

Sun-Reporter



A NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE • 77 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ENTIRE BAY AREA

(USPS 526-500)

VOLUME 77 - NUMBER 16 • THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

Supreme Court Justice Jackson Proclaims: 'We've Made It. All of Us'

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent
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Two hundred and thirty-two years, 116 justices, 108 white men, six women, 2 Black men, and 1 Latinx woman later, the United States Supreme Court finally has an African American woman serving as Associate Justice.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson earned confirmation with a 53-47 vote, breaking the glass ceiling after America's first Black woman Vice President, Kamala Harris, presided over the process to confirm her.

"It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States," Jackson proclaimed a day after her confirmation during



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson and Vice President Kamala Harris

a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

"But we've made it. We've made it. All of us. All of us," she declared, adding that "Our children are telling me that they see now more than ever that here in America, anything is possible."

Jackson remarked that she had been flooded with

thousands of meaningful notes from children and others.

She said the letters for young ones touched her deeply.

"Because more than anything, they speak directly to the hope and promise of America," she asserted. "[Children] also tell me that I

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It's Official: Biden Announces Extension of Student Loan Repayment Freeze

By Stacy M. Brown
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President Joe Biden on Wednesday, April 6, announced a pause on federal student loan repayments – extending the break in payments through August 31.

Originally, the freeze was scheduled to expire May 1.

Borrower balances have frozen for more than two years since March 2020. During this time, interest has stopped adding up and collections on defaulted debt have been on hold.

Since taking office, Biden has expanded student loan forgiveness who work in the public sector, those who were defrauded by for-profit colleges and borrowers who are now permanently disabled.

Officials said those initiatives have provided more than \$17 billion in relief to borrowers.

Here's Biden's official statement:

In January 2021, on my first day in office, I directed the Department of Education to pause federal student loan repayments through September of that year. At the time, our economy was barely growing. Fewer than 1 percent of Americans were fully vaccinated. Millions of Americans were struggling to stay afloat. Because of that pause in repayments, 41 million Americans



President Joe Biden

were able to breathe a little easier during some of the toughest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, America is stronger than we were a year ago—and we will be stronger a year from now than we are today. Thanks to our plan to build the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, the economy has created 7.9 million jobs since I took office—the greatest year of job growth on record. We've seen the fastest economic growth in nearly 40 years. More than 217 million Americans are now fully vaccinated, and 2 out of 3 eligible adults are boosted. We have the tools we need to move forward safely and return to more normal routines.

However, as I recognized in recently extending the COVID-19 national emergency, we are still

recovering from the pandemic and the unprecedented economic disruption it caused. If loan payments were to resume on schedule in May, analysis of recent data from the Federal Reserve suggests that millions of student loan borrowers would face significant economic hardship, and delinquencies and defaults could threaten Americans' financial stability.

Accordingly, to enable Americans to continue to get back on their feet after two of the hardest years this nation has ever faced, my Administration is extending the pause on federal student loan repayments through August 31st, 2022. That additional time will assist borrowers in achieving greater financial security and support the Department of Education's efforts to continue improving student loan programs. As part of this transition, the Department of Education will offer additional flexibilities and support for all borrowers.

I'm asking all student loan borrowers to work with the Department of Education to prepare for a return to repayment, look into Public Service Loan Forgiveness, and explore other options to lower their payments. Vice President Harris and I are focused on supporting borrowers in need, and believe that this pause will provide a continued lifeline as we recover and rebuild from the pandemic.

A Coalition Of Black Faith Leaders, Nonprofits Announce Completion Of Affordable Housing Renovation In Historic Fillmore Neighborhood

Frederick Douglas Haynes Apartments welcomes back residents to 104 newly-renovated units and added amenities, as part of efforts to restore housing in San Francisco

San Francisco, Calif

return to fully renovated

Photos courtesy of HumanGood

The Board of Third Baptist Gardens, in partnership with HumanGood Affordable Housing, is pleased to announce the completion of the extensive renovations of Frederick Douglas Haynes Apartments (FD Haynes Apartments). FD Haynes Apartments is an affordable housing community in the historic Fillmore neighborhood of San Francisco, developed in the mid-1970s by Third Baptist Church, one of the oldest African American Churches in the city dating back to the mid-1800s.

The apartments were named after Pastor Frederick Douglas Haynes Sr. who led the church for over 38 years and built Haynes Apartments to provide affordable housing to African American families. Since 1976, the church has been led by Reverend Amos Brown, who has been a civic leader and a fierce advocate for keeping African Americans in San Francisco.

"This marks a significant milestone for San Francisco's African American community," says Kendra Roberts, Vice President of Operations at HumanGood. "For the last two decades, we've witnessed the African American population dwindle as costs of living rise, compounded by the COVID pandemic. We know these apartments will offer a lifeline for many."

