

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



**Remembering
John "Dog" Tate**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce

Helping Black Businesses Succeed



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The U.S. Black Chambers Gives Black Businesses the Tools to Succeed



Patrice Williams-Smith President and CEO of the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce.



Ron Busby, Sr., President, National Black Chambers, Inc.,

By Edwin Buggage

African-American Entrepreneurs: A Brief History

There is a rich tradition of African-American entrepreneurs in the U.S. Even under the worse conditions of slavery and Jim Crow segregation they found ways

to provide goods and services for others with some accumulating great wealth. From Black Wall Street in Tulsa Oklahoma and other cities that had successful businesses in various cities in America; to individuals who bucked the trends of the time to accumulate great wealth like Louisiana born Madam C.J. Walker the first female self-made millionaire and Millionaire Arthur G. Gaston in Birmingham who used his con-

siderable wealth to play an important role in helping integrate the city during the Civil Rights Movement.

USBC an Advocate for African-American Businesses

Today African-American businesses continue in the great tradition of creating wealth and jobs. Although many are successful it is not without challenges as

On the Cover: Members of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. Board of Directors.

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racism and discrimination still continues. As in times past to survive and thrive many businesses came together to share information and resources. The U.S. Black Chambers under the leadership of Ron Busby Sr. assists African-American businesses in many ways.

"The U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. (USBC) provides committed, visionary leadership and advocacy in the realization of economic empowerment. Through the creation of resources and initiatives, we support African-American Chambers of Commerce and business organizations in their work of developing and growing Black Enterprises," says Busby. He says that this is a great time for Black businesses as the numbers continue to grow. "There are 1.9 million Black-owned businesses in the United States, and 1.8 million are sole proprietors, Black American businesses are growing at one of the fastest rates in history."

There are many businesses starting up every day that in some instances lack the resources and support. These are areas where the U.S. Black Chambers lend their support. Busby has several suggestions for businesses just starting up or for those who want to join their organization as he talks about the chamber and its reach.

"Businesses should first try to join their local chamber of commerce. We have 115 member chambers in 25 states, representing approximately 240,000 Black-owned businesses. A business owner should determine who their local chamber of commerce is and reach out directly to learn more about the local organization. If needed, USBC can help interested businesses determine which chamber is best for them. If there is no local chamber in a particular area, interested business owners can join the USBC directly via our Join Now tab on our website at www.usblackchambers.org."

For those local businesses that are interested in joining the local USBC it is called the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce (NORBCC). Patrice A. Williams-Smith is the Chief Executive Officer of the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce. At the NORBCC, Ms. Williams-Smith is regarded as a highly experienced manager with expertise in Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SDBE) Development with more than 20 years of experience focused solely in the New Orleans



"Black businesses need to do more business with each other," says U.S. Black Chambers CEO Ron Busby, (pictured 2nd from left above) who feels this approach of working together and supporting each other would help them thrive.

area. She concentrates on assisting in the development of new, small business enterprises and the cultivation of existing minority and small businesses.

African-American Entrepreneurs and the Struggle to Thrive of Survive in Business

While today we see many examples of successful entrepreneurs in the entertainment business such as Oprah Winfrey, Jay-Z and Beyoncé, Sean Combs and New Orleans own Tyler Perry, Percy "Master P" Miller and Bryan "Birdman" Williams and Ronald "Slim" Williams of Cash Money Records the landscape for some African-Americans trying to access the capital to fuel their dreams of owning and operating a business is still a problem.

Citing statistics from 2014 Busby points out that racial disparities and obstacles still exists, "Last year, SBA lending to African-American businesses dropped from 8.2% to 1.7%. Black-owned businesses received \$382.5 million of the \$23.09 billion of SBA made loans last year. This is in no way fair, nor equal to the percentage of the population. We have some great success stories, but the reality is that fewer Black-owned businesses are growing to the size and scale that we need them to compete. We face less racism in our faces, but continue to face barriers access capital across the nation."

Busby feels that one of the solutions to many of the things that plague African-American businesses and the African-American com-

munity in general can begin with one another. a more concerted effort to support

"Black businesses need to do

more business with each other. We have a great opportunity to increase our B2B sales, and ultimately alleviate the problem of high unemployment by ourselves. The average Black person spends less than 5% of their total income with Black businesses. If we could increase this number to just 10%, we would cause each of the 1.8 million Black businesses to hire one additional employee. This is business expansion, job creation, and economic exchange all at once. Black businesses must also learn to adapt with the ever-changing technology landscape. Less than 40% of Black businesses even have a website. In 2015, your website is often seen as your storefront, and without a storefront, how are we able to know that you exist? Fortunately, there are plenty of great Black tech and marketing firms to help!"

