

Give Them Their Accolades Now

All too often, some of our most important Black Heroes are not adequately honored while they are alive. In this issue of THE DRUM we will be honoring heroes of Berks County's past. However today, we are devoting a front-page cover story to enduring heroes who are still alive.

TONYA BUTLER



X.com

Tonya Butler is one of two history-making first black women to be elected District Justices for Reading, PA. She is a former City Solicitor and owner of her own private law practice. Justice Butler is a graduate of Albright College (Bachelor's Degree) and the Law School of Weidner University.

WESLEY BUTLER

Wesley Butler (the son of Tonya Butler) has continuously excelled in many endeavors. As a sophomore at Reading High School, he was an excellent student and the point guard on Reading High School's PA State Championship Basketball Team in 2017. During his junior and senior years at the Castle on the Hill, Butler was the point guard, leading scorer, and a defensive wizard.



WFMZ.com

In 2021, Butler graduated from Reading High School while being elected as the youngest City Councilman ever in the history of the City of Reading. As a city Councilman, he has made monumental contributions for the improvement of the quality of life for the citizens of Reading. Just a few of Butler's contributions to his hometown included collaboration with his peers for the allocation of funds for the saving of the Reading Phillies, making Juneteenth a City Holiday, arranging for a 4-way stop sign at 13th and Marion Streets, and the allocation of funds for the Blacktop Summer League Basketball Program.

WYNTON BUTLER



rdgmag.com

Wynton Butler (the husband of Tonya Butler and the father of Wesley Butler) made history when he was appointed as the first Black Principal of Reading High School, and he continues to serve the Reading School District as its Director of Social Services. Butler is a graduate of Reading High School, Kutztown University (Bachelor's Degree) and Alvernia University (Master's Degree).

ALEXANDER CIVIL



linkedin.com

Alexander Civil is the founder and Executive Director of BRING THE CHANGE. This organization's mission is to create sustainable communities through education and the power of cultural diversity. Their most constructive activities have included an annual cultural diversity festival, a recent collaboration with the Reading chapter of the NAACP in the production of the Black Excellence Soiree. Another of their most constructive endeavors is a leadership training program for students at High School and in Haiti. Civil is a graduate of Penn State University

CARISSA JOHNSON

Carissa Johnson is one of two history-making first Black women to be elected District Justices in Reading, PA. She is a former Caseworker in the Berks County Jail System and part-time employee of SafeBerks. She is also a mentor for The Sisterhood. Justice Johnson is a graduate of Reading High School, Weidner University (Bachelor's Degree), and Alvernia University (Master's Degree).



facebook.com

NICK JOHNSON



temcarebehavioral.com

After a successful career as a corporate leader in the utilities industry, Nicholas Johnson founded TEM CARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, an agency which provides outstanding services for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities. Johnson is a lifelong resident of Berks County and a graduate of Reading High School, Albright College (Bachelor's Degree) and Lincoln University (Master's Degree).

STACEY TAYLOR

One of Pennsylvania's greatest blessings is Stacey Taylor, who is the President of both the Reading and Pennsylvania Chapters of the NAACP. We can thank Taylor and her numerous collaborators for all of the Juneteenth activities that will take place this month. The hallmark of her dynamic leadership is her practice of delegating tasks to many participants which make for efficient operations and the satisfaction of share accomplishment by her collaborators. Taylor is a graduate of Wilson High School, Albright College and Leadership Berks



touchisessential.com

RAMONA TURPIN



bccf.org

Ramona Turpin is a former teacher and banker who has made monumental contributions for the better quality of life for citizens of Berks County. She is responsible for organizing the production of the Annual Dr. Ronald Smith Banquet. Another of her important accomplishments was the founding and leadership of The Sisterhood, an organization which mentors girls and young ladies. Turpin is a graduate of Kutztown University.