"Today marks the continuation of Pastor Haynes' legacy of service" adds Anthony Wagner, Board Member at Third Baptist Gardens, Inc. "Because of his and Third Baptist Garden's commitment to making affordable housing accessible, future generations of many families will be able to thrive in beautiful and safe housing."

Early this month, residents of the 104-unit family community were able to



Dr. Frederick Haynes, III, of Dallas, Texas was in hand to cut the ribbon for the. Occasion celebrating his grandfather. He is joined by other family members.



Chairs of the celebration Attorney Gordon Greenwood and Anthony Wagner are pictured with Kendra Roberts, VP of HumanGood.



Dr. Amos Brown, center, is shown with Committee members.

apartments with all new infrastructure including new electrical, plumbing, and all new kitchens, bathrooms, flooring in addition to a new community room, courtyard, children's play structure, resident services coordinator's office and resident BBQ area.

To mark this exciting achievement, please join Third Baptist Gardens and HumanGood on Tuesday, April 12 at 12:30 PM for a press conference located at 1049 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94115.

Vice President Kamala Harris To Announce Reforms To Ease The Burden Of Medical Debt

By Stacy M. Brown
The Washington Informer

One-in-three adults in the United States are saddled with medical debt, which now counts as the largest source of debt in collections – more than credit cards, utilities, and auto loans combined.

According to a White House fact sheet, Black and Hispanic households are more likely to hold medical debt than white households.

As part of the fight to help people contend with high costs, Vice President Kamala Harris plans to announce reforms to help ease the burden of medical debt.

The White House said this should help provide more families the opportunities to thrive.

“Together, these actions will help hold medical providers and debt collectors accountable for harmful practices, reduce the role that medical debt plays in determining whether



Vice President Kamala Harris

Americans can access credit – which will open up new opportunities for people with medical debt to buy a home or get a small business loan, help over half a million of low-income American veterans get their medical debt forgiven; and, inform consumers of their rights,” the administration said in a release.

The White House said medical debt isn’t just a financial issue – it can have negative health effects.

One study found that almost half of individuals with medical debt intentionally avoided seeking care.

“Getting sick or taking

care of loved ones should not mean financial hardship for American families,” administration officials stated.

“That is why the Administration is taking new action to ease the burden of medical debt and protect consumers from predatory collection policies.”

The White House said the planned actions build upon President Joe Biden’s April 5th Executive Order on strengthening access to affordable, quality health care coverage, which directed federal agencies to take action to reduce the burden of medical debt.

“[On April 11], Vice President Harris is announcing reforms in four areas that will lessen the burden of medical debt, protect consumers, and open up new opportunities for Americans looking to buy a home or start a small business,” the White House stated.

The actions include holding providers and collectors accountable.

“Providers have a responsibility to offer non-predatory payment plans or financial assistance to all eligible patients,” the White House noted.

“While many do, far too many eligible patients report not receiving help. Worse, lawsuits against patients over medical bills are on the rise. And when hospitals sell outstanding bills to third party debt collectors, patients can be subjected to persistent and aggressive collections practices.”

The administration noted that the federal government pays roughly \$1.5 trillion a year into the health care system to provide patients with quality care and services.

Providers receiving that funding should make it easy for eligible patients to receive the financial assistance they are entitled to and should not directly or indirectly subject patients to illegal and harassing debt collection practices, the White House stated.

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra plans to direct the agency to evaluate how providers’ billing practices impact access and affordability of care and the accrual of medical debt.

Officials said HHS will request data from more than 2,000 providers on medical bill collection practices, lawsuits against patients, financial assistance, financial product offerings, and 3rd party contracting or debt buying practices.

The Department will, for the first time, weigh that information in their grantmaking decisions, publish topline data and policy recommendations for the public, and share potential violations with the relevant enforcement agencies of jurisdiction.

Separately, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) will investigate credit reporting companies and debt collectors that violate patients’

and families’ rights and hold violators accountable.

The White House added that the administration also plans to improve government underwriting practices as the latest research found that owing medical debt is not a reliable predictor of overall financial health.

They said an analysis of 5 million anonymized credit records found that consumers who owed medical debt paid their bills at the same rate as those who did not.

Including paid-off medical debt causes credit scores to underestimate creditworthiness by as much as 22 points.

“As a result, the inclusion of medical debt on credit reports and in credit scores and loan underwriting can hold American’s back from financial opportunities while failing to improve the accuracy and predictiveness of lending programs,” the White House said in the release.

Sun Reporter



(ISSN 0890-0930)

Dedicated to the cause of the people— that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed.

