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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

Gov. Newsom Names Black Woman, Laphonza Butler, to Succeed Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced that his choice to succeed U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who passed away on Sept. 29, is Laphonza Butler, a labor leader and the president of EMILY's List – the country's most extensive resource for women in politics.

"As we mourn the enormous loss of Senator Feinstein, the very freedoms she fought for — reproductive freedom, equal protection, and safety from gun violence — have never been under greater assault. Laphonza will carry the baton left by Senator Feinstein, continue to break glass ceilings, and fight for all Californians in Washington D.C.," said Newsom in a statement released Oct. 1.

Butler will make history as California's first openly LGBTQ+ U.S. Senator and the



Laphonza Butler raises her right hand with her wife, Neneke Lee, looking on as Vice President Kamala Harris recites the oath of office during her swearing-in ceremony

first Black lesbian to openly serve in the U.S. Congress. She will join 47 other Democrats and three independents who caucus with the Democrats in the Senate for the remainder of Feinstein's term, which ends in December 2024.

"An advocate for women and girls, a second-generation fighter for working people, and a trusted adviser to Vice

President Harris, Laphonza Butler represents the best of California, and she'll represent us proudly in the United States Senate," Newsom stated.

Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson), a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), says he is proud of Newsom's choice.

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Rest in Power: California Black Leaders Pay Tribute to Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Condolences and tributes poured in from California's Black community after the passing of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein. Lawmakers, business leaders, and political service organizations expressed their condolences and sympathy to family, friends, and staff of U.S. Sen. Feinstein, 90, who died of natural causes in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 28. On Friday, in a statement, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said, "In Senator Feinstein's honor, I am directing the flags flying at all City facilities to be lowered to half-staff."

"I am saddened by the passing of Senator Dianne Feinstein, one of our nation's great leaders and someone I was blessed to call a colleague and friend," added Bass. "Senator Feinstein was a trailblazer on whose shoulders I, and



Feinstein made history as the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from California. She served over three decades in the upper chamber of the U.S. Congress and was the oldest lawmaker on Capitol Hill.

women in elected office all across America, will always stand. She worked harder than anyone I knew on Capitol Hill, and she will be remembered as one of the most effective and impactful Senators in American history."

Feinstein made history as the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from California. She served over three decades in

the upper chamber of the U.S. Congress and was the oldest lawmaker on Capitol Hill.

"California lost a trailblazer and a giant today," wrote Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-12). "Senator Feinstein broke glass ceilings for women in politics and fought fearlessly for safer communities free

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Civil Rights Attorney John Burris Announces a Seven Million Dollar Settlement Against CHP Officers In The 2020 Shooting Death Of Unarmed Erik Salgado

Oakland, CA—The California Highway Patrol "CHP" has agreed to a \$7 million dollar settlement for the families of Erik Salgado, including his daughter and mother and Brianna Colombo, then girlfriend and also a shooting victim.

On June 2, 2020, Erik Salgado and Brianna Colombo were traveling in a red Dodge Charger that had been stolen from a San Leandro car dealership several weeks before. At approximately 10:30 p.m., Erik and Brianna parked the car in the vicinity of 94th and Cherry, which was near Erik's mother's house. As they were about to leave, going south, an unmarked police car slowly approached them from the front going north, and at the same time, one or more police cars were approaching them from behind going south. Erik tried to pass



Attorney John Burris



Erik Salgado

the car in front but slightly bumped it. He immediately backed up and hit the car behind, and as he attempted to straighten up an unnamed officer standing outside of his car, but in front of Erik's car, without warning, fired his gun into the front window of Erik's car, immediately striking and perhaps killing him. Within moments, two other unnamed officers were also standing outside of their cars but on the passenger and

driver sides of Erik's car, with each unleashing a barrage of gunfire, shooting as many as 40 times into the car. Erik was hit over 18 times and Brianna 3 times. Other than yelling to turn the engine off, no other efforts were made to communicate with Erik and Brianna before the shooting. The officers gave no explicit warning they would shoot. Neither Erik nor Brianna were

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State Supt. Of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond Declares Candidacy for Governor of California

Antonio Ray Harvey, Tanu Henry and Joe W. Bowers Jr. | California Black Media

On Sept. 26, California Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) Tony Thurmond released a video announcing that he is running for governor in 2026.

In the video, Thurmond, 55, said his candidacy is "about people."

"California has had a lot of governors," Thurmond states in the introduction of his announcement. "My story is nothing like theirs."

