



HARLEM COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPERS, INC.

"GOOD NEWS YOU CAN USE"

The Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc. Connecting Harlem, Queens, Brooklyn and The Bronx

# COMMUNITY QUEENS NEWS

"Good News You Can Use"

Vol. 30 No. 27

July 4, 2024 – July 10, 2024

FREE



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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc. will publish positive news and information. Our mission is to deliver “good” and informative news to our readers focusing on health, education, housing, business and employment opportunities. We look for and publish results, not problems. We promote businesses, opportunities and events happening in the communities we serve. We are dedicated to providing our readers with valuable information they can use to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and our communities.

## HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWS BROOKLYN COMMUNITY NEWS BRONX COMMUNITY NEWS QUEENS COMMUNITY NEWS

Free copies distributed in your community weekly

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A Publication of: Harlem Community Newspapers, Inc.  
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PAT STEVENSON

It is Summertime and this summer promises to be steaming hot! All over New York, you can enjoy street parties, street fairs, outdoor concerts, and more. New York Parks are full of activities for all ages. Enjoy.

Abyssinian Baptist church has a new pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Johnson. Let us all welcome Rev. Johnson, and we look forward to him leading this historic church in Harlem. (see page 3)

HARLEM WEEK is celebrating 50 years. The kick off for the celebration was held at the Schomburg in Harlem last month. HARLEM WEEK activities will be held during the month of August. Plan to attend the many events that are for the entire family. We will present a full calendar of events later this month. (see page 13)

Harlem School of the Arts held their 60th Anniversary Gala at the Ziegfeld Ballroom last month. Read more about it in “Audrey’s Society Whirl” column. (see page 12)

You can visit our website at [www.harlemcommunitynews.com](http://www.harlemcommunitynews.com) to see past issues. Subscribe to our “free” daily newsletter, just go to our website and enter your email address.

**Pat Stevenson**  
**Celebrating**  
**30 years**  
**Publishing**

# Abyssinian Baptist Church's 21st Pastor Confirmed By Hazel Rosetta Smith

On October 28, 2022, the Abyssinian Baptist Church suffered a deep loss at the passing of its longtime pastor, Reverend Dr. Calvin Otis Butts, III. Dedicated to his faith, Dr. Butts was an advocate for social and racial justice and a guiding light in the village of Harlem.

Since that time, throughout the mourning period, Abyssinian's Pulpit Search Committee traversed a difficult path in a process to vet potential applicants of diverse ages and genders for a position that everyone agreed would be a hard act to follow.

The Reverend Dr. Calvin Otis Butts, III had served the Abyssinian Baptist Church in a ministerial capacity for fifty years, beginning as a student at Union Theological Seminary under the very astute then Abyssinian Senior Pastor, the Rev Samuel DeWitt Proctor. Following the passing of Proctor, Dr. Butts began his journey as the Senior Pastor in 1989.

In the book of Jeremiah 3:15, it states, "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." The question that moved throughout the congregation and community was who would be found that could continue such a profound legacy while building their own?"

After vetting nearly forty interested parties, the Pulpit Search Committee announced their selected candidate was Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Johnson. A candidate meet-greet week was held in person at Abyssinian and by Zoom with officers, ministers, ministries, and members of the church. Challenging questions and in-depth inquiries were presented. Rev. Johnson preached on Pentecost Sunday.

According to the church's bylaws, the Senior Pastor selection is not complete until the congregation has voted to approve the candidate. Churchwide voting was submitted on-

line from June 21 through Sunday, June 23. In-person paper ballot voting took place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on June 23rd.

Before the sun had fully descended on the 23rd, ElectionTrust, a professional election company, officially tallied the ballots.

The word went forth, that Rev. Kevin R. Johnson, a Baptist minister for over thirty-three years, the founding Lead Pastor of Dare to Imagine Church, Inc., Philadelphia, was proclaimed to be the Abyssinian Baptist Church's 21st Pastor following the late Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III.

Rev. Johnson joined Abyssinian in 1997. He graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Morehouse College and later received post-graduate degrees at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary.

He was mentored by the late Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III and served as an intern and Assistant Pastor. Johnson is returning to the

Abyssinian Church recognized as having established a ministry that started with twenty people in his home and now boasts a congregation of over 1,500 members on a \$2.2 million campus in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia.

Under his leadership, the church donated over \$750,000 to support area organizations that provide services for people in need. He also serves as the founder, president, and CEO of Dare to Imagine Community Development Corporation.

The hope of the voting process was provided by the Pulpit Search Committee as #AbyForward. That desire was similarly expressed by Rev. Johnson in the following message to the Abyssinian congregation.



Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Johnson



Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III

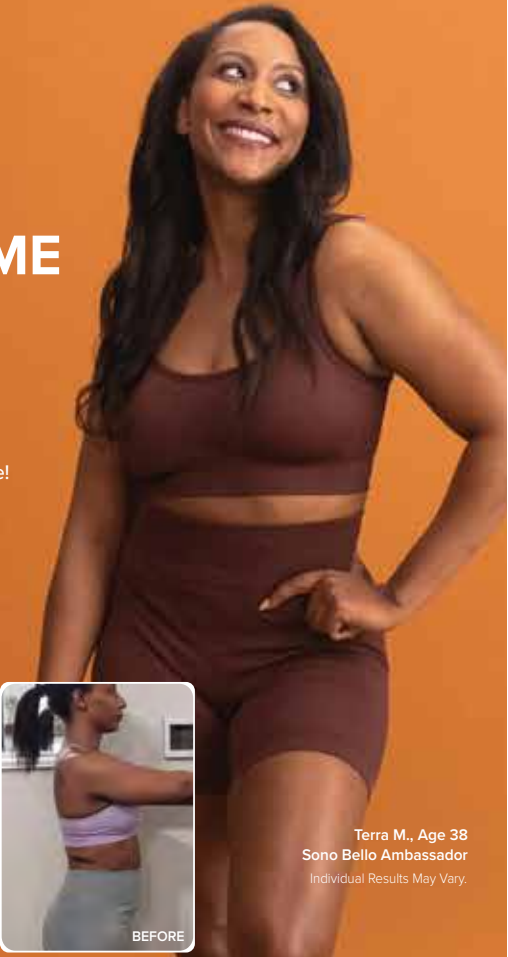
"With profound gratitude, I humbly accept God's call to serve as Abyssinian Baptist Church's 21st senior pastor. This sacred responsibility fills my family and me with joy. Abyssinian is not just a church – it is our spiritual home, and I am honored to build upon its rich legacy with you. Together, we will advance God's kingdom, serve our community by His grace,

further impact the world, and shape Abyssinian's next glorious chapter.