Published weekly by Sun-Reporter Publishing Co. 1286 Fillmore Street San Francisco, CA. 94115 Periodicals Postage Paid At San Francisco, California

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to - Sun-Reporter Publishing Co. 1286 Fillmore Street San Francisco, CA. 94115 Phone: (415) 671-1000 Fax: (415) 671-1005 E-Mail address: SunReporter@SBCglobal.net Website:

www.SunReporterMedia.com
Subscription Rates: \$20 per year; 30 cents per copy. Member of National Newspaper Publishers Association, Inc., and California Publishers Association. Sun-Reporter has a six-column format, 1.895" per column with .125" between each column.

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Black Caucus Update: Solano’s Lori Wilson Joins Assembly; L.A.’S McKinnor And Pullen-Miles Headed To Runoff

Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

The California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) added another member to its roster last week.

Former Suisun City Mayor Lori D. Wilson, a Democrat, was sworn into office April 6 to represent the 11th Assembly District. Wilson won a special election following the resignation of former Assemblymember Jim Frazier, also a Democrat.

“I am deeply humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to serve our communities in the State Assembly,” Wilson said in a statement. “From constituents who need help with state services, to challenges like rising homelessness, climate change, and keeping our neighborhoods and communities safe, I promise to work every day to deliver results for our communities,



Assemblymember Lori Wilson

and to be a relentless advocate for every person who lives in our district.”

Wilson was the lone candidate on the ballot for the special election. She will serve out the remainder of Frazier’s current term, which ends on Dec. 5, but she must clear another hurdle to continue serving voters in the 11th District, an area stretching from the Bay Area to the Sacramento Valley, covering East Bay cities like Antioch, Pittsburg, Fairfield and Walnut Grove.

Wilson is on the ballot in the Democratic primary election on June 7. The first Black female mayor to serve in Solano County, Wilson will run for re-election to serve a full, two-year term. She has one challenger for the seat.

“Lori Wilson is competent and capable. She has the knowledge and the skills to make a difference in the Legislature. Her integrity and consistency are her greatest assets,” said David C. Isom, Vice President, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District.

Shortly after she was sworn into office last week at the State Capitol, a day after the special election, Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon (D-

Lakewood) appointed Wilson as Assistant Majority Whip.

Rendon also appointed her to the Accountability and Administrative Review Committee, the Appropriations Committee, the Banking

and Finance Committee, and the Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee.

K. Patrice Williams, a Solano County businesswoman, community leader and advocate said Wilson’s hard work on the campaign trail paid off.

“Today was epic in so many ways because of 26,293 votes in a special election,” she posted on Facebook. “Mayor Lori Wilson is now Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson. We sent Lori to the Capitol with people power. Congratulations to Lori and US!”

In Southern California, nonprofit director and businesswoman Tina Simone McKinnor, 58, and Lawndale Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, 55, will face off in a run-off special election in June for the vacant 62nd District Assembly seat.

Both Black Democratic candidates, McKinnor and Pullen-Miles were the top-two finishers in the special primary

held on April 5, 2022, to replace former Assemblymember Autumn Burke, who resigned in February.

As of April 8, McKinnor was leading with 11,190 votes (39%) to Pullen-Miles’ 9,918 votes (35%). Nico Ruderman and Angie Reyes, both Democrats, trailed with 3,781 (13%) and 3,765 (13%) votes, respectively.

The CLBC currently has 11 members, including Wilson. The other members are Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Gardena), chair; vice chair Sen. Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles); and Assemblymembers Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), Mike Gipson (D-Carson), Chris Holden (D-Pasadena), Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove), Mia Bonta (D-Alameda), Akilah Weber (D-San Diego) and Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles).

DC Justice Lab Helps Create Gun Violence Prevention Tool

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

Data shows that Black males ages 15 to 34 are shot at 21 times their white counterparts and shot by law enforcement at disproportionately higher rates than white Americans.

And according to several community groups, including the DC Justice Lab, unarmed African Americans are over three times more likely to be shot and killed by police than white people.

The organization noted that amid an unprecedented surge in gun violence, primarily concentrated in Black and Brown communities, solutions that do not exacerbate the longstanding inequities are urgently needed.

With that, the DC Justice Lab joined groups like Cities United and March for Our Lives to develop a new tool they said could help ensure solutions to gun violence become centered in equity.

The Racial Equity Impact Analysis – or REIA – uses a set of questions to help decision-makers, including legislators, government officials, and advocacy organizations, identify and assess racial equity impacts before implementing a policy.



The organization's said the goal is to develop effective and equitable policies.

"We collaborated with other organizations and received insight and support from many experts in the field," said Dr. Bethany Young, the DC Justice Lab deputy director.