"I didn't come from money, power or influence," he continued. "Mom emigrated from Panama and became a classroom teacher, but died when I was six years old. My dad served the nation but left us after the Vietnam war."



In a social media post, the Democrat wrote: "I didn't come from money, power, or influence. I'm running for Governor to be a voice for those who need one — because California may be working for millionaires and billionaires but for the rest of California — we need real change."

Raised by his mother's cousin, Thurmond, who represented Richmond in the State Legislature from 2014 to 2018, shared the many lessons he learned from his childhood -- about the value

of hard work, pushing through adverse circumstances and focusing on success.

Also in the race for governor are Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounilakis and former California state Controller Betty Yee.

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ZOLEKA MANDELA, ADVOCATE FOR CANCER AWARENESS AND ROAD SAFETY, DIES AT 43

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

According to a family spokesperson, Zoleka Mandela, the granddaughter of South Africa's inaugural democratically elected President and global icon Nelson Mandela, succumbed to cancer at the age of 43.

Recently, the younger Mandela has garnered recognition for her candid accounts of her battle with cancer, offering a poignant insight into her treatment journey. She was equally forthright about her history of drug addiction, shedding light on issues many faces in silence.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation expressed deep

reverence for her work, stating that she inspired cancer awareness and played a pivotal role in dismantling the stigma associated with the disease.

Mandela was a champion for cancer awareness, bravely shared her struggles with depression, and disclosed that she had endured childhood sexual abuse. Additionally, she proved at the forefront of the cause of improved road safety after a tragic car accident claimed the life of her 13-year-old daughter in 2010. Tragically, she also lost a prematurely born son. Mandela leaves behind four children.

Hailing from the lineage of Nelson Mandela's second wife, Winnie, Mandela penned her remarkable journey in her autobiography, When Hope Whispers. Diagnosed with breast cancer at 32, she

initially went into remission, only to face a recurrence of the illness. Last year, she revealed the disheartening news of cancer's presence in her liver and lungs, subsequently spreading to other vital organs. Though she received outpatient care, Mandela checked into a hospital over a week ago.

In a poignant Instagram post from August 2022, she reflected, "What do I tell my children? How do I tell them that this time around I may not get to live my life as a survivor? How do I tell them everything will be OK when it's not? I'm dying... I don't want to die." During an interview with Kaya FM in April, Mandela shared, "I'm learning to be okay with my eventuality." Her unvarnished revelations



Zoleka Mandela

garnered her a substantial following on social media platforms, where heartfelt tributes continue to pour in.

"Utterly tragic loss of a human being in her grandfather's footsteps. A decent, honest human being in a dishonest, hypocritical

world," lamented one individual on social media. Another wrote on Instagram beneath the Mandela family's announcement, "You were one of the bravest people I know, and you inspired many people on your life's journey of hope."

Twenty-Seven Years Later: Suspect Arrested in Murder of Tupac Shakur

By Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA Newswire Contributor

Twenty-seven years after the death of one of the most noted rappers in history of the genre, a man has been arrested for the murder

of rapper Tupac Shakur.

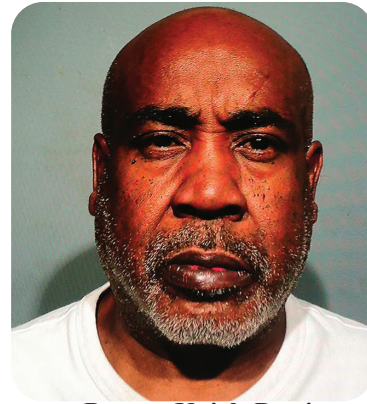
As the years have gone by some suspects have come into the news while others have passed away. On September 29, 2023, a man named Duane Keith Davis was arrested in Las Vegas

and charged in connection with the murder of Shakur.

The rapper and actor was killed on September 13, 1996 in Las Vegas, at the age of 25, after being shot four times. He died less than a week later at the University Medical Center

of Southern Nevada. Since then, Shakur's death has lingered on as a mystery that has never been brought to a conclusion.

Davis is a member of the California-based gang known as The South Side Compton Crips



Duane Keith Davis

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Study Finds Hospitals Don't Always Have an Open Door Policy, Particularly When it Comes to Race

By Stacy M. Brown

New data has exposed a concerning trend in American healthcare: a stark racial divide in patient populations. Contrary to claims of open access for all, dozens of hospitals exhibit significant racial exclusivity, a report from the independent healthcare think tank Lown Institute has shown.

