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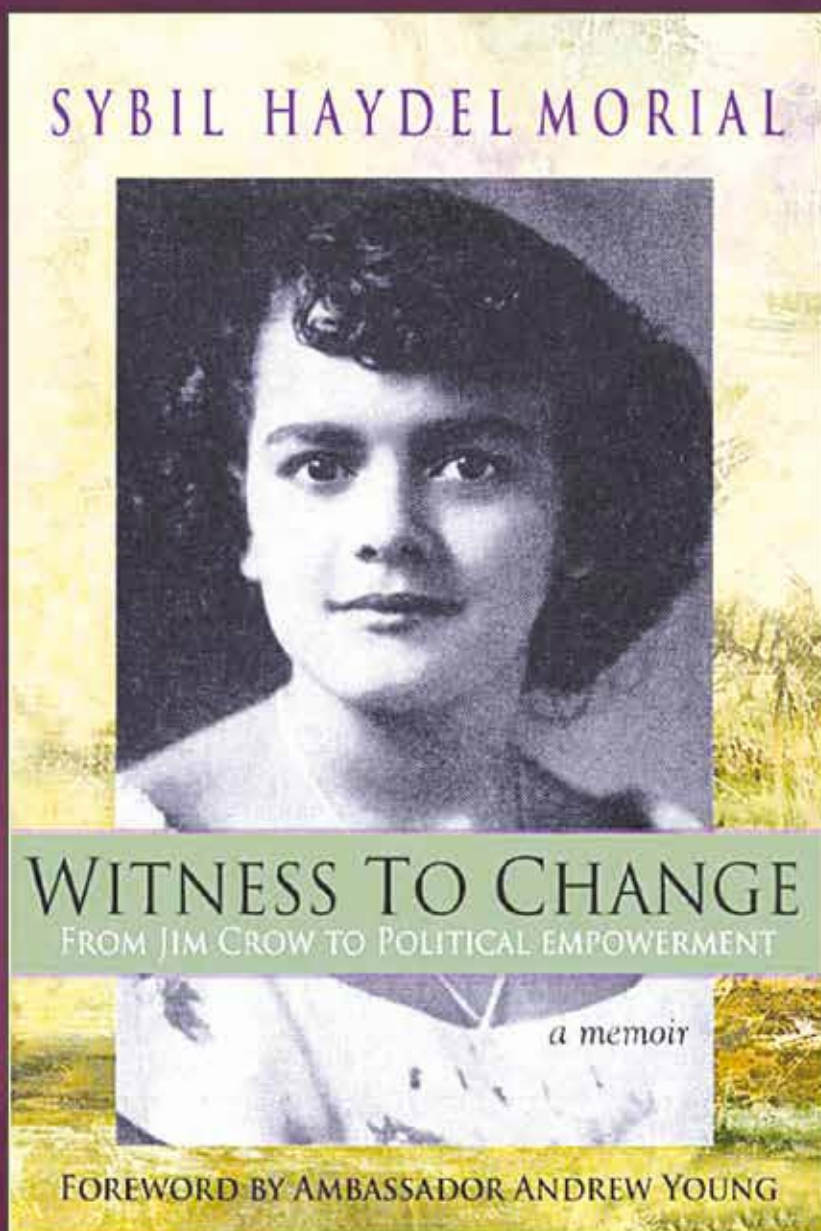
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the Tony Awards**

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Witness to Change

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Sybil Morial's Memoir



Sybil Morial's memoir captures several moments of her life. Pictured above, Dutch Morial and Sybil Morial share a kiss after his second inauguration as Mayor of New Orleans, 1982. With Judge Steven Plotkin and Judge Revis Ortiue officiating the ceremony.

By Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

Eight months later, and it is still one of the best decisions that she made.

On October 6, 2015, Sybil Morial, wife of the late Dutch Morial, unveiled the first book she has writ-

ten called "Witness to Change: From Jim Crow to Political Empowerment." While it has been eight months since the book was originally published, Morial is still experiencing the never-ending buzz over her 256-paged memoir.

"Witness to Change: From Jim Crow to Political Empowerment" is a memoir written by Sybil Morial

that revisits moments in her life that have defined The Black Experience for her and the communities around her.

The book covers several monumental political points, such as her meeting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., experiencing the effects of Brown v. Board of Education, her experience in politics with her late

On the Cover: "Witness to Change" gives a first hand account of Morial's encounters with racial division in the South, and how she managed to navigate around those obstacles in life.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



"Witness to Change" gives a firsthand perspective on the Morial Family. Pictured above is Monique, Julie, Dutch, Marc, Sybil, Cheri, and Jacques Morial in the backyard at Bayou St. John.



Sybil Morial is an educator, activist, and community leader in New Orleans, Louisiana.

husband Mayor Dutch Morial, the effects and relapse of Hurricane Katrina and many other politically charged events.

Morial's goal when writing this piece was to add to the first person literature available that describes the Black perspective in the Civil Rights Era, especially in New Orleans.

She began writing the book after she was displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Set up in Baton Rouge, Morial realized how much she had lost. Her house was destroyed by both fire and flood water.

Much of the memorabilia that highlighted her past was destroyed during the storm. However, Morial said that she did maintain one thing, her memories.

Morial began to write down stories as a form of therapeutic exercise and did not plan for it to eventually become a memoir.

"The writing healed me. The flood was a devastating experience, but the exercise of writing it was cathartic. It has given me a new challenge after my retirement," Morial said.

After enrolling in a creative writing class and a memoir class, Morial was soon inspired to start compiling her stories into a memoir.

"This was the first time I have written anything for the readers or for publishers," Morial said.

"I have done reports, press releases and all sorts of factual writing. This is different. This is something where I told a story and they wondered what next, what next," she said.