LONNIE WALKER, IV

Lonnie Walker graduated from Reading High School after leading the boys varsity basketball team to a State Championship. After graduating from Reading High School, he played at the University of Miami for one season. Next he was



expressnews.com

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plus more!



THE DRUM

NEWSPAPER

Just Us

By Ashley R. Jones, MS



Ashley Jones

“There is no justice, it’s just us.” A quote I remember my dad telling me growing up. My dad, a Black man who spent his youth and early adult years in and out of the system. But with hard work and determination he made his way out, however

it’s not like that for everyone. He was one of my biggest inspirations for getting into law. I was an impressionable 7-year-old. I wanted to fix the pieces that were broken in the world, to help balance the scales. However, the shards of inequality have to be handled with care to ensure you don’t cut yourself.

The system is broken and our way of life is unfair. The reason being, the system wasn’t meant for us. The system of law and order– the scheme of oppression through the various aspects of the criminal justice system, we as Blacks are left with a true injustice. How does one navigate through a maze where the walls are designed, not as an exit, but a prison. Unfortunately, we have been left in the ruins as the walls continue to build themselves around us.

I myself love crime. I’ve studied it, researched it, and presented on it. I have a burning passion to work in the field, currently working on my law school journey. The sad reality is that less than 10% of attorneys are Black– even less than that number are women. But unfortunately, our numbers make up within the prison statistics. The issue isn’t just the system but also representation. Across the board there are concerns trickling from the top, where our laws are made, down to those who are entrusted to enforce the law, our police.

Reading recently dealt with a police involved shooting that is currently being investigated. More questions than answers, as per usual. A family, dealing with a mental health crisis, sought out support and unfortunately, that inquiry left a man dead. Bullets instead of resources are usually the end result. It has been weeks since the incident and no new answers– yet the police had a planned flag raising in support of that thin blue line. A washed-out event that was met with an outcry from the public. That thin blue line is a disruption of supporting Black lives. For those unaware, the Blue Lives Matter movement was born out of a mockery when Blacks simply wanted police brutality and murders to stop, to have Black lives matter to others besides just Black people. We as Black people, cannot change our melanin but a badge can be taken off. A uniform can be hung in a closet, forgotten. But we can’t forget. Even in our genetics, or genes, remember the series of oppression. Trauma changes our DNA and leaves markers of remembrance.

It’s no secret that politics play a role in how we as a community are treated. They value our votes, but not us. For example, men like Donald Trump promising complete police immunity when it comes to bad apples behaving badly. Can you imagine the chaos of potential crimes and violence against Black communities? Fortunately, It is not within his power due to legislation and the legalities of federal vs. state, but it still sends a trickle of fear down my back. Time and time again his behavior proves that Blacks are viewed as less than. Even with the continued complaints of the disconnect between the Black community and law enforcement, changes remain inactive.

Police involved deaths are a hot button topic and sadly they aren’t new. Crime stats have reported the continuation of police involved deaths and the lack of police accountability. The case of Elijah McClain recently came to an end with the conviction of the EMT, Jeremy Cooper, who administered the

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Test Your Knowledge Of Historic Berks County Black Heroes

1. Who was the first African American teacher, first African American Guidance Counselor, and the first African American Principal in the Reading School District?
2. Who is the professional engineer who was the first African American to serve on the Board of Director of the Reading School Board?
3. Who was the native of Reading who was an internationally acclaimed saxophonist?
4. Who is the former Reading High School basketball player who led the Red Knights to a State Championship, followed by college and NBA coaching positions, who is now the Commissioner of the West Coast Basketball Conference?
5. Who was the founder and curator for more than 30 years of the CENTRAL PA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, where are many of the artifacts of that museum now located?
6. Who is the physician who started the Annual AWARDS AND RECOGNITION BANQUET
7. Who was the first African American to graduate from Kutztown University in 1950?

The Answers are on Page 7.