The study identifies two Midwest hospitals and one in the South as the most segregated in the nation. According to federal patient data, the segregation has resulted in a nine-year gap in life expectancy between white and Black residents in a single county. St. Louis, Detroit, and New Orleans residents, particularly those of Black ethnicity, find themselves grappling with pronounced racial disparities in their local hospitals. Among these cities, New Orleans emerged as the most affected, boasting

the highest percentage of hospitals offering de facto segregated healthcare. Of its 14 hospitals, five exhibit the least inclusivity regarding racially diverse patient populations. Conversely, individuals living near specific hospitals in Chicago, Newark, or Boston are positioned closer to more inclusive healthcare environments, offering a glimmer of hope for improved equity in medical services. Founded in 1973 by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Bernard Lown, who developed the defibrillator and cardioverter, the Lown Institute seeks to better the hospital system for all. Its comprehensive report highlights the cities with the highest degrees of racial segregation in their hospitals and provides insights into the institutions leading the way in inclusivity.

"It's refreshing to see that some hospitals make caring for those most in need their top priority," Vikas Saini, MD, president of the Lown Institute, said in a news

release. "Inclusive hospitals show that it's possible to serve everyone, even when it may be against their financial interest."

The Lown Institute lists the following hospitals are the most racially inclusive in America:

- Boston Medical Center (Boston, MA)**
- John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital (Chicago, IL)**
- UChicago Medicine (Chicago, IL)**
- Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (Philadelphia, PA)**
- Metro Nashville General Hospital (Nashville, TN)**
- South Coast Global Medical Center (Santa Ana, CA)**
- Charles Madras (Madras, OR)**
- Grady Memorial Hospital (Atlanta, GA)**
- Methodist Hospitals (Gary, IN)**
- Emory University Hospital Midtown (Atlanta, GA)**

The Institute also found that many of the most and least racially inclusive hospitals are in the same U.S. cities, reflecting segregated healthcare markets. Of the 11 metro areas identified by the Lown Institute with significant market segregation, New Orleans stands out at the top of the list, with seven of its 14 hospitals (50%) ranking among the most or least inclusive.

The U.S. cities with the most segregated hospital markets are:

- New Orleans, LA**
 - Louis, MO**
 - Detroit, MI**
 - Milwaukee, WI**
 - Philadelphia, PA**
 - Kansas City, MO**
 - Chicago, IL**
 - Denver, CO**
 - Phoenix, AZ**
 - Dallas/Fort Worth, TX**
 - Atlanta, GA**
- The most segregated hospital



The most segregated hospital markets were determined by examining the proportion of hospitals within a metropolitan statistical area receiving either 1 star (lowest score) or 5 stars (highest score) on Lown's racial inclusivity ranking. All cities included on the list had more than 20% of hospitals at those extremes.

markets were determined by examining the proportion of hospitals within a metropolitan statistical area receiving either 1 star (lowest score) or 5 stars (highest score) on Lown's racial inclusivity ranking. All cities included on the list had more than 20% of hospitals at those extremes.

doors are open to everyone and that they don't turn anyone away, but that can be misleading," Saini remarked. "If hospitals really want to undo structural racism's hold on their communities, they can't be bystanders. They need to act more systematically and with more intention."

WGA Strike: Hollywood Writers Return to Work After Reaching Deal with Studios

Antonio Ray Harvey, Tanu Henry and Joe W. Bowers Jr. | California Black Media

The Writers Guild of America West (WGA) and SAG-AFTRA unions have reached a tentative agreement to end a historic and highly publicized strike that shut

Hollywood down and lasted nearly five months.

"I am grateful that the Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers have reached a fair agreement and I'm hopeful that the same can happen soon with the Screen Actors Guild," said Los Angeles Mayor Karen

Bass. "Now, we must focus on getting the entertainment industry, and all the small businesses that depend on it, back on their feet and stronger than ever before."

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) – the organization that represents the studios – approved a

potential new deal on Sept. 24 that allows 11,500 writers to return to work beginning Sept. 27 while the ratification process takes place. The new agreement will run until 2026.

The unions were protesting for higher wages and protections from studios using artificial intelligence in the creative process.

In the end, negotiations included streaming compensations and set a minimum number for writing staffs. Staff writers reportedly received a 5% increase in weekly pay, while story editors and executive editors saw a 3.5 to 4% increase in their compensation.

