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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

Obituary: Pasadena Businessman and News Publisher Joe C. Hopkins Remembered for His Courage, Leadership

Solomon O. Smith | California Black Media

Last week, the Pasadena community lost a towering symbol of leadership and courage, Joe C. Hopkins. A lawyer, activist, publisher, husband and father, Hopkins passed away on Oct. 31 after decades of dedicated service to the community.

Hopkins was a prominent presence in “Dena,” the local nickname for the Pasadena/Altadena area. A resident for over 40 years, Hopkins, and his wife Ruthie, are deeply embedded in their local community, establishing meaningful relationships with people from diverse backgrounds. Their influence extended beyond Pasadena, inspiring and shaping California’s Black political and social circles in numerous ways.

Hopkins was born in Altus, Oklahoma. He relocated to

California in 1967, settling in Altadena in 1969. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Glendale University College of Law and in 1982 he began his legal practice which he later moved to Pasadena in 1986.

Hopkins was a man of conviction who fearlessly defended what he believed in. It was his strength of character and clarity of perspective that made him an effective leader.

Hopkins once held the position of president of the West Coast Black Publishers Association and was the president emeritus of the San Gabriel Valley Black Business Association. He founded the Pasadena/Altadena Black Lawyers Association and headed the Pasadena Black Expo from 1990-1992. He started the Pasadena/Altadena Journal, the first and only Black publication in “the Valley,” a region located north of Los Angeles that spans several other San Fernando Valley cities, including



Joe C. Hopkins

Burbank, Studio City, Glendale and Sherman Oaks.

Hopkins’ accomplishments have been acknowledged numerous times: He received the Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions in Business from the Altadena NAACP Branch in 1990, the Citizen of the Year Award from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1992 and served as the Community Grand Marshall

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Angela Davis Shares Insights on Domestic Violence in Black Communities During Sacramento Panel

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

Philosopher, civil rights activist, college professor, author, and former political prisoner Angela Davis put a lens on the deep-rooted damage domestic violence sows in the Black community, pulling from research she conducted for her 1999 book, “Blues Legacies and Black Feminism.”

The book examines the careers of influential Black women blues singers Gertrude “Ma” Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Rosa Henderson, and Billie Holiday in historical, social, and political contexts.

“I noticed that many of them sang about violence,” Davis said. “They sang about what was happening in their relationships.”

On Oct. 30, Davis shared her perspective on domestic



Marc Philpart, Executive Director of the California Black Freedom Fund, left, engages author and civil rights activist Angela Davis during a question-and-answer session held during the recording of a Domestic Violence Awareness Month podcast. The event was held at the office of the news publication Calmatters in Sacramento.

violence as part of a conversation that addressed the disproportionate impacts Domestic Violence has on Black women and families. The event, hosted by Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF) and the California Black Freedom Fund (CBFF), was held in Sacramento.

CBFF is a five-year, \$100 million initiative focused on Black power-building and ensuring movement-based organizations have the sustained investments they need to challenge systemic and institutional racism.

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San Francisco Launches Basic Income Program for Former Foster Children

Tanu Henry | California Black Media

Former foster youth living in the city and county of San Francisco are eligible to apply for a Guaranteed Income Pilot Program that will pay them \$1200 a month for 18 months.

“Guaranteed income programs help level the playing field and will give these former foster youth the support and resources they need to pursue their California dream,” said Gov. Gavin Newsom in a statement when he announced the program Nov. 3.

To support the program, the state awarded San Francisco \$3,439,090. Another Guaranteed Income Pilot program will be launched in Ventura County with a \$1,538,758 state investment.

“These pilots, through the Department of Social Services, will provide unconditional, individual, regular cash payments intended to disrupt



Mayor London Breed

poverty, advance equity, and support the basic needs of recipients,” said a press release from Newsom’s office.

San Franciscans who participate in the program will receive counseling and the state will measure the impact of the program on their lives and their eligibility for other public benefits.

“Transitioning out of the foster care system can be incredibly challenging for many of our youth, and this sustained unconditional income over 18 months

will help systems-involved youth pursue their hopes and dreams. In doing so, our goal is to disrupt the cycle of poverty and advance a more equitable future for former foster youth,” said San Francisco Human Services Agency Deputy Director of Policy, Planning, and Public Affairs Susie Smith.

“This is an amazing opportunity to break the cycle of poverty experienced by many young adults transitioning out of foster care,” Smith added.

California State University Faculty Vote to Authorize Strike

Joe W. Bowers Jr. | California Black Media

The California Faculty Association (CFA), the union representing faculty at California State University (CSU) schools has voted to authorize a strike if it cannot reach a deal with the 23-campus system’s administration.

CFA represents approximately 29,000 professors, lecturers, coaches and other faculty across the state.

