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September 5 - September 11, 2015 50th Year Volume 19 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)


A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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# Data News Trailblazer of the Year

# Alexis Sakari



Pictured from left to right: Glenn Jones, Terry Jones, Alexis Sakari (Trailblazer of the Year) and Samantha Beaulieu

**Photos by Glenn Summers**

This year Data News Weekly celebrated its 49th Anniversary at the Regency in New Orleans East. Once again it was an amazing event where Data News honored those who have greatly contributed to the community.

Th 2015 Trailblazer of the Year is an amazing young woman who has overcome hardships to become an inspiration for many. She is thankful and humbled by her award and feels Data News Weekly provides a valuable service to the community.

“I have been a supporter of Data News Weekly for many years, it is truly the people’s paper,” says Sakari.

On the night of the event it also corresponded with the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the levee breach. A time that changed the life of many and the city forever. And Data News has been on the front lines chronicling history in the making. We have also celebrated those who are making amazing contributions to New Orleans.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.  
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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Trailblazers pictured left to right: Cheron Brylski (deceased Harold Baquet) Glenn Jones, Kourtney Heart, James Andrews and Samantha Beaulieu



Pictured from left to right: Glenn Jones and Terry Jones, presenting Alexis Sakari with the Trailblazer of the Year award as Samantha Beaulieu looks on.



Trailblazers Pictured from left to right: Glenn Jones, Donald Chopin, Derek Rabb, Karl Washington, Samantha Beaulieu and Parnell Herbert (for Shareef Cousin)



Pictured left to right: Glenn Jones, Tyra Barabino, Karen Hence, Judy Francis (mother of Kendal Francis), Alexis Sakari and Samantha Beaulieu

"Data News Weekly provides valuable information to the community and tell many of the stories that are not told by other media outlets. It is a place that tells out story from our perspective. And it because you have kept our people abreast of issues and events for 49 years. It is an honor to not only, be a recipient of your prestigious "Trailblazer" award, but to be "Trailblazer of the Year" is incredible. I am humbly grateful my works are recognized by your respected and eminent staff."

She is truly an inspiration

through her work and her art. Which is not so much about simply looking at problems, but around finding solutions.

"All my work is about the helping and healing of people. I am thankful that my gift of writing can be given to the world through the upcoming release my book expressing the turbulent, yet glorious relationship between a mother and daughter."

As we get ready for the beginning of football season, a time where many don the black and gold and cheer on the Saints in hopes of them getting to the Super

Bowl. Last year at this time also marked a dark side for the league as Baltimore Ravens star running back Ray Rice made headlines for a domestic violence incident involving his then fiancée now wife where he struck her knocking her down inside an elevator before dragging her out into their car. This made a lot of people speak of the issue of domestic violence.

Something that many women who are victims often do not speak out because of fear and shame. Sakari has become a voice for those encouraging them to come out of

the shadows and curtains of shame as people speak more on this important issue.

"I am thankful to be able to contribute to the awareness of domestic violence through my many volunteer efforts. Be it through shelters that provide a refuge for battered women in crisis or events dedicated to this cause. I am thankful that I am able to express some of my violent past in music in hopes that someone will hear it and know that they too can find the strength to better their situation."

While she is grateful for the award, Sakari feels she is just beginning and has a lot more to give to make the lives of others better and encourages Data News Weekly whose 50th Anniversary is next year to do the same and continue to serve as the People's Paper.

"My continuation of service to people is something you can count on as I am counting on you for another 50 years. Please continue to inform our people of news that matters. Blessings to the entire staff and supporters of this phenomenal paper."

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# Blacks 'Left Behind' in New Orleans Recovery

By Freddie Allen  
NNPA Senior Washington  
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – As Gulf Coast residents and policy-makers celebrated the recovery of the Crescent City on the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, advocacy groups challenged the narrative of a resilient and better New Orleans by launching KatrinaTruth.org, a website that shows that post-Katrina progress in New Orleans still hasn't reached poor Black communities.

Judith Browne Dianis, the co-director of the Advancement Project, a multiracial civil rights group, said that, 10 years ago, the Advancement Project was on the ground in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, working with communities to protect the rights of survivors.

"Ten years later, the city of New Orleans wants to sell us a bag of bad goods, telling us that the city has gotten better, but unfortunately the recovery and the reconstruction has been uneven and African American families have been left behind," said Dianis.