"As we embark on this faith journey together, I'm reminded of words that our late beloved pastor, Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, shared with me and other Abyssinian ministers: "If you love the people, they will love you."



The Abyssinian Baptist Church, Harlem



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# PONDER THIS! Tell Me a Story Before I Go to Bed



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

After bedside prayer the next words heard in the bedroom that I shared with my sister were always, "Tell me a story." Just as Jesus taught his disciples through parables, my sister used stories to open my mind to thoughts that would be helpful to my understanding of life.

Ponder this one! A Mouse looked through the crack in the wall and saw the farmer opening a package. When the mouse saw what was in the package, he ran fast to the farmyard, calling out a warning. "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house! Danger, danger

for me, what am I gonna do?"

The chicken raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, it is of no concern to me. I am too busy tending to my eggs." The mouse ran to the pig and told him, "Danger, danger for me, Mr. Pig. There is a mousetrap in the house."

The pig said: "Mr. Mouse, there is nothing I want to do about that. Go away, I am enjoying the slop the farmer put out for me. I do not have time to worry about you."

The mouse turned to the cow. "Danger, danger for me, there is a mousetrap in the house. The farmer is

trying to catch me." The Cow said, "Mr. Mouse, you are of no concern to me. Go away, the farmer's wife loves the milk I provide every morning. I am safe." So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

One night, the farmer's wife heard a snap sound and got up to see what was caught in the new trap. In the darkness, she did not see that it was a poisonous snake caught in the trap. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever.

The farmer wanted to make some hot chicken soup because he thought that would break the fever. He took his hatchet to the farmyard and killed the chicken. But his wife's sickness got worse, so friends came to sit with her around the clock.

The farmer was so thankful to his friends for coming and he wanted to feed them. So, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife died. So many people came for her funeral, so the farmer slaughtered the cow and made a barbecue banquet for all of them.

The moral of the story is. The next time you hear that someone

is facing a problem, and you think that it does not concern you, remember when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We may not be able to solve the problem...but we can listen and offer some compassion and prayer.

*Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries and HRS Speaks! Retired, former Managing Editor and Woman's Editor of the New York Beacon. Contact: [misshazel@twc.com](mailto:misshazel@twc.com) and online [www.hazelrosettasmith.com](http://www.hazelrosettasmith.com)*

As a child, my sister would read aloud to me, and that became a habit that I continue to enjoy doing, as well. Characters came alive and settings were visualized with every spoken word.




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# Queens Events

**July 13,  
12:00 PM 3:00 PM**  
**We Heart Our  
Community: Fun  
with Sidewalk Chalk**

Join us for an afternoon of free chalk art! Facilitated by the Homeless Heart, we will be showing our walkway some love with designs that come from the heart. Stop by any time between 12-3pm

**July 9-10  
11:00am-1:00pm**  
**Black Inventors  
at Black Spectrum  
Theater**

See Black Inventors you knew and some you don't know. Black Spectrum Theater is located at 177th st and Baisley Blvd. Admission \$5, Free for middle-school with reservation

**Jul 8 - Aug 16**  
**Science in the Park**  
the Eastern Queens Alliance Inc. presents Summer Science in the Park for children Ages 6-13. Each week children will explore a different branch of life science. See flyer below for more information regarding pricing and contact.

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Portraits of inventors include: Sarah Boone (Folding Ironing Board 1832), George Washington Carver (300 Uses For Peanuts 1897), George Speck Crum (Invented The Saratoga Chip 1853), Lewis H. Latimer (Improved The Light Bulb), Alexander Miles (Automatic Elevator Door 1887), Madam C. J. Walker (African American Hair Products 1905), Dr. Gladys West (Developed GPS Technology 1978), Marjorie Stewart Joyner (Permanent Wave Machine 1929), and Garrett Morgan Sr. (Invented Traffic Light 1923).

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8-12 July <b>week 1</b> Microorganisms and Fungi	22-26 July <b>week 3</b> Staying Alive in Nature	5-9 August <b>week 5</b> Botany
15-18 July <b>week 2</b> Origins of Life	29-August 2 <b>week 4</b> Marine Life	12-16 August <b>week 6</b> Animal Adventures

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More Information 347-824-2301 [idlewildesc@gmail.com](mailto:idlewildesc@gmail.com)

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# Education That Lifts Up All of Our Students



Mayor Eric Adams

As New York City's first openly dyslexic mayor, I know what it is like to not have the support I needed in school growing up. School was often difficult for me. I was scared of being called on by the teacher, and my fellow students made fun of me. I know how important it is that our children have a bright start and the support they need for a bold future.

That is why this administration is investing in upstream solutions in our education system, creating conditions that improve outcomes for all our students. We don't want our children to fall behind because they learn differently; we want them to start out ahead. And this week we are taking another big step forward with two major initiatives: a new vision for special education and a new math curriculum, "NYC Solves."

"NYC Solves," is a major

citywide initiative to make mathematics more accessible for all students — no matter where they go to school or what language they speak at home. This new program will revolutionize how algebra is taught in schools and ensure that all our students have foundational math skills and are being encouraged to excel in mathematics at every level.

We are also creating the Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning (DIAL), which will be led by a new Deputy Chancellor for Inclusive and Accessible Learning, Christina Foti. This new division will utilize a \$750 million budget and 1,300 staff to focus on supporting multilingual learners and students with disabilities so that, every student can be prepared for a rewarding career and long-term economic security — no matter their background or ability.

These two new initiatives build on the generational investments we have already made in public education.

In just two years, our administration has implemented a major initiative, "NYC Reads," to fundamentally change how students learn to read literacy as the core focus and priority of New York City's public schools.

We have also invested over \$600

million to protect critical programs that were funded with temporary stimulus dollars, including arts funding, teacher recruitment efforts, restorative justice programming, computer science programs, "Civics for All," school social workers and psychologists, and much more. Our mandated universal dyslexia screening for all students are helping us get students the support they need early on, and we have created the first-ever public school dedicated to supporting students with dyslexia and related learning disabilities.

We have also provided over 42,000 students with offers for a 3-K seat — an increase of 300 percent in the last five years, and we are continuing to work to ensure that every child who wants an early childhood education seat will have access to one. We have also added 57 Gifted and Talented programs citywide and added over 26,000 classroom seats through major construction and modernization projects. I am also pleased to report that nine new schools will open in the coming school year, including a new high school focused on health care.