"What we have won in this

contract – most particularly, everything we have gained since May 2nd – is due to the willingness of this membership to exercise its power, to demonstrate its solidarity, to walk side-by-side, to endure the pain and uncertainty of the past 146 days," the WGA stated in and email to members.

Laphonza Butler Continued from page 1

"As a proud member of @CABlackCaucus and Assemblymember for #AD65, I am extremely proud that @GavinNewsom stood by his commitment as he always has," Gipson wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "And I appreciate him for standing by his word and providing a great successor amidst the passing of the honorable Senator Feinstein,"

"I am always excited when a Black Woman is elevated. Laphonza Butler will represent California well and will bring a perspective to the US Senate that is desperately needed as a Black, LGBTQ+, mother, organizer, and labor

leader," said Kellie Todd Griffin, founding convener of the California Black Women's Collective.

"My goal is to lift up the voices and needs of Black Women throughout state," continued Todd Griffin. "That's what we did three years ago when we created Keep the Seat and what we did in this case. We will keep pushing for what we believe is right regardless of the outcomes."

Butler, recognized as a Democratic Strategist and a labor leader, served for seven years as President of SEIU United Long Term Care Workers (ULTCW). The union she led represents over 325,000 nursing home and home-care workers across California.

Newsom, who has the

constitutional responsibility to appoint a replacement, promised he would select a Black woman if Feinstein chose to step down before her term ended in 2024. He made that statement in 2021 after he chose Alex Padilla to fill the vacancy left by Sen. Kamala Harris when she resigned to become vice president. Black women groups had been urging him to appoint a Black woman to succeed Harris.

Until Butler is seated, the U.S. Senate has no Black women members even though Black women are the most influential – and most loyal – voting group within the Democratic party. More than 90% of Black women voted for Joe Biden in the last presidential election.

Before Newsom's announcement that he had been chosen her to succeed Feinstein, Butler expressed her condolences on X. She wrote, "I'm saddened to hear of the passing of Sen. @DianneFeinstein. Not only was she a titan in the Senate, but a legendary figure for women in politics and around the country. Her legacy and achievements will not be forgotten. My prayers are with her family. She will be deeply missed."

Since Feinstein's passing was announced, pressure had been mounting on Newsom to quickly appoint an interim Senator in her place. Three well known candidates running to succeed her in the 2024 election are Rep. Barbara

Lee (D-CA-12), Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-CA-28) and Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA-45).

Lee, the only Black woman contending for Feinstein's seat, congratulated Butler in a post on X.

"I wish Laphonza well and look forward to working closely with her to deliver for the people of the Golden State," she wrote.

On Oct. 1, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) wrote a letter to Newsom urging him to appoint Lee.

"She is the only person with the courage, the vision, and the record to eradicate poverty, face down the fossil fuel industry, defend our democracy, and tirelessly advance the progressive

agenda," CBC Chairman Steven Horsford (D-Nevada), stated in the letter to Newsom. "For these reasons, we strongly urge you to appoint Congresswoman Barbara Lee to the United States Senate."

Newsom had expressed that his appointee would not participate in the 2024 election out of respect for the candidates already running. However, this stance has changed. Now the decision to run in the 2024 election lies with Butler. The deadline for candidates to file for the office is Dec. 8.

Butler, a native of Magnolia, Mississippi, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Jackson State University, an HBCU located in Mississippi.

Erik Salgado Continued from page 1

armed, nor did they attempt to use the car to harm anyone.

Civil Rights attorney John Burris stated, "The officers fired their guns as if Salgado was a 'shooting gallery target.'" "The officers' conduct was inhumane and a reckless disregard for human life for which they should be criminally prosecuted. We will be submitting this case to Pamela Price, the Alameda County District Office Attorney, for criminal prosecution."

Burris goes on to say, "The officers' conduct was atrocious, callous, and a wanton, reckless disregard

for the lives of Erik, Brianna, and the residential community. The officers knew nothing about Erik or Brianna, didn't know if they stole the car, or even if they knew it was stolen." Witnesses from the community had said that the officers were all out of their cars and in positions of safety when they fired their weapons.

Burris further states, "The number of shots fired by the officers was enough to kill a militia of terrorists. It was a massacre! Complete overkill for the potential crime. These officers' use of high-powered assault weapons demonstrates a total lack of regard for Erik and Brianna's lives and for the lives of neighborhood residents, composed of largely

working-class Latinos."

According to Burris, "The 40 plus shots, some fired from an assault weapon, against unarmed people was murderous; I will ask that the Alameda District Attorney Pamala Price to reopen the investigation into these officers for murder and assault with deadly weapons."

