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Extravaganza**

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December 28 - January 3, 2013 48th Year Volume 35 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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2013

The Year in Review

By Data News Weekly Contributors

Each year, Data News Weekly takes the time during our last issue of the year, to look back at the most memorable and talked about stories of the year. 2013 was filled with ups and downs, highs and lows, joys and sorrows. We celebrated two historical placements in our Judiciary, lamented in the senseless violence which at times plagued our City and nation. We remembered the tireless work of a local hero John Raphael, and a world hero Nelson Mandela. Through it all, Data was here, to tell the stories and memorialize the moments. We look forward to continuing into 2014, and look back with you on 2013. If you would like to go back and pick up any you may have missed, please visit www.ladatanews.com and click on our archives. The entire year is there for you to catch up on. See you in 2014.



January 26, 2013

Former Mayor Ray Nagin Indicted on Federal Corruption Charges

Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has been indicted by a grand jury on 21 federal corruption charges stemming from alleged wrongdoing while occupying the city's highest elected office. Specifically, the indictment released alleges Nagin awarded lucrative city contracts to contractors in exchange for more than \$200,000 in kickbacks and first-class trips to Hawaii, Jamaica and Las Vegas. If convicted on all charges, he could receive more than 15 years in prison. The charges stem from a City Hall corruption investigation that already has resulted in guilty pleas by two former city officials and businessmen Frank Fadella and Rodney Williams who are cooperating witnesses in this case against former Mayor Nagin. Nagin will stand trial in January, 2014.



February 9, 2013

The Sights and Sounds of Super Bowl 2013

Super Bowl XLVII - 2013 rolled through New Orleans last week bringing with it parties, concerts, corporate events, and of course the "super showdown" between the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers. And while the teams put on a world class duel, the Ravens came out the victors, but New Orleans was the real winner because of the hospitality and great time we showed the world. And for every second of the action, Data was there!



March 9, 2013

Historical Day in New Orleans: Bernette Johnson Swears-In as First African-American Chief Justice of Louisiana Supreme Court

As the nation observed Women's History Month, where the accomplishments of women are recognized, the people of New Orleans had something to celebrate as Bernette Johnson recently took the official oath as the first African-American to lead the state's highest court, being sworn in by her daughter Rachel D. Johnson and with many of her family including her 90 year old mother, friends and supporters were in attendance. She is the 25th Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court and the first African-American Chief Justice of the court since its establishment in 1813. This appointment comes on the heels of a long court battle with her colleagues and Gov. Jindal, where issues of race and justice came to a head with Johnson coming out victorious. On Feb. 28, 2013 on the steps of the Supreme Court Building in the French Quarter several hundred people was on hand to witness history as Chief Justice Johnson was sworn-in.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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2013

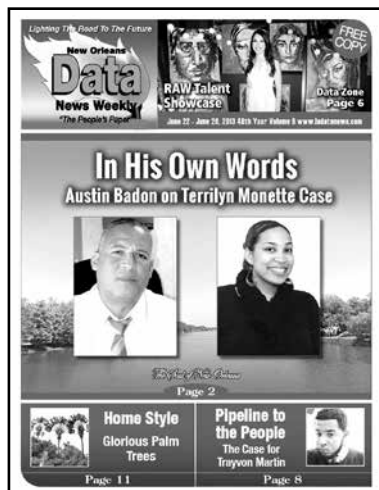
The Year in Review



May 18, 2013

Mass Shooting Brings Citizens Together to Fight Against Violence

It was a sad day for New Orleanians. While celebrating Mother's Day, the sounds of the music of the second-line, the heartbeat of us all pumped and the crowd following passed by in joyous lockstep. This glorious tradition was shattered, by unthinkable violence. Someone decided to pierce that heartbeat, by committing a mass shooting that would leave 19 people wounded, struck by an array of bullets, which can only be described as utter madness. For some, became the norm and their way of resolving conflicts? Even for a City known for violence people were in disbelief as this has become a regular occurrence and no day is sacred where it is absent from the violence that plagues our City.