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BLACK HEROES

FAMOUS BLACKS BORN IN JUNE

Gwendolyn E. Brooks (1917-2000)

Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks was born on June 7, 1917. She was an American poet, author, and teacher, who won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry on May 1, 1950, for *Annie Allen*, *Anne Allen*, second poetry collection, published by Harper & Brothers on August 24, 1949, when she was 32 years old.



blackpast.org

Brooks published her first poem, "Eventide", in a children's magazine, *American Childhood*, when she was 13 years old. By the age of 16, she had already written and published approximately 75 poems. Her poems, many published while she attended Wilson Junior College, ranged in style from traditional ballads and sonnets to poems using blues rhythms in free verse. In her early years, she received commendations on her poetic work and encouragement from James Weldon Johnson, Richard Wright and Langston Hughes. James Weldon Johnson sent her the first critique of her poems when she was only sixteen years old.

During her lifetime, she wrote more than 20 books of poetry. In 1968, she was appointed the Poet Laureate of Illinois, which she held until her death in 2000.

Brooks taught poetry extensively all over the USA and held posts at the University of Chicago, at Chicago State University, Elmhurst College, Columbia University, and the City College of New York.



ABOUT US

THE DRUM is published 6 times annually. Hereafter, we will publish in February, April, June, August, October, & December.

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles herein are written by the Publisher/Editor, Joseph Amprey.

OUR MISSION IS TO CELEBRATE BLACK ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS.

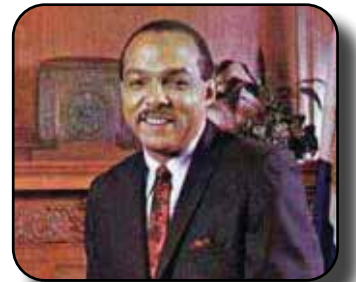
Please call us at 240.729.5293 or email us at readingdrumnewspaper@gmail.com or write to us at **THE DRUM**, P.O. Box 12711, Reading PA, 19612 with topic suggestions.

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www.thedrumnewsonline.com

Carl B. Stokes (1927-1996)



wikipedia.com

Carl Burton Stokes, who was born on June 21, 1927, was an American politician and diplomat of the Democratic Party who served as the 51st mayor of Cleveland, Ohio. He was the first African-American to be elected mayor of a major American city. Moreover, Stokes was elected the first black president of the National League of Cities in 1970.

He earned his bachelor's degree in 1954 from the University of Minnesota. In 1956, he graduated from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and in 1957, was admitted to the Ohio State Bar Association. While studying law, he served as a probation officer. He served as assistant prosecutor for four years, eventually becoming a partner in the law firm of Stokes, Stokes, Character, and Terry, continuing that practice into his political career.

After his mayoral administration, Stokes gave lectures to colleges around the country. In 1972, he became the first black anchorman in New York City after securing a job with WNBC-TV. While at WNBC New York, Stokes won a New York State Regional Emmy for excellence in craft, for a piece about the opening of the Paul Robeson play, starring James Earl Jones on Broadway.

Stokes became a municipal judge in Cleveland in 1983. Subsequently, President Bill Clinton appointed him U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles in 1994.

Stokes received 12 honorary degrees, numerous civic awards, and served as a U.S. representative on numerous goodwill trips abroad by request of the White House.



Give Them Their Accolades Now

⇒ continued from page 1

drafted by the San Antonio Spurs of the NBA. Walker played briefly for the Los Angeles Lakers earning the praise of LeBron James. He is now a member of the Brooklyn Nets of the NBA. Most importantly, he has always been praised for being a gentleman. He has made financial contributions to the building of a basketball court locally at Baer Park.



@Reading Drum Newspaper

"When day comes we step out of the shade / Aflame and unafraid / The new dawn blooms as we free it / For there is always light / If only we're brave enough to see it / If only we're brave enough to be it".