On the a telephone call with reporters to discuss the launch of KatrinaTruth.org, Dianis described a landscape dominated by charter schools, dispossession, destruction and gentrification and new businesses that catered to a "new class of wealthier, White residents," as Black New Orleanians face severe disparities in education, employment, housing and the criminal justice system.

A recent poll by CNN/ORC found that more than half (51 percent) believe that the United States is still vulnerable to a "Katrina-like emergency" 10 years after the storm claimed more than 1,300 lives.

"This is why the myth of resilient New Orleans that the city wants to sell everyone is so dangerous," explained Dianis. "It is a narrative that paves over the history of Black New Orleans and ignores the true cost of exclusionary, disaster capitalism policies."

KatrinaTruth.org is a direct response to the wrong narrative of progress espoused by the city's Katrina10 media campaign and the media that echoes those sentiments, said Dianis.

"In New Orleans, especially post-Katrina, what we're seeing is non-



Aerial views of damage caused from Hurricane Katrina the day after the hurricane hit August 30, 2005. (image courtesy of Creative Commons)

profit groups parachuting in, to 'fix' New Orleans and to fix our families and to do what they think is best for New Orleans, but this has led not only to the duplication of work but also opportunity for new organizations to ignore the historical struggles that have plagued the Black community," said Gina Womack, the executive director of Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC), a nonprofit focused on juvenile justice reform.

Womack continued: "There's been a racial divide that has always been prevalent in New Orleans, Katrina just highlighted and exacerbated what was going on. We feel like there was desire for Black people to leave the city and not return."

Womack added that advocates working for New Orleans' communities most at-risk want people to understand that Black people are being left out of the recovery. The numbers tell the

story, Womack insisted.

More than 50 percent of Black children in New Orleans live in poverty and more than half of all Black men are unemployed, according to statistics quoted on the KatrinaTruth.org website. Black women make less than 50 cents for every dollar a White man makes in Louisiana. The median income for Black families in the Crescent City (\$25,102) is less than half of the median income for Whites (\$60,553).

Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who toured the U.S. inviting displaced residents to return home leading up to the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, said that billions of dollars have been invested in parks, playgrounds, recreation centers and roads.

KatrinaTruth.org noted that only 11 percent of the families who lived in the B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, Lafitte and St. Bernard public housing developments collectively

known as the "Big Four," before Hurricane Katrina flooded parts of city have returned to the rebuilt complexes.

More than 4,000 families are on the waiting list for public housing, 99 percent of whom are Black. Less than 20 percent of the public housing units that were available before Hurricane Katrina are available today.

"The Black residents that did make it back have faced neglect and exclusion during the city's recovery efforts," said Thomas Mariadason, a staff attorney with the Advancement Project.

Ten years after the levees broke flooding much of the city, and nine years after the city council voted to demolish the "Big Four," the Black population of New Orleans is still 30 percent lower than it was before the hurricane.

Thena Robinson Mock, project Director of Advancement Project's

Ending the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track Campaign, said that the city council had the voting power to go in a different direction, but they didn't.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, thousands of veteran teachers lost their jobs and a deluge of charter schools washed over the city.

The website for the Katrina 10 campaign boasts that 92 percent of New Orleans' students are enrolled in charter schools and that the Black male high school graduation is 65 percent, higher than the 59 percent national average.

Researchers with KatrinaTruth.org allege that the success that charter schools tout is misleading because charter schools "have failed to accommodate students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, violating federal law and prompting civil rights complaints to federal agencies," the website said.

There were more out-of-school suspensions in 2013 than the total number of students in New Orleans public schools that year, according to KatrinaTruth.org and more than a dozen charter schools have higher suspension rates than the statewide average.

Womack argued that bussing children across the city to attend charter schools keeps families from being able to actively participate in their children's school life and it also makes it harder for children to join in extracurricular activities. Womack favored stronger community schools over the ubiquitous charter school system.

Mock said that the new privatized charter school system in New Orleans has also effectively eliminated democracy in education planning.

"Private charter school boards are not elected by the people, so the voices of parents and [students] are often lost in the decision making process around education," said Mock.

Womack said that the Black community has made significant contributions to New Orleans and Black residents, especially poor Black residents, should have been a priority.

"There are still a lot of people living the way they were living right after Katrina," said Womack. "You still see many people living on the streets. Poverty is rampant and it won't go away by ignoring it."

