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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

Historic March On Washington Anniversary Commemorated With Calls For Continued Civil Rights Struggle

By Stacy M. Brown

On the anniversary of the iconic March on Washington, civil rights leaders and a diverse coalition of allies convened at the historic gathering site to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and advocate for renewed commitment to social justice. The event, convened by the Kings' Drum Major Institute and the National Action Network, aimed to rekindle the spirit of the 1963 march, which played a pivotal role in advancing civil rights and voting rights legislation.

The original March on Washington, a cornerstone of the civil rights movement, drew approximately 250,000 participants in 1963. Its influence paved the way for significant legislative milestones, including the passage of federal civil rights



The original March on Washington, a cornerstone of the civil rights movement, drew approximately 250,000 participants in 1963. Its influence paved the way for significant legislative milestones, including the passage of federal civil rights and voting rights laws in the 1960s.

and voting rights laws in the 1960s. The erosion of voting rights, recent Supreme Court rulings that impact affirmative action and abortion rights, and the rise of hate and violence against marginalized communities, however, punctuate the

current commemoration.

Martin Luther King III, the eldest son of the civil rights icon, along with his sister Bernice King, visited their father's monument in Washington on the eve of the

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California Announces New Efforts to Fight Hate and Discrimination

Joe W. Bowers Jr. and Edward Henderson

As the rate of hate crimes continues to increase in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced additional funding, resources and guidance designed to protect impacted residents.

Allocations include \$91.4 million to 173 local organizations across the state to support victims, provide resources, and facilitate anti-hate prevention measures. The first major statewide media campaign entitled "CA vs Hate" with print, radio, and digital ads will run in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Tongan, Mixtec, and Hmong. The campaign will focus on traditionally hard-to-reach communities. And a letter to all public-school leaders in California highlighting the legal responsibilities to ensure ethnic studies curricula are



In the first month since the Governor launched the "CA vs Hate" hotline, there have been 180 reports of hate acts across California.

appropriate and do not reflect or promote bias, bigotry or discrimination.

"An attack on any of our communities is an attack on everything we stand for as Californians," said Newsom in a press release. "As hate-fueled rhetoric drives increasing acts of bigotry and violence, California is taking action to protect those who are targeted just for being who

they are. We're bolstering our support for victims and anti-hate programs and tackling ignorance and intolerance through education to prevent hate from taking hold in our communities."

The announcements come on the heels of a Southern California shop owner being shot and killed because a rainbow pride flag hung outside her clothing store.

Georgia Republicans Seek Action Against DA Fani Willis in Trump Indictment Fallout

By Stacy M. Brown

Georgia's political landscape remains ablaze as Republicans in the state explore avenues to address District Attorney Fani Willis' recent indictment of former President Donald Trump and 18 other defendants. The controversy has ignited a fierce debate over the intersection of politics and the judiciary.

State Senate Majority Leader Steve Gooch, a prominent Republican figure, revealed to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Senate GOP leaders are considering legislative hearings to examine whether Willis is exercising her authority for political gains. This move comes after her expansive racketeering indictment, which has shaken the foundations of Georgia's legal landscape and threatens to turn the 2024 presidential race on its head. Gooch emphasized that Senate



The controversy has ignited a fierce debate over the intersection of politics and the judiciary.

Bill 92, a recently enacted law allowing a state panel to investigate and remove prosecutors found to be acting improperly, could serve as a potent tool for Trump's allies to scrutinize Willis's utilization of public resources.

"We believe she is definitely tainted," Gooch asserted. "She's politicizing this, and we want to make sure these people get a fair trial and a fair shake."

The Republican initiatives represent only a fraction of a broader effort by Trump's allies within Georgia and Congress to retaliate against Willis and other high-profile prosecutors handling Trump's ongoing criminal cases. The twice-impeached and four-time indicted Trump faces 91 felony charges across four jurisdictions related to his 2020 loss to Joe Biden and his

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The New Color of Hate Speech: Vivek Ramaswamy's Controversial Remarks Draw Condemnation from Congressional Black Caucus

By Stacy M. Brown

The Congressional Black Caucus has denounced Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy for his repeated racist remarks that have furthered the racial divide and exposed even more hate in America's political landscape.

