

# Sun-Reporter



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**.30¢**  
BEST BUY IN THE WEST

## Gov. Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom Host 2024 Hall of Fame Ceremony

By Antonio Ray Harvey

**F**ormer Assembly Speaker and San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and three other African Americans were among 10 luminaries inducted into the 2024 Class of the California Hall of Fame on Feb. 8.

The 17th Annual California Hall of Fame ceremony was held at the California Museum.

"The California Hall of Fame is one of our families' favorite traditions as it is a time to come together to celebrate remarkable Californians as well as their loved ones because we know that it is about partnerships," Siebel Newsom said. "The governor likes to say that California is a dream factory because it doesn't matter what zip code or background you come from, the California dream is alive and well to everyone who calls this state home."

The other Black honorees were filmmaker Ava DuVernay; Federal Judge and civil rights leader, the Hon. Thelton Henderson; and



Willie Brown, Former California Assembly Speaker and San Francisco Mayor, was proud to be among the Hall of Fame inductees

basketball Hall of Fame player and broadcaster Cheryl Miller.

"It's what I've been waiting for and to be among a great group of individuals that also deserve the honor," Brown told California Black Media on the event's red carpet before the ceremony began. "No, I never thought someone from Texas would be recognized this way. But here I am, and it all happened in the great state of California. It's a fantastic feeling."

Other 2024 inductees are:

master chef and "mother of fusion cuisine" Helene An; computer scientist and "father of the internet" Vincent A. Cerf; all-female pop punk band The Go-Gos; Chicano Rock band Los Lobos; former U.S. Secretary of Defense and Congressman Leon E. Panetta; and artistic director and choreographer Brenda Way.

**This year's honorees join a history-making club with over 150 inspirational Californians previously inducted for their groundbreaking achievements and personifying the state's innovative spirit.**

## Historic White House Gathering Celebrates Descendants of Civil Rights Icons

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

**I**n a Black History Month event at the White House on Tuesday, Feb. 13, Vice President Kamala Harris addressed the descendants of some of the most influential civil rights leaders from the 1950s and '60s, along with other foundational historical figures. The gathering marked the first time many of those families convened in the same room.

Prominent figures such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Emmett Till, Thomas Jefferson, and Sally Hemings were scheduled to attend.

Harris praised the descendants as "extraordinary American heroes" who embody the promise of the nation and the Constitution. "They've passed the baton to us," Harris remarked during her address.

Stephen K. Benjamin,



Prominent figures such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, Emmett Till, Thomas Jefferson, and Sally Hemings were scheduled to attend.

the director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, outlined the administration's initiatives, including a Nearly 100 other guests, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus and administration officials, attended the event. Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.), a featured speaker, commended the families for their personal sacrifices and tireless work to preserve and protect their ancestors' legacies. "At a

time when our fundamental freedoms are once again under attack, we are grateful to President Biden not only for convening this event but for his commitment to furthering the progress that our foremothers and forefathers fought and died to achieve," Sewell stated. n executive order related to police accountability and President Joe Biden's signing of the

Continued on page 4

## Niners Lose Super Bowl in OT Thriller After Usher's Star-Studded Halftime Show

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

**M**aybe it was Usher's star-studded halftime show that inspired the Kansas City Chiefs and their superstar quarterback Pat Mahomes in the second half to win their third Super Bowl in four years with a thrilling 25-22 OT victory over the San Francisco 49ers in Las Vegas. Or, perhaps, it was just inevitable that Mahomes, a Black quarterback was inspired by the pregame singing of "Lift Every Voice," and the bold "End Racism" sign painted at each end zone. Or could it have been a combination of all of the above along with the specter of playing a 49ers team where Colin Kaepernick took a stand for Black Lives Matter that's cost him a football career?