“Cal State voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike, if necessary,” said Charles Toombs, a professor and former chairperson of Africana Studies at San Diego State University (SDSU) and the union’s president, during a virtual press conference Oct 30. “Members are emphatic that low pay, growing workloads, and systematic inequalities are not sustainable.

The union pushed for 12% across-the-board increases this fiscal year, but CSU offered 12% over the next three years. When CFA refused



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to consider a multi-year offer, the CSU offered a one-year GSI of 5%. CFA then declared an impasse within 40 minutes of receiving this offer.

“We are still moving through the statutory process. CFA members plan on bringing our demands and solidarity to trustees and new Chancellor Mildred

García at the November 7 CSU Board of Trustees meeting in Long Beach,” read a press release from CFA.

“CSU management says they can’t afford our re-opener proposals, but a

CFA fiscal analysis shows otherwise. The CSU has been hoarding billions of dollars in reserves instead of investing in faculty and staff who work directly with our students. Their investment in administrative personnel is increasing while their investment in instructional support continues to shrink,” it continued. In the fall of 2022, 18,308 Black or African American students (4.0%) were enrolled in the CSU system. Overall, the CSU system is comprised of 23 universities with nearly 500,000 students.

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Overhaul Needed: Tackling Youth Incarceration and Racial Disparities

By Stacy M. Brown

In its report, "System Reforms to Reduce Youth Incarceration: Why We Must Explore Every Option Before Removing Any Young Person from Home," the Sentencing Project challenges the prevalent practice of youth incarceration. The study highlights the inefficacy of youth incarceration and underscores the urgent need for state and local youth justice systems to prioritize alternative-to-incarceration programs.

Research shows that it is rarely necessary or effective to incarcerate adolescent offenders, the authors concluded. Instead, incarceration often heightens the likelihood of repeat offenses, impedes educational and employment prospects, and exposes youth to harmful

environments. Unsurprisingly, these negative impacts disproportionately affect youth of color, particularly African Americans.

According to the Vera Institute of Justice, more than eighty percent of all arrests involve low-level, nonviolent offenses associated with poverty. Further disconcerting, although Black males comprise just 13% of the total population, they represent an astounding 35% of those incarcerated. Additionally, compared to their white counterparts, Black youth are over four times more likely to be detained or committed to juvenile facilities.

The Sentencing Project said it wants youth justice leaders and legislators to recognize and fix the current failed strategy, and deal with the racial inequalities. The organization supports using alternatives to incarceration

in most cases, except when there is a clear danger to public safety. The Sentencing Project's report delineates a comprehensive agenda of state and local reforms, drawing from successful implementations nationwide. The authors note proposed changes that include not sending children to state-run youth prisons for certain crimes, providing incentives to local courts to avoid sending kids to state custody, and using the funds saved from releasing kids for other programs.

Officials at the Sentencing Project suggest making changes at the local level. They recommend reducing the number of individuals who are sent to prison early in the legal process. It also suggests changing the way probation is done so that it helps people succeed in the long term. Finally, the report recommends not

putting young people in jail for breaking probation rules.

To effectively reduce youth incarceration, the report authors emphasized the need for collaboration between justice systems, families, and community partners. The authors insist that staff members who are highly motivated and trained must implement alternative-to-incarceration programs per core principles. They argue that efforts should be made to address the biases causing racial and ethnic disparities in confinement in the American youth justice system.

"The research is clear that incarceration is not necessary or effective in the vast majority of delinquency cases," said Richard Mendel, Senior Research Fellow at The Sentencing Project. "Most state and local youth justice systems continue to employ problematic policies



Black males represent an astounding 35% of those incarcerated.

and practices that often lead to incarceration of youth who pose minimal or modest risk to public safety. It's essential that state and local jurisdictions seize every opportunity to keep young people safely at home with their families, in their schools, and communities.

Joe C. Hopkins Continued from page 1

of the Pasadena Black History Parade in 2000. In 2006, he was awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congressman Adam B. Schiff (D-CA-30). Additionally, he has been honored with numerous special recognitions from various city, state and national organizations.

In 2018, Hopkins and his wife were honored as civil rights

pioneers and "Unsung Heroes" by the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC). The award was presented by Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena).

In a statement following Hopkins' passing, Holden said, "My life and the lives of many other people are forever changed by the impact of Joe Hopkins and his wife Ruthie. I will miss Joe's fearless leadership and unrelenting dedication to community."

Hopkins' personal achievements were substantial, and their enduring impact makes his loss deeply felt by the greater Pasadena community.

Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-Burbank) recalls being inspired by Hopkins' writing in his book, "I will not Apologize," a collection of his opinion pieces many consider to be the core of his beliefs.

After reading his book

Portantino had to meet the man behind the "no nonsense" words. Hopkins was not easily impressed and quizzed Portantino about whether he read his book. They bonded over that conversation and their mutual desire to create a bridge between higher education in California and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Together, they encouraged leaders and educators from UCLA to establish the Summer Institute for Emerging

Managers and Leaders in 2012. The program's purpose is to "increase the diversity of graduate students enrolled in the UC business schools.

