring "the blessings of honest and capable local self-government" to the South. Hayes clearly favored an end to Reconstruction and the restoration of white supremacy. Journalist Casey Michel wrote in a recent article for Politico that during Reconstruction, white supremacists worked to undo any victories the Union gained during the Civil War and the civil rights gains made thereafter. He wrote: "Racial equality, civil rights protections, basic recognition of democratic outcomes — all were targets of rampaging white terrorists, using violence to launch themselves to power once more." The 1876 presidential election was extremely contentious. On Election Day, the Democrats won Connecticut, Indiana, New York and New Jersey. Tilden had 184 of the 185 electoral votes needed and led the popular vote by 250,000. Hayes had 165 electoral votes, with 20 electoral votes hotly contested. The issue of who should have been awarded those 20 votes is disputed to this day. The Republicans accused the Democrats of intimidating Black voters to prevent them from voting in Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina. There was much bloodshed in South Carolina between Black militia and armed whites. The entire

1877 - The end of reconstruction and the beginning of American apartheid



An 1867 illustration depicting Black people participating in a New Orleans election during the Reconstruction era. a

process was acrimonious and violent, with little to no trust on either side. The outcome of Reconstruction and Black progress hung in the balance. The question of which candidate actually won the election was entirely in doubt. Three states, South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana, submitted two sets of election returns with different results. Oregon's Democratic governor replaced a Republican elector with a Democrat and threw Hayes' victory in that state into question. In Jan. 1877, Congress set up an electoral commission to decide the issue of the disputed 20 electoral votes. On March 2, 1877, the electoral commission voted to award the disputed 20 electoral votes to Hayes. A deal was struck to resolve the dispute called the Compromise of 1877. In exchange for the Democrats' agreement to Hayes' election, the Republicans agreed to withdraw federal troops from the South, ending Recon-

struction. After the withdrawal, the period of racial terror lynchings, the re-introduction and enforcement of Jim Crow laws, and institutionalized racial segregation continued in earnest throughout the South. White supremacy increased the violent and bloody process of public lynchings that lasted until at least 1957 when the United States Supreme Court ruled in Brown vs Board of Education in Topeka, Kansas, that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. The Equal Justice Initiative has counted more than 6,200 racial terror lynchings during this period. At least four occurred here in Pinellas County. This was the era of American apartheid, which lasted nearly 80 years. It followed enslavement, the Civil War and Reconstruction. This period was probably the most racially segregated period in American history.

Almost all interaction between the races was forbidden, and whites brutally enforced this separation by legally enacted laws and terror campaigns, particularly in the South. This resulted in the institutionalism of white supremacy, mass incarceration of Black men, racial separation in American jobs, schools, sports, marriage, housing and every other aspect of American life that bled into the entire country. Not until the 1960s did this violent racial suppression come to a temporary end. How ironic, after President Obama's two terms in office, in 2016, anti-Black racism has begun to rise again, resulting in the tumultuous and disputed election of 2020. Attorney Jacqueline Hubbard graduated from the Boston University Law School. She is currently the president of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc.

Remembrance: A panel discussion on racial terror lynchings

LYNCHED, from front page

troops to the South to ensure compliance. But after losing the Civil War over the institution of slavery, angry Southerners resorted to intimidation and violence to keep Blacks from voting.

“After the withdrawal of the federal troops,” Hubbard said, “a period of terror lynchings began in earnest. The reintroduction and enforcement of Jim Crow laws came up again. Institutionalized racial segregation continued in earnest throughout the South. White supremacy increased the violent and bloody process of public lynchings that lasted at least until the 1950s.”

Even after the landmark 1957 ruling of Brown v. the Topeka Board of Education deemed racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, the Equal Justice Initiative has counted over 6,200 racial terror lynchings, Hubbard said, pointing out that at least four of these occurred in Pinellas.

Dr. Ray Arsenault, retired USF St. Pete professor and noted author, said historical records show that there have been at least three lynchings in St. Pete. At the time of the city’s beginnings in 1888, only one Black family lived in the town. But as the Orange Belt Railway came through, it brought 100 African-American workers who helped build the railroad.

Over a dozen of them stayed once the work was completed and this became the basis for the Black community. By the turn of the last century, about one-quarter of St. Pete’s population was Black.

“Relations, compared to what they were later, relatively peaceful although there was clear racial discrimination and separation,” he said.

The first lynching in St. Pete took place in 1905, and the victim was John Thomas, a young African-American man from South Carolina. On Christmas Day, police Chief James Mitchell arrested Thomas for disorderly conduct, and as he was taking him to jail, they had a fight that resulted in Thomas pulling out a knife and stabbing the chief to death. Thomas, considered an outsider and not really part of the young town’s Black community, was taken to jail, and it wasn’t long before a mob gathered there and demanded they be given Thomas to “exercise vigilante justice on him,” Arsenault said.

Mob members

propped a ladder against the jailhouse, reaching to the second floor where Thomas’s cell was, and shot him to death through the window. But the mob’s bloodlust wasn’t satisfied. The growing mob broke open the doors, brought out Thomas’s body, and mutilated it — a common occurrence during lynchings, Arsenault explained.

“The body was mutilated, often burned at the stake, parts of the body were separated and sold as souvenirs,” he said. “It was a terribly gruesome ritual.”

The press hardly mentioned it, and it didn’t cause much of a stir. It seemed to be an anomaly, but nine years later, on Nov. 10, 1914, developer Edward Sherman, who employed 11 African-American workers to clear the land, was found shot to death. His wife, Mary, had been assaulted with a pipe and possibly sexually assaulted — or at least this was implied in the newspaper coverage of the day.

“They started roaming the Black community of St. Petersburg to find someone to blame for Edward Sherman’s death,” Arsenault said.

They fastened on John Evans, one of the laborers working for Sherman, who was from Dunnellon, Fla., in the central part of the state. He was another relative outsider as no one in the Black community really knew him. Since Evans had been fired three days before Sherman’s murder, citizens figured he was a prime suspect. They took Evans before Mrs. Sherman, who was in the hospital, and she said, “That’s not the man who killed my husband. That’s not the man who assaulted me.”

They let him go but when they searched the rooming house where he lived, they found bloody clothes and “that was the smoking gun for them,” Arsenault said. The mob seized him again, took him before Mrs. Sherman once more, and again she told them they had the wrong man.

The mob members spent hours torturing him, trying to coax a confession out of him, and when he refused, he was returned to jail. Since the city leaders were worried that the murder of a real estate developer from up north would frighten others from coming down and disrupt the rising tourist trade, they wanted to show that St. Pete firmly believed in law and order.

A group of city leaders secretly planned a lynching — it was no spontaneous gathering of a mob.

They yanked Evans out of the jail, marched him down Central Avenue to Ninth Street and two blocks south to what was known as Cooper’s Quarters, one of two main Black neighborhoods.

“They put a noose around his neck; they strung him up on a telephone pole,” Arsenault said. “He was a gruesome, gruesome sight. There were probably as many as 2,000 people there, maybe more than half of the white population of St. Petersburg. As he wrapped his legs around the pole trying to save himself, a woman from a car pulled out a shotgun and shot him to death.”

