



THE NEW

# MICHIGAN BULLETIN

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Vol XXIX 2

FEBRUARY 16-28, 2023

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### THE 411

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

“Jazz at the Lincoln Center, Songs We Love” 7:30 Cobb Great Hall for ticket information call 1-800-WHARTON.

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

“Professors of Jazz Perform the Music of Thelonious Monk” 8:00pm Murray information call MSU College of Music at 517-353-5340

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

“Black Violin, The Violin Experience” Cobb Great Hall for ticket information call 1-800-WHARTON.

MARCH 12, 2023

“Karaoke Kickback One Year Anniversary” at Urban Beat 6:30pm-11:59pm 1213 Turner Street for more info call 517-331-8440

MARCH 18, 2023

“Ritmo Project” at Urban Beat 8:00pm-11:00pm 1213 Turner Street for more info call 517-331-8440

MARCH 14-19, 2023

“Beetlejuice” Cobb Great Hall for times and ticket information call 1-800-WHARTON.

MARCH 25, 2023

“Imani Winds World Premier” Cobb Great Hall 8:00pm for ticket info call 1-800-WHARTON.

MARCH 30, 2023

“Upbeat Thursdays, Anthony Taylor Trio” 7:00-10:00pm Urban Beat 1213 Turner Street for more information call 517-517-331-8440