Former San Francisco 49ers star Terrell Owens said the decision to kneel during "The Star-Spangled Banner" was



Whatever it was, Patrick Mahomes again proved why he's worth every penny of his mega \$500 million-plus contract and why, on the football field at least, he overshadows all the Travis Kelce-Taylor Swift nonsense.

world works and really how a lot of the White people see us. For so many years, we've tried to voice that, I mean, 400-plus something years we've been telling you these are some of the things that have been going on and it took ... like I said, who would've thought that it took a knee to bring all of this back to life." When Lee mentioned Jay-Z partnering with the NFL to help the league's entertainment sphere

just for that moment and you address it and it's swept under the rug after a few weeks or a couple of months and then like you said, it's business back to usual. It has to be continued effort to rectify some of these things."

Whatever it was, Patrick Mahomes again proved why he's worth every penny of his mega \$500 million-plus

Continued on page 2

## To Fight Surge in Crime, Gov. Newsom Deploys State Law Enforcement to East Bay

By Antonio Ray Harvey

**R**esponding to a surge in crimes in the region, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Feb. 6 that he is temporarily increasing state law enforcement personnel in Oakland and the East Bay.

About 120 California Highway Patrol officers are being deployed in the operation – about a 900% increase, according to the Governor's office.

"As crime rates across California decrease — including right across the Bay in San Francisco — Oakland is seeing the opposite trend," said Gov. Newsom.

"I'm sending the California Highway Patrol to assist local efforts to restore a sense of safety that the hardworking



About 120 California Highway Patrol officers are being deployed in the operation – about a 900% increase, according to the Governor's office

people of Oakland and the East Bay demand and deserve."

The CHP officers have been tasked with helping to reduce and prevent auto theft, cargo theft, retail crime, violent crime, and high-visibility traffic enforcement.

Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao said the city will work along with state authorities to ramp up law

enforcement investigations, police recruitment, and investing in community and violence intervention.

"I'm grateful for Governor Newsom for providing these critical law enforcement resources that are a game-changer in helping us hold more criminals accountable and make Oakland safer," Thao added.

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SCAN TO REGISTER



# Empowering Health: Join us for Peripheral Artery Disease and Glucose Screenings

**A**s we navigate the complexities of modern life, it's crucial to prioritize our health. In this spirit, the Southeast Community Center is excited to invite you to a special event on February 16th from 12pm to 4pm – a day dedicated to Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) and Glucose screenings.

This event, organized in collaboration with 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, aims to raise awareness about diabetes, particularly within the black community.

Why focus on diabetes awareness? Diabetes is a prevalent health concern, and its impact is significantly felt in the black community. By attending this event, you not only take a proactive step towards understanding your health but also contribute to the broader movement to increase awareness within our community.

100 Black Men of the Bay Area has been at the forefront of advocating for health awareness, organizing similar events across the country. Their commitment to empowering individuals to know their health status and engage in meaningful conversations with healthcare providers aligns seamlessly with the goals of the Southeast Community Center.

The screenings at the Southeast Community Center

will provide valuable insights into Peripheral Artery Disease and glucose levels. Following the screenings, attendees will have access to essential resources and information that can be utilized to advocate for their health with their healthcare providers. This event is not just about screenings; it's about empowering individuals to be active participants in their well-being.

Deputy Director Larry Berry emphasizes the importance of this event for SFPUC employees, saying, "Our health is our most valuable asset. I encourage all SFPUC employees to attend the Peripheral Artery Disease and Glucose screenings event. It is an opportunity to take charge of your health and be part of a movement that prioritizes well-being."

The Southeast Community Center is proud to partner with 100 Black Men of the Bay Area for this impactful event. It is open to everyone over the age of 18, emphasizing inclusivity and a collective commitment to health.