Ramaswamy, born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Indian Hindu immigrant parents, has drawn scrutiny for his controversial statements while vying for the GOP nomination. His recent town hall event in Pella, Iowa, where he declared that "our diversity is not our strength," has ignited debate about his alignment with extremist elements within the Republican base, questioning his true intentions and motives.

Ramaswamy's comments during the town hall, which included comparing Ayanna Pressley, Black congresswoman, to the Grand



Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy

Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, have sparked outrage and highlighted his association with divisive rhetoric. His assertion that "our diversity is not our strength" contradicts the calls for unity and inclusivity nationwide. Additionally, his comparison of white supremacy to unicorns and his defense of likening Black figures to leaders of the Ku Klux Klan have deepened concerns about his understanding of racial

dynamics and his role in furthering racial tensions.

The CBC highlights the danger of such rhetoric and urges the Republican Party to address these concerns and denounce harmful viewpoints within its ranks. As Ramaswamy seeks the GOP nomination, his comments raise questions about his true stance on matters of racial justice and equality.

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What Are Schoolteachers Thinking? New Report Gives Insights

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Med

What teachers think and experience in the public education system is explored in a new report by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS).

The report, named "Listen to Your Teacher: An Analysis of Teacher Sentiment on the State of Public Education," was authored by NAPCS's Vice President of Communications and Marketing, Debbie Veney.

The Harris Poll, a market research and consulting firm, carried out the survey of over 1,200 public schoolteachers from both charter and district schools for the report.

"I think the results of The Harris Poll raises the important point that teacher voice is critical in determining the challenges we face in education, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic," said Leona Matthews, Senior Director of Literacy Programs for Green Dot Public Schools California.

Green Dot Public Schools is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help transform public education so all students graduate prepared for college, leadership and life. The U.S. Department of Education has featured Green Dot as a national leader in school turnarounds.

"It makes it clear that charter

schools provide the kind of small school, values driven environment that empowers teachers to meet the diverse needs of the students we serve."

The NAPCS commissioned the survey to gain more insight into the teachers' experiences, opinions and motivations for entering, staying in, or leaving the profession.

The research was conducted online from May 10 to May 30, 2023.

In April 2020, the NCES and Institute of Education Sciences released a 71-page report that Black educators were 11% of the teachers in the country's charter schools during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Overall, Black educators make up 11% percent of the teachers in city schools but only 5.5% of the teachers in suburban schools and 3.6 percent in rural schools. The nation's average of Black educators in the classroom is 6.3%, according to the report.

Veney, participated in a podcast focused on the study. She said that the importance of the survey was to get the 1,211 teachers to provide their perspectives (811 school district teachers and 400 charter school educators).

"This is the most important topic right now facing public education. We're hearing all the headlines about teacher shortages, teacher resignations, and teacher dissatisfaction," Veney said. "It really felt like we were

not listening enough to what teachers were actually saying about this (or) if there was a lot of talk about teachers but not enough talk to teachers."

The key data from the survey indicate the following trends:

Teachers Agree Families and Students Should Have Education Choice – About 4 out of 5 teachers agree that regardless of its politicized nature, public school choice is important for both families and teachers (79% of all public schoolteachers; 87% of charter schoolteachers and 78% of district schoolteachers).

Something Has to Change – Public school teachers cite student behavior and discipline issues (74%) as the top challenge they believe teachers currently face, followed by pay (65%).

There's Something Special About the Experience of Charter Schoolteachers – Eighty percent of charter schoolteachers say they are as or more motivated than when they initially entered the profession (vs. 34% among district teachers).

Aligning with Culture — Ninety-six percent of charter schoolteachers report feeling aligned with their current school's culture in terms of values and beliefs about education. Only 75% of district schoolteachers feel this way.

Keep Politics Out of the Classroom – Teachers say they just want to teach (94%) and report feeling like they are



Overall, Black educators make up 11% percent of the teachers in city schools but only 5.5% of the teachers in suburban schools and 3.6 percent in rural schools.

caught in the crossfire of a culture war (91%).

