

# MICHIGAN BULLETIN

Celebrating 25 Years

Vol. XXVI No. 14

August 16-31, 2020



## BLACK BUSINESS MONTH



### R.I.P. James Butler 1943-2020



### R.I.P. CT Vivian 1924-2020



### Drive By 80th Birthday For Barbara!



On Saturday August 8th, Barbara Roberts-Mason , (Center) was given a surprise drive by birthday party a Trinity AME Church. Also pictured Delta Township Trustee Fonda Brewer, Lt. and Michigan Bulletin Publisher Marcus Jefferson, Rt.

Black Business Month is a 31-day celebration that shines a light on Black-owned companies, is finally here! Founders John William Templeton and Frederick E. Jordan Sr. started the national holiday back in 2004 "to drive the policy agenda affecting the 2.6 million African American businesses," according to the official website. But there are so many ways to join in on the festivities, from mentoring up-and-coming entrepreneurs to shopping from the Black businesses in your community. If you do grab something from one of these brands, make sure you post it on social media with the hashtag #NationalBlackBusinessMonth to help keep the momentum going. Black buying power currently stands at over \$1.3 trillion and is on the road to hit about \$1.5 trillion by 2021. This collective buying power means that nearly \$2 trillion will be flowing through black America annually very soon, making us the centerpiece for various researchers, marketers, advertisers, and other campaigns designed to influence black spending patterns. But the question is, with so much buying power, can we as African Americans influence and direct said spending ourselves? Do we have the power directly, indirectly, and strategically to determine where that money flows and if so, could directing that flow help rebuild the black community?

**Road to More Buying Power and Influence**  
The data comes from a recent Nielsen study that also reports that African American house-

holds earning \$75,000 or more per year are a fast-growing segment that will have more influence going forward than ever before. Within the next 45 years, by around 2060, black America might be represented by 75 million in the U.S., holding about 20% of the U.S. population. In terms of black-owned businesses, that number sits anywhere from 2.5 million to 3 million enterprises and is projected to grow in larger numbers going forward. All of this data points to the trend that African Americans will be very important contributors to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) along with the creation and sustainability of U.S. jobs.

**Myth of the "Six Hour Black Dollar"**  
While black spending power increases, how that money is best put to use to rebuild the black community is always in question. For example, there has been a lot of informal discussion about how long a dollar remains in the black community. Some claims have been a dollar lasts no longer from one to six hours before it leaves. While such information has been widely circulated, analyzed, and discussed, researchers from Howard University have looked into the claims and could not properly substantiate the statistics. Howard University analyzed credible data and research tracking sources, such as The Federal Reserve, Bureau of Labor Statistics, SBA, and even other reports from Nielsen, and none of these sources track how often

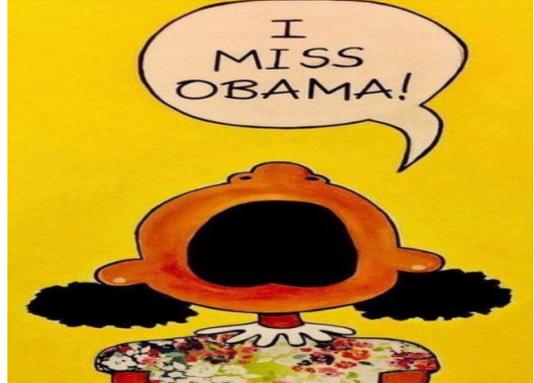
money circulates within a particular community. There are suggestions that the rumors of the quickly-circulating black dollar originated in the book, *Talking Dollars and Making Sense: A Wealth Building Guide for African-Americans.* Howard University reports that they reached out to the book's author, Brooke Stephens, for further comment and she was unable to provide where she obtained her information other than citing a six-month study of which she could not actually provide. Yet, there is hard research being done on the issue of how the vast spending power of African Americans can be used to help communities of color. The Empowerment Experiment was conducted as a research project via a foundation set up by a black, middle-class Chicago couple, who partnered with Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management's Levy Entrepreneurship Center for the study. The Empowerment Experiment shed great insight into economic trends of black people. For example, it showed that less than around 3% of the current black buying power is spent in black-owned enterprises and if black America were to redirect just about 10% of total black spending to black-owned enterprises, that could translate into the creation of about 1 million jobs centered around communities of color. Article by John Tucker of Black Enterprise Magazine.