~Amanda Gorman

Soul Papi And Poet Smiley Are Brilliant Poets



Soul Papi

Recently, April 26, 2024, fans of poets of color saw Soul Papi and Poet Smiley perform brilliantly in Reading. They participated in the competition program for the selection of the 10th Poet Laureate of Berks County. This activity was brilliantly produced by Barrio Alegria, a community development organization that utilizes art as a platform for change. Anthony Orozco, the Director of Operations and Communication for Barrio Alegria, and now former Poet Laureate of Berks County, was fantastic as the master of ceremony for the evening.

Poet Smiley, also known as Aries Franklin Ortiz, is African American and Puerto Rican. Based on the enthusiasm of the audience, she was the best poet of the evening. Soul Papi, also known as Juan Zabala, was also most effective. The judges selected Adrian Perez Roman as the new Poet Laureate of Berks County.

See the article, "BERKS COUNTY SELECTS ITS NEW POET LAUREATE, ADRIAN PEREZ ROMAN" on Page 7 for the full coverage of the program.



Poet Smiley



"It's an opportunity to both look back but to look ahead to make sure that that notion of freedom and the fragility of it is always protected and celebrated."

~Lonnie Bunch

AFRICAN AMERICAN *Do you know?*

1. What are the two most popular albums by African American singers?
2. Who is the "super star singer native of Philadelphia," who has written a bestselling cookbook?
3. Who is the first and current African American Democratic US House of Representatives Leader, and what state does he represent?
4. Who is the only black governor of an American State?
5. Who is the African American who invented the traffic light?
6. Where and when was Juneteenth first celebrated?
7. Who was the very successful African American college basketball coach, who had a 97% graduation rate with his players, and where did he coach?
8. Where did Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. earn his degrees?
9. What was Coretta King's profession before she became famous as a civil rights activist?
10. Who was Dr. Martin Luther King's mentor at Morehouse College, who was the internationally famous man who inspired him?

The answers can be found on page 7.



Super Bo & Super Sally:
Episode 17
BLACK SUPER HEROES
Story by Joseph Amprey
Illustrations by Stan Barnes

Ann follows Jamika's advice and decides not to participate in Juni and his gang's plan to carjack the Lamborghini.



Juni points his pistol in the face of the car's owner and says, "Give me your car's key, or I will blow out your brains!"



Suddenly Sally steps in front of Juni and shouts, "Give me your pistol!"



Juni fires his pistol at Sally's chest!



to be continued...

June Is Busting Out All Over!

June is a wonderful month, full of weddings, graduations, and of course, JUNETEENTH! Listed below are the activities planned in Reading. Kudos are in order for the County Commissioners of Berks County: Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair; Michael S. Rivera, Vice Chair; and Dante Santoni, Jr. On December 21, 2023, they made June 19 an official employee paid holiday!



Juneteenth Holiday Celebration
June 14 thru 16, 2024
Planned Program Activities
Facebook page: Juneteenth Reading PA

Month of June - Buy Black Initiative
Support Black Owned Businesses

Friday, June 14th -

- Flag Raising Ceremony** - Time: 12 noon
 - Location City Park Reading,- please bring a lawn chair & water
- Kickoff Reception** - 2 p.m. - Washington Towers, 350 Washington St., Reading, PA; learning opportunity: **Why Do We Celebrate Juneteenth Holiday?**

- Light refreshments
- Announcement of Freedom** - Time: 5 p.m.
 - Location: Washington Towers, 350 Washington St., Reading, PA
 - History of Juneteenth
 - Recognition of Local Unsung Heroes; Personal Juneteenth Experiences - videos
 - Father's Day Raffle
 - Host: Sis. Elta Jackson-Henry, Seventh Day Rehoboth SDA Church