And because we know that learning doesn't only take place in the classroom and during the school year, we have expanded

popular programs like *Summer Rising* to bring 110,000 students summer programming. We are committed to helping students enter the workforce with programs like *FutureReadyNYC* that connect our students to apprenticeships that lead to good-paying careers. This work has resulted in students earning a cumulative \$8.2 million from paid work experiences at top companies over the past two years alone.

Our New York City Public Schools chancellor, David Banks, and I are both graduates of the New York City school system, and we are committed to continuing our city's legacy of excellence in public education. We are not going to allow another Eric to sit in the classroom, hoping not to be called on. We are making sure that every student has access to the support and resources they need. We are lifting our young people, putting them on a pathway to a bright future, and ensuring that our education system remains unmatched anywhere in this nation.



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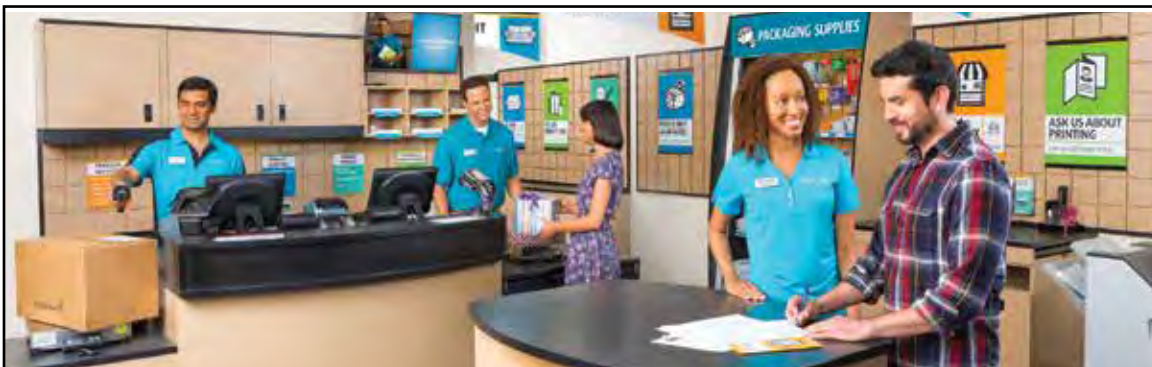
Vol. 30, No 27 July 4, 2024



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# Home Buying in Harlem Be Prepared to Buy Now



By Rev. Dr. Charles Butler

Can anyone afford to buy a home in Harlem? The values of Harlem properties are steadily increasing. But for low to moderate income families there may be some help on the horizon. The city is planning some new construction projects within the next few months. These units will be classified as mixed income residences with an 80-20% designation, meaning the 20% will be set aside for low to moderate income families.

The city also has an ambitious plan of renovating several apartment buildings in Harlem and converting them to Housing Development Fund Corporation (HDFC) Cooperative units. Many of these buildings will be in Central Harlem. The income qualification will be between 100-165% area median income (AMI). These limited equity coop units will provide low- and moderate-in-

come families with an opportunity for homeownership when it seemed previously impossible.

How soon before these units are available? Calculate the completion date to be usually somewhere between 2 ½ to 3 years from the time they start the process. Plus, the contractor will be required to secure approvals from various city agencies and the construction financing must be in place before the project can officially start. So, at a minimum time you're looking at somewhere around the year 2025-2026. But when you think of it 2025 is not as far as it seems.

This year is nearly half over. When you think about it, this decade is now almost half over! So, start planning now. By early planning, you can now have time to set a monthly savings goal to increase your savings. You also have time to reduce your monthly credit debt and to improve your credit score. Again, these will be lottery programs, but by doing these necessary preplanning strategies, you are positioning yourself to be approved, if you are selected.

It is estimated about 10,000 households or more will enter the lottery. The process will be

very competitive. You cannot make any mistakes in filling out your application, or you will be disqualified. You must have your application post-marked by the deadline. You want to give yourself every opportunity to take advantage of these programs. Some properties are now listed on 'housing connect' go to [nyc.gov/HPD](http://nyc.gov/HPD) website.

The lottery is not a sure thing, but the beauty of the lottery program is that the properties are subsidized and so you will have a significant amount of equity just by completing the purchase. Plus, with condominiums, single and multi-family homes, usually the city will give you a tax abatement for a substantial number of years, which is another advantage for a first-time home buyer. With home values on the rise, the New York City Housing lotteries programs are becoming more important in creating stability within our communities.

If you are interested in attending the workshop or have questions regarding the home buying process, contact Rev. Dr. Charles Butler at (212) 281 4887 ext. 231 or email at [cbutler@hcci.org](mailto:cbutler@hcci.org).

## MTA Procurement

The MTA encourages vendors who have not done business with us to register for our bidders list using MY MTA Portal for vendors at [www.mymta.info](http://www.mymta.info). Registered vendors can search for procurement opportunities across all MTA agencies and receive invitations to bid or propose on the types of goods and services they can provide. Certified minority and women-owned businesses (M/WBE), service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (SDVOB), and disadvantaged businesses (DBE), are strongly encouraged to compete for MTA opportunities. Visit our website at <https://new.mta.info/doing-business-with-us> for detailed information and guidelines.

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## ELEVATE YOUR STYLE

Elevate Your Summer Style with these refreshing fashion tips! As the temperatures rise, it's the perfect time to embrace light, breezy fabrics like 100% linen in vibrant colors. Update your wardrobe with flowy sundresses, chic sandals, and oversized sunglasses to create effortless yet stylish looks. Don't forget to accessorize with statement jewelry or a colorful scarf for that extra pop and feeling fabulous

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# HARLEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**Jun 30 1-4pm**  
**Phil Young's**  
**Jazz, Gospel & Blues Brunch**  
 at Alke, 1838 ADC Blvd. Reservations: 917-426-1194

**Jul 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**  
**Every Monday**  
**6-10pm**  
**Phil's house of Blues**  
 at Sylvina, 100 West 116th Street. Tickets \$10

**Aug 30, 9:30pm**  
**Machel Montano at the Apollo Theater**  
 This Labor Day Weekend, The King of Soca, Machel Montano brings Carnival to Harlem! Bring your friends, family, and



loved ones for the ultimate celebration of music, culture, and community. From his chart-topping hits to his infectious energy, Machel Montano knows how to throw a party like no other. Join the Apollo for the

hottest celebration of music, culture, and community with those you love this Labor Day weekend. For more information and tickets go to: [www.apollotheater.org/ticket-and-events](http://www.apollotheater.org/ticket-and-events)

