

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Data Zone

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a Helping
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Calvin Mackie

Lending a Helping Hand



By Edwin Buggage

A Life Dedicated to Service

He is a man who over the last two decades has been a beacon light of hope. He is one who truly believes and embodies the words in Acts Chapter 20 Verse 35 where it says, "That it is better to give than receive." Dr. Calvin Mackie is a man who lives to give, and on any given day he can be found on frontlines fighting the righteous fight to uplift humanity.

Dr. Mackie's journey is one that is inspirational. His beginnings were humble, but through hard work, perseverance coupled with a caring and nurturing environment he defied the odds becoming an Inventor, Author, and an Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering at Tulane University. Upon meeting him it is hard not to become engulfed in the passion of his commitment to change. He is a mesmerizing speaker who quite literally has changed the course of individual's lives. Today, he continues his life's work speaking to students, business executives, and educational leaders about the opportunities and possibilities opened to anyone courageous enough to confront social, economic, and self-imposed barriers to success. Humor, Interaction and Authenticity are trademarks in his high-energy presentations that are always powerful, heart-to-heart, mind-to-mind that are soul searing cutting the core bringing one face-to-face with moments of epiphany and are life changing.

In his years of service he has received recognition for his dutiful work serving his community. President Bush honored him with the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco appointed Mackie to the Louisiana Recovery Authority, leading the state's rebuilding efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He is the author of "A View from the Roof: Lessons for Life and Business". He was featured in Spike Lee's HBO documentary "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Parts" and has appeared on national shows as the PBS News Hour with Jim Lehrer and the

Speaker, Author, Professor and Inventor Calvin Mackie is a former associate professor of mechanical engineering at Tulane University in New Orleans. President Bush honored him with the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco appointed Mackie to the Louisiana Recovery Authority, leading the state's rebuilding efforts following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He is the author of "A View from the Roof: Lessons for Life and Business". He was featured in Spike Lee's HBO documentary "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Parts" and has appeared on national shows as the PBS News Hour with Jim Lehrer and the Tom Joyner Show.

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

Tom Joyner Show. Dr. Mackie is President of the Channel ZerO Group, an organization committed to maximizing the effectiveness and potential of individuals and organizations.

Giving a Hand Up

In addition to all these accomplishments he has just released a book entitled, "Grandma's Hands". Which is also a song written by the great Singer Songwriter Bill Withers, that pays homage to the strength and wisdom of Grandmothers and their importance in molding young people's lives. "The book is a collection of saying that I've gathered over the years from grandmothers that I've met. These are cherished moments of faith and wisdom is things that have been helpful in our community. That Grandmother always has the right things to make you look at a situation differently. And what I've done is collected 100 of these and compiled a volume that I hope will inspire people to be better," Mackie says of the book. Continuing he says that in his travels that led to the book that he sees a common thread that connects grandmothers to community and the precious pearls that are the nuggets of truth that can reshape lives, "in my travels across the world I have found the common bond of grandmother being the bedrock of the community."

Mackie has become world renowned and is well-known for his work with young Black men. He was the Council Chair of a 2010 report on the status of young Black boys called, "Restoring and Renewing our Most Vital Asset: Black Boys and Men of Louisiana". Speaking with passion in his voice he feels a sense of connectedness and obligation to help, "I have been trying to reach people and save lives, I wanted other young men to have the same opportunities I've had and I want to do what so many people have done for me." A father of two he adds, "The things I want for my two children is what I want for all children, so I continue to do the work I do on behalf of building for the next

generation which is freedom and opportunity."

He is someone who has the spirit of benevolence and feels that anyone has the capacity to give. And that the societal boundaries that sometimes keep people separated should be replaced by bridges of understanding. "In traveling the world I have come to realize a poor, hungry baby is the same regardless of the race and in traveling I have found that all parents want all the same things for their kids. And I realize we are more alike than different," remarks Mackie on healing the wounds of division and increasing the spirit of togetherness and giving.

Saving a Community: One Goal Many Voices

Dr. Mackie is someone who continues to work diligently to save youth, but it is an unfortunate reality that many kids fall through the cracks and never reach their full potential. This trend is something that distresses him and he feels collective action is necessary to rebut these negative occurrences that affect so many young people's lives, "It is depressing to see so many young people who do not become their best selves because today they have so many opportunities, I feel bad for them but it is not all their fault, I feel the adults have failed them, and we have let those kids down."