"Black people and Latino people and other BIPOC communities are disproportionately affected by police gun violence and community gun violence. So we were looking for tools that would allow communities to address the gun violence epidemic while ensuring that they're not contributing to or exacerbating existing

racial inequities."

The REIA counts as a product of a year-long collaboration among gun violence prevention groups, including Cities United, March for Our Lives.

Led by the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, organizations included the Community Justice Action Fund, Consortium for Risk-Based Policy and the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

According to a news release, REIA builds on a public health model that identifies the social determinants of health as a

critical factor in violence.

These include lax gun laws, concentrated poverty, environmental lead, and alcohol abuse.

Specifically, REIA identifies and assesses factors bearing on racial equity before implementing policy.

Officials could evaluate these factors to promote racial equity, reduce victimization, and minimize arrests and incarceration.

If a policy already exists, this REIA tool can help guide ongoing implementation and amendments to that policy to address identified equity concerns.

Ideally, this tool should be a collaborative process within, and beyond the organization, the authors stated.

"The tool aims to address the root causes of violence in communities and set parameters around when law enforcement is involved," Dr. Young noted.

"Gun violence affects every community differently, so we want to get to the root of the problem and avoid interaction with law enforcement."

The report accompanying the tool noted that the impact of gun violence on the lives of BIPOC communities remains devastating and the over-reliance on a heavily punitive criminal legal system to address violence.

The authors reported that black men are arrested, denied bail, convicted and wrongfully convicted, and issued long sentences much higher than their white counterparts.

As a result, the authors concluded nearly half of all Black men would face arrest before 23.

Beyond laws that only focus on firearms, the authors maintained that the policy agenda of gun violence prevention should work in tandem with other advocacy initiatives.

Dr. Young noted that this includes addressing racial

inequalities in housing, education, transportation, and the criminal legal system, which all contribute to gun violence.

As an example, the authors examined Colorado's extreme risk protection order statute – or ERPO.

The civil court orders are used to temporarily prohibit the possession and purchase of firearms by persons a court deems to pose a significant danger of harming themselves or others by possessing a gun.

The goal of ERPOs is to reduce firearm homicides and suicides by removing firearms from individuals at high risk of committing gun violence.

The lack of trust between law enforcement and African Americans in Colorado only deepened with the 2019 killing of Elijah McClain in Aurora.

"Colorado has quite the high rate of gun suicides attributed to white men, and one of the communities most impacted by guns is white males," Dr. Young stated.

"Yet, you still see a situation where Black people are experiencing the brunt of harsh law enforcement tactics with a goal purportedly of reducing gun violence. But if they narrowly tailored it as we noted in the report, they can address the problem of gun violence in communities feeling the impact."

My Turn

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strengthen your immunity against
severe illness & death.**

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Jackson Continued from page 1

am a role model, which I take both as an opportunity and as a huge responsibility.

"I am feeling up to the task, primarily because I know that I am not alone. I am standing on the shoulders of my own role models. Generations of Americans who never had anything close to this kind of opportunity, but who got up every day and went to work believing in the promise of America."

President Joe Biden proudly acknowledged his history-making nomination and the nominee turned confirmed Justice.

"I mean this from the bottom my heart. This is going to let so much sunshine on so many young women, so many young Black women," Biden offered.

"We're going to look back and see this as a moment of real change in American history."

Harris, whose proudly and demonstrably nervously presided over the Senate vote, said Jackson's confirmation served a higher purpose.

"This will answer fundamental questions about who we are and what kind of country we live in," Harris stated.

"You will inspire generations of leaders. They will watch your confirmation hearings and read your decisions in the years to come. Today is indeed a wonderful day."

The arduous and volatile

confirmation hearings served to underscore why more than 3,800 individuals have served on federal benches in the United States, but only 70 have been Black women.

Following four days of public testimony and a racially charged grilling of Jackson by Republicans that began on March 21, Senate Judiciary members deadlocked 11-11 on April 4 to move the nomination out of committee.

However, Jackson's nomination moved forward based on Senate rules and a Democrat majority in the upper chamber.

On April 7, members again engaged in a debate over confirmation, but Sen. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer cut arguments off before the final vote.

Ironically, Republicans changed the rules for Supreme Court nominees in 2017 to confirm Justice Neil Gorsuch, a pick of former President Donald Trump. That move allowed for a similar majority to vote to limit debate.

While all 50 Democrats in the U.S. Senate voted in favor of Jackson, Sens. Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska were the only Republicans to cast ballots of approval.

"I am feeling up to the task, primarily because I know that I am not alone. I am standing on the shoulders of my own role models, generations of Americans who never had

anything close to this kind of opportunity, but who got up every day and went to work believing in the promise of America," Jackson said during a celebratory event on the South Lawn of the White House on April 8.

