RACE & POLITICS
The Power of California’s Minority Voters in the Obama Era
Cover Art
Then U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) campaigns at a rally in Rodney Square February 3, 2008 in Wilmington, Delaware.

editorial credit: mistydawnphoto / Shutterstock.com © mistydawnphoto

pointofview
NAACP Ben Jealous reflects on Trayvon Martin’s death one year later and Dr. Gloria Morrow on Identifying Mental Illness

inthenews
University of Redlands Multicultural Festival, Empowering Young Women Conference, and UC Riverside Names News Director for Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies

voicecommunity
Senate Subcommittee Hearing Held in Riverside for Prop 39 Revenue Expenditure Plan

inlandplaces
The VOICE team shares their favorite IE sandwich shops in honor of National Grilled Cheese Month

iefocus
Chavez Memorial Breakfast in Riverside and Rep. Mark Takano’s Open House

iepeople
Kenneth Morris on the founding of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives and honoring his family legacy

publisher’snote

Last week we introduced a radically new look. For the first time in this newspaper’s 40-year history, we produced a publication not in broadsheet format. While we agonized over every small change we made – from choosing to feature a bold graphic on the front cover to utilizing more photographs as a part of our narrative language – we knew once you saw the new format you would really like it. And you have responded overwhelmingly in the affirmative.

Over the weekend, I was with our creative director at Starbucks when we happened to see Anne Rogan, owner of Rogan Building Services. We handed her a copy of the paper and the first words out of her mouth were, “nice… very modern.” Which has been one of the more common reactions along with WOW, and love it. We want you to know we are listening and we appreciate your support and encouragement.

We also appreciate and love to hear your story ideas. I have started carrying a notebook that I use specifically for that purpose. In the four days since we unveiled the new format you have shared a month's worth of cover story ideas. Ideas we look forward to working on and sharing with the larger community in the future. We have also received a number of inquiries about advertising and as you will see in the coming weeks we have gained some new partners in our endeavor to bring important news and information to you.

We still want to hear more from you. If you have a story idea, know someone or someplace interesting we should feature, or have an interest in becoming a contributor, advertiser, or sponsor please contact me at paulette@bpcmediaworks.com or Lee Ragin, Jr. at lee@bpcmediaworks.com. Or follow me on Twitter @ mygoldenstate.

Until next week…

Paulette Brown-Hinds, PhD
Last week the Wall Street Journal’s Allysia Finley published an opinion that California liberals were at it again for introducing Assembly Bill 475 that would require all NCAA associated universities give student athletes an additional $3,600 annual stipend from their $20 million revenue generated from media and merchandising profits.

It is estimated that the NCAA, a non-profit organization, makes $11 billion each year from televised college sports, specifically basketball’s “March Madness” and football’s various bowl games. Of that revenue, the athletes get nothing. Even the coaches and their staff earn multi-million dollar annual salaries to coach these gifted athletes.

Many in the public are not aware that if the athlete is injured, he or she is left to figure out a different method for paying for school or has to dropout entirely because of a lack of tuition. Often these scholarships are given with annual contingencies for that very reason. This total control over our young athletes reminds me of some systems that have been practiced in the past and are now outlawed in America.

First there was “slavery” which was legal from 1619 to 1865. Slaves had no rights and helped build the economic foundation in America of which we now enjoy as citizens. Many people watched that practice and thought it was a fair system to work people for no wages but give them food and shelter in exchange for their free labor.

First there was “Indentured Servitude” law. An owner was allowed to work a person for up to seven years and give them food, accommodations and no payment for their free labor. It was a binding contract and the person had no rights to speak out against the owner. Again many people watched that practice and thought it was a fair system for people to work for no wages.

After that we had (and still do in some states) a system of “share cropping” of which I have some personal experience because I worked under it. The owner will give you food and a house to live in during your agreement to work the farm and share in the profits after the crops are harvested. Some people were able to do well under this system depending on the owner but the majority of the share croppers left the farms with only the clothes on their backs and no place to go.

Just like the athletes of today it depends on the coach of the team as to how athletes are treated. If you attend a school where the coach put academics first and sports second, then you make out good because you leave with a degree in hand.

Now we have the bigger than life NCAA which is run by a group of individuals who set the polices that exploit the honed skills of our young and gifted boys and girls and give them nothing in return while the owners make billions of dollars.

In the article, Finley even suggested that low-income athletes should take out Pell Grants to cover any additional cost while attending college and playing ball.

So in my business opinion the Wall Street Journal is suggesting a new system of Pay to Play for student athletics in America, while California is leading the way to ensure our students are treated fairly and not being exploited by greedy hungry organizations exploiting them financially.

In my opinion this “pay to play” practice must stop.
Families Enjoy U of R’s 23rd Annual Multicultural Festival

Redlands
By Jordan Brown

Last Saturday, local families enjoyed the sunshine, idyllic campus, and diverse entertainment at the 23rd annual Living on Common Ground Multicultural Festival sponsored by the University of Redlands Multicultural Center, ASUR Directors of Inclusion, and the Office of Campus Diversity and Inclusion. It was a free event that people of any age could enjoy. Cultural groups like the Thokoza African Gospel Choir and the Redlands African Drumming Ensemble performed on stage, while a variety of cultural themed vendors like Henna Crone, Indian henna body art offered services and products to the hundreds of attendees.

Marcus Miller, founder of the Redlands African Drumming group, has been working with the University of Redlands since 2006. “So far so good, with similar groups every year, the event had a great turnout this year as well,” he said. Local physician Christina Bennett-Stewart has attended the festival faithfully for many years and enjoys the diverse entertainment and cultural performances, “It’s a very nice event for families to attend to be able to learn about different cultures.”