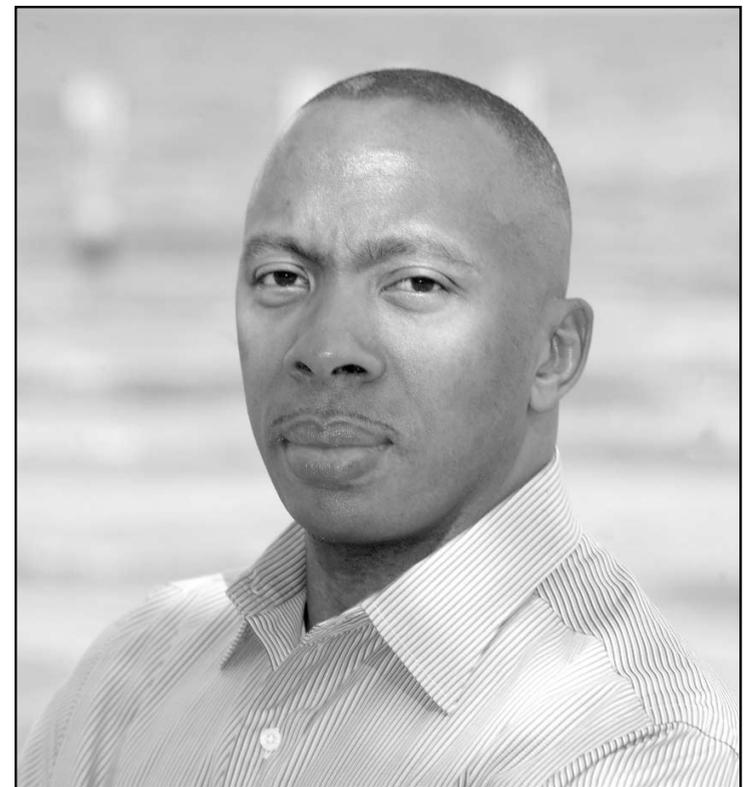
He believes it is the charge of adults to step to the plate and becoming more than simply mouthpieces of change, but part of the corrective actions that are necessary if problems are to be obliterated, "First and foremost we have to D-O, we must do, there are people who want to meet, have conferences, but there are very few who want to get out and get their hands dirty to help kids to get from where they are to where they need to be and when you do this the kids respond."

In his work there have been many success stories that are an inspiration, while talking with Mackie he speaks of one of these instances and emphasizing its importance and significance in understanding that someone with

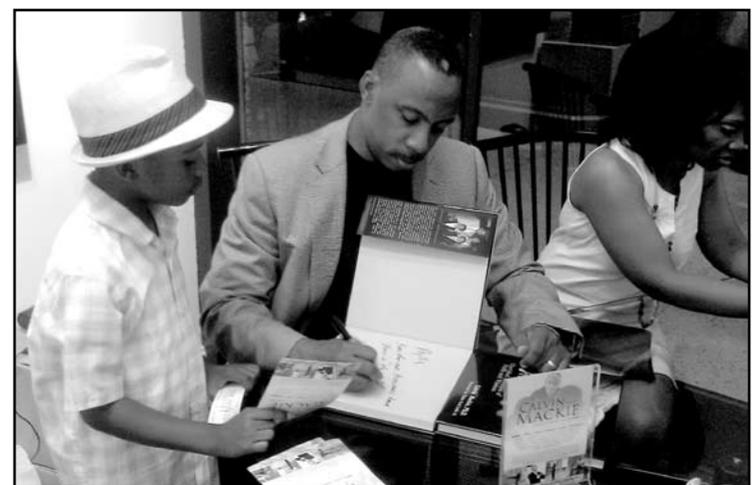


the right amount of nurturing and encouragement can overcome adverse circumstances. "There are young men who are doing things that are absolutely wonderful. There is one right now, a young man named Jared who is about to graduate from Georgia Tech, he is from New Orleans, he went to Benjamin Franklin, and he is about to graduate with a degree in Nuclear Engineering; and he is from Hollygrove and these are the type of stories that need to be told to the world to show them another face of African-American youth overcoming the odds and being successful."

Dr. Calvin Mackie is someone who exemplifies the best of New Orleans and giving back to his community. Talking of the what the focus of his most recent book "Grandma's Hands" has in the way of giving what is a to me to a river of truth whose waves shore up hitting the banks and is an endless fountain that can quench the thirst of a community in need and give it a foundation for uplift. Speaking of his life's journey, one that's dedicated to serving others he says, "My environment was different in that these proverbs that I am talking about in this book is what raised me. And I was taught three things: to respect authority, be disciplined and have work ethic and if those three things are instilled in anybody it will transform their lives and it can be replicated; and this is something that can be the tools that rebuild our community, but everyone must lend a hand."



Speaker, Author, Professor and Inventor Dr. Calvin Mackie is President of the Channel ZerO Group, an organization committed to maximizing the effectiveness and potential of individuals and organizations.



Dr. Mackie with son, Mason assisting with book signing

Louisiana Actress Featured in Lead Role on National TV Show

Oonarissa Brown Bernard featured on episode of Investigative Discovery's Fatal Encounters

Actress Oonarissa Brown Bernard, a Baton Rouge native and resident, recently appeared on an episode of the national television series Fatal Encounters. On the episode "Deadly Deeds," Bernard played the lead female role of Genora Guillory, who was brutally murdered by her neighbors.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to work on the show. The experience I gained playing Ge-



Actress Oonarissa Brown Bernard

nora Guillory is priceless," said Brown. "This was not a case of me playing a made-up character. I was portraying a real person and her real-life events. I wanted to reenact the events as best as possible to preserve the story."

Bernard also has extensive experience performing in plays and productions. She has worked with UpStage Theatre, New Venture, TP2 Productions, and Guided by Light Productions. Her stage performances include The Dance on Widow's Row, Indigo Blues, Home for

Christmas, August Wilson's Radio Golf, A Song for Coretta, Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil, 12 Black Women in the Same Black Dress, Voices in Darkness, Between Floors and Fabulation.