But that didn’t satisfy the mob. For about 10 minutes, members of the mob that included even women and children, shot hundreds of bullets into the body. Afterward, they allowed the children to poke the body with pointed sticks. The St. Pete newspapers of the day justified the lynching because since the imputation was that Mrs. Sherman had been sexually assaulted, “all bets were off, you didn’t have to worry about law and order, you had to avenge the honor of the community,” Arsenault noted.

Ebenezer Tobin, another African-American worker who Sherman had fired along with Evans, was in a Clearwater jail when a mob tried to break in and lynch him. Tobin wound up getting a trial in the end and was executed in Oct. 1915 in the first public execution in St. Pete.

In 1926, petty thief Parker Watson was charged with multiple counts of purse snatching. As three policemen were taking him to the county jail in Clearwater, he was ambushed by several masked men who whisked him away in handcuffs. The masked men shot and killed him, but there is circumstantial evidence that they tortured Watson first by pouring carbolic acid on his face.

The press was outraged by this lynching and condemned it as a “detrimment to the tourist trade, to the growth of the city,” Arsenault said, though there didn’t seem to be much sympathy for Watson himself.

These lynchings were used “to strike fear in the hearts of the Black community, to maintain the Jim Crow system and the social hierarchies and the racial hierarchies of the day,” Arsenault pointed out.

Black men weren’t the only ones who were targeted by lynch mobs, as women and children also suffered the same ghastly fate. Dr. Julie Armstrong, USF St. Pete, said groups that documented lynchings during the late 19th and early 20th centuries estimated that 4,500-5,000 lynchings were committed in the country.

About 80 percent of those were African-American men, primarily in the former Confederacy’s states. Of these numbers, only about 30 percent involved accusations of rape and most of those “were spurious at best,” she said.

Lynching is a form of violence that undergirded white supremacy, designed to keep African Americans in their then-perceived place at the lower end of a socio-economic hierarchy, Armstrong said, adding that the lynching of women and children “illustrates this point most clearly and most tragically.”

Though records are unclear, about 200 women

were lynched in the United States, sometimes together with their children, such as Laura Nelson and her 14-year-old son L.D. in Oklahoma. He was accused of stealing, and she was accused of shooting the sheriff who came to look for her son.

“Or consider Mary Turner, killed in Valdosta, Ga., in 1918, for threatening to seek justice against the mob members who lynched her husband,” Armstrong said. “The men retaliated against her by torturing, hanging, burning and mutilating Turner and then removing and killing her eight-month fetus.”

Anti-lynching activists tried for decades to draw upon female and child victims’ stories to counter the myth that many lynchings are comeuppance for Black men sexually assaulting white women.

“They argued that lynching had less to do with punishing criminals than with maintaining white supremacy,” Armstrong said.

Turner’s story generated a massive outpouring of response from creative writers, artists, journalists and organizations such as the NAACP, who put Turner at the center of their 1922 Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill, which proposed to make lynching a federal crime.

The bill went down in defeat when Southern senators filibustered it to death, arguing that lynching was a legitimate form of punishing rapists. In 2005, the Senate apologized for its role in refusing to criminalize lynching — with eight Senators holding out.

Though the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching was founded in 1930, the violence continued in the 20th century. The horrific murder of Emmett Till — a young Black boy lynched in 1955 in Mississippi for supposedly flirting with a white married woman — was another moment like Turner’s that galvanized the fight against lynching. Till’s mother held an open-casket funeral in Chicago so that the thousands of attendees could come face to face with what had really happened to him.

“Pictures of Till’s grossly disfigured body



were published in *Jet magazine* and then circulated throughout the news media nationally and internationally,” Armstrong said. “Score of civil rights activists point to Till’s death as the wake-up call for themselves and for the nation.”

Yet as recently as 2019, an anti-lynching bill went through Congress, passing the House of Representatives but stalling in the Senate in 2020.

“As the Equal Justice Initiative works with local groups across the country, including those in the Tampa Bay area, to install historical markers that commemorate the lives lost, I want you to remember people like Mary Turner, Laura and L.D. Nelson, Emmett Till and Willie James Howard, and think about how important it is for us to tell the truth about our shared history and how important it is to keep seeking justice,” Armstrong said.

While visiting the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Ala., a few years ago, Dan Boxser, Boxser Diversity Initiative in Sarasota, and his wife were horrified at the large monuments, each representing a victim of racial terror in a particular county.

It was there that they realized there had been six lynchings in their home of Sarasota-Manatee when it was still one county. The Boxser Diversity Initiative is a Sarasota and Manatee community remembrance project that Boxser established with other local advocates to bring awareness to this part of history.

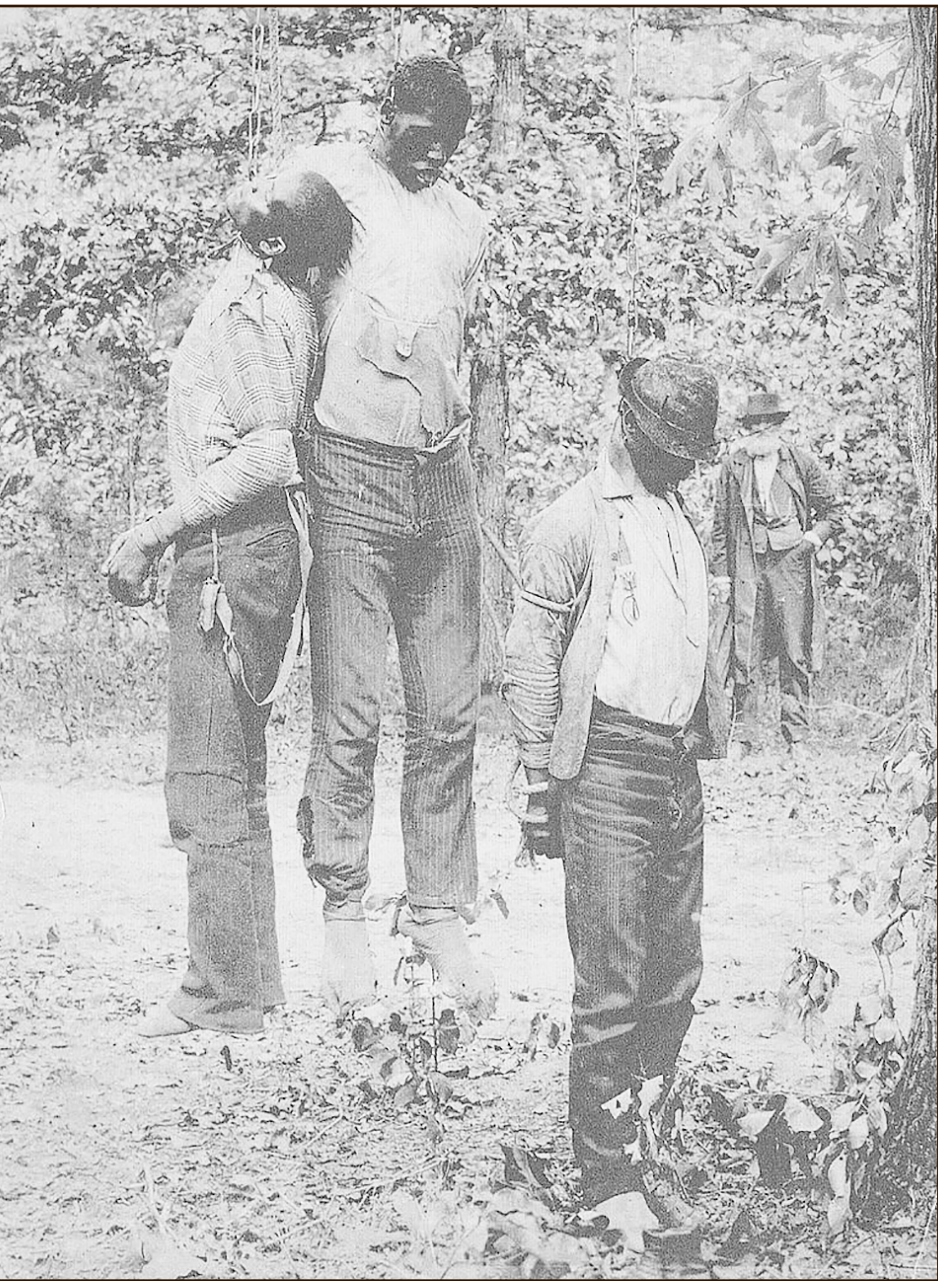
“We had to find out if we had the support of the community,” he said. “So