Annual Empowerment Conference Encourages Young Women Reach and Achieve

Riverside

Each, Achieve, Value and Empower was the theme for this year’s Empowering Young Women’s Conference, a collaborative effort of the Riverside Black History Month Committee, the Riverside Community College District, the Riverside Police Department, Blumenthal Law Offices, Mary S. Roberts Foundation, A Foundation for Kids, Former County Supervisor Bob Buster, Forgiving for Living and the California Endowment. It was held at the Digital Library on the Riverside City College campus.

This free conference included workshops, a fashion show and an Apollo-Theater style talent competition. Participants were motivated, educated and empowered to “be the best you you can be, don’t try to be Oprah or Beyonce, and don’t to be defined by society’s beauty standards” by morning keynote speaker, Dr. Keyisha Holmes, Assistant Principal at Perris High School.

More than 200 participants – young women ages 12 – 21, mothers, care givers and volunteers - attended informational sessions on health, human trafficking, setting and achieving goals, self-esteem, entrepreneurship, domestic violence, surviving in the entertainment industry, career and college choices, enhancing your personal image and communicating with your teen. The afternoon keynote speaker, Opal Singleton, showed videos and provided information on how young girls, ages 12-19, are lured into the human trafficking business. She also gave tips on how to identify and respond to such perpetrators.

Conference coordinator Wanda Scruggs, said, “This conference spoke to the many challenging issues our young women are facing today. If we were able to turn one girls’ life around and inspire her to focus on her dreams, and if we were able to save one girls’ life by educating her on how to respond to human traffic perpetrators, then this conference was worth all of the effort it took to organize it.”

“Today’s young people face challenges that many of us never encountered when we were growing up. This conference was a great way to educate and inspire our young people and for our community to assist them in defining their future,” explained Riverside Chief of Police Sergio Diaz.

It was “entertaining and educational”, Riverside Black History Committee Founder Dell Roberts said of the conference.

Conference participants received a free continental breakfast, lunch, a goodie-filled tote bag and great door prizes.
New Leader at UC Riverside Research Center

By Bettye Miller

University of California, Riverside, professor of psychology Steven E. Clark, is known internationally for his research on eyewitness identification, has been named director of the UCR Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies. His appointment was effective April 1.

The Presley Center, established by the California Legislature in 1993, conducts research on crime prevention and works closely with local governments in Inland Southern California to develop and evaluate evidence-based policies, firmly grounded in social science, aimed at preventing youth violence and crime, said Anil Deolalikar, dean of the School of Public Policy. The center, formerly located within the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, will affiliate with the School of Public Policy.

“The mission of the center is perfectly aligned with the mission of the School of Public Policy – leveraging the world-class research being conducted at UCR to address and solve some of the most pressing problems facing our region,” the dean said. “Professor Clark has consulted extensively with law enforcement and prosecuting and defense attorneys on matters of eyewitness identification and criminal justice policy. His current research examines the costs and benefits of eyewitness identification reforms, and the interface between social science and public policy.”

Named for former State Sen. Presley, who was the Riverside County undersheriff for 12 years before his election to the California Senate in 1975, the Presley Center opened at UCR in 1994. Presley worked for the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department for 24 years, served in the state Senate from 1975 to 1994, was chairman of the California Youthful Offender Parole Board from 1995 to 1999, and served as secretary of the California Youth and Adult Correctional Agency from 1999 to 2003.

“I am very honored to lead the Presley Center as it continues its research mission, and I am looking forward to working with Senator Presley and members of the criminal justice community on important issues for Riverside County and for the people of California,” Clark said.

The Presley Center, the only publicly funded research center in California, started as part of a major $12 million federal effort at six sites across the country and has continued locally with results-based support from the state and the city of Riverside. Its primary mission is to conduct research on issues related to the
causes and prevention of crime and effective policy and procedures for corrections and law enforcement. Since 1998, it has worked with local law enforcement to test strategies for steering young people away from gang membership, and for helping those who are already members, transition away from the gangs they have joined.

The center has also worked with local agencies to reduce the number of juvenile repeat-offenders; to create wellness centers that emphasize reducing youth violence at schools in the Riverside Unified School District; and to create a Mental Health Court to provide solutions, rather than just punishment, to mentally ill offenders.

Clark is known internationally for his expertise on issues related to eyewitness identification procedures and criminal justice policy.

Psychological science can best assist policy-makers by providing a clear and comprehensive picture of the relevant data, and by developing new theories and new frameworks that better connect eyewitness research to public policy,” he said. “The issues are complex.”

Clark’s research has shown that changes in police procedures can reduce the risk of false identifications of the innocent, but many of those procedures also reduce the number of correct identifications of the guilty. Thus, there is a trade-off that needs to be carefully considered by policymakers.

Clark earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Illinois State University and a Ph.D. in psychology from Indiana University, Bloomington. He joined the UCR faculty in 1987.

“I would like to thank Rob Parker for his many years of service to the Presley Center,” Deolalikar said. “The center would not be where it is now had it not been for Rob’s visionary leadership.”

Completion Counts Unveils RCC APP
New mobile computer application helps 2-Year Completion Guarantee
Riverside

Completion Counts students at Riverside City College (RCC) under their 2-Year Completion Contract now have a handy tool to help them keep track of progress, counseling opportunities, class schedules and other campus resources.

Under the Resource heading, students will be able to access WebAdvisor, their RCC student email, College311.org, the RCC Facebook page, campus parking information and purchase a Daily Parking Permit. The App will also include specific 2-Year Contract announcements. Additional features will be added over time.

Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey and RCC President Dr. Cynthia Azari offer welcome messages encouraging students to use the app to manage their studies, maximize their college opportunities and complete their degrees.

Other services accessed through the app include RCC Student Services, a campus map, a directory to college departments and personnel and the City of Riverside 311 line for municipal services and assistance.

“We are committed to providing our students in the program with the information that they need to help them successfully navigate their way through our College. We are excited because with our new App we are able to communicate instantly with our students and provide them with critical information at the touch of a button using their cell phone,” said Dr. Edward Bush, RCC Vice President of Student Services.