Bernard can be seen weekly on Maddgame Entertainment's television show, Laugh Now Laugh Later, which airs in Baton Rouge. She is also the only female comic to be showcased at Laugh Now Laugh Later's Comedy Night.

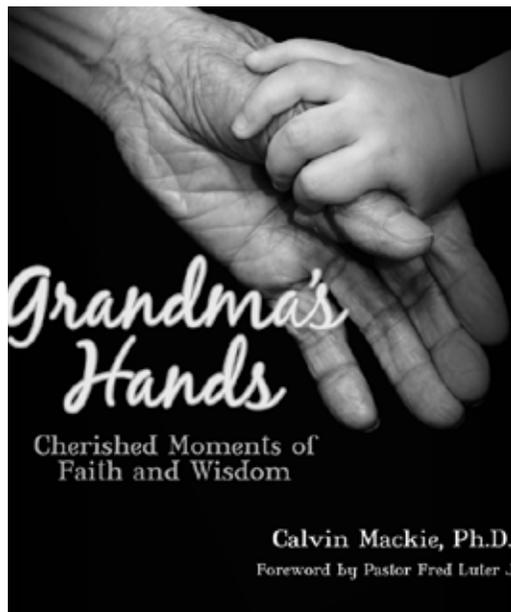
DR. CALVIN MACKIE'S NEW BOOK

"GRANDMA'S HANDS "

Dr. Calvin Mackie is an award-winning mentor, a critically acclaimed author, an internationally renowned motivational speaker, and a successful entrepreneur.



Description: Drawing inspiration from the women in the author's family, *Grandma's Hands: Cherished Moments of Faith and*



Wisdom is Dr. Calvin Mackie's impassioned celebration of the enduring values of our elder generations, whose wisdom and experience bring a humbled perspective and clear direction to the challenges of our daily lives. The text of this book includes over 100 well-known proverbs, accompanied by the original thoughtful reflections of Dr. Mackie, with a direct application to 21st century life. The pages are filled with glorious photographs of mothers and grandmothers in celebration of their unique cultural and maternal identity, surrounded with the love and affection of family.

Calvin Mackie, Ph.D.
Foreword by Pastor Fred Luter J



THE BOOK CAN BE PURCHASED AT COMMUNITY BOOK STORE, 2523 BAYOU RD, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119 OR ORDERED ONLINE AT WWW.GRANDMASHANDS.NET

PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY!!!

Sisters of the Holy Family Benefit Concert

Ellis Marsalis, Joe Sample, Charmaine Neville, Judy Spellman, Connie and Dwight Fitch, Roderick Paulin, Gospel choirs
The Sisters of the Holy Family will host a benefit concert on Sunday, June 24, 2012 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Sugar Mill, 1021 Convention Center Boulevard. Tickets are \$50. Sponsorship is available from \$250 to \$10,000. All sponsors will be acknowledged in the program along with admittance to the patron party prior to the concert.

The concert will feature Jazz Masters Ellis Marsalis and Joe Sample, Charmaine Neville, Judy Spellman, Connie and Dwight Fitch, Gospel choirs, and additional surprise guests. Norman Robinson will be the Master of Ceremonies. Music will be provided by Roderick Paulin and The Big Easy Groovers.

All proceeds from the concert will go towards the cause for canonization of Venerable Henriette Delille, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Family. When Venerable Henriette Delille is elevated to sainthood, she will be the first United States native born African American New Orleanian to be declared a saint.

The Sisters of the Holy Family have been in existence since 1842 and have continuously ministered to the people of New Orleans as well as other areas in the United States and in Belize, Central America.

Honorary chair couple is Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Rice, Jr. Major sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Pappalardo, The Cannery/A Pel Hughes Co., Entergy New Orleans, Inc., Liberty Bank and Trust Co., Louie J. Roussel, III, St. Bernard Drugs and the Steamboat NATCHEZ.

For more information on the concert, call 504-241-3088 M-F from 9am to 4 pm, or 504-914-2587, or 504-282-2697.

RSD's New Enrollment System Matches Applicants to Top School Choices

The first year's implementation of the Recovery School District's (RSD's) new equal access enrollment system has proven to be successful, with reports indicating that 84.2 percent of entering kindergarten and rising ninth grade applicants were matched to one of their top three school choices. In non-transition grades, the percentage was 76.4 and in pre-kindergarten, where the demand for seats is greater than the supply, the percentage was 67.7.

The RSD processed 25,157 applications for seats this fall at one of their direct-run or charter schools. Of the 21,152 applications received from current RSD students, 79.8 percent were "intent to return" applications, showing a large majority of families wanting their children to return to the same school next year. Current RSD students in non-transition grades that did not submit an application will return to their current school next year.

"These results represent a successful district-wide effort and approach at creating an enrollment system that is beneficial to all students, parents, and schools," said RSD Superintendent Patrick Dobard. "While we will continue working to improve the system in the future, I could not be more pleased with what we have done



The second phase of the enrollment process started Monday, May 7, for families recently arriving in the city and unable to participate in the first round, or for those wishing to appeal their initial placement.

this year in providing parents in New Orleans with a choice regarding their children's education."