June 22, 2013

The Terrilyn Monette Story

The Terrilyn Monette story is one that bought people together from around the City and nation. She was a twenty-six year old Jefferson Parish Teacher from Los Angeles who was celebrating her nomination for "Teacher of the Year". In early March of 2013 she mysteriously disappeared. Initial attempts at finding her car and body was unsuccessful. That was until June 8, 2013 when the car was found with the body of Ms. Monette in Bayou St. John near Harrison Avenue. While many people's outlook was bleak, one man was determined to continue searching for her body. Today many are calling District 100 State Representative Austin Badon a hero as his tireless efforts and refusal to walk away, led to the eventual discovery of Monette's body in her car at the bottom of the bayou.



July 13, 2013

Pastor John C. Raphael: Celebrating the Life of a Giant

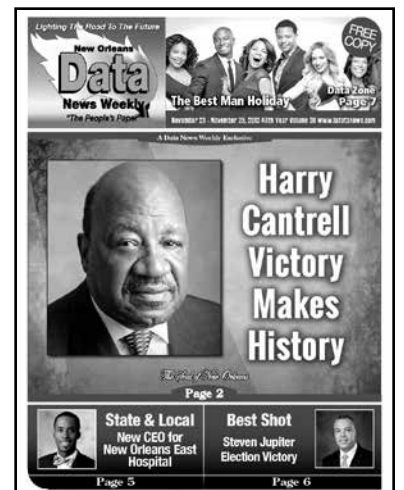
New Hope Baptist Church Pastor John Raphael was a man whose life meant so much to so many people. He was an advocate for his community and embodied the courage and resilience in his fight to save lives. His life resembled that of the biblical disciple Simon Peter, who was a fisher of men. He was a man who dedicated his life to serving his community. "We have known each other since childhood and he is someone who has made a great contribution to the City and will always be remembered for passion inside and outside the pulpit doing God's work," says New Zion Baptist Church Pastor C.S. Gordon.



October 5, 2013

"Obamacare" and You

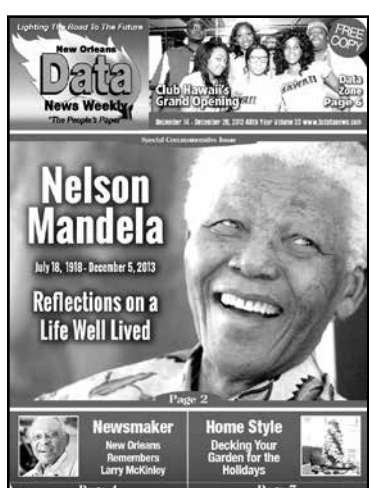
The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka "Obamacare") BILL was first signed in the House of Representatives on October 8, 2009; the Senate's version was signed on December 24, 2009. The final version of the BILL was signed, after changes, on March 21, 2010. This bill passed health insurance changes (reforms) that began in 2010 and will continue through 2014, including a Patient's Bill of Rights which "protects consumers (patients) from the worst abuses of the insurance industry." This BILL became a LAW on March 23, 2010 when it was signed by President Barack Obama. With an ever increasing amount of mis- and dis- information regarding the new Healthcare Law, it comes as no surprise that people are afraid, confused and have no idea the difference between truth and myth. As a consequence, many have formed their own opinions and, further, go on to spread them without regard. Registration began for healthcare coverage in October, and the first ACA Health Care Plans will become effective on January 1, 2014.



November 23, 2013

Harry Cantrell Makes History as New Orleans First African-American Elected as Magistrate Judge

On Saturday November 16, 2013 voters went to the polls to vote to decide who would occupy the bench for the Office of Magistrate Judge and when all the votes were counted Orleans Parish voters elected Criminal District Court Veteran Harry Cantrell to fill the seat previously held by longtime Magistrate Judge Gerard Hanson. Cantrell, prior to being elected served as Magistrate Commissioner for 14 years won in a run-off election over Mark Vicknair, a former public defender receiving 57 percent of the vote with his opponent receiving 43 percent. On election night he was surrounded by family, friends, supporters and well-wishers.



December 14, 2013

Nelson Mandela the Freedom Fighter

When one thinks of those rare individuals who are selfless leaders who fight for a cause bigger than themselves names like Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X come to mind. But Nelson Mandela is another name that has come to symbolize the struggle for equality and has become the embodiment of the continued goal of making the world a better place for all. During his amazing life he took on the call to fight against injustice in South Africa's Apartheid Government of White Minority Rule.

Recently, the world suffered the loss of this great leader, who passed away on December 5th at the age of 95. Leaders from around the world attended his memorial service including President Barack Obama along with three other living U.S. Presidents.