# Ten Years Later and There's Only One Grocery Store in the Lower Ninth Ward

*One man used a grocery store to help bring security to a damaged New Orleans neighborhood.*

New Orleans native Burnell Cotlon created one of the first grocery stores in the city's Lower 9th Ward since it was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina a decade ago, NationSwell reported. Using money out of his own pocket, Cotlon revived a dilapidated building to provide residents with basic groceries and goods, and to restore a sense of community to the damaged neighborhood.

"We didn't have no stores, no barbershops, no laundry rooms," Cotlon told StoryCorps, as reported by NPR. "You have to catch three buses to get to a store. And I always was taught if there's a problem, somebody's got to make a move."

While other parts of the city have bounced back, Cotlon, like many Lower Ninth Ward residents, say there still hasn't been enough done to get their neighborhood back on its feet.

So Cotlon, 45, decided to take matters into his own hands, opening the "Lower 9th Ward Market."

In an interview with NBC News anchor Lester Holt, Cotlon said, "The only other full service grocery store we have is Walmart and it's in the next city," he said. "You have to catch three city buses."



Store owner and entrepreneur Burnell Cotlon (right) stands with NBC News anchor Lester Holt in front of his Galvez Goodies Store, located at 2036 Caffin Avenue, the building also houses his Lower Ninth Market and a barber shop. It's the first and only full service grocery store to open in the Lower Ninth since Hurricane Katrina. (photo credit NBC News)

In a neighborhood where many say they remember Hurricane Katrina like it was yesterday, homes still sit empty, old businesses shuttered, and large swaths of land remain undeveloped.

"It breaks my heart," he said. "The solution was there's no stores, you have to open one, so that's what I did."

Cotlon made his move in 2010, when he and his wife bought the

damaged apartment building to develop it into a full-service shopping plaza, complete with the grocery store, a barbershop and a sweet shop, the New Orleans Advocate reported.

According to the Data Center, the Lower 9th Ward had a population of around 14,000 before Katrina, with the last census reporting only about 3,000 residents in the neighborhood. With roads still torn up, recovery has been slow and difficult, and access to necessary goods limited. Cotlon wanted to provide the neighborhood with the basic resources the storm destroyed in 2005.

"The Lower 9 is a food desert," Cotlon told the New Orleans Advocate. "My community needs me."

Using over \$80,000 of his life savings, and a GoFundMe campaign,

Cotlon has brought color and life into the desolate building with these shops, Fox 8 reported. His 70-year-old mother, Lillie Cotlon, has also been instrumental in the revival, cooking fish and chicken dishes for customers in the store's kitchen, and local kids frequent the shop for fruit and snacks.

There is still work to be done, but Cotlon's shops are already making a headway to recovery.

"The very first customer cried," Cotlon told StoryCorps. "Cause she said she never thought the Lower 9th Ward was coming back."

Residents see Cotlon as someone who's filling a vital need.

"I have people come in this store and cry," he said. "I have total strangers that will say 'you're the grocery store guy' and they'll hug me and high five."



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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Data News Weekly Celebrates 49th Anniversary

Photos by Glenn Summers

On Thursday, August 27, 2015 Data News Weekly held their 49th Anniversary Celebration and Gala. We honored our trailblazers and named the Trailblazer of the Year, Alexis Sakari. We had a full house with good food and beverages. Samantha Beaulieu and Glenn Jones were our emcees for the evening. Entertainment was provided by the BRW R&B Singing Group with special guests Michael Ward, Kermit Ruffins and Deonne Character. Everyone had a great time. We look forward to next year when we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary which promises to be bigger than ever. We hope to see you there!!!



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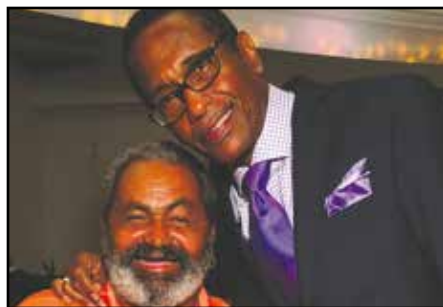
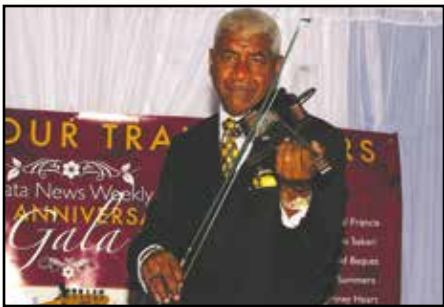
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## To Be Equal

# Hurricane Katrina

## A Decade of Recovery and Rebuilding



**Marc Morial**  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

Ten years ago last week, Hurricane Katrina slammed its Category 3, 125 mph fury into the Gulf Coast and New Orleans. A decade later, much of my beloved hometown of New Orleans continues to bear the scars of one of our nation's deadliest hurricanes, and its costliest natural (and man-made) disaster to date.