we circulated a support request — not for money — just to support a lynching marker to be in this area. One of our worries was that we were two counties —Manatee might not be interested if it’s in Sarasota and vice versa. And to say the least, the response was overwhelming. We’ve had over 300 pledges of support from individuals to all walks of our community and over 80 organizations, big ones, small ones.”

Andrew Walker, director of Health and Wellness for the National Senior Games Association, is a member of the local remembrance project Pinellas Remembers, an organization formed to create an appropriate memory and bear witness to the horrors of lynching in the community. Also known as the Community Remembrance Project Coalition (CRPC), its many partners and sponsors include the City of St. Petersburg, the Tampa Bay Rays and the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg.

“The main impetus of the Equal Justice Initiative in working with coalitions,” Walker stated, “is to have the coalitions create wording and language that would be appropriate to give recognition in memory, and to bear witness to the loss of lives by individuals that were lynched in the local community.”

The CRPC involves students in essay and art activities, he pointed out, to deepen their understanding of the history of lynching in Pinellas and around the country. The coalition plans to unveil a marker in downtown St. Pete as a memorial for lynching victims on Feb. 23. More details can be found at pinellasremembers.org.



Rest in peace, Vincent Jackson



L-R, Pastor G. Gregg Murray, Ramon Hernandez, Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Mayor Rick Kriseman, Mario Farias, Vincent Jackson and Pastor Basha Jordan, Jr. at the city council meeting on Nov. 2017.

Our hearts are broken as all of the Callaloo Partners grieve along with our late partner Vincent Jackson’s family, friends and all of his loved ones. The whole community is mourning his loss, from Buccaneers fans to the many lives touched through the Jackson In Action Foundation. His legacy is a bright, shining example for all, and we are so blessed to have called him our friend and business partner. He seemed larger than life; it’s so difficult to accept that a star that bright is gone. We wish peace and comfort to his wife, children and parents through such a devastating loss. Sometimes there are no words. Mario Farias, G. Tina Fischer, Leigh Kellet

Fletcher and myself lost a business partner and a friend on Monday morning. The world lost a funny, smart, kind man with a heart for his community. Vincent touched so many people. We are praying for him, his family and friends who grieve his passing. With great sadness, we endure the passing of our friend and business partner and former 3-time Pro Bowler Wide Receiver of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Vincent is one of our partners at our new restaurant and venue, St. Petersburg’s Historic Manhattan Casino. Vincent was a young, vibrant man who left us too soon. This brother was special on and off the field. His love and care for the community is un-

matched. Let’s keep his wife Lindsay and the kids and all the family and friends in our prayers. The Callaloo Operations Group won’t be the same without our teammate and partner. He was our captain. The Group will go forward with renewed vigor in opening the Manhattan venue and continuing his vision of responsible business and community service. That’s what Vincent always wanted to see. He wanted us to win big with sustained success. And we will do it all in his honor as he watches from the stands. Rest in peace, Vincent. Thank you Vincent...from the Callaloo Operations Group.

Julia Richardson new member of 2020-2021 Board of Trustees

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (February 2, 2020) — Julia Richardson has joined the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) volunteer Board of Trustees starting with the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Richardson moved to St. Petersburg from Charlotte, North Carolina in July of 2019 to take a position as Vice President, Supervision – Fiduciary Services at Raymond James Financial. She graduated with her B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University in 2003 and J.D. from the George Washington University School of Law in 2008. Richardson has over 10 years of experience in the financial industry with a focus on fiduciary services with bonew federal standard for broker-dealers, Regulation Best Interest, for Raymond James. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Florida Securities Dealers Association. In addition to her professional background, Richardson has a strong value of art appreciation, and is passionate about supporting the arts. She paints in her spare time,



and is a collector of works of fine art. She has two children, Lauren, 10, and Benjamin, 5, and they enjoy their home near St. Petersburg’s Coffee Pot community. Richardson joins other new MFA 2020-21 board members, Matthew (Matt) Bisset, Belinda Dumont and Glenn Mosby, who began their three-year terms on July 1. Stuart Society President Rita Peters will serve for a

one-year term. The MFA Board officers for 2020-2021 are Fred Razook, chair; Dimity Carlson, vice chair; Tim Coop, treasurer; and Emily Elwyn, secretary. ### th institutional and retail customers. Prior to joining Raymond James, Richardson worked for Wells Fargo Bank with their Institutional Retirement and Trust business. She currently leads the program for implementation of a

WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

St. Pete peace protest goes beyond protesting in efforts to uplift community

BY COURTNEY AMOS
Neighborhood News Bureau

In the peak of St. Petersburg’s summer heat, community members from the St. Pete Peace Protest group gathered on Thursdays to pick up trash in neighborhoods located in South St. Petersburg. “The primary goal of our group’s community work is to offset the negative effects of late-stage capitalism and funneling our resources back into the most resource-deprived communities,” said Deja-Denice Sherrod. Sherrod describes herself as a part of Black leadership within the decentralized collective of the movement in the city. Though the initial marches of the St. Pete Peace Protest began in the wake of George Floyd’s murderer at the hands of police officers in May, the group is not officially affiliated with Black Lives Matter. Movement St. Pete, a movement that encapsulates various initiatives for the betterment of Black lives, includes the St. Pete Peace Protest group. “These community-based initiatives have already been happening in St. Pete,” said Sherrod. “So our intention is to strengthen what is already happening by getting people involved with social justice for the first time (also) involved in the community.” From approximately 2 pm to 4 pm each Thursday, anywhere from a small handful to upward of 20 individuals came together to pick up trash from the streets and

lawns of whichever neighborhood they have decided to cover that day. On social media, this endeavor has come to be known under the 10-block challenge hashtag. Initially, the volunteers met at Campbell Park, and then drove or walked to the destination, depending on how far it was and how many people had shown out to take part for that day. They then started meeting at Child’s Park. A van serves as the base and meeting spot for the trash pick-up crew. Gloves, trash bags, and water bottles are provided, and a first aid kit is readily available. Masks are worn when the group congregates at the beginning and end of each meet up. The van then takes the trash to a dumping cite at the end of every pickup. Sometimes, a couple of girls who regularly attend the pickups will sort out any recyclables and take those to a local recycling plant. In addition to the weekly trash pickups, the St. Pete Peace Protest group is also involved in feeding houseless people and upkeeping the Bartlett Community Garden weekly, as well as daily signal boosting various causes and donation opportunities via their social media. Multiple members participate in many of these endeavors, and are also regularly going to the local marches for racial justice and against police brutality, which occurred every day from May 30 to the end of August, and continue now every