**Mark your calendars for February 16th, and join us at the Southeast Community Center from 12pm to 4pm. Let us come together to raise awareness, take charge of our health, and build a healthier community. For more information about the event and registration, please visit Eventbrite or contact Larry Berry.**

# BLACK HISTORY

## Parade & Community Party

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## Niners lose SB Continued from page 1

not immediately. However, Kansas City's defense finally figured out Purdy, and the trick plays that punctuated San Francisco's first-half dominance, and Mahomes worked his magic. After yielding an overtime field goal to the 49ers, the Chiefs had to at least match that to keep the game going under the new NFL OT rules that allow both teams to have the ball on offense. A pivotal 4th down conversion helped propel the Chiefs before Mahomes threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Mecole Hardman, and Kansas City became the NFL's ninth repeat Super Bowl champs. "With all the adversity we've been through this season to come through tonight. ... I'm proud of the guys," said Mahomes, who earned his third Super Bowl MVP award. "This is awesome. Legendary." The 28-year-old Mahomes becomes the fourth starting quarterback to win three Super Bowls — joining Brady, Joe Montana, Terry Bradshaw, and Troy Aikman — and second youngest.

While they gathered in the locker room after two quarters, Usher took center stage and not only whipped out all of his classic hits but brought out several A-list superstars to punctuate the Apple Music Halftime Show. With Alicia Keys joining in with her hit, "If I Ain't Got You," and the collab "My Boo," chart-topper H.E.R. rocked the Allegiance Stadium crown with a blistering solo on U Got It Bad. Will.i.am then joined Usher on "OMG," and Jermaine Dupri, Lil Jon, and Ludacris helped close Usher's set with "Yeah."

After the halftime spectacle, the teams return to the field and the Chiefs got the ball to start the second half, but they didn't solve the 49ers. At least

"I am going to celebrate tonight, celebrate at the parade, and then work my way to get back in this game next year," Mahomes said. "I am going to do whatever I can to be back in this game next year. Three-peat."



# New Senate Pro-Tem McGuire Sworn In; Appoints Two Black Lawmakers to Leadership

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

**T**hree days after Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) was sworn in as the 49th President pro Tempore (Pro Tem) of the California State Senate, he appointed California Legislative Black Caucus members, Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood) and Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Ladera Heights), to leadership positions.

McGuire reassigned Bradford to chair the Senate Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications. He will be responsible for oversight of -- and evaluating legislation related to -- utilities, energy companies, alternative energy development and conservation, and communications development and technology.

McGuire appointed Smallwood-Cuevas to lead the Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee (formerly the Labor and Industrial Relations Committee). Smallwood-Cuevas and five other committee members are responsible for oversight, legislation and state activities related to labor, industrial safety, unemployment, workers' compensation and insurance, and state and local public agency collective bargaining.

Bills concerning state and local non-school public employees, noncertificated and classified public school employees, public retirement systems, public employees' compensation and employment benefits, including retirement and health care, and state social security

administration are all within the committee's purview.

Smallwood-Cuevas called McGuire "the hardest working man in the California State Senate."

At some point during the current legislative session, McGuire will have to weigh in on a reparations bill Bradford has introduced, Senate Bill (SB) 490, that proposes the establishment a new state agency called the California American Freedman Affairs Agency (CAAFAA).

A recommendation by the California Reparations Task Force, CAAFAA would be responsible for administering the reparations process for Black Californians and determining eligibility under the lineage-based structure set up by the state's reparations task force.

"I look forward to advancing

our shared mission of serving all Californians," Bradford posted Feb. 5 on the social media platform X. "You have some expensive shoes to fill, but I know you have all the talent and wisdom (along w/my full support) to make great things happen."

McGuire was sworn in on the Senate floor on Feb. 5 with his family by his side. Members of the California State Senate and Assembly attended as well as state leaders, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister).

Sen. Brian Dahle (R-Bieber) will serve alongside Bradford as Vice-Chair. The committee comprises 14 members.

McGuire says he is confident that his leadership team will focus on consensus building and making decisions in the best interest of Californians

across the state.

"My core belief is this: The highest calling in life is to help others. To fight for those who can't fight for themselves. And to work together -- no matter your party affiliation -- because working together is the only way to make progress stick," he said after he took the oath of office.

"California has always been the light of hope for America -- the beacon of progress -- and along with the Assembly and Governor, we will continue to fight for all of us, always together, always forward," he added.

Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones (R-San Diego) issued a statement following the swearing-in ceremony.

"Mike and I have a long positive history of working together for a better



Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles)

California. While we differ in some viewpoints and policies, we both remain committed to working together as leaders of the California State Senate," said Jones.

I appreciate that he has a shown a willingness to work in a bipartisan manner," Jones stated.

## ICYMI: JOHN LEGEND ENDORSES BARBARA LEE FOR SENATE

By Tina Olechowski

**L**OS ANGELES, CA — Today, Grammy-award winning artist and advocate John Legend announced his resounding endorsement of Congresswoman Barbara Lee for U.S. Senate. In a

video posted across social media platforms, Legend highlights Lee's lifetime of fighting for equity and justice in California and nationwide, bringing her lens of lived experience to issues like housing affordability and criminal justice reform.

On Legend's endorsement, Congresswoman Lee said: "John is an indispensable partner in the work towards a more just world -- his deep commitment to equity and our shared humanity is present in his moving music loved by

millions, the acclaimed projects he invests in, and in the issues he uses his powerful platform to uplift. I'm so grateful to have his powerful voice in our movement, and his support to bring all our voices to the Senate."



John Legend: "Barbara is about community and justice, about bridging divides, and standing up for those who need it most."

SAN FRANCISCO BLACK HISTORY MONTH CLOSING CEREMONY

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# The Sun-Reporter

## EDITORIAL

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

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

# Big Polluters vs. Our Kids

By Ben Jealous

**F**ar too often, big polluters feed us the lie that we have to choose between clean air or a healthy economy. Last week, the Biden-Harris administration made a big move that shows Americans do not have to choose. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) released updated protective air quality standards that will save both lives and money.

Simply put, if you work outdoors, have a child with asthma, or an elderly

family member with a cardiopulmonary disease, this new standard will make it easier to breathe.

The new National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter, or soot, are a big deal. Soot is one of the most dangerous and prevalent air pollutants. It enters the deepest parts of our lungs and bloodstream where it causes asthma, heart attacks, and premature death.

Moms Clean Air Force, a self-described "Mompartisan" group founded to protect children from air pollution and climate impacts, notes that "air

pollution can lead to premature births, lower birth weight, and neurocognitive impacts as particulate matter can reach the developing fetal brain."

Soot is created by coal plants, diesel vehicles, and factories. And this new rule is expected to clean up the air for the 91 million people who live in counties that experience unhealthy spikes in daily soot pollution.

The most impacted communities? You guessed it: communities of color and low-income communities.

It is the same old awful

yet unsurprising story: redlining, racist zoning practices, and other factors have put Black and low-income neighborhoods near or downwind from the sources of air pollution. Fenceline communities near ports, highways, and power plants are disproportionately exposed to higher-than-average levels. Addressing soot pollution in our air has a unique urgency for these communities that bear the hardest brunt.

The new EPA standard will directly save an estimated 4,500 lives per year. It will prevent 5,700 new cases of asthma each year. As for the economic benefits, it will result in 290,000 fewer lost workdays per year and bring as much as \$46 billion in net health benefits in 2032, when the standards are in full effect.

Reducing air pollution and protecting the air we breathe are moral obligations not just to our children but to future generations. EPA Administrator Michael Regan recognized as much when he told reporters the new standard would "shape the world our children will inherit tomorrow."

Given the undeniable health and economic benefits of stronger soot standard, and the moral imperative of protecting



Ben Jealous

our kids' health and futures, you would expect passing the new standard to have been a slam dunk. But the updating of the soot standard faced fierce opposition. We must recognize that opposition for what it was: outrageously immoral.

Big polluters and their allies fought tooth and nail against the improved soot standard. They relied on the same misinformation they have used for years, which has never once come true. They made up fake obstacles to complying with improved standards. For example, they tried to use wildfire smoke as a reason why certain jurisdictions would not be able to comply with the new standards. But the EPA has clearly stated that soot from wildfires can be discounted

from regulatory decisions.