The devastating combination of Katrina, the failure of the levees to hold back the surging storm water from the Gulf of Mexico, and the catastrophic failure of our government's response to the storm, led to a record-breaking loss of life and property. Ultimately, 80 percent of New Orleans would flood under water up to 20 feet high. Katrina would

claim nearly 1,900 American lives and property damage would eventually be estimated at more than \$100 billion.

Katrina did not discriminate in its devastation and made victims of most New Orleanians. But many of the most heartrending images from the storm were those of the desperation of its mostly African American victims clinging to the roofs of flooded cars and houses waiting for help, or squashed together inside the Superdome seeking refuge from the storm. New Orleans' Black residents – who mostly lived in the city's poor, low-lying areas, which suffered massive flooding – were disproportionately affected by the flooding and the seemingly non-existent rescue and recovery plans of the local, state and federal government.

For many in our nation, the storm swept away any illusions about inequality and its devastating impact on communities of color in New Orleans – both before and after the storm. During his national address, President Bush acknowl-

edged the “deep, persistent poverty in this region,” adding, “that poverty has roots in a history of racial discrimination, which cut off

injustices and the role it played in Katrina's racially disparate impact: “I hope we realize that the people of New Orleans weren't just aban-

“So let us restore all that we have cherished from yesterday, and let us rise above the legacy of inequality. When the streets are rebuilt, there should be many new businesses, including minority-owned businesses, along those streets. When the houses are rebuilt, more families should own, not rent, those houses.”

– President George W. Bush,  
National Address from New  
Orleans, September 15, 2005.

generations from the opportunity of America.”

As a senator touring Katrina's destruction in the region, Barack Obama shed a bright light on the city's historic racial and economic

doned during the Hurricane. They were abandoned long ago – to murder and mayhem in their streets; to substandard schools; to dilapidated housing; to inadequate health care; to a pervasive sense of hopeless-

ness. That is the deeper shame of this past week – that it has taken a crisis like this one to awaken us to the great divide that continues to fester in our midst.”

Despite the unprecedented pain, waste and loss, New Orleans has made great strides. There are bustling businesses where there were once ravaged storefronts. There are homes where there were once empty, neglected lots. High schools are even graduating students at a higher rate than before the storm.

But according to a recent survey conducted by the Public Policy Research Lab at Louisiana State University, African Americans and Whites have vastly different views of the ongoing recovery. Nearly four out of five White residents say the city has mostly recovered, while nearly three out of five Blacks say it has not. The recovery, seen through a lop-sided racial lens, highlights the need to ensure that any recovery in New Orleans must include African Americans and all communities of color. To recover

**Morial, Continued on page 11.**

# Emmett Till Still Matters



**Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.**  
NNPA Columnist

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Racially motivated murder of young Black Americans across the United States is not a new or rare phenomenon. For too long this brutally fatal manifestation of the madness of American racism has persisted in the face of public horror and disgust.

August 28 marked the 60th anniversary of the death of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, who was abducted, beaten and murdered near Money, Miss. for allegedly whistling at a White woman.

At the time, Mississippi led the nation in the number of lynchings,

according to records kept by the Chicago Tribune. The brutal death of the teenager visiting from Chicago served as inspiration for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which began in December 1955, four months after Till's death.

The current Black Lives Matter movement that continues to gain momentum and support throughout the nation also engenders vivid memories from the past. The anniversary of Emmett Till's murder and the subsequent not guilty verdicts that were given to Till's confessed White killers stand as a painful reminder that systemic racial injustice in the U.S. has been a long-term reality for Black America.

We have to credit the raw courage of Emmett Till's beloved mother, Mamie Till Mobley, for not allowing her son's murder to go unnoticed throughout the nation and world. Sister Mobley was a strong mother and she refused in the face of enormous pressure to keep her son's casket closed at his funeral in Chicago.