"It amplifies a needed conversation about our educational system, how we can best support teachers, and ultimately our students," Matthews said of the report.

Charter schools historically serve proportionately more students of color and more students from low-income communities than district schools. For a stretch of 16 years (2005-06 to 2020-21 school years), charter schools have consistently had a higher portion of students of color compared to district schools, according to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS).

During the 2005-2006 school year, a total of 196,851 students were enrolled in California charter schools, according to data provided by NAPCS. The movement continued each

year as enrollment reached 692,783 pupils by the end of the 2020-2021 calendar year.

As of the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, more than 1,300 charter schools and seven all-charter districts are operating in California, according to the California Department of Education (CDE).

San Bernardino County has 52 charter schools, 275 in Los Angeles County has 275, 124 in San Diego County, 56 in Sacramento County, 80 in Alameda County, and 16 public charter schools in San Francisco County, according to CDE.

"I am really delighted to say that a lot of what we found is consistent and similar across both types of school settings," said Veney referring to the charter schools and district schools.

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AGING CALIFORNIANS: RELAXING THE STATE'S PUBLIC MEETING

Manny Otiko | California Black Media

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order that temporarily suspended some of the requirements of the California's public meeting law, the Bagley Keene Act.

Newsom's executive order allowed elected boards, commissions and other state "bodies" to hold remote meetings via teleconference without posting each official's teleconference location (which in some cases were private homes); posting agendas at each location; or making those locations accessible to the public, as required by law.

A bill is currently being considered by the California legislature that would extend some of the changes to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act until Jan. 1, 2026.

Senate Bill (SB) 544, which was amended Aug. 14 and is currently being reviewed by the Assembly Appropriations Committee, was introduced by Sen. John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) in February.

Supporters of the legislation argue that the bill saves taxpayer money by driving down the costs associated with in-person meetings by up to 90%, and that virtual meetings give access to vulnerable populations who may not be able to attend meetings in person.

One of those vulnerable populations is aging Californians.

"For many citizens, this was a way to stay active in the community," says former Assemblymember Cheryl Brown, who is now the chair of the California Commission on Aging.

"Once we got them trained, they fall in love with it. They become engaged with their government," said Brown.

"They want more communication, and they don't want to be isolated," Brown says referring to the changes SB 544 is proposing. She wants people to have permanent access to public meetings. During the pandemic, there was record participation in meetings because they were broadcast online, and people could access them by teleconference.

However, SB 544 has its share of opponents. Groups such as the First Amendment Coalition (FAC), the California Newspaper Publishers Association, California Common Cause, The Society of Professional Journalists, and other groups committed to

holding government accountable have spoken out against the bill. They believe that if SB 544 passed, it would lead to more government secrecy and turn state government boards and commissions into "faceless bureaucracies."

The FAC was one of several civic groups that co-signed a letter critical of SB 544.

"This rewriting would ensure that a state body would never again have to meet in person. This would fundamentally undermine one of the law's key protections for public access and participation — the guarantee that the press and public can be physically present in the same room as those sitting on the dais and making decisions. Such physical presence has been a constant hallmark of democratic institutions," according to the letter.

David Loy, legal director at the FAC, told California Black Media (CBM) he is concerned SB 544 would allow more online meetings and it would diminish elected officials' face-to-face contact with their constituents.

He added that the governor's executive orders about online meetings were established during the COVID pandemic — and that the health crisis is over.

According to Loy, elected officials decide public policy in these meetings. And he feels that needs to be done in-person.

"Public officials should be meeting face-to-face with the people they serve," he said.

Sedalia Sanders, former mayor of El Centro who is currently active with her city's local agency on aging and is active with the California Commission on Aging, disagrees with Loy.

Sanders told CBM since many of the Commission's meetings are held in Sacramento, she participates through video conferencing.

"I don't think anything is lost," she said.

Sanders says participants



Cheryl Brown, CA Commission on Aging, Chair



Sedalia Sanders, MBA, CA Commission on Aging, Board Member

can still see and interact with their representatives through video cameras.

"For an elected official to participate in a meeting online, the majority of the board members still have to meet in person to form a quorum," she added.