Students can access the RCC Completion Counts APP by scanning the universal QR code shown on posters with their mobile phone devices, or by tapping “Riverside CC” at their phone platform’s app store.
A Year Later, Trayvon Martin Tragedy Still Stings

One year later, the Trayvon Martin tragedy still stings - and some people are still throwing salt on the open wound. Last week George Zimmerman’s brother, Robert Zimmerman, posted a tweet comparing Trayvon Martin to De'Marquis Elkins, 17-year-old Black teenager charged with fatally shooting a one-year-old baby.

The tweet showed a photo of Elkins side by side with a photo of Martin, both making inappropriate gestures, with the caption “A picture speaks a thousand words. Any questions?”

Zimmerman’s follow-up tweet read “Lib[eral] media [should] ask if what these [two] Black teens did [to] a [woman and her baby] is the reason [people] think Blacks might [be] risky”. The implication was that Trayvon Martin’s actions on the night he was murdered were equivalent to the killing of an innocent child.

This would be worrisome enough if it were just the opportunistic cry of a family embroiled in racial controversy. But this belief - that male “Black teens” are inherently more likely to be criminals - is ingrained in our society. It has seeped into our institutions in the form of racial profiling, and too often it poisons the judgment of those who are supposed to protect us.

This practice of “stop-and-frisk” policing. Stop-and-frisk allows officers to stop, question and physically search any individual they consider suspicious. In 2011 NYPD officers stopped nearly 800,000 people for alleged “suspicious activity”. Nine out of ten were innocent, 99 percent did not have a gun - and nine out of ten were Black or Latino.

The most revealing tidbit to come out of the class-action trial is a secretly recorded conversation between a deputy inspector and a police officer. The inspector is discussing a high-crime neighborhood, and he can be heard telling his patrolman: “The problem was, what, male Blacks... And I told you at roll call, and I have no problem telling you this, male Blacks 14 to 20, 21.” In other words: stop more young Black boys.

Other evidence indicates that patrolmen may be encouraged to meet arrest quotas. A tape played at the trial reveals a supervising officer asking for “more 250s” - or more stop-and-frisk forms. One plaintiff, a police officer, testified about the pressure he felt from supervisors - “they were very clear, it’s non-negotiable, you’re gonna do it, or you’re gonna become a Pizza Hut delivery man.”

A picture may speak a thousand words, but leaked recordings speak volumes about an institution’s priorities. These tapes reveal that the NYPD has effectively placed a bounty on “Black teens”. By profiling young teens of color, they are using the same grisly logic as Robert Zimmerman. And the result is apparent: in 2011, Black and Latino men between the ages of 14 and 24 made up 42 percent of those targeted by stop-and-frisk. That group makes up less than 5 percent of the city’s population.

The crime attributed to De'Marquis Elkins’ was truly horrific and despicable. But Elkins does not represent an entire demographic, just like Adam Lanza did not act on behalf of all young White men. Racial profiling punishes innocent individuals for the past actions of those who look and sound like them. It misdirects crucial resources and undercuts the trust needed between law enforcement and the communities they serve. It has no place in our national discourse, and no place in our nation’s police departments.

Benjamin Jealous
President & CEO NAACP

Benjamin Todd Jealous is the 17th President and CEO of the NAACP. Appointed at age 35 in 2008, he is the youngest person to lead the 104-year-old organization.

Over the past two decades, he has helped organize successful campaigns to abolish the death penalty for children, stop Mississippi’s governor from turning a public historically black university into a prison, and pass federal legislation against prison rape.

A Rhodes Scholar, he is a graduate of Columbia and Oxford University, the past president of the Rosenberg Foundation and served as the founding director of Amnesty International’s US Human Rights Program.
Suffer in Silence No More

In February of this year, the country watched in absolute horror as former LAPD Officer Christopher Dorner went on a shooting rampage that left five dead (including himself), and three wounded. Many have speculated about what may have caused a decorated officer of the law to unravel and commit such heinous crimes. However, from a psychological perspective, it is becoming clearer that people who suffer with undiagnosed and untreated mental illnesses are more unlikely to be unable to handle the inevitable stressors of life in a healthy way.

Everyone has a level of psychological hardiness, and those with limited hardiness may lack sufficient resiliency to cope with stressful situations.

The historical account of Mr. Dorner being treated unfairly as a child, may have contributed to his intolerance for unfair treatment as an adult. But something else may have been at work.

Perhaps Mr. Dorner developed a mental illness such as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and/or a personality disorder, such as Paranoid Personality Disorder due to the trauma associated with being unfairly punished that went undiagnosed and untreated.

This article is in no way designed to justify the actions of Mr. Dorner, but there are important lessons to be learned as society attempts to understand and prevent these crimes from continuing to occur.

First, society must monitor and supervise those who work with children. When children are treated unfairly by adults, their sense of safety and well-being may be severely compromised.

Second, I suspect that Mr. Dorner may have been suffering in silence since childhood. Therefore, it is important for adults to pay close attention to and respond appropriately to the early warning signs, such as withdrawal, isolation, and irritability in their children.

Many times children are unable to articulate their pain in a way that can be understood, therefore, it is critical for parents to investigate some of the more subtle signs that suggest their children may be in emotional and/or psychological trouble.

Third, more efforts devoted to educating communities of color about mental illness to decrease the stigma associated with it are indeed timely, especially amongst faith communities.

...more efforts devoted to educating communities of color about mental illness to decrease the stigma associated with it are indeed timely, especially amongst faith communities.

Illness to decrease the stigma associated with it are indeed timely, especially amongst faith communities. As long as individuals erroneously believe that mental illness is a sign of weakness and demonstrates a lack of faith and/or sin in one’s life, community members may shy away from seeking professional help when necessary.

Mr. Dorner lived a life devoted to service, yet his final chapter told quite a different story. You never know when someone will be writing about you or someone you know and love in that same manner. Help is available, and it’s time to suffer in silence no more.