Mamie Till Mobley resisted the advice of the funeral director and insisted that the casket carrying the badly mutilated body of her son remain open for public viewing. She said, “I wanted the world to see what they did to my baby.” And that is exactly what happened. Jet magazine and hundreds of Black-owned newspapers across the country put the horrible picture of Emmett Till's crushed face on the front page of their publications. Millions of Black Americans and others responded with calls and demands for justice for Emmett Till and his family.

I had the opportunity on several occasions over the years to speak and meet with Mamie Till Mobley in Chicago and in New York City before she died in 2003. Sister Mobley was also a staunch civil rights activists and leader. I remember that she once said to me, “We have to keep on fighting for freedom no matter what obstacles that may put in our path. We have suffered too much to let anything or anyone take us backwards as a people.” Her words are

still true and relevant today.

As we are now preparing for the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March: Justice Or Else! on October 10 in Washington, D.C., the legacy of Emmett Till and the piercing truth of the long life and struggle of Mamie Till Mobley still scream out to this day to demand justice and equality for Black America and all those who have been victimized and oppressed by racism and injustice.

Recently, at Emmett Till's gravesite in the Burr Oak Cemetery near Chicago, there was a memorial service organized by the Mamie Till Mobley Memorial Foundation. Airicka Gordon-Taylor, co-founder of the foundation and a relative of Till, stated, “I see many parallels with what happened to Emmett, you can connect the dots.... Our family, we had dealt with injustice for 60 years. We never had justice for Emmett Till's murder.”

Yes, the dots are being connected. The Black Lives Matter is growing and the memory of what

happened to Emmett Till serves as an important reminder. Geneva Reed-Veal, the mother of Sandra Bland, the young Black American woman who was arrested in Texas and found hanged in a jail cell just a few weeks ago, was also at the Till's gravesite memorial. The pain that the Till family still feels is the pain that the Bland family feels. This is pain that Black America feels.

Each generation of Black Americans has had to endure this pain, but at the same time continue to demand and struggle for racial justice, freedom and equality. Black Lives Matter. Emmett Till's life still matters.

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](mailto:dr.bchavis@nnpa.org); and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcfc>

# How To Pick A Great School For Your Child



**Kevin Chavous**  
Guest Columnist

a positive school experience.

That's what Sheila Jackson, a long-time DC resident, did for her daughter. She knew that her daughter Shawnee was struggling in middle school, so she applied for a scholarship through DC the Opportunity Scholarship program, a program that provides scholarships to low-income DC children to attend a private school.

"I was so grateful for this scholarship because it afforded me with the opportunity to important factors, like safety, curriculum, staff and school activities into account when selecting the perfect school for my daughter," said Sheila.

While parents truly know what is best for their children, finding the perfect school can be an intimidating task. Here are just a few items that a parent should consider when looking for the best school fit for their child.

**Curriculum** – A parent should be able to decide what his or her child is exposed to in the classroom, and

understanding the curriculum of a school is a vital aspect of a child's overall education. Setting up a one-on-one meetings with the principal to get a feel for the school and its' culture is a critical first step. It is also important to attend open houses and participate in school tours. A parent should always ask the administration and faculty questions about classes and what sort of subjects the school emphasizes.

**Parent Involvement** – All parents should also explore ways that they can get involved and meet other parents whose children attend the school. Attending a parent-teacher association meeting, frequenting online parent forums that highlight schools in the area and reviewing blogs that provide information about a school from those who know firsthand are just a few suggestions.

**Safety of the school** – Asking questions about the safety practices of the school and requesting the plans and preparations for emer-

gencies or unexpected events are also important. A parent can even go as far as contacting the local police department to inquire about incidents of violence in the school or the surrounding community as well. Knowing that a child is in a safe environment not only puts a parent's mind at ease, but also shifts the focus on learning.

**Learning Environment** - All schools have individual and distinct cultures and learning and teaching philosophies. As well, there are aspects of a child that will affect how a school should teach and interact with them both in and outside of the classroom, including: learning style, motivation, physical and mental health challenges, behavior challenges, learning disabilities, and self-understanding. A parent should take all of these factors into account and closely examine the school's approach to teaching, learning and testing.

And when it comes to teachers, schools that share best practices,

invest in their teachers and provide them with the mentoring and professional development are always best.