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Second-Liners Profile Series

Catina Braxton

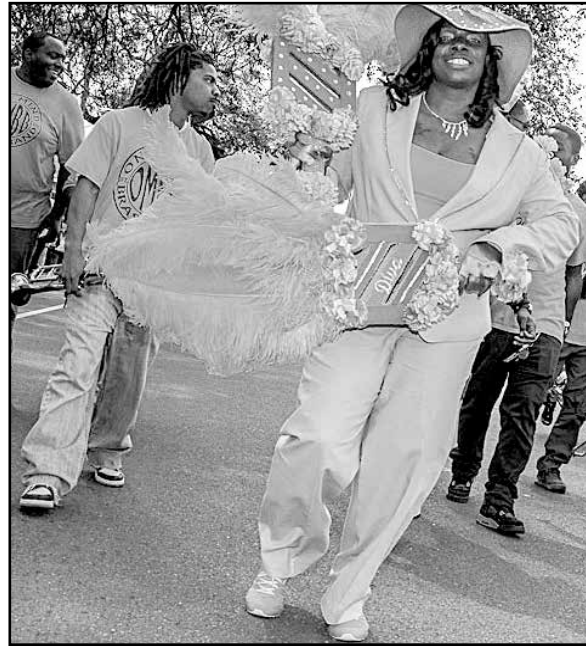
"A Human Race of Second-Liners"

By Rachel Carrico

Catina Braxton grew up in the Third Ward, where she saw a constant stream of second-lines during her youth in 1980s and 1990s. She recalls seeing the Lady Buckjumpers when they were a newly formed club. As a child, Braxton also looked up to her uncles and cousins who belonged to social aid and pleasure clubs. However, she did not fall in love with second-lining at first. "I thought, 'There's too many people for me! You got to walk all fast, you got people walking all over you? I can't do that!' But as I went, more and more, it was like, 'OK, I got the hang of this here!'" Once she got the hang of it, she was hooked. "There was a time when I wouldn't miss a second-line for nothing in the world. Some Sundays I wouldn't even go to church



Photograph by Ms. Freddy Hill and Mr. Lawrence Lear, Jr.



because I wanted to be at the second-line for twelve o'clock!" But

for Braxton, like many dedicated second-liners, the parade is a kind of church, where people find fellowship with their communities, meet new people, and experience a transformation while dancing in the streets. "You just become a whole new person when you're out performing and dancing, and you hear the music. You step out of your body into another body and you just enjoy yourself."

Braxton eventually decided to join the Lady Rollers in 1998, and more recently, she founded the Ice Divas Social and Pleasure Club. While the name of her club certainly reflects Braxton's personality—her nickname is "Black Ice," her business (in partnership with Ronald D. Robertson) is called "Ice Lawn Service" ("The Coldest in the South"), and even her dogs have "Ice"

in their names—she did not demand that her club take on its president's identity. That outcome was left up to fate. When the original members got together, they each wrote a potential club name on a slip of paper and placed it in a bag. They asked a child to pull a name out of the bag, "and she pulled Ice Divas, so that was the beginning of Ice Divas Social and Pleasure Club." Since the club does not have their own parade date, they come out with KeepN It Real; you can catch them on March 8, 2015.

One notable aspect of the Ice Divas is its interracial membership, which is rooted in Braxton's experience with the Lady Rollers. "People is people. You don't look at people as color or what have you. People is people, we all human. Everybody can enjoy whatever culture they want to, and I love it." Braxton handpicks her members in a variety of ways,

sometimes based on their performances as second-liners. "When I see them dancing, having a real good time, I'm like, 'I could use her! I'm going to ask her!'" Such was the experience with Braxton and this author, who will be coming out with the Ice Divas next Sunday.