The fossil fuel industry and other polluters grasped at every straw they could. But we know that protecting clean air leads to stronger economies, better health outcomes, and is simply the right thing to do. More than 600,000 people submitted public comments to the EPA last year in support of stronger standards. The Biden-Harris administration deserves credit for heeding the call.

**The opposition from big polluters is a reminder that there will always be those who try to stop us when we reach for a better future. That even goes for something as basic as cleaner air and the longer life expectancies, economic opportunity, and healthier bodies that come with it.**

# THE FOUNDATIONS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

**D**id you know that Black History Month was once Negro History Week?

The first Negro History Week was established on February 7, 1926, by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the second African American to get a Ph.D. in history after Dr. WEB DuBois earned him in 1895. Woodson said that most history books "overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed the accomplishments of Black people. Woodson was both a visionary and an unusual academic, having worked on farms and in mines before beginning high school at age 20. He founded the Association on the Study of African American Life and Culture in 1915. He picked the second week of February for Negro History Week because it included both President Abraham Lincoln's February 12 birthday and abolitionist Frederick Douglass' chosen February 14 birthday. (Douglas did not know when his actual

birthday was because his birth was recorded in a property ledger indicating only that he was born in February. His birth was recorded in an inventory of horses, cattle, and plowing tools. Because enslaved people were not regarded as human, the date of their birth was of less consequence than their worth.)

During the 1960s, Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month, and President Gerald Ford was the first President to issue a proclamation proclaiming February as Black History Month IN 1976, our nation's Bicentennial year. Ford's proclamation urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Since then, every President has issued a Black History Month proclamation. On January 31 of this year, President Biden said, "I am reminded of something Amelia Boynton said when reflecting on her march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on what would be known as

Bloody Sunday: "You can never know where you're going unless you know where you've been." America is a great Nation because we choose to learn the good, the bad, and the full truth of the history of our country — histories and truths that we must preserve and protect for the next generation. This National Black History Month, as we remember where we have been, may we also recognize that our only way forward is by marching together."

Do we really march together? Forty-four states have introduced legislation to restrict the ways race matters are taught, concerned that white students might be "indoctrinated" to "hate" our country. Why does the truth hurt so many so much? Enslavement happened, and it has had an impact on contemporary life. Too few are willing to consider ways to address and repair ugly aspects of our history, perhaps through reparation, restitution, and reconciliation. Instead, many want to run and hide from our history.

The Jesuits at St. Louis University are among those who are running and hiding. They commissioned a study to show their relationship to enslavement. They acknowledged that as many as 16 enslaved people were forced to walk from Maryland to St. Louis to cultivate a farm to support a Jesuit mission (ironically to "civilize" Indians). Now, researchers have identified more than 200 survivors from these enslaved people. The University of Connecticut's Dr. Thomas Cramer calculated the value of stolen labor as between \$361 million and \$70 billion. The university, so far, has been silent about what it owes and what it plans to do about it. They should take a page from the book of another Jesuit University, DC's Georgetown. The remedy they have begun to implement has been insufficient, but it is a remedy nonetheless. Attorney Areva Martin, retained by the Descendants of the St. Louis University Enslaved (DSLUE), has worked closely with Robin Prudie, the founder of the nonprofit organization



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

(dsule.org), wonders why the university would go to the trouble of documenting their troubled history without doing anything about it.

**Black History Month is an opportunity to celebrate African American triumphs and accomplishments, and it is also an opportunity to address some of the structural inequities inherent in our system. We have a crushing wealth gap that is a function of the ways Black people have been treated throughout history. We would be remiss**

**if, in celebrating, we were silent about this history of enslavement, exploitation, and oppression. St. Louis is not unique in using slave labor as the foundation for its thriving enterprise. There would be no White House, Capitol buildings, or even a Wall Street without the contribution of the enslaved. Celebrate Black History Month, but make it plain. Black History Month celebrations remind us that Black folk are due more than Presidential proclamations. We are due economic justice**

# Biden-Harris Administration Unveils Ambitious Plans for Equity and Racial Justice Across Federal Agencies

By Stacy M. Brown

**T**he Biden-Harris Administration has revealed Equity Action Plans for federal agencies, marking the first anniversary of President Biden's second Executive Order on Equity. These plans aim to address

systemic barriers and promote inclusivity, aligning with the administration's commitment to equity and racial justice.