For example, Sheila knew that Shawnee performed better in smaller environments, so she ruled out larger schools. Today, Shawnee is a 19-year old college student at St. Augustine's College, on the dean's list and still thriving in a small school environment.

Her story proves that if a parent utilizes available resources, then they can and will make the right choice for their child. There are many good resources for parents available online, something Sheila discovered when researching about schools for Shawnee. "You can't be afraid of the internet," Sheila says. "If need be, go to the local library and they can help you get started."

Schooldigger.com is one website that provides a comprehensive overview on available schools, and

**Chavous, Continued**  
on page 11.

# Self Talk for a Healthy Lifestyle

by **Valecia Weeks**

It's a common saying, "Losing weight is easy...keeping it off is the hard part". Well, ladies, I come to tell you that I strongly disagree with this statement. In my opinion, losing weight is hard and keeping it off is even harder!! Permanent weight loss requires a lot of physical and mental change. We have to get out of our comfort level. And if you are like me, change can be very difficult, mentally and physically. For permanent weight loss, not only do you have to change what you eat, but you also have to change how much you eat. Your activity and exercise habits also have to change. That can be a lot for a lifetime!

Although we have to make several physical changes to be successful at weight loss, the most important change is how you think. Ladies, if our mindset is not changed, there is an awful good chance you won't change your body. If you do make body changes without mindset

changes, they will only be temporary and certainly not long term.

If you want to be a successful "loser", listed below are some great attitude and mindset tips that we, as women, can follow:

I'm telling my mind that I can do "that": I am responsible for my goals and in control of them. I have made the commitment to reach them. I have great confidence that I can clearly attain my vision on how I want to live my life...healthy and vibrant. Regular exercise and healthy eating are not conveniences but rather a lifestyle. I will do them no matter what obstacles come up.

I will plan rather than react to a situation: Every day, I will plan my meal and workout plan for the upcoming day. I will pack my gym bag and place it in the car the morning of so that I can go straight to the gym after work. When I anticipate a crazy work day, I will pack a healthy lunch and snacks from home so that I'm not eating unhealthy on the go. I will always have a "plan B" so



that I can stay on track in case the unexpected happens.

I will bounce back: I may fall down and stumble with my fitness regimen, but I will get back up again. When life throws curve balls, I'll reevaluate and figure out a creative way to move on. I recognize

that television and food won't solve my problems. I will certainly deal with reality but will work extremely hard toward overcoming adversity.

I will tell family and friends my plans and fitness goals: I recognize that my family and friends celebrate special occasions with foods that

can be unhealthy. I will make them aware that I am taking good care of my health and offer no apology when I stand up for myself. I don't mind asking the gang to choose a restaurant rather than a buffet for our monthly birthday celebrations. I am not embarrassed or apologetic for speaking up. I know that I can go to my supporters when I am feeling vulnerable and weak.

Mind over matter is definitely a requirement in order to sustain a weight loss goal. Ladies, to be successful, you have to look in the mirror and suddenly see a brand new "YOU". In order to have permanent success it is REQUIRED that you "fake it til you make it". Start thinking "thin" even before you get there. I know that change can be very hard. But hang in there ladies until a healthy lifestyle becomes part of your identity.

Valecia Weeks is a columnist and writer with the Houston Forward Times in Houston, TX.

# Farrakhan

## "Justice or Else" March Just the Beginning

By Freddie Allen  
NNPA Senior Washington Co

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – In a wide-ranging conference call with the Black Press, the Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan said the upcoming "Justice or Else" rally set for October 10 celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March is just the beginning of the movement.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA and the national director of the 1995 Million Man March, moderated the call, fielding pooled questions from dozens of publishers and editors from Black newspapers across the country.

Farrakhan said that walking down the steps of the United States



Minister Louis Farrakhan speaks during the "Justice or Else" press conference at Metropolitan AME Church in Northwest Washington, D.C. in June 2015. (Freddie Allen/NNPA News Wire)

Capitol building and seeing Black men standing together, shoulder-

to-shoulder all the way down to the Washington Monument and over to the Lincoln Memorial was his most memorable experience from the Million Man March on October 16, 1995. The minister boasted that the men went home and recommitted themselves to their families and wives, others registered to vote, and gang members left their weapons at home.

Critics, however, charged that little long-lasting follow-up was done on the local level.