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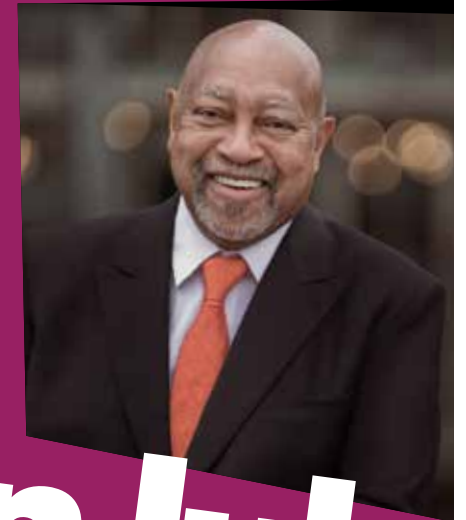
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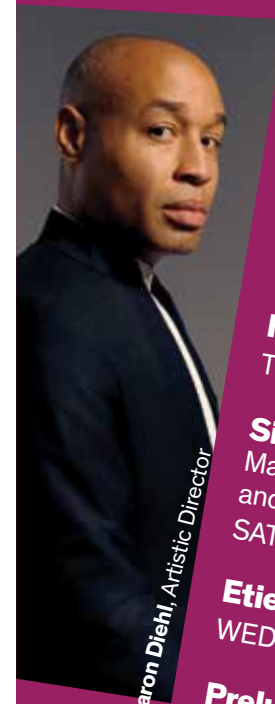
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# Jazz in July

JUL 17-27



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 Willie Jones III  
 WED, JULY 17, 7:30 PM

**Isaiah J. Thompson Quartet**  
 THU, JULY 18, 7:30 PM

**Singers & the Song:**  
 Marilyn Maye, Catherine Russell  
 and Ekep Nkwelle  
 SAT, JULY 20, 7:30 PM

**Etienne Charles & Creole Soul**  
 WED, JULY 24, 7:30 PM

**Preludes:**  
 Adam Birnbaum, Jeb Patton  
 & Aaron Diehl  
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**Tyshawn Sorey Trio & Warren Wolf**  
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# Michael Jackson's Legacy: Fifteen Years After His Death, His Influence Continues

By Stacy M. Brown | NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

In what may have been his greatest triumph, a very frail and emotionally tested Michael Jackson walked out of a Santa Maria, Calif., courthouse on a sunny June day in 2005, having beaten 13 charges related to allegedly molesting a young cancer patient.

Unfortunately, almost four years later, Jackson died of an overdose of the sedative propofol. He was 50, and a stunned world couldn't conceive that it had lost the biggest pop music entertainer ever to grace the planet. At the time of his death, he was rehearsing for a series of London concerts aimed at reviving a career shattered by allegations, wild spending habits, and strange bedfellows. A Los Angeles court sentenced Dr. Conrad Murray, who was Michael Jackson's personal doctor at the time of the singer's death in 2009, to four years in prison for involuntary manslaughter in 2011.

Michael Jackson's rise to fame began early. He was the seventh of nine children. Born on August 29, 1958, in Gary, Indiana, Jackson joined his brothers Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, and Marlon to form The Jackson Five, a group that quickly rose to stardom.

Jackson's solo career, launched in the 1970s, reached unprecedented heights with the release of "Thriller" in 1982. The album became the best-selling of all time, with over 21 million copies sold in the United States and at least 27 million worldwide, cementing Jackson's place as a global icon.

However, Jackson's life was not without its challenges. His eccentricities, including his high-pitched voice, numerous plastic surgeries, friendships with children, and a pet chimpanzee, earned him the nickname "Wacko Jacko." In 1993, he faced his first public child molestation allegations, which he vehemently denied. Although a jury acquitted him of all charges in a high-profile 2005 trial, the allegations severely damaged his reputation.

A U.S. tax court judge noted in 2021 that Jackson had "earned not a penny from his image and likeness in 2006, 2007, or 2008," highlighting the lasting impact of these allegations. Despite this, Jackson's popularity has surged in the digital era. According to Billboard, global consumption of his music grew from 4.7 billion to 6.5 billion on-demand streams be-

tween 2021 and 2023, a 38.3% increase. In February, the BBC reported that Sony Music Group confirmed it would acquire half of Jackson's catalog in a deal valuing his music assets at more than \$1.2 billion.

Jackson's artistry continues to captivate audiences. "MJ The Musical," a jukebox show featuring his music, has enjoyed successful runs on Broadway and in London's West End. Next year, we will see the release of the Antoine Fuqua-directed biopic "Michael," starring Jackson's nephew Jaafar Jackson.

Jackson's influence extends far beyond his lifetime. His music, characterized by innovative videos, groundbreaking dance moves, and genre-defying sounds, continues to inspire artists across the globe. His humanitarian efforts and vision of healing the world are integral to his legacy.

Today, Michael Jackson's influence is seen in the work of numerous artists, from Bruno Mars to Beyoncé. His innovative approach to music and performance continues to inspire new generations. While the controversies surrounding his life may never fully dissipate, the BBC notes that Jackson's

contributions to music and culture remain a significant part of his legacy.

As fans marked the fifteenth anniversary of his death, Jackson's star continues to shine brightly. His music, moves, and overall talent resonate more than ever, proving that the King of Pop's legacy is enduring and evolving.

As Jackson himself once said, "I'm just like anyone. I cut, and I bleed. And I embarrass easily."

Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons



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# Kamala Harris Speaks Two Years After Roe v. Wade Is Overturned

By Tashi McQueen, Political Writer, Tmcqueen@afro.com

Vice President Kamala Harris recently made a stop in College Park, Md. to recognize the second anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade., a landmark case that made abortion a constitutional right.

"Over the past two years, in states across our nation, the extremists have proposed and passed laws that criminalize doctors and punish women: laws that limit access to contraception and to fertility treatments like IVF. In some cases they are trying to revive laws from the 1800s," said Harris.

According to the Center for Reproductive Rights, a non-profit organization of reproductive rights advocates and lawyers, around 14 states have made abortion illegal.

"Two years ago, Donald Trump's Supreme Court majority ripped away the fundamental freedom for women to access the health care they need and deserve. The consequences have been devastating. If given the chance, there is no question he will ban abortion nationwide, with or without the help of Congress," said Biden in a statement on June 24, acknowledging the day. "I will never let that happen. My message to Americans is this: Kamala and I are fighting like hell to get your freedom back. And we won't stop until we restore the protections of Roe v. Wade for every woman in every state."

At the gathering, Harris doubled down on Biden's

sentiments.

"In the case of the stealing of reproductive freedom from the women of America, Donald Trump is guilty," said Harris, gaining cheers from the crowd.

The lively crowd chanted "four more years" and "restore Roe" several times throughout the event.