Saturday, June 15th -

- Community Family Barbecue** - Time: 12 noon to 6 p.m.
 - Location: Berks Lodge# 47, 237 Walnut St., Reading, PA.
 - FREE Food & Beverages
 - History of the Haitian Revolution, presented by Alex Civil
 - Black Business History tour* - Wynton Butler, Sr.
 - Resource Information Circle - Dennis Williams
 - Resource Development Center - conversation topics: Entrepreneurs, authors, Journey to becoming, financial literacy GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, Ste 411, 201 Washington St., Reading, PA.
 - Entertainment, games, face painting - Twister & Tug of War contests
 - Artists Demos Glass blowing & Seed Pods - GoggleWorks
 - HBCU/Divine 9 - testimonials*
 - Health screenings - on-site mammography mobile; Tower Health
 - Father's Day Raffle
 - Non-perishable donations being accepted (*food bank or animal shelter*)

Sunday, June 16th -

- Closing Celebration** - First Baptist Church, Wentzel Ave., Temple, PA 19560 - Time: Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
- Father's Day Raffle

For more information please contact:
 juneteenthreadingpa@gmail.com
 Stacey Taylor - 484-769-1020

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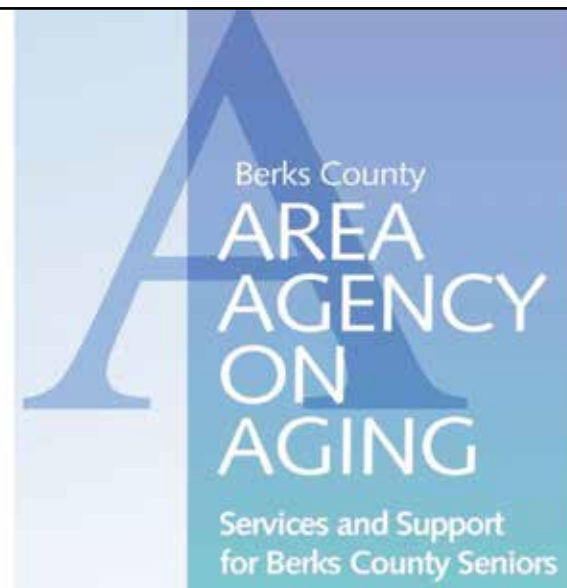
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THE DRUM QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The Question:
WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE POET?

Date: April 26, 2024

Location: CITY HALL, Reading, PA
(Berks County Poet Laureate
Competition Program)

Responses:



Joseph Amprey, Ph.D.:
James Weldon Johnson



Wilma Dean: Maya Angelou



Joy Franklin: Aries Franklin Ortiz

Juneteenth Flag-raising Ceremony



The flag is emblazoned with a star, a callback to the U.S. flag demonstrating Black people are free in all 50 states and a nod to Texas, "The Lone Star State." The star is surrounded by a burst, which represents new opportunities that lie ahead for Black people.

June 14, 2024

12 Noon
City Park Flagpole
11th & Washington Sts.
Reading, Pa 19601

******Please Bring Chairs******

Reception- 2pm-4pm

NO TICKETS REQUIRED
Washington Towers
350 Washington St, Reading, PA 19601

For more information visit the "Juneteenth Reading Pa" Facebook page
Contact us at juneteenthreadingpa@gmail.com or by phone at 484-769-1020

"Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation."

~Coretta Scott King

The strongest, toughest men all have compassion. They're not heartless and cold. You have to be man enough to have compassion — to care about people and about your children.

~ Denzel Washington

Adrian Perez Roman Is The New Poet Laureate Of Berks County



People's Poet Laureate winner Adrian Perez-Roman performs a poem about the duties of fatherhood in front of a packed audience in Reading City Hall. Photo by Robert Bara-Popa, courtesy of Barrio Alegria

On April 26, 2024, more than a hundred poet lovers packed into the Reading City Council chambers in City Hall to see the crowning of Adrian Perez Roman, who is also known as Apita, as the 10th Poet Laureate of Berks County. He is the first Puerto Rican to be so honored. This activity was brilliantly produced by Barrio Alegria, a community development organization that utilizes art as a platform for change. Anthony Orozco, the Director of Operations and Communications for Barrio Alegria was the most effective Master of Ceremony for the evening.