Morial said that her professor helped her transition to this new form of writing, assisting her in how to use dialogue and facts to enhance the story.

It took Morial six years to write and publish her book.

While Morial has worked hard to make her story available to the public, she noted that it was a difficult task to start.

"People around the City and beyond have asked her how I did it, how I found a publisher," Morial said.

"I had talked to several agents and I was rejected by two. One was too large, a high profile business that published books by Hillary Clinton. So I wasn't in that league," she said.

Morial said that while she was rejected by publishers, they left her useful comments that she ended up using to make the final copy of the book.

Morial soon found John F. Blair, Publisher, who agreed to print her book. Once the book was published, the buzz never stopped.

"I wrote the book, that was my first challenge. Now I'm promoting, marketing and revisiting my life now," Morial said.

"It has given new purpose to me in these years in my life. It's my challenge to get my story out there. It's comforting to do this, she added."

Morial said that after writing her memoir she has seen how it has touched and empowered many people.

"People come up to me and tell me their impressions about the book. Some people tell me they remember segregation and the civil rights movement. Some identify with the ideals of empowerment," Morial said.

"A lot of people relate to the story. I have encouraged several people to write their story," she added.

She has held several book signings and panels about the book in the City of New Orleans and beyond. Currently, Morial is still traveling discussing the contents of her memoir.

"The buzz of the book is still going. I went on a tour in the east and I will be out west in the summer-time," Morial said.

"I'm doing reading all over the City. There is still a lot of energy around the book. It is a little bit of New Orleans and African-American history. That is what attracts people and my public presence," Morial added.

When Morial is asked to read excerpts from her books, she enjoys the opportunity to take her audience through time.

Morial discusses segregation

in the deep south, the contrast of race relations in the deep south compared to the north, and society's evolution during the Civil Rights Era.

"Some people have come two or three times to my readings. I've learned something each time they come back, she said."

While the book mainly focuses on the Civil Rights Era in New Orleans and around the nation, Morial believes that it applies to the Black Lives Matter Movement today.

"Now, 60 years later, after the Civil Rights we struggled to get laws changed and now the climate is regressing back to division and pushing us back as second-class citizens," Morial said, referring to the Black Lives Matter Movement.

While Morial is disappointed with the current race relation climate, she hopes that books like hers can bring forth more attention to the nation's regression.

One thing Morial believes needs to change in the current literature on the Civil Rights Era is to incorporate more first person memoirs.

"There are not enough first person stories that tell the story where its readable. There needs to be more written memoirs that tell a person's stories, letting the readers into their lives. It's easier to grasp the story in that way," Morial said.

"A lot of people in my generation are gone and not enough of us have written those stories. They made history, but didn't tell their story. It's the personal stories that there is not enough of back then and even today," she added.

As the book approaches its one-year anniversary, its open to new avenues where she can grow her memoir.

"I'm playing it by ear, and instinct. I'm open to anything new, and I am sensitive if it has future possibilities. I have more material that just intensifies the story, and maybe do something with that," Morial said.

Morial said that her original manuscript was over 1,000 pages long. She hopes to eventually publish more of her stories.

Just Keep Swimming... Safely!



According to poolsafety.gov, the majority of drowning victims are minorities with African-Americans being 5.5 times more likely to drown. U.S. Army photos by Rakendra Moore (Photo Credit: Creative Commons 2.0)



Parents are urged to give their children swim lessons. According to poolsafety.gov, drowning is the leading cause of death of children between ages 1-4. (Photo credit: Creative Commons 2.0)

Kaelin Maloid
Data News Weekly
Contributor

With the Louisiana summer reaching up to temperatures of 90 degrees with heat indexes over 100, one of the best, and most appealing, ways to cool off for kids is swimming. However, like with all other things in life, this too must be done in safety.

On June 5, a 3-year-old girl drowned in Terrytown, making it the third drowning in the Metro-New Orleans area in three weeks.

Haven Ramee was pronounced dead after being pulled from a hot tub in the Towne Bridge Apartments on June 5. On May 17, an unidentified 2-year-old boy drowned after falling into a pool on Oriole Street. Renee Thompson, a 5-year-old drowned after wandering into the backyard of a vacant neighboring home in Metairie on May 25.

Drowning is the leading cause of death in children aged 1-4. According to poolsafety.gov, the majority of drowning victims are minorities with African-Americans drowning at least 5.5 times higher than Whites.

If the victims do not die, more than 50 percent require further treatment or hospitalization because non-fatal drowning victims can suffer severe brain damage that can result in memory problems, learning disabilities, and a loss of basic functions.

So what are some of the causes?

A lack of barriers is one reason, such as in the case of Thompson, who wandered through a broken gate and into her neighbor's vacant backyard. Additionally, a lack of supervision, and lack swimming ability. Drowning can happen in minutes, and children should be watched closely in and near the water. Studies show that learning to swim can reduce drowning rates in children aged 1-4.

"It's an in-water experience," said lifeguard Tahj Frasier. "You can tell them what to do, but they won't really understand it until they're in the water," he added.

Because of this, more and more parents are beginning to sign their children up for swimming lessons—and finding that it helped.