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Elijah McCoy

Black Hero Essay Competition

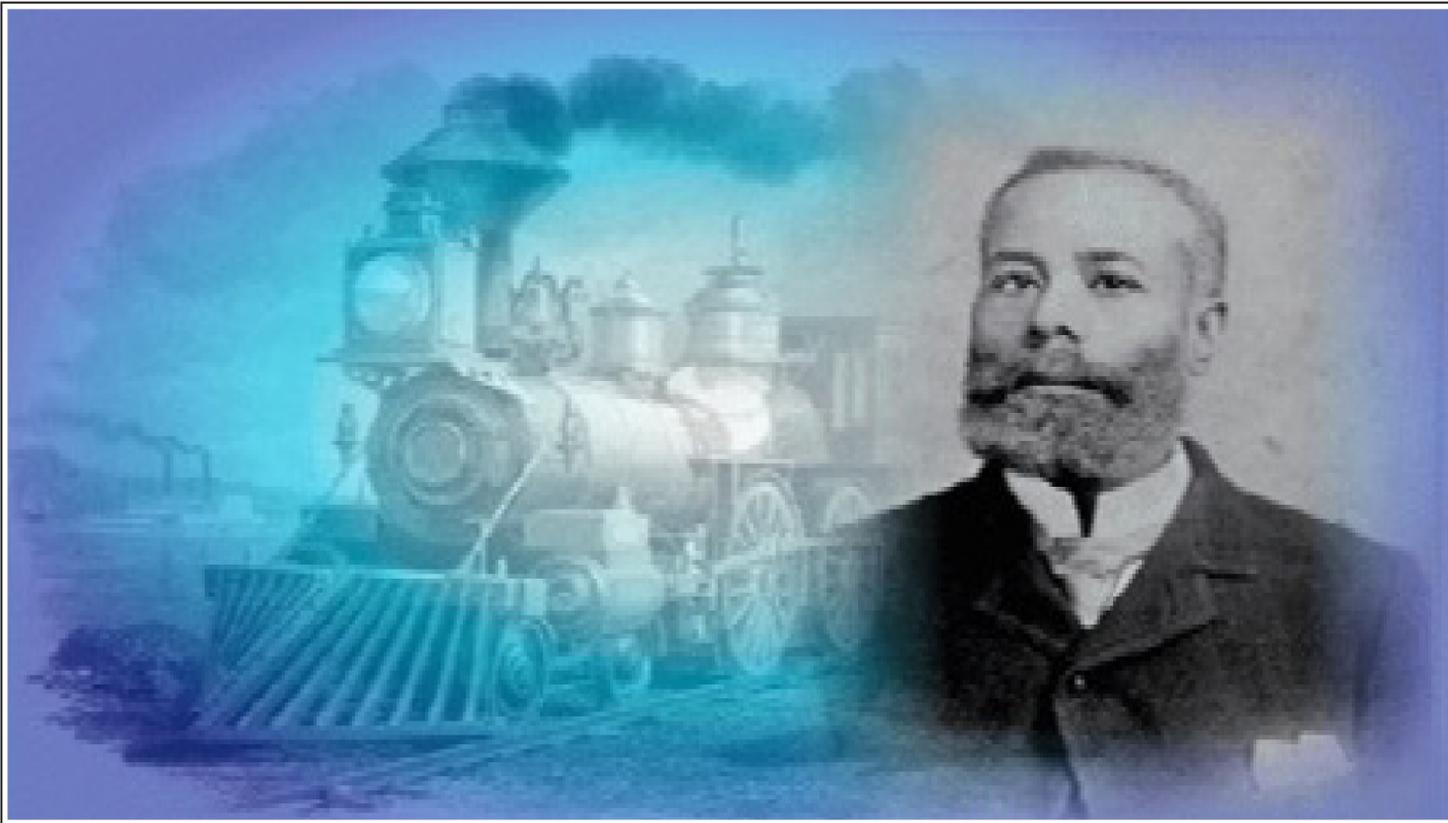
Mr Party's Birthday

Tribute to Donald-Sturdivant

Lillian Lee

Cannabis Corner

Tribute to Kobe Bryant



## Elijah McCoy, the Man that Gave Michigan the Jump on the Industrial Revolution

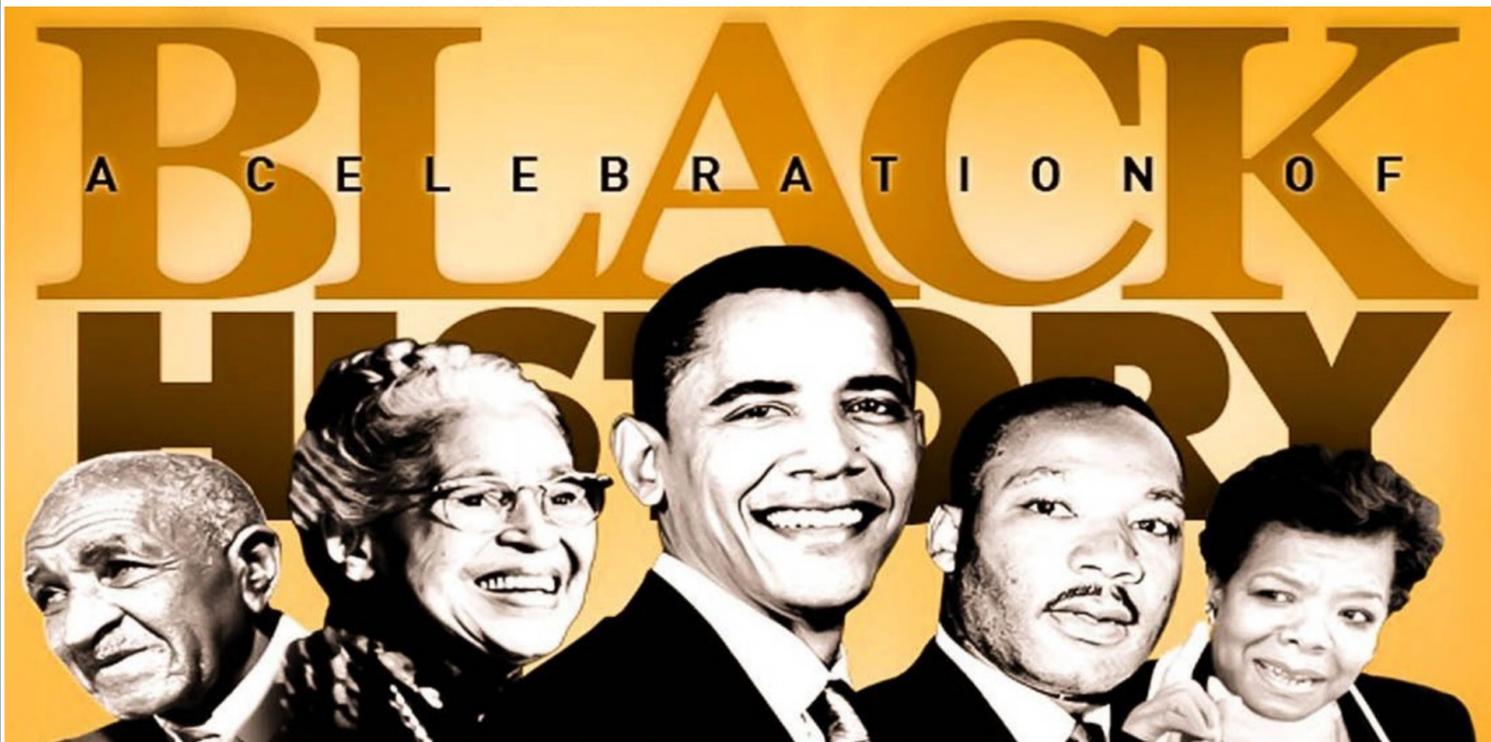
McCoy may be a mystery to most people, the scale of his ingenuity and the quality of his creations have created a level of distinction which bears his name. Elijah McCoy was born in Colchester, Ontario, Canada on May 2, 1844. His mother and father were George and Emillia McCoy, former slaves from Kentucky who ran away by using the Underground Railroad. George joined the Canadian Army, fighting in the Rebel War and then raised his family as free Canadian residents on a 160-acre homestead. At an early age, Elijah demonstrated a mechanical interest, often taking items apart and putting them back together again. Recognizing his keen skills, George and Emillia reserved enough money to send Elijah to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he could study mechanical engineering. Subsequent to finishing his studies as a “master mechanic and

engineer” he came back to the United States which had just seen the end of the Civil War – and the beginning of the “Emancipation Proclamation.” Elijah relocated to Ypsilanti, Michigan but was incapable to obtain work as an engineer. He was thus pressed to accept a position as a fireman\ oilman on the Michigan Central Railroad. As a fireman, McCoy was trusted for shoveling coal onto fires that would help to give off steam that motorized the locomotive. As an oilman, Elijah was trusted for making sure that the train was well oiled. After a few miles, the train would be required to halt and he would have to go for a walk at the side of the train applying oil to the axles and bearings. In an attempt to boost efficiency and overcome the repeated halting need-ed for lubrication of the train, McCoy determined to come up with a method

of automating the task. In 1872 he designed a “lubricating cup” that could routinely drip oil when and where needed. He received a patent for the piece of equipment later that year. The “lubricating cup” met with substantial success and requests for it came in from railroad businesses all over the country. Other inventors made an effort to sell their own models of the gadget but most firms wanted the authentic device, asking for “the Real McCoy.” In 1868, Elijah married Ann Elizabeth Stewart. Regretably, Elizabeth died just four years later. In 1873, McCoy got married again, this time his new bride was Mary Eleanor Delaney and the pair would eventually settle into Detroit, Michigan together for the next 50 years. McCoy continued to be intrigued in continuing to improve his technology and to develop more. He thus ended up selling some

percentages of rights to his patent to finance developing a workshop. He made ongoing improvements to the “lubricating cup.” The patent application identified it as a device which “provides for the continuous flow of oil on the gears and other moving parts of a machine in order to keep it lubricated properly and continuous and thereby do away with the necessity of shutting down the machine periodically.” The gadget would be altered and modified in order to apply it to different types of machinery. Variations of the cup would soon be put to use in steam engines, naval vessels, oil-drilling rigs, mining products, in factories and construction sites. In 1916 McCoy built the graphite lubricator which allowed new superheated trains and devices to be oiled. In 1920, Elijah started the “Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company.” With his new business,

he upgraded and sold the graphite lubricator along with other inventions which came to him out of necessity. He formulated and patented a movable ironing board after his wife expressed a need for a simpler way of ironing clothes. When he preferred a less difficult and faster way of sprinkling his yard, he designed and patented the lawn sprinkler. In 1922, Elijah and Mary were involved in an automobile accident and the two sustained severe injuries. Mary would die from the injuries and Elijah’s health suffered for numerous years until he passed away in 1929. McCoy left behind a legacy of excellent inventions that would benefit the world for another century and his name would come to stand for superior workmanship – the Real McCoy! Article courtesy of biography.com