Dr. Gloria Morrow
Founder, GM Psychological Services

Dr. Gloria Morrow is a licensed clinical psychologist practicing in Upland. She specializes in treating adults and adolescents who suffer from depression, anxiety, grief and loss issues, married and pre-married couples, families, and groups.

She has served as associate professor of psychology and clinical training director for the doctoral program in Community-Clinical Psychology at University of La Verne, and associate professor of counseling and clinical training director of the Masters in Counseling program at California State University, Fullerton. She continues to serve as adjunct faculty for University of La Verne.

Dr. Gloria holds an earned PhD in Clinical Psychology from Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara; a Masters of Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Azusa Pacific University; and a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology from the University of La Verne.
TOWN HALL MEETING WITH PERRIS RESIDENTS
April 12, 2013
Senator Richard Roth will host a Town Hall Meeting in the City of Perris at the Perris Library, 163 E. San Jacinto Avenue, beginning at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. where he will provide updates on proposed legislation in the State Senate and will meet with community members and leaders. This is a free event and is open to the public. Attendees may RSVP to Altie Holcomb at (951) 680-6750 or by e-mail altie.holcomb@sen.ca.gov

CHARITY SPRING FESTIVAL AND BBQ EVENT
April 13, 2013
Inland Empire Spring Festival and Barbecue Kick-Off. A charity event with proceeds benefiting families affected by domestic violence and drug abuse. Location: Adams Motorsports Park, 5292 24th St., Riverside, CA 92509 - (951) 686-3826. For any further questions or inquiries please contact John Titow: jtitow@olivebranchcounseling.org or call 951-588-5381.

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO
April 13, 2013
The San Bernardino Black Culture Foundation, Inc., will be celebrating its 45th year of community contribution and involvement with the citizens of the San Bernardino Valley at San Bernardino Community Hospital (Henderson Auditorium), 1800 Western Avenue, San Bernardino, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to join the celebration, learn more about the Foundation, how to become an active member, and what’s coming new to the San Bernardino Valley. If you would like more information about this event or to schedule an interview with Jessica Garcia or becoming a San Bernardino Black Culture Foundation, Inc., member please contact Evelyn Gonzalez at (909) 888-1696 or visit our website: www.ssbcbfoundation.com

SPRING JOB FAIR
April 17, 2013
Inland Empire West End Spring Job Fair. 10 am – 2 pm. Your one-stop opportunity to meet, interview and hire high quality experienced workers to fill your full and part-time positions. Admission and parking are FREE. Location: Terminal Building

STOP THE PAIN TEEN SUMMIT
April 20, 2013
The Positive Results Corporation in partnership with Women Wonder Writers and Street Positive invites you to STOP THE PAIN, Teen Summit on Dating Violence, Sex Trafficking and Bull PREVENTION. 9 am – 4 pm. This is a free community event for young ladies & young men, ages 12-22 and their parents. Location: California Baptist University, 8432 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA. For more info, please email kandeele@aol.com or call (323) 787-9252.

NAACP MEMBERSHIP KICK-OFF
April 18, 2013
NAACP – Riverside Branch Membership Kickoff. 6 pm – 8:30 pm. Come out and support the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Join President Waudie “Woodie” Rucker-Hughes for a night of entertainment, networking, education, and refreshments. Location: Canyon Crest Country Club, 975 Country Club Drive, Riverside. For more information, please contact Sharron Lewis at 213 359-8639 or Charles Walker 909 254-1587.

WAYANS BROS. AND CHARLIE MURPHY AT SAN MANUEL
April 18, 2013

SAN BERNARDINO JOB FAIR
April 19, 2013
San Bernardino County Probation Job and Resource Fair. 10 am – 2 pm. A one-stop opportunity to meet and hire workers to fill full and part-time hourly and salaried positions. Admission, parking, and lunch are FREE. Location: San Bernardino County Behavior Health Building – Auditorium, 850 E. Foothill Avenue, Rialto, CA 92376. For more information, please email Mark Ling at mling@wdd.sbcounty.gov or visit www.csb-win.org.

INLAND EMPIRE WALK FOR WISHES
April 20, 2013
Inland Empire Walk for Wishes. 8 am – 12 pm. Location: Castle Park, 3500 Polk Street, Riverside. Cost: $25.00 registration fee. This day of celebration features a World of Wishes Festival, a family-fun walk and inspiration for all! To register, go to http://walkforwishes2013ie.kintera.org.

MS WALK 2013 AT CITIZENS BUSINESS BANKARENA
April 20, 2013
Walk MS 2013. 9:30 am. When you participate in Walk MS, the funds you raise give hope to the more than 19,000 people living with MS in our local Southern California & Nevada communities. The dollars raised support life-changing programs and cutting-edge research. Route Length: 1 mile or 5k walk/run. Location: Citizens Business Bank Arena, 4000 East Ontario Center Parkway. Buy Tickets at axs.com! Event details axs.com!

BLUES CONCERT FEATURING ROBBIE KING AND TINA JACKSON
April 21, 2013

COLLEGE BOOT CAMP
April 22, 2013
Inland Empire College Boot Camp. 7:30 am – 3 pm. Providing resources and information to make your college journey successful! Event includes several breakout sessions designed specifically
for service members, veterans, and military families. Admissions representatives from various Inland Empire colleges and universities will be in attendance. Location: Metropolitan University Village Cinema, 1200 University Avenue, Riverside, CA. Cost: Free. For more info, please visit: http://iecollegebootcamp-eventful.eventbrite.com/r/eventful#

LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY FASHION FUNDRAISER
April 24, 2013
Survivor Strut. 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Models are cancer survivors and supporters and will be sporting hair, makeup and the avant garde stylings of Karen Allen Salons. All proceeds will benefit the Woman of the Year campaign for the Inland Empire candidate, Victoria Brodie, for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Tickets are $40. Location: Riverside City Hall, Grier Pavilion, Riverside, CA. For information contact victoria@womanoftheyear2013.org or visit www.facebook/womanoftheyear2013.