### Illegal pyramid schemes are on the rise during the pandemic

A chain-mail solicitation by any other name, 'blessing loom' or 'sou-sou,' is against the law, officials say. Eliza Briscoe was told that all she had to do was put up \$500 and bring in two additional people who would each contribute the same amount of money. In a little more than four weeks, she would get \$4,000 in return. Like so many others being recruited for a "sou-sou," Briscoe was nearly duped into a pyramid scheme. It's hard not to be sold on the altruistic and cultural backstory of the sou-sou, also known as "Susu," "blessing loom" or "gifting circle." Promoters pitch the sou-sou as a common practice among Caribbean and African immigrants as a way to help their businesses grow. Briscoe was told she would be helping other Black folks, some of whom may have lost their jobs because of the [coronavirus](#). "It seemed like it was legal," said the Maryland resident, who reached out to me as part of her due diligence research. "I didn't want to bring anybody in unless I knew for sure, because I didn't want anybody to lose their money."

**[Some black promoters of illegal pyramid schemes are using the Black Lives Matter movement to justify 'sou-sou' scams]**  
For the past several weeks, members of my church, friends, neighbors and readers have asked me about the legitimacy of a "sou-sou" or similar schemes, in which they are promised that if they put up \$100 in some cases, or \$500 in others, in a month or two they would get a return eight times their cash outlay. But despite assurances by promoters, these blessing, sou-sou, or gifting circles are illegal. The hallmark of an unlawful pyramid centers on two key things: an upfront entry fee with the expectation of a significant payout and the requirement to persuade two other people to join, who then must also bring in two more recruits. Eventually, the whole enterprise collapses, and the last folks coming in — the wide base of the pyramid — lose their money. In the recruitment videos and materials I reviewed, promoters are specifically targeting Black participants, but it's widespread in other communities, too. Personal, church or work relationships are exploited. The schemes involved different groups composed of 15 people divided into four levels: one at the top or center, two on a second level, four on the third, and eight at the bottom. In one version, the incoming eight participants each send \$500 — \$4,000 total — to the person at the top through PayPal, Venmo or some other cash app. The sou-sou can appear to be a success because early participants share testimonies of their substantial gains. Weekly conference calls serve to rally people with motivational presentations about how their involvement will help build wealth in the Black community. "Just don't do it," Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh said in an interview. "Think about it. How is it possible for everybody to get \$4,000? It is a crime to be part of this and soliciting people for it. It also means that you're putting your friends and family members at risk. There are way more victims than winners in these pyramid schemes."

**[Structural racism helps schemers attract Blacks to fake 'sou-sou' scams]**  
Frosh said his office has seen an uptick in pyramid schemes as the pandemic has resulted in massive job losses. [The Better Business Bureau](#), the [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#) and many other [state attorneys general](#) have issued consumer alerts. Article by Michelle Singletary of the Washington Post



# News, Views & Commentary

## TAKING CARE OF YOUR HEALTH IN TIMES OF CRISIS

By Tameko Richard

It's a well-known fact: COVID-19 is a health threat for everyone. So, what if this was the time to take even better care of your health?...

The COVID-19 crisis has upset the routine and habits of many people. While many must stay at home, others must work even harder to deal with this exceptional situation and to limit its consequences.

Beyond the risk of coronavirus contamination, this crisis can, to a certain extent, threaten the way we effectively manage our health. What if this was the perfect opportunity to review our lifestyle and to improve it? Whether we spend our days at work or at home, we can all make our health a priority to prevent it from deteriorating.

Here are a few tips to help you take good care of your health (and your immune system) during the COVID-19 crisis.

### Eat healthy.

Follow the recommendations of USDA ChooseMyPlate

Don't snack out of boredom. Keep healthy snacks at hand to alleviate cravings (raw vegetables, fresh fruit, nuts, yogurt or low-fat cheese, etc.).

Watch your portion sizes. When you have a lot of time on your hands, it's easy to eat too much and risk gaining weight.

Chew your food well and rediscover the pleasure of eating slowly. This helps you to eat less and to maintain a healthy weight.

Eat together as a family whenever possible.

If you work long hours, set aside some time to eat well.

Discover healthy new recipes.



Tameko Richard

### Stay physically active.

If you must work a lot during the crisis, set aside some time to exercise too. This will really help to maintain your physical and mental health.

If you are at home, add a daily physical activity to your schedule.