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening. Caroline Mortellaro, 25, revealed that she started with going to the protests, and then heard about the other work the group does for the community from there. “The environment is something that is really important to me,” said Mortellaro, noting that environmental racism is something she is particularly aware of. This is what led her to start showing up for the trash pickups. “When I heard that the group was going out to the community, especially into the south side, it really interested me in just being hands on with it,” she continued. Others of the group echoed this environmentalist reasoning for attending the pickups, as well as wanting to have a proactive outlet to address and help to rectify the issues that have been inflicted on the community through gentrification. The communities seem to be receptive to this initiative. It is not uncommon for residents to come out of their homes to say thank you or to ask more about the group, or to offer a bottle of water on a hot day. Protesting is imperative in the social justice work that the group is trying to do, but it is only a part of a much larger picture. While the protests have gotten ample media coverage, especially in light of recent tensions between protestors and bystanders, the community-centered work the group does seems to be less well-known by the



general public. “We wish that the public understood us to be people who want the best for our city and communities, and we are willing to do what’s necessary to achieve that,” said Sherrod. “We might appear angry in the streets, and we are, but we do everything we do because we love ourselves and our communities, and do not want to suffer any longer.” To find out what members of the groups are up to, follow them on social media for an updated schedule. The St. Pete Peace Protest can be found on Instagram and Twitter. Movement St. Pete is also on social media with their own Instagram page and their own website.

I took the shot

“Over 50 years ago, my followers and I at the Center for a United Black Community made a solemn pledge to develop our minds and bodies to the greatest extent possible, and to keep ourselves healthy and fit in order that we might best protect our people, our community, our neighborhoods, and institutions, our families and ourselves whenever we were called upon. COVID-19 is a deadly threat to people around the globe and especially so to African-Americans because of the well-documented health disparities that affect so many of us,” says Imam Askia Muhammad Aquil, a respected community activist and faith leader and the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Collective Empowerment Group of the Tampa Bay Area, Inc. (CEGTBA).

CEGTBA is a nonprofit designed as a “Big Tent” collaborative for the primary purpose of building community wealth by engendering a common vision throughout the faith-based and community development sectors leveraging the immeasurable resources, skills and talents indigenous to African American communities. In addition to health consequences and death, the COVID-19 virus has caused furloughs, layoffs, shutdown of places of worship and businesses, as well as ongoing incalculable personal and economic hardships.

Consequently, with the support of the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg and many community partners, CEGTBA has strategically shifted its focus and energies toward halting the spread of COVID-19 and defeating it long term by mobilizing its resources and encouraging maximum adherence to CDC Guidelines, Florida and Pinellas County mandates, and creative strategies that are consistent with science and research-proven best practices. The “I TOOK THE SHOT Campaign” is one such strategy led by the CEGTBA.

“Defeating the COVID-19 pandemic and its disparate impact on vulnerable populations and communities thoughtfully, comprehensively, sustainably and equitably is a prerequisite to rebuilding our local and national economies while building community wealth,” says Aquil.

According to the Center for Disease Control, there are now over 24.3 million cases of Covid-19 cases in the U. S. There are over 1.6 million cases in the state of Florida and over 55,000 cases in Pinellas County. Of those in Pinellas County, it is estimated that black residents are 2.5 times more likely to contract COVID-19. This is indisputably the most prominent health equity issue of our times. According to a report issued by the Florida Department of Health, as of January 20, 2021, 53,525 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Pinellas County. Of that number, 2,536 (less than 5%) have been administered to black or African American residents. Blacks or African Americans comprise 11.1% of the county’s population.

Preliminary indicators that several factors are contributing to the unacceptably low turnout. First of all, the high level of resistance, distrust, and fear has not been effectively countered. Secondly, information is not reaching willing eligible priority res-

idents in a clear and timely manner. Third, appointments are mandatory to get the vaccine. Appointments are given after a somewhat complicated registration process for those who may not be as computer literate or who may have limited access to internet services. Ambitiously, the “I TOOK THE SHOT Campaign” hopes to persuade 75% of eligible African-Americans to get vaccinated.

It begins with data, says Dr. Katurah Jenkins-Hall, a clinical psychologist who specializes in program evaluation research and is a community volunteer for this project. We recently surveyed 175 African American adults from 18-65+ and discovered patterns that will help drive the campaign. One of the questions asked was, “If given the opportunity, would you take the Covid-19 vaccination?” Of 51 respondents over the age of 65, only one was undecided about taking the shot. Everyone else (99%) said “Yes” they would take it, or they had already taken it. Contrast this with only 38% of persons 25-34 saying “Yes” they would take it. In fact, the data shows that as age increases, so does confidence in the vaccination.

“Our opportunity for influencing minds lies with the approximately 36% in their 40s and 50s who are undecided or who are saying “No” to taking the shot at this time,” says Aquil. Of those who are undecided, 25% report that they need more time to consider any adverse side-effects associated with the vaccines. “Time could be a deciding factor that will persuade our next priority group to step up and take the shot,” reports Jenkins-Hall.

The “I TOOK THE SHOT Campaign” will raise the level of awareness among the targeted populations through a strategic information dissemination and multi-tiered marketing initiatives utilizing existing inter and intra faith-based communication networks, neighborhood associations, community-based organizations, print media, social media, production of culturally sensitive infomercials, signage, street-level and door-to-door outreach, and other strategies.

One such strategy is to recruit “Influencers” to help overcome hesitancy to getting vaccinated. Here is what our 65+ Community Influencers have to say in response to the questions: Why did you take the shot?; and Do you think others should take it?

I TOOK THE SHOT

“I consulted with my doctor after following the vaccine research and studies, then took the first and second shots. I will not sit on my hands with my eyes glued to the TV set and allow this COVID-19 threat to go unchallenged — NOT ON MY WATCH!”

Imam Askia Muhammad Aquil

“I TOOK THE SHOT Campaign”, Director Activist, social reformer and community builder, Islamic faith leader, Chair of

the Board of Directors of the Collective Empowerment Group of the Tampa Bay Area, Inc. (CEGTBA).

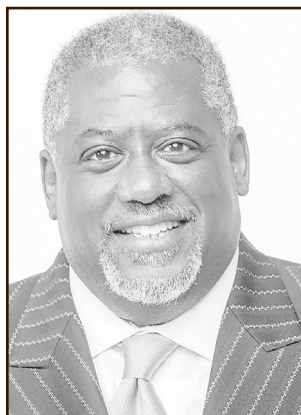
“I believe in taking the necessary precautions to prevent the exposure of my family, friends, military, co-workers, church members and others to this dreadful disease. My desire is that everyone would be safe and for our community to listen to the scientists. As a retired nurse, I understand the importance of reaching our elderly and those with co-morbidity (other diseases). These are our most vulnerable.”