"The RSD has taken on a significant task and done a remarkable job in implementing the new enrollment system. The needs of families and children throughout the City of New Orleans were made a top priority. I applaud the RSD for aggressively working to ensure this project came to fruition," said State Representative Walt Leger.

The District noted opportunities for improvement in the par-

ticipation of current high school students and rising ninth graders in the enrollment process. Ninth grade is a transition year for students, and only slightly more than 50 percent of rising ninth graders submitted enrollment applications.

"From a school's perspective this has been a very smooth process, particularly for its first year of implementation. It's a big step forward in terms of coordinating all of the schools and providing timely information regarding admissions and enrollment," said Jay Altman, co-founder and CEO of First-Line Schools, a charter organization that operates five public charter schools in New Orleans.

The second phase of the enrollment process started Monday, May 7, for families recently arriving in the city and unable to participate in the first round, or for those wishing to appeal their initial placement.

Appeals applications can be picked up and submitted at any of the four RSD Parent-Family Resource Centers. The Family Centers are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the exception of the George W. Carver Elementary School loca-

Greater St. Stephens to Hold Job & Career Fair In New Orleans East

The 'Greater' Women of Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church have partnered with the Urban League of Greater New Orleans and Dress For Success for the largest career and job festival to hit Eastern New Orleans in over 7 years. The "GREATER" You! Job & Life Enhancement Festival will bring over 50 of the area's top employers, government agencies, private sector, education, military and entertainment recruiters to New Orleans East.

Attendees will be able to participate in a variety of mini workshops hosted by Dress For Success and the Urban League of Greater New Orleans including, but not limited to, Interview Etiquette, Dressing For Success, Entrepreneurship and Resume Writing.

Pastor Debra B. Morton said, "This job fair is a representation of the 'GREATER' Women's dedi-

cation to assisting in the rejuvenation of New Orleans East by rebuilding the men who are to be the priest, protectors and providers of the home; and, uplifting the women who are the incubators of life through providing access to quality employment opportunities. We say to each of them, "Come and discover a 'GREATER' you!"

This event is not only for the jobless but is also for those seeking career changes, summer activities for the youth, educational advancement and so much more. The entire community is encouraged and welcomed to attend The "GREATER" You! Job & Life Enhancement Festival at Greater St. Stephen this Saturday, May 19th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

When: Saturday, May 19th, 2012

Where: 5600 Read Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70127

Time: 9:00 AM

tion, which is open from 8 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sarah T. Reed High School, 5316 Michoud Blvd.

L.B. Landry High School, 1200 L.B. Landry Ave.

Walter L. Cohen High School, 3520 Dryades St.

George W. Carver Elementary School, 3059 Higgins Blvd. (entrance on Almonaster)

Appeals applications are due by Wednesday, May 23, and families will receive notifications the week of June 11.

To the Editor

A Message from Stand for Children Louisiana

Every Parent in New Orleans Should Read This....

Next week, the school board will vote on \$5 million in funding for New Orleans schools. We've just released a new infographic that shows the impact that this funding could have on our children's education. Last year, we let \$4.8 million dollars go without a fight - but this year, we stand up and make a difference in our children's future.

Often, information available on these votes is complex and full of jargon that's hard for busy parents to easily understand. We



only have four days to make sure every NOLA parent knows what's at stake and feels empowered to make a difference... can you take a moment to check out the infographic and share it on your social networks?

<http://stand.org/louisiana/action/dont-shortchange-our-children/understanding-millages>

If you don't have Facebook or Twitter you can also just copy the link and send it in an email... but no matter how you share - let's make sure that as many people

as possible understand what's at stake, and how they can take action.

At Stand, we believe that knowledge is power - and arming yourself with the facts is the first step to lasting change in our community. The millage will have a huge impact on New Orleans schools - the funds will go towards supplies and modernization, dropout discipline and pre-K programs, improved facilities and classrooms, and quality educators who can help prepare our kids for

a bright future.

We need your help to cut through the clutter and make sure education is at the top of everyone's feed. Please take a moment to check out the infographic and share it with your family and friends:

<http://stand.org/louisiana/action/dont-shortchange-our-children/understanding-millages>

Standing with you,
Rayne Martin
Executive Director

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Idol Finalist Joshua Ledet's Pep Rally!

Lake Charles' own Joshua Ledet has made it to the Top 3 returned last weekend to Westlake, La. for a community sponsored pep rally and parade featuring live entertainment, including several songs by Ledet. Data wants to wish Joshua Good Luck!