Although born during World War II, Sanders has embraced modern technology. She has a cell phone and navigates the Internet. However, she said that not all senior citizens are as tech savvy as she is.

Many of them don't know you have to pay for the Internet. And this can be a

problem, especially if you're on a fixed income.

Brown says that the bill's opponents are conflating the issues, boards, and commissions are different than elected leaders voting on public policy matters, and seniors and disabled communities support this bill because it's about inclusion, not exclusion.

"Seniors don't want to sit back and just play pickleball," she said. "They want to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives and remote access allows them to do that."

New Super PAC Aims to Empower Black Voters and Secure House Leadership

By Stacy M. Brown

To bolster Black voter participation and secure a groundbreaking achievement in House leadership, a prominent ally of the Congressional Black Caucus is launching a super PAC with ambitious plans to spend tens of millions of dollars.

The newly formed organization, called the Rolling Sea Action Fund, will focus on mobilizing Black voters and aiding Democrats in flipping the House majority.

The ultimate goal is to elect the first Black speaker of the House.

Niccarra Campbell-Wallace, former political director of the Congressional Black Caucus PAC, is heading the initiative.

While the Rolling Sea Action Fund will be aligned with the all-Democratic Congressional

Black Caucus, it will operate as a "hybrid PAC."

This designation permits the group to raise candidates' funds while maintaining a separate account to spend unlimited sums on advertisements and other election-related expenses.

To seize the House majority, Democrats must flip five seats during next year's congressional elections.

If achieved, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries could become the nation's first Black speaker of the House.

In an NBC interview before the launch of the Rolling Sea Action Fund, Campbell-Wallace expressed confidence in the group's ability to execute a multipronged strategy in 2024 with an expenditure exceeding \$10 million.

This strategy includes advertising campaigns, in-person organizing,

and engagement in crucial communities.

The PAC will concentrate its efforts on districts with more than 8% Black voting age population, mainly focusing on the most competitive House seats.

Campbell-Wallace also indicated the possibility of the group's involvement in primary races.

"We know that Black voters are the cornerstone of the Democratic Party and of protecting American democracy," Campbell-Wallace told NBC.

She further stressed that the initiative would consistently empower and mobilize Black voters, ensuring representation and inclusivity in American politics.

The Congressional Black Caucus comprises several newer members who recently won tightly contested races.

The members include Emilia Sykes of Ohio, Don Davis of North Carolina, Lauren Underwood of Illinois, Jahana Hayes of Connecticut, Lucy McBath of Georgia, Colin Allred of Texas, and Steven Horsford of Nevada.

Meanwhile, Republicans have also tried to diversify their roster of House candidates, with candidates of color and women contributing to their success in the 2020 House races.

NBC News noted that, despite Black voters' overwhelming support for Democrats, recent polling indicates a slight decline in the party's image among this demographic.

Campbell-Wallace believes the Rolling Sea Action Fund's "always-on" approach will help maintain Black voter engagement.

She pointed to President Joe Biden's and Vice President Kamala Harris'



The newly formed organization, called the Rolling Sea Action Fund, will focus on mobilizing Black voters and aiding Democrats in flipping the House majority..

initiatives on unemployment, infrastructure, and student loans, as well as their significance as representatives for their communities.

While the group's primary focus is reclaiming the House majority and electing Hakeem Jeffries as speaker, Campbell-Wallace acknowledged the underrepresentation of Black women in the Senate.

She further highlighted the pursuits of Congressional Black Caucus members running for higher offices, such as California Rep. Barbara Lee's bid for the Senate.

Campbell-Wallace left the matter open when asked about potential involvement in primary races, stating, "We'll see."

Historic March Continued from page 1

event. Bernice King shared her reflections, stating, "I see a man still standing in authority and saying, 'We've still got to get this right.'"

Addressing the urgency of the occasion, King III emphasized, "This is not a traditional commemoration. This really is a rededication." Among the featured speakers was Ambassador Andrew Young, a close adviser to Dr. King during the original march and a key figure in the civil rights movement. Leaders from the NAACP and the National Urban League also delivered impactful remarks.