Dr. Carrie Nero

Brigadier General Dr. Carrie Nero, USAR (RET) Founder of Office of Minority Health, Pinellas County Health Department

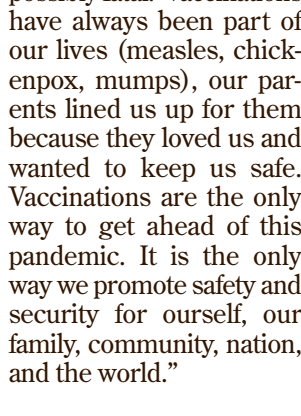
“The reasons I took the shot are simple. I TRUST GOD and I believe in science. I encourage my congregation to get vaccinated. It is better to live having taken the shot, rather than to die not having taken it. The benefits far outweigh the risks.”



Rev. Dr. Wayne Thompson

Rev. Dr. Wayne G. Thompson Pastor, First Baptist Institutional Church

“I’ve taken both doses of the vaccination and I had no hesitancy. The alternative is too drastic and possibly fatal. Vaccinations have always been part of our lives (measles, chickenpox, mumps), our parents lined us up for them because they loved us and wanted to keep us safe. Vaccinations are the only way to get ahead of this pandemic. It is the only way we promote safety and security for ourself, our family, community, nation, and the world.”

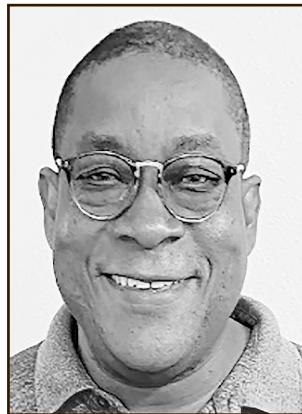


Gwendolyn Reese

Gwendolyn D. Reese Chief Executive Officer of Peaten Reese Peaten Consultant, Inc.

“I am a COVID-19 advocate and I campaign for all black persons to get vaccinated when they become eligible. I believe taking the shot myself will speak volumes and add credibility to influence others to do the same. While I do sympathize with and under-

stand why many black citizens are reluctant to take the shot, the statistics show an advantage to those who get vaccinations over those who do not. “



Larry Butler

Larry Butler Social Services Officer Jordan Park Apartments, St. Petersburg Housing Authority

“The pandemic is devastating and the Black American community needs to protect itself from this very infectious and deadly disease. Fear should be put aside and practicality and judgment put in its place. I took both shots of the vaccine because I knew the vaccine would give a person of my age group protection from the virus. I took it because I want to live my life out of lock-down and have the ability to visit my daughter, my son-in-law, my grandchildren, my family and my friends and not be afraid of contracting and spreading the virus. I will continue to wear a mask when outside of my home and follow the CDC guidelines and the science. I urge all people to do the same.”



Jacqueline Williams Hubbard

Attorney Jacqueline Williams Hubbard President, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH)

“As a role model, advocate, leader, and servant to our community, I took the shot to lead our community by example. I am also a firm believer in family. I took the shot for my community and my family. I love them both.”



Carl Lavender, Jr.

Carl R. Lavender, Jr. Chief Equity Officer Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg

“I have received both vaccines. I had absolutely no side effects either time, Thank God!

Initially, I was a doubter as some still are. My answer came through prayer and I know my decision was God-directed. I chose to be vaccinated for self-protection and the protection of others. In the midst of this pandemic, we must resolve to step out on faith

and not allow fear to hinder progress. I encourage others to pray; look deep within yourself; and for those with serious medical conditions, consult your physician. Getting vaccinated is an important step in ending this pandemic! In the words of my pastor, the Rev. Wayne G. Thompson, ‘We must follow science and TRUST GOD!’”



Thelma Bruce

Thelma Bruce Retired Clinical Social Worker, Sixth Judicial Circuit Court

National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW), St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section

“I decided to take the vaccine after listening carefully to the respected experts and believing that the efficacy rate was quite substantial. I wholeheartedly agree with the importance of others to be vaccinated. We need for everyone in our community to understand and appreciate their value to family, friends, and the community. TRUST THE SCIENCE AND PROTECT YOURSELVES.”



Ray Tampa

Ray Tampa Former President, NAACP St. Petersburg Chapter Retired Pinellas County School Principal

“I’ve taken the COVID-19 Vaccine to further protect myself from the devastating vestiges of this deadly disease. I’m 67 years old and I have a few underlying health conditions that lead me to believe that I would become seriously ill if I were to get Coronavirus. Also, I trust the scientific data and I’ve been vaccinated against various viruses practically all of my life. These include Polio, Measles, Mumps, Pneumonia, Hepatitis A and the annual Flu vaccine. I feel it’s vitally important for me and people who look like me to get the vaccine because evidence shows that Coronavirus has a disparate impact on people of color, and we’re more likely to be hospitalized and/or die from the virus.”

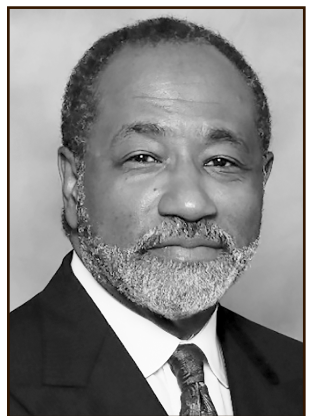
Theresa Jones Manager, Veterans, Homeless and Social Services Department City of St. Petersburg, Florida

“I took the vaccination because I believe that such action is in the best interest of myself, my family, and the community. It is also the best advice from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the leading scientific body. Despite the hesitancy of some in our communities, I believe it is essential for others to be vaccinated for the same reasons—especially those

from the African American and Hispanic communities which the pandemic has disproportionately impacted.”



Theresa Jones



Dr. Ricardo Davis

Dr. Ricardo A. Davis, D.B.A.

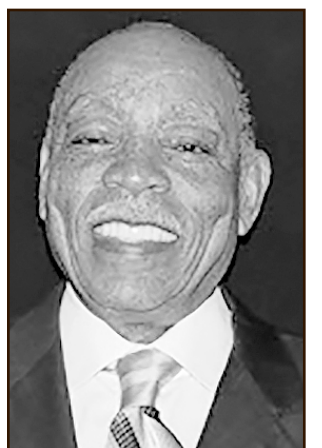
President, Concerned Organization for Quality Education of Black Students, Inc.

(COQEBs)

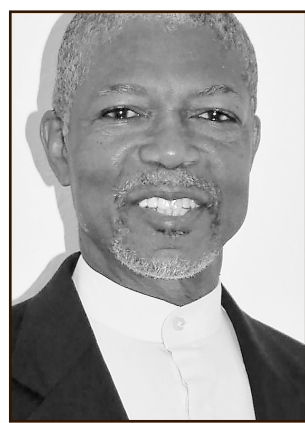
“I believed that for my personal welfare and the safety and health of loved ones and friends around me that it was important for me to take the vaccine. My strong religious beliefs and science both have guided my decision. While I recognize some of the horrific experiments and events of the past have adversely affected black people, I believe this is to be a necessary antidote for preservation of health and life in our community and world. I believe that there are many who can be trusted navigators, influencers and friends to our community. These collaborative efforts against COVID-19 can be transformational, creating new bonds and relationships that will sustain and change our world.”