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If you have photos of parties or events you would like to run in DATA, please send to datanewsad@bellsouth.net for inclusion.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Silent Partners Presents

The Unconditional Mother's Day Blow Out

Featuring Donnell Jones. Photos by Skully



Donnell Jones performs his hits for the crowd



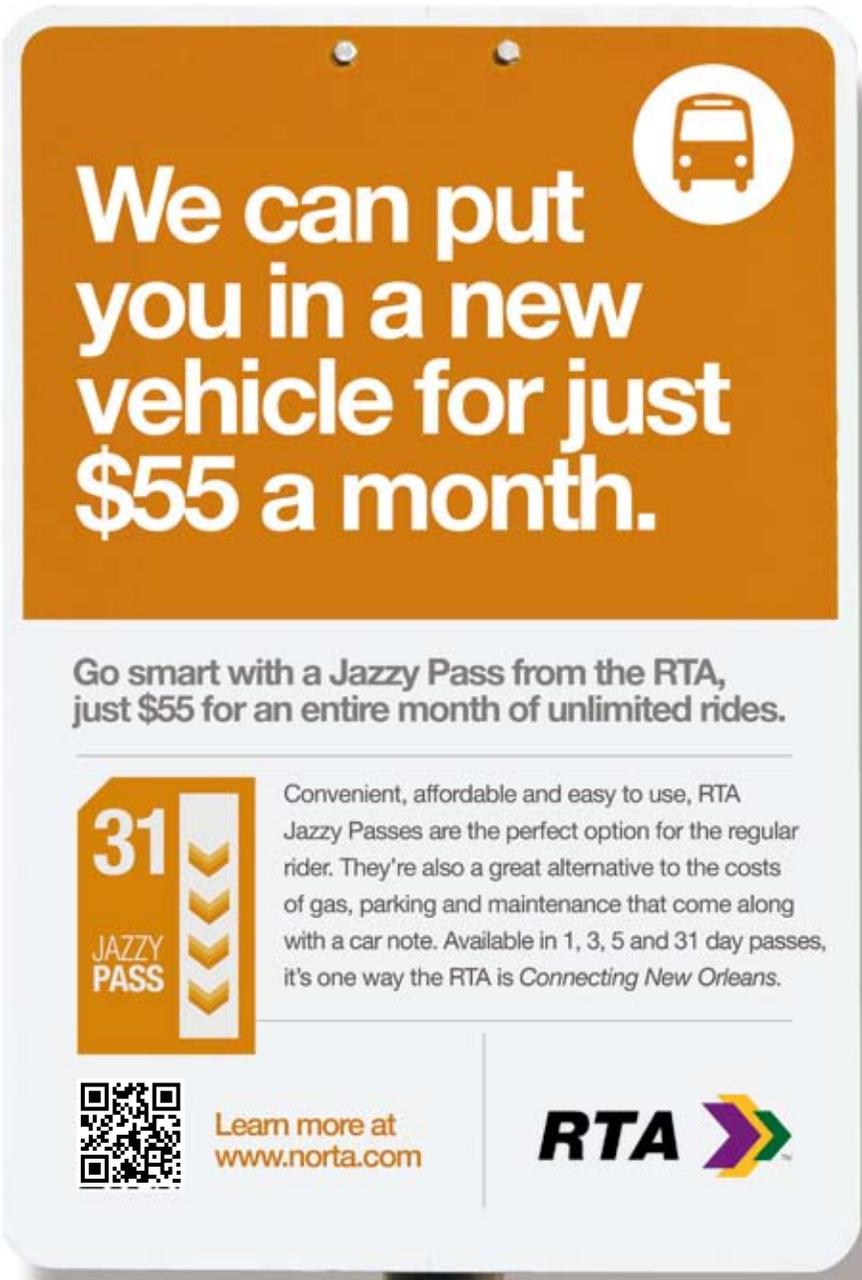
Singer Olivia



Singer Kourtney Heart



Fans enjoying the sounds of Donnell Jones on Mother's Day



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RTA

Obama Did Not Take Easy Way Out on Same-Sex Marriage



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.
NNPA Columnist

One point that is absolutely clear is that the President of the United States is no political coward. President Barack H. Obama made history by backing historic health care reform across America when everyone thought that successful political battle would negatively hurt his chances for re-election. But to President Obama's leadership credit, he put the urgent health needs of the poor and others who had been locked out and priced out of access to health before fulfilling his own political ambition.

Now President Obama has become the first sitting U.S. presi-

dent to publicly and explicitly state without any hesitation that he supports the equal justice and civil rights protection and affirmation of gay rights on the issue of same sex marriage. With a sense of thoughtful introspection and discernment, President Obama stated, "At a certain point I've just concluded that, for me personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

On these issues and on other matters in terms of both domestic and international policies, President Obama's courage is unprecedented. From ending the war in Iraq, supporting women's rights to equal pay, to taking a caring position about the murder of Trayvon Martin, Obama has shown a willingness to stand up, speak out and to take definitive action even in the face of political and social risks. What has emerged and evolved during the last four years is an irrefutable profile in presidential courage and leadership.

Courage is an important attri-

bute that eludes too many leaders, including politicians. It has been customary for elected officials to first test the magnitude of the political winds before taking a public position on polarizing issues. That is why I support getting money out of politics in America because too many officials get bought off or priced out of having the courage to do what is right on the issues for freedom, justice and equality for all people.

During the socially and politically dangerous height of the civil rights movement during the 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emphasized, "We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear." Dr. King was both a religious and a civil rights leader. In 1967, when he came out publicly against the Vietnam war, there were many even in the Black American church community who stood in opposition to Dr. King's bold courage. Dr. King was fearless and courageous.

Today, millions of Americans have benefited from the sacrifices and steadfast commitments made

decades ago by Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the NAACP, the National Urban League, the National Conference of Black Churchmen, the National Council of Negro Women and many other tenacious groups that boldly stood up and made a difference not just for Black Americans, but also for all people.