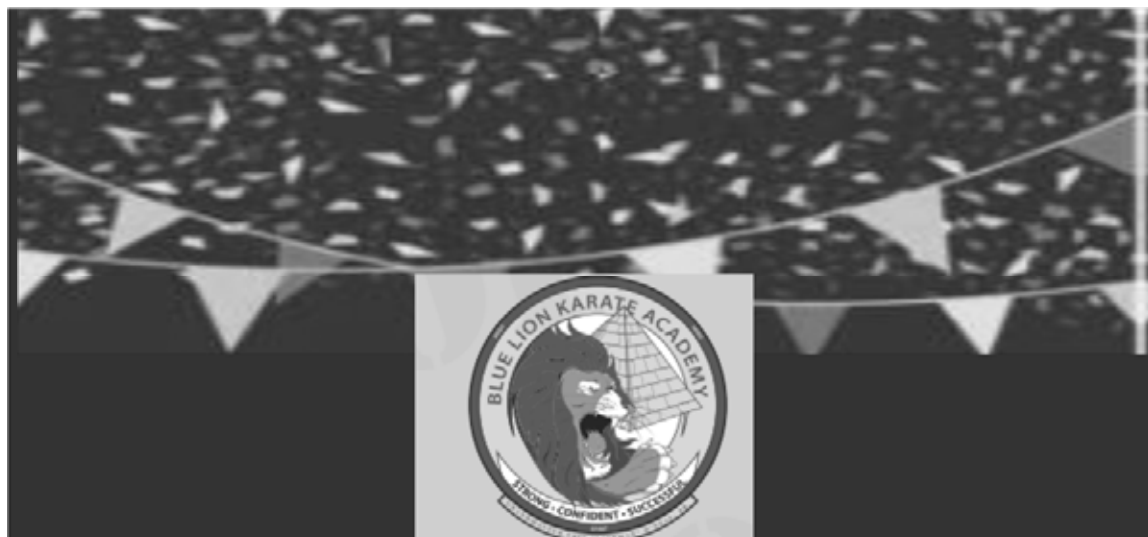
"My child taking swimming lessons made me feel a little more comfortable with her being in the water," said Cassie Porter, the mother of a 10-year-old.

Despite feeling more comfortable with her child in the water, and her child feeling as if she could swim an ocean, Porter still said she would wait a few more years before she could fully trust that she doesn't have to stand guard the whole time.

Another parent, Nitra LaCour, said, "I felt more comfortable allowing my child to take swimming lessons because he was afraid of a lot of water, and he became more

Newsmaker/

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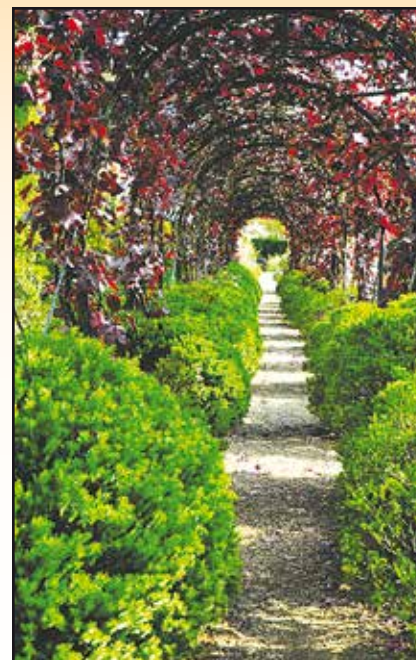
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Ambiance In Your Garden



By LMG Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly Columnist

Aside from plant selections, digging, and irrigation systems, there is another very important aspect to garden design. You want to create that soothing atmosphere in your garden oasis. And to do that end you must view your garden two ways, what your garden looks like in the daylight and what it will look like at night. After all of the hard work of digging, planting, etc. you certainly do not want to limit the enjoyment of your garden to the daytime hours only.

Hardscapes

Garden paths should be winding so as not to reveal all of its treasures at once. Create that curiosity of wanting to know what is around that corner. The actual garden path itself can be a subject of whimsy, as unusual designs on winding

pathways add a touch of artistic flavor to your garden rooms.

A well placed arbor with lovely trailing vines give a romantic feel to your garden space, as well as serving as support for trailing vines. Arbors are so much more gracious than a trellis.

Sound

Add melody to your garden with a host of wireless and weather-proof speakers or hardwired inconspicuous speakers. Chimes are always great for sound in the garden, as are large willow bushes that rustle in the wind. One year I planted sugarcane in my garden, and I loved the sound it made during windy times, it was sort of like hollow sticks clinging together.

Water feature

Ponds are fast becoming a favorite in most gardens, even in small gardens there is room for a small pond. Add some

creatively positioned stones, and voila you have a waterfall with the sound of trickling water which is always peaceful.

Seating

Intimate seating areas are a must in the garden, places where you are surrounded by nature and can just drift away. Of course you want those areas to seat large groups, but you do also need that spot just for you and your thoughts!

Statuary

I think that statues in the garden promote a feeling of calm. Rather you chose traditional statuary or an abstract art piece, statuary gives us pause, that sense of being frozen in times.

Lighting

When it comes to lighting in the garden, I love solar lighting! Forget having to pay an electrician to come out and run a line in your yard, and electricity

cost. The lights come on automatically at dusk and go out at dawn. Originally the only solars were those little pathway lights, but now the market has extended tremendously. There are solar lights that can set flush into your pavers, solar lights that can hang on your fence, and my favorite are the solar meteor shower lights that hang in the trees. I first saw them at City Park's Celebration in the Oaks display, and now they are in my yard, ya heard me! Lighting your trees is not just for Christmas anymore. Always light the base of your trees, statuary, and whatever else you want to bring attention to in your garden.

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

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

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Tony Awards Marks Historic Year for Diversity on Broadway



(L-R) Tony-nominated Daveed Diggs, Okieriete Onaodowan, Anthony Ramos and Lin-Manuel Miranda act in a scene from the musical "Hamilton." (Joan Marcus)



Lin-Manuel Miranda is seen in New York, New York on Tuesday September 2, 2015. (John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation)

By Joan H. Allen
NNPA News Wire Contributor

Two Black productions, "Hamilton" with 16 nominations and "Shuffle Along" with 10 nominations, lead the pack for the prestigious Tony awards for 2016. Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Hamilton" has not only been the hottest ticket on Broadway it has topped the most nominations for any production, breaking all records in Broadway history.