Arndrea Waters King also addressed the tens of thousands on the mall. "We are here to liberate the soul of the nation, the soul of democracy from those forces who want to have us all go backwards and perish rather than go forward as sisters and brothers," she stated. "We will never betray those who marched for us, fought for us, lived for us, died for us. We are the children and grandchildren of their struggles, and we will be worthy of their sacrifices."

Several members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York also spoke during the event. "We're here today

to fight for voting rights," urged Jeffries, the first Black congressperson to lead a major political party in Congress. "We're here today to fight for civil rights. We're here today to fight for reproductive rights. We're here today to fight for workers' rights," he said.

Notably absent from the program were several individuals who had worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., such as Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. and the Rev. Peter Johnson, a Plaquemine, Louisiana, native and close aide to civil rights giant Andrew Young, and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy. Despite their significant contributions to the movement, they did not receive

invitations to participate in the commemoration, shedding light on the challenge of preserving historical continuity and recognizing all those who played a role. However, Chavis was spotted among the crowd giving a hug to an unidentified Jewish man who had singled him out. "We were here 60 years ago, and we were both 15," the man said to Chavis.

America's "Black Attorney General," civil rights lawyer Ben Crump embraced his hard-earned moniker, whipping the crowd into a frenzy by insisting that he would fight "until hell freezes over." "As your attorney general, I declare now more than ever,

that we must be unapologetic defenders of Black life, liberty, and humanity," Crump remarked. "Just like they try to ban our Black history, we must tell them without Black history, you would not have American history. Just as the fight for the families of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Tyre Nichols and so many others, Americans must now fight for Black literature and culture."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, another prominent civil rights-era figure, wasn't expected to attend due to ongoing health concerns. The absence of these veteran activists threw a damper on an otherwise remarkable occasion.

Ahead of the event, several organizers engaged in discussions with Attorney General Merrick Garland and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the civil rights division. The talks encompassed crucial issues like voting rights, policing reform, and addressing redlining practices.

The commemoration served as a prelude to the upcoming 60th anniversary of the original March on Washington, which President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris plan to observe on Monday, Aug. 28.

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

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

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

Saving the Planet Matters Enough to Measure Honestly

By Ben Jealous

There's a phrase you hear from business schools to board rooms that comes from John Doerr, a legendary investor who backed Google, Amazon, and Intuit: Measure what matters.

Those words certainly jumped to mind this summer as leaders from Washington to London sent signals that

protecting a safe, livable planet hardly matters because it's not worth accounting for accurately and honestly.

On Capitol Hill, the House committee that oversees financial markets held a hearing on "how mandates like ESG distort markets and drive up costs." ESG is an abbreviation for environmental, social, and corporate governance. The idea that performance on those factors should be

part of investment decisions has been gaining momentum for more than 15 years. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is asking companies to report more about ESG, which prompted the hearing.

The event had an Alice in Wonderland feel as it happened as homeowners in places like Florida, California, and Louisiana were learning of insurers raising already high

rates or leaving the states altogether because of climate-driven risks. The financial implications of climate change couldn't have been clearer.

The House Republicans who called the hearing made no mention of studies by consulting firms like PWC and McKinsey that have found huge majorities want to do business with and work at companies that lead on ESG, or that consumer products tied to those factors are outgrowing those that don't.

Across the Atlantic, the Reuters news service reported that global bankers want to divorce themselves from accountability for two thirds of the carbon pollution that comes from the stock and bond sales their banks underwrite. Those who profit from dirty fuels rely on those stocks and bond sales to expand. Almost half of the financing from top U.S. banks to fossil fuel companies since 2016 came from those kinds of sales and not direct loans, for example. Without those investments, carbon emissions would decline as fossil fuel production and processing was starved of that money.

This kind of shortsightedness isn't new. Our economy



Ben Jealous

always has been built on ignoring people and places deemed disposable.

Measure what matters – people in frontline communities flooded by more intense storms, choked by industrial pollution, and scorched by wildfires have no choice. Their property loss and health problems are the metrics we use. They must take that measure all the time, and they always come out on the short end.

For his part, John Doerr has placed his bets. He's been investing in zero carbon technologies since 2006. Last year, he and his wife gave Stanford University more

than \$1 billion to launch a sustainability school.