# A Lil' Positivity: 9-Year-Old Boy Becomes One of The Youngest High School Graduates Ever

David Balogun, a 9-year-old boy from Pennsylvania, has become one of the youngest students ever to graduate high school after receiving a diploma from a charter school in Harrisburg. According to reports from WGAL-TV, Balogun recently received a diploma from Reach Cyber Charter School, where he took classes

remotely from his home in Bensalem in Bucks County. The 9-year-old has a special interest in science and computer programming and has hopes of becoming an astrophysicist so he can study black holes and supernovas. By graduating high school at just nine years old, Balogun joins just two other individuals who have graduated high

school at age nine or younger, according to Oldest.org. The only person to graduate younger than Balogun is Michael Ke- arney, who currently holds the Guinness world record for youngest high school graduate when he graduated at just six in 1990. Since graduating from Reach Charter, David has already completed one

semester at Bucks County community college. Now, his family is looking into the best fit for colleges and universities for the young prodigy. Regardless of what- ever move they take next, it's obvious that this child is going to go on to do some seriously special thing. Article and picture courtesy Bossip.com



## POETREE N MOTION

© Dee Freeman

### TIMING IS OF THE ESSENCE

It is time to dislodge these Institutionally designed Systemic racist and unjust policies Embedded as yet the law of the land

gets an Intentional re-write... for our history is America's History...we want precise delineation Our history is indelibly intertwined Our contributions... coerced or not Browbeaten or not...Bludgeoned or not Bulldozed or not... Are integral parts of this nation's success

by my people It is time to tell... The good, The bad, and The ugly! The blood drenched horrors The deep dark hatred The hard truths of yesteryear...Time is of the essence

The FEAR tactics of... Beatings Burnings Bombings Castrations Chains Draggings Mobs Lynchings Separations Shootings Slashings



It is time: To eliminate the gridlocks To amend the constitution To be a full human being... Not just 3/5. To foster brotherly love... In our mind... In our heart...in (contd from page 2)

It is time to have a change of narrative... A change in how we see the truth A change in how we hear the truth A change in how we feel the truth A change in how we tell the truth A change in how we walk the TRUE path

It is time to use CRT to dismantle the southern white-washed "Glorious time" of that vicious and horrendous time of Slavery It is time to debunk the myths and distorted facts Developed by sinister forces...religious Bigots and racists These were to reinforce repression, dehumanize and suppress

Open our minds, Open our hearts, Open our mouths! Open up to pay tribute to the ancestors Acknowledging their sacrifices of yesterday So that we might move forward today We extend gratitude to those... Who dreamed before us Who died before and for us... Making it possible for us to aspire life, liberty And the pursuit of happiness

We struggled through those racist injustices Which tried to relegate us to the lowest station of life Yet, our ancestors held fast and purged through the past So we might survive to position ourselves in the present To pursue possibilities of the future

our actions

It is time to plant and cultivate The idea of Equity for all The idea of acknowledgment The idea of reconciliation The idea of strength in diversity The idea of equality

It is time to set the record straight... It is time to place markers, monuments and Flags to commemorate and memorialize my people It is time to provide historical data of the extensive Contributions made

Time is of the essence!! It is time! For transformation Of this Nation Time to Rise higher Time to reach further Time to live up to its creed Time to build on the glimmer of hope Time to straighten the arc of justice Time to heal this brotherly divide Time for restoration

Time to build on the glimmer of hope Time to straighten the arc of justice Time to heal this brotherly divide Time for restoration

**Black Hero Essay CONTEST 2023**

**FOR YOUNG MALES IN GRADE 9TH-12TH**

**CONTEST RULES**

- 250 WORD DOUBLE SPACED TYPED PAPER ON A LIVING OR DECEASED AFRICAN AMERICAN HERO
- BE CREATIVE
- TELL HOW YOUR CHOSEN BLACK AMERICAN HERO HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE

**ESSAYS DUE BY FEBRUARY 21, 2023 AT 5:00PM**

All essay submissions have to be emailed to [odis@buildingbettermen.org](mailto:odis@buildingbettermen.org)

**WINNERS ANNOUNCE FEBRUARY 24, 2023 AN AWARD CEREMONY WILL BE ANNOUNCED THEREAFTER.**

Questions/More Info Email: [odis@buildingbettermen.org](mailto:odis@buildingbettermen.org)

**PRIZES INCLUDE**

- 1ST PLACE: \$500.00
- 2ND PLACE: \$300.00
- 3RD PLACE: \$200.00

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**SOUL II SOUL INFLUENCE: THE BIBLE IS BLACK HISTORY**

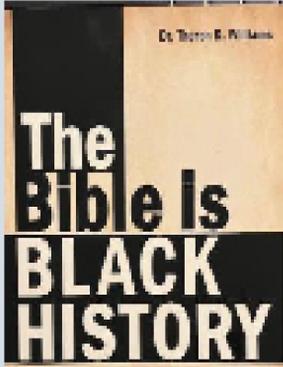


**Pastor/Chaplain Pamelajune (Pj) Anderson, DMin**  
**Soul II Soul Spiritual Fitness Couch**  
**Lt. Commander (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps**  
**Certified Peer Support Specialist**



**BE STILL AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK**

**"My people are ruined because they don't know what's right or true." Hosea 4:6 Message**



Eternal God and Faithful Friend, the Empire is in a bit of a tizzy about whether or not it is appropriate to teach any history based on race. Well, even though race, other than the human race, is a social concept. Mary Gormandy White, M.A., Staff Writer, writes, "Social constructs develop within a society or group. They don't represent objective reality but instead are meaningful only because people within the society or group accept that they have meaning. Simply put, social constructs do not have inherent meaning. The only meaning they have is the meaning given to them by people."