The Ice Divas' and other clubs' interracial memberships represent what some might see as the changing face of second-lining. Many people remember the days when they could count all the White second-liners on one hand, and when no tourist would find their way to a back-of-town parade. These days, however, second-liners attract new residents and visitors who represent a wide variety of races, ethnicities, and nationalities. There could be a variety of reasons for this. Information about second-liners has become more publicly accessible, especially in the post-Katrina years, as route sheets, interviews, and photographs are increasingly available through social media and online publications (such as this one). Second-line parades featured in the HBO series *Treme* have introduced viewers worldwide to the tradition. Additionally, post-Katrina volunteerism has attracted people to the City—some who stay for good—who are more interested in interacting with local residents on their own turfs, rather than spending time in the French Quarter. Whatever the reasons, it seems that an increasingly diverse crowd is pounding the pavement each Sunday.

The shifting demographics of the post-Katrina City are not only reflected in the second-line, but in the main line as well. Braxton sees Hurricane Katrina's impact on the second-line culture as a question of displacement and, as a result, new forms of participation. "A lot of people that was in the culture, that was members of social aid and pleasure clubs, didn't come back, so there's a lot of new faces, new club names. Even people that just moved into the City is getting to know the culture and enjoy the culture of second-lining." Points of view about the changing face of the second-line culture vary, but in Braxton's opinion, "Keep coming. Because if it's something that you can enjoy, come enjoy."

trailblazer

Bill Summers

From the "Root" to the Fruit, Planting the Seeds of Greatness in our Youth

by: Edwin Buggage

Bill Summers is known to most as a percussionist and multi-instrumentalist that's contributed music that has won Emmys, Grammys and many other awards. In his decades long career his resume of collaborations read like a who's who in music: Herbie Hancock, Quincy Jones, Michael Jackson, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Irvin Mayfield and many others in addition to releasing his own music. Today he is using his musical gifts to give back to young people.

Speaking of his unique family connection and history in Louisiana he says, "All my family is from Louisiana. My great-great uncle was a signer of the Confederate Constitution, his name was Duncan Kenner he owned a plantation near Gonzales and my great-great grandfather ran that plantation and my great-great grandmother had seven kids by him. She left the plantation after he decided to marry a White woman and he had to get rid of his Black family. She left with as many of her children as she could afford to buy and she moved to St. Louis and when she moved there her

son Alexander Kenner became a businessman and he was very successful and she bought an apartment building and she helped young Black men who needed a place to live. Periodically, she would travel to Louisiana to the plantation to buy one of her kids back and the last one of her kids she bought back was Bill Kenner. The City of Kenner was owned by my Great-Great uncle. My parents left Louisiana in the late 40's and I was born in Michigan but I've always considered Louisiana my home."

Speaking of some of the things that influenced his early social consciousness he credits his family in addition to meeting Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party while he was attending Merritt College and the University of California, Berkley in Oakland in the turbulent 1960's.

"I attended Merritt Jr. College and my classmates were Bobby Seale, and David Hilliard. I became friends with Eldridge Cleaver and his wife Kathleen Cleaver, I learned a lot about Civil Rights through my parents, grandparents and



that experience as well."

Summers says he has been committed to working with young people since his early years and says he feels it is important to give back. He returned to Louisiana to work with children developing programs that would help them embrace their culture and give them the life skills to be successful in life.

"The New Urban Music Movement (NUMM), is an organization that helps young players in pursuit of careers in music. He's also created another program aimed at local youth; The

of knowledge of their history not just on the shores of the U.S., but one that goes back to Ancient Africa and the Diaspora.

He recalls playing on the epic mini-series "Roots" score and soundtrack, "I played the first sounds on "Roots" that is the Bata. I got that job via Quincy Jones, when he called I didn't believe it was him and hung up the phone thinking one of my friends was playing a joke on me. He asked me to come and be a part of "Roots" and I have an Emmy right there on the wall."

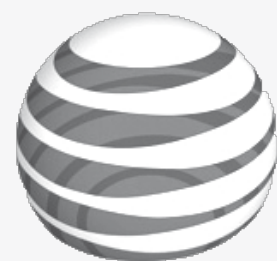
Continuing he says of the importance of the music played in "Roots" pointing to the drums he played during the recording sessions. "These are the Bata Drums, the first one is the mother, it is the biggest drum, it talks the most and represents the womb and it leads, the other drum is the father they converse but never on top of each other, and the small drum is the child, it plays a simple pattern. When a

young man learns to play the drums he understands the importance of family. These are the kind of lessons that's slipped into the dust that anchored us."

He speaks of a time he took a group of young men to re-connect with their ancient culture. "Eighteen years ago I took a group young men from New Orleans to Cuba, there are only two African fraternities that survived the slave trade and they were initiated to play theses specific drums and they had to commit 200 rhythms to memory. They learn to be together as brothers."