Fresh off "Hamilton's" Grammy and Pulitzer Award wins, Tony and Grammy Award winner Lin-Manuel Miranda wields his pen and takes the stage as the unlikely founding father determined to make his mark on a new nation as hungry and ambitious as he. "Hamilton" is an exploration of a political mastermind.

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Eliza Hamilton, and lifelong Hamilton friend and foe, Aaron Burr, all attend this revolutionary tale of America's fiery past told through the sounds of the ever-changing nation we've become.

Tony nominated featured actor Daveed Diggs, shared with INSIDE NEW YORK, why he thought the play was so successful. "I think Lin has taken an American story that should be universally American and made it actually universally American. I have certainly always felt a fair amount of distance from the founding fathers, but now playing one with Chris Jackson [Tony nominee] and Lin-Manuel Miranda [Tony nominee] and all of these people who are not only my good friends but look and sound like me and dance the way that I dance and

experience America the way I experience it has made me feel a lot closer to the story. And I think it's doing the same thing for audiences."

Although there were a couple of huge Tony nomination misses, most notably of the legendary Cicely Tyson and James Earl Jones, whose stellar performances in "The Gin Game" was absolutely spell-binding and other snubs, overall it was a good year for Black actors, particularly female. I think after seeing Ms. Tyson, give such an amazing performance in "Trip to Beautiful" at 89 years old, Tony judges forgot how difficult it was for her to perform the role of an aging nursing home resident that must suppress secrets brewing under the surface. Ms. Tyson, quipped, "that role nearly killed me ... having to keep all of those secrets

and so much anger inside."

"Eclipsed" the play by Zimbabwean-American playwright and actress Danai Gurira ("The Walking Dead" star) about the lives of women struggling to survive amidst the Liberian Civil War, made history as the first all-Black, all-women on Broadway and received six Tony nominations.

"Eclipsed" star Lupita Nyong'o was nominated for Best Actress, "Eclipsed" cast members Pascale Armand, Saycon Sengbloh and director Liesl Tommy and writer Danai Gurira also received nominations. "The Color Purple" star Cynthia Erivo, was nominated for Best Actress in a Musical and Danielle Brooks also earned a nomination for her role in "The

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Dear White People, Muhammad Ali did not Transcend Race



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Muhammad Ali was, among other things, a proud Black man. He embraced his Blackness, and often referred to it. He is often quoted for saying he had no quarrel with the Vietcong, but less frequently quoted for saying, in the very next sentence, “the Vietcong never called me a n**r.” Muhammad Ali was unapologetically Black. Why, in death, are White folks claiming that he “transcended” race?

White people must think it some kind of compliment to say some-

one “transcended” race. I consider it an insult. Race is nothing that someone has to overcome, or “rise above.” Race is not an impediment. It is simply a fact. Muhammad Ali is “The Greatest,” he’s amazing, he’s an outstanding boxer, he’s a humanist and he is a Black man. Nothing to transcend. Something just to be.

I have never heard anyone say that a White person transcended race because, perhaps, whiteness is not perceived as a handicap, as something to rise above. Whiteness is perceived as the norm, and everything else is perceived as at least somewhat deficient. This manner of thinking is what allows the likes of Donald Trump to disrespect a judge because his parents were born in Mexico. It is the kind of thinking that allows a judge to sentence a teenaged White Stanford rapist to six months in jail because he would be damaged by jail time. It is the kind of thinking, indeed, that

compelled tens of thousands of people to call for the parents of a Black child who fell into a gorilla pen in Cincinnati to be investigated by Child Protective Services. It is plain and simple white skin privilege that allows a White person to speak of an African American icon as having “transcended race.”

Why not say that Muhammad Ali has “universal appeal.” Why not speak to his humanism and his kindness? Why is it necessary to implicitly put his blackness down, to compliment the man while going negative on his race? He never went negative. He was essentially, and centrally, a Black man. After all, he converted to the Nation of Islam when he was in his early twenties and had adhered to that faith for the rest of his life. His friendship with Malcolm X was likely the foundation of his unwillingness to be drafted to fight in Vietnam. Many African Americans decried his

conversion, but he was so firm in it that he fought all the way to the Supreme Court to protest his elimination from professional boxing.

Through it all, Ali was outspoken and defiant. He proclaimed, “I am America. I am the part you won’t recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me.” White folks kind of got used to him, but they attributed their acquiescence to the fact that Ali had “transcended race.” What he actually did was eluded them—he took no tea for their fever. He was a Black man, an unapologetic Black man who cared about humanity because to be Black is to be human, not to be transcendent.

There is so much of Muhammad Ali’s life that is inspirational. Yes, he was an amazing boxer, and he was also an amazing human being. He stood for what he believed

in, regardless of the cost, losing his prime years of boxing, because of his religious beliefs. He did, as he said, “float like a butterfly and sting like a bee.” He stung with his fist and with his words. He made us smile, he made us laugh, and he made us inhale with his awesome athleticism. And when he succumbed to Parkinson’s disease, he made us marvel at his grace and dignity.

Whatever we have to say about Muhammad Ali, let’s not say that he “transcended race.” He was a Black man. A courageous man. An unapologetically arrogant man. Yes, he had universal appeal. But according to him, he was always Black.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available at juliannealveaux.com and Amazon.com.

