

# Sun-Reporter



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**.30¢**  
BEST BUY IN THE WEST

## Malia Cohen Releases Economic Agenda

San Francisco, CA

**M**alia Cohen, Chair of the Board of Equalization and Democratic Party endorsed candidate for State Controller released her economic agenda with a focus on equity for California's women and families - making sure our public dollars work for each and every one of us.

As California's next Controller she will provide tax relief for Californians reeling from the pandemic, while holding corporations accountable for paying their fair share - with a focus on equity.

"I am running for Controller to build a fairer, more equitable California for all," said Malia Cohen. "My plan for California Women and Families is a framework for how I plan to fight for a California that works for everyone - to make sure our tax dollars are working to protect our environment for future generations, fight for access to health care and reproductive freedom, and bring an end to our homeless crisis."

Cohen's economic agenda includes specific plans to:

Ensure compliance with the CA Equal Pay Act

Hold corporations accountable for their fair share of taxes, especially those receiving benefits from the state

Audit funding dedicated to accelerating the construction of affordable housing, to ensure funding meets its intended goal of housing those that need it most

Leverage the state's pension system, the largest in the nation, to encourage companies to meet sustainability targets that fight climate change

Cohen is the former President



Malia Cohen

of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and current Chair of the California Board of Equalization. She leads the race in endorsements, has earned support from State Controller Betty Yee, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Attorney General Rob Bonta, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber, LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, California Democratic Party, SEIU CA, and a growing coalition of unions, educators, activists, and Democratic Party leaders.

A Path Forward for California Women and Families Here in California, two hard years of pandemic life have come on the heels of historic inequity for women, families and people of color and an increasingly unaffordable, untenable cost of living for working people.

We have the fifth largest economy in the world, and yet people are suffering at increasingly alarming rates. As the state's Chief Fiscal Officer, our next Controller has the opportunity to level the playing field for people in this state.

As I've traveled the state over the last year, whether by plane or through zoom, I have been asked by voters what the Controller does and why they should care about the position. The answer is that the Controller has been described as the second most important statewide

constitutional officer after the Governor. She oversees the spending of every penny you, your neighbors, your employer pay in state taxes. She should be financially experienced, a vigilant watchdog over the public finances and should share your beliefs — because the way our state spends its money reflects what we as a state value. In my role as Chair of California's State Board of Equalization, I serve as a watchdog for over \$80 billion in California taxes that directly fund our schools and local governments. I've cut wasteful spending and launched a modernization initiative to ensure the administration of our taxes is fair and effective.

As your Controller, I'm ready to rethink the details and align our budget priorities with our values. California has always been the nation's land of possibility. I'm ready to bring the possibilities off the spreadsheet and into the homes of California's families.

Delivering Fairness and Equity

California's Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG) points to a recent study that shows that nearly 50% of Black and Latinx families are struggling to pay for basic expenses like food, clothing and rent. Something in this state isn't working for growing numbers of Californians — and I'm ready to get to work to solve this systemic inequity.

As your next Controller, I'll put my office's weight behind the

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## The Third Day of Confirmation Hearings Reveal Two Troubling Reasons GOP Senators Oppose Judge Jackson

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent  
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**T**he constant badgering and apparent lack of respect toward Supreme Court Justice nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson during 13 hours of testimony on Tuesday and throughout Wednesday only revealed two essential reasons why Republican senators oppose the D.C. jurist.

First, she's the pick of President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Second, and more troubling, Judge Jackson is a Black woman.

"Many Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are wasting no time embracing the kind of bad-faith scrutiny often



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson

reserved for women and Black nominees — beneficiaries of affirmative action, in one GOP senator's parlance," Political Analyst Brandon Tensley wrote in an analysis for CNN.

"Some Republicans, lacking a coherent strategy, are pressing Jackson for her views on The 1619 Project and the

children's book 'Antiracist Baby' — because 'critical race theory,' though neither has anything to do with the job she's being considered for," Tensley determined.

"Others are trying with great effort to cast the nominee as weak on crime by distorting her past work defending Guantanamo Bay detainees and her sentencing in child pornography cases."

If confirmed, Judge Jackson would emerge as the first Black woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In questioning Judge Jackson, South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham continued the theme of his GOP colleagues, claiming the jurist is weak on crime—specifically regarding defendants charged in child pornography cases.

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## Frankie Jacobs Gillette

April 1, 1925 – February 26, 2022

**F**ranksie Jacobs Gillette, beloved aunt, friend, retired social worker and educator, entered into eternal rest on February 26, 2022, in San Francisco, California after a brief illness.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia in 1925, Frankie was the third of three daughters and a son born to the late Natalie Taylor Jacobs and Frank Walter Jacobs. In 1932, her father, a Baptist minister, was called from Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama to Messiah Baptist Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut where Frankie attended local public schools. She was a graduate of Hampton University and Howard University, where she received a Master of Social Work degree.

Frankie's social work career began with community organizations in Illinois, New Jersey and Michigan. In California, Frankie was a federal government



Frankie Jacobs

administrator implementing War on Poverty programs operated through the US Office of Economic Opportunity/Community Services Administration.