Throughout her speech, Harris played up Trump's part in and lack of remorse for the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

"When he was in the White House, Donald Trump handpicked three members of the United States Supreme Court because he intended for them to overturn Roe v. Wade," said Harris. "As intended, they did."

There are currently six Republican-nominated justices on the U.S. Supreme Court and three Democrat-nominated justices.

"This is more than just an anniversary. It's proof that we should never take for granted our liberties," said Democratic nominee for U.S Senate and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks at the gathering. "It's the confirmation that we must be vigilant and fighting for and protecting, with everything we have, our rights."

"Electing Vice President Kamala Harris and President Biden means that we will have a country that remains recognizable to us," said Alsobrooks.

Voters' perspectives of a candidate's views on abortion surely matter as a poll by Navigator

Research, a project led by pollsters, finds that 68 percent of Americans believe it is important for Biden and Congress to protect abortion access this year.

In Our Own Voice, a national partnership to uplift Reproductive justice leaders, finds that Black voters are six times more likely to vote for a candidate who supports abortion access than one who opposes it.

The poll by Navigator Research also shows that

80 percent of women are supportive of increasing access to birth control pills, 70 percent for easier access to fertility planning such as IVF, 57 percent for an abortion pill and 56 percent for in-clinic abortions.

Trump did not make any public statements on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Previously Republicans have said the decision restored power to the states concerning abortion and protects the lives of unborn



children.

Photo credit: AFRO Photo / Tashi McQueen

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# Audrey's Society Whirl: Harlem School of the Arts Celebrates 60th Anniversary with 'Bridgerton' Theme

by Audrey J. Bernard, Society Editor

The interior décor of the landmark Ziegfeld Ballroom was transformed into the hot television series and highly favored “Bridgerton” recently at the Harlem School of the Arts’ 60th Anniversary Gala, where guests arrived dressed in full-on head-to-toe Queen Charlotte regalia and were greeted by HSA students, also in formal period finery and sporting almost perfect British accents.

There was an aura of dinner theater entertainment as students mixed with guests in the lobby, on the elevator up to the elaborate cocktail reception, and inside the main ballroom, bringing the Bridgerton era to life and setting the mood for a spectacular Bridgerton-inspired event – a night to remember in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the internationally recognized Harlem School of the Arts (HSA), founded by the remarkable visionary, concert soprano Dorothy Maynor.

Attendees brought glamour and pomp—some

dressed in their best Bridgerton period attire, others in their most fashionable ballroom attire. Among them was New York City Council Member Dr. Yusef Salaam, who, along with Council Member Gale A. Brewer, presented the organization with a proclamation for their service to the community and for ensuring that all children, regardless of their circumstances, had affordable access to the arts. The organization also received a citation and a proclamation from the office of the New York City Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams.

The evening’s Bridgerton theme ran throughout - from the interior décor of the Ziegfeld ballroom beginning with a video greeting from Lenny Kravitz, one of HSA’s most famous alumnus who was also celebrating a 60th birthday and continued with HSA board member and gala chair Jacqueline Nickelberry who HSA president James C. Horton joined to welcome the Bridgerton-inspired dressed guests. Next, NBC

Today Show’s Sheinelle Jones included Jennifer Jones Avant, with seed capital of over the music stand to The



HSA’s Dance Ensemble perform a tribute to the mid-18th century French Black Composer Chevalier, Joseph Bo-

Jones and her adorable daughter Clara, a student at HSA, took over the hosting duties, including presenting awards to this year’s prestigious group of honorees.

The 2024 honorees ran the gamut from Al Roker, Deborah Roberts, and their son Nicholas to Nicole A. Avant, who was feted along with her parents, the late Jacqueline and Clarence Avant. (Family friend Audrey Smaltz accepted Mr. and Mrs. Avant’s posthumous award.) Other honor-

Austin, CEO of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, and The Herb Alpert Foundation, one of the leading philanthropic arts organizations and a key supporter of the Harlem School of the Arts. Herb Alpert’s daughters, Eden and Aria were on hand to receive the award on behalf of their father and the Foundation’s president, Rona Sebastian, and announced the creation of a new scholarship fund named in honor of Jacqueline and Clarence



HSA students

\$500,000 provided by The Herb Alpert Foundation. The Jacqueline and Clarence Avant Scholarship and Arts Access Fund will be the catalyst for raising \$10 million in the next few years to make HSA tuition free for all students.

The picture-perfect evening closed with the HSA All-Star Band, which had provided the interlude music throughout the program under the leadership of Lee Hogans, Chief Education Officer at HSA, who turned

Roots’ Questlove for the amazing after party and another reason to celebrate Ms. Maynor and her legacy. Kudos to Dwight Johnson of djohnson@dwrightjohnsondesign and Sam Mattingly of SMC Solutions for a fabulous evening and a job well done!

Photo by Craig Barritt/Getty Images for Harlem School of The Arts



Jacqueline Nickelberry and HSA President James C. Horton greeting the spectacular crowd that filled the Ziegfeld Ballroom



Nicholas, Deborah Roberts, Al Roker are joined by hosts Clara and her mother NBC Today Co-host, Sheinelle Jones



Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos with wife Nicole A Avant and CBS Morning Host Gayle King

# HARLEM WEEK 50TH Anniversary Kicks Off with Rousing Event at Schomburg

by Keith Forrest

**T**In celebration of Black Music Month, HARLEM WEEK kicked off its 50th Anniversary celebration with a festive gala at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Presented by The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, Amazon Access, and Nederlander, the festive evening was hosted by renowned radio personalities Debi B. Jackson and G Keith Alexander.

Members of HARLEM WEEK's Board of Directors Voza Rivers, Marko Nobles, and Winston Majette opened the evening's program with a warm reflective greeting. "Who would have thought 50 years ago that we would be having this celebration of a one-day event started in 1974," shared Rivers, a founding member of HARLEM WEEK. "We endured, we prospered, and we kept adding to Harlem's reputation as a cultural capital of Black America."

Using the theme, "Celebrate the Journey," HARLEM WEEK's 50th Anniversary gala saluted the first of its four historic honorees, U.S. Congressman Charles B. Rangel. Known as the Dean of New York's congressional delegation, Har-

lem's Honorable Charles B. Rangel was the first African American to chair the U.S. Congress influential House Ways and Means Committee. "I want to thank all of you for being a part of me being able to say that for the 46 years I served in the U.S. Congress," shared Rangel. "Because of your support and love, I never had one bad day."