Dr. Willie B. Felton, Jr. Adjunct instructor and faculty mentor St. Petersburg College, Midtowns

“I believed that for my personal welfare and the safety and health of loved ones and friends around me that it was important for me to take the vaccine. My strong religious beliefs and science both have guided my decision. While I recognize some of the horrific experiments and events of the past have adversely affected black people, I believe this is to be a necessary antidote for preservation of health and life in our community and world. I believe that there are many who can be trusted navigators, influencers and friends to our community. These collaborative efforts against COVID-19 can be transformational, creating new bonds and relationships that will sustain and change our world.”



Dr. Willie B. Felton, Jr.



Imam Askia Muhammad Aquil

Jordan Park Projects Nostalgic Association continues

BY ROSE SMITH
Contributor

ST. PETERSBURG — Three native sons of St. Petersburg talked about the fun they had as children and teenagers growing up in the “projects.” Born in the mid-1940s, they reminisced about experiencing Jim Crow and other negative attitudes about Blacks people in their city. As children and young teens, they decided not to spoil their fun.

While remembering the fun times, they recalled that they did not know that they were impoverished by the standards of that day. They had fun, food, clothing, shelter, good friends and loving parents. What else was there to life in their youth?

In 2010, Minson Rubin aka “Cripp,” Rufus Lewis aka as “Jabo” and Willie Felton aka “Butch,” came up with the idea to celebrate their childhood and teen years by forming a group. The group would be composed of people that enjoyed those days as they did. There you have it, the birth of the JPPNA, the Jordan Park Projects Nostalgic Association. Rubin and Lewis became founders. Lewis was the first president, Rubin was the first vice president and Felton was the first treasurer for the association.

Lewis became a basketball star at 16th Street Junior High School. As the three entered Gibbs Senior High School, Rubin and Lewis dominated on the Gibbs Glad-



iator basketball team. While the three men went on to Gibbs Junior College, Rubin and Lewis became star players with Gibbs Junior College Cobras.

The basketball players, Lewis and Rubin, attribute their success as players to several coaches: Theodore Johnson, Love Brown, Sidney Campbell, William Wysinger, Harvey Hollins, Freddie Dyles, Herbet Dixon and Norman Jackson.

All three achieved successful careers, Rubin in education, Lewis in law enforcement with the Tampa Police Department (one of the Fearless Four) and Felton was the first of African descent to work in the finance department at the college, was grafted into St. Petersburg Junior College and is now St. Petersburg College.

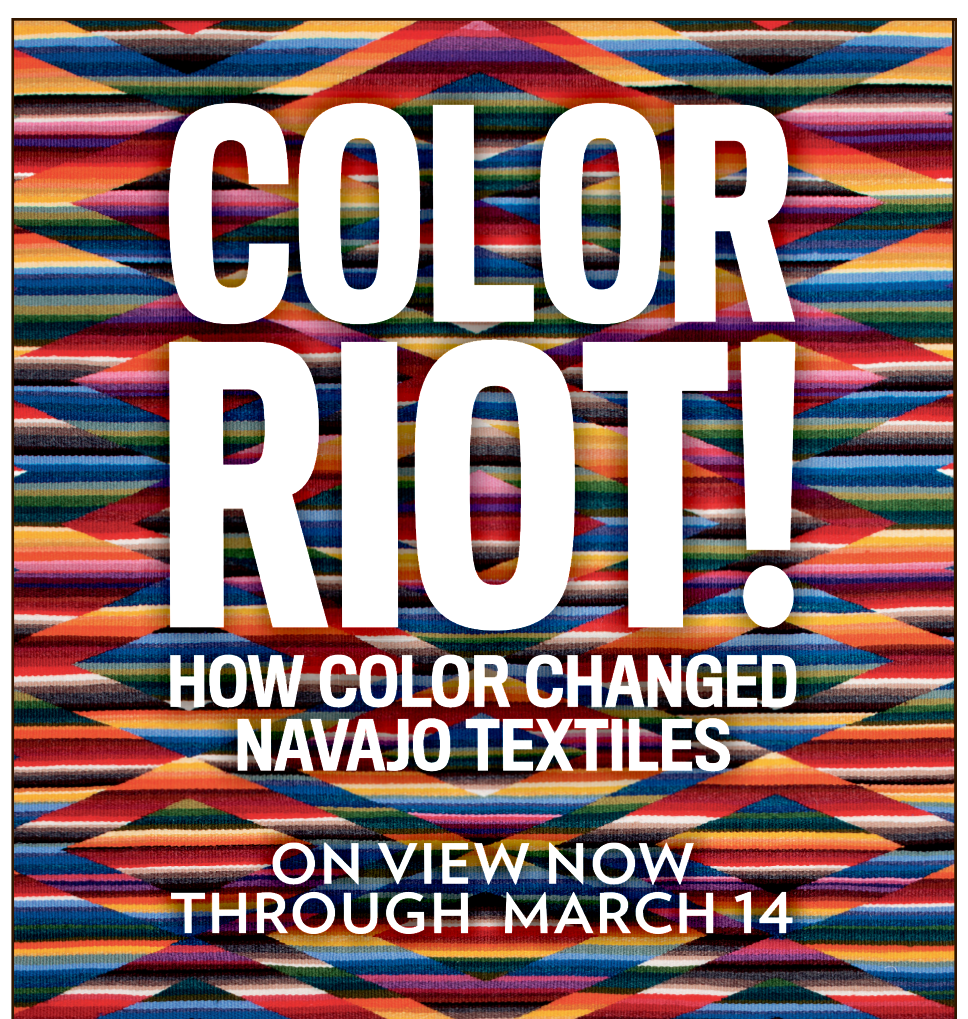
Unfortunately, Rubin passed last February and did not see his dream of having Coach Freddie Dyles’ name on the Jonathan C. Gibbs Senior

School gymnasium. The name was installed right after his passing.

Last year during the pandemic, the Nostalgic Association experienced some growth issues, as did other groups. However, under Shirley Abrams’ leadership, a retired educator, they were able to hold their election complying with their by-laws. Lewis was elected president for the 2021-22 period.

Under the leadership of Lewis, the group wishes to continue the Nostalgic Association by celebrating and remembering the fun of their past while bringing joy to their community. They also wish to continue to find new ways to celebrate their past and present while looking forward to the future.

Current officers for 2021-22 are Lewis, president, Brenda Gilstrap-Stokes, 1st vice president, Robert ‘Bob’ Perry, 2nd vice president, Louis B. Williams, treasurer, Ruben Mayes, chaplain, Leroy Lewis, Jr., parliamentarian.



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SBE SPOTLIGHT

Acknowledging business owners who make a difference in the community.

If reading between the lines is akin to designing within the walls, that’s exactly what you’re getting with Julius Davis, President and CEO of VoltAir Consulting Engineers. As a mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection and technology engineering design company, VoltAir employs nearly 50 professionals across four states, including three locations in Florida.