Despite progress, historical disparities persist in laws and policies, hindering the advancement of underserved

communities. To combat this, the administration has actively implemented historic Executive Orders on equity and key legislation to fulfill its promise of equal opportunities for all.

Federal agencies, including all cabinet-level ones, have released their 2023 equity

action plans, focusing on increasing access to federal contracting, addressing discrimination in housing and environmental justice, tackling health disparities, and bolstering civil rights enforcement.

Celebrating past accomplishments,

Vice President Kamala Harris reaffirmed the administration's commitment to advancing equity across the federal government.

The plans prioritize critical areas such as improving financial health, ending workforce discrimination, addressing discrimination

in home appraisals, and expanding access to transportation and healthcare.

Recent achievements include support for disadvantaged farmers, contracting opportunities for small businesses, and expanding mental health services for students.

## Civil Rights Icons Continued from page 1

law establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

The group, known as "The Descendants," gathered to pay homage to their familial legacies in celebration of Black History Month. One of the coordinators, Joshua

Jordison, revealed that discussions to bring this diverse group together began several years ago. "It was amazing that many of them had never met," he said.

While invitations were extended to other notable families, some could not attend due to scheduling conflicts and other factors.

According to Kenneth B. Morris Jr., a descendant of Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, the goal of The Descendants is to lead the nation in a spirit of collaboration and community.

"This historic event marks the beginning of coalescing The Descendants' families and like-minded leaders and

organizations to catalyze transformative positive societal change amongst the most significant challenges faced by our country," Morris emphasized.

Beyond the White House reception, a series of activities were planned for the descendant families in Washington on both

Tuesday and Wednesday. The itinerary included stops at the U.S. Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court, and a tour of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Additionally, there were dinners and opportunities for group dialogue.

Ernestine "Tina" Martin Wyatt, a great-great-great-grandniece of Harriet Tubman, was among those to express excitement about meeting the descendants of fellow freedom fighters. "It's an equal collaboration. We are all coming together," Morris asserted.

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Carlton B. Goodlett, PH.D., MD., Editor/Publisher 1945-1997

**Amelia Ashley-Ward**  
Editor/Publisher

# Stakeholders Warn Lawmakers of Expanding Aging Population; Older Black Californians Included

Antonio Ray Harvey | California Black Media

**T**he California Commission on Aging (CCoA) hosted its second annual forum focused on challenges facing Californians over 65 years old.

Titled "Aging and Disability Issues: What Legislative Staff Need to Know for 2024," the virtual event was organized to bring awareness to lawmakers that California's aging adults are living longer and to emphasize the importance of developing policy to support this growing population, according to organizers.

This year's meeting included the perspectives of gerontologists and other subject-matter experts who provided data and insights critical to informing policy.

Former Assemblymember Cheryl Brown (D-San Bernardino), who chairs the CCoA's Executive Committee, began the discussion.

"The landscape of California is changing. Aging is changing and it's changing California," Brown said. "Older adults are living longer, and the cohort is becoming more ethnically diverse, underscoring the need to develop culturally, appropriate services."

The discussion encompassed

a range of topics including planning for long-term care, assisted living, enhancing healthcare quality, technology use, services for senior adults with disabilities, state budget considerations, and the best policies and practices to help aging adults stay healthy, active, independent, and confident.

The CCoA acts as the principal advocate for older Californians and as a catalyst for change that supports and celebrates Californians as they advance in age. The CCoA advises the Governor and Legislature, along with state, federal, and local agencies on programs and services that affect senior adults.