City Announces Registration For 2014 Mardi Gras Permit Lottery

The City of New Orleans announced that registration for fixed vendor location permits for the 2014 Carnival parade season will take place January 27-31, 2014. The Department of Finance, Bureau of Revenue, will hold its 2014 Mardi Gras permit lottery at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2014 in the lobby of the Civil District Court Building located at 421 Loyola Street.

The official 2014 Carnival parade season will consist of eleven consecutive days, from Friday, February 21 to Tuesday, March 4.

All vendors interested in obtaining a Mardi Gras Fixed Vendor Permit must register for the lottery with the Bureau of Revenue. All participants must submit a completed official lottery registration card and a sales tax deposit of \$1,000 in the form of a certified

check or money order made payable to the City of New Orleans.

The registration deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2014. Registration materials can be delivered in person or by mail to the Bureau of Revenue, City Hall, 1300 Perdido St., Room 1W15, New Orleans LA 70112. Mailed registration materials must be received no later than Friday, January 31, 2014 (regardless of the

postmark date).

Only registration materials received during the designated period will be accepted and used to prepare the official lottery entry card. Participants need not be present at the February 6th lottery. Participants not selected for a fixed location will be refunded their deposit. Lottery placements are non-transferable.

Vendors selected in the lot-

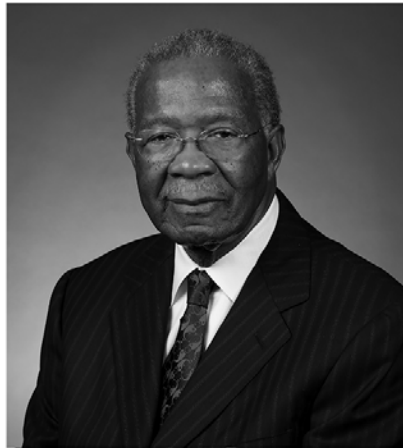
tery must attend the fixed location selection process with a valid picture ID at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2014, in the Bureau of Revenue. Names will be called according to their placement on the lottery board. Participants unable to attend the selection process must authorize a representative to attend in their place in writing ahead of time with the Bureau of Revenue. Representatives must have valid picture ID. Each participant is allowed 10 minutes to select one fixed location.

Individuals interested in obtaining Mardi Gras Walker Permit to sell novelties or pre-packaged food without a fixed location can go to the Revenue office the week of February 17 to obtain the necessary permits.

More information about these permits can be found on the City's website by following this link or by calling the Department of Finance, Bureau of Revenue, Application Unit, at (504) 658-1661 or (504) 658-1645.

This information can also be found in the Mardi Gras Vending Guide available in the Revenue Department, Room 1W15 in City Hall.

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trailblazer

Lisa Crinel

A Woman Laced with a Heart of Gold

by: Edwin Buggage

Lisa Crinel is a business and civic leader who has dedicated much time and effort serving the people of New Orleans and giving back. She is the embodiment of the words that appear in the Book of Luke, "to whom much is given, much is required."

She says her journey into giving back began early in life influenced by her father, Rev. Leroy Crinel, now deceased and her mother a longtime educator Lena J. Crinel. "Giving back has always been instilled in me being the daughter of a preacher and an educator. I always watched my daddy giving back to the members of the church and my mother give to her students. So, I knew once I became a business owner I wanted to give back to those less fortunate and make a difference," says Crinel.

It is again the holiday season where many are in the spirit of giving. Crinel is someone who gives year round and in so many ways. "Recently, we did our annual bike give away and this is our fourth year, but this year we did it with a different twist," says Crinel, con-

tinuing she says. "Normally, we open it up to the public, but this year we gave away bikes to the kids of incarcerated parents. It was a moving experience to see some of the kids when they sat on Santa's lap and said all they wanted for Christmas was to see their daddy or mommy come home from jail."

Throughout the years Crinel has been an advocate for education, in addition, to supporting other activities aimed at helping youths reach their full potential. "We partner with different organizations to help in giving away school supplies to young people. One of the things we are currently doing with St. Mary's Academy where I graduated from in 1981; we are in our third year of giving three full tuition scholarships, and we have also given scholarships to St. Augustine. We sponsor four AAU Basketball teams, and we have purchased plane tickets for kids to fly to tournaments or rented buses so kids can go and have the opportunity to play in playoff games. We just do whatever we can to help serve others in



any way we can."