Frankie grew up in the church and was a faithful supporter of her church home in San Francisco, Bethel A.M.E. Church. In 2010, she was honored as "Christian Woman of the Year". Frankie was an active parishioner until her death, and was instrumental in

church improvement activities, fundraising initiatives, and the installation of an elevator on the church grounds.

Frankie's local community involvement was extensive and frequently honored. She shared her fundraising and mentoring talents freely. Notable activities included: Commissioner, San Francisco Human Rights Commission; Member, San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau; Chairperson, San Francisco-Abidjan Sister City Committee; and Trustee, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. She was most proud to be a founding Board Director of the Museum of the African Diaspora (MOAD).

On the national level, Frankie was National President (1983-1987) of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. During her tenure, Frankie was recognized by Ebony magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Black

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## Bethel AME Celebrate Its 170<sup>th</sup> Year Church Anniversary

By Lee Hubbard

**I**t has been a long time coming for Pastor Robert Shaw, the pastor of Bethel AME church in San Francisco. In his fourth year at the San Francisco church, Shaw was just getting his feet wet in the church, when it was shut down for close to two years, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

But on this past Sunday, Shaw was all smiles, as the church in its second week of opening, on the 170th anniversary of Bethel AME church being in San Francisco.

"The church reopening has been a process, but we are glad its open," said Pastor Shaw. "We did all of the safety protocols and we will continue to make sure everyone is safe."

The church celebrated 170 years of service to the San Francisco community. Founded in 1852, when San Francisco was a main post for the gold rush and before the Civil War, Bethel AME is the oldest African American church in the city and it continues to serve the city's African American community with great distinction, despite the changing demographics caused by gentrification.

The keynote speaker for the 170th anniversary service was a friend of Pastor Shaw, the Reverend Marcus Dudley, head pastor at Kingdom



Pastor Robert Shaw and Reverend Marcus Dudley

Movement Community Church in Coffeeville, Mississippi. Both Pastor Shaw and Pastor Dudley, attended seminary school together and from there, a bond was formed between the two men.

In his first visit to San Francisco, Pastor Dudley, said he was impressed with the members of Bethel. But he stressed there is more to do at the church in the community and in San Francisco.

"After 170 years at this church, God is not finished with this church," said Dudley. "God has more to do with this church and the membership has to make it happen."

"I think that being able to stay

open 170 years is a statement to the faithfulness of the ministry that this church has provided to the community," continued Dudley.

While the church has been shut down do to Covid-19, the church has a growing Facebook page and a Youtube channel, which has helped to keep the church relevant and has helped to spread the word. Now that many of the Covid-19 protocols have been lifted, the church is opening its doors again to San Francisco's black community.

"We are back and its only just begun," said Pastor Shaw.

"Its amazing that this church is thriving in this current climate," added Dudley.

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**Amelia Ashley-Ward**  
Editor/Publisher

# VP Harris Releases Plan To Stop Bias In Home Appraisals

By Stacy M. Brown  
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**V**ice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday unveiled an action plan to stop racial discrimination in the appraisal of home values.

The 21-step plan seeks to improve oversight and accountability in the home appraisal business. It includes a legislative proposal to modernize the governance structure of the appraisal industry.

"A home appraisal is a critical element of the home buying and lending process, intended to provide an independent, fair, and objective estimate of the market value of a property so that lenders can accurately evaluate risk," the administration



Vice President Kamala Harris

stated in a Fact Sheet.

"Homeownership is the primary contributor to wealth building for Black and brown households and continues to hold promise for building multigenerational wealth and housing stability for households of color. But, bias in home valuations limits the ability of Black and brown families to enjoy the

financial returns associated with homeownership, thereby contributing to the already sprawling racial wealth gap."

Administration officials said the median white family holds eight times the wealth of the typical Black family and five times the wealth of the typical Latino family.

According to a recent study, eliminating racial disparities

in the wealth families gain from owning a home would narrow the wealth gap by an additional 16 percent between Black and white households and an additional 41 percent between Latino and white households.

On June 1, 2021 – the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre – President Joe Biden announced the creation of the Interagency Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity (PAVE) to develop a transformative set of actions to root out racial and ethnic bias in home valuations. The Task Force has now released the PAVE Action Plan.

The White House said when the plan is enacted, it will represent the most wide-ranging set of reforms ever put forward to advance equity in the home appraisal process. U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge and Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice co-chairs the Task Force.

The Action Plan details a set of commitments and actions, most of which can be taken using existing federal authorities, that will help every American to have a chance to build generational wealth through homeownership.

As part of the action plan, the government will expand the complaint hotline for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. There also will be appraisal bias training in homebuyer education classes and efforts to ensure that the computer systems used to value homes do not perpetuate racial biases.

To view the plan, visit <http://www.PAVE.HUD.gov>.

## Gillette

Continued from page 1

Americans" for 1984. Frankie also held life memberships in the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, the Links, Inc., and Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

Frankie was preceded in death by her parents, three

siblings and her loving husband and true soulmate of 46 years, Maxwell C. Gillette. Married in 1976 by distinguished theologian, Howard Thurman, they lived their lives guided by his admonition to "Ask what makes you come alive and go do it."

She will be lovingly missed by her two nieces, Renata Henry, and Karen Sarjeant (Larry), her grandnieces Kiera Henry, Nicole Henry, and Shani Sarjeant, and her grandnephew, Omari Sarjeant, and several nieces and nephews in the Bay Area and throughout the world.