Doerr's most recent book calls itself "an action plan to solve the climate crisis." He notes that the Greek root for the word crisis means "to choose." The good news is we've never had more opportunity to make the right choices. From less costly renewable energy to the availability of affordable electric vehicles, we have options to end our addiction to fossil fuels.

Making the right choices means making informed choices. We can't permit the powerful to withhold what we need to decide what's best for us and for the planet.

Commentary: Finding Joy and Justice for Childbearing Black Moms

Dr. Melissa Franklin | *Special to California Black Media Partners*

Black mothers are more likely to die due to complications from pregnancy and childbirth than pregnant women of all other races. This is a shameful injustice plaguing the Black community, one that is over 400 years in the making.

Black women are 1.6 times more likely to experience more maternal mental health conditions, including prenatal and postpartum anxiety and depression, than women of other races, according to the American Hospital Association Institute for Diversity and Health Equity.

These injustices are killing Black women who are well-resourced and educated like Olympian Tori Bowie, as well as those enduring economic hardship. It is also harming their babies. And although this crisis has attracted national attention, it remains unaddressed.

For Black women, like me, who have experienced premature childbirth, the trauma and guilt of not being able to bring our babies full term can be long-lasting. Those psychological scars exist along with the other physical and mental threats to our health and wellbeing.

Both of my children were born three months early, despite my best efforts. I had a steady job, decent income, post-graduate education, a good bill of health and a stable relationship. Yet, my health and life were threatened in both of their births. One would think that such an experience would place me in a unique category. However, as a Black woman, it does not.

In Los Angeles County, Black women die at three to four times the rate of other races due to pregnancy-related complications, and Black babies die at two to three times the rate of any other race before their first birthday. Black babies are born premature at greater rates than any other ethnic group, which can lead to long-term health and developmental challenges. The Black community is also shouldering a disproportionate amount of the mental burden of tragedy and loss when it comes to pregnancy and childbirth.

To solve this problem, we must acknowledge three truths:

1. The problem is not with Black people.
2. It's the system that is failing Black people.
3. This problem is solvable, and Black people deserve to have joyous and healthy births.

The data coupled with our lived experiences and

history as Black people tells us something is amiss. College educated Black women experience worse birth outcomes (i.e., death, premature birth, health complications for mother and child) than White women with high school diplomas. Black women who are non-smokers have worse birth outcomes than White women who smoke. The root problem is also not "teen pregnancy."

Black teens have better birth outcomes than older Black individuals.

The root causes of the problem are complex. In short, stress kills.

The stress of generations of racial harm compounded by ongoing, exposure to racist treatment, prejudice and oppression, can be deadly. This stress is especially deadly when it is exacerbated by systems of care that disrespect and withhold quality care from Black people. The social contexts that imperil Black individuals to a greater extent than other races, such as homelessness, criminal justice injustice, education system injustice, and child welfare system injustice create a perfect storm for these root causes to grow.

There is hope for change. There are a number of initiatives underway to address the racism and stress that are at the root of the

problem. These initiatives range from legislation such as the Federal Omnibus Act, California Senate Bill (SB) 65 (California Omnibus Act) and California SB 464 (Dignity in Pregnancy Act) to Statewide Initiatives such as the Perinatal Equity Initiative. In Los Angeles County, the Department of Public Health's African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative (AAIMM) brings together public agencies, community-based organizations, and advocates to raise awareness and transform how systems treat Black people.

But what can a Black woman/person do if they are pregnant or want to become pregnant one day? We can reclaim justice and joy by activating a village to address the stress. Until racism, racial microaggressions and poor treatment by the health care system are resolved, mental health support from multiple places is a powerful tool we can access.

This means building a village to provide social and emotional support, and as well as advocacy during your childbirth journey. Available resources include: Black Infant Health Program -- prenatal groups that bring together Black pregnant folks in a group setting. They offer support, resources, and a coach to help you through your journey.



Dr. Melissa Franklin

Doulas – birth partners who provide emotional and physical support during pregnancy, childbirth, and the early postpartum period. Los Angeles County AAIMM Doula program provides doula services by Black Doulas for Black families.