The program continues to diversify leadership in California graduate schools.

Hopkins is survived by his wife Ruthie, three sons: Yusef, Omar, and Jamal, as well as seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



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Judge Sneed and Judge Austin Join Record Number of Black Women Nominated to Federal Bench

By Stacy M. Brown

President Biden this week nominated Judge Julie S. Sneed and Judge Jacquelyn D. Austin to the U.S. District Courts for the Middle District of Florida and the District of South Carolina, respectively. The White House said the nominations continue to show Biden's ongoing commitment to diversify the federal judiciary and ensure that the nation's courts reflect the multifaceted nature of the United States.

With 32 Black women appointed by Biden already confirmed by the Senate for

lifetime judgeships, "The Biden-Harris administration continues to set records when it comes to professional and demographic diversity," Stephen Benjamin, director of the White House Office of Public Engagement and a senior adviser to the President, said in a statement to TheGrio, which first reported the nominations.

Benjamin noted that the number of Black female federal judges appointed under this administration surpasses any single administration in history.

Both Judge Sneed and Judge Austin are exceptionally well-qualified, with impressive

legal careers before their nominations. Sneed has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the Middle District of Florida since June 2015. Before her judgeship, she gained extensive experience as a partner and associate at law firms Akerman LLP and Fowler White Boggs Banker, P.A. Additionally, she worked as a law clerk for Judge James D. Whittemore on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida and Judge Chris W. Altenbernd on the Florida Second District Court of Appeal. Her legal education includes a J.D. from Florida State University College of Law and a B.S. from the University of Florida.

Austin has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of South Carolina since 2011. Before her judicial career, she built a solid foundation in private practice at Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC, where she worked her way up from associate to partner. Austin also served as a law clerk for Judge Matthew J. Perry Jr. on the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina. She holds a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law and a B.S. from the University of South Carolina School of Engineering.

Biden's commitment to increasing diversity on the

federal bench has yielded results, with two-thirds of the 148 life-tenured federal judges confirmed so far being women and people of color. This includes a record number of civil rights lawyers and public defenders, which the White House said emphasized the administration's dedication to promoting fairness and justice within the judicial system.

Among Biden's most celebrated judicial nominees is Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, who made history last year as the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. "These choices also continue to fulfill the President's promise to ensure that



Judge Julie S. Sneed the nation's courts reflect the diversity that is one of our greatest assets as a country—both in terms of personal and professional backgrounds," White House officials said in a release.

PPIC Releases Report on Community College Access

Tanu Henry | California Black Media

“Tracking Progress in Community College Access and Success,” a report by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) examines the effects of Assembly Bill (AB) 705 authored by Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks) and passed in 2017 that changed the assessment and placement practices for community college students in California.

AB 705 requires California community colleges to use multiple measures like high school coursework, grades, and GPA for student placement in transfer-level Math and English courses without needing to take remedial

courses first. The law aims to ensure that students are starting and finishing the English and Math courses during their first year.

By replacing standardized tests used for Math and English course placement, AB 705 addressed criticisms of inaccuracies, inequities, and biases that disadvantaged some groups of students, especially Black, Latino, and English Language Learners.

The report shows both the progress students made from the fall of 2018 to fall 2022, and the challenges remaining to be addressed. While access and completion rates have improved substantially for all students, there are still large equity gaps between racial/ethnic groups, especially for Black students.

For example, in transfer-level math, the white-Black gap in one-term course completion is 22 percentage points, and the White-Latino gap is 17 points. In transfer-level English, the White-Black gap is 13 points, and the White-Latino gap is 10 points. Black students are also less likely to enroll in corequisite courses, which provide additional support and are taken concurrently with the transfer-level course and offer extra instruction, tutoring, or mentoring to help students succeed.

The report recommends several strategies and initiatives that can help improve outcomes and reduce disparities. They include the involvement and cooperation of institutions, efficient supports and resources

for students, data-driven decision-making, and targeted programs for Black students.

Some examples of the targeted programs for Black students are: · Umoja Community: A statewide program that provides culturally relevant curriculum, mentoring, counseling, and academic support to increase the success and retention of Black students.

· African American Male Education Network and Development (A2MEND): A program that focuses on empowering Black male students through leadership development, personal growth, and academic achievement. · Puente Project: A program that aims to increase the number of educationally underserved students who



City College of San Francisco

enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn degrees, and return to the community as leaders and mentors.

· California Promise: A program that offers two years of free tuition to first-time, full-time students who meet

certain eligibility criteria.

The report is based on data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and interviews with faculty and administrators from selected colleges

Revolutionary Study Explores Heart PET Scans as Game-Changer for Early Parkinson's and Lewy Body Dementia Detection

By Stacy M. Brown

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a major study showing how positron emission tomography (PET) scans of the heart could be used to find people likely to get Parkinson's disease or Lewy body dementia.