A memorial service will be held at Bethel AME Church, 916 Laguna Street, San Francisco (415-921-4935) on March 26, 2022, at 1 p.m. Safety protocols will be observed; masks and proof of vaccination are required. The service will be live streamed on FaceBook and YouTube

under the name "Bethel AMEC San Francisco"

**Please consider memorial contributions in Frankie's honor to the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and/or the Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco.**



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# House Passes CROWN Act To End Discrimination Against Natural Black Hairstyles

By Stacy M Brown  
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**C**onnecticut Democratic Rep. Jahana Hayes sounded off to critics of legislation that would allow individuals freedom to express themselves by how they wear their hair.

“Natural hair should be worn without fear of discrimination,” Rep. Hayes asserted moments after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the CROWN Act, banning hair-related discrimination.

The measure passed in a vote of 235-189 along party lines.

Introduced by Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-New Jersey), the acronym CROWN stands for Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair.

The measure outlaws discrimination based on an individual’s texture or style of hair.

The bill will, which now heads to the Senate, states that “routinely, people of African descent are deprived of educational and employment opportunities” for wearing their hair in natural or protective hairstyles such as locs, cornrows, twists, braids,

Bantu knots, or Afros.

Republicans strongly opposed the measure, and some used race-baiting words in expressing their opposition. “No to the nappy hair act,” Georgia Republican Marjorie Taylor Green railed.

Civil rights groups applauded the passage of the measure.

“Passage of the CROWN Act by the House of Representatives moves our nation one step closer to federal protection for Black women, men, and children from discrimination across the country simply because of their natural hair or hairstyle,” stated Damon Hewitt, president and executive director of

the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

“We urge the Senate to quickly take up this important legislation, which would ensure that Black students are not prohibited from attending or participating in school events because of their natural hair, that Black employees are not subject to pretextual firing or negative employment actions because of their hair texture or style, and that Black people are accorded dignity and respect in choosing to embrace a natural hairstyle.”

Hewitt said restrictions on Black hairstyles and textures in

workplaces and school campuses are relics of white supremacy.

“This explicit protection against racial discrimination based on hairstyles is long overdue,” he remarked.

In a statement, Congressional Black Caucus Chair Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio) said Black women and girls face discrimination because of their natural hair each day at their workplaces and schools.

“So today, I proudly voted yes on the CROWN Act to finally end race-based hair discrimination once and for all,” Beatty insisted.

“It’s simple — discrimination

against Black hair is discrimination based on race. I look forward to swift passage of this critical legislation in the Senate and standing with President Biden as he signs it into law.”

Rep. Beatty then delivered a message to Black youth.

“To every young Black girl and boy, I say to you, your hair — from your kinks to your curls, from your fros to your fades, from your locs to your braids — is a crown,” she asserted.

**“Be proud of your hair and know the Congressional Black Caucus is fighting for you.”**

## Cohen

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CCSWG’s Pay Equity TaskForce, helping Californians understand their rights and elevating the Task Force’s CA Pay

Equity Pledge, sponsoring business roundtables and holding them accountable for action.

As our office conducts its audits of state government agencies, I’ll ensure that the state is

meeting its promises and complying fully with the California Fair Pay Act – starting with a review of the Controller’s office. MALIA COHEN’S PLAN FOR EQUITY IN CALIFORNIA Labor Donated. Printed In-House. Holding Corporations Accountable for the Promises They Make A May 2020 study by the California Budget & Policy Center showed that California corporations pay less than half of what they paid in taxes just a generation ago. Tax breaks and credits are decided by legislators – but as Controller, I’m committed to making sure that Californians are getting what we pay for. California has long been the center of progress and ingenuity, in part because of one of California’s biggest tax breaks: the Research and Development (R&D) tax credit, which incentivizes companies to innovate and to do it here. As Controller, and a member of the Franchise Tax Board, I’ll use the audit function to ensure that companies claiming this credit

are doing the work – and creating the quality jobs as part of the promised research.

California also spends millions of dollars in grant programs and training for corporations to ensure that workers in California have the tools they need to succeed in today’s

economy. Programs like the Employment Training Panel offer California companies

tremendous resources – we need to make sure that the “good-paying, long-term jobs” stay right here in California. I’ll make sure that the dollars invested go toward California jobs and California companies.

Ensuring that Affordable Housing Programs Deliver California’s Controller has the unique position of overseeing bond issuance and tax credit allocation to infrastructure and housing opportunities in the state. I firmly believe that our state government must act swiftly to help house those in need of a safe, secure place to call home, and create new affordable housing solutions and wraparound services that will help solve this problem in the long term.

There are a lot of good programs being implemented as part of the state’s Housing Accelerator Program. New investments by Governor Newsom promise new funds to break ground and deliver 2,300 new affordable housing

units. That’s a good start. As your Controller, I’ll make sure those funds deliver what they promised: housing solutions

to those who need them most.

MALIA COHEN’S PLAN FOR EQUITY IN CALIFORNIA Labor Donated. Printed In-House.