As a man who's traveled all over the world sharing the gift of music, Summers understands and embraces the universal brother and sisterhood of humanity. "I am proud of being African, I am proud of being part European and part Native American, I am the melting pot. I have learned in my journey through life is to embrace all mankind and share your knowledge."

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John "Dog" Tate Celebration of Life



Written and Arranged by June Hazeur

John Sylvester Tate, was affectionately known as "Button" to his family and "Big Dog" to his friends and co-workers. He was a Baptized at Marine & Mt. Moriah Ministries, he was a member of the choir and his dedication to the church lead him to be ordained as a Deacon. He worked for Julien Kimbrough at the Showcase Lounge and

in recent years at The Prime Example. Prior to working with Julius he worked at the Hyatt Regency Hotel for several years. He was a member of the Soul Knights Motorcycle Club and he was well-known in the community. On Valentine's Day 2015 he would have turned 59 years old. He was a good friend to so many. Everyone loved "Dog" as he was called in the night clubs. He was a loving father of three daughters and one son. An

outpouring of love and respect was displayed at a celebration of the life of "Dog" (John Tate) which resulted in a full house with standing room only. He had a great personality. He was always smiling and what a great smile it was. Pictured above are photos of John, his former wife Lois "Tammy" Barabino-Tate and his daughter Jahnta Tate. Devotion and love for him was expressed to Data by his former wife and daughter.

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

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Sharon Martin - "Voice Like a Beautiful Song Bird"

Photos by Terry Jones

By June Hazeur

On Thursday, February 12th, at The Prime Example Jazz and Blues Club, Sharon Martin performed and sang her heart out with beautiful songs from the past along with her routine show which is always very entertaining. The audience sometimes sing along with her but they also jump to the floor and do their own thing. With "Dogs" birthday coming up in honor of him she sang his favorite song "Wind Beneath My Wings". It was both beautiful and emotional for some of us. She is such a talented performer and songstress. Though she has been singing for 30+ years she still has it going on. Her voice is still as beautiful as ever and she is still fit and vibrant and can get down with the best of us. Everyone had a wonderful time and Data News Weekly was there to join in the fun and to enjoy the music.



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

Twin Evils

Terrorism and Racism



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

There are two related violent phenomena in that are now getting renewed public attention and research around the world, as well as considerable debate and denial. The twin evils are terrorism and racism.

President Barack Obama's recent White House Summit on "Countering Violent Extremism" reminded many of us in Black America that violent acts of "extremism" have not been isolated just to the Middle East or to the perversion of one religion. At the con-

clusion of the White House meeting on extremism, President Obama affirmed the national resolve and resilience of the United States in surmounting and overcoming terrific challenges in the past.

The president said, "For more than 238 years, the United States of America has not just endured, but we have thrived and surmounted challenges that might have broken a lesser nation. After a terrible civil war, we repaired our union. We weathered a Great Depression, became the world's most dynamic economy."

It is undeniable that the United States has made progress for more than two centuries toward a "more perfect union" with promises of liberty, equality and justice for all. But for millions of Black Americans, however, the contradictions of racial inequality, racially motivated violence, disproportionate mass incarceration, and numerous other forms of institutionalized racism

and extremism are all still realities that we face daily. That, too, is undeniable.

After the White House summit, a larger gathering of international governmental leaders, civil society groups, diplomats, religious leaders and others convened at the State Department. Again, President Obama reiterated his call to action for a more coordinated global effort to counter violent extremism.

He stated, "We come together from more than 60 countries from every continent. We speak different languages, born of different races and ethnic groups, belong to different religions. We are here today because we are united against the scourge of violent extremism and terrorism."

It was a welcomed display of a growing, diverse international coalition of governments and organizations emerging to make public their collective intention to work together to confront violent ex-

tremism wherever it exists. Given the changing demographics fueled by the "browning of America," the extremist violence attacking Black Americans and other people of color should be on a decline. On the contrary, there appears to be a national resurgence of racial violence against people of color inside.

Black America has had to challenge and endure centuries of violent acts of extremism in the forms of domestic terrorism and racism. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) even to this day claims to be a Christian organization. But no one refers to the KKK as Christian extremists or terrorists. Within a week, there will be the 50th anniversary recognition of "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, Ala., where violent law enforcement "extremists" attacked unarmed civil rights marchers who were nonviolently demanding voting rights for Black Americans in 1965.