MONEY CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN
Saturday, April 27, 2013

healthy living
with Dr. Ernest Levister F.A.C.P, F.A.C.P.M.

Dear Dr. Levister:

I am a budding high school baseball player. I experience low back pain when I pitch. I have never been injured. My coach blames the discomfort on weak abdominal and pectoral muscles. He recommends over the counter pain medicine. Please explain this. Paul B.

Dear Paul B: Your coach’s opinion is to be respected however he or she is not qualified to diagnose and treat your back pain. Consult with your team physician, personal doctor or health care professional for a formal diagnosis and treatment.

The abdominal/stomach and pectorals/chest are the most notable sets of muscles on the male body and let’s face it, most women love to see chiseled abs and a bulging chest. But having strong chest and abdominal muscles not only helps your appearance, it improves your overall health and athleticism. They are two of the largest muscle groups on the human body and provide most of the power the upper body generates. The chest helps to create the fanning motion used to swing a bat or throw a baseball. In fact, building a strong chest helps improve your fastball.

The abdominal muscles come into play with most exercises and movements. But they also connect your sternum to your lower body and help the back muscles support the spinal column, otherwise known as trunk stability. Strong abdominal muscles help support your back muscles and can reduce lower back pain. For athletes or anyone who wants to lose that spare tire around the middle or beef up that bird fastball.

Invest in a good weight training manual to help you perform these exercises correctly and safely.

Weight training alone won’t give you a strong chest or rippling abs. You have to include a cardiovascular workout that will burn fat and a nutritional program based on your eating habits and schedule. But be sure to visit your doctor or team physician before starting any new exercise routine, and consult a fitness trainer to select the right workout for you.

“...does not end with your vote.”

- President Barack Obama
In the Era of Obama, California Experts Examine How Much Minority Voting has become a Sleeping Giant

By Corey Arvin

Injecting the conversation of race and diversity into any election has been long regarded as a political minefield which liberal and conservative candidates alike should sidestep as it could diminish their chances of victory.

Fast forward to November 6, 2012, staggering minority voter turnout of African-American, Latino, Asian and LGBT voters -- thanks in part to allegations of voter suppression in Southern states -- eased Barack Obama into a second term as President of the United States. It turned out to be a historic election that sent shock waves that are still reverberating through conservative ranks. Suddenly, minorities are the focal point of an election.

Today, with America’s political landscape reshaped, fear is brewing among conservatives and some democrats that the growing minority electorate may shun White candidates or give preference in favor of minority candidates. With African-Americans boosting voter registration to a record high of 13 percent last year and the Latino voting population swelling to 10 percent of the U.S. electorate, concerns are surfacing that November 2012 could become a trend that impacts local and national elections.

Some point to the public outcry in the City of Palmdale that has drawn national attention as a possible example of new expectations among minority citizens. Palmdale, a desert community about 60 miles Northeast of Los Angeles, has some citizens dismayed over 50-plus years of White candidates elected to the City Council in a city with about two-thirds African-Americans and Latinos. Since the city’s incorporation in 1962, only one Latino has served on the City Council and no African Americans. The contention has raised questions about whether Palmdale is a microcosm of a larger frustration among minority voters eager for representation from officials who share similar backgrounds.

New Age of Entitlement?

According to Loren Collingwood, an Assistant Professor of Political Science at University of California, Riverside (UCR), rumblings among conservatives that a new future on the horizon that neglects and disenfranchises White voters is right now. While the matter has triggered anxiety among some White voters, the notion that changing demographics will be difficult for White candidates to overcome are “ridiculous” assumptions that may never manifest.

Collingwood, who has worked for political polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner in Washington D.C., received his Ph.d. in Political Science from the University of Washington. He frequently analyzes campaigns and elections and the intersection with race and ethnicity. Collingwood is authoring a book which examines the relationship between White candidates and Black and Latino voters over the past 50 years. He acknowledges that race is becoming an increasingly apparent topic and difficult to ignore during election cycles.

“The reality is that race is becoming more front and center in recent years, primarily because of Obama. But party I.D. is still the overwhelming factor driving voter behavior. ... Party I.D. is a salient factor. Voting on race is much more impactful on the local level, in a big city. There is where you can see the real racial cleavages,” said Collingwood.

Overwhelmingly, voters will point to a candidate’s policies and ideas as the the driving force behind their support, but in truth, race can play an evident role in a minority’s candidate choice, according to Collingwood.

“Most people who study race and elections argue that race is at the center of elections, especially when a candidate is minority. The most polarized groups in American politics split largely along racial lines; Evangelical Whites almost uniformly vote for Republican candidates, whereas African-American voters usually support democrats 90 percent or higher. Latinos, too, support democrats now around 70% of the time. The electorate as a whole is growing more racially diverse, so these types of cleavages will become even more key. Twenty years ago, race was arguably less important simply because there were more White voters.”

A Growing Political Force

Despite its 16.7 percent composition of the U.S. population -- edging over African-Americans’ 13.1 percent -- and 11 million undocumented immigrants uncertain of their future, few would argue that any other demographic group has captured the attention of political organizations such as the Latino population. With hot-button
issues like proposed immigration reform in limbo and debates over which Latino officials on either side of the aisle should take greater leadership for the Latinos, the focus on their growing voting bloc could remain into the 2014 and 2016 congressional, state and national elections.

However, Latinos are currently submerged in a battle for comprehensive immigration reform and to eradicate “anti-Latino” policies that hurt Latinos, according to State Sen. Ricardo Lara (D-Long Beach).

Lara is Chairman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus (CLLC) which includes 23 state senators and assembly members. The Latino Caucus serves as a forum for members from the State Senate and Assembly to identify key issues affecting Latinos and develop avenues to empower the Latino community throughout California. Following in the footsteps of generations of pioneering Latinos who settled and helped build California, Latino legislators united in 1973 to maximize their power notwithstanding their limited numbers. Since its creation 40 years ago the Caucus has grown in both numbers and stature.