Ben Nisenbaum of Burris Nisenbaum Curry & Lacy (BNCL) states, "This is particularly egregious because the Sergeant at the scene, Richard Henderson, directed the shooting by the two other Defendants in the case, Officer Hulbert and Officer Saputa, by yelling to 'Shoot him!'", even though there was no one in the path of the vehicle driven by

Mr. Salgado. Sgt. Henderson then emptied the 30-round clip of his AR-15 style rifle."

Nisenbaum notes, "The CHP policy limits the round capacity of rifle magazines to 20 rounds. 'Emptying the rifle clip of all 30 rounds and ordering two other officers to shoot against a car that is stuck between two stopped vehicles speaks to an overreaction and panic by the supervisor at the scene, Sgt. Henderson, as well as the other two shooting officers, Hulbert and Saputa, even if they were just following their Sergeant's orders.'" This was the second time since 2016 that Sgt. Henderson had been involved in this kind of shooting, having shot

and killed Pedro Villanueva after Mr. Villanueva and a passenger fled in a truck from a sideshow in Fullerton, CA. In that case, just as in this case, Sgt. Henderson claimed that he shot into the truck to stop the truck from striking a fellow officer who he claimed was in the path of the truck. However, just as in this case, no one was in the path of the truck when Sgt. Henderson and the other officer fired on it. "It defies rational belief that the same officer made the same mistake twice, killing two different people because he saw something that didn't happen either time," Nisenbaum said.

Co-consul James Chanin, who has been litigating

wrongful death cases against police agencies since 1979, said, "This was one of most outrageous Officer-involved shooting cases I have ever seen in my 44 years of practicing law. All of the CHP officers involved refused to cooperate with the Oakland Police Department investigation at the scene and left in a car together, thereby violating the most basic rule that Officers at an officer-involved shooting should be segregated until they give a full statement to the investigating agency. (The incident occurred in Oakland, and therefore, the case was to be investigated by the Oakland Police Department)."

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

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

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

The Clean Energy Transition Must Be a Just Transition

By Ben Jealous

When General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford – the “Big Three” American automakers – were close to extinction 15 years ago, their workers and the American people stepped in to save them. The United Auto

Workers (UAW) gave back wages and benefits they had every right to get under a contract they had negotiated just a year before.

Now, rather than being paid back, union workers face getting left out of the future of the car business. And the rest of the country is being told we have Hobson’s choice

when it comes to electric vehicles – we can have them, but only at a cost to our neighbors who build them.

We see this when Ford announces its slowing construction of a battery plant in Michigan. And when Donald Trump, who leads Republican presidential primary polls, goes to a non-union company outside Detroit to claim that

“the auto industry is being assassinated” by the move away from dirty fuels.

Neither auto workers nor the climate can afford for us to fall for this false narrative. If anything, we should see that momentum is moving squarely and more rapidly in the other direction. That’s what President Biden means when he says that talking about the climate is talking about good jobs.

New York’s city council voted unanimously to move its fleet of more than 30,000 municipal vehicles – the largest in the country – to buy only zero emissions cars and trucks beginning in 2025, and heavier vehicles after 2028. By 2035, the entire city fleet will be zero emission.

That’s the same year that California, New York and 14 other states will require all cars and trucks sold to be zero emission vehicles. The standards they’ve agreed to ask carmakers to increase the share of electric vehicles they sell slowly and continuously over the next 13 years.

This isn’t a rash rush to abandon the internal combustion engine and gas



Ben Jealous

pumps overnight, even if our warming planet may need quicker action. That fearmongering is inaccurate and misplaced. It’s a measured, unmistakable direction that UAW leaders see clearly. Their members must benefit from that, they told me when we met in Detroit last month.

Instead, the Big Three have been pushing battery making and electric vehicle assembly to states that don’t offer union workers protection or to plants created through joint ventures that allow them to operate outside the UAW’s deal.

This is an all-too-familiar pattern in this country’s history -- corporations, billionaires,

and the politicians representing their interests pitting poor and working Americans who actually aspire to the same future against each other. They do it with hyperboles like assassination and altering established expansion plans.

We’re well beyond 2008. Profits for the Big Three are soaring. Consumers want electric vehicles, and as a nation we’re encouraging them to buy them through tax credits passed last year. It’s those cars and trucks that we’ll drive into a livable future. We must ensure that clean energy transition is a fair one to the people who will make it possible.