It is ironic that a new study concerning the systematic lynching of

Black Americans was recently released. The study, produced by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), was titled, "Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror." The findings of the EJI report documented that there were at least 3,959 lynchings of Black Americans in 12 Southern states between the Reconstruction Era and World War II: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Florida, and Texas.

And those were just the documented cases. There were many others that were never documented or reported in the news media because during that period, racist lynchings were the socially accepted norm and not the exception in the South. That type of extremist terrorism against Black America was commonplace. Yet, there were

Commentary, Continued
on page 11.

Cherishing History that's in your Attic



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

We gather together this month to lift up the names that have been frequently lifted, to call the roll of those African Americans who have made a difference. While some names are the tried and true names of important leaders, we need to pay as much attention to the legacies of those whose lives and contributions have been swallowed.

Madame CJ Walker's life and legacy is no secret. There is a woman who shares her name though, and she is rarely lifted up when the roles of Black women in our nation's history are mentioned. Maggie Lena Walker, with a second grade education, established Pen-

ny Savings Bank in Richmond, Va. She was the first African American woman to establish such a bank. Through the Great Depression, and through bank regulation shifts, some version of Penny Savings Bank existed until the early 21st Century. This woman's contribution has been overshadowed because it is easy to ignore her contribution to history.

Madame CJ Walker garnered public attention, and few realize that she was not the first to do "black hair." Annie Malone developed a thriving hair care business in St. Louis and surrounding areas. According to some sources, she had at least two dozen training schools in the early 20th Century. Some say she mentored Madame CJ Walker. Many acknowledge that her hair care educational foci were a model for Madame Walker. Did Walker, more flamboyant and better connected, establish a place in history while Annie Malone and Maggie Lena Walker could not? What does it say about

Black history when the glitz and glitter are substitutes for sacrifice and substance?

Far too often, we expect leaders to embrace and lift up our Black history. And far too often, we ignore the history in our attics. We forget the uncle who was a member of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, independent union of sleeping car porters and maids established in the 1920s to advocate for their rights. We forget the aunt who was a domestic worker in New York City. We remember the cousin who was a teacher in Mississippi, Alabama, or Louisiana (the last states to desegregate schools), but we have never explored the sacrifices she made to manage such a segregated environment.

We glorify those whose names are represented in the headlines. We ignore those whose contributions, albeit important, hover on the sidelines. We know that we stand on mighty shoulders, but we are unwilling and sadly sometimes unable to call their names.

These are the names we must call. We call them when we pour libation. We call their names and say "ache." Our next responsibility is to lift their names up, to claim them as the postal workers, the civil rights workers, and the activists. Our next responsibility is to remind ourselves and those around us that we don't have to have a name to have "cred."

We call their names when we read Howard Zinn's A Peoples History of the United States that exemplifies "the people's history," not the celebrity history. We own our history and affirm our connection to it, when we own the papers in the attic.

As I move around during this Black History Month, people tell me stories that they need to tell others. There was the uncle who took his horn through the "chitlin circuit" backing up major artists, and leaving the circuit when the pull of family took him home. These are the revolutions that will not be televised, the stories that will only be

told when we tell them.

We need to tell them year round. It is a travesty of history to reduce an accounting of our heritage to a one-month commemoration of the history that defines our nation. When we are unable to recount the occurrences of Tulsa and Rosewood, of the Red Summer of 1919 and the Poor People's Campaign, we allow our history to be swallowed and appropriated.

Commemorate Black History Month, if you will. Attend the gatherings at your churches and colleges. And then go home and pull the history out of the attic. If you are a citizen of the world, race notwithstanding, you have some hidden history in your attic. When you share your family stories, you take ownership in a Black History Month that is not about those named, but those unnamed who have made a critical difference in our lives.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington D.C.

When to Prune Roses



Edited by LMG Calla Victoria

I have been receiving so many call and emails, asking when to prune rose bushes. Now is the time to prune your roses. The general rule is to prune your rose bushes back hard from Valentine's Day through early March. By "pruning back hard" I mean you should be trimming your rose bushes down by at least 1/2 of the height, which may seem drastic but trust me it will pay off in the spring.