“Over the last twenty years, the Latino community has felt the effect of anti-Latino policies that have unfairly targeted it, but have also served to mobilize the community. One clear example is the passage of Proposition 187 in 1994 under Republican Governor Pete Wilson’s leadership. This anti-immigrant proposal established a state-run citizenship screening system and prohibited undocumented immigrants from using health care, public education, and other social services in California,” said Lara.

Lara also cites Proposition 209, which was passed in 1996, and the Welfare Reform Act of 1996 as two additional policies that were a detriment to Latinos in the areas of employment, education and human services.

“As the Latino population continues to grow and becomes an increasingly integral part of our state and our nation, our leadership, priorities and focus must reflect the changing and diverse face of our state and country,” said Lara.

As Latino leaders continue to push for change through dialogue and mobilize Latino communities, they are looking at lessons learned from the African-American community. Lara hopes to build new bridges with the African-American community as the CLLC moves forward.

“As communities, we have had the opportunity to benefit from the sacrifices and work of leaders like Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King and now it is our turn to continue to build upon this foundation by working together or building partnerships between our caucuses to address legislative and budget priorities,” he said.

“We must not forget that each one of our rights comes with the responsibility to advocate for the advancement of future generations. We must continue to fight for living wages and healthy working environments for all Californians.”

Republicans Taking Notice

While some may view the rising minority vote as a challenge to Republican leaders and conservative voters, with proactive engagement, the growing minority electorate may not evolve into a divisive partisan issue that pits minorities against Republicans. Some Republicans are taking notice and pushing for change within the party to ensure its survival.

Former State Sen. Jim Brulte, who is now Chairman of the California Republican Party (CRP), believes Republicans should place more emphasis on reaching out to all minority voters.

“I think most Republicans and Republican organizations understand that if we are to be a viable second party in California we need to go into traditional non-republican communities and not only discuss our message and principles, but listen to the voices in those communities. We also need to elevate from within those communities messengers who share our vision and principles,” said Brulte.

“Republicans need to recognize that more often than not, the messenger is as important as the message.”

During the 20th Century, African-Americans found some common ground with conservatives on social issues and traditional values, but since the turn of the century and the election of President Obama, African-Americans have made a mass exodus from the Republican Party.

According to Brulte, there is still room to appeal to African-Americans and other minorities. Brulte believes no community’s vote is indefinitely lost by a political party. Furthermore, as Republicans improve upon communicating with all communities, “the old assumptions” will fade away.

“Republicans currently represent about 29 percent of the electorate in California. 100 percent of 29 does not get us to 51 percent. If the Growth and Opportunity Party is ever going to make a comeback in this state, GOP elected officials and leaders need to get out of their comfort zones and campaign in every community of the state. Too many GOP leaders and elected officials spend their time ‘preaching to the choir’,

continued on page 16
$2.5 Billion
Fund to Spend

Local Lawmakers Hear Testimony on Prop 39

Riverside

Riverside County lawmakers State Senator Richard Roth (D- Riverside), Assemblyman Jose Medina (D-Riverside) and Assemblyman Brian Nestande (R- Palm Desert) joined Senate Appropriations Chair Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) at Riverside’s Adult School last Friday for a special public hearing of the Subcommittee on Fiscal Oversight and Bond Indebtedness. The purpose: to listen to testimony from the local education and labor communities on the implementation of Prop 39’s multi-billion fund.

Prop 39, passed by the voters by a 20-point margin, closes a $1 billion corporate tax loophole that gave out-of-state corporations what some consider an unfair advantage. For the first five years, Prop. 39 will dedicate half of the revenues recovered to job-creation, energy efficiency, and clean energy programs implemented by legislation. The other half of the revenues, an anticipated $500 million dollars a year will go to schools. After five years, all of the revenues will go directly to the General Fund, a permanent investment in our state’s future.

A co-chair of the proposition, Senator de León has introduced Senate Bill 39, which will award energy efficiency upgrade grants to the most economically disadvantaged school communities in need of modernization. These grants will maximize job creation; create long-term energy cost savings for schools and put money back in classrooms; shrink our carbon footprint and reduce pollution creating cleaner air for our children.

To meet these goals, Senator de León met with stakeholders around the state including hosting hearings in San Jose, San Diego, Los Angeles, and the Central Valley. The Riverside
hearing, suggested by Senator Roth, concluded the public sub-committee roadshow.

Testimony was heard from education, labor, business and environmental organization leaders including Riverside County Superintendent Kenneth Young and Ted E. Rozzi, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities at the Corona-Norco Unified School District. Rozzi’s district alone has almost doubled since he started with the district in 1992 from 23,000 to 53,000 students. The Corona-Norco District has 50 sites, 48 of them schools, and spends $8 million on utilities, with an annual power bill of $6.4 million.

By retrofitting schools in the district, it is estimated the energy savings could be around 25 percent, generating an additional $1.4 million that could support teachers and efficient district operations that have been especially hard hit by cuts in recent years.

Superintendent Young suggested that the primary filters for allocating the funds should not just be based on enrollment ADA, but should take in to account a variety of factors including energy audits of each facility, conditions of the facilities, and climate variations that influence energy consumption.

“Hearing from experts and community members has been a great learning process about the needs of our communities,” said Senator de León. “I look forward to additional hearings to seek input from stakeholders and to work on passing Senate Bill 39 so we can get Californians back to work, save energy and improve conditions for our schoolchildren.”

Other panelists focused on accountability mechanisms for school construction programs, current funding and programs, and the auditing process, oversight and accountability necessary for success. The Subcommittee heard testimony from Xavier Adrian, United States Green Building Council – Inland Empire Chapter; Robert C. Frost, Business Manager, IBEW Local 440 Riverside County; and Sandra Ramirez, President, Twenty-Third District PTA Riverside County.