"My grandparents on both sides, who had only a grade school education but instilled in my parents the importance of learning. To my parents who went to racially segregated schools growing up and were the first in their families to have the chance to go to college."

She paid homage to Justice Thurgood Marshall, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., and other heroes.

"I am also ever buoyed by the leadership of generations past who helped to light the way. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Justice Thurgood Marshall, and my personal heroine, Judge Constance Baker Motley," Jackson said.

"They and so many others did the heavy lifting that made this day possible. I think of them as the true pathbreakers."

She noted that everyone has had someone else come before them.

"No one does this on their own. The path was cleared for me so that I might rise to this occasion," she said.

"In the poetic words of Dr. Maya Angelou, 'I do so now while bringing the gifts my ancestors gave. I am the dream and the hope of the slave.'"

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

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

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

Brother Biden, Please Keep Another Promise Or Two

By Julianne Malveaux

I do this thing in my head with President Joe Biden. When he gets on my nerves, I often call him President. When I want something from him or want to thank him for something, I call him Brother Biden. As I write this, I thank him for our incoming Supreme Court Justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, and I'm celebrating her gracious, humble, generous presence like so many of us. This woman inspires me, and that's an understatement. I admire how she has managed to keep her effervescent smile through the kind of



Julianne Malveaux nonsense that would have me throwing punches. Ted Cruz, really? Lindsey Graham, really? These privileged white men attempted to rattle the cage of a woman who could be taken off her game. May we all have some measure of her restraint.

So thank you, Brother Biden, for doing the right thing. But it isn't the only right thing you can do. You talked about reparations during the 2020 campaign. Now there is legislation in the House of Representatives to pass HR 40, the legislation that Congressman John Conyers (D-MI) introduced annually since 1989, and that Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) is now carrying. The votes are almost there, but the Senate will not pass it. Why not do an executive order to study the reparations issue officially. It would take a stroke of your pen to make this happen. Why

won't you do the right thing?

You also agreed to forgive some student loan debt. While it is clear that there is some pushback on forgiving all debt, why not take the first step by forgiving some of it? With a stroke of a pen, you could forgive at least ten grand of it for everyone who carries debt, and we know that Black folk, in particular, have more. What is preventing you from honoring a campaign promise and helping needy people?

As an educator, I'm more than familiar with the equity arguments that the likes of Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) make. Is it fair for working-class folks to carry the debt of the highly educated? Did people take out too many loans for the wrong purposes? What will loan forgiveness cost? From an equity perspective, Manchin may have a minor point. There is a flip side, though. What will it cost us if we don't forgive the loans? We already see the delayed adulthood of some young people with the accelerated adulthood of others. In other words, affluent young people buy homes, while young folks with less privileged backgrounds are graduating college and moving to their parent's homes, crippled by

student loan debt. These different circumstances exacerbate the wealth gap. Brother Biden, you have an opportunity to make a difference in millions of lives.

Democrats are sitting in the crosshairs. They are worried about the 2022 election and turnout when President Biden's (not Brother Biden's) rankings are tanking. He has options, though, and one of them is to keep more of his promises. It would take him five minutes to do student loan forgiveness. It would take another five to offer an executive order about reparations. And most importantly, it would take him some concentrated effort to put his shoulder to the wheel on voting rights.

The Republicans in the Senate do not have his back, even as a special few supported the nomination of incoming Justice Ketani Brown Jackson. Those same three – Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Mitt Romney (R-UT) know that voting rights have been trampled on. They know that they can do the right thing. They won't do it because they don't have to and because too many of them are currying favor with the former President to speak out

of their integrity.

They spoke of their integrity when they voted to confirm incoming Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. They spoke of integrity and history when they stood up and explained their votes. They spoke lofty words, but there are only a few words they will use to stand up against their bullying party. We have to give them credit for speaking out, but we must also ask why more Republicans won't stand on the side of integrity.

Instead, we have blustering bullies who would publicly bully a woman of extreme faith and integrity, who are more enamored with their own voices than with the truth. President Biden, stop trying to reason with these idiots. Stop being a Senator and start being a President. Use your executive orders to move your student loans and voting rights agenda. Push them to the limit, like they are pushing you to yours. Thank you for Justice Katanji. Is it within the realm of possibility that I might thank you again in these next few months? I hope so.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, and Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State LA. JulianneMalveaux.com

Far-Right Smears of Judge Jackson Show Why We Can't Let Them Take Power

By Ben Jealous

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson made history this week when the U.S. Senate confirmed her nomination as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. That is cause for celebration.