Many gardeners worry that pruning their roses will hurt them. Pruning actually keeps rose bushes healthy and blooming. Pruning includes reshaping your shrub and removing any old or dead wood. Prune away all small scrawny branches because if you want thick

strong branches, get rid of the rest of them. The aim of pruning your roses is to create a nice rounded shrub. Always take time to step back and look to check that you are forming a balanced shape overall. The only time this rule does not apply is in the first year when the plant is still establishing. In this case prune lightly, leaving two-thirds of the shrub. The overall the goal of pruning is always the same, to keep the bush vigorous and open allowing better air circulation through the center of the plant.

Pruning cuts should always be made just above a bud eye. The "bud eye" refers to the area on the stem where branching occurs. If you have only a few bushes by all means use pruning shears. However if you are have tons of rose

bushes like I do, then we do like the botanical gardens do, break out the hedge trimmers and get to it. Nothing gets the job done better and quicker than hedge trimmers.

The rules are a little different with climbing roses that can get 15 to 20 high, as the whole point of having climbing roses is to gain height. With climbing roses, only prune of the lateral shoots and cut them back to 3-6 inches, which stimulates flower production, resulting in more blooms. Also prune any dead or damaged canes.

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

Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers.

In celebration of Black History Month



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UNCF New Orleans Mayor's Masked Ball Features Host of Culinary All-Stars

Opulent cuisine from award-winning New Orleans chefs

UNCF (the United Negro College Fund) and New Orleans Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu will host the second annual New Orleans Masked Ball, celebrating the organization's 70th anniversary and honoring local supporters who enable UNCF to get deserving New Orleans students to and through college. Civic, business and educational leaders across the New Orleans area will gather Saturday, March 14, 2015,

7 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans.

Under the coordination of Hyatt Regency's Chef Eric Damidot, guests will also be treated to a night of world-class cuisine with dishes prepared by top New Orleans celebrity chefs John Besh of Besh Restaurant Group, Leah Chase of

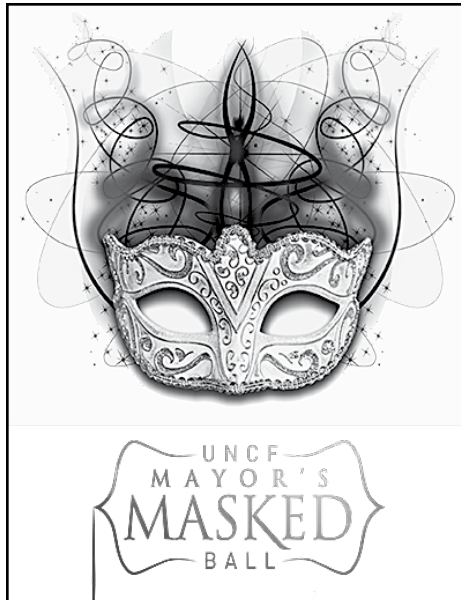
Dooky Chase Restaurants, Kelly Fields of Restaurant August and Brian Landry of Borgne Restaurant.

"I have long admired the work of UNCF and I believe that the ultimate mission of The Chase Foundation and this organization are parallel," said Chef Leah Chase. "Thus, I am thrilled to once again support this event as a presenting Chef."

UNCF Masked Ball is one of the organization's signature fundraising galas and premier social events of the year. Hosted by a diverse group of corporate sponsors and individuals, it involves celebrities, dignitaries, civic leaders, alumni and others who support UNCF's mission of investing in America's future by getting students to and through college. Last year's UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball generated \$1.3 mil-

lion, enough to send over 200 young men and women to and through college. This year's Masked Ball fundraising goal is \$1 million. This year's MASKED Award will go to Dr. Norman C. Francis, honoring his 47 years as president of UNCF member institution, Xavier University.

"I am excited to help UNCF celebrate its second annual Masked Ball in New Orleans. It is a wonderful event that brings together all of us who care about making sure we continue to provide students with the education they need, and that we need them to have," said Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., president



and CEO, UNCF. "The investment we are making in better futures

for them will pay dividends for all of us when they become the next generation of leaders that New Orleans – and the country – need in the future."

The evening will also include live and silent auctions, as well as a raffle for a 2014 Nissan Maxima, presented by Premier Nissan of Metairie. Raffle tickets are \$100 each. Proceeds benefit Louisiana UNCF Member Institutions, Dillard and Xavier Universities. Sponsorship packages are still available. Reserved tables of 10 are \$5,000 and individual tickets are \$500. To purchase tables, event tickets, car raffle tickets or to make a donation, please contact the New Orleans UNCF office at 504-581-3794 or visit the Ball's event website, www.uncf.org/nolamaskedball

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

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No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

The Future of African-American Businesses and the Impact on the Community

When thinking of starting a business many of those especially from generation next want to be part of glamorous industries such as entertainment, fashion etc. But Busby feels that the key to success in business is finding your niche and that may be something many consider ordinary but there is a need.