Protecting Our Reproductive Freedom For my entire adult life, I’ve been told that reproductive health care was at risk – Roe v. Wade was on the verge of being overturned. It’s never been more true than today. Across the nation, state legislatures are testing the waters, seeing just how far they can go to make sure that reproductive freedom is restricted for Americans. Not here.

On the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco, I authored the Pregnancy Information and Protection Ordinance, which prohibits health clinics in San Francisco from making false or misleading statements about protected health care services. As your Controller, I’ll use my constitutionally protected authority to audit government spending at the state and local levels to ensure that every penny we spend upholds our state’s commitment to reproductive freedom.

This year, the U.S. Supreme Court will be reviewing a direct challenge to the long-standing legal protections of abortion under Roe v. Wade. Should the Court overturn

Roe, people in over half of the states in the country will lose access to abortion care.

California must be a leader to protect our fundamental freedoms.

I will go to the courts if necessary to make it clear to state agencies and local governments that reproductive health care is protected in the state of California.

Women and pregnant people in the state of California have access to full reproductive health care – from birth control to prenatal care to abortion services. I will do the same with school districts and regional governments, ensuring that AB 329, which ensures that our schools teach comprehensive sex ed – is implemented in our public school curriculums, and that the information is medically accurate, in accordance with the California Healthy Youth Act. Taking Climate Action California’s Controller occupies a critical role in building a climate action agenda for our state. As a permanent member of the State Lands Commission and Chair in even-numbered years, our Controller helps oversee our land, our water and the rights to the natural resources of our state.

Overseeing land management, offshore drilling and mineral rights, the State Lands Commission has a tremendous opportunity to set the strongest possible standards of conservation. As Controller, I’m committed to working toward

using our public lands MALIA COHEN’S PLAN FOR EQUITY IN CALIFORNIA Labor Donated. Printed In-House.

for renewable energy, ending our dependence on oil and gas. I will work hand-in-hand to hold current lease holders to the highest possible standards of environmental stewardship and seek opportunities to transition away from extraction policy.

The Controller’s audit function and role as a member of the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) and California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) Boards grant additional opportunities to write a greener future for our state. I will use the audit function to ensure that grant programs and spending through programs, like those awarded through the California Energy Commission, meet their end goal of advancing “the state’s transition to clean energy and transportation

through innovation, efficiency, and the development and deployment of advanced technologies.” And, while California has led in leveraging our combined \$570 billion public pension portfolios (the two largest pension systems in the nation) for the greater good, I’ll work to push the net-zero emissions target for the Climate Action 100 companies to 2040 – because our future can’t wait. Raising the Standards for

Affordable, Quality Health Care

The past two years have taught us just how critically important it is to have a strong, accessible, affordable health care system. Raising the standards for health care and mental health care while enforcing equitable access and increasing transparency in costs is essential for improving the wellbeing of women and families in this state. As your next Controller, I’m ready to leverage the strength of the office to do just that. Membership on the CalPERS Board means the Controller has oversight of one of the largest health benefits purchasers in the nation, covering California’s 1.4 million current and retired state employees. I will leverage that purchasing power to increase transparency and lower costs for Californians.

**As a member of the California Health Facilities Financing Authority, I’ll work to increase access to bond dollars and grant programs for nonprofit and public health facilities providing critical care to Californians in need. In the midst of a crippling mental health care crisis, I will create incentive programs to help these facilities access mental health providers and staff to treat those in need. And I’ll make sure that the doctors, nursing professionals and staff in these facilities have fair wages and transparent scheduling.**

## Jackson

Continued from page 1

Repeatedly interrupting Judge Jackson’s responses and egregiously misstating her position, Sen. Graham suggested the judge didn’t consider computer usage a sentencing enhancement.

Her face displaying disbelief in the senator’s behavior, Judge Jackson remarked that she not only sends offenders to prison but orders lengthy periods of supervision following their release.

“Senator, all I’m trying to explain is that our sentencing system, the system that Congress has created, the system that the sentencing commission is the steward of, is a rational one,” Judge Jackson stated.

“It’s a system designed to help judges do justice in these terrible circumstances by eliminating unwarranted disparities and ensuring that

the most serious defendants get the longest periods of time in prison.

“What we are trying to do is be rational in dealing with some of the most horrible kinds of behavior.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell claimed Judge Jackson was evasive in a floor speech.

“Judge Jackson is receiving a calm, respectful process, unlike the treatment that Senate Democrats typically inflict on Republican presidents’ nominees,” McConnell decided.

“But unfortunately, thus far, many of Judge Jackson’s responses have been evasive and unclear. She’s declined to address critically important questions and ameliorate real concerns.”

However, Sen. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York praised Judge Jackson.

“At times, the judge also displayed one of her greatest traits: her grace and poise, even when Republicans asked intentionally misleading questions,” Schumer remarked on the Senate floor. “Republicans tried to land a blow, but Judge Jackson kept her cool.”

When Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) attempted to get Judge Jackson’s position on Roe v. Wade, the jurist noted that the Supreme Court is currently considering efforts to overturn that law, making it inappropriate for her to comment.

Sen. Cornyn pressed, asking, “What does viability mean when it comes to an unborn child in your understanding?”

The Judge responded:

“I hesitate to speculate. I know that it is a point in time that the court has identified in terms of when – the standards that apply to

regulation of the right,” Judge Jackson responded.