As the Owner of Abide Home Care Services and Lace the Grand Ballroom and as a Board Member of the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce she is a role model for all people, but she has a special message for young women. "Have confidence in yourself, know your passion and pursue it, have a vision and a plan and execute it and realize nothing

shares a golden nugget of information sometimes lost on this generation and that is the renewing of the spirit of sisterhood and uplift among women and girls. There is also something very important I learned very early at St. Mary's that I continue and that is to realize that we are our sister's keeper and if something happens to one of us it happens to all of us; that's something that was also instilled in me in the church and at St. Mary's Academy to give back, and if you are successful serve others by giving them a hand up."

In a world where today especially during the holidays, love is measured by the size of gifts one gives, but Crinel believes that there is a generational disconnect, and I feel getting back to the basics of parenting and guiding our children are important moving forward. "The biggest gift

we can give our children is structure and discipline, somewhere today we as parents have lost what our parents gave us and knowing the value of tough love and that hard work pays off."

Crinel believes in the importance of God, Family and Community. And feels that this holiday families should recommit to working together and realizing love has nothing to do with the size of gifts, but with the size of one's capacity to give and receive love. "I would like to say this holiday make your family a priority, hug your children and let them know that you love them. Whether you have the toys under the tree or not, caring and sharing yourself with the ones you love is a year round commitment that is bigger than Christmas, it's not all about toys or turkey, but what is in our hearts."

JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Holiday Extravaganza

Photos by 2kphotonola.com

3rd Annual Holiday Extravaganza at the Ritz Carlton sponsored by The Garden Doctor, Louisiana Hospice of Greater New Orleans, and NK Scales Enterprises.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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All Lit Up with Nowhere to Go

By MG Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly
Columnist

I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree, goes the verse from Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees". That may have been true before the invention of strung lights coupled with man's imagination. Now the majestic tree is all blinged out for the holidays. Of course, the pine and cedar trees are inside homes all decked out for the holidays. But other trees like Palms, Weeping Willows, and 100 year old Oaks are lighting up the night outdoors in festive designs, bejeweled with thousands of lights creating a wonderland after sunset.

Remember, never get too busy to stop and smell the beautiful flowers!

Check out my "Gardening Tip of the Week" at www.gardeningdiva.com



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos and the latest news.

Child Watch A Christmas Prayer



Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

O God of All Children

As millions of Christians around the world prepare to celebrate Christmas and their belief that God entered human history as a poor tiny baby, let us remember all the poor babies and children who struggle to live and realize their God-given potential in our own rich land and all around the world today. Let's commit to act to assure hope and justice for them all.

O God of the children of Somalia, Sudan, and Syria, of South Africa and South Carolina,

Of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and of India, Iraq, Iran, and Israel

Of the Congo and Chicago, of Darfur and Detroit

Of Myanmar and Mississippi and Louisiana and Yemen

Help us to love and respect and protect them all.

O God of Black and Brown and White and Albino children and those all mixed together,

Of children who are rich and poor and in between,

Of children who speak English and Russian and Hmong and Spanish and languages our ears cannot discern,

Help us to love and respect and protect them all.

O God of the child prodigy and the child prostitute, of the child of rapture and the child of rape,

Of runaway or thrown away children who struggle every day without parent or place or friend or future,

Help us to love and respect and protect them all.

O God of children who can walk and talk and hear and see and sing and dance and jump and play and of children who wish they could but can't

Of children who are loved and unloved, wanted and unwanted,

Help us to love and respect and protect them all.

O God of beggar, beaten, abused, neglected, homeless, AIDS, drug, violence, and hunger-ravaged children,

Of children who are emotionally and physically and mentally fragile, and of children who rebel and ridicule, torment and taunt,

Help us to love and respect and protect them all.

O God of children of destiny and of despair, of war and of peace,

Of disfigured, diseased, and dying children,

Of children without hope and of children with hope to spare and to share,

Help us to love and respect and act to protect them all.

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Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.

2016 Dream Ticket *Hillary and Michelle*



By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

The 2016 national elections are not that far away. It is timely and important that we not wait until then to begin having constructive discussions about who should be given the opportunity and responsibility to succeed President Barack Obama. The questions of the future of politics, economics and equal justice should never be avoided. Especially given all the voter suppression enactments in many states over the last two years, we should be more vigilant about being politically conscious and civically active. My motive, therefore, is to stimulate a proactive dialogue now about the possibilities for viable candidates for the next national elections.