White continues, "the idea that pink is for girls and blue is for boys is an example of a social construct related to gender and the color of items. The collective perception that a particular color can be associated with a certain gender is not an objective representation of truth or fact. Instead, it is a social convention that came to have meaning within the context of society."

When I think about the social constructs that shapes the minds of our children from the cradle to five years of age, the age most agreed by psychologists when we are set in a belief system about ourselves and the world around us, is there any wonder that the Empire is doing all it can to prevent its children from knowing the truth? Its history and heritage is by and large ugly. Much of that which could be counted as good within the Empire has been stolen from Native Americans (land and survival skills) and enslaved Africans (carpentry, inventions, builders, agriculture, theology, religion, heritage, identity, etc.).

Someone introduced me to a book that turned my theology right side up. The book is *The Bible is Black History*. I am so pumped by this book that I have purchased several copies and given them to people who are hungry for revelation knowledge.

People like me who are doing our best to evolve spiritually are finding Truth that resonates with our God-given soul. Not the souls of the social constructs.

An anonymous quote in my book, *HEALING MY SOUL ON PURPOSE: A Veterans Guide to Suicide Intervention*, reads,

**"To remember who you are, you need to forget who they told you to be."**



**Celebration**  
**Announcements**  
*Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration*  
**Birthdays in FEBRUARY**

- Ms. Kimberly Jones celebrates her birthday on February 2nd.
- Mr. K. C. Big Thangs celebrates his birthday on February 2nd.
- Ms. Nikki Skipper celebrates her birthday on February 2nd.
- Ms. Tina Fellows celebrates her birthday on February 3rd.
- Tina, you are THE BEST big sister in the world; I love you so much! Love always and forever, Tracy G.
- Ms. Christina Tubbs celebrates her birthday on February 3rd.
- Ms. Tammy Ruiz celebrates her birthday on February 3rd.
- Ms. Ashley Erickson celebrates her birthday on February 4th.
- Ms. Rebecca Lea Patterson Celebrates her birthday on February 4th with family and friends. "Becca, happ birthday! Enjoy your day! I love you! Love Mom!"
- Ms. Shari M. Townsley celebrates her birthday on February 5th.
- Mrs. Juel Darden celebrates her birthday on February 5th.
- Ms. Mandy Schafer celebrates her 33rd birthday on February 7th.
- Ms. April L. Clark celebrates her birthday on February 7th.
- Ms. Georgette Sneed celebrates her 65th birthday on February 7th.
- Ms. Maria Herrera celebrates her 43rd birthday on February 7th.
- Mr. DeMarice Hall celebrates his 30th birthday on February 7th.
- Ms. Mandi Schafer celebrates her birthday on February 7th. "Singing my way to stardom"
- Mrs. Barbara M. Rouse-Tate celebrates her birthday on February 8th with family.
- Mrs. Flora Boles celebrates her birthday on February 8th.
- Ms. Lisa D. Tate-Jackson celebrates her birthday on February 9th with family. Mr. Martin Luther King celebrates his birthday on February 9th.
- Mr. Nate Carlisle celebrates his birthday on February 9th. "I pray that GOD blesses everybody!"
- Ms. Jazmine Gierke celebrates her birthday on February 10th with her baby brother Damian and family.
- Ms. Betty McGrew celebrates her birthday on February 10th.
- Ms. Brandy Gonzales celebrates her birthday on February 10th.
- Mr. Freddie Lewis celebrates his birth on February 10th.
- Ms. Jaylenn Shannon celebrates her 13th birthday on February 11th.
- Ms. Phyllis Colthorp celebrates her birthday on February 11th.
- Ms. Sheavan Mizori celebrates her birthday on February 11th.
- Ms. Michelle M. Mireles celebrates her birthday on February 11th.
- Mr. Charles Husby celebrates his birthday on February 11th, with family and friends.
- Mr. James E. Garvie celebrates his birthday on February 12th with friends.
- Ms. Kelly Kilpatrick celebrates her birthday on February 12th.
- Mr. Clyde Martin celebrates his birthday on February 12th.
- Mr. Josiah Nathaniel Dixon celebrates his birthday on February 12th with family: Pastor Nathan, Lady Rolanda and big sister Makenzie Carrington.
- Mr. RJ Johnson celebrated his birthday on February 16th with friends and family.
- Ms. Chrissy Gomez celebrates her birthday on February 13th.
- Ms. Patty Oehmke celebrates her birthday on February 14th, Valentine's Day, sharing much love.
- Mr. Walter "Gator" Gierke celebrates his birthday on February 14th with friends and family. "Mama's Valentine's Day Gift from your Dad in 1982!" We love you always!
- Mr. Fredrick Crockett celebrates his birthday on February 14th, with a shout out: "Happy Birthday to the rest of my cupid Babies!"
- Ms. Madeline Brown celebrates her year of life on February 14th, "Valentine's Day"
- Ms. Vicki Helman celebrates her birthday on February 14th.
- Ms. Angela P. Baltimore celebrates her birthday on February 15th.
- Mr. Chavis Walker celebrates his birthday on February 15th.
- Ms. Teonie Dobbs celebrates her birthday on February 15th.
- Mr. Charles M. Flores celebrates his 47th birthday on February 15th.
- Miss. Bella Jobson celebrates her 8th birthday on February 16th.
- Ms. Betty Thomas celebrates her birthday on February 16th.
- Ms. Michelle Ireland celebrates her birthday February 16th with her family and friends.
- Mr. Kirk A. Branson Sr. celebrates his birthday on February 16th with his loving wife April, family and friends.
- Ms. Jessica Baker celebrates her birthday on February 17th.
- Ms. Danyell Reaper celebrates her birthday on February 17th.
- Ms. Kendall M. Jackson celebrates her birthday on February 17th.
- Ms. Cheron L. Mans celebrates her birthday on February 17th.
- Ms. Katia F. Outlaw celebrates her birthday on February 17th.
- Miss. Kaydence Elise Walsh celebrates her birthday on February 18th. "Daddy and Mommy Love you!!!"
- Mr. Miles R. Barren celebrates his birthday on February 18th.
- Mr. Issac Peter Reis celebrates his birthday on February 18th.
- Ms. Kimberly E. Harps celebrates her birthday on February 19th.
- Mrs. Lacrita Winfree, born on February 20th, will enjoy her celebration with her husband.
- Ms. Melanie Miller celebrates her birthday on February 19th.
- Mr. Desmond Murphy celebrates his 13th birthday on February 20th.
- Mr. Luther William Brown, Jr. will celebrate his birthday on February 20th, with his loving wife Amy, daughters: Isabella, Idyana, Taylor, his Son Jordan Luther.
- Ms. Rose M. Watson celebrates her birthday on February 20th.
- Ms. Jennifer and Justina Ellsworth celebrate their birthday on February 20th.
- Ms. Tasha Eaton celebrates her birthday on February 21st.
- Ms. Felicia Clark celebrates her birthday on February 21st.
- Ms. Lindsay Voss celebrates her birthday on February 22nd.
- Ms. Nanette L. Reynolds celebrates her birthday on February 22nd.
- Ms. Anita Buffington celebrates her birthday on February 22nd.
- Mr. Bila'l Scott celebrates his birthday on February 23rd.
- Ms. Jackie Evens enjoys her birthday on February 23rd.
- Mr. Willis Dennis celebrates his birthday on February 23rd.
- Ms. Bethany Coins celebrates her birthday on February 23rd.
- Mrs. Sara Gordon celebrates her birthday on February 23rd.
- Ms. Sandra Williams celebrates her birthday on February 23rd.
- Mr. Sal Rivera celebrates his 47th birthday February 23rd.
- Mr. Michael Jennings Jr. will celebrate his birth on February 23rd.
- Ms. Amanda Wenk celebrates her birthday on February 24th.
- Ms. Cecilia Sena celebrates her 36th birthday on February 24th.
- Mr. Bradford Huguely celebrates his birthday on February 25th.
- Ms. Marion Peatross celebrates her birthday on February 25th.
- Ms. Gristle McMichaels celebrates her birthday on February 25th.
- Mr. Felipe Gonzales celebrates his birthday on February 26th, with family and friends at his son's place! "Love from your Son", Juan.
- Ms. Dawn, "as a new day", celebrates her birthday on February 26th.
- Ms. Allicia Perez celebrates her birthday on February 26th.
- Mr. Charles "Bull" Lane celebrates 71 years of life on February 26th.
- Ms. Maya Kelly celebrates her 7th birthday on February 27th. "Love you lots... Mom and Dad!"
- Ms. Alicia Perez celebrates her birthday on February 27th.
- Ms. Angelica Brown celebrates her 27th birthday on February 27th.
- Mr. LaDon H. Nixon will enjoy his birthday on February 28th.
- Mr. Larry Martin celebrates his birthday on February 28th.
- Ms. Tanek Samaria Davis will celebrate her birthday on February 28th.