Reconnect with a sport that you haven't done in a while (walking, jogging, cycling, etc.).

Take advantage of the return of mild weather to enjoy outdoor activities. In addition to keeping active, this will help to oxygenate your body.

Consider purchasing equipment to exercise indoors (treadmill, stationary bicycle, etc.).

### Establish a sleep routine.

Whether you are at home or at work during the crisis, give yourself quality sleep

If you work from home or are off work and feel like it, you can take naps. Make sure they don't exceed 90 minutes, and take them before 3:00 p.m., so they don't interfere with your nighttime sleep.

Try to go to bed and to get up at about the same time every day.

Review your bedtime routine.

Reduce electronic device use, caffeine, alcohol and professional activities, or any other stimulating activities at least two hours before you go to bed.

Choose relaxing activities like reading, meditating, listening to soft music, taking a bath, doing a puzzle, etc.

### Quit smoking.

If you are confined to your home, take this opportunity to quit

Use an anti-smoking aid to increase your chances of success.

Find activities that can help you to better manage your tobacco cravings: go for a walk, knit, read, do some Sudoku, drink a glass of fresh lemonade, etc.

Speak to your pharmacist who can help you through this process. Among other things, a pharmacist can prescribe nicotine replacement therapy (e.g., gum, lozenges, patch, inhaler or spray).

### Take care of your mental health daily

Learn to better manage stress

Live in the moment ("in the here and now"). Don't dwell on the past and don't project yourself in the future. Avoid brooding and anticipation.

Provide daily acts of kindness (taking care of others). A kind thought or attention, a small gift, a pleasant surprise, a meal lovingly prepared, etc. It has been scientifically proven that taking care of others promotes mental health.

Take an interest in coronavirus-related news, but limit exposure time to the subject. Stick to reliable sources of information and take an interest in other subjects that are more positive.

### Limit the use of electronic devices. Discover new horizons!

Focus on creativity and learning. Do you like to draw, paint, do crafts, play music or write? Would you like to learn a new language or play a musical instrument? Take advantage of this downtime to nourish your brain in a positive way.

## MSU's Season Over Before It Started

By Ernie Boone

EAST LANSING - Michigan State University football followers had their greatest fears confirmed here Tuesday, August 11 as the Big Ten Conference announced the cancellation of fall sports competition bringing an end to the Spartans' 2020 football season before it could begin.

Plenty of enthusiasm dampened by an equal dose of uncertainty marked the first Spartan practice held under new head coach, Mel Tucker Friday, August 7. Those high spirits were quickly dashed by Tuesday's news.

The conference left the door open to a possible competition in the spring, however:

"The Big Ten Conference will continue to evaluate a number of options regarding these sports (men and women's cross country, field hockey, football, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball), including the possibility of competition in the spring," the conference statement read. "Decisions regarding winter and spring sports will also continue to be evaluated," the statement continued.

"I know how disappointed the whole Spartan community is over the cancellation of fall sports," said Michigan State University president, Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D in a statement issued that afternoon. "We have amazing student athletes and fans at Michigan State University and this news is hard for many people. But safety remains our top priority, and we are still focused on creating a safe environment in which our university's mission can continue. We are committed to ensuring our students have a successful academic year."

Although clearly disappointed, Tucker took the news in stride and expressed pride in the way Spartan players, their families and coaches are responding.

"The uncertainties caused by COVID - 19 have created enormous stress for our players and their families," Tucker said. "I am proud of their resilience. Our coaches and staff will continue to support their drive, dreams and decisions."

"While the conclusion to postpone the season is not easy for anyone, based on the medical recommendations, I respect the decision of the Big Ten Conference."

Tucker had been excited and pleased with his first official practice at the helm of the MSU football program.

"First day was great," Tucker said, a big smile on his face afterward. "It felt good to be out here with the players and all the coaches. Really good enthusiasm, guys were really into it."

"I thought we got a lot of work done and we had really good tempo. I'm excited to see the film."

The Spartans were scheduled to open the season September 5 at home against Minnesota as indicated by the revised 10-game, conference opponents only slate announced by the Big Ten just a week before pulling the plug. The schedule included five home contests with the Gophers, Northwestern, Ohio State, Rutgers and Indiana visiting Spartan Stadium, and trips to Maryland, Penn State, Michigan, Iowa and Nebraska.