Even with three more years in office, I believe that President Obama will be judged by history as one of the most ef-

fective presidents ever. He will be credited for leading the recovery and revival of the U.S. economy by encouraging the passage of the \$787 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, with Wall Street reaching its highest investment level, ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, getting the Affordable Care Act passed by Congress, rebooting the U.S. auto industry, signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act ensuring equal pay for women, signing into law the Fair Sentencing Act that significantly reduced the sentencing disparities in drug laws that have been devastating for African Americans and Latino Americans, and appointing the first African Americans as Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security.

Therefore, any realistic speculation about who could be successful in following President Obama and Vice President Biden to the White House in 2016 should first be made in context of establishing continuity with the Obama administration's progress in economic revival, ending poverty, and providing leadership in

implementing a more inclusive national agenda for the empowerment of all people who strive for a better quality of life in the United States.

It is long overdue for a qualified and experienced woman to be elected president and vice president of the United States. Here's a way to do both at one time: I propose and endorse the election of Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton as the next president of the United States and Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama as the next vice president of the United States in 2016.

Think about how millions and millions of voters would readily desire with great enthusiasm to have the historic opportunity to vote for two former first ladies of the U.S. to be president and vice president. Today, Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama are the most popular and well respected women in the nation. But this is not to be reduced to a mere popularity contest. The truth is both Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama are very qualified, experienced and capable of leading the United States.

Hillary Clinton, a Yale law graduate, former U.S. Secretary

of State and U.S. Senator is an expert on both domestic and foreign policy. The Democratic Party will be victorious in 2016 if Hillary Clinton is nominated for president. Of course, the vice presidential candidate in 2016 will be chosen by the nominee of the Democratic Party. As I have traveled recently around the country, I am pleased to report that there is a growing support for Michelle Obama to run for public office and being vice president would be a perfect fit. Michelle Obama is a Harvard Law graduate and a seasoned expert on community development and health care issues with a particular commitment to ending poverty for all people.

Let's be clear: they should not be elected because they are women; they should be elected because they are qualified to lead our nation. And those who profess to have a problem with electing two women didn't complain when we've elected two men throughout the history of this nation.

We all remember the tremendous surge in voter turnout in 2008 and again in 2012. And we know what created that enthusiasm. There are real repressive forces, however, that are now at

work to increase systematic efforts to suppress voting rights and voter turnout for both the mid-term 2014 and 2016 national elections. We cannot afford to go backwards. We need to need to keep the forward thrust of the progress of the Obama-Biden administration into a Clinton-Obama administration in 2016. The future of America and the world will once again be at stake.

The political and public discourse will need a new stimulus in order to arouse a massive turnout of voters who will be committed to a progressive agenda and further socioeconomic transformation of our society and nation into a better place. What's your view? Who will you support? Who will you vote for? Let the debate begin.

"Forward ever, backward never!" This is not a time for cynicism or pessimism. We must envision the future for tomorrow out of how we see the present today. I see the Hillary Clinton-Michelle Obama ticket as a winning ticket for 2016.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is President of Education Online Services Corporation and the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and can be reached at <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>

Credit Card Debt Threatens Black Middle Class

By Jazelle Hunt

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Still reeling from the Great Recession, middle class Blacks are maintaining their status by using credit to help cover their basic living expenses, according to a report from the NAACP and public policy research organization, Demos.

In the Recession's aftermath, 79 percent of middle class African American households carry credit card debt. And although they have less debt than before the Recession, the credit crunch continues as Black households spend an average \$368 on credit to make ends meet.

"The report highlights the need to look at how much credit is serving middle class Americans and how much it's giving a false illusion," says Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, senior director of the NAACP Economic Depart-



ment and co-author of the study. "Everybody needs credit but it should be a tool to help your economic life. Now we see it as a drain on African Americans trying to gain a middle class life."

Released earlier this month, the report, "The Challenge of Credit Card Debt for the African

American Middle Class," is an outgrowth of a larger national study on middle class credit card debt since 2010. It found that although African Americans owe less than they did in 2008, 42 percent of households are relying on their cards for basic living expenses when their incomes and

savings fall short, a trend that persists across the entire middle class. Black families are also building their futures on credit, using cards to support higher education, entrepreneurship, and medical expenses.