President Barack Obama has emerged from the civil rights tradition of courage and leadership. When former President Nelson Mandela in South Africa called for reconciliation in the context of the liberation of South Africa from its brutal history of apartheid, there were many who did not stand with him. Thus, the standard for courageous leadership is not just an American standard, it is also a global one, a measure of a leader's determination to be truthful and committed to the principles of equal justice and freedom.

The issue of same-sex marriage is a very divisive issue within the African-American community, especially in the Black church.

But this exactly why President Obama, who comes out of the Black church tradition of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, should be applauded for his decision. He is standing on his convictions and principles and being true to himself, his family and God. He explained, "I've been going through an evolution on this issue. I've always been adamant that gay and lesbian Americans should be treated fairly and equally."

Years from now, history will reflect that President Obama did the right thing at the right time on this issue. Let's pray that more leaders will also find the courage to stand up for equal justice for all people and to oppose all other forms of discrimination. The time to stand up for what is right and just is now.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is president of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and Education Online Services Corporation. He also serves as senior adviser to the Diamond Empowerment Fund and as National Director of Occupy the Dream. Chavis can be reached at drbenjamin.chavis@gmail.com

Exonoree



Parnell Herbert
Data News Contributor

Derrick Jamison, Death Row Exonoree #119 was convicted for the murder of a Cincinnati bartender, on October 25, 1985. Derrick was sentenced to die at the hands of his own state. Night after night I listened to him tell his chilling story at the Ashe Performing Arts Center during the production of the play Angola 3. Sunday afternoon his very soft spoken voice was easily heard in the electrifying silence of the filled theater as Derrick repeated the haunting words

of the judge "I sentence you to be executed by lethal injection until you are dead, dead, dead." Upon hearing his sentence Derrick said that the first thought to enter his mind was "This is going to kill my mother." He was right. While awaiting execution in Ohio's Lucasville Penitentiary Derrick says the saddest day of his life was a day in December, while sitting on his bed listening to Christmas music several guards came in to tell him his mother had passed away.

I often wonder if any of the young men who commit murder in our city ever give a second thought to consequences. "Who will be affected if I pull this trigger? Who will suffer the consequences for my actions? Who will raise my children?"

Derrick lost his mother because investigators and prosecutors in the State of Ohio tried to murder him. Five witnesses testified they were with Derrick at the time the murder occurred. Eyewitness James Suggs

identified photos of two men as perpetrators of the robbery/murder neither of which were Derrick Jamison. Other witnesses described the two perpetrators as 5'-7" and 5'-4". Derrick Jamison is 6'-4".

Derrick's co-defendant Charles Howell was granted a reduced sentence (10 years) for his testimony against Derrick. Over 30 additional pieces of evidence were withheld from the defense by the prosecuting attorneys.

Twenty years to the day October 25, 2005, Ohio Common Pleas Judge Richard Niehaus dismissed all charges against Derrick Jamison. Prosecu-

tors elected not to retry him.

Derrick said, "Over that twenty-year period I witnessed forty-seven of my friends being removed from their cells and murdered by my state."

Since Derrick's exoneration twenty-two additional wrongfully convicted persons have been spared from death row. That means one-hundred forty-one condemned lives have been saved. Yet we must ask how many innocents have been lost to homicides perpetrated by our states in the name of justice. How many of them were not guilty of the charges that determined their sentences?

African-Americans comprise 12%

of the US. Population but over 50% of exonorees while Whites at 72% of this countries population claim less than 40% of the exonorees. Again exemplifying the disproportionality of race in this nations "Criminal Justice System."

What will it take to stop our young men from murdering each other? What will it take for our federal and state government officials to stop murdering people in the United States? When will Louisiana follow the growing trend and join the nineteen other states who have discontinued the barbaric process of "State Sanctioned Murder?"

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Master Gardener's Corner

Container Gardening



By MG Calla Victoria

Ideally all avid gardeners would love to have a large sunny area to plant in, but the truth of the matter is that many gardeners are apartment dwellers and may only have a balcony or window box in which to garden. While many other gardeners who do have outdoor spaces may not have planting space, for example a bricked courtyard or many of those who do have planting areas outdoors have to deal with shady areas. Container gardening is the perfect fix for all of the aforementioned issues. Gardening in small spaces is easy with containers; a bricked courtyard is transformed into a tropical oasis with large containers full of palm trees and colorful blooms, and containers are great for shade gardens because you can place the containers in the sunny corner of the garden as well as focus on plants that thrive in the shade like coleus and impatiens, and caladiums in your plantings.

Container gardening allows us to enjoy those invasive plants like bamboo, mint, banana trees that we love but don't want to see popping up all over our gardens. Container gardens, because of mobility, also allow us to prolong the growing season of our plants. We can enjoy our tender (will not take a freeze) plants outside dur-

ing the warmer month and move those plants indoors when the temperature drops. Container gardens can be used to create a focal point in our garden or to partition off garden rooms. Also if you choose edibles for your container garden you can have a harvest of abundant healthy veggies and herbs.