Tucker expressed feelings of pride and good fortune in having been given the opportunity to head the MSU program and noted that his charges looked quick and seemed to know what to do as they whipped through their drills despite having had no spring practice and limited summer workouts due to COVID-19.



Mel Tucker, Photo courtesy msuspartans.com

## POETREE-N-MOTION



The TV Talk Show highlighting and promoting OUR community...with your host, Dee Freeman Watch PNM...  
Airs in Lansing on Comcast channel 16...  
Wednesday at 6:00 PM and Friday at 4:30 PM

Airs in East Lansing on Comcast channel 30...  
Daily at 9:30 AM, 4:30PM and 6:30PM

Come share information on your function or activity. POETREE N Motion is happy to assist in the promotion of your positive activities within our community.

## POETREE-N-MOTION

Provides: MESSAGES of blessings and inspiration

GUESTS sharing life and education

WORD'S of powerful motivation

And EDITORIALS for deep concentration

## POETREE-N-MOTION

## 'TIS OF THEE, I SING!

Dee Freeman ©

I give my sincere honor and support to us...

The millions of people marching fearlessly for justice!

Marcus Garvey said it best..."LOOK UP, YOU MIGHTY RACE"

Spoken years ago, the philosophy still holds true today.

Our responsibility to the black and brown man is today... Paramount!

The duty to search for equality and justice, today, is Paramount!

So, my beloved people... 'Tis of thee, I sing!

I feel a new NORMAL is slowly happening!

The author of freedom and encompassing liberty,

I fear, left an enormous task done, only partially.

I join the Rocks, the Mountains, the Hills, and the Plains...

Speaking out. Speaking truth to power in the Almighty's name.

We've moiled and toiled over the years

We've shed blood and we've shed tears.

Now we Launch a different approach, being strong

For the time for making a change has now come along.

We must continue our demands...

We must continue our stand...

We must continue our marches and protests.

We must continue our show of unity...

We must continue our unified boldness!

'Tis of thee I sing! So, we must now Rise Up!

Brothers and sisters..shoulder to shoulder!

We must now SPEAK UP! Bolder and bolder!

We must now March...against much resistance.

We must now, Press forward with much persistence.

We must now, Look up...gathering universal might.

We must now, Build up...momentum to long endure the fight.

'Tis of thee I sing!

My song is of a true colorless freedom.

A sound of beauty, please come hum along.

I sing our truths to awaken the breeze..

Gusting to blast resistance to its knees.

I sing of an ultimate emancipation...

To full citizenship status of a nation....

To eliminating economic starvation...

Eliminating any and all class delineation

'Tis of thee I sing!... My people.

I sing of your boldness and beauty.

I sing of your brotherhood and unity,

I sing of your unquestionable pride

'Tis of thee I sing! Whilst STAND-ING...HOPING,

SPEAKING...and proudly MARCH-ING....By your side

POETREE-N-MOTION

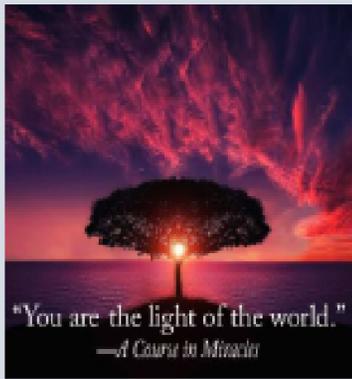


Paston/Chaplain Pamela June (Pj) Anderson, DMin.  
 Lt. Commander (RET) USN Chaplain Corps  
 TFAM National Veteran's Support Chaplain  
 Certified Peer Support Specialist



NOW, TODAY, IS THE DAY OF HOLY SPIRIT GRACE, WISDOM, AND AWARENESS. BE STILL AND LISTEN TO HEAR HER VOICE

Everything was created through him [Word/Voice/Christ]; nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out. John 1:3-4 The Message



"DEAR GOD, Harriot Tubman, the Black Moses of her day, was asked, "how many slaves did you free?" Reportedly, she said: "I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves." Could something similar be said of the thousands who are dying from COVID-19? Could it be said, "thousands more would be saved from death if they knew that they came into existence as the Life-Light to live by?"

I needed to hear from God today. I need to hear from God every day to counter the dark reports coming from the news. Dark stories like "1,000 killed per day by COVID-19." "White Trash Bash Draws Hundreds As Coronavirus Cases Rise." "East Lansing Bar shut down after nearly 200 persons contracted COVID-19." And, still, some are parroting top leadership who resist wearing a mask and seems to make casual reference to Coronavirus related deaths. These are attributes of too many people living in a world of darkness.