While Julius credits his staff with the firm’s success, one major component of his achievements has been his unwavering customer service. By maintaining a single point of communication and direct involvement from start to finish, professional staff work diligently with each client, keeping a finger on the pulse of each project. Most importantly, being responsive has attributed to the company’s success.

Julius is a champion and promoter of small businesses and economic enterprise. You will often find him encouraging other business owners by sharing his growing pains and the challenges he’s encountered along the way.

VoltAir projects have included K-12 and Higher Education, Municipal, Aviation and Healthcare facilities to name a few. While providing services across the US, VoltAir maintains a high level of excellence and fulfills its mission “We’ll Engineer Your Vision.”



Julius Davis
VoltAir Consulting Engineers



Become the next Pinellas County community leader by learning new ways to grow your business with the help of the Florida SBDC at Pinellas County. For more information, visit

PCED.org/sbdc

SBE SPOTLIGHT

Acknowledging business owners who make a difference in the community.

Sean Carter of the WSV Group is no new kid on the block. Having served the Tampa Bay market since 2004, this General Contractor hit the ground running and has been full speed ever since.

Specializing in HVAC and Roofing services since its’ inception, the WSV Group has since expanded its’ services to include new construction, building alterations, remodeling, and renovations to name a few.

Sean’s commitment to the redevelopment of South St. Pete is evident by his participation in community endeavors. Always looking for opportunities to expand his footprint in the market, he maintains a diverse portfolio which has been paramount to the success of his company.

“Building a Legacy” of trust, on time delivery and professional services for your residential and commercial projects. Whatever your building needs, “We’ve Got You Covered!”



Sean Carter
WSV Group, Inc. of Pinellas County



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SBE SPOTLIGHT

Acknowledging business owners who make a difference in the community.

Elizabeth Siplin is a shining example of a great Pinellas County business owner. Her business is steadily growing due to her entrepreneurial spirit and her continual drive to reach the next goal.

She has been able to secure government contracts due to her many certifications, including: SDVOSB, HUBZone, DBE, and WOSB.

She is currently participating in the St. Petersburg MBE Accelerator program, an 8-week intensive series of developmental learning, capacity-building, and certifications created for growth-postured minority business owners who live in or own a business in St. Petersburg.

This is only the beginning. She has aspirations of expansion and has reached out to other Pinellas County business owners seeking community partnerships.



Elizabeth Siplin
Empact Solutions of Pinellas County



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[PCED.org/sbdc](https://www.pced.org/sbdc)

SBE SPOTLIGHT

Acknowledging business owners who make a difference in the community.

When it comes down to succession planning, the Terrell family is an example of doing things right. As President and Operations Manager of Terrell Industries, Grady Terrell, III comes from a long lineage of entrepreneurs. As a third generation entrepreneur, he has shown great resilience to weather any storm.

Grady Terrell, III has continued that legacy by marketing Industrial products, construction materials and his commercial Pressure Cleaning division to a diverse customer base around Florida.

His keen knowledge of the market has led to his company's longevity. One of his greatest assets and sound business models has been pivoting to meet the demands of the market.

Grady's unwavering determination, willingness to diversify, and commitment to excellence has given him his competitive advantage. Hat's off to Terrell Industries!



Grady Terrell, III
Terrell Industries of Pinellas County



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CHURCH NEWS

16 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

www.theweeklychallenger.com

The Weekly Challenger



955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 894-4311
Email: info@mzprogressive.org
Website: www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible StudyNoon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.
Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
Sunday Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Small Group Bible Study6:30 p.m.

Mission Statement:
Impact the world by equipping believers to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



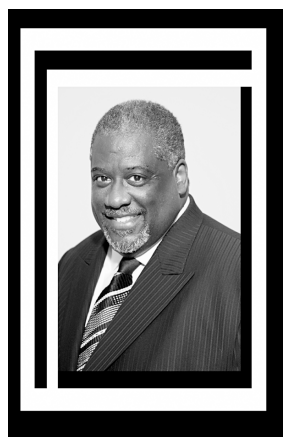
Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Senior Pastor

First Baptist Institutional Church

3144 Third Avenue South,
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Phone: 727-323-7518

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Praise Time 10:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Tuesday Night Live -
Prayer Service & Bible Study 7 p.m.

Come Worship With the First Baptist Family



REV. DR. WAYNE G. THOMPSON,
PASTOR

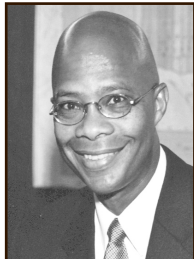
BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240

E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

Sunday Worship Service10:15 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Teen Summit (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Pastor

“God’s House To The City”

BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

2901 - 54th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL. 33712
(727) 866-2567



Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes

SERVICES

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
Mid-Week Worship: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



The Rev. Josie Rose,
Priest-in-Charge

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Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays

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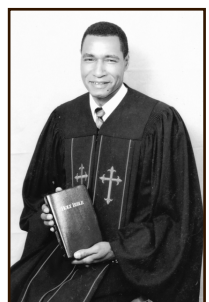
GROWING RELATIONALLY IN DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CHRIST
MATTHEW 28:18-20, JOHN 15:4-5



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE 9:00AM
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM
TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM



REV. ROBERT A. VINSON, JR.



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

1121 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 327-8708

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday)6:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Tuesday)7:00 p.m.
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) ..4:00 p.m.

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www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

Victory Christian Center Church

3012 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712
(727) 321-0911

www.Victorychristiancenterchurch.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday Worship*
10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study* -7:00 p.m.
Friday Prayer -7:00 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer - 9:00 a.m.
(except Wednesdays)

Donn & Jean
Fresher

Victory Christian Center is a Word of Faith Church.
For more information about the other services and
ministries at Victory Christian Center, please call (727) 321-0911.

*Nursery and Youth Services Available



Bro. Robert Smith

20th Street Church Of Christ

825 20th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Home: 896-8006

Sunday Bible Class (All Ages)8:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship9:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Class10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

UNITY
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Sunday Worship Service 10:00 A.M. *

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**TODAY'S
CHURCH**
Tampa Bay

SUNDAYS
8:45AM Drive -IN Centering Service
10:45AM Creative Expression
2:00PM Cultural Integration

WEDNESDAY
6:30 PM PRAYER ON ZOOM

**7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY
ON ZOOM**

ZOOM MEETING ID:375007212
AND PASSWORD 5107



TODAY'S CHURCH
— TAMPA BAY —
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader
WHERE ALL THE PIECES COME TOGETHER!

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1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL
(727) 321-6631 • www.stmarkch.org

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union..... 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:00 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: rojmbc@knology.net
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300 www.friendshipstpetersburg.org
Email: fmbc3300@outlook.com
YouTube: FMBC The Ship



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday Worship8:45 a.m. “The Hour of Power”
Sunday School.....8:00 a.m.
Wednesday in the Word.....
12:30 p.m. via ZOOM - ACCESS CODE: 599-819-6863 PASSWORD: 778769
7:00 p.m. via ZOOM - ACCESS CODE: 509-102-8823 PASSWORD: THESHIP

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.