Health officials said the research, the brainchild of specialists from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), marks a significant advancement in the early detection of these crippling neurodegenerative disorders.

This discovery, led by scientists from the NINDS and published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, could change how early these crippling neurodegenerative conditions are found.

In the pioneering investigation, scientists delved into neurotransmitter levels by employing PET scans on the hearts of 34 individuals with known Parkinson's disease risk factors. The scans gave new

information about the people who later were diagnosed with Parkinson's disease or Lewy body dementia. Lewy bodies—abnormal alpha-synuclein protein deposits—are the root cause of both conditions.

The research took place at the NIH Clinical Center; currently the sole facility offering 18F-dopamine PET scanning. PET scans employ a radioactive tracer to visualize metabolic or biochemical processes within body organs.

Norepinephrine, derived from dopamine, is notably deficient in the brains of people living with Parkinson's, health officials explained in the study. Dr. David S. Goldstein, the principal investigator for NINDS, has previously shown that people with Lewy body diseases have very little cardiac norepinephrine. He explained that nerves that supply the heart typically release this neurotransmitter.

The new study, led by Dr. Goldstein, found that people who were at risk and had low 18F-dopamine-derived radioactivity in the heart were much more likely to develop Parkinson's or Lewy body

dementia over time than people who had the same risk factors but normal radioactivity.

"Imagine the scans are frames of a movie. The frame at 8 minutes during the first evaluation is already enough to identify the people who are likely to go on to develop a central Lewy body disease years later," Goldstein stated.

For the research, 34 individuals at risk for Parkinson's were engaged, and subjected to cardiac 18F-dopamine PET scans every 18 months for up to approximately 7.5 years or until diagnosis. Those who took part had at least three things that put them at risk for Parkinson's—a family history of the disease, anosmia (loss of smell), dream enactment behavior (a sleep disorder), and orthostatic intolerance symptoms, like feeling dizzy when standing up.

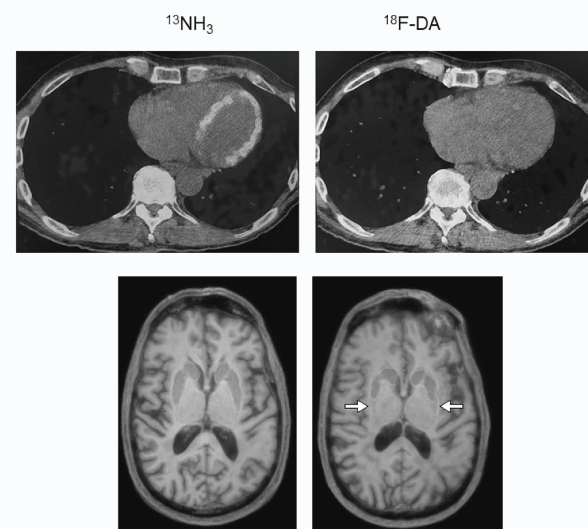
Eight of the nine participants who had lower cardiac 18F-dopamine-derived radioactivity on their first scan were later diagnosed with Parkinson's disease or Lewy body dementia. Remarkably, only one of

the eleven participants with normal initial radioactivity developed a central Lewy body disease. All nine participants who developed a Lewy body disease exhibited low radioactivity before or at the time of diagnosis.

Researchers noted that the study supported the idea that synuclein disorders, including Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia, affect the nerves that control automatic body functions like blood pressure and heart rate. Officials said Goldstein's extensive work, among others, showcases synuclein aggregation in nerves related to gastrointestinal organs, skin, and glands in both conditions.

"We think that in many cases of Parkinson's and dementia with Lewy bodies, the disease processes don't actually begin in the brain," Goldstein remarked. "Through autonomic abnormalities, the processes eventually make their way to the brain. The loss of norepinephrine in the heart predicts and precedes the loss of dopamine in the brain in Lewy body diseases."

Health officials declared



Health officials said the research, the brainchild of specialists from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), marks a significant advancement in the early detection of these crippling neurodegenerative disorders..

that finding biomarkers for diseases before they show symptoms, in the "preclinical period," is very important for testing that can help with early intervention. Parkinson's motor symptoms do not show up until dopamine-producing neurons in parts of the brain that control movement are severely damaged or lost.

"Once symptoms begin, most of the damage has already been done," Goldstein emphasized. "You want to

be able to detect the disease early on. If you could salvage the dopamine terminals that are sick but not yet dead, then you might be able to prolong the time before the person shows symptoms."

The study concluded, "Using PET scans to find people with preclinical Lewy body diseases could lead to testing preventative measures like changing your lifestyle, taking dietary supplements, or taking medicine."

The Sun-Reporter

EDITORIAL

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

Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827.

Making Connections That Can Help Save the Planet

By Ben Jealous

If we're going to realize the climate benefits of historic federal support for clean energy and jobs approved in the last two years, connections are the key. And I'm not just talking about electrifying homes and buildings.