Are you among them? Do you desire to come out of the night and into the Light?

2nd Corinthians 4:4 alerts us that: "The god of this age – power, privilege, position, money, things – has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, the image of God." Conversely, believers in the Light of the Good News, are the bearers of the Life and Light of God.

Many of us learned as children, "this little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine?" When we sing that song, we are announcing to ourselves, our Christ, and the world that we are the vessels through which the Light shines, and the darkness can not put out the Light. Fellow Disciples, when we let our light shine, we are the antidote for darkness.

Please join us for TRIUMPHANT THURSDAYS with Chaplain Pj, 8:30-9:30 pm EST and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/sfowithoutwalls/>



*Celebration*  
*Announcements*

By Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration

**Birthdays in August 2020** Call 517-391-4849 or email: [mrpartycserv@aol.com](mailto:mrpartycserv@aol.com)

- Mr. Dylan Visnaw Ebright August 1<sup>st</sup>, with Family and friends.
- Mr. Bill Brown celebrates his birthday in August 1<sup>st</sup>, with family and friends.
- Mr. John Wallick III celebrates his birthday on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mr. Bryan Gruesbeck celebrates his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Ms. Chemaye Herring celebrates her birthday on August 1<sup>st</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Chantel J. Cole celebrates her birthday on August 1<sup>st</sup>, with family and friends. Mr. Zion D. Bodiford celebrates his birthday on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Ms. Barbara Roberts-Mason celebrates her birthday on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ms. Quintina Davis-Hall celebrates her birthday on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mr. Willy Binson celebrates his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Kiristi Kirkpatrick celebrates her 47<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, with family and friends.
- Mr. Mike Ranke celebrates his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ms. Quintina Davis-Hall celebrates her birthday on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mrs. Stacy Ebright celebrates her birthday on August 3<sup>rd</sup> with husband and family.
- Ms. Meeka Wade celebrates her 39<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Ms. Jocelyn Starr celebrates her birthday on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Reverend David Foreman celebrates his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mrs. Jill Clark-Hicks celebrates her birthday on August 4<sup>th</sup>, with husband, family and friends.
- Mr. Scotty Kniffen celebrates his birthday on August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Pinkie Prizer celebrates her 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday on August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Phillip Lewis celebrates his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Amy Yoder celebrates her 47<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 4<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Monica Cranberry celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 4<sup>th</sup>, with love from family and friends. "God Bless, Lea."
- Ms. Sharon McWilliams celebrates her birthday on August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Marjorie Smith celebrates her birthday on August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Anthony Benson celebrates his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Juan Gonzales, Jr. celebrates his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Mark A. Majors celebrates his birthday on August 5<sup>th</sup>, with love from family and friends.
- Mr. Ali Jamal Kelley (Mr. Thin) would have celebrated his birthday on August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Johnny A. Williford celebrates his birthday on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Dennis Duane Gibbons celebrates his birthday on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Marva Yarrell celebrates her birthday on August 7<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Mr. Caleb Herring celebrates his birthday on August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Melissa Kane celebrates her birthday August 7<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Karen Fowler celebrates her birthday on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Yvette Baldwin celebrates her birthday August 8<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Candy Pahl celebrates her birthday on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Lexie Leek and her dad, Mr. Leonord Leek celebrate their birthdays in August.
- Ms. Michelle Thomas celebrates her birthday on August 9<sup>th</sup>. She said, "GOD is GOOD; Blessed me to see another year of HIS Wonderful Blessings!"
- Ms. Babbette Smith-Small celebrates her birthday on August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Latitia Beuker celebrates her birthday on August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. William Humphreys celebrates his birthday on August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Big Mike Bragg celebrates his birthday on August 9<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Alice Brown, my Sister, enjoys her birthday on August 10<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Mrs. Cora A. Watts celebrates her birthday on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Sharon Courtland celebrates her birthday on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Kedrick Watkins, Jr. celebrates his birthday on August 10<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Ebony Shenelle celebrates her 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Serena Foran celebrates her birthday on August 11<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Cynthia Williams celebrates her birthday August 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Phyllis Walker celebrates her birthday on August 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Shamecka Freeman celebrates her 44<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 11<sup>th</sup>. She said, "Gift of Life, another year!"
- Mr. Marcus Jefferson celebrates his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 12<sup>th</sup>, with his family.
- Mr. Dewey Morgan celebrates his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 12<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends. Mom (Tara) says, "You, my Baby still!"
- Kier E. Maxwell celebrates birth on August 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Danny Buchanan celebrates his birthday on August 12<sup>th</sup>, doing what he do; "say Yea"
- Ms. Doris Graves will celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 12<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Denise Fulle celebrates her birthday on August 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Kim Dikker celebrates her 48<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Sandra Carlo and Brianna Clay, Grandmother and Granddaughter, will celebrate their birthdays on August 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Portia Civils celebrates her 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday, remembering her Mother, also born on August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Judith A Hightower celebrates her birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Ravel Bodiford celebrates his birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Jason R. Bishop celebrates his birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Rev. Versey A. Williams celebrates her birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>. GOD Be Praised!!!
- Ms. Christina Johnson celebrates her birthday August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Taylor S. Chavis celebrates her birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Aimee Vick celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Darelyn Sudduth celebrates her birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Denise Brooks celebrates her birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Dakita Bonds celebrates her birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Justin R. Jones II celebrates his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Janice Cabule celebrates her birthday on August 15<sup>th</sup>, with Husband Ernie, Blessed healing from virus, family and friends.
- Ms. Barbara J. Simmons celebrates her birthday on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Bennie Barnes celebrates his birthday on August 15<sup>th</sup>, with family and friends.
- Ms. Courtney (Cookie) McIntosh celebrates her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Shirley Borner celebrates her 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Anniversaries**

- Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Flora Boles celebrate their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. "GOD has blessed our union for 46 years!!!"
- Mr. & Mrs. Ollie and Kim Wilkie celebrate their 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Mr. & Mrs. James and Sonya Carter celebrate their 23<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. & Mrs. Samuel and Minnie Austin celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

**\* R.I.P.**  
 Mrs. Georgia Lee Brown, 100+ yrs; July 24, 2013: Wife of Mr. Robert Brown Sr., Mother of nine Children; of which, I'm the youngest! Lansing Mother of the Year (1953), Truly, "The Substance of a Women", this beautiful, distinguished Lady used her strong Christian Values and Faith to work tirelessly in support of The Lansing Community for more than 80 years, to improving the lives of youth, Strengthening family; using her GOD Given ability to talk to people and comfort them. Volunteer service: Trinity A.M.E. Church (75yrs.), Sunday School Teacher, (beginner class)/Nursery attendant (50yrs.) Parent Teacher Assoc., (National Honorary Membership Life Award), YMCA/YWCA youth programs, president: Y Boy's Mother's Club Girl Scout Leader, Cub Scout Den Mother, Lansing School Board regular attendee with reserved chair (her name on it) and Board Meeting Room named in her honor: her opinion mattered! Most important, she was our Dad's wife and our Mother: teaching us "How to Love, so that we would know how to Live!" I thank GOD for my Mother and Dad, my Sisters and Brothers: Everything I am, "The Substance of a Man", is because They Loved me!!! "To the Greatest Mother on Earth" Luther Wm. Brown Sr.

**LATOSHIA BARUTI, FNP-BC**  
 Administrator  
 517.574.2401

2055 Perrine Road  
 Rives Junction, MI 49277

517.574.2401  
 888.348.4240 (Fax)

ibaruti@wellnessmi.com  
[www.creeksideresidentialcare.com](http://www.creeksideresidentialcare.com)

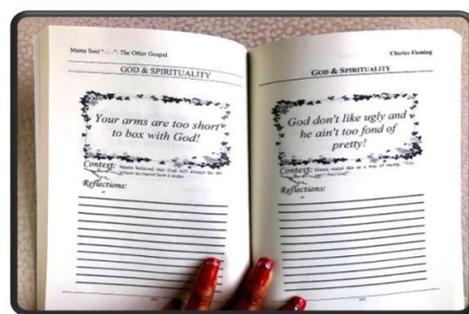
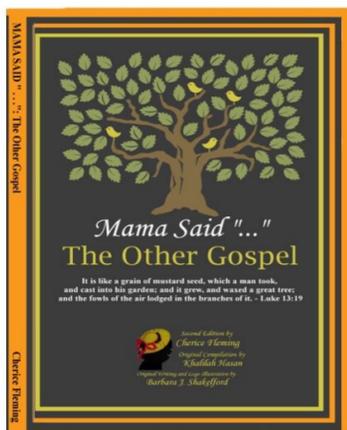
SPECIALIZING IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
 PRADER - WILLI SYNDROME  
 GENETIC CONDITIONS & HIGH MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL NEEDS