Statewide organizations that participated in the event included LeadingAge California, Disability Rights California, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, and California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports.

In addition, representatives and staff members of Choice In Aging, Age Watch Newsletter, California Elder Justice Coalition, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and the California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association were presenters during the 90-minute discussion.

"In California, we know that

older adults are underserved and unserved relative to their needs," CCoA Executive Director Karol Swartzlander said. "In stark terms, we know that 4% of older adults who need service actually receive services."

According to the California Department of Aging (CDA), California's aging population is expected to reach an estimated 4.5 million individuals aged 60 to 69 and 4.2 million senior adults ages 70- to 79 by the year 2040, based on information from CDA's Master Plan for Aging.

Recognizing that the state's 65-plus population is projected to grow to 8.6 million by 2030, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order calling for the development of the MPA.

Debbie Toth, from ChoiceInAging, said the MPA is a model of "how we can do better" to service the needs of older adults. ChoiceInAging, Toth said, "is going to be shopping accessible transportation and rate increases for adult day healthcare."

"But we need to have legislation to do it," Toth told legislative staff members.

The seriousness of aging in the state -- particularly for Black Californians -- had been flying under the radar for

almost 15 years before the

state began to make it priority. A 2016 California Health Report (CHR) revealed that by 2030, 18% of the state will be 65 or older. Projections in that study also indicated that 52% of these older adults would be from diverse minority groups but "no population is expected to be harder hit than African Americans," the report stated.

The California Department of Finance (CDF) projects that about one in four (23.1%) Californians will be 65 or older by 2040. The CDF projects that the state's population will reach 40.2 million in 2044.

According to the 2020 Profile of Older Americans, a summary of critical statistics related to the older population in the United States, in 2019, slightly more than half (52%) of all older African Americans lived in eight states: New York (396,670), Florida (394,307), Georgia (362,535), Texas (350,106), California (304,751), North Carolina (298,365), Maryland (238,219), and Illinois (237,467).

Nationally, the African American population aged 65 and older was 4,979,133 in 2019 and is estimated to grow to 12.1 million by 2060. In 2019, African Americans made up 9% of the older population. By 2060, the percentage is forecast to increase to 13%. The number of African

Americans aged 85 and older is calculated to increase from 511,540 in 2019 to 2.2 million in 2060.

Brown, who was the senior-most lawmaker in the California Legislature at the age of 69 during her tenure, stressed the importance of the master plan in focusing on the state's aging minority groups.

"I feel that it's important to highlight that the MPA acknowledges and offers strategies to address inequities leading to disparities and life expectancies," Brown said.

Gov. Newsom presented a \$291 billion spending plan to the California Legislature on Jan. 10, but a looming shortfall estimated at tens of billions of dollars could affect expenditure for programs targeting the state's aging residents.

Presenters told legislative staffers attending to relay to lawmakers the importance of servicing a rapidly growing population.

**"If you walk away with nothing else today, the whole goal is that the subject matter experts, these stakeholders are invested in the success of the legislative staff," said Toth, explaining that the advocates participating are committed to working with lawmakers and their aides to improve policy for aging Californians.**



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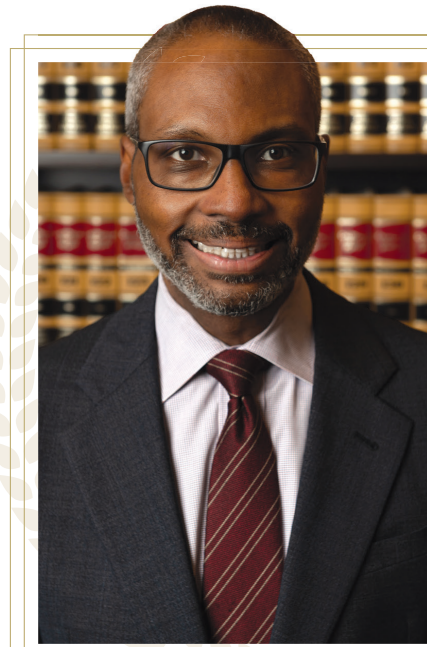


**Judge Patrick Thompson was appointed to the Superior Court by Governor Gavin Newsom because of his outstanding qualifications.** Judge Thompson graduated from Harvard Law School and went on to a distinguished legal career. He has also served our community working to expand access to health care in San Francisco and to promote programs that support the youth.