We need to connect people to the benefits spread throughout the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Act.

We do that by connecting people to others in the communities where they live and with the individuals, local units of government, and non-profits who can help them take advantage of a lengthy list of tax credits and rebates for everything from electric cars to more energy efficient windows and doors.

The need is clear. Seven in 10 Americans say they know little or nothing about the IRA by name. The same is true for specific parts of the package like tax credits for home solar panels and heat pumps.

Bobby Foley of Elephant Energy, a climate tech start-up in Colorado, sees the information gaps and hears the questions up close. "We are on the ground, scoping out a heat pump with homeowners and installing it."

Foley can help that homeowner use rebates from a local utility and the city of Denver, alongside state and federal tax credits, to cut the cost on a new \$20,000 electric heat pump to heat and cool their homes by more than half. He can install heat pumps in homes without ducts and in

places where temperatures drop below zero. The result is far less carbon and 300 percent greater energy efficiency than a furnace and air conditioner at substantially lower monthly cost to the customer, he said.

But the people Foley meets already know enough to at least inquire. There are more than 100 programs scattered through the \$370 billion in the IRA that aim to assist individuals, businesses, and state and local governments. Projections show that if we can use all that money thoughtfully and equitably, we can cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent.

There's a good deal of evidence to show that people need help to connect. The National Council on Aging, for example, estimates seniors leave \$30 billion of potential government assistance for food, housing, and health care unclaimed. There's often a lack of awareness or misconceptions about the difficulty of applying. The non-profit Code for America, which works to make government more effective and accessible, found that even the words used to offer programs like tax credits and food assistance to Americans makes a difference in their response rate.

For clean energy incentives, many states also have



Ben Jealous

stepped in with their own support that can significantly improve the attractiveness of acting to switch to a cleaner product. That's means the opportunities can vary a lot from place to place.

To help fill the gap, the Sierra Club is making a national push to recruit, prepare, and offer volunteers across the country – Community Advocates – to help people and their communities get the support that's available to protect the planet.

Bekah Ashley has worked with Utah school districts to apply for funds from the infrastructure package to transition their transportation to electric school buses. Communities can share \$1 billion a year. School buses account for the largest public

bus fleet across the country, but school systems "often get overlooked in climate action," Ashley noted.

School board members might have sticker shock – electric buses can cost more than two times new diesel buses, Ashley said. But the federal incentives and the far lower operating costs change that perspective.

Communities recognize the need and favor of government support for a cleaner economy. It's something most of us believe in. But we need to ensure that support doesn't stay written on the pages of legislation. We need to learn more – preferably from using the incentives ourselves – and share that knowledge with others who can benefit from it.

Racial Disparities Highlighted as October Breaks Global Temperature Records

By Stacy M. Brown

Weather officials and experts have confirmed that last month was the hottest October ever globally, surpassing pre-industrial averages by a staggering 1.7 degrees Celsius (3.1 degrees Fahrenheit), weather officials confirmed. This milestone marks the fifth consecutive month of record-breaking temperatures, setting the stage for the hottest year ever recorded.

The extent of the temperature surge, which exceeded the previous record set in 2019 by 0.4 degrees Celsius (0.7 degrees Fahrenheit), has astonished experts.

And as extreme weather patterns increasingly become the new normal,

it is not surprising to find that African Americans are disproportionately affected. Research from the Gallup Center on Black Voices underscored the disparities in confidence, preparedness, and resource accessibility between racial and ethnic groups. Black and Hispanic Americans report lower levels of confidence in their preparedness and less access to vital resources compared to their white counterparts.

While most respondents across all racial and ethnic groups agree that they have access to reliable weather warnings and someone to call for help during extreme weather events, the margin is narrower for Black and Hispanic Americans. White Americans outpace both groups by approximately ten percentage points on each measure, indicating a higher

level of preparedness and ability to recover.

According to Gallup, the most significant divide emerges in the perception of community support during natural disasters or extreme weather events. Compared to white Americans, Hispanic adults lag by 13 percentage points, while Black adults fall behind by 18 points. Relocation statistics, which show that 14% of Black Americans and 11% of Hispanic Americans have relocated, either temporarily or permanently, due to extreme weather events, are further evidence of this disparity.

The climate crisis is exacerbating these disparities, with the Copernicus Climate Change Service noting that a contributing factor is the reduced capacity of oceans to mitigate global warming, which is historically

responsible for absorbing up to 90% of excess heat from climate change. This drop in oceanic regulation and El Niño's effect (a natural climate cycle that raises ocean temperatures temporarily and changes global weather patterns) make it look like more warming is coming in the coming months.

According to Gallup researchers, 2023 has seen a notable increase in unusual weather events like floods, hurricanes, heatwaves, tornadoes, and wildfires. This trend is expected to continue, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicating a high likelihood of an increased frequency and severity of such events in the coming decades.