DIANNE FEINSTEIN: GRIT AND GRACE

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

The late Senator Dianne Feinstein was my Mayor. I’m a native San Franciscan who cut her political chops in my home city. I often spent time with our Mayor and appreciate her grace and kindness. We didn’t see the world the same way and occasionally crossed swords around race matters. Still, I always respected her and how she managed policy and politics. And I also appreciated the hurdles she had to clear as the first woman mayor of San Francisco. Her life is a litany of firsts.

She rose to the mayoralty amid the crisis sparked by the assassination of her predecessor, George Moscone, and a colleague, Harvey Milk. She led a city that mourned our only openly gay member of the Board of Supervisors and a beloved mayor. She comported herself with a restrained brilliance, saying the right thing every time and flashing her somber smile

as she spoke. I will never forget a meeting in her office where my cold had me hacking through it. I don’t remember the issue we disagreed on, but I remember having one of her aides bring me a cup of tea with honey to help my throat.

As Mayor, she revived our tourist-attracting cable cars and (with Nancy Pelosi) brought the 1984 Democratic convention to San Francisco. That was quite a convention where Rev. Jesse Jackson threw down with a policy speech that included lines like, “I’d rather have Roosevelt in a wheelchair than Reagan on a horse,” and the critical self-revealing, “God ain’t finished with me yet.” Jackson wasn’t nominated, but he launched hundreds of political careers. Feinstein and Pelosi were responsible for providing a backdrop to his message.

Dianne Feinstein was part of the 1992 “Year of the Woman,” the year after Anita Hill endured grueling treatment by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Many knew that there was not a single woman on that committee, and,

indeed, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) said she was inspired to run for the Senate as a “mom in tennis shoes” after that hearing. In November 1992, four new women were elected to the United States Senate, a record number that included Senator Feinstein, Carol Mosley Braun (IL), Barbara Boxer (CA), and Patty Murray. Because this critical mass of women was elected, the Senate had to create a women’s restroom, and it took some struggle for women to wear pants on the Senate floor.

Feinstein’s contributions to this Senate were innumerable, with one of the most important being her 1994 legislation to ban assault weapons. That legislation expired in 2014, and the results of its expiration scream from daily headlines. Dianne Feinstein saved lives. With her Senate career forged out of tragedy, she was profoundly aware of the impact that assault (and other) weapons could have on people’s lives, especially the lives of children.

Feinstein’s Senate career partly happened because many

women chafed at how the Senate Judiciary Committee treated Anita Hill. Thus, it was poetic justice that Feinstein became the ranking Democrat in the Senate Judiciary Committee. She was the first woman to have that role. She worked on several things, including immigration, civil rights, national security, and the courts. Her Senate career is a pastiche of first, with roles in intelligence and appropriations, among others. She was chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. A staff memo on her transition reminds us that she “secured billions of dollars for California communities, including critical transportation, water supply, and federal building projects.” She ensured that federal wildland firefighters earned higher salaries and worked to improve California’s water infrastructure.

Dozens of published bios and obituaries will highlight Feinstein’s many legislative accomplishments. Many will describe her as an “icon”



JULIANNE MALVEAUX

or “role model” and an inspirational woman who shattered the glass ceiling with grit and grace. She was persistent, resilient, visionary, collaborative, brilliant, and awe-inspiring. In her later years, she was physically diminished, but that did not lessen her impact. I will miss Dianne Feinstein, the gentle warrior whose passionate love for her home state of California was a blessing to us all.

Many of us who stand with Barbara Lee chafe at Governor Gavin Newsome’s failure to

appoint Congresswoman Lee. Still, we all have high hopes and wish much success for Laphonza Butler and his selection. Governor Newsome’s appointment checks his box to appoint a Black woman to the next open seat in the Senate. His refusal to hear the many who asked him to appoint Congresswoman Lee will have ramifications in the long run. What might Dianne Feinstein have done had she been governor? Food for thought.

Sen. Feinstein

Continued from page 1

of gun violence. My deepest condolences go out to her family and loved ones.”

Feinstein built a reputation as an independent voice, working hard to find practical solutions to issues confronting California and the nation. She was the first woman to chair the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, a position she held for six years beginning in 2009.

In 2017, Sen. Feinstein became the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee – the first woman to assume that role – where she helped shape policy on criminal law, national security, immigration, civil rights and the courts. She held

that position until 2021.