A plant in a pot is not a container garden, when we think of a garden we are thinking of multiple plants so a "container garden" is just that...a garden in a container. There is a formula for creating an amazing container garden, that formula is T+F+S=BCG. The "T" in the formula stands for Thriller. The thriller is the focal point of the container. It is a tall upright plant that draws the attention, a sculptural plant. Examples of thrillers are large elephant ears, ornamental grasses, and columnar growing small trees and bushes. The thriller is the largest plant in the container making it the heaviest feeder so it will dictate the needs of the container garden with reference to light, moisture, and soil requirements. Therefore, it is imperative that you select the thriller first and build out from there. The thriller is to be placed in the center or towards the back

of the container. Once you have selected your thriller then you must research compatible plants that have the same needs as your thriller. You would not group an elephant ear, which requires a lot of moisture, in a container with a cactus. The "F" in the formula stands for "Fillers." Once you have placed your thriller in the container you will "fill in" the pot with filler plants which are those plants that are low-growing and will spread to fill out the pot. The "S" in the formula stands for "Spillers" which are those plants that trail or weep like ivy. Other considerations when building a container garden are fragrance, texture, and color. Make sure that the thriller, filler, or spiller has fragrance; one provides texture, and the other provides complimentary color combinations. Sometimes you can find a plant that gives you all of these elements. My team won First Place for our edible container garden at the Master Gardener's of Greater New Orleans Edible Garden Symposium last October. For our spiller we used a wonderful purple, ruffled leaf basil which smelled like licorice; in that one plant we had color, fragrance, and texture. Again the formula for building a container garden is: T

Gardening, Continued on page 11.

Dr. Robert J. Spears, DDS

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Black Women Make Major Employment Gains

Still Trail Whites

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Black women are making the most significant gains in employment but still lag behind Whites, according to the Labor Department.

The most recent jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the unemployment rate for Black women, 20 and older, dropped from 12.3 percent in March to 10.8 percent in April, a decline of 1.5 percent. More significantly, the jobless rate for Black women has fallen 3 percentage points over the past five months, the largest decline for any demographic over that period.

The unemployment rate for White women, 20 and older has remained flat at 6.8 percent from last December to April, but that stagnant rate is still four percentage points better than the current rate for Black women. The jobless rate for Black men fell to 13.6 percent to 15.7 percent over the same period, but some economists warn that those figures could be misleading.

"There are two things driving down the unemployment rate," said Steven Pitts, labor policy specialist at the University of California-Berkeley's Labor Center. "The improvement in job prospects and simultaneously some Black men dropping out of the labor force."

When people quit looking for work, they are no longer counted as unemployed. Consequently, the labor force shrinks, causing the unemployment rate to go down. The unemployment rate for Blacks fell from 14 percent in March to 13 percent in April.

"The unemployment rate might look like an improvement, but it's really just people giving up," explained Algernon Austin, director of the Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy program at the Economic Policy Institute.

In a 2011 study, the National Women's Law Center found that Black women lost 233,000 jobs between December 2007 and June 2009, then lost another 258,000, 491,000 between June 2009 and June 2011. Black men only lost 477,000 over that period.

According to the study, not only are Black women a majority of the African-American workforce (53.4 percent), they head a majority of



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the Black families with children.

More Black women are the heads of households now, "So they have to work," explained Maudine Cooper, president of the Greater Washington Urban League. "They'll often accept less money than a man would be making in the same job."

A 2012 study on the pay gap conducted by the American Association of University Women found that women working full-time earned just 77 cents to every dollar earned by a man. Black women working full-time make just 70 cents for every dollar White men make and 91 cents for every dollar Black men bring home. White women, on the other hand, received 82 cents for every dollar a White man earns. White men are often used as a benchmark, because at this time they are the largest demographic group in the labor force.

Research by Wider Opportunities for Women found that 62 percent of Black households and 66 percent of Hispanic households live on the edge of poverty.

Even when working full-time, 80 percent of Black single mothers and 85 percent of Hispanic single mothers don't make enough to make ends meet and they're much more likely to lack economic security than White single mothers or single fathers of any racial or ethnic background.

For Cooper, a college education still remains the Black community's strongest ally in closing the economic gap.

More than 44 percent of Black women graduate from college, compared to 33.1 percent of Black men, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Cooper said it's about sacrificing short-term gratification for what really matters.

"I have friends that are going to school and working," Cooper said. "You have to do what it takes. At some point it's over and you've worked hard, you've sweated, you're exhausted and you've gotten through it and that's the attitude everyone should have."

That means that Black men have a lot catching up to do in an

increasingly competitive job market.

A 2010 study by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce 2018 reported that 63 percent of the jobs newly created or vacated by retiring workers will require at least some college education.

Given that Black women lead a majority of Black households and graduate from college at higher rates than Black men, their success is essential as the Black community recovers from worst economic times since the Great Depression.

At a 2011 session at Stanford

University titled "Black Women and the Backlash Effect — Understanding the Intersection of Race and Gender," visiting scholar and expert in workplace diversity Katherine Phillips said that Black women are excelling in education and entrepreneurship.

"Two-thirds of African-American college undergrads are female," said Phillips. "And, between 2002 and 2008, the number of businesses owned by Black women rose by 19 percent – twice as fast as all other firms and generating \$29 billion in sales nationwide."

Phillips, also a professor of organizational behavior at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., noted that Black women in the workplace are often viewed as "as independent, competent, and demanding of respect — all classic leadership traits."