More information and research can be found at www.SB39AdvanceCalifornia.org
but the choir is already converted. True leaders spend time in communities that have yet to be converted,” he added.

More Work Lies Ahead
The Democratic Party has gained a clear advantage with minority voters by pushing legislation and advocating issues that resonate with minority communities, said John P. Shoals, former President of the League of California Cities African-American Caucus and former Mayor of Grover Beach. Shoals was the first African-American mayor elected to Grover Beach, which has an African-American population of only 1 percent.

Democrats’ success with minorities is not all credited to governing directly for minorities. Some policies were probably introduced that may appear to target minorities, but were originally intended to reach a broader spectrum of constituents, he said.

According to Shoals, in today’s climate, there may be more of an expectation from minorities to see leadership from other minorities. But African-American voters are an example of a group that can distinguish when a candidate’s values should transcend racial identification. However if some cannot, then some African-Americans should be more educated on what makes policy leaders effective, he said.

While race is more of an obvious issue on the national political stage, there are voters and candidates who can see past it, said Shoals.

“It could have affected me if I fed into the preconceived notion that no one White will vote for me, but I thought if people are more open to my ideas, if you have a good story to tell and people will listen to you, then you can become universal.”

Corey Arvin is a contributing writer for Black Voice News who has worked for Los Angeles News Group as a Staff Writer and Online News Producer, as well as a Staff Writer for the Press-Enterprise Co. He was also a recipient of the Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award for Web Reporting.

Follow Corey Arvin on Twitter @coreyarvin for upcoming features and the latest information on BlackVoiceNews.com.
Chavez Memorial Breakfast

The Riverside Latino Network recently held their 14th Annual Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Breakfast in downtown Riverside with guest speaker Chris Hartmire, who worked alongside Chavez. Hartmire reflected on his 27-years working side by side with Chavez as a member of the California Migrant Ministry, the National Farmworker Ministry and as a UFW insider.

Photos by Carlos Puma - Puma Images

Sylvia Martin-James talks with Rep. Mark Takano Field Representative, Rafael Elizalde, Jr.

Local elected officials and community guests

Chris Hartmire, who worked alongside Cesar E. Chavez

Rep. Mark Takano Hosts Open House

Rep. Mark Takano (D-Riverside) recently hosted an open house event for his district office in Riverside located at 3403 10th Street, Suite 610, Riverside. Rep. Takano stated during the event, “It is my top priority to serve the people of the 41st district and this office will provide important services for the people of Riverside County who are in need of assistance.”

1 With members of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, including President Frank Montes (3rd from left) 
2 Lea Petersen from Sempra Energy, the Gas Co. 
3 Marylin Jacobsen, director of The World Affairs Council of Inland Southern California 
4 Rose Mayes, director of the Fair Housing Council

Photos by Michael J. Elderman
April is Grilled Cheese Sandwich Month. And in honor of one of America’s favorite foods, we asked the VOICE team to divulge the location of their favorite Inland area sandwich shops.

D’Caesaro Pizza & Italian Restaurant
Riverside
Pastrami, Mushroom and Swiss Cheese
SUSAN MORRIS, Office Manager

BK Subs
Loma Linda
Turkey and Avocado Sub
“The bread is what really separates this sub shop from others. The crust maintains a crispy bite while the inside is light and fluffy.”
LEE RAGIN, JR., Executive Editor

Sub Station
across from UC Riverside
Pastrami Salad
“Everything you get in a sandwich but without the bread. Low carb. Very fresh food and great service.”
CARLOS PUMA, Photography

Jammin’ Bread
Canyon Crest Towne Center
Chicken Salad on Sourdough
BENOIT & KATHY MALPHETTES, Photography

Backstreet
near Brockton Arcade
Ham & Swiss
“I always get it on an onion roll, and usually take a selection of pickled beets, pasta salad, and dill pickles from the condiment table. It’s perfect.”
MICHAEL ELDERMAN, Event Photography

Simple Simon’s
Downtown Riverside
Grilled Pastrami with a bowl of the Deluxe Black Bean Chili
CHRIS ALLEN, Creative Director

Subway
San Bernardino
Teriyaki with honey mustard on toasted Italian bread with lettuce, cheddar cheese, spinach, and avocado
JORDAN BROWN, Writing Intern

Jammin’ Bread
Classic Grilled Cheese with cheddar and provolone on sourdough
PAULETTE BROWN-HINDS, Publisher

Upper Crust
Riverside
“This family owned business is run by very sweet people. Their Pastrami sandwich with special drizzle is delicious.”
NATASHA FERGUSON, Special Editor

D’Elia’s
Riverside
“D’Elia’s is the place TURKEY extra meat, extra pepper and extra oil is the sandwich because it is good.”
DELL ROBERTS, Special Distribution

Sprouts
“I get a different sandwich every time I go. It’s good and good for you.”
RORY O’SULLIVAN, Contributing Writer

Back Street
VANESSA BROWN, Community Calendar Editor
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received in the Nutrition Services Department of San Bernardino City Unified School District, 1257 Northpark Boulevard, San Bernardino, California, 92407, on or before 11:00 a.m., on April 22, 2013, for FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT & SMALLWARES, under Bid No. NSB 2012/13-6. Bids documents required for bidding may be secured at the above department. Please call 909/881-8008 x 179127 for more information. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any irregularities or informalities in any bid or in the bidding, and to accept or reject any items thereon.

Publications of this Notice are April 4, 2013, and April 11, 2013

SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Nutrition Services Department

by: Becky Hickey, Buyer

"Place Your Public Notice Here"

Call 951.682.6070 for more info

thevoice.com | APRIL 11, 2013 | VOICE 19

classifieds&publicnotices
THE NOMAD’S HANDS

Section 14411, Et Seq., Business and Name in violation of the rights of another
The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b &p code).
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

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the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law. (Sec. 1440 et. seq. B & P code)

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I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.
This business is conducted by: Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name(s) listed above. I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14411, Et Seq., Business and Professions Code).