“We have fond memories to cherish of the work accomplished together on behalf of our most vulnerable and underserved communities. The Senator is truly a trailblazer,” stated Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) founding member and state President Dezie Woods-Jones.

BWOPA’s mission is to empower and educate African American women about politics encourage involvement, and address issues affecting the African American community.

Over 50 years ago, BWOPA charter members Hon. Ella Hill Hutch and Hon. Doris Ward collaborated extensively with Feinstein on a range

of social issues during her time on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and as San Francisco Mayor.

Woods-Jones recalls Sen. Feinstein hosted BWOPA’s first annual board retreat.

“May her profound legacy of supporting women’s rights and leadership continue to be front and center. Thank you for your years of service

Senator,” shared Woods-Jones. “May her profound legacy of supporting women’s rights and leadership continue to be front and center.”

Feinstein was instrumental in helping another Black political organization grow and become a force to be reckoned with in California politics, the Black American Political Association of California

(BAPAC). The group is dedicated to amplifying the economic, social, and political influence of the Black community in California.

According to BAPAC Sacramento Regional Director Rory Kaufman, BAPAC’s growth and influence were bolstered by the support of former Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, former two-time Gov. Jerry Brown, and Feinstein. The organization was founded by Percy Pinkney, an outspoken champion for solutions to challenges facing Black Californians, who also served as a senior state field representative for Feinstein.

“The bottom line is that Dianne Feinstein helped keep BAPAC alive because she had Percy Pinkney on her staff,” Kaufman said. “If history

serves me correctly, it was either Brown or Feinstein that sent Pinkney to Indiana where he discovered an organization similar to BAPAC and brought it back here (to the West Coast) to start the organization.”

The California Black Women’s Collective (CBWC) also issued a statement on the passing of Feinstein. CBWC serves as a resource for lawmakers, elected officials, business leaders, and advocacy organizations.

“We are all saddened by the passing of Senator Diane Feinstein, who paved the way for women to serve their communities in California and nationally,” states Kellie Todd Griffin, founding convener of CBWC. “It

is imperative that we all

take a moment to honor her contributions that positioned California as a beacon for others to follow.”

Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood), vice chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC), called Feinstein an “icon for her service and leadership.”

“Senator Dianne Feinstein dedicated her life to public service. As the longest-serving woman in the U.S. Senate, she was a trailblazer who served our state with strength, vision, and compassion,” said Bradford. “Her career was forged through the tragedy of gun violence which fueled her unwavering resolve to pass groundbreaking gun control. A true giant has left us.”

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THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

The Sin of Achan

Joshua 7:1, 10-12, 2-26

Who is this, Achan? God was angry that Israel had not been fully obedient to Him in the conquest of Jericho. Achan, an Israelite (of the tribe of Judah, no less), because of his disloyalty to the Lord and Israel, was destroyed just as the inhabitants of Jericho had been—he and his whole household. He stole the riches of Canaan from the Lord, and so lost his inheritance in the promised land. This is also a story of how one man's sin adversely affected the entire nation. Throughout this account (as often in the OT) Israel is considered a corporate unity in covenant with and in the service of the Lord. Thus, even in the acts of one (Achan) or a few (the 3,000 defeated at Ai) all Israel is involved (see Joshua 1:1, 11; 20;

22:20). One soldier's theft of the devoted goods brought collective guilt on the entire nation. (NIV Study Bible). (Joshua 7:11). Achan is recorded in description in Joshua 7:1 (ESV) 1 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel. Secretly Achan kept for himself what he should have destroyed. Therefore, when the Israelites moved on to attack the much smaller town of Ai, God allowed them to be driven back and to suffer losses (Joshua 7:2-5). Joshua was distressed, not just because Israel had been defeated, but because their defeat would encourage the Canaanites. If all

the Canaanites joined forces, Israel could be destroyed.

In response to Joshua's desperate prayer, God told him the reason for Israel's defeat. One person's sin concerning the devoted things of Jericho was enough to break the agreement that the whole nation had made with God, and so bring disaster upon it. God's curse on the devoted things passed on automatically to those associated with them. Notice the results of Achan's sin: (1) Many men died in Joshua 7:5; and (2) Israel's army melted in fear (Joshua 7:5). The nation could be saved only by destroying the devoted things and all persons and things connected with them. Through the ritual of drawing lots, Joshua discovered that Achan was the guilty person. Achan's confession confirmed that the choice was correct. He and all that was his were then destroyed (see Joshua 7:22-26). The Lord's reply to Joshua was short and abrupt. Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? God then explained the cause of the defeat and the need for action. The cause of the disaster was with Israel, not God—Israel had sinned. In His indictment God angrily used an accumulation of verbs. Advancing from the general to the particular He charged Israel with sinning, violating the covenant, appropriating some of the devoted things (haḥērem, "things devoted for or designated for destruction", stealing, lying, and concealing the stolen goods. (The goods are

named in Joshua 7:21). Till these transgressions were repudiated and expiation made for them, the sin of one person was considered the sin of the nation. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty).