Cornyn shot back:

“No one suggests that a 20-week-old fetus can live independently outside the mother’s womb, do they?” Cornyn asked.

To which she responded:

“Senator, I’m not a biologist,” she replied.

“What I know is that the Supreme Court has tests and standards that it’s applied when it evaluates regulation of the right of a woman to terminate their pregnancy.

“The court has announced that there is a right to terminate, up to the point of viability, subject to the framework of Roe, and there is a pending case that is addressing these issues.”

Another Republican, Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, suggested Judge Jackson was too compassionate for

the Supreme Court.

“It seems as though you’re a very kind person, and there’s at least a level of empathy that enters into your treatment of a defendant that some could view as may be beyond what some of us would be comfortable with, with respect to administering justice,” Sen. Tillis said, piggybacking off colleagues like Sen. Graham who called the judge a “nice person.”

Judge Jackson disputed Sen. Tillis’ assessment.

“I follow the statute that applies to judges that Congress has set forward, including the nature and circumstances of the offense, the history of the character and characteristics of the defendant,” Judge Jackson stated.

When belligerent Texas Republican Ted Cruz attacked Judge Jackson and demanded that, if confirmed, she recuses herself from an affirmative

action case involving Harvard University, the judge said she planned to sit out that decision.

Judge Jackson sits on Harvard’s Board of Overseers.

Sen. Cruz defiantly ignored Judiciary Committee Chair Dick Durbin’s (D-Illinois) repeated admonition to allow Judge Jackson to answer his questions and that his time expired.

Sen. Cruz asked Judge Jackson to define a woman, shouting that she’s the only nominee not able to answer that question.

“I know that I’m a woman,” Judge Jackson retorted.

**Democrats hope to keep its caucus together in voting for Judge Jackson’s confirmation. Without any GOP support, Democrats need all 50 senators to confirm Judge Jackson, elevating her as the first Black woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.**

# The Sun-Reporter

## EDITORIAL

We wish to plead our own cause.  
Too long have others spoken for us.

*Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.*

## 195 Years Of The Black Press – I Messenger Media Stands Among The Media Companies Who Are Creating A Better Path For Its Consumers

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

**I** Messenger Media serves among the 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies represented by the National

Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

The company stands among the many who lead in clearing a path for a better tomorrow for all.

Founded in 2011, I Messenger Media has demonstrated its kinship to the founders of

the Black Press – John B. Russwurm and Samuel Cornish – by striving to help everyone in the firm belief that all hurt, if any, are marginalized.

I Messenger was founded as a tribute to Le Messenger, a publication founded by Cameroonian journalist Pius Njave.

Labor activist A. Philip Randolph and economist Chandler Owens founded The Messenger, an independent magazine.

I Messenger Media serves as the umbrella organization for Texas Metro News, Garland Journal, I Messenger, newsletter Metro News and the “Cheryl’s World” podcast.

“We are very important to readers, the surrounding communities, and journalism because we provide information, share information, and we are committed to ensuring that all citizens can access the information they need to survive and thrive,” said Cheryl Smith, the publisher of those publications and host of “Cheryl’s World.”

“After decades as a journalism professor, reporter, editor, radio and television talk show host and producer, I was provided an opportunity to own a publication,” Smith explained in an email.

“The decision was given considerable thought as I decided what I could bring to the landscape that was missing.”

She continued:

“As someone who has always loved the Black Press and grew up in an environment where entrepreneurship was

the way of life. My family relied on the Black Press for information about our people. My family in Florida has subscribed to the Florida Sentinel for more than 50 years. I went to work as an intern at the Capital Outlook in Tallahassee and graduated from FAMU with a job.”

She insisted that those at I Messenger Media “want to be like those soldiers without swords who fearlessly told the stories of Black people.”

“We strive to find the good stories but also to fairly report the bad ones. We are focused on informing, empowering, educating, inspiring, and yes, entertaining our audiences,” Smith asserted.

“We bring a level of professionalism, ethics, and integrity with unique content primarily from an African-centered perspective that is appreciated internationally.”

When COVID-19 began, I Messenger Media pivoted to explore reaching more readers.

The organization established partnerships with eateries and grocery stores to disseminate its publications.

“We immediately began producing podcasts — bringing experts to audiences via Facebook Live and other platforms,” Smith recounted.

She noted that I Messenger

Media publications transitioned from weekly to daily broadcasts with experts, educators, elected officials, community leaders, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, and others.

They also entered into a collaboration agreement with the Dallas Morning News.

In early 2020 we entered into a collaboration with the Dallas Morning News.

Smith called it an opportunity to pool resources and provide better coverage of the communities they serve while remaining true to the Black Press’ credo of holding mainstream media outlets accountable.

“The Black Press has been responsible for telling so many stories that would have never been shared. A look at documentaries over the years and it is apparent of the role the Black Press played in calling attention to the many societal issues and ills that have plagued our communities,” Smith said.