HARLEM WEEK 50th Anniversary also honored Harlem's Renaissance artist, Dr. Ademola Olugbefola, founding member of the Weusi Artist Collective. Renowned as one of the most respected and innovative catalysts of the Black Arts Movement in America, Dr. Olugbefola's distinguished body of work has been featured in numerous museums, international exhibitions, and private collections.

In celebration of Black Music Month, HARLEM WEEK 50TH Anniversary saluted the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, Jazzmobile, in celebration of its 60th Anniversary this year, and Harlem school district music educators Elizabeth Cooper, Tilden Marbit, and Jesse Means. The evening also included a lively performance by multi-talented

composer and instrumentalist Nat Adderley Jr. and an electrifying post-reception performance by Keith "The Captain" Gamble.

Harlem Jazz & Music Festival Executive Music Director Ray Chew was also in attendance. In addition to presenting, the award-winning musical director of ABC's *Dancing With The Stars* unveiled HARLEM WEEK's 50th Anniversary theme song, "Jam." The up-tempo party anthem, featuring Stephanie Mills, MC Lyte, Doug E. Fresh, and Kid Capri, truly captures the vibe and uplifting feeling of being uptown with people from around the world Jamming, partying, and taking in Harlem's cultural mystique.

Citi, Columbia University, LISC, and West Harlem Development Corporation were event sponsors. Co-sponsors included West Harlem Innovation Network, The Trebek Family Foundation, Manna's, and Rethink Food.

HARLEM WEEK 50th Anniversary events can be enjoyed in person at locations throughout Harlem and will stream online via [www.HARLEM-WEEK.com](http://www.HARLEM-WEEK.com). The website



is also hosting "HARLEM WEEK 50th Flashback Flicks" featuring past performances, fashion shows,

and other highlights. For more information about HARLEM WEEK and its 50th-anniversary celebra-

tion, visit [harlemweek.com](http://harlemweek.com).



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# Road Tripping This Summer? Keep These Tips in Mind (Statepoint)

Whether you're day tripping with family, taking a week-long vacation with pals, or doing a cross-country solo drive, summer road trips of all kinds can be long and exhausting. The good news? There are plenty of ways to improve the experience.

### Great Snacks

Road trip snacks are non-negotiable! They make car rides of any length brighter and keep drivers and passengers happy and fueled for the miles ahead.

It's best to have a mix of snack options that are easy to eat in the car or at roadside stops. Carrot sticks, pretzels and nuts make great savory choices. For

an easy, on-the-go, fruity and juicy snack, try Black Forest Gummy Bears and Gummy Worms. Now juicier, Black Forest Gummy Bears and Gummy Worms are made in six delicious fruity flavors making them a great road trip snack. Crafted with care, they are made with real fruit juice, as well as colors and flavors from real sources.

Before hitting the road, find Black Forest at a nearby retailer by visiting [blackforestusa.com](http://blackforestusa.com).

### Refreshing Breaks

Making great time shouldn't come at the expense of you or your traveling companions' comfort. Beyond typical bathroom breaks and pit stops, consider visiting points of in-

terest along the route. Ideally, these detours shouldn't add too much additional mileage to your odometer or time on the road, but instead, be designed to break up the trip in manageable chunks. From a natural landmark to a beautiful view, the experiences will emotionally and physically rejuvenate your party for the next leg of the journey.

### Games and Music

Entertainment can help the miles pass more quickly. If you're driving alone, prep a great playlist or download some audiobooks or podcasts in advance of the trip so you aren't distracted by flipping through your device while driving. Try giving each hour of the journey a different theme –

such as songs of a specific genre or from a particular decade, or by letting passengers take turns being the DJ. You can also pass the time playing classic road trip games like "I Spy" and "Twenty Questions." Keep passengers in the backseat occupied, particularly little ones, by supplying them with portable versions of their favorite board games.

### Sustainable Tweaks

It's easy to reduce your impact on the environment on road trips, and doing so will make you and your travel companions feel better and more energized about your journey!

Try turning off the AC and feeling the fresh breeze from open windows to reduce your fuel use. When



it comes to hydration, bring your own reusable water bottles and refill them at rest station water fountains. You can also select snacks wisely. Black Forest Gummy Bears and Gummy Worms, for example, are now available in store drop-off recycle-ready packaging. Help protect the planet by par-

ticipating in the Store Drop Off program, conveniently located at retail stores along your route.

With delicious snacks, and fun games and detours, a road trip doesn't just have to be a means to an end, it can also be a relaxing and fun part of your vacation.



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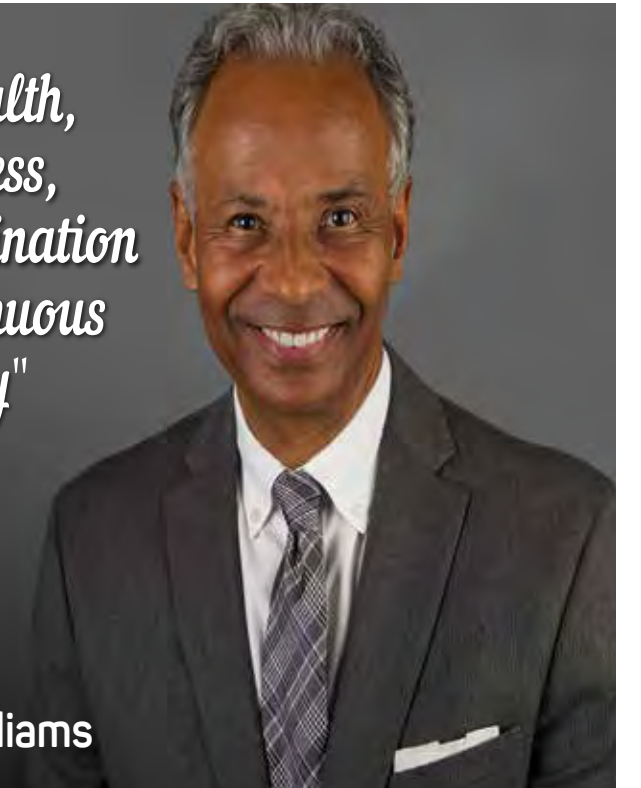
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# In-Demand Careers Every New College Grad Should Know About (StatePoint)

**S**o you've recently graduated college. The summer ahead is the perfect time to consider a career as a financial planner. At a time when new research reveals that more than half of four-year college graduates are underemployed a year after they graduate, the financial planning industry is booming.

To give yourself a competitive edge when you're just starting out, consider earning your CFP® certification. CFP® certification is the standard in financial planning and paves the way for an exceptional career.