When Judge Jackson is sworn in as Justice Jackson later this year, she will become the first Black woman to serve on our highest court. And she will become the first justice ever to have served as a public defender. She will bring a much-needed “justice for all” perspective to the court.

Judge Jackson's nomination has inspired millions of Americans. Her bipartisan support from Americans and senators is a sign that our country can continue to move toward a “more perfect union.”

The confirmation process, however, showed us something else. Something far more disturbing about the current



Ben Jealous

state of that union.

The far-right wing of the conservative movement, which is currently the dominant force in the Republican Party, set out to smear Judge Jackson and anyone—Republican or Democrat—who supported her. They made it clear why we cannot allow them to take power in this year's elections.

They dragged Judge Jackson into dishonest and dishonorable far-right political campaigns that were already under way.

For example, far-right activists and their Republican allies have been waging a

campaign to silence teaching about racism in U.S. history and institutions. The Far Right has devoted a huge amount of energy to make critical race theory—a way of studying the impact of racism—something sinister. They want to scare conservative voters into turning out for school board elections and this year's congressional elections. The extremist think-tank activist who started the CRT scare has admitted that his goal was just to apply that label to anything that right-wing culture warriors didn't like. And for sure, they tried to slap it on Judge Jackson.

Another far-right campaign sweeping the country is an attack on the legal equality of LGBTQ Americans. That campaign taps into some of the oldest and ugliest smears against LGBTQ people—claims that they are a threat to children. And it draws energy from the conspiracy theories promoted by QAnon

activists about a network of powerful pedophiles.

Shameless senators like Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz tried to drag Judge Jackson into that cesspool by distorting her record as a judge and portraying this mother of two daughters as sympathetic to child abusers. Now, keep in mind that Judge Jackson is from a law enforcement family, and was endorsed by organizations representing both police chiefs and police officers. That didn't stop the smears.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene made it clear that this was a political weapon. She outrageously attacked three Republican senators who voted to confirm Judge Jackson, calling them “pro-pedophile.” And she attacked Democrats as “the party of pedophiles.” The Family Research Council suggested that it would try to make Democratic senators explain their support for someone who is “lenient on

child offenders.” Others used far worse language.

This is beyond unprincipled. It is dangerous. And it shows us how much is at stake in this year's elections. If we let these extremists get control of the House and Senate, we will be putting our future in the hands of people like Greene, Hawley and Cruz. And we will put our courts in the hands of Mitch McConnell, who kept many of President Barack Obama's judicial nominees, including a Supreme Court nominee, from even getting a vote.

Judge Jackson's nomination was part of an exceptional effort that President Joe Biden has made to put more Black women, and a more diverse group of judges, on the courts. But Sen. Lindsey Graham made it clear that Republicans would put an end to that. He said if Republicans had been in control of the Senate, Judge Jackson wouldn't have even gotten a hearing—because

Republican senators would have forced President Biden to name someone else.

What a loss that would have been for our country—and for all the people who are inspired by Judge Jackson. Let's not give the Far Right a veto over our courts and our future.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania where he teaches leadership. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

Witnesses To Christ's Resurrection

Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Place: from Ephesus

Time: A.D. 55

Golden Text: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures: (2 Corinthians 15:3-4).

What is the foundational doctrine of the Christian faith? According to one great scholar, "the foundational doctrine of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection is one of the most important events in the history of mankind, as man's salvation depends on it. The world

is still stuck that a man who was dead and buried could be alive again. God has the power to give life, which includes resurrecting a dead body. It is established, a historical fact that Jesus was crucified on a cross and buried in a borrowed tomb. Three days later, that tomb was discovered empty. God the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead! Our Savior Lives. He has Risen from the grave with all power in His hands.

Some have suggested that Paul reserved this chapter on the Resurrection till last because he thought that a firm belief in it would help solve many of the Corinthians' problems. Certainly if the message of Christ crucified were foolishness to the Greek mind (1:23), the corollary doctrine of the Resurrection was no less

so (Acts 17:31-32). The implicit denial of the Resurrection on the part of some may be seen in the Corinthian conviction that the present era represented the consummation of God's material blessings (1 Corinthians 4:8; and sexual immorality was a matter of no lasting consequence).

Like the problems previously discussed, the denial of the Resurrection by some in the church was a matter apparently reported to Paul and not something the Corinthians themselves had included among their questions in their letter to him (1 Corinthians 7:25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12). As in his response to the Thessalonian confusion on the Resurrection (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), Paul began with a fundamental affirmation of the faith (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14) and expanded on it. ((The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). The gospel Paul had preached in Corinth had not changed; but he feared that just as there had been a falling away in the church concerning the message of Christ crucified and its implication for believers, the same was happening with regard to the message of Christ resurrected. As the former message was an essential element in the Corinthians' experience of ongoing salvation (the present verb saved focuses on sanctification), so was the latter. To reject bodily resurrection and deprive of vital force, "the gospel" made faith vain ("without cause"

or "without success") because it had an unworthy object. Believing the gospel includes holding firmly to belief in Christ's resurrection. Unless one holds firmly, his belief is "in vain"; Matthew 13:18-22). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).