"Use of credit in long term investments for the future is a spe-

cific African American problem, largely because of the historical impact of racism in wealth building, and current racial bias in lending," says Demos policy analyst, Catherine Ruethschlin, who co-authored the study. "Hypothetically, if [an African American] family was in America during the '60s but excluded from the same wealth-building that White families had, [they] don't have the same financial assets to fall back on."

The seeds for economic disparities seen today have been sown over 50 years of redlining, block-busting, and predatory lending. Today Black Americans have \$1 in assets for every \$20 owned by White Americans, and, according to the study, more than half of it is tied to homeownership.

Enter the Great Recession,

Dollars & Sense,
Continued on page 11.

Jim Crow Wisdom

Memory & Identity in Black America Since 1940

By The Bookworm Sez

You've always prided yourself on being a good storyteller.

You've always been able to craft a good tale – whether it was one of imagination, one to escape trouble, or a story with a lesson added.

It's a talent you got from your parents, and they from theirs. In the new book "Jim Crow Wisdom" by Jonathan Scott Holloway, you'll see how that storytelling prowess may have helped your family survive.

Throughout his life, Jonathan Scott Holloway heard stories.

One of the ones he remembers particularly was that which his father, an ex-military man, told Holloway on the way to school one fall day. It had something to do with fighting and how not to react. Holloway thought it was a strange thing then but, he says, "I discovered that there was more to this story than a father merely preparing his son for a world of inequality."

Many African-Americans, Holloway claims, share stories of perseverance and

strength through memoirs, stories, and anecdotes, and some of the most powerful tales are told in physical manifestations of museum or preserved buildings. Many of these stories serve as subtle (or not-so-subtle) warnings, lessons in getting along in a White world.

But, as he learned, stories can be edited or omitted entirely. There's a certain kind of unneeded "shame" in some facets of family history that may be hidden or forgotten. They're buried or, as Holloway says of his own family, a certain "branch of the family tree isn't even dead. It's simply gone."

Good or bad, this all serves as "the preservation of social status and authority," as well as being cautionary in nature for future generations. It helps in "establishing links, forged from common experience, to the larger Black community" by sharing wisdom and lessons learned from the Jim Crow era and more recently. Still, "The editing... continues" and that, says Holloway, is detrimental to the Black community.

"... the silences in a family's past can serve their purposes," he believes, "...

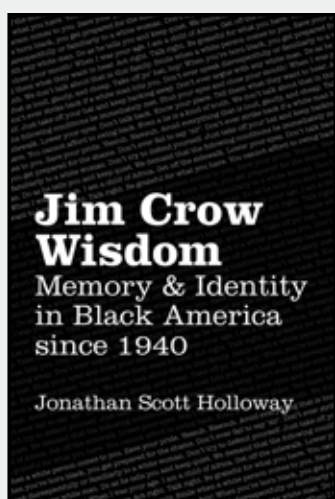
but they also come with the risk of too little memory, of not knowing the value of sacrifice that enabled a better future in the first place."

In a way – at least for the casual reader – "Jim Crow Wisdom" was written backwards.

Author Jonathan Scott Holloway writes, in the second half of his book, about his family: recollections of learning stories he'd never heard, and finally understanding the tales that were ingrained at his core. It's semi-biographical, lively, and because of the nature of what he writes, the latter half of this book underscores its title.

But first, we must get through the first half, which is very, very academic. Holloway is a professor at Yale, after all, and the beginning of the books shows it. It's not unreadable, but it belies the spiritedness that the second half possesses.

Keep that in mind when you're reading this book, be willing to read it second-half-first, and you may find it to be quite eye-opening. For you, "Jim Crow Wisdom" might spur you to share a few good stories.



Jim Crow Wisdom:
Memory & Identity in
Black America Since 1940
by Jonathan Scott Holloway
c.2013, University of
North Carolina Press \$39.95
\$50.00 Canada 273 pages

New Orleans Chef Tasheena Butler Opens New Restaurant in Kenner

Chef Butler is a former contestant on Food Network's "Chopped"

After showcasing her talents on the national cooking competition show, Chopped, just one year ago, local chef Tasheena Butler has opened her restaurant, T. Marie's Kitchen and Catering in Kenner, La.