ST. PETERSBURG
2114 54th Avenue North

TAMPA
5107 N Central Avenue

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 8:45AM Drive In Centering Service	SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP 2pm Cultural Integration Worship Experience
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10:30AM CREATIVE EXPRESSION WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORD
6:30 PM - COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS PRAYER
7 PM - BIBLE STUDY

WWW.TODAYSCHURCHTAMPABAY.COM
ZOOM: MEETING ID 375 007 212 PASSWORD 5107

CHURCH NEWS



INSPIRATIONS

BY DIERDRE DOWNING-JACKSON

A Marriage for God

Dear Heavenly Father,

We Trust You LORD JESUS for Your guidance; for a Marriage ruled by You is one of complete reliance.

We Thank You LORD JESUS for Your grace and Your mercy; for a Marriage of unconditional love, has strength through controversy.

We Praise You LORD JESUS with all of our heart; we know with our Hal-lujahs, Your love will never part.

We Pray for Your forgiveness, when we forget to heed Your call; a Marriage grown in Your wisdom, will stand and never fall.

We Love You as we remember to walk by faith with grace; a Marriage directed by JESUS CHRIST has courage to not lose this race.


We will Honor and Obey You, we vow to forever endure; because a Marriage devoted to JESUS, is a Marriage that is tried and sure.

We hold You LORD JESUS, as we humble ourselves today; for a Marriage in Your keeping shows all the world You truly care.”

We Thank You LORD “But JESUS beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with GOD all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26 KJV

Dedicated to my husband
Dr. Russell T. Jackson

Happy Blessed Anniversary
2/18/2021



Pastor's Corner

BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY,
SPIRITUAL LEADER
TODAY'S CHURCH Tampa Bay

Kneeling in Prayer

“A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees; if you are willing, you can make me clean (Mark 1:40).”

In addition to bowing your heads and closing your eyes, many people learn to “get on your knees and pray.” Often, it’s at night before going to sleep. Parents instruct their children to kneel on the side of the bed and say their prayers. Perhaps you have fond memories of kneeling and reciting the Lord’s Prayer or the 23rd Psalm. Or maybe you were taught, like me, “Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to

keep. If I should die before I wake. I pray the Lord, my soul, to take. God bless mommy, daddy...”

Kneeling is a physical way to revere God as your Creator and remember that God is your Source. “Know that it is the Lord, who is God. It is he that has made us and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture (Psalm 100:3).” Without reverencing and remembering, kneeling is a powerless religious ritual.

Kneeling is not just a physical activity, but a soulful action that strengthens your resolve of the Truth.

“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God (Romans 14:11).” When you bend your knees in prayer, sickness, pain, and disease must kneel in subjection to wholeness, healing, and health. When you bend your knees in prayer any toxic relationships or ways of relating must kneel in subjection to love, joy, peace and harmony in all your relationships. When you bend your knees in prayer, lack, limitation, sacristory or poverty and must kneel in subjection to increase, abundance, overflow, and more than enough.

Delivered

Thank You LORD JESUS for all your seasons of deliverance.
Thank You for an understanding, and the presence of your wisdom.

Thank You for Your peace and courage, gained through perseverance.
Thank You LORD for showing truth and love, born of obedience.

Thank You LORD JESUS, our hearts and soul belong to you.
Thank You for making a pathway to walk and journey through.

Thank You for Your Word, forever a lamp unto our feet.
Thank You LORD again and again, we are Your witnesses of no defeat.

Thank You LORD JESUS, for in Your name is absolute victory.
Thank You LORD for using us, to pray for strength, peace and harmony.

Thank You LORD for blessing us and setting this once captive free.

Thank You LORD JESUS, because of You, we are saved and can clearly see.

Thank You LORD JESUS for Your tender mercies and for always loving me.

By the power of Your awesome grace, You have delivered thee.

It is my promise to walk by faith with You LORD JESUS, throughout eternity.

Thank You LORD again and again, for loving and delivering me.”

AMEN

“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.” Psalm 91:14

Prayer & Fasting During the Lenten Season

“This kind only comes out by fasting and prayer (Matthew 17:21).”

Jesus fasted and taught his disciples to fast as a life practice. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, reinforced the prayer tool of fasting in his epistles to the churches telling them to be “in fastings often (II Corinthians 11:27).” There are several different types of fasts referenced in the Bible. Some fasts are absolute where people such as Moses, Elijah, and Jesus were set apart for 40 days without food or water (Exodus 34:28-29, Deuteronomy 10:10, I Kings 19:8, Matthew 4:1- 13). Some fasts were for shorter periods, such as three days and three nights, as Esther did with her maids (Esther 4:13- 16). Other fasts called for people like Daniel and the three Hebrew boys to abstain from particular foods, drinks, or activities for an extended period (Daniel 1:8-13, 10:3).

Regardless of the length or type of fast in the Bible, it was always coupled with prayer because it is a form of prayer. Fast without prayer is a physical fast that can help strip away toxins and re-wire cells of your physical body. Fast with prayer is a Spiritual fast and helps re-wire the four aspects of the

soul (thoughts, feelings, intellect, and will) as well as your physical body. During seasons of fasting and praying, we not only limit or eliminate our food intake, but we also limit or eliminate activities that do not feed our soul. Examples of spiritual fasting include limiting our time for radio, television, social media, and other forms of entertainment so that we can focus our energy on spiritual things.

Jesus taught his disciples to “anoint your head and to wash your face.” He balanced the spiritual aspect of fasting (anointing the head for supernatural strength) with the natural part of fasting (washing your face). Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you in what you are to fast from for the next 40 days. It can be a specific food like meats and sweets or a beverage like soda or coffee. It may also be not eating for a defined period (8-16 hours a day).

In Matthew 17:14-21, Jesus, our example of what it means to be fully human and fully Divine, encountered a young man who appeared to be a lunatic. The young man often cut himself and had fits of rage. He was suicidal and made several attempts to drown and burn himself to death.

While his friends and family loved him, they did not have the consciousness to help him; therefore, he lived in the tombs by himself. One of the family members decided to bring the young man to the disciples for healing. They, too, were unsuccessful in healing the young man.

Finally, they brought the young man to Jesus, who restored the young man to sanity. Privately, the disciples asked Jesus the reason why he was able to help the young man when they were not. Jesus credited his ability to cast out negativity to fasting and prayer and encouraged his disciples to do the same. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about fasting and its rewards (Matthew 6:16- 18).

Sometimes you may think that a spiritual practice is not for you or is unnecessary or no longer relevant. The disciples probably thought the same thing until they had this experience with the young man. All the spiritual practices are relevant. They are for the development of your soul to equip you to handle whatever experience comes your way.





CONSCIOUSNESS JOURNEY

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

FEBRUARY 17 - MARCH 31

7:00 PM - BIBLE STUDY & BREAKOUT GROUPS

website - todayschurchtampabay.com
Sign - in early for Collective Consciousness Journey Prayer

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE

ZOOM MEETING ID: 375 007 212 PASSWORD-5107

This shouldn't be
how we say hello
...or goodbye.



It's our reality right now. But it won't be if we do what it takes to beat COVID-19. Vaccines are coming, but until enough of us are vaccinated, we all still need to wear our masks, stay at least six feet from others, and avoid indoor social gatherings. The more we slow the spread, the faster we'll return to normal hellos ... and fewer goodbyes.

Learn more about vaccines and slowing the spread at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



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