Paul included himself in the company of all believers when the spoke of receiving the truth of Christ's death and His resurrection on behalf of sinful people. These verses, the heart of the gospel, were an early Christian confession which Paul described as of first importance. It was really a twofold confession: Christ died for our sins, and He was raised. The reality of this was verified by the Scriptures (Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:8-10) and by historical evidence verified by time in the grave and out of it, in the presence of the living. The fact that He was buried verified His death, and the fact that He appeared to others verified His resurrection. Peter, the first male witness, was soon joined by the remaining disciples who composed the Lord's immediate circle. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). Later a much larger company of believers witnessed His resurrection. The 500... brothers may have formed the audience who received the commission recorded in Matthew 28:18-20 (Acts 1:3-8). Since most of those were still living when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians,

they could be consulted. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (1 Corinthians 15:6). Some have debunked this Resurrection appearance as simply the pious vision of believers seeing with the eyes of faith. But Paul could have cited the testimony of two for whom that was not true, James, the half-brother of Jesus, and himself. Like Paul, James probably came to faith (cf. John 7:5 with Acts 1:14) because of an appearance of the resurrected Christ (Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-11). Paul considered himself abnormally born because he lacked the "gestation" period of having been with Christ during His earthly ministry (Acts 1:21-22). It seems that the apostles were a body wider than the previously mentioned Twelve were all distinguished by having seen the resurrected Christ (1 Corinthians 9:1) which made Paul the last of their company. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (1 Corinthians 15:7-8).

Because he was the last, like a runt, untimely born, Paul could call himself the least of the apostles. He felt less deserving of the office because he had been an opponent of the church (Acts 22:4; 1 Timothy 1:15-16) which he now served (2 Corinthians 4:5). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (1 Corinthians 15:9). He realized, however, that his past

was simply a backdrop on which to display the grace of God, the grace to which Paul had been so responsive. Indeed, Paul was without peer in his devotion. The history of the church confirms that his devotion was not without effect ("empty"; He had worked harder than any of the other apostles, as he traveled more, suffered more opposition, wrote more New Testament epistles, and founded more churches. Yet Paul knew and ministered with the recognition that it was not his power but God's which produced results. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (1 Corinthians 15:10). He realized, however, that his past was simply a backdrop on which to display the grace of God, the grace to which Paul had been so responsive. Indeed, Paul was without peer in his devotion (1 Corinthians 9:19-27).

The history of the church confirms that his devotion was not without effect ("empty"; 1 Corinthians 15:14). He had worked harder than any of the other apostles, as he traveled more, suffered more opposition, wrote more New Testament epistles, and founded more churches. Yet Paul knew and ministered with the recognition that it was not his power but God's which produced results. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (1 Corinthians 15:11).

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Evening Worship 6:pm

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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
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94124
Rev. Dr. J.P. Alexander

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Wednesday Bible Study 7: pm
Tuesday Choir Rehearsal 7: pm
Prayer and Teacher meeting Wednesday 7:30PM

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Rev. Lane Hawkins

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Baptism Every 2nd Sunday
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Abundant Life Recovery Ministry 6:30 pm Mondays

Evergreen Baptist Church

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Rev. Jackey Wilson
Pastor

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Morning Worship 10:40: am
Wendnesday Teacher's Meeting 6: pm
Sr. Mission 5: pm
Children's Bible Study 5: pm
Bible Study 6:45 pm
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Rev. Anthony Anderson

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Church School Wednesday 7: pm
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Morning Worship 10:45: am
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

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Morning worship - 10:45 am
BTU 6:30 pm
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Officers In Death Of George Floyd Reject Plea Deal

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



George Floyd

Three former Minneapolis police officers charged with the murder of George Floyd have rejected a plea deal offered by prosecutors.

Former officers Tou Thao, Thomas Lane, and J. Alexander Kueng face state charges of aiding and abetting Floyd's murder.

A federal jury convicted the

trio of violating Floyd's civil rights earlier this year.

Derek Chauvin, the officer who knelt on Floyd's

neck for over nine minutes, accepted a federal plea deal in January after state prosecutors won a murder conviction against him last year.

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill held a hearing on April 12 to consider a request to allow live video of the upcoming federal trial for the three officers.