Here's what you need to know about a career as a financial advisor with CFP® certification, also known as a CFP® professional:

- You can gain financial stability: When you're young, it's important to pay down any student debt and begin saving for the future as early as possible. That's difficult to do in industries with low starting wages. While financial planning salaries vary, you can expect to earn \$50-70K as a starting point. And there's a lot of room for growth — experienced financial advisors earn \$192,000 on average.

- You'll enjoy job security: Many industries are experiencing widespread layoffs and instability, but financial planning is a career path offering job security and growth. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the demand for

financial advisors will grow quickly, at a rate of 13% through 2032.

- You'll use a wide range of skills: Financial planning isn't just numbers and math. The job requires great communication skills and a high level of emotional intelligence to guide clients through the psychology behind their money management.

- You can forge your own path: Financial advising is not a one-size-fits-all career path. You can choose to specialize in a particular area of finance or take a holistic approach to your clients' needs. Where you work is also up to you — you might work at a nationally known financial services firm, a small lo-

cal firm or even a bank or credit union. Because of the commitment to professional excellence and high ethical standards it demonstrates, gaining your CFP® certification will unlock even more career opportunities. Many CFP® professionals even start their own business early in their careers.

- You'll be helping others: CFP® professionals build trusted relationships with their clients, helping people achieve their life goals, whether that's buying a home, paying for their children's college education or preparing for retirement.

- You can design your own schedule: After four years of scheduling classes to suit your needs, the idea



of rigid working hours may not be appealing. Fortunately, financial advising can come with scheduling flexibility and a good work-life balance.

- You'll find support along the way: As you work toward CFP® certification, you'll have many opportunities for ongoing support. An online candidate forum offers opportunities to connect with others on their path to certification. Other resources include a progress tracker, exam preparation tools, financial aid and three mentorship cycles

a year that align with the exams offered. Additionally, the CFP Board's Career Center can help you find your footing after you get certified.

For more information about becoming a financial planner, visit CFP.net.

As you spend the summer months looking back on and celebrating all your hard work over the last four years, don't forget to make an investment in your future. Pursuing CFP® certification can lead to a rewarding, profitable career as a financial planner.

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# Urbanology: The Yin and Yang Theory of Nature



By William A. Rogers

all reality. This interconnectedness means that everything in our existence vibrates at its own frequency. The fact that all things are frequencies of vibrating energy means we are truly part of everything, and everything is a part of us, fostering a sense of unity and belonging.

It may seem hard to comprehend that the table you sit at, the floor you walk on, or the door you open vibrates at a frequency that makes them seem solid. But if you could change the vibration of your hand to the exact frequency of that table or door, your hand could actually pass

through them.

Many who study Eastern philosophies believe that light is the essence of all things. Science has proven that light radiates from our bodies. That light is called an aura. This aura, which is a subtle electromagnetic energy field, can also emanate from plants, animals, and even stones.

Some machines can now read the human aura, which has different colors such as green, blue, and lavender. Each aura color, combination of colors, vibrancy of colors, and location of colors on and around your body reveal something about you and your state of

mind.

You need to interact with yin and yang energy to make light. An easy way to understand this concept is to consider how a flashlight works. You need the interaction between positive and negative vibrations to make it work. How often have you had to turn a battery around so that the negative and positive vibrations can work together to create light?

The vibration created by the yin and yang energies in you connects you to the mind of the universe. What you think about often comes to you; it's the power of attraction. If you don't understand

the power of your energy, it can be harmful to you. If you are not happy with your current situation you have to change the frequency of your thoughts.

In Taoism the interaction between yin and yang energy is an important factor in wellness. Our body organs give off yin and yang energy. The liver, heart, pancreas, stomach, spleen, lungs, and kidneys are yin organs. The gall bladder, small intestine, large intestine, and bladder are yang organs. When the energy vibration of these organs is out of balance, you get sick.

We are closer to each other than we think.

There are times that we can feel the energy of another; we get a bad vibration or a good vibration. Scientific research proves that all things are energy, and energy's foundation is the interface of negative and positive vibrations. Interestingly, the concept of life, which is the vibration of yin and yang energy, is over five thousand years old.

You may still have many questions about the yin and yang theory. My advice is not to look for all the answers outside yourself. To find many of the answers, you must first look within yourself.

We often hear the terms yin and yang, but many aren't sure what the concept means. The answer can be straightforward yet can also be very complex. Yin, being negative, and yang, being positive, represent the dynamic interaction that creates

Answers to Crosswod on page 17

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## HERBS ARE NATURE'S REMEDY Cinnamon's Value

By Zakiyyah

### Herbs Are Nature's Medicine

Cinnamon is a spice from certain types of trees. Extracts from the bark, leaves, flowers, fruits, and roots have been prized for their medicinal properties for thousands of years and are also found as an ingredient in various foods and recipes. The aroma of cinnamon evokes memories of Christmas kitchens: warm, spicy, and intensely fragrant.

Currently, modern science has confirmed many of the potential health benefits associated with cinnamon, as it is rich in antioxidants. Some research suggests that it may help you manage blood sugars, protect

against heart disease, and reduce inflammation.

Used in cooking, cinnamon aids digestion and is good for treating loss of appetite and stomach upset. It also prevents bloating and flatulence and treats heartburn and nausea.

It is one of the best essential oils to restore the balance of intestinal flora. It acts against bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungal infections, candida, and yeast, including gum disease and gingivitis.

Don't confuse the various cinnamons: Ceylon cinnamon, Cassia cinnamon, Padang cassia, Indian cassia, or Saigon cinnamon. These are not the same.

The two most common are: **Cinnamomum cas-**

**sia. (Cinnamomum aromaticum),** has a more intense, spicy cinnamon, and **Ceylon cinnamon (Cinnamomum verum)** that comes from the bark of an evergreen tree and has a sweeter, more delicate flavor

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# GAMES

See answers on pages 16 and 18

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

# HARLEM COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

## Statepoint Crossword THEME: The 1910s

### ACROSS

- UPS competitor
- Banking convenience
- Shape with an axe
- Arctic floater
- Court bargain
- Dashboard window
- \*Claude Monet's "Water Lilies," e.g.
- Petri dish gel
- Noble gas
- \*Post-1919 drinking establishment
- Not hit
- More than a scuffle
- "That is to say"
- Jewish village
- One's full DNA sequence, pl.
- Interesting person, acr.
- Cord made from animal intestines
- Type of tide
- No such thing as a free one?