Adrian Perez Roman was one of four finalists who competed for the title. The finalists were selected by a panel of judges who read over written manuscripts, listened to audio files, and watched recorded performances from poets throughout Berks County.

For poetry lovers, it was a wonderful activity, for all four finalists are talented poets. Congratulations are in order for Berks county's new Poet Laureate, Adrian Perez Roman, also known as Apita!

Book Review

Title: *Materia Medica*
Author: Carmen P. Booker
 Reading, PA
 36 Pages; 2024



The author of this book sets forth guidelines for the uses of herbs. Specifically she provides the reader with guidelines for planting and harvesting the plants listed below:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Chamomile | 8. Maca Root |
| 2. Lemon Balm | 9. Burdock Root |
| 3. Sage | 10. Turkey Tail Mushroom |
| 4. Red Sandalwood | 11. Elderberry |
| 5. Cilantro | 12. Dandelion |
| 6. Thyme | 13. Oregano Leaf |
| 7. Sea Moss | 14. Clove |

Moreover, Booker provides the geographical regions where the plants exist as well as locations in Berks County where seeds for the plants can be purchased.

Perhaps, the most enjoyable revelations in the book are the author's sharing her enthusiastic love of plants, of her exploration of plants during her youth and her participation in "seed swap" collection activities at the GoogleWorks Center for the Arts in Reading, PA

Booker also provides the reader with the nutritional and medicinal benefit of the aforementioned plants.

Finally, this book is chock full of beautiful photos of the plants and germination mixture activities.

The author/publisher will make this book available to the public sometime in the near future. She can be reached at 484-797-1434.

Answers to Do You Know

1. The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill by Lauryn Hill and Thriller by Michael Jackson
2. Patti LaBelle
3. Hakeem Jeffries of New York
4. Wes Moore of Maryland
5. Garret Morgan
6. June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas
7. John Thompson coached at Georgetown University.
8. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in sociology at Morehouse College, a Bachelor's Degree at Crozier Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate at the Boston University School of Theology.
9. Singer
10. Dr. Benjamin Mays, the President of Morehouse College while King was a student there, was his mentor, and King was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi.

Answers to Historic Berks County Black Heroes



1. Grace AsBerry Jones
berkshistorymysteries.wordpress.com



2. Harold R. "Piggy" Jackson
kuhnfuneralhome.com



3. Frank Scott
berksjazzfest.com



4. Stu Jackson
sportsbusinessjournal.com



5. Frank Gilyard
rohrbachlibrary.wordpress.com



6. Dr. Ronald Smith
scfreeclinics.org



7. Bessie Reese Crenshaw
kutztown.edu

Why We Need More Male Teachers

By Luis Santos

Courtesy of Rosa J. Parra, Founder of Palo Magazine
palomagazine.com



Male teachers play a crucial role in early childhood education, offering unique perspectives and experiences that enrich the learning environment. Their presence provides children with diverse role models, challenging traditional gender stereotypes and fostering acceptance and understanding from an early age.

Research suggests that male teachers can positively impact children’s academic and social development, particularly for boys who may benefit from male role models in nurturing and educational settings. Moreover, male teachers bring different communication styles and approaches to teaching, enhancing the overall quality of education and promoting inclusivity. Their participation also contributes to a more balanced workforce, reflecting the diversity of society and breaking down barriers to gender equality in the teaching profession.

Additionally, male teachers can offer valuable insights into the experiences and needs of children, helping to tailor teaching strategies and support systems accordingly. Their involvement in early childhood education not only benefits children but also encourages more men to pursue careers in teaching, addressing the prevalent gender imbalance in the field.

Overall, the presence of male teachers in early childhood education is essential for creating inclusive learning environments, nurturing positive relationships, and shaping the future generation with diverse perspectives and experiences.



Rosa J. Parra

This article was originally posted in Palo Magazine in June 2024. Not only do we believe that we need more male teachers, but we understand that more Black male teachers are needed as well.