While details of the plea offer were not disclosed, prosecutor Matthew Frank told the court that each officer was extended the same deal. However, each rejected the offer, Frank said.

Earl Gray, who represents Lane, said it was difficult for his client to cut a deal with federal prosecutors because he hasn't been sentenced in the federal case.

The judge, in that case, has yet to set a sentencing date.

Each of the officers remains free on bail pending sentencing.

The officers face life in prison following their conviction.

"Nothing will bring George Floyd back to his loved ones, but with [the guilty] verdicts, we hope that the ignorance and indifference toward human life

shown by these officers will be erased from our nation's police departments, so no other family has to experience a loss like this," Floyd family attorney Benjamin Crump stated following the jury verdict in the federal trial.

"The Floyd family will have to relive the traumatic disregard for George's life once again in June when these officers will stand trial in state court. We hope, and we expect, that these officers will once again be held accountable for their lack of humanity."

This Easter, Model Love By Getting Vaccinated Against COVID-19

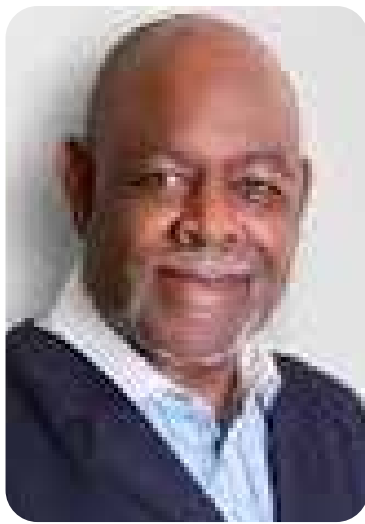
By Gerald Agee

As a faith leader, I am called to serve not just the spiritual needs of my community but their physical health and welfare, too. COVID-19 has taken the lives of far too many of our brothers and sisters and at far higher rates than for other communities. These are people who still had so much to give, so much love to share. This sad reality makes my mission more critical.

As Easter approaches, and we come together to celebrate the sacrifices Jesus made for us, we must commit ourselves to loving one another by protecting them from harm.

Because of COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, gathering in God's house to celebrate Christ's resurrection is safer.

But the virus is still among us,



Pastor Gerald Agee

which means that in-person communion demands we get vaccinated and boosted and that we consider everyone's safety, especially those most vulnerable to infection.

Today, we have the strength and purpose of mission to

form a united front to take on a common enemy. Thanks to the resolve of brilliant scientists and public health experts, COVID-19 can be slowed, and its potentially deadly force can be blunted.

United with 25 other churches across the state, Friendship Christian Center has served as a trusted community resource for virus testing and vaccination. Together we have tested more than 315,000 people and delivered more than 25,000 vaccine doses. A silver lining in the ongoing pandemic may be that together we can serve our communities in greater ways.

These efforts have affected me personally, as well. I was one of the of thousands of African American men in California diagnosed with COVID-19. In January I got a routine test and was positive

for the Omicron variant, but because I was vaccinated and boosted, I didn't feel sick. I offer this testimony to anyone still hesitant about taking the same steps to protect themselves and loved ones.

We have listened to our community's concerns about COVID-19 and vaccination, and we understand the historical and often justifiable lack of trust in government and medical authorities who have urged us to get the shot. We have responded to each with compassion and with facts.

God uses supernatural powers to heal, but He also uses people. We have trusted people who are part of vaccine discovery and trusted people who have developed COVID tests. They all say the same thing: The virus is real. It can spread. It can kill. And it can be stopped through

vaccination and common-sense measures like physical distancing and wearing masks.

We have more to do, especially when it comes to our children. More than 700,000 children and adolescents in California have been infected with COVID-19, and 6,500 children have been hospitalized since July of last year. Thirty-eight children have died. These facts are heartbreaking, especially since research has proven that the vaccine is safe for children as young as 5 years old with only mild side effects.

Love is action. It is what we do more than what we say. When we are loving our grandparents, our children, our babies, and our neighbors as we are meant to do, we are protecting them. Getting vaccinated and getting our children vaccinated is how

we show and share our love. Easter is an opportunity for us to model love.

When you are ready to get your child or yourself vaccinated, visit MyTurn.ca.gov or call 833-422-4255 to schedule an appointment.

There will be a local vaccine clinic just ahead of the Easter holiday on Saturday, April 16 from 11am-3pm at Third Baptist Church. The church is located at 1399 McAllister St., San Francisco, CA 94115, and the event is open to the public.

About the author: Gerald Agee is pastor of Friendship Christian Center, a non-denominational church in Oakland. Since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Agee has led a faith-based initiative to get testing and vaccination to marginalized communities throughout California.

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