During her research Phillips found that Black women have more latitude in the roles they play at home and at work. One study found that Black women who worked outside the home were viewed positively while the same behavior by White women evoked negative reactions.

"The evidence here suggests that White women are supposed to stay in this little narrow box more so than Black women are," said Phillips.

Although Black women are often forced to confront the dual plague of sexism and racism on the job, Phillips said that owning that identity may also have certain advantages.

She explained, "There may be a malleability that comes with being an African American woman that allows you to identify both as Black and as a woman that you might be able to use as a mechanism to make it through the world."

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Historic Capital Press Club Elects New President, Leadership Team

Award-winning journalist Hazel Trice Edney, editor-in-chief of the Trice Edney News Wire and President/CEO of Trice Edney Communications LLC, has been elected president of the historic Capital Press Club.

Edney, a veteran reporter, who is also former editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service and BlackPressUSA.com, was elected by the CPC board April 19. She took office May 1.

"I nominated Hazel Trice Edney because she is able to be the proactive advocate for communications professionals of color needed in the DC area," says CPC President Emeritus Derrick Kenny, owner of Bold American Marketing. "She boasts a stellar track record as a seasoned journalist and has earned numerous awards. In addition, she has the proven ability to manage a non-profit communications organization, educate young communications professionals, motivate volunteers and establish partnerships with valued corporations and newsmakers. She is ideal for this office. She has the vision, strength, integrity and faith that



Capital Press Club leadership team is pictured, left to right, President Emeritus Derrick Kenny; First Vice President Robyn Wilkes; President Hazel Trice Edney; and Second Vice President Sherrie Edwards-Lassister. Not pictured are Treasurer Joan Davion and Immediate Past President Nyree Wright. PHOTO: Roy Lewis/CPC

are needed to move CPC forward into the future."

The new leadership team also includes First Vice President Robyn Wilkes, Director of Communications, Greater Washington Urban League; Second Vice President Sherrie Edwards-Lassister, Senior Account Manager, Campbell and Company; Treasurer Joan Davion of The Davion Group; Immediate Past President Nyree Wright, Senior Vice President, MSLGROUP Americas; and

Kenny, who is also Digital Media Manager, Montgomery County Office of Cable and Broadband Services.

"Newsrooms across America are shrinking. That means the numbers of Black journalists in the newsrooms are diminishing while the numbers of injustices facing African-Americans are increasing," said Edney, who has reported for the Black Press for more than 25 years. "In addition to the destructive forces of

racism in our communities, we also see its economic impact on our media outlets. This climate reveals that this organization of Black media professionals is just as necessary and just as relevant as ever. The Capital Press Club will not shrink from the front lines in the war for justice and equality for others as well as ourselves."

It was 44 years ago that the Capital Press Club was established as the National Press Club refused to accept African-American members. As it approaches its 70th Anniversary in two years, The Capital Press Club exists to unite communications professionals of color through professional development, networking, new business opportunities and entrepreneurship, and issues advocacy. Its diverse membership of journalists, marketing, public relations, advertising and communications professionals from all disciplines is dedicated to maintaining superior standards of ethics, promoting cooperative business competition, and addressing the recruitment and retention of qualified minority communications professionals.

Gardening/ Continued from page 9.

hriller+Fiillers+Spillers=Beautiful Container Garden.

We simply can't talk about container gardens without discussing containers. After selecting your plant material you must make sure to use a container that will benefit your plants. Of course there are all kinds of containers from plastic, terra cotta, resin, etc. and they all influence the environment of the potting mix within, hence the environment for your container. Plastic pots are non-porous so they tend to retain moisture, while terra cotta pots on the other hand are porous so they tend to keep the potting mix dryer by absorbing some of the moisture. So once you know what kind of environment your plant requires then you select the container that will work best for your plant material. Commercial pots are great but get creative and re-purpose other items as containers. Truck tires make great containers, claw footed bath-

tubs are fun and old tennis shoe is whimsical, whatever you chose to use as a container for your container garden make sure the container has drainage holes, you may need to drill some but drainage is imperative to the life and health of the container garden.

Speaking of container gardening, I was called in as a consultant on container gardens to be placed at each of four new homes that the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative (JREHI) has just completed in what they are calling Saratoga Square. This area is boarded by St. Charles Avenue, Simon Bolivar, Martin Luther King Boulevard, and Louisiana Avenue. Jericho Road builds homes of low-income families providing them with an opportunity of home ownership. Also in the same area Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative has installed the Saratoga Fruit Tree Orchard whereby residents are encouraged to har-

vest food for their homes. On May 18, 2012 Jericho Road is asking for volunteers to help with the installation of new furnishings, painting and cleaning home interior, planting trees, installing mailboxes, flags, and putting together container plantings for the front exterior of each of the four new homes, I will be there to supervise the container plantings. Also on Saturday June 2, 2012 I will be conducting a "Container Gardening Workshop" for the Jericho Road Housing Initiative; for additional information or to sign up for this workshop please contact Alson Necker at (504) 895-6763. Remember to get your photos in for "Data's Garden of the Week," email entries to datanewseditor@bellsouth.net, print "Gardening" on the subject line.

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