"2023 has been a notable year for abnormal weather events, which have caused considerable impact to



This milestone marks the fifth consecutive month of record-breaking temperatures, setting the stage for the hottest year ever recorded.

life and property," Gallup researchers concluded. "According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, it is very likely that these

types of events – floods, hurricanes, heatwaves, tornadoes, wildfires and more – will increase in frequency and/or severity in the coming decades."

Angela Davis Continued from page 1

Davis joined representatives of other organizations to discuss policies needed to end intimate partner violence. The gathering, mostly journalists, was a recording session at the offices of the news publication CalMatters and part of BSCF's podcast series for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Participants included Karen Earl, CEO of the Jenesse Center; Trina Greene, founder and Executive Director of Parenting for Liberation; Kelli Dillon, from the City of Oakland Department of Violence Prevention; and Eric Morrison-Smith, Executive Director of the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color.

Debbie Chang, President and CEO of BSCF, and BFF Executive Director Marc Philpart facilitated the activities, while journalist Bonnie Boswell moderated the roundtable discussions

among Earl, Green, Dillon, and Morrison-Smith.

"We really needed to have this session focus on the disproportionate impact of domestic violence especially on California's Black community," Chang told California Black Media. "We're shining a light on it and bringing attention to it. We can't be silent about it. What we want are solutions."

Davis, who will turn 80 on Jan. 26, is best known as a champion became of prison reform, women's rights, racial equality, and the inequality of capitalism. An advocate for the LGBTQ community, Davis was once an active member of the Communist Party USA and the Black Panther Party for Self Defense.

Today, she is the Distinguished Professor Emerita of the History of Consciousness at the University of California at Santa Cruz. She first became

aware of domestic violence as a "political issue" in the 1970s, she said. Davis stated that intimate violence not only affects women but men, children, and families.

"We're talking about a form of violence that has been in most human societies for hundreds of years. We also learned how to hide it, and then, somehow, it's represented as just the problem of the survivor," Davis said. "It's always been considered a women's issue."

Davis pointed out that she wanted everyone to understand that domestic violence didn't emerge during the feminist movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

"We periodized that movement as happening in the '60s when women, largely White, began (speaking out against violence against women)," Davis said. "I wanted us to have a sense of how long it often takes for these ideas

to make a difference."

With support from BSCF, Social Action Partners (SoACT) developed a mixed-methods study of perceptions and attitudes surrounding domestic violence in California's Black/African American community.

The report, 2017 Black Leaders Survey on Domestic Violence, provides the BSCF domestic violence advocates and community

stakeholders' insights on how Black communities in California perceive the challenges they face in combating domestic violence.

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual

Violence Survey, 34%, or one in three California women report experiencing domestic violence at some point in their lifetimes. The BSCF report states that 42.5% of Black women report experiencing intimate partner violence,

compared to 39.3% of White women and 30.2% of Hispanic women.

On March 8, the Los Angeles City Council received an Equity Analysis on the Violence and Crime that Black women and girls experience from the Civil, Human Rights, and Equity Department (LA Civil Rights).

Overall, violent crime rates have decreased in Los Angeles over a 10-year period but the number of Black women experiencing violence has increased. Black women comprise approximately 4.3% of Los Angeles' population but they often make up approximately 25% to 33% of victims of violence, the report stated.

The San Francisco Family Violence Council's 2020 report also revealed racial disparities among domestic violence survivors. It states that 28% of dependent adult abuse victims were Black; and more than half of domestic violence victims

were Black or Latino.

For Philpart, the drive to prevent domestic violence is personal. His grandmother was killed by her husband in 1965 after she divorced him and remarried.

"It's important for us to have this conversation about the Black community because we often don't talk about domestic violence," Philpart said. "As the panelist said, we keep DV as something that is unspoken of or is part of our family history that's never unearthed."

Philpart's family tragedy highlights another statistic. According to the Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness, 75% of homicides related to domestic violence occur after intimate partners' separation.

"We are gathered here today discussing an issue that first became a part of discourse over 50 years ago. As a matter of fact, this is the most widespread, pandemic form of violence in the world," Davis said.

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RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

David's Sin and Punishment

2 Samuel 11:2-5, 14-18, 26-27; 12:13-15

One evening, restless on his bed... David arose, went to a rooftop of the palace, and from there happened to observe Bathsheba... the wife of his neighbor Uriah. She was bathing out in the open. One may not fault David for perhaps seeking the cooler breezes of the late afternoon, but Bathsheba, knowing the proximity of her courtyard to the palace, probably harbored ulterior designs toward the king. Yet David's submission to her charms is inexcusable, for the deliberate steps he followed to bring her to the palace required more than enough time for him to resist the initial, impulsive temptation (read James 1:14-15). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). As

David looked from the roof of the palace, he witnessed a beautiful woman bathing, and he was filled with lust. David should have left the roof and fled the temptation. Maybe he drew nigh to his prayer room. Instead, he entertained the temptation by 1) inquiring about Bathsheba and 2) sent for her. The results were devastating. Believers today should flee temptation, (1) ask God in earnest prayer to help you stay away from people, places, and situations that may tempt you. (2) Memorize and meditate on portions of Scripture that combat your specific weaknesses. At the root of most temptation is a real need or desire that God can fill, but we must trust in his timing. (3) Find another believer with whom you can openly share your struggles, and call this person for help when temptation strikes.