**\*Anniversaries**

Mr. & Mrs. Myron & Dee Freeman celebrate their wedding anniversary on February 14th

**\*Announcements**

**Mr. Party Website:** [www.mrpartycelebrationservice.com](http://www.mrpartycelebrationservice.com)  
**Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/mrparty1985](http://www.facebook.com/mrparty1985)  
**Celebration Gram - A Class Act:** Have your special message delivered by Mr. Party for that special someone or special occasion!

**Sportron International:** [www.mrparty.sportron.com](http://www.mrparty.sportron.com)  
 Call: 517-391-4849 or Email: [mrparty1985@gmail.com](mailto:mrparty1985@gmail.com) Please send the information about you, your family or friends celebrating the Events of Life: Celebration Announcements Please let us know if you have anyone to celebrate!

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# BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO DONALD K. STURDIVANT



“Donald Keith Sturdivant was born June 8, 1956, the second of four children. His parents were Josephine (Griffin), and Leslie C. Sturdivant, both now deceased. He attended Lansing Public Schools and was a 1974 product of Harry Hill High School. Donnie excelled at sports, particularly basketball, and loved all things music. He was a big, beautiful, and intelligent individual with a huge personality. Donnie was hilarious and would light up a room with his humor and genuine concern for people. He

was loved by everyone and was a favorite amongst the family, especially the aunts and uncles. The family always appreciated his ability to be candid without causing trouble.

Donnie loved music and had a dream to become a world-class vocalist. His charm, deep baritone/bass singing voice would often cause the women to swoon. In the 70’s and 80’s he was a member of a couple groups that were popular in the Lansing area performing at local venues and throughout the Midwest. These singing groups, The Ultra-Mystics, The Uniques, and The Distinctive Movement, were known to be amongst the best in the State of MI without a recording contract. He sang for more than fifteen years.

Donnie started working security jobs in Lansing and was hired by the Lansing Fire Department in August 1978. He was a very solid firefighter working in capacities as a Firefighter and Engineer. He was a member and President of the Black Firefighters Association, leading the change efforts for fire department diversity, equity, and inclusion. In April 1986, Donnie was promoted to Fire Inspector. He was Coordinator of the Arson Team and in 1989 received his Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator credentials. This prestigious certification was based

upon an analysis of his professional qualifications, experience, and successful completion of a comprehensive written exam. Donnie received many commendations and letters of recognition over the course of his 12-year firefighter career.

Don was a member of the International Association of firefighters, International Association of Fire Investigators, and the MI Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. He attended and completed various fire prevention and arson inspection training seminars, which included, Vehicle Arson School and the National Association of fire Investigators School. Donnie had a thirst for knowledge and took every opportunity to hone his craft.

Donald K. Sturdivant transitioned this life in 1990. He will always be cherished and remembered by his family as an individual that was larger than life with a heart that was just as large.

As the current Fire Chief/Emergency Manager for the City of Lansing, My first cousin Donnie introduced me to the fire service. I proudly serve this community because of his legacy. Also, this assignment is personal for me because of Donnie and my family that lives in the Lansing Community. Rest in Power Donald K. Sturdivant, we love you and miss

## Letter To the Editor:

**Who Is Next** - The American Obsession for Guns I’m a black mother in America who is scared, praying every time my teen man-child sized son goes to school. I’m not sure if he’s going to encounter a gun at school, the profiling police carrying a gun, or some other horrific gun experience.