**“Decades from now, our presence will be remembered because of everything from the Million Man March and Trayvon Martin to George Floyd and Vice President Kamala Harris. We have continued to be on the forefront providing accurate and contextual coverage.”**

## OP-ED: Robert F. Smith, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan, Frank Baker And William Pickard Top List Of Black Donors To HBCUs

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., President and CEO, National Newspaper Publishers Association

**B**illionaire philanthropist and novelist MacKenzie Scott’s \$560 million donation last year to 23 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) made headlines across the country at a time when racial equity has become front-page news. However, for decades Black leaders in business, entertainment, education, and other fields have been the main sources of philanthropic donations to HBCUs.

A recent Washington Post story found that Black Americans donate a higher share of their wealth than their white counterparts – to the tune of around \$11 billion each year. Given their cultural and educational importance to the Black community, HBCUs are the repository of much of these donations with a number of household names – and some you may not know – making big-dollar contributions to these institutions.

Here are some of the most prominent Black philanthropists to donate to HBCUs:

Robert F. Smith – Chairman & CEO, Vista Equity Partners

Smith, the billionaire investor behind the software private equity firm Vista Equity Partners, drew widespread praise in May 2019 when he announced that he and his family would pay off the entire student loan



debt of the 2019 Morehouse College graduating class of 396 students. Along with paying off the student debt, Smith’s \$35 million donation also helped establish the Student Success Program to reduce or eliminate debt for all Morehouse grads. The private equity guru also gave the school an additional \$1.5 million to create the Robert Frederick Smith Scholars Program and build a park on campus.

As board chair of the Student Freedom Initiative – a plan to provide STEM students at HBCUs with a family-centric, income-contingent payment alternative to high-cost, fixed-payment debt – Smith pledged \$50 million. Smith’s donation jumpstarted the initiative, which hopes to raise \$500 million for the effort and began operations in the fall of 2021 at eleven HBCUs.

“Each year, thousands of Black graduates from HBCUs across America enter the workforce with a crushing debt burden that stunts

future decisions and prevents opportunities and choices,” Smith said. “The initiative is purposefully built to redress historic economic and social inequities and to offer a sustainable, scalable platform to invest in the education of future Black leaders.”

Oprah Winfrey, Television Personality, Philanthropist, Author, Entrepreneur & Actress

Most people may know the philanthropic acts of Oprah – who, like Beyoncé, Prince, and Zendaya needs no further introduction – through the infamous “You get a Car!” episode of her talk show, but she is also quietly, one of the biggest donors to HBCUs in the country.

In 2019, Oprah donated \$13 million to Morehouse College to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Oprah Winfrey Scholars Program at the HBCU. Overall, Oprah has donated at least \$25 million to the Atlanta school. “I felt that the very first time I came here,” Oprah said. “The money was

an offering to support that in these young men. I understand that African American men are an endangered species. They are so misunderstood. They are so marginalized.”

Besides her gift to Morehouse, Oprah also donated \$1.5 million to the United Negro College Fund to help pay for scholarships for Black students and general scholarship funds for 37 private HBCUs.

Frank Baker – Founder and Managing Partner of Siris Capital

Baker, the founder of private equity firm Siris, along with his wife, interior designer Laura Day Baker, donated \$1 million in May 2020 to establish a scholarship fund at Atlanta’s Spelman College, the oldest private historically Black liberal arts college for women.

Initially, the scholarship paid off the existing spring tuition balances of nearly 50 members of Spelman’s 2020 graduating class and the remaining funds

are meant to ensure that future high achieving graduating seniors have the financial resources to graduate.

“We are all aware of the headwinds that people of color – especially women – face in our country, the challenges of which are made even more apparent by the economic and health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,” the couple said in a press release. “We believe it is critical that talented women finish college and confidently enter – free of undue financial stress – the initial stage of their professional careers.

William F. Pickard – Businessman, Co-owner of Real Times Media

Detroit businessman and philanthropist Pickard has a long history of donating to HBCUs across the country. Most recently Pickard and his cousin, Cincinnati businessman Judson W. Pickard Jr., donated \$2 million to Morehouse College to create the Pickard Scholars Program. This program will recruit and support Black students from metro Detroit, Flint, greater Cincinnati, and LaGrange, Georgia to attend the Atlanta HBCU.

“People have uplifted and helped me grow and I believe in blessing others,” Pickard, whose children attended Morehouse, told the Atlanta Tribune. “Our gifts are given to where we are from and those who have invested in us and who we are.”

The Pickard Family Foundation also donated \$100,000 to the National Black MBA Association to

create the William F. Pickard Business Scholarship Fund. The fund is open to qualified business student members at several HBCUs who need help financing their education.

Michael Jordan – Former NBA Superstar

Michael Jordan is arguably the greatest basketball player of all time and is almost single-handedly responsible for transforming the game into the global phenomenon it is today. So, if anybody knows how to make an impact on HBCUs, it would be His Airness.

The six-time NBA champion and five-time league MVP, along with Nike’s Jordan Brand, donated \$1 million last year to Morehouse College to boost the school’s journalism and sports-related studies program. The donation is meant to bolster a program launched thanks to the donation of another icon, director Spike Lee.

“Education is crucial for understanding the Black experience today,” Jordan said in a press release. “We want to help people understand the truth of our past and help tell the stories that will shape our future.”

The donation to Morehouse is part of a pledge made by Jordan and his brand in 2020 to donate \$100 million over the next ten years to combat racism across the country.