Blackonomics

Muhammad Ali Will Inspire Me Until the Day I Die



By James Clingman
NNPA News Wire
Columnist

“Where you been, boy?” When I heard those words in June 1966, I knew I was going to have rough time in the U.S. Navy. My immediate reply to that Petty Officer was, “Who are you calling a boy? I am a man!” I was twenty-one years old, already an angry, Black man who experienced separate bathrooms, water fountains, restaurants at Greyhound bus stops that had “Coloreds served round back” signs posted on their front doors, and having to sit in the balcony of the local theater in Winston-Salem, North Carolina during my two years of high school there. I was already angry about Medgar Evers, Schwerner, Goodman,

and Chaney, and Malcolm X. So I knew at that very moment when I was called a “boy” by this southern White guy, I would be a marked man on that ship because of my belligerence and unwillingness to go along to get along.

Ten months later, when Muhammad Ali refused to step forward to be drafted, I took a step up, got on his shoulders and have been there ever since. My view from that perch has given me the spirit, the drive, the commitment, and the dedication to do what I have done for decades now. His example gave me the audacity and temerity to stand before anyone, White, Black or otherwise, to state my case and stand my ground. A backbone is much stronger than a wishbone; Ali had backbone, and he passed it on to me without ever knowing it.

Ali and those few athletes who stood with him were giants in a land of cowering, timid, “yessah” men. He was bold, brash, brave, and brutal in his in-your-face assessment of society’s ills. Ali was the personification of dreams, the realization of hopes, and the culmination of

victory, with his fists as well as his voice, which could only be silenced by Parkinson’s disease.

His impact on my life has lasted for fifty years, and it will continue until I die. When they stripped him of his title and took away his right to earn a living, I became even angrier at the government for such a gross injustice. Years later, watching him fight the daily rounds of his real “Fight of the Century,” against such a relentless opponent as Parkinson’s, my commitment to help others grew even stronger.

Now that I am in the fight of my life, against my greatest opponent, ALS, which is similar to Parkinson’s in some ways, I think about Muhammad Ali often. I think about his children, especially his “Little Girl” Laila, in the same vein I think about my daughter, Kiah. And I pray that I will be strong like he was until the end. Ali’s strength made me a better person. I have the courage of my convictions and the fearless sacrificial mindset of that man among men.

In today’s society of “make money without making waves,”

prominent athletes should learn from Ali. It was not enough to wear hoodies when Trayvon was killed, not enough to turn shirts inside out and throw them on the basketball court in response to a racist franchise owner, not enough to wear “I Can’t Breathe” t-shirts after Eric Garner was choked to death, not enough to stand in front of the Walmart where John Crawford was killed for checking out a BB Gun, not enough just to voice outrage after Sandra Bland died inside a jail cell despite not committing a crime, and not enough to say, “I haven’t really been on top of this issue,” when twelve year-old Tamir Rice was executed for carrying a toy gun in the “Open Carry” State of Ohio. Empty gestures are temporary and cause no real changes.

It’s easier to speak highly of Muhammad Ali than it is to do what he did. I am proud to say that I did what he did, and will continue. I am reminded of the following quote from Ta-Nehisi Coates’ 2003 article titled “Compas\$ionate Capitali\$im”:

“Forty years [after his death], it’s easy to quote Malcolm and put

him on a postage stamp—now that we’ve killed him. Martin Luther King Jr. was ultimately abandoned by the civil rights establishment for his stand against poverty and war. Today he has a national holiday, and even conservatives have to honor him—now that he’s no longer here to shame them. Ditto for the Black Panthers. Everybody says their dad wore a black beret—now that J. Edgar Hoover isn’t alive to tap their phones.

Progressive vision almost always lacks mass appeal. While possibly enjoying a bit of rebellious sheen, prophetic insight is decidedly uncool; it involves the sacrifice of family livelihoods, the sully of reputations, and, at worst, death. Only the afterglow is romantic. Everybody says they would have fought with Nat Turner—now that none of us are slaves.”

James Clingman is the nation’s most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His latest book, *Black Dollars Matter! Teach your dollars how to make more sense*, is available on his website, Blackonomics.com.

Pfizer Officials Call for Blacks to Participate in Sickle Cell Clinical Trials

By Joan H. Allen
NNPA News Wire Contributor

June 19, 2016 marks World Sickle Cell Day. In a desire to help create a greater awareness of sickle cell disease (SCD) and increase their efforts to find a cure, Pfizer invited members of the Black Press to meet and discuss with key members of their rare disease medical and management staff the state of (SCD) and their search for a cure.

It is estimated that sickle cell disease (SCD) affects approximately 100,000 Americans and 1 out of 365 Blacks in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 1 in 13 Blacks are born with sickle cell trait (SCT).

Sickle cell disease is one of the most prevalent genetic disorders in the U.S. It is a rare and debilitating chronic disease with lifelong clinical impact and reduced life expectancy; life expectancy is 48 years for females and 42 years for males with sickle cell disease.

There are more than 100,000 people in the U.S. living with sickle cell disease, and many of them experience multiple vaso-occlusive crises each year. These painful crises result in more than 75,000 hospitalizations per year in the U.S., with an average hospital stay of approximately six days.

Niesha Foster, the senior director and corporate affairs lead for Pfizer's inflammation, immunology and rare disease unit, introduced the participants who shared why they've been so devoted to creating greater awareness about (SCD), and the opportunities available to assist those that struggle with this debilitating disease.

Sonja Banks, the CEO of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) shared how alarmed she was to learn in 2010 that "in a hundred years of discovering the sickle cell disease, only one FDA drug had been approved and it wasn't even for sickle cell. It was just as heart wrenching then, as it is now, to know that our people are still going to hospitals as their medical home. Why don't we have a cure?"

Pfizer's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Freda Lewis-Hall recalled the joy she initially felt interning at Howard University Hospital after graduating from medical school, but when she attempted to ease the

pain of a toddler living with sickle cell, that joy was replaced with an overwhelming sense of futility.