"I feel when thinking of going into business people should consider going into business in fields that may not be "fancy." Use the resources around you to determine where there is a niche that you may fill, not necessarily based on your passion. There are a lot of passionate unemployed, failed business own-

ers out there. We have to utilize proper planning and market research before we jump into creating our own business."

For those businesses that are interested in joining and learning more about USBC and what they have to offer Busby says that people can join them in the nation's capital this summer. "I would suggest to those who want to know more about what we do join us for our 5th Annual USBC School of Chamber & Business Management this July 28 – 31 in Washington, DC at the Marriott Marquis, 901 Massachusetts Ave, NW 20001. We will have 4 days of workshops, classes and training for the top Black Chamber Leaders and Business Owners in the country. You can learn more on our website at www.usblackchambers.org."

ladatanews.com

DOJ Not Filing Charges Against George Zimmerman For 2012 Killing Of Trayvon Martin

The Department of Justice will not file charges against George Zimmerman for the 2012 killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, ABC News and CBS News reported Tuesday.

ABC reported:

ABC News has learned Martin's family will soon be notified that the Justice Department will not be filing charges against George Zimmerman, who shot the 17-year-old after a confrontation in 2012. Thursday marks three years to the day since Martin was killed.

Federal prosecutors concluded there is not sufficient evidence to prove Zimmerman, a neighborhood watchman in Sanford, Fla., intentionally violated Martin's civil rights, sources told ABC News.

In October 2014, the Washington Post reported DOJ investigators had determined there was insufficient evidence to charge Zimmerman, but still wanted to "dot their i's and cross their t's."

The Justice Department first announced in July 2013 it would look into the killing of the 17-year-old, who was shot by Zimmerman - a neighborhood watchman in Sanford, Florida - while walking home carrying a bag of Skittles and an iced tea.

After four weeks of testimony, a jury found Zimmerman not guilty of second-degree murder in July 2013.



In a press release from the Department of Justice, Attorney General Eric Holder commented on the close of the investigation into Martin's death.

"The death of Trayvon Martin was a devastating tragedy. It shook an entire community, drew the attention of millions across the nation, and sparked a painful but necessary dialogue throughout the country," Holder said. "Though a comprehensive investigation found that the high standard for a federal hate crime prosecution cannot be met under the circumstances here, this young man's premature death necessitates that we continue the

dialogue and be unafraid of confronting the issues and tensions his passing brought to the surface.

We, as a nation, must take concrete steps to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future."

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Applications and copies of job descriptions may be obtained by emailing: jobs@orleanspehs.org. Applications should be submitted to P.O. Box 8249 New Orleans, LA 70182 by the closing date of February 28th or until position is filled. Applications may be picked up in person at the Orleans Parish EHS administrative office, 2714 Canal Street, Ste. 407, New Orleans, LA., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of applications. Hiring offers are contingent upon the successful completion of criminal records/backgrounds checks, health, TB screening and MVR prior and other screenings / approvals prior to hire.

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Commentary, Continued from page 8.

no international commissions or conferences by major powers to end the practice.

Lynching was the impetus for the creation of the NAACP. As it states on its Website, "The NAACP was formed partly in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and the 1908 race riot in Springfield, the capital of Illinois and resting place of President Abraham Lincoln."

Among the founders were W. E. B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell along with a group of White liberals, including Mary White Ovington and Oswald Garrison Villard. The founding of the NAACP was predated by the DuBois-led Niagara Movement of 1905.

The "Lynching in America" report concluded that "lynching of African Americans was terrorism, a widely supported phenomenon used to enforce racial subordination and segregation. Lynchings were violent and public events that traumatized black people throughout the country and were largely tolerated by state and federal officials."

Today, the lynching and terrorizing of Black America is also done via the rope of the so-called criminal justice system. Prosecutorial misconduct in the cases of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. and Eric Garner in New York are contemporary manifestations of lynching. Racially-motivated lethal violence by police officers is another form of extremist terror and violence against Black America that must be stopped - now!

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>

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