Although Joshua and Achan both knew that Achan would die for his crime, Joshua entreated him to repent. Achan responded with a full confession. (NLT Study Bible). (Joshua 7:19-20). The robe should have been burned with the rest of Jericho's goods. It was from Babylon (Hebrew Shinar), evidence that long-distance trade was a significant part of life in the ancient Near East. • 200 silver coins (Hebrew 200 shekels of silver, about 5 pounds or 2.3 kilograms in weight): Achan took pieces or lumps of silver that functioned as money; coinage was not invented until the 600s bc. • more than a pound: Hebrew 50 shekels, about 20 ounces or 570 grams in weight. • I wanted them so much is translated "covet" in the tenth commandment (see Exodus 20:17). Achan's coveting had prompted his theft. (NLT Study Bible). (Joshua 7:21). The robe recorded in the Bible in, "Joshua 7:21 (KJV)

21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are

hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."

(King James Version). Because the matter was urgent, Joshua's messengers ran to the tent to confirm Achan's confession). In Joshua 7:24, This careful listing of Achan's relatives and possessions, including the stolen items, has the tone of a legal statement. Achan compromised all that pertained to him through his contact with the stolen items; thus, all had to be included in his judgment. (NLT Study Bible). And in Joshua 7:25, it is recorded, "Stoning was one prescribed means of execution. The Valley of Trouble: Literally valley of Achor (Hebrew 'akor, "trouble"). • God had not been angry without basis. God's people must be holy. To trifle with things belonging to God signifies rebellion against God, and such sin always brings trouble ('akor) upon God's people. Achan's sin brought disaster on Israel, so the severe punishment he received was just. (NLT Study Bible). (Joshua 1:26). The events of chapters 1-6 (with the possible exception of ch. 2) were initiated by divine instruction. Chapter 7 recounts how Joshua launches an attack on the city of Ai, but it makes no mention either of a divine mandate to do so or of any inquiry made to the Lord as to how Israel should proceed. Perhaps Joshua felt overconfident after the remarkable success of Israel's battle against Jericho (ch. 6), or perhaps the implication is that even an apparently

easy target is not easy if the Lord is against them.

Get up!... Israel has sinned. In no uncertain terms, the Lord redirects Joshua's attention to the true reason for Israel's defeat: Israel has transgressed my covenant. They have taken some of the devoted things (stolen, lied, and put them among their own belongings—all actions explicitly forbidden in the Law of Moses (see Deuteronomy 7:25-26). Adherence to that law was insisted on in the assurances given Joshua in Joshua 1:7-8). The actual perpetrator of these crimes was Achan (read Joshua 7:1). The Bible records, "Joshua 7:24-26 (ESV)

24 And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

25 And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor."



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Claudine Gay Assumes Historic Role as Harvard University's First Black President

By Stacy M. Brown

Harvard University now has its first Black president, Claudine Gay, who already has made her mark in the institution's history. Gay also stands as only the second woman to helm the university since its founding in 1640 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Claudine Gay

During her inaugural address, Gay articulated her vision for the Ivy League institution, acknowledging the weight and honor of this groundbreaking appointment. "I stand before you today humbled by the prospect of leading Harvard," remarked Gay amidst a rainy inauguration ceremony last Friday. "Emboldened by the trust you have placed in me and energized by your own commitment to this singular institution and to the common cause of higher education." The new president went on to emphasize Harvard's historical role as an agent of change, stating, "The courage of this University — our resolve, against all odds — to question the world as it is and imagine and make a better one: It is what Harvard was made to

do," she exclaimed.

Harvard Corporation, the university's main governing body, chose Gay after an extensive search process. Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, who attended Harvard, praised Gay's presidency in a speech. She called it a "truly historic" moment and expressed her admiration and support. Gay earned her Ph.D. in government from Harvard in 1998 and joined the faculty in 2006. She previously held the distinguished position of Edgerley Family Dean of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and is recognized as an expert in political behavior.

Sun Reporter

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