"I heard an unbelievable piercing sound from a toddler in a sickle cell crisis," said Lewis-Hall. "I tried to hydrate her and provide some pain relief...It was at that moment that I realized how helpless I was without the tools."

Thirty years later, Lewis Hall said that physicians still lack the necessary tools to treat the disease.

Although some of the drugs that scientists have discovered have just not been good enough or safe enough, according to Lewis-Hall and Banks, the reason why a cure hasn't been developed is because African Americans haven't participated enough in clinical trials.

All of the participants, including Dr. Kevin Williams, the vice president of global medical affairs in Pfizer's rare disease unit, recognized that African Americans are reluctant and often afraid to participate in clinical trials, because of the lingering distrust of the medical field due to the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and often poor treatment received at medical facilities.

Thomas Watkins, the publisher of the Daily Challenge, said "Blacks will participate in clinical trials as long as they're not the only ones."

Banks said that the African American community needs to get over the stigma associated with clinical trials.

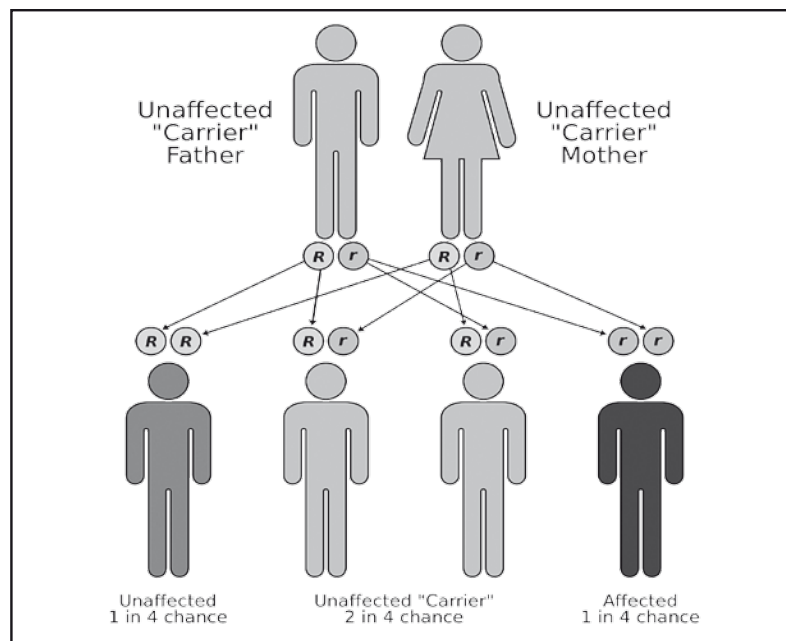
"The syphilis study wouldn't happen again," said Banks. "We are too much of an educated community now ... and who's going to make these drugs come to fruition? If we don't participate we'll never find treatment or a cure."

"A lot of people have no idea about what it means to participate in a clinical trial," says Dr. Lewis Hall ... Some of it is re-educating about the things that have happened in our collective African American past.

"We need to be educated specifically what it really means to be in a clinical trial," said Lewis-Hall. "Our absolute best advocates are people who have been in clinical trials."

Today's clinical trials are also highly regulated by third party experts and require informed consent.

Marie Ojiambo, who is not only a SCD patient and Pfizer intern, but is also an advocate that works with SCDAA said that it's easier for her



to go to a SCD patient and get them to participate in a clinical trial than it is for a doctor.

There are 37,500 clinical trials

currently available, said Dr. Lewis-Hall.

Pfizer is currently in Phase 3 of their clinical trial and needs to

enroll 350 participants within the next 2 years. Since they've already obtained some positive results from their Phase 2 trials, they hope to have a drug available in 3-5 years.

Dr. Lewis-Hall explained that it usually takes 15 years to bring a new drug to trial. "So by the time that you get to Phase 3, it would be an unusual event for a company to walk away...and if this drug doesn't make it because of a lack of participation, it would be a crying shame."

For more information about clinical trials log on to www.clinicaltrials.gov or www.gethealthystayhealthy.com and click on the link, "Find a Trial."

Joan H. Allen is the host of INSIDE NEW YORK and an editor at the Daily Challenge. Check out INSIDE NEW YORK via livestream at MNN.org. Follow Joan on Twitter and Facebook for program updates, giveaways and promotional offers.

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Xavier Students win \$10,000 Grant for Research

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

Two Xavier University Students have been awarded a \$10,000 grant to examine social justice in the African-American Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender, and Queer Community in New Orleans. The project is funded by a grant provided by the Waterhouse Family Institute at Villanova University, located in Pennsylvania. Xavier University is the first Historically Black University to receive this grant.

The project, deemed "Performing Resistance in the Big Easy: Social Justice and the African-American LGBTQ Community in New Orleans," it is headed by Xavier students Andre Morgan Jr., and Kiana Greene. Kimberly Chandler, who holds a Doctorate in Communication Studies, is advising the students throughout the year-long research project.

The team applied for the project before the end of the 2015-16 school year. The proposal grant was awarded in late May.

"It was something I knew we could turn around quick. Both of the students are advanced, and the project was something they can conceptualize easily and move pretty quickly," Chandler said.

The students were proud of their



Dr. Kimberly Chandler (center) will advise Andre Morgan, Jr. (left) and Kiana Greene (right) in undertaking their social justice research project after receiving a \$10,000 grant.

accomplishment of winning the grant for their research project.

"It makes me feel really excited and at the same time I want to make a difference in the community," Morgan said.

"It's a testament to Xavier and our professors and they brought us up to this point. It highlights how Xavier is bringing forth emergent leaders," he added.