Luis Santos
PK Teacher at RCELC
Contact: rcelc.com



*Any fool can have a child. That doesn't make you a father.
It's the courage to raise a child that makes you a father.
~Barack Obama*

Just Us

⇒ continued from page 2

fatal dose of ketamine. He was sentenced to probation. The police involved in the incident were cleared and not held accountable, due to their acquittals and outright blame of the medical staff/first responders, however their behaviors and physical restrains played a key role in the injection being fatal. After hours of hearing Tarrah Cooper’s insensitive pleas of not having her husband home to hang the curtains, he was allowed to be home. Whereas, Elijah, is still deceased and a mother is without her child. What about the tears of Black mother’s who lose their children? Their partners? What about the tears for Black women when they too become lost?

With even the dynamics of crime, our victimhood is never enough for others to care enough to make greater changes. A young college beauty was recently killed by an undocumented man and this case has become a driving point for immigration and border control. A driving point for racists to foam at the mouth when it comes to creating fear in order to protect white women from these brown men. Attempts to hold suspected undocumented persons accountable for the heinous crimes of one person. Their desire to shut down borders over one brown man speaks volumes. Whereas young Sade Robinson, went missing and was unfortunately murdered by Maxwell Anderson, a White male she met for a date.

With Anderson’s crimes of murder and dismemberment, do we rush into action and lock up all White men for the actions of one? No. It’s never been to that point for them, but always for us. America has a long and messy history of White male aggression, crimes, and brutalities, but the whole ethnic group is not held accountable, and we as communities deserve the same experience.

I can list the various black women lost to violence and their case simply explained of their own behavior being the reason for their victimhood. The media lacking their desire to cover cases because

she simply does not look media worthy. Black girls are missing and sadly, no one is looking for them.

But there has to be at least one example of the system working, right? Regardless of where you stand, an iconic moment graced the nation with the words “Not Guilty”. That moment was October 3rd, 1995, the day that a Black man won in the game of the system. Color and classism, two major factors that can shift a case. OJ being on trial for the brutal slayings of two White people, beat the case and could afford a dream team, powerhouse collection of attorneys. His trial is still noted as being one of the most iconic moments in true crime history and is credited to being a great divide in the good old USA. Sadly, OJ Simpson recently passed after his battle with cancer. Whether you were a Juice fan or a critic, we can all agree he lived a life of both infamy and fame.

Furthermore, with prison overcrowding, violence against Blacks, and injustice in the courts, it’s a swirl of continued cruelty. Even Black art is on trial. Whether rap music is your thing or not, it is under fire. Young Thug and others associated with his label are currently fighting charges associated with RICO, with the claim that they functioned as a gang. Currently petitions are circulating regarding support of protecting rap music as a means of self-expression. But where does it end?

I could fill these pages with my frustration and observations, experiences, and just simply case studies. But it unfortunately doesn’t soothe our pain. Trying to bring awareness to the cause and the response is mockery. Stay informed, stay awake, and stay safe. HAPPY Juneteenth.



THE DRUM



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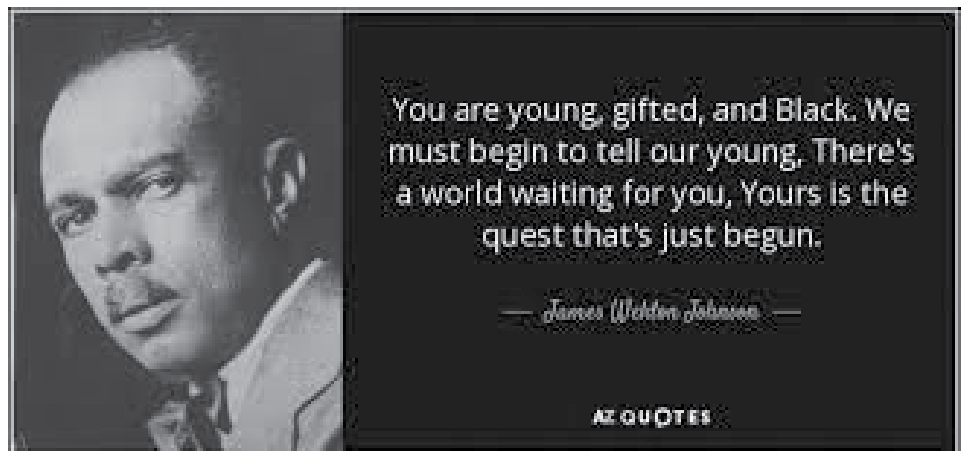
Success is to be measured not
so much by the position
that one has reached in
life as by the obstacles
which he has overcome.