Group Prenatal – a small prenatal care group of pregnant women with similar due dates led by a clinician.

Home Visitation – assistance to expecting families on their journey through pregnancy and early parenting, delivered by a public health nurse or a parent coach.

Midwives, Maternity Homes and Birth Centers – Important sources of caring, quality support and advocacy.

While agencies and advocates are mounting efforts, we all have an important role.

Even if you have no plans of becoming pregnant or parenting in the future, you can still make a difference when it comes to the mental health of childbearing moms.

If you know someone who is pregnant, connect them to a resource to assist them on their journeys. Be a friend and advocate. Take ACTION to show them they have a village --offer to cook/bring a meal, go with them to their appointments, provide a shoulder to lean on when they are exhausted.

While we work to make this world a less traumatizing place for Black people, we can also take steps to prevent the stress of that trauma from killing our mothers and our babies. We deserve to experience joy, abundance, and beautiful, healthy births. It is our birthright

Republicans

Continued from page 1

alleged mishandling of classified documents. Earlier this year, a civil jury found Trump responsible for sexually assaulting an author and journalist decades ago.

Well-known Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene has urged the House Judiciary Committee to investigate Willis' office's funding from federal sources and any potential coordination

with White House officials. Greene has even floated the idea of a state-level inquiry into Willis's actions. Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Andrew Clyde, also from Georgia, is planning to leverage an upcoming appropriations bill to cut federal funding for Willis, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, and federal special counsel Jack Smith, who have spearheaded the pending legal actions against Trump.

However, Gooch quickly

acknowledged that there were limitations to the Republican efforts to reprimand Willis. He, along with other party leaders, condemned a petition by first-term Republican state Senator Colton Moore that aimed to force a special legislative session for the impeachment of the district attorney. Such an action would necessitate support from three-fifths of the legislature, including Democratic members.

"We want to make sure we calm down, we look at this

stuff deliberately, and we do it in a mature way," Gooch explained, underscoring the need for a measured approach. He added that he has repeatedly engaged in discussions with Moore, urging him to refrain from derogatory remarks about fellow Republicans. "There's a lot of angry people in this state on both sides of this issue," Gooch told the newspaper. "But there's still a majority of the Republican base who feel like there was fraud in the 2020 election,

and they don't feel like it was completely vetted properly and investigated. And that's why a lot of these people are still upset today. They don't feel like they were heard. And I think Colton Moore resonates with those people, and they support what he's saying, but maybe not the way he's saying it and the way he's conducting himself in the chamber."

In contrast, Moore remains unwavering and unapologetic. He insists that his GOP colleagues

should be incensed about the indictment of fellow Senator Shawn Still, who was among those charged in the Georgia indictment. Still maintains his innocence, asserting that he did nothing wrong when he served as a fraudulent GOP elector. "To hear that I need to tone it down when I'm encouraging my colleagues to do their legislative duty is absolutely ridiculous," Moore countered. "And I hope the people of Georgia see what's going on."

THE SUN-REPORTER

RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

Be Strong and Courageous

Joshua 1:1-16; 11-16-19, 21-23

As the book of Joshua opens, the Israelites are camped along the east bank of the Jordan River at the very edge of the Promised Land, and they are completing the mourning period for Moses, who has just died in Deuteronomy 34:7, 8. Thirty-nine years earlier (after spending a year at Mount Sinai receiving God's law), the Israelites had an opportunity to enter the Promised Land, but they failed to trust God to give them victory. As a result, God did not allow them to enter the land, but made them wander in the wilderness until the disobedient generation had all died. During their wilderness wanderings, the Israelites

obeyed God's laws. They also taught the new generation to obey God's laws so that they might enter the Promised Land (also called Canaan). As the children grew, they were often reminded that faith and obedience to God brought victory, while unbelief and disobedience brought tragedy. When the last of the older generation had died and the new generation had become adults, the Israelites prepared to make their long-awaited claim on the Promised Land.