In 2021, Annals of Internal Medicine (AIM) conducted a study around the surge in gun background checks beginning in March 2020, which suggested an acceleration in firearm purchases.

However, according to AIM little was known about the people who bought these guns. AIM via this research set out to uncover the why. What the data showed was an “estimated 2.9% of U.S. adults (7.5 million) became new gun owners from 1 January 2019 to 26 April 2021. Most (5.4 million) had lived in homes without guns, collectively exposing, in addition to themselves, over 11 million persons to household firearms, including more than 5 million children.” Additionally, “approximately half of all new gun owners were female (50% in 2019 and 47% in 2020 to 2021), 20% were Black (21% in 2019 and in 2020–2021), and 20% were Hispanic (20% in 2019 and 19% in 2020–2021). “

The interesting contrast, “other recent purchasers who were not new gun owners were predominantly male (70%) and White (74%), as were gun owners overall (63% male, 73% White).”

These statistics lead me to wonder only one thing - How many random innocent, unprovoked gun deaths are enough before we stop accepting gun ownership as a normal way of life in America?

How many more people have to die and communities suffer in grief before people take a look within at their own desire to perpetuate gun ownership as a required right of American citizenship?

The trends per the AIM study suggests that women and people of color are becoming more fearful in their communities, and so therefore, they see the only recourse is to own a gun.

However, historically guns have been notorious as being only used for one purpose. To kill. More and more people are walking around with self-prescribed licenses to kill every day. There is no other dual purpose to guns like a knife, bat, or even a bomb. All of these items can be used for nonviolent purposes.

None of them have the sole purpose of killing.

Only a gun holds that honor. Stemming all the way back to our African ancestral roots of being stripped of our freedoms by way of gun wielding human traffickers called slave traders, we as today’s modern Americans need to reflect on how gun reform starts directly with us.

Law enforcement was established to control and enforce power over black Americans - why can’t we be like other countries whose police don’t

carry guns to protect and serve?

Do we have to use guns to further perpetuate our violent, bloodthirsty America past?

When we tout our rights to own guns, we are just as responsible for the killings of innocent people as the person who pulled the trigger.

Our American stance for individual gun ownership is strengthening the ability for violence to continue across America.

Can we be different? Are we morally READY for a change? Are people willing to give up their guns?

How many more to die?

I don’t have the answer to any of these questions, however, my intuition tells me that if there were less guns in the possession of individuals and law-enforcement that would be a great start.

If only the actual military had guns - which are nothing more than glorified lethal weapons - we wouldn’t see yet another helpless child, concert goer, shopper, or church parishioner killed by gunfire.

We need to stop using mental health as a crutch and saying only mentally ill people with guns are solely the problem.

‘Crazy’ doesn’t have a name on it, and a bullet doesn’t either.

It’s time to change the way our society protects the notorious killer called guns.

Stopping the gun violence epidemic doesn’t start with policy or mental health reforms - it starts directly with you.

**MULTI-PLATINUM R&B GROUP SHAI** **24th FEBRUARY 6PM**

**PERFORMING LIVE**  
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REST: A CRITICAL CONVERSATION

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For Immediate Release  
February 8, 2023

**Media Contact:**  
Chris Swope 517-230-1566

**Chris Swope**  
Lansing City Clerk

### Lansing City Clerk Accepting Marijuana Operations Applications for one Adult Use Retail and one Ward 1 Consumption Facility; deadline March 1

LANSING - City Clerk Chris Swope’s Office is accepting Marijuana Operations applications for a single, new Adult Use Retail facility and one Adult Use Consumption facility until March 1, 2023. These licenses are available because the previous conditional approvals were revoked or the applicant withdrew their application.

The Adult Use Retail facility can be located anywhere in the city that meets the location, zoning, and buffering parameters. The Adult Use Consumption facility must be located within the City’s First Ward, and must meet location, zoning, and buffering requirements. All applications are reviewed and scored as set by City Ordinance. If there is more than one application for either license type, the highest scored qualified application will receive conditional approval from the City.

Applications are also being accepted for non-capped license types during this window. (Processor, Safety Compliance, and Secure Transport licenses, along with additional Grow licenses at existing locations.)

Potential applicants should review the updated application checklist, general instructions, and scoring criteria, which are available at [www.lansingmi.gov/marijuana](http://www.lansingmi.gov/marijuana), before applying. Before operating, applications must be approved by the State of Michigan and have an occupancy permit.

The City’s ordinance allows for only 28 retail facilities. Currently, 22 retail facilities are fully licensed in the City of Lansing. Most of these 22 locations are licensed for both adult use and medical sales, while a few are licensed for adult use only. Four more facilities have received conditional approval from the City of Lansing and are in the build-out phase, nearing completion. One location in the city is currently licensed for medical sales only, and though fully licensed, is not open to the public while undergoing a location transfer.

“I am happy with the investment that marijuana facilities operators have made in the City,” said City Clerk Chris Swope. “and hope that our streamline review process will encourage even more businesses to start which means jobs and revenue for our City.”

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**Craig Beacham**

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REST: A CRITICAL CONVERSATION

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# BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE to LILLIAN LEE By Her Children



If you have lived in Lansing for a while, then you know the name Lillian Ruth Lee. Even if you don't, she probably touched you in some way. Our mother was one of the kindest, most giving, trailblazing women we have ever seen.

As the youngest, I have the most recent memories of my mother. The ones that extend from me growing up in Lansing in the early 70's and 80's until her death in the early 2000's. So, it's only fitting that to get a full picture of the great woman and mother that she was, I consulted with my older siblings as well. Still, I think my brother, Kenneth Lee said it best, "Mom was a very giving person who had a big heart, and would give you the shirt off her back if it could help someone in any way."