**MOTHER FLORENCE LATHAM** is turning 102!  
 COME! LET'S ALL HELP HER CELEBRATE  
 BEEP, HONK, WAVE, HOLLER, CHEER **IT'S A**  
**DRIVE BY BIRTHDAY PARADE!**

**Note: The PARADE is a Saturday, August 22, 2020**  
 surprise for Mother Latham Drive by Between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm

UNION MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
 500 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
 Lansing MI 48915

**AT TIMES LIKE THESE,  
 WE NEED WISDOM OF THE AGES!  
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150 Pages of Mama's Gospel

## Mayor's Racial Justice and Equity Alliance

The Mayor's Racial Justice and Equity Alliance (MRJEA) will examine policies, practices and biases to gain a deeper understanding of how to eradicate violence and racism in Lansing through systematic fair treatment of all. Tapping into their operational roles, collective expertise and lived experiences, the MRJEA will contribute to the development of community-inspired police Use of Force policies and will also develop a community-inspired Racial Justice and Equity Plan. The scope of the plan will be done in three phases: 1. Research and Community Input 2. Revise Use of Force Policies and Develop a Racial Justice and Equity Plan and 3. Establishment of a Long-term Plan.

The Alliance Executive Leadership Team includes Mayor Andy Schor, Co-Chair and Human Relations and Community Services Director, Kimberly Coleman, Co-Chair and Police Chief Daryl Green, Ph.D., and Expert Consultant, Teresa A. Bingman, Esq. The Alliance will also have a Steering Committee, an Advisory Committee and Work Group.

Members of the MRJEA Advisory Committee are Lural Baltimore, Elizabeth Battiste, Berton Brown, Melik Brown, Delsa Chapman, Dale Copedge, Susan Cranco, Bryan Crenshaw, Elissa Crumley, Paula Cunningham, Pamela Davies, Gregory Eaton, Joel Ferguson, Joe Graves, Adam Hussain, Stanley Jenkins, Calvin Jones, Melvin T. Jones, Alane Laws-Barker, Olivia Letts, Tim Lloyd, Lorenzo Lopez, Angela Mathews, David Maxwell, Michael McKissic, Bill Reed, Jonathan Rosewood, Carrie Rosingana, Alfred P. Singleton, II, LeKeeya Tucker, Carmen Turner, Linda Vail, Willard Walker and Randy Watkins.

To participate in a community survey, register for virtual community input meetings and to read the full plan, visit [www.lansingmi.gov/MRJEA](http://www.lansingmi.gov/MRJEA).



## COMMUNITY INPUT SERIES

Thursday, August 20th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

TOPIC: RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Zoom details to be posted at [lansingmi.gov/MRJEA](http://lansingmi.gov/MRJEA)

Take the MRJEA Community Input Survey  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZPVGC7>

**This is an information gathering process:**  
 Your views are needed and makes a difference.

**This is an inclusive process:**  
 We strongly encourage the support of the community.

**This is a diverse process:**  
 We would like to have input from all ethnicities.

**This is an equity process:**  
 Our goal is to ensure access, fairness and justice.

**This is not a voiceless process:**  
 You are important and your voice is valued.

**This is a community engagement process:**  
 Without your voice, the plan will not be achievable.

**This is a transparent process:**  
 Sharing of the progress and information for feedback.

**This is an ongoing process:**  
 Continuous training/education is key.

HUMAN RELATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
 (517) 483-4477 | [MRJEA@lansingmi.gov](mailto:MRJEA@lansingmi.gov)

\*Contact HRCS to request a physical survey via mail.



## IF THIS IS UNCOMFORTABLE... IMAGINE THIS.

Wearing a mask, washing your hands and social distancing helps protect everyone from COVID-19. By not wearing a mask, you could now be fined or denied entry to public places.

So mask up, Michigan. Together we can slow down COVID-19.

Learn more at [Michigan.gov/MaskUp](http://Michigan.gov/MaskUp).