(Life Application Study Bible). Having discovered her identity, he sent for her at once and was assured of her ritual purity, (see Leviticus 15:19-24) had intercourse with her. The bathing itself may have been for the purpose of ritual purification and would therefore not only advertise Bathsheba's charms but would serve as a notice to the king that she was available to him. In due time she found that she was pregnant by the king and, undoubtedly in great distress, informed him of her condition. (2 Samuel 11:4-5). In utter frustration David wrote a memo to Joab commanding that Uriah, when he returned to the front line, be abandoned to the enemy by an unexpected Israelite withdrawal. Ironically Uriah was the bearer of his own tidings of doom. This plan succeeded; Uriah was surrounded and slain. Ordinarily David would have been upset by the news of casualties. He would have wondered at Israel's indiscretion in fighting under Rabbah's wall, a blunder which had cost Abimelech, son of Gideon, his life long ago (read Judges 9:50-54). So, Joab instructed the courier who bore the news to inform the king specifically that Uriah also had died. This he knew would mollify David's anguish. (2 Samuel 11:14-21).

David's response to the news was predictable. He told the messenger to tell Joab that in circumstances such as war, life and death were matters of blind chance. His instruction back to Joab was only that the siege of Rabbah be even more aggressive. Bathsheba soon learned of her husband's tragic death. After the customary

time of mourning, she moved into the king's palace in time to bear their son. The Lord was displeased, however, and set events in motion that would trouble David till his death. (2 Samuel 11:22-27). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). Sometime after the birth of Bathsheba's son, Nathan the prophet told David a story of a rich man who, in spite of having everything, stole a poor neighbor's only ewe (i.e., female) lamb to provide a feast for a guest. Enraged, David pronounced that the man who would do such a despicable thing ought to die. Though the Law contained no such penalty for the theft of property, kidnapping was a capital offense, and it may be that David viewed the taking of a pet lamb in this light (see Exodus 21:16). In addition, he said, the rich man must restore four lambs for the one stolen for not even the rich man's death could compensate the poor man's property loss (See Exodus 22:1). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). (2 Samuel 12:1-6). Nathan's reply to all this was a bombshell: You are the man! The Lord, he said, had given David everything, but he had taken, as it were, the pet lamb of a poor neighbor David now would suffer the sword as had Uriah and David's wives would be taken from him as Bathsheba had been stolen from the Hittite. This was fulfilled by Absalom (David's own son!) when he lay with David's concubines. But David's shame would be even greater because, in

contrast with David's sin in secret, all these things would happen in the glare of the public eye, in broad daylight.

One may wonder, perhaps, why David was not punished with death as he had advocated for the guilty man. Adultery and murder both were sufficient cause for the execution of even a king (read Exodus 21:12; Leviticus 20:10). The answer surely lies in the genuine and contrite repentance which David expressed, not only in the presence of Nathan but more fully in Psalm 51. David's sin was atrocious, but the grace of God was more than sufficient to forgive and restore him, as Nathan could testify. And yet, though David could be restored to fellowship with his God, the impact of his sin remained and would continue to work its sorrow in the nation as well as in the king's life. Even within his own home.

Focus on 2 Samuel 12:15-23, shortly after the interview with Nathan... the child became terminally ill. Despite David's intense fasting and prayer, the baby died within a week. Only then did David cease his mourning, wash, worship, and eat, contrary to custom and much to the amazement of his servants. David's response is classic: **While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept... But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again?** David attested to the death. I will go to him, David said, but he will not return to me. This reflects his conviction that the dead cannot return to life as it was. Rather it is the living who go to the dead. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An

Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty). So, it was in the episode with Bathsheba, David allowed himself to fall deeper and deeper into sin. David abandoned his purpose by staying home from war. He focused on his own desires. When temptation came, he looked into it instead of turning away from it (see 2 Samuel 11:3). He sinned deliberately. He tried to cover up his sin by deceiving others (2 Samuel 11:6-15). (6) He committed murder to continue the cover-up (see 2 Samuel 11:15, 17). Eventually David's sin was exposed (read 2 Samuel 12:9) and punished (2 Samuel 12:10-14). The consequences of David's sin were far-reaching, affecting many others (see 2 Samuel 11:17; 12:11, 14, 15). David could have chosen to stop and turn from evil at any stage along the way. But once sin gets started, it is difficult to stop (James 1:14, 15). The deeper the mess, the less we want to admit having caused it. It's much easier to stop sliding down a hill when you are near the top than when you are halfway down. The best solution is to stop sin before it starts. (Life Application Study Bible). David's many wives caused him much grief. And as a result of David's sin with Bathsheba, God said that murder would be a constant threat in his family, his family would rebel, and someone else would sleep with his wives. All this happened as the prophet Nathan had predicted. The consequences of sin affect not only us but those we know and love. Remember that the next time you are tempted to sin. Be Blessed!