Wilbert Lee Jr., our eldest brother, told me a story I had never heard before, yet it was no surprise when I thought of who our mother was. Like many other black families in the years after the Great Depression, my parents were part of the Great Migration. This was the mass exodus of families from the Southern States to the North, looking for better opportunities and more freedom and safety. "Mom and dad came to Michigan after World War II. Our dad came home from Germany on the "Queen Elizabeth" and got a job working at Coca-Cola. They would sleep in the plant until they could get a place". Wilbert Sr., like many

others who were part of the massive movement North, would send for his brothers and sisters and other family members to come here and get jobs they otherwise would not have been able to get. At one point, he even got all his sons' jobs at Coca-Cola.

"During the riots in the late sixties, the family would sit out on its porch on Butler Street in Lansing," Wilbert Jr. tells me. "The larger riots were going on in Detroit, but there was a tipping point in Lansing. While on the porch, black folks were rioting, and to travel in the neighborhood, they had to tie a piece of cloth on their antenna. A white attorney was traveling through the neighborhood and was pulled out of his car. My mom, Lillian Lee, shot her gun in the air and told the rioters to let him go." Considering where they came from and who she was, I'm proud but not surprised. In the south, my mother cooked for families and picked cotton. I was told she and my father moved to Michigan after my uncle was lynched by the KKK. Still, her humanity and compassion didn't allow her to let an innocent man come to harm amid everything going on.

Our mother was humble, compassionate, and a strong Christian. She attended Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church for many years. She was known far and wide for her fantastic cooking, which she was invited to share at the Governor's Mansion for Governors Romney and Milliken. Yet, she still planted collard greens at night, fostered children in her home, and made time for her family. "We vacationed every year in Alabama," my older brother Tim remembers fondly. "I didn't have a problem with my mother working outside the house because I knew she was providing for us."

Our mother created an environment where we had a two-income household when many families struggled for one. Our Aunt Mandy also lived with us, so we were always cared for. Because both parents worked, we could do things like take yearly vacations, have nice things, and live comfortably. That wasn't normal back then. It was almost unheard of.

Just like my dad, mom would also send for her family to come to Michigan for jobs and opportunities.



"Mom was the epitome of compassion and love, never meeting a stranger, and taking in almost anyone when they had great need." My older sister Jeanette Jackson captured yet another one of her great qualities that we all love to remember. "Mom's love language was serving others through accommodations," she said. During her working years, our mother was always at the forefront of whatever she did. She worked as the director of Camp Highfields, founded in 1962 as a camp for troubled boys and still operating today, for many years. She also managed a shelter in Lansing, which has since closed. For a woman, much less a black woman, to be in control of a facility like that and in charge of social workers, psychologists, and countless others was a trailblazing moment for her. After the shelter, she worked for the Ingham County Probate Court and the Ingham County Sheriff's Department under three different Sheriffs until her retirement. When she retired as a Deputy, she was the first black woman ever to do so in Ingham County and possibly the entire State of Michigan.

At the same time, when we were growing up, our mother chose to send us to integrated schools rather than keep us in an all-black school district. She was a revolutionary woman who made decisions that now may seem regular. However, those decisions took courage, fortitude, and commitment back then. We are all thankful that we had the opportunity to live and be cared for by Lillian Ruth Lee. She left her family and her city better with everything she did and how she served. We miss her every day but are thankful for our time with her.

## REST

2/24/2023  
6:00 pm EST

In Critical Conversation

Dr. Frederick Engram Jr.  
Keynote Speaker

Assistant Professor  
at Michigan State University

Special Guest  
Craig Beacham

Host  
Dr. James Bell

Moderator  
Dr. Octavia Cannon

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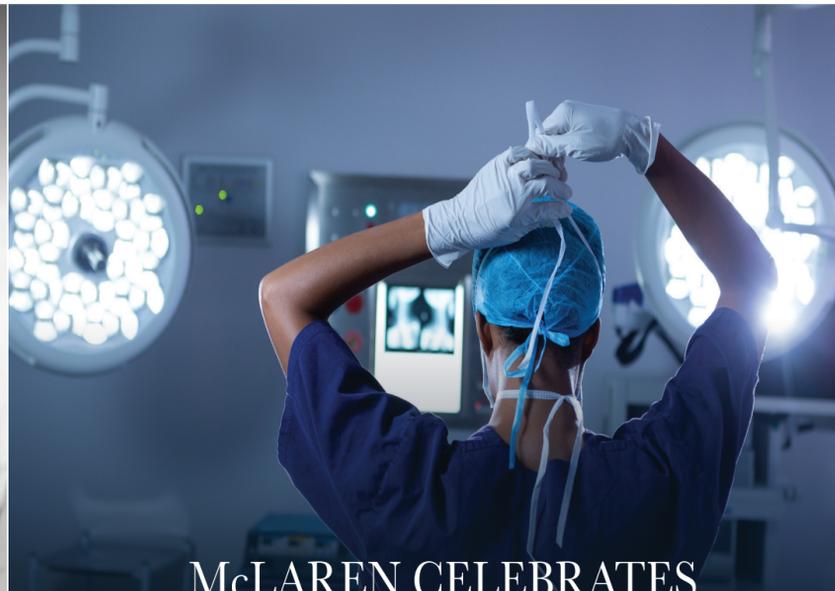


Photo credit: Mark Cannon

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# Black Wealth Series: The 'new' black economic agenda - Part I - The Great Migration 2.0

The Michigan Bulletin was again live on-site at the Detroit Policy Conference hosted annually by the Detroit Regional Chamber. The conference brings together upwards of 800 business, civic, and government leaders to explore critical issues related to the continued economic progress throughout the city and region. Offering this year's keynote was esteemed Founder of the 'Creative Class Theory', Dr. Richard Florida. Dichondra R. Johnson, Michigan Bulletin columnist, caught

need to incorporate equity into the framework. However, when we examine more closely today's black communities, it is apparent gentrification and the lack of equitable economic growth opportunities has caused a significant shift in the demographics of northern urban centers, like Detroit, Chicago, Washington DC, and New York. Florida asserts black Americans representing the knowledge based, creative class community are now moving into the era of a northern black

Texas, Alabama, Virginia, and more.