**The following video link highlights the transformative financial contributions to HBCUs by these African American philanthropists:** <https://vimeo.com/687271086/670be7a4b6>

# RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



## Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

# Members Of Christ

Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Place: from Ephesus  
Time: A.D. 55

**Golden Text:** "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1 w 6:19-20)"

What are we living for? Who are we living for? Have we considered whether or actions or sinful or not? Is sin relevant or a laughing matter? How we live matters to God. The Corinthians had claimed that since they were not in bondage to laws, they could do as they wished. Paul replies that this is not so. Not all things are helpful, and some may lead a person into a new kind of bondage (12). Certain people at Corinth even claimed that just as the stomach needs a constant supply of food to satisfy

it, so the body needs unrestrained sexual pleasure for its satisfaction. Paul denies this. The body's main purpose is not concerned with sex but with God. It is the means by which people serve God and by which God functions in people (13). It is a body which, in the case of believers, will one day be raised in glory and which is already united spiritually with Christ. Such a body should not, therefore, be united physically with a prostitute (14-17). Immorality is a sin against the dignity of one's own body. For the believer it is a sin also against the temple of God, for the believer's body is the Holy Spirit's dwelling place. Whatever is not fitting in God's temple is not fitting in the body of the believer (18-19). God has bought believers out of the slavery of sin at the price of Christ's life. They belong to him, not to themselves, and therefore they must use their bodies for his glory (20). (Concise Bible Commentary).

Paul concluded his statement

by reminding the Corinthians that the body belongs to Christ. "All things are lawful" must have been a common saying in this church. Certainly, the Holy Spirit speaking through the apostle Paul did not intend to tell Christians that "anything goes." Rather the Holy Spirit countered that slogan with "but all things are not expedient." In this verse Paul gave a principle of Christian liberty. Although "all things are lawful," there are certain limitations. The truth of this statement is important because it deals with what is possible, but not necessarily best. "All things" cannot be taken in an absolute sense. Paul's intent was to lead the readers to admit the truth of this verse and then later to see their wrong. If the Christian is free to do all things, he is still not free to sin. Limitations to a Christian's liberty are set by consequences and what is right. Also, the possibility of being brought under the wrong power would limit the sentiment expressed in this verse. The Corinthians thought they were free, but their actions had brought them under the power of sin. The Christian shares the authority of Christ, but that does not give freedom to do all things, even if the right to do them is there. (Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians). Paul goes on to state that believers should not be enslaved by anything. Amen! Also, Paul realized that doing whatever pleases us at anytime is a sure way to become a slave to that behavior. The writer of this lesson makes is quite plain, "When we are living in obedience to Christ, we are set free to not indulge in these behaviors. Deliverance from sin is not only a matter of going to heaven or hell. It is a matter of living out holiness, something every Christian should be striving for and trusting God to produce in our lives." God has an express purpose for the body. It

may well be the Corinthians had placed fornication on a morally indifferent level, arguing that the presence of bodily appetites was enough reason to gratify them. Perhaps they considered body and soul separate, and since the body was to be done away with, it made little difference what it did. Paul quickly demolishes this viewpoint. Paul admitted the fact there are certain natural appetites, but relegated them to a particular sphere because they are passing. In due time God will render them inoperative. But the body is not to be so done away with. Nor is (fornication, etc., transient. It has a permanent effect. Likewise, the connection is not between body and fornication (as between meats and belly), but between the body and the Lord. "God did not design the body for fornication as He did the belly for food". The body, the physical part of man, belongs to God who created it. The value of the body is increased because of the new birth. It is to be treated with honor; it is for the Lord and needs His help to function properly. (Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians) (1 Corinthians 6:13).

The potential of the body must be seen. As the Father raised Christ, so shall He raise believers by His power. The emphasis is on the importance of the body. The destiny of the "belly" and "meats" is destruction. The destiny of the body is the resurrection and eternal life in Christ. (Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians). (1 Corinthians 6:14). Paul said the body is the Lord's and cannot function properly without Him, then he made the union more intimate by establishing union with Christ as prohibitive to impurity. Paul asked a question intended to receive a negative answer: Shall I take the members of Christ away and make them members

of a prostitute or submit them to sin? Absolutely not! This would involve deliberate alienation and defilement. Moral and spiritual ruin would be caused by such actions. Paul is emphasizing the intimate and binding relationship between Christ and believers. As the Church is the body of Christ, so the various persons in the Church are members of Christ (verse 20). (Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians). (1 Corinthians 6:15). On the other hand, being joined to a prostitute is also a complex union, for it involves physical, mental, and spiritual aspects. One unit is formed. Paul reminded his readers of such passages as Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5, and Mark 10:8. The "harlot" is associated with evil, and by this illicit union the union with Christ is damaged or even broken. (Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians). (1 Corinthians 6:16). However, a proper relationship with Christ forms a total relationship that affects every part of the individual. It is a proven fact that the mind affects the body and spirit and vice versa. This relationship is on a far higher plane than the first. A man "joined to a harlot" descends to her filthiness. A man "joined unto the Lord" becomes one "spirit" and ascends to heavenly places. The believer's thoughts, desires, and actions become one with His in a spiritual, wondrous union. "Joined" (as in verse 16) is used of close bonds of various kinds. Literally, it refers to the process of gluing. A very close tie is the result. (Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians). (1 Corinthians 6:17). Paul's conclusion was based on what has preceded: "Flee fornication." Recall the story of Joseph in Potiphar's house. We must stand up to and fight some sins, but the answer to this one is flight. The sexual drive is very