Patrons of T. Marie's Kitchen and Catering can enjoy an array of New Orleans-inspired dishes for both lunch and dinner. Butler, a New Orleans native, credits her unique cooking style to growing up in a city that is steeped in a rich culinary tradition. Butler also received training in culinary arts at Delgado Community College and has years of professional cooking experience.

"Cooking is what I do," said Butler. "I am able to use cooking skills learned while growing up and combine them with my formal training to make each dish special. I love to create masterpieces with food."

T. Marie's Kitchen and Catering's location on West Airline Highway is perfect for serving people who are either leaving the city or arriving for a visit because of its close proximity to the Louis Armstrong International Airport.

"We want to give our visitors a taste of New Orleans when they arrive and have them come back for more when they are headed home," said Butler.



Some of the featured dishes include Chef Butler's Bayou Boogie Pasta, a roast beef po-boy, the Catfish Almondine entrée, and a restaurant favorite, Creole shrimp and grits. In addition to these menu items and many others, T. Marie's Kitchen and Catering also offers daily specials. The restaurant is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Chef Butler is also available to cater special events including, but not limited to, corporate meetings, dinner parties and weddings.

For more information about T. Marie's Kitchen and Catering, visit www.tmarieskitchen.com or call 504.467.8115.

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National Basketball Retired Players Association Partners With New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation For All-Star Weekend

The National Basketball Retired Players Association (NBRPA), the only Association comprised of NBA, ABA, Harlem Globetrotters and WNBA alumni, today announced a very special program for basketball fans at NBA All-Star 2014 in New Orleans, February 13-16, that will put direct philanthropic dollars for youth into the New Orleans community. The NBRPA, a 501(c)3 charitable organization in itself, will raise funds for the New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation, as well as its own Dave DeBusschere Scholarship Fund, with the sale of Legend All-Access Passes for All-Star Weekend with the Legends. Only 100 passes will be made available and basketball fans, corporations and consumers are encouraged to act soon to take advantage of this first-of-its-kind opportunity.

"The NORD Foundation is delighted to be working with the Legends of Basketball, headed by our former City Council

President Arnie Fielkow, who was instrumental in creating the public-private partnership now managing the Orleans Parish recreation system," said Anne K LaRock, Executive Director for the New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation. "The fantastic retired NBA players really understand the benefits of quality recreation for our community. We have already had the opportunity to work with the Legends of Basketball on a community picnic and basketball clinic in the Lower Ninth Ward last spring, so we know that we make a great team. This project will not only provide basketball fans with great insider access at this year's All-Star Games - it will also advance the growing success of New Orleans recreation."

The New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation, created in December 2010, facilitates investment in the Orleans Parish recreation system for the purpose of providing access to

quality recreational opportunities for all New Orleanians.

The purpose of the Foundation is to support, promote, stimulate public interest in, and raise and distribute funds to benefit the construction, creation, preservation, and maintenance of public parks and playgrounds, recreational facilities, and recreational and other leisure programs and activities in Orleans Parish.

"Community and youth development is a major objective of the NBRPA and we are thrilled to support youth recreation in my adopted hometown of New Orleans," said Fielkow, who not only served as New Orleans City Council President, but also as New Orleans Saints Executive Vice President before becoming President & CEO of the NBRPA. "Basketball fans seeking a unique opportunity to rub shoulders with the greatest basketball players of all-time will want to take advantage of this truly unique opportunity during All-Star Weekend."



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Remains of Black Soldier in Korean War Returned

By Herb Boyd
Special to the NNPA

NEW YORK – Clara Gantt, 94, has waited more than 60 years for her husband to come home from Korea, and last Friday his remains were returned in a flag-draped casket to the Los Angeles International Airport.

Her husband, Sgt. First Class Joseph E. Gantt, was a field medic with the 2nd Infantry Division when he was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950 after his unit was overwhelmed by Chinese forces near the town of Kunu-ri, North Korea.

"He told me if anything happened to him he wanted me to remarry," Gantt told reporters at the airport. "I told him no, no. Here I am, still his wife." She said just receiving his remains was a blessing. "I am so happy that I'm living to accept them," she said.

Many readers of Rep. Charles Rangel's memoir *And I Haven't Had a Bad Day Since* will be re-



Clara Gantt (pictured above), stands over the long-awaited remains of her husband, Sgt. First Class Joseph E. Gantt as he returned in a flag-draped casket to the Los Angeles International Airport. Gantt was reported missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950 near the town of Kunuri, North Korea. Photo Credit AP

minded of the battle in which Gantt was reported missing in action (he was captured by the Chinese and died in a prison camp from malnutrition and lack of medical care).