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Larry W. Ward, County, Clerk
Clerk D. SOLOMON
FILE NO. R-2013-03663
p. 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 2013

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

HY-LIFT HOIST & AUTO EQUIPMENT REPAIR
16376 Holcomb Way
Riverside, CA 92504
Riverside County

Rodney Dean Shafer
16376 Holcomb Way
Riverside, CA 92504

This business is conducted by: Individual Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 4/11/1990.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

s/…Rodney Shafer
The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code)

Larry W. Ward, County, Clerk
Clerk D. SOLOMON
FILE NO. R-2013-03342
p. 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 2013

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

BODY EXCHANGE
2363 California Avenue, Suite 102
Corona, CA 92881
Riverside County

David Carreno
8124 Northpark Drive
Riverside, CA 92508

This business is conducted by: Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name(s) listed above.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

s/…Rodney Shafer
The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code)

Larry W. Ward, County, Clerk
Clerk D. SOLOMON
FILE NO. R-2013-03050
p. 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 2013

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

STATEWIDE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
8733 Holly Lane
Riverside, CA 92503
Riverside County

Thomas James Calva
8733 Holly Lane
Riverside, CA 92503

This business is conducted by: Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name(s) listed above.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

s/…Thomas Walsh
The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code)

Larry W. Ward, County, Clerk
Clerk T. JENSEN
FILE NO. R-2013-03663
p. 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 2013

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

All Around Courier
3410 La Sierra Ave # 440
Riverside, CA 92505
Riverside County

Thomas Michael Walsh
4985 La Sierra Ave. JC
Riverside, CA 92505

This business is conducted by: Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name(s) listed above.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

s/…Thomas Walsh
The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (sec. 1440 et. seq. b & p code)

Larry W. Ward, County, Clerk
Clerk T. JENSEN
FILE NO. R-2013-03050
p. 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 2013

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

STATEWIDE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT
8733 Holly Lane
Riverside, CA 92503
Riverside County

Thomas James Calva
8733 Holly Lane
Riverside, CA 92503

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s/…Thomas Walsh
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Larry W. Ward, County, Clerk
Clerk T. JENSEN
FILE NO. R-2013-03663
p. 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 2013

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER RIC 1303904
To All Interested Persons: Petitioner: DANIEL GARCIA CARRILLO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: DANIEL GARCIA CARRILLO to DANIEL GARCIA MONDRAGO The Court Orders that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. Notice of Hearing: Date: 6/0/13 Time: 3:00 AM Dept.: 10. The address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, 4050 Main St. (P.O. Box 431), Riverside, CA 92502-0431 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Black Voice, 4290 E. Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501. Date: APR 03, 2013

SHARON J. WATERS, Judge of the Superior Court
p. 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 2013
For advertising opportunities, contact Lee Ragin at 951.682.6070
Why the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives?
My mom Nettie Washington Douglass and I founded the organization to carry on and perpetuate the legacies of our esteemed ancestors and to raise awareness about modern day slavery. Douglass and Washington were born slaves and, through the power of education and knowledge, they were able to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to rise up to effect change in the lives of millions of people. We believed that their legacies could be tangible examples for a young person to grab on to and say, “If they could come up from slavery and go on to make history, then I can overcome any challenges and obstacles I face my life.”

Why now?
The Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDFI) is an abolitionist organization. A few years ago, I read a National Geographic Magazine article with the headline 21st Century Slaves. I was shocked to learn that slavery didn’t end with the work of Frederick Douglass, the abolitionists and the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. I found that slavery still existed in every civilized and uncivilized country around the world, including here in the U.S. Today it’s called Human Trafficking and there are millions around the world held in servitude.

What is the organization’s primary activity?
Prostitution is a form of slavery and the average age that a girl is forced into prostitution in the U.S. is 13 years old. It was clear that in order to help protect our children, we needed to get in front of the most vulnerable in our communities. Using history as our guide, we developed a service-learning curriculum to help teach secondary school children about human trafficking in an effort to prevent them from ever knowing this crime in the first place. Our curriculum is called History, Human Rights and the Power of One. We have found that this approach uplifts and empowers our young people while protecting them from becoming victims.

What is the most memorable moment you have had since you started doing this work full-time?
When we first began our organization in 2008, I visited an elementary school in an area of Southern California. That day I carried with me an original copy of Douglass’ Narrative. After I told his story, a 6th grader named Malik raised his hand and asked if he could come to the front of the group and read from the book. He began reading with poise those words that can be very challenging even for an adult. I remember thinking to myself, “This must have been what Frederick Douglass was like as a boy.” He read the entire first chapter then sat down to the applause of his classmates. I was very impressed and handed him one of our lapel pins. After class the young man’s teacher came to me astonished. He said that Malik had never raised his hand in class to answer a question let alone stand and read. The teacher had been brought to tears when Malik read so eloquently.

About two years later, I attended a reception that featured a young man on the piano. Knowing something about the instrument myself, he sounded to me like a prodigy. To my surprise, the young prodigy, along with his father, approached me afterward and asked if I remembered him. Somewhat embarrassed, I admitted that I did not. He was the boy that read from the Narrative! I was so glad to see him. I commented to his father that I didn’t know Malik was such a great piano player. The father, as it turns out, didn’t know either until a couple of years ago when something had changed in his son. Malik pushed his lapel toward me, “Look I’m still wearing the pin you gave me." That was the moment I realized the transformation a young person could go through when exposed to the legacies of my ancestors.

What do you want future generations -- your children and grandchildren -- to understand about their family legacy?
I want my children to understand the importance of knowing their family history and knowing where they’ve come from. In fact, this is a lesson for everyone. We can all look at our family tree and, if we look hard enough, we will find great heroes and sheroes - people who sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy today. We all don’t descend from a Douglass or Washington or someone who is famous, but each and every one of us descends from someone who made a difference. Each and every one of us has greatness flowing through our veins. I want my girls to understand that they descend from greatness and they can be great in their own way.