Offering further credence to his 'creative class' theory, Florida indicates there are three common indicators found in communities that give further explanations for this shift in the black American population. Florida offered insights that communities seeing large migration and repatriation of black residents, 1) have multiple academic centers of higher learning within the community 2) higher educational attain-

# Councilman Jeffrey Brown; no stranger to Public Service

By Terrance Williams  
For Councilman Jeffrey Brown, public service is in his blood just as much as Lansing is. In 1953, his grandmother was voted Mother of the Year of Lansing, and eventually a Lansing School Board room would be named after her. She worked in the Lansing School system for 5 decades. His uncle, Robert Brown Jr., was the first African American State Director for the department of corrections, and another Uncle, Mike Dwayne Brown, was the first black supervisor at the Board of Water and Light. His grandfather worked in Parks and Recreation, and his mother worked for the Secretary of State.



"Having that type of heritage in the community, you learn from a very young age that service comes first". Councilman Brown is following in his family's footsteps and making his own way into public service as well. In 2021, he ran for an at-large seat on the Lansing City Council, and was elected. There he currently sits on the Homeless Ad-Hoc committee. Within that role, he wants to see Lansing uplifted, and built up in very important ways.

Councilman Brown has been back in Michigan since 2009, serving Lansing's most vulnerable populations, but he has been doing this work for over two decades. His roles have varied and included being a strong advocate for expanded access to healthcare, helping those who need but cannot afford in-home care, assisting with vocational rehabilitation, community re-integration for those

where people are being held accountable for what they are stewarding, and if not, how do we hold them accountable'. It's a tall order for any city or city council, but Brown is focused. While he knows that no one man can make the changes he thinks would help push the city forward, he is still hopeful for what can be done. The change has to start with customer engagement and care. We have to shine a flashlight and figure out the reality of the problems that we face and the system issues we have. But it takes time'. Councilman Brown believes that the best way to create this type of accountability rests with the people, but his vision is broader. "I want to see the right organizations getting the right resources, for the right reasons, and to help the right people'. Part of that process involves people being engaged with their local government. "Engage with the City Council, make public comments, show support, write letters. That does influence all of us because we are working for the people." Councilman Brown finishes with the recommendation that grassroots activism, city council, and the administration of the city of Lansing all working together for the greater good of the city is how we move Lansing forward. It would seem that the public service gene is just as strong in his blood as it has always been. Terrance Williams is a former Army Signal Officer, and graduate of Howard University. He currently lives in Atlanta, Ga. You can find him online @ heymrtjay or www.festivalconnoisseur.com



up with Florida for an exclusive interview after his presentation to discuss the state of today's black 'creative class'. Born and raised on the east coast, Florida's humble beginnings didn't start out as the preeminent economist he is today. However, Florida shared seeking higher education made the difference, changing the trajectory of his life experiences coming from a working class New Jersey family. During his keynote presentation Florida insisted there is a need to harness the educational center's ability to attract and retain talented individuals in the region. He also emphasized Detroit continuing to be a great place to work, play, and connect, while also cognizant of the

exodus. Black Americans that had been generationally displaced from southern life and culture now find themselves exiting northern cities to welcoming, safer neighborhoods, affordable housing options, diverse community leadership, and the ability to be upwardly mobile in bustling southern cities. This migration trend over the past decade has slowly become a new phenomenon for black Americans. And where might you ask, are black Americans rapidly moving to seek desirable economic opportunities, entrepreneurship, and prosperity? According to economist Florida and the U.S. Census population data we are seeing a mass reparation to southern states such as North & South Carolina, Georgia,

ment, per capita, and 3) a nearby Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the community. Over the next few editions of The Michigan Bulletin will explore and discuss the state of black American economic progress with the goal of promoting new ideas for black prosperity across America. We will further share insights from the Detroit Policy Conference interview with Richard Florida, and other thought leaders, on establishing economic frameworks that lead to black wealth creation as we lead up to our annual coverage of the Detroit Regional Chamber, Mackinac Policy Conference scheduled for late May 2023.

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# CANNABIS CORNER



## Cannabis 101: A Guide to Sativa Strains

Choosing a cannabis strain can be confusing. With hundreds of types of cannabis available on the market, retailers are still trying to figure out the best way to break down strains into helpful categories.

That's why most cannabis menus break strains — or cultivars, if you want to get technical — into three categories: sativa, indica, and hybrid.

Sativas are often associated with more of a head high than a body high, meaning they stimulate your mind but don't leave you feeling heavy or sleepy.

These associations are carried over from the unregulated cannabis market, though, and aren't necessarily accurate.

Still, as researchers continue to look closer at the factors — like cannabinoids and terpenes — that change the effects of different kinds of cannabis, the sativa versus indica distinction can still be a helpful tool for finding the right product.

Instead of thinking strictly in terms of sativas

versus indicas, it might be more helpful to think along the lines of sativa-like strains and indica-like strains.

Here's a closer look at the main effects linked to sativas and a list of strains to consider.

Effects commonly associated with sativa strains

Broadly, cannabis sativa strains are said to have the following effects:

**Energizing.** This is a sought-after effect for daytime consumers or for those who want to consume before doing an activity or being social.

**Uplifting.** Many people report that their mood is altered and improves after consuming sativa strains.

**Increased creativity.** For some, consuming a cannabis sativa product can help shift or unblock creativity, or generate new ideas.

**Mind-expanding.** Not limited to creativity, cannabis sativa strains are often thought to direct attention inward for reflection.

**Sharper focus.** Some report that cannabis sativa strains can help ease a distracted mind and con-

centrate on the task at hand.

As a result of these effects, some report that cannabis sativa products offer some relief from symptoms of:

**Depression.** With their reported energizing, mood-uplifting, and creativity-inducing effects, sativas may help combat feelings of lethargy and apathy.

**Anxiety.** Similarly, some people report that cannabis sativa strains can ease anxiety with soothing and uplifting effects. Others find that it helps them "snap out" of repeated or intrusive thoughts.

**ADHD.** Because of the cerebral and increased focus effects attributed to sativas, some people report that cannabis sativa products help ease symptoms of ADHD.

If you're using cannabis to help with mental health symptoms, be sure to keep up with any other prescribed treatments. And keep in mind that the impact of cannabis on mental health conditions is still poorly understood. [Trusted Source](#).

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