Gantt is not mentioned in Rangel's book but here's how the highly decorated war veteran from Harlem recalled that battle

at Kunu-ri just after midnight on Nov. 30. "We didn't know what the hell we were really doing, with all the people screaming and moaning around us. We could see some GIs being marched away by the Chinese. I had given away my wound kit, but it wouldn't have made any difference; it was so unbeliev-

ably cold that the blood was frozen in the wounds."

Apparently one of the soldiers Rangel saw being marched away by the Chinese included Sgt. Gantt.

"It was there, seemingly below the action in another time zone that I prayed to Jesus," Rangel continued. "I told Jesus that if I ever got out of that mess, if I could somehow survive that night, which I never thought I could, that I would never be a problem to anybody, ever again."

Rangel made it home from that bloody ordeal, but Gantt was one of the nearly 8,000 soldiers who are still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

"I am very, very proud of him," Mrs. Gantt said of her husband. "He was a wonderful husband, an understanding man...We loved each other."

Sgt. Gantt will be buried with full military honors on Dec. 28 in Inglewood, Calif., not too far from where his widow lives.

Dollars & Sense/ Continued from page 9.

when the housing bubble inflated by predatory lending practices bursts, dragging the global economy and hope for long-term Black wealth down with it. Only 55 percent of the study's Black respondents own their home, compared to the 72 percent of White respondents.

If homeownership has been considered the cornerstone of the American Dream, then education has been considered the bulldozer that clears the way. According to the report, 80 percent of Black college grads took out some amount of loans in order to attain a higher education, compared to 65 percent of Whites.

Credit debt as a result of student loans can then affect career outcomes, as credit checks are sometimes part of the hiring process. Those with poor credit are often relegated to low-paying jobs due to this dubious but legal practice.

For this and other reasons, entrepreneurship has also been considered a path to the good life. In the study, an overwhelming 99 percent of indebted moderate-income African American households who had expenses related to starting or running a business in the past three years still carry that expense on their credit card bill.

Ruethschlin explains, "If you don't have access to small business loans because the market went dry during the Recession, those with the worst credit history are going to be the last to get back into the system. It shifts an additional financial burden. It could be those

additional challenged that make it harder to run a successful business."

Interestingly, Black and White households reported different reasons for poor credit: 44 percent of White respondents cited late mortgage payments and using all or nearly all of their credit lines while 40 percent of Black households cited late student loan payments and credit report errors.

However varied the causes, middle class credit use and debt levels are similar across race—it's the consequences that raise eyebrows.

"I'd assume before this report that there would be greater disparities [in card use], but even the amount of debt we have is not that different," Asante-Muhammad says. "What is different is that we have worse credit scored and receive stronger collection tactics."

The report found that African Americans and Whites had similar rates of card default, late payments, bankruptcy, eviction, and repossession. However, 71 percent of African American households had been called by bill collectors, compared to 50 percent of White households. African Americans in the report were also more likely to report card cancellations, limit reductions, or credit rejections in the last three years (53 percent of Black respondents compared to 36 percent of Whites).

Even if credit score isn't a problem, indebted African American households face higher interest rates, reporting an average APR of 17.7 percent on the card where they carry the

greatest balance. For White households it's 15.8 percent.

Despite this, African American respondents were less likely to moderate their card use as a result of higher rates, which suggested to the authors that Black households have less of a choice in staying afloat.

"It's not surprising that the middle class relies on credit cards to get their expenses met," says Nikitra Bailey, executive vice president of the Center for Responsible Lending. "When we think of the catastrophe caused by the Recession, most families didn't have wealth resources necessary to fall back on. Our own reports show that the typical household only has about \$100 left over every month after needs are met."

The government stepped in in 2008 with the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure (CARD) Act, which has helped at least a third of the African American respondents in the study pursue financial freedom. The CARD Act attempts to create a more equitable and less predatory credit climate for all Americans through billing transparency and plain-language credit terms and conditions.

"The CARD Act has been really useful and is working in the manner intended," Bailey says. "What's unique about the Act is that it provides transparency around credit bills without the bait-and-switch we saw before the act. Late fees have dropped more than half, and credit delinquency is the lowest it's been since 1994."

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