strong, and we must guard against striking a spark in the passions that would lead to such sin. Other sins which may affect the body, do not wreak the devastation this one does, for this sin aims only at the satisfaction of lust. This sin goes against the very nature and purpose of the body. It becomes a self-violation, as well as a sin against God. It demands the participation of the whole person, for it stems from the heart, the spring of being (Mark 7:18-23). For the third time in this section, Paul turned to a fact the Corinthian readers should have known: "Know ye not...." The Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Filth has no right to be there. Paul referred to the whole Christian Church in 3:16, 17; here he was speaking to the individual member in the body of Christ.

**The Holy Spirit, sent from God, abides within the Christian, and purifies the temple. But believers as priests have a part in it also. This temple was purchased by God through the blood of Jesus Christ and is now possessed by Him, with the result that this shrine is owned and possessed by the Holy Spirit. The temple does not draw dignity or purity from itself, but from the God who inhabits it. (Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians). (1 Corinthians 6:19). It should be the Christian's constant goal to glorify God because he has been bought with a great "price." That principle of life applies directly to the body, and it requires immediate obedience. (Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians). (1 Corinthians 6:20). Remember, we are Holy unto the Lord and must refrain from being corrupted and influenced by the world. Amen Amen! Be Blessed!**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Little Zion Baptist Church**  
1245 Divisadero Street  
San Francisco, CA

Sunday School 9:00am  
Morning Worship 11:am  
Evening Worship 6:pm

**El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**

Rev. Keva L. McNeill,  
Pastor

1320 Golden Gate  
San Francisco, CA.  
921-4850, 921-0878

Church School 9: am  
Children's Church 10:am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Bible Study 1-2pm & 6:30-7:30pm  
Prayer meeting Wednesday 12:00 Noon

**St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church**

1601 Newcomb Avenue  
San Francisco, CA.  
94124  
Rev. Dr. J.P. Alexander

Church School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 11: am  
Tuesday Usher meeting 7:pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm  
Tuesday Choir Rehearsal 7: pm  
Prayer and Teacher meeting Wednesday 7:30PM

**Neighborhood Baptist Church**

608 Hayes Street  
San Francisco, CA  
Rev. Lane Hawkins

Sunday School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 11: am  
Evening Worship 6: pm  
Bible Class Monday 5: pm

**Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church**

6190 3rd Street  
San Francisco, CA.  
94124  
Phone: (415) 822-4071  
Fax: (415) 822-0156

Rev. Kenneth R. Reece  
Pastor

Sunday School 9:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:25: am  
Communion Every 1st Sunday  
Baptism Every 2nd Sunday  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:30 pm Wednesday  
Abundant Life Recovery Ministry 6:30 pm Mondays

**Evergreen Baptist Church**

6270 3rd Street  
San Francisco, CA.

Rev. Jackey Wilson  
Pastor

Sunday School 9:15 am  
Morning Worship 10:40: am  
Wendesday 6: pm  
Teacher's Meeting 5: pm  
Sr. Mission 5: pm  
Children's Bible Study 6:45 pm  
Bible Study 6:45 pm  
Saturday 10-11 am  
Food Pantry 10-11 am

**Ascension Baptist Church**

1311 Quesada ave.  
San Francisco, CA.  
94124  
(415) 822-9488

Rev. Anthony Anderson

Morning Worship 10:15: am  
Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 PM  
Church School Wednesday 7: pm  
Communion every 1st Sunday

**Shekinah Christian Fellowship**

790 Tennessee St.  
San Francisco, CA.  
94107  
(415) 646-0747

Ella Henderson, Bishop & Founder of SCF

Tyrone and Demetra Hillman  
Pastor  
Sunday School - 9:am  
Morning worship - 10:15 am  
Radio: Sunday 9:30 am KDYA  
TV: Tuesday and Friday 8:30am  
KTLN Total Living Network

**Ebenezer Baptist Church**

275 Divisadero Street  
San Francisco, CA.

Sunday School 9:15 am  
Morning Worship 10:45: am  
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

**Mount Calvary Baptist Church**

4000 Middlefield Rd.  
(Cubberly Community CTR)  
Palo Alto, CA. 94306  
(650) 569-6944  
Rev Roy Northington  
Pastor

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Morning worship - 11:00 am  
Wednesday Bible Discussion 7: pm  
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**Providence Baptist Church**

1601 McKlennan Ave  
San Francisco, CA.  
94124

Rev. Calvin Jones Jr.  
Pastor

Wednesday Bible Study  
Women 6pm  
General 7pm  
Sunday School - 9:30: am  
Morn Worship 8am & 10:45 am  
Morning worship - 10:45 am  
BTU 6:30 pm  
Evening Worship 7:00 pm

**Living Word Church of God In Christ**

12 Westlake Ave  
Daly City CA. 94014

Rev. Derrick Lomax  
Pastor

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Morning worship - 11:30 am  
Wed Bible Class 8:00 pm  
Friday Prayer Service 8:00 pm

# Sun Reporter

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