Farrakhan said that those who benefit from White supremacy fear the power of unified Blacks, Latinos and all minority people and have continued to work against that unity, since the 1995 march.

Farrakhan said that since the Million Man March, the Black community is not as strong as it should be, so the struggle for "Justice or Else" must take place on two fronts.

"We can not go to Washington appeal to our government to intercede to see that Black men and women tried in their courts get justice in accordance with the law and leave our communities in shambles with us killing one another," said Farrakhan. "We as men and women must take responsibility for our community and rid our community of fratricidal conflict and that strengthens us as we go to our government to demand justice."

Farrakhan said that he thanked God for the women who ignited the Black Lives Matter Movement.

"We honor the young ladies that fashioned that cry and all who have joined on but no one can rob the young sisters of the honor that God

used [them] to say something that caught on and today Black lives do matter," he said. "Let's go to work in our communities to make sure that all of our people fall in love with their Blackness and say, 'Black lives matter' and Black love will make sure that Black lives matter."

The truth matters, too.

The United States Park Police (USPP) estimate of 400,000 attendees at the original march wildly contradicted the estimated count provided by march organizers, which was roughly 1.5 million.

Working with Boston University, the Park Service later revised its estimate to 837,214 – more than twice the original estimate. With a 20 percent margin of error, the size of the crowd could have been 655,000 to 1.1 million men, according to Farouk El-Baz, director of Boston University's Center for Remote Sensing. Even the lowest revised estimate was more than twice the size of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Following the controversy over the number of people attending the Million Man March, Congress prohibited the Park Service from making official estimates.

Unlike the Million Man March that primarily focused on the empowerment of men of color, the call for "Justice or Else" is meant to address the struggle for justice for Blacks, Native Americans, Latinos, women, military veterans and poor Whites, everyone who feels deprived in America.

"Even though our struggles may be different, justice is what we seek for all," said Minister Farrakhan.

The minister also praised Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work during the last years of his life that revolved around economic equality, unionization and labor rights, and land ownership.

Minister Farrakhan noted that Blacks were largely shut out of the prosperity enjoyed by White settlers following the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862. Blacks weren't considered citizens in 1862, a key eligibility requirement that prevented them from claiming any of the millions of acres of free land west of the Mississippi River granted to White settlers by the United States government.

"We have to have land, brothers and sisters, as a basis for economic development," said Minister Farrakhan, proposing a legislative agenda that would promote land ownership in the Black community.

Farrakhan encouraged Black business owners to advertise in the Black Press and buy subscriptions to community newspapers, and that part of the estimated \$1.1 trillion in annual buying power wielded by the Black community be used to build hospitals, factories and to support Black colleges.

He also lamented the anger and frustration that young people have expressed across the nation and that uncontrolled and misdirected anger can lead to great destruction.

"We don't have a lot of time, but we can turn the anger of our community into production," the minister continued, adding that young people will be more than eager to live productive lives rather than lives of crime and suffering and savage behavior, if properly guided.

As the presidential election approaches, Minister Farrakhan warned Blacks against casting their votes foolishly and continuing to vote for the Democratic Party that could and should do more for the Black community. He added that he doesn't see himself voting for Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) or Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.).

He made no mention of Willie Wilson, the Black Chicago businessman who is also running for president as a Democrat.

"The Black vote is a powerful vote," said Minister Farrakhan. "But unless any of these candidates that are running for president of the United States speak to the need for justice for those that are deprived, why should we give them our vote?"

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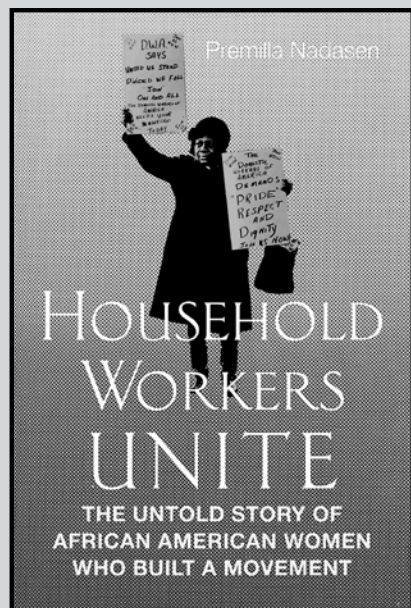


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# Household Workers Unite



**"Household Workers Unite"**  
by Premilla Nadasen  
c.2015, Beacon Press  
\$27.95 / \$33.00 Canada  
248 pages



(founded in 1934) in New York.