Booker T. Washington



~Barack Obama

“Juneteenth has never been a celebration of victory or an acceptance of the way things are. It’s a celebration of progress. It’s an affirmation that despite the most painful parts of our history, change is possible— and there is still so much work to do”.





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THE DRUM is published 6 times annually.

We publish in February, April, June, August, October, & December.

OUR MISSION IS TO CELEBRATE BLACK ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS.

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THE DRUM, P.O. Box 12711, Reading PA, 19612 with topic suggestions.

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Rev. J.L. Grant, Pastor

CHURCH OF DELIVERANCE
1326 N 10th St. Reading, PA 19604
610.741.9780
Pastor: Rev. J.L. Grant

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Weekly Prayer Line:
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm



Pastor Jack Williams

FIRST CENTURY WORSHIP CENTER
234 S 11th Street, Reading, PA 19602
610.372.8004
Pastor: Pastor Jack Williams

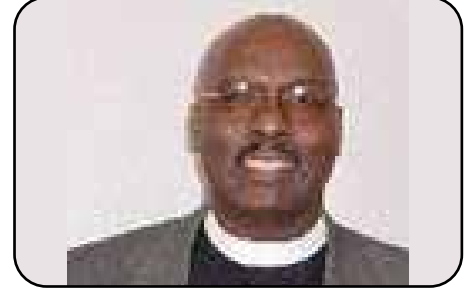
Service Times:
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Prayer: Tuesday - 6 p.m. (Conf. call)
Bible Study: Thursday - 6 p.m.



Apostle Edna Lewis

GOD'S WORSHIP & PRAISE TEMPLE OF SPIRIT & TRUTH MINISTRIES INC.
459 Schuylkill Ave. Reading, PA 19601
610.376.4383 or 610.376.1849
Pastor: Apostle Edna Lewis

Services Times:
Sunday Worship: 11:30 am



Bishop Brookins

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OF GOD
130 W. Buttonwood Street, Reading, PA 19601
610.374.0790
Pastor: Bishop Robert E. Brookins

Sunday Service Times:
Early Morning Worship: 8:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:15 am
(Holy Communion every 1st Sunday)



ISLAMIC CENTER OF READING
18 S. Noble St, Reading, PA 19611
610.478.1338

Service Times:
Religious Talk every Friday at 1 pm



Pastor Bell

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
621 Church St., Reading, PA 19601
610.914.9069
Pastor: Pastor Jeffery D. Bell

Service Times:
Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Bible Study: Wednesday - 7 p.m.



Pastor Kelly

REHOBOTH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
1501 Snyder St., Reading, PA 19601
Pastor: Pastor Dorian Kelly

Rehoboth's church services are exclusively **Virtual** for now. Join via YouTube at www.rehobothsdachurch.org or join via Zoom on Saturdays.



Pastor Alicia Snead

WASHINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
715 N 10th St., Reading, PA 19604
610.375.3469
Pastor: Pastor Alicia Snead

Service Times:
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am



Reverend Dr. Alick

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
224 Washington St., Reading, PA 19601
610.376.5944
Pastor: Reverend Dr. Bruce Alick

Service Times:
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study: Tuesday - 11 a.m. and Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.



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*Praying is to the Soul
what breathing is to the Body*

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~Martin Luther King, Jr.