According to the research team's abstract, the students plan to use interviews and focus groups to examine how the African-American LGBTQ Community performs gender as a tool

of resistance. The end goal of the project will result in a website-archive of the collected and a public exhibition of videos, photographs and individual narratives of their African-American performers.

The students will collect the data in the fall of 2016 and will begin working on the exhibition and website in the spring of 2017.

"We look in the ways people embody their genders self," Chandler said.

"The African-American LGBTQ group is often marginalized and muted because of the stigmatization in the African-American Com-

munities. We don't know a lot about their stories," she said.

According to Chandler, modern media coverage of the LGBTQ Community does not depict minorities as the face of the movement. Chandler noted that in the African-American Communities, the LGBTQ Community is purposely muted.

"But this community has been important in everything African-Americans have produced. Because of the stigma they have been silenced. They have been in the closet," Chandler said.

"We do not recognize them;

we do not affirm them (LGBTQ). When you look at White institutions they are alliances and support for the community, its overt. Student groups are overt. When you look at HBCUs, where are the support services for those who are intricate to this community?" Chandler added.

Chandler's students shared her energy in completing this project for the next academic year.

"We're breaking the cycle of hatred with this project. We're reaching one and teaching one that can cause a chain reaction for positivity for the next generation," Morgan said.

"I am excited to see how people respond to it. How much data we can collect. I want to cover every aspect about it and see what comes of it," Greene added.

The research team hopes to find more funding for this project. The goal for the students after the initial exhibition is to tour the project around other HBCU campuses, bringing attention to the muted LGBTQ voices in their communities.

"This generation, including these two students, don't have a problem with the LGBTQ Community. For these two students to step out tells me that it is this generation that will make a difference about this," Chandler said.

Johnson Publishing Sells Jet and Ebony Magazines

Data News Staff Edited Report

Ebony and Jet magazines, which have chronicled African-American life for the past 71 years, have been sold to an Austin, Texas-based private equity firm.

Johnson Publishing Co. announced Tuesday that Ebony and digital-only Jet were sold to Clear View Group but didn't disclose the sale price.

The Chicago Tribune reports Johnson Publishing will retain its Fashion Fair Cosmetics business



and its Ebony photo archive, which is for sale.

Ebony magazine, founded by John Johnson, first hit the newsstands in 1945. It's been hit by declining circulation and revenues in recent years.

Johnson's daughter, Linda Johnson Rice, will serve as chairman emeritus on the board of the new company, Ebony Media Operations. Clear View Group chairman Michael Gibson says the company will retain its Chicago headquarters and much of its staff.

Tony Awards/ Continued from page 7.

Color Purple," however Jennifer Hudson was not. She replied to a fan on twitter, "My presence was used for my celebrity, not my talent. I'm not surprised."

The revival of "The Color Purple," based on Alice Walker's novel about Celie's journey from childhood through joy and despair, anguish and hope to discover the power of love and life, received four nominations. "The Color Purple" star Cynthia Erivo, was nominated for Best Actress in a Musical and Danielle Brooks also earned a nomination for her role in "The Color Purple," however Jennifer Hudson was not. She replied to a fan on twitter, "My presence was used for my celebrity, not my talent. I'm not surprised."

Other nominees included Renee Elise Goldsberry for "Hamilton." Adrienne Warren and Sophie Okone received noms for "Shuffle Along" as well as director George C. Wolfe and choreographer, Savion Glover. However, surprisingly, six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald, who has broken a record as the only actor to win in all four categories for plays and musicals, was not nominated for her performance.

Joan H. Allen is Associate Publisher of the Daily Challenge and the host and executive producer of the television show "INSIDE NEW YORK."

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Discover the Unexpected

Continuing the Legacy of Freedom's Journal in 2016

By Benjamin F. Chavis
President, NNPA

History is more than the memory and documentation of the past. We all learn from the trials, tribulations and triumphs of prior generations. History sets the stage for the transformation of the present into the future. Such is the case today for more than 45 million African Americans and millions of others across the United States.

This year is another national election year. The value and purpose of the right and responsibility to vote is more important today than in 1965 when the Voting Rights Act was first made law. Yet, if we somehow forget that the right and opportunity to vote were only gained as a result of struggle, sacrifice and vigilance, then too many of us will take for granted both the past and the present.

The genius of the Black Press in America has always been its audacious courage to print and distribute the truth even in the face of injustice and inequality. Frederick Douglass said it best when he declared, "Freedom is a constant struggle." Douglass was a writer, publisher, orator, scholar and a freedom fighter.

Next year will mark the 190th anniversary of the Black Press. On



March 16, 1827, John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish began Freedom's Journal in New York City as the voice of Black America. From the very first publication of the Black Press up to today, our newspapers covered local, state, national and international news about the conditions and progress of African people as well as all of humanity.

Keeping the legacy of Freedom's Journal alive in 2016 is vital and mandatory. The struggles for freedom, justice, equality and empowerment continue with new vibrancy and urgency. Each generation has

to rise to the occasion pushing forward to ensure that the quality of life in our communities is improved and celebrated.

Today, there are more than 206 African American-owned newspapers and media companies in the United States who are members of the National Association of Newspaper Publishers (NNPA). Thanks to a longstanding partnership between General Motors and the NNPA, Chevrolet Malibu is now supporting and actively engaging with the next generation of emerging African American journalists,

publishers, and media scholars.

The "Discover the Unexpected" (DTU) program launched by Chevrolet and the NNPA has eight NNPA Journalism Fellows from the Howard University School of Communications: In residence at The Atlanta Voice newspaper are Brandi Montgomery and Brelaun Douglas; at the Chicago Defender are Briahna Brown and McKenzie Marshall; at The Washington Informer are Victoria Jones and Rushawn Walters; and at the Michigan Chronicle are Tatyana Hopkins and Sidnee King.