Nurse, midwife, and housekeeper Georgia Gilmore used her cooking skills to raise money for 'The Club from Nowhere,' a group supporting activists and organizers both financially and with food. Undoubtedly, the Civil Rights Movement spurred Atlanta's Dorothy Bolden to work with Dr. King on behalf of household workers. Cleveland's Geraldine Roberts founded the Domestic Workers of America. Edith Barksdale Sloan pushed the movement along when she became head of the National Committee on Household Employment. Other influential women bore their share of the movement, just as today's activists help

hardship" and the women who employ them. You know the movie, but did you recognize the "victimization theme?" Yes, says Nadasen, The Help reinforces dominant stereotypes of passive household workers," even though there was historically nothing passive about them.

In the years following the Civil War, the "Mammy" figure took hold in white America, becoming somewhat of a cult based on the idea of a loyal, maternal female slave. That vestige of slavery (and inherent racism) generally affected how African American domestic workers were treated by white female employers then, but "new ideas were germinating."

In 1881, black laundresses formed a 'Washing Society' and eventually went on strike for higher wages. Activism never stopped, but there was a setback in the fledgling movement during the Depression, when black domestics found day-work by sitting in a street corner "slave market," and that didn't go unnoticed. By 1934, journalists, activists, and other black feminists threw their support behind Dora Jones, who led the Domestic Workers Union

protect the workplace rights of caregivers, personal helpers, and domestic workers of all races.

Imagine seeing a federally-funded monument to the "black mammy," standing in our nation's capital. Yep, in 1924, the United Daughters of the Confederacy tried to build exactly that, and it was furiously opposed.

That's just one of the stories you'll read inside *Household Workers Unite*.

Stories, says author Premilla Nadasen, are what she tried to fill her book with, in fact, and she somewhat succeeds. There are, indeed, a lot of stories here, but there's plenty of dryness, too, in the form of names, dates, and acronyms that ultimately become quite overwhelming. My advice is to try and get through them; this book is powerful and inspiring, but the voices and their memories are what matters.

This isn't your curl-up-in-front-of-a-fireplace kind of read but it is a pleasure, especially if you're a historian, feminist, or domestic worker yourself. 'Household Workers Unite' will make you think as it eats up every speck of your time.

## There is not a speck of dust in your home.

The floors gleam, the kitchen shines, the bathroom sparkles, and rugs are fluffy again. You've changed bedsheets and you even washed windows. You're ready for fall and thankful for the help you had getting this way; if that help was paid, read *Household Workers Unite* by Premilla Nadasen, and you'll be thankful for even more.

Picture this: a white reporter encourages African American maids to "speak out about their

## Morial, Continued from page 8.

and lose the ethnic flavors and cultural influences that have made New Orleans the iconic city it is would mean losing the city's heart and soul.

New Orleans remains a work in progress and the hardest work lies ahead. To assist on the road to recovery, the Urban League of Greater New Orleans, in partnership with the National Urban League, will host "RISE: Katrina 10." The commemorative conference will evaluate the city's progress over the last decade and make recommendations for continued improvements.

The events will bring together a cross-section of community members, civic, industry and national leaders to discuss topics ranging from housing to environmental justice and disaster preparedness in post-Katrina New Orleans. The entire conference will be informed by the data released in the "State of Black New Orleans: 10 Years Post Katrina" report, because we understand that armed with the facts, we can rebuild a New Orleans that is stronger than the city before.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

## Chavous, Continued from page 9.

Greatschools.com is another more comprehensive resource, containing information like school philosophy, test scores, school environment, parent reviews, and even homes for sale in the area. The Picky Parent Guide (pickyparent.com) is another useful guide for parents struggling to find the right school fit for their child. Resources like these, as well as, printed directories from local community and family resource centers provide a wealth of information.

There is no doubt that children benefit tremendously when a parent is actively involved in their education. Not every school works for every child, so it's important that a parent invest the time to make the right decision, so that their child will strive, thrive and succeed.

"You can't be shy when checking into schools," said Sheila. "This is your child, and their future is at stake. Network, do your own research, ask lots of questions and speak to friends, co-workers, and church members and you too can pick a great school for your child!"

**Kevin P. Chavous, Urban News Service**  
Executive Counsel, American Federation for Children

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