- Credit card rate
- Boatload
- St. Louis' Gateway, e.g.
- Cast-off skin
- U.N. working-conditions agcy.
- \*"Unsinkable"?
- Violent protester
- Golfer's goal
- Puts behind bars
- Samoan money
- \*Armed conflict (3 words)
- \*Famous Bolshevik
- Storm centers
- Bob \_\_\_\_ of boxing world
- Neural transmitters
- High school breakout
- Speech defect
- 1968 hit "Harper Valley \_\_\_\_"
- Grassland
- Trousers

### DOWN

- They're often


- described as disc-shaped
- Freudian error
- \*Roald Amundsen's southern destination
- The Muppets' street
- Lake scum
- Razz
- \* \_\_\_\_ Pickford, "America's Sweetheart" of silent film era
- Comforting gestures
- Prima donna problems
- Skin cyst
- Saffron-flavored rice dish
- Street urchin
- \*48th State
- Sailing vessel with two masts
- Animal doctor, for short
- Water balloon sound
- Alluring maiden
- Add a touch of color
- Spiritual leader
- \*Boy Scout's \_\_\_\_ badge

- Two under par on a hole
- Animal trail
- After-bath powder
- General Post Office
- \*"Little Tramp" portrayer
- Chef Julia \_\_\_\_
- Address for a man
- Salmon at a certain stage
- Indian breads
- Lee Harvey \_\_\_\_
- \*"A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" author James \_\_\_\_
- Circus venue
- Modern message
- Dwarf buffalo
- Lash mark
- \*"Dulcinea!" of Massenet's "Don Quichotte," e.g.
- Dry biscuit
- Mischievous sprites
- Spot for luxury?

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A nonprofit organization in Bronx County, NY is seeking sealed bids for the sale and installation of security related enhancements. This project includes the installation of hardened doors, CCTV and fencing. Selection criteria will be based on price, reputation/experience, and quality of materials proposed. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting us at [edifystuz@gmail.com](mailto:edifystuz@gmail.com). All interested firms will be required to sign for the proposal documents and provide primary contact, telephone, fax and email address. Bids will be accepted until 12 pm on March 15, 2024. Work is to commence by May 15, 2024 and completed by August 15, 2024. Minority and Women Owned Businesses are Encouraged to Apply. For further information, contact R. Stark at 914-523-2243.

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# Books about the Civil War

by various authors

REVIEW by Terri Schlichenmeyer, Harlem News contributor

This summer, I read about a period in history when war ravaged the country, pitted brother against brother, righted a very large wrong, and left scars on the land, on people, and families.

Sometimes, history is in the details, and in **“Voices from Gettysburg”** by Allen C. Guelzo (Kensington, \$29.00), you’ll read a day-by-day, person-by-person account of what is arguably the most influential battle of the Civil War.

Using real letters written by prisoners, soldiers, and others who

were at Gettysburg on those days in July 1863, you’ll get an intimate sense of what it was like to be on the battlefield or near it. Filled with authentic voices, maps, and other documents, this is a puts-you-in-the-action kind of book that you won’t be able to put down.

At some point in your lifetime, you’ve undoubtedly read or learned something about Harriet Tubman. In your mind, she may seem invincible, like some sort of being with superpowers, due to her bravery during the Civil War and the lives she helped ferry to freedom. In **“Night**

**Flyer: Harriet Tubman and the Faith Dreams of a Free People”** by Tiya Miles (Penguin Press, \$30), you’ll learn that some of what you think you know are myths, and that there’s actually so much more to Tubman’s life and actions.

It’s true that Tubman helped free hundreds of people, but this book explores more, including the environment that nurtured her and the relationships she had with the women she helped, and others. We get a fresher, deeper look at the person Tubman was, allowing readers to learn more about the spiritual life that soothed her in times of trouble. That alone might offer inspiration for today’s sojourners.

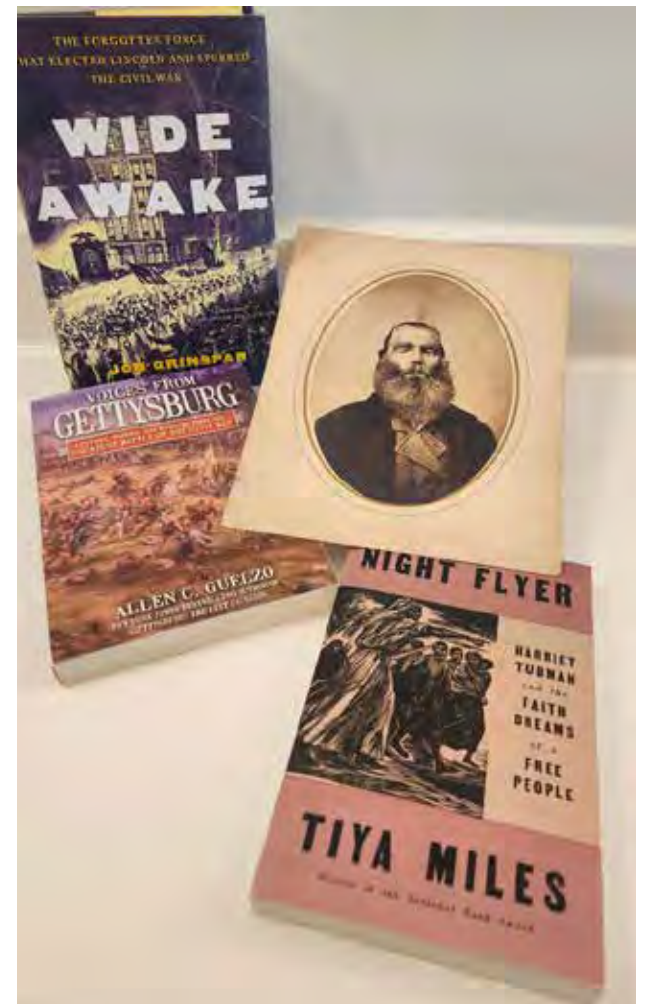
And finally, if you’d like a little bit of surprise with your summertime reading, reach for **“Wide Awake: The Forgotten Force that Elected Lincoln and Spurred the Civil War”** by Jon Grinspan (Bloomsbury, \$32).

Despite what you may think, the elections we’ve seen lately in this country weren’t the most contentious: at the beginning of the 1860 political season, a bunch of young Northerners, both men and women, Black and white, began organizing on behalf of anti-slavery speakers and abolitionists. They called themselves the Wide Awakes and during the election, they became a political force to be reck-

oned with. It’s possible, says Grinspan, that the Wide Awakes were one of the major catalysts for the War. This book packs the action in, and it’ll show you that history can be full of surprises.

If these books merely whet your appetite for more, you’re in luck: there are literally thousands and thousands of books about the Civil War available. All you have to do is ask your favorite bookstore or librarian for help.

Books about the Civil War  
by various authors  
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## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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