In Joshua 1:1-5, Joshua succeeded Moses as Israel's leader. What qualifications did he have to become the leader of a nation? (1) God appointed him (see Numbers

27:18-23). And (2) He was one of only two living eyewitnesses to the Egyptian plagues and the Exodus from Egypt. (3) He was Moses' personal aide for 40 years and (4) Of the 12 scouts, only he and Caleb showed complete confidence that God would help them conquer the land. In Joshua 1:2, Because Joshua had assisted Moses for many years, he was well prepared to take over the leadership of the nation. Changes in leadership are common in many organizations. At such times, a smooth transition is essential for the establishment of the new administration. This doesn't happen unless new leaders are trained. If you are currently in a leadership position, begin preparing someone to take your place. Then, when you leave or are promoted, operations can continue to run efficiently. If you want to be a leader, learn from others so that you will be prepared when the opportunity comes. And in Joshua 1:5, Joshua's new job consisted of leading more than two million people into a strange new land and conquering it. What a challenge—even for a man of Joshua's caliber! Every new job is a challenge. Without God it can be frightening. With God it can be a great adventure. Just as God was

with Joshua, He is with us as we face our new challenges. We may not conquer nations, but every day we face tough situations, difficult people, and temptations. God promises, however, that he will never abandon us or fail to help us. By asking God to direct us we can conquer many of life's challenges.

Now in Joshua 1:6-8, Many people think that prosperity and success come from having power, influential personal contacts, and a relentless desire to get ahead. But the strategy for gaining prosperity that God taught Joshua goes against such criteria. He said that to succeed Joshua must (1) be strong and courageous because the task ahead would not be easy, (2) obey God's law, and (3) constantly read and study the Book of Instruction—God's Word. To be successful, follow God's words to Joshua. You may not succeed according to the world's standards, but you will be a success in God's eyes—and his opinion is most important. Amen. Then Joshua 1:12-15, during the previous year, the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh had asked Moses if they could settle just east of the Promised Land. The area was an excellent pastureland for their large flocks. Moses

agreed to give them the land on one condition—that they help their fellow tribes enter and conquer the Promised Land. Only after the land was conquered could they return to their homes. Now it was time for these three tribes to live up to their agreement. (Life Application Study Bible). God was giving the people rest. This was wonderful news to these people who had been on the move for their entire lives. The people who had no land would be given land of their own, and they would be able to settle and to "rest." If everyone had tried to conquer the Promised Land his own way, chaos would have resulted. In order to complete the enormous task of conquering the land, everyone had to agree to the leader's plan and be willing to support and obey him. If we are going to complete the tasks God has given us, we must fully agree to his plan, pledge ourselves to obey it, and put his principles into action. Agreeing to God's plan means both knowing what the plan is (as found in the Bible) and carrying it out daily. (Life Application Study Bible).

The battles fought by Joshua and his troops ranged over lands that stretched from border to border, from south to north, and from east to west.

The hill country, the Negev, the Goshen area, the western foothills, the Arabah, and the mountains refer to the central and southern portions of the land. "The Negev" is the desert area southwest of the Dead Sea and "the Arabah" is the depression of the Jordan Valley north and south of the Dead Sea. Mount Halak is in the southern desert region; Baal Gad (exact location unknown) was in the far north, in the Valley of Lebanon perhaps 30-40 miles north of the Sea of Galilee. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty).

The section concludes with a declaration that summarizes the Book of Joshua as a whole. So, Joshua took the entire land v. 16). This looks back and condenses the history of the Conquest in chapters 1-11. And he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. These words look forward and summarize the distribution of the land in chapters 13-22. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). The period of the Conquest lasted a long time. Victory did not come easily or quickly; it rarely does.

THE SUN-REPORTER

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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. Keval 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
Wednesday Teacher's Meeting 6: pm
Sr. Mission 5: pm
Children's Bible Study 5: pm
Bible Study 6:45 pm
Saturday Food Pantry 10-11 am

Ascension Baptist Church

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

Rev. Anthony Anderson

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Church School Wednesday 7: pm
Communion every 1st Sunday

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Tyrone and Demetra Hillman
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Morning Worship 10:45: am
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

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(Cubberly Community CTR)
Palo Alto, CA. 94306
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Pastor

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Morning worship - 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Discussion 7: pm
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Wed Bible Class 8:00 pm
Friday Prayer Service 8:00 pm

Sun Reporter

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