Recently, the NNPA Journalism Fellows were all together in Detroit to learn about the inspiring innovative and success example of Ms. Crystal Windham, Director of Design at General Motors. Ms. Windham worked on the design of the new 2016 Chevrolet Malibu that the NNPA Fellows are using this summer to research and file their stories for the NNPA News Wire Service and NNPA member newspapers.

Learn more about the Discover The Unexpected (DTU) program at <http://www.nnpa.org/dtu/> and use the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter. Follow us on Twitter @BlackPressUSA and @NNPA_BlackPress and like our Facebook page at NNPA Black Press.

Newsmaker/ Continued from page 5.

confident as well as learning the rules of playing around in the water. I feel better as a parent, and he feels better as a child."

Both recommended that parents put their children in swimming lessons.

"I do recommend that parents put their children in swim lessons," Porter added, "because most children could have gotten out if they had known what to do."

LaCour agreed. "I recommend teaching your child to swim for several reasons; safety, knowledge and the comfort of both parent and child in the water. Children do not perceive the danger of water that we do as parents."

One of the main ways to preventing drowning besides teaching children to swim is paying attention to pool safety tips.

Some other tips Frazier included were: no jewelry in the pool because children could step on it; only FDA approved products and not floaties; and mainly just keeping an eye out on children.

The CDC recommended keeping a "touch" supervision on children, which means being in touching distance of them at all times when they're in the water. Also, swimming with a buddy is recommended, while swimming in a site with a lifeguard should be on the top of a parent's list.

Make sure your children use a life jacket, too; pool noodles and air-filled floating devices do not take the place of life jackets.

But, most importantly, parents should enroll their children in swimming lessons. Throughout the New Orleans area, many recreational swimming pools—both indoor and outdoor—offer swimming lessons. Parents can find more information on NORDC.com



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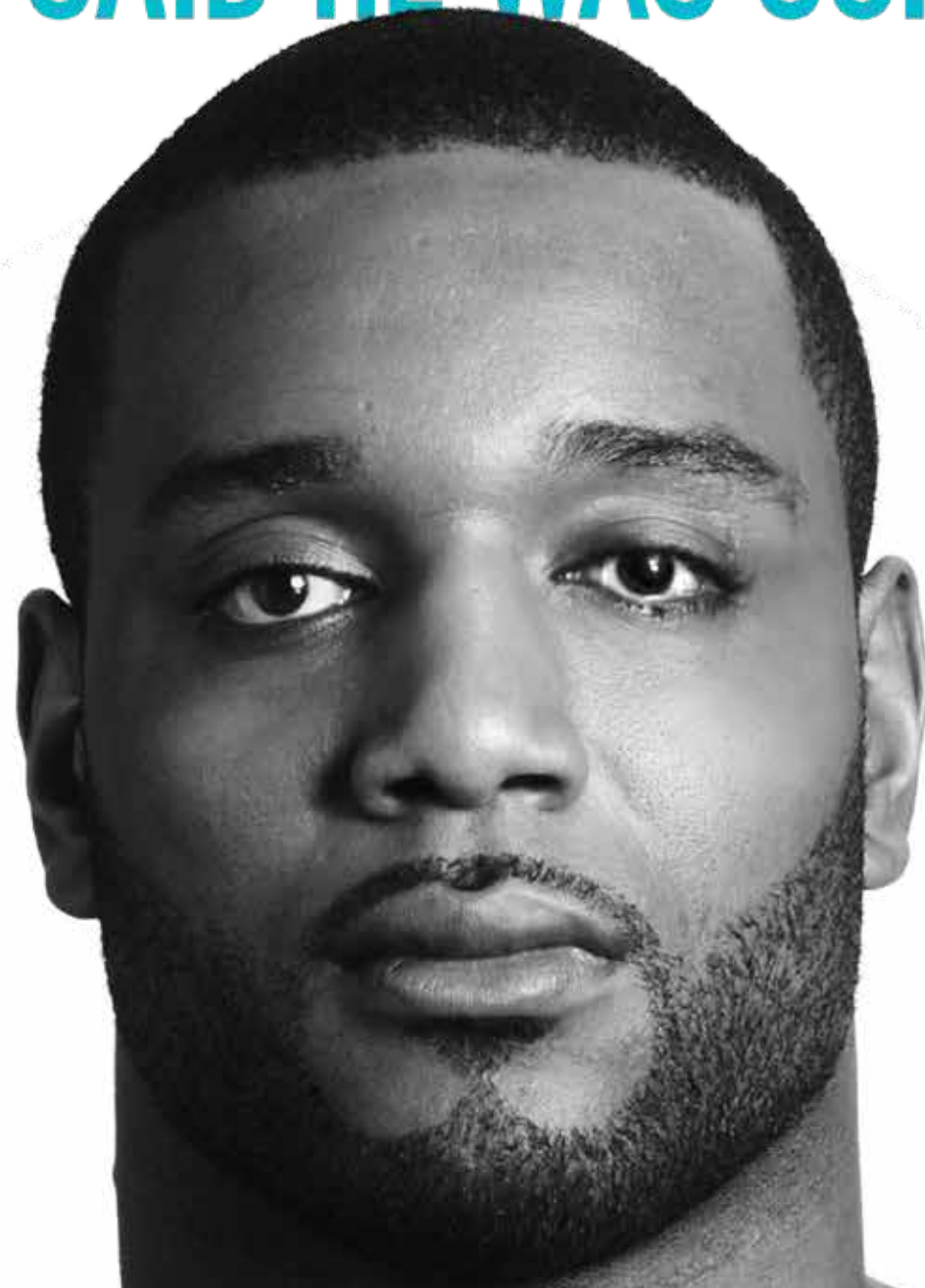
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