THE SUN-REPORTER

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Little Zion Baptist Church
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San Francisco, CA

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Morning Worship 11:am
Evening Worship 6:pm

El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Keva L. McNeill, Pastor

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

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

St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church

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

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

Neighborhood Baptist Church

608 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA
Rev. Lane Hawkins

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

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

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

Rev. Kenneth R. Reece
Pastor

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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
Wendnesday 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.
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94124
(415) 822-9488

Rev. Anthony Anderson

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Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 PM
Church School Wednesday 7: pm
Communion every 1st Sunday

Shekinah Christian Fellowship

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

Ella Henderson, Bishop & Founder of SCF

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

Ebenezer Baptist Church

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San Francisco, CA.

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Morning Worship 10:45: am
Evening Worship 7:30 pm

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

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(Cubberly Community CTR)
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Morning worship - 11:00 am
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Open Enrollment 2023: Covered California Is Providing Financial, Enrollment Assistance to Insure Maximum Insurance Coverage

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

Covered California kicked off its 2024 open-enrollment period at the iconic Los Angeles State Historic Park and Roundhouse Bridge, a public space that serves some of the most vulnerable communities in the state, with roots that connect back to the early history of the city and region.

California Black Women's Health Project Chief Executive Officer Sonya Young Adam was among those who joined Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman to launch open enrollment and highlight how record financial

assistance are bridging the gap between uninsured Californians and access to affordable, name brand health insurance coverage.

"There has never been more financial assistance available to help Californians pay for health care coverage than there will be in 2024," said Jessica Altman. "We want every uninsured Californian to know that affordable and quality health care coverage is available and within closer reach than ever before."

The event marked the start of the 11th year of Covered California offering affordable, name brand health care coverage and financial assistance to Californians under the Affordable Care Act. Open enrollment, which began Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31, 2024, is the time of year

when Californians can register for health insurance or modify to their existing plans.

During this year's open enrollment, Covered California is partnering with organizations throughout the state to deliver health resources to the community. In Los Angeles, Covered California will participate in the African American Men's Wellness Walk at Rancho Cienega Recreation Center on Saturday, Nov. 11, where in addition to health screenings, two informational sessions with Dr. Monica Soni, Chief Medical Officer of Covered California will be presented at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. The sessions will discuss healthcare, open enrollment and Medi-Cal, and be moderated by KJLH Radio on-air personality Adai Lamar.

In San Francisco, Covered California will host a joint African American and AANHPI health clinic event at the Southeast Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 9. In addition to health screenings, community-based organizations will be on hand to provide information and resources.

Consumers can learn more about their options by visiting CoveredCA.com, where they can easily find out if they qualify for financial help and see the coverage options in their area.

All they need to do is enter their household income, ZIP code, household size and the number of people who need coverage and their ages into the calculator on Covered California's homepage.



Open enrollment, which began Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31, 2024, is the time of year when Californians can register for health insurance or modify to their existing plans.

Interested parties can get free and confidential assistance over the phone, in a variety of languages, from a certified enroller at (800) 300-1506.

Asm. Mike Gipson Shares Legal Details About Closing of Lincoln Cemetery With Concerned Constituents

California Legislative Black Caucus member Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson) provided an update on the circumstances surrounding the closing of Lincoln Memorial Park, a cemetery located in Carson.

Outraged families of loved

ones laid to rest at Lincoln Memorial Park have been under a cloud of frustration about the privately-owned cemetery. Gipson stated that the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Cemetery and Funeral Bureau (CFB) has posted a Frequently Asked Questions FAQ document that updates the public on the status of Lincoln Cemetery.

"It has been just over two months since the cemetery license was canceled. CFB's FAQ explains what this means in specific terms, from a legal perspective," Gipson wrote.

The owner of the cemetery, Michael Mintz, abandoned the property and surrendered his cemetery license. The gates to the 20-acre property were briefly locked and

it was reopened despite disrepair and neglect.

The cemetery holds historical significance dating back to the 1930s. Some of those interred were born after the Civil War. African American boxer Joe Lewis dedicated a plaque in Lincoln cemetery in 1949.

"I am continuing to explore all possible avenues that

will expedite our path to license operations at the Lincoln Cemetery and I am advocating personally for our community," Gipson stated. "Please share the FAQ with those who have an interest in this historic site. I would like to thank all community members for their continued support and your feedback."



Asm. Mike Gipson

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