The judge has earned the endoresment of Rev. Amos Brown, former Mayor Willie L. Brown, over 50 judges and justices, and many other important community leaders.

Judge Thompson is one of just a handful of African American judges, but he is now the subject of unfair attacks from a group funded by conservative mega-donors.

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# RELIGIOUS SECTION

THE BAY AREA'S CHURCH NEWS & ACTIVITIES



## Sunday School Lesson

By Shunda Criswell

# Complete in Christ

**Lesson Text: Colossians 2:6-19**  
**Place: from Rome**  
**Time: A.D. 60**  
**Golden Text: "Ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Colossians 2:10)**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians. He told them the secret to living a spiritual successful life was based on what Christ had already done for His people. Paul was confident that the Colossians had gotten off to a good start in their Christian lives, and also they had heard and accepted good news of salvation in Christ. Nevertheless, it is possible for Christians to lose their

spiritual focus. This was a danger in Colossae, because false teachers were threatening to damage the Christians. The false teachers preached a negative message which diminished view of Jesus Christ. However, Paul urged and challenged the Christians to walk in Christ, that is, maintain steady, and faithful obedience to God. Receiving Christ as Lord of your life is the beginning of life with Christ. But you must continue to follow his leadership by being rooted, built up, and strengthened in the faith. Christ wants to guide you and help you with your daily problems. You can live for Christ by

(1) committing your life and submitting your will to him (Romans 12:1, 2); (2) seeking to learn from him, his life, and his teachings (Colossians 3:16); and (3) recognizing the Holy Spirit's power in you (Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22). In Colossians 2:7, Paul uses the illustration of our being rooted in Christ. Just as plants draw nourishment from the soil through their roots, so we draw our life-giving strength from Christ. The more we draw our strength from him, the less we will be fooled by those who falsely claim to have life's answers. If Christ is our strength, we will be free from human regulations. In Colossians 2:8, Paul writes against any philosophy of life based only on human ideas and experiences. Paul himself was a gifted philosopher, so he is not condemning philosophy. He is condemning teaching that credits humanity, not Christ, with being the answer to life's problems. That approach becomes a false religion. There are many man-made approaches to life's problems that totally disregard God. To resist heresy you must use your mind, keep your eyes on Christ, and study God's Word. Also, in Colossians 2:9, Again Paul asserts Christ's deity. "In Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body" means that all of God was in Christ's human body. When we have

Christ, we have everything we need for salvation and right living. Look around you. People are searching for something to give their lives a boost. Few people seem content within themselves. A strange and often hard-to-identify inner vacuum gives most people an uneasy sense of incompleteness. Christ fills that vacuum! As Jesus' person is fully divine, so we, united by faith to Jesus, find personal fulfillment in him: "You also are complete through your union with Christ." When you know Jesus Christ, you don't need to seek God by means of other religions, cults, or unbiblical philosophies as the Colossians were doing. Christ alone holds the answers to the true meaning of life because he is life. Christ is the unique source of knowledge and power for the Christian life. No Christian needs anything in addition to what Christ has provided to be saved. Some days may not feel like it, but in Jesus, the vacuum is gone; the full power and presence of God have taken up residence in your mind and heart. You are a new person, equipped for life and satisfied in God. Take some risks—God will guide you. Give more generously—God will supply. Love more freely—God will energize you. Say "can do" more often—God will amaze you. In Colossians 2:11, (a little back-

ground history) Jewish males were circumcised as a sign of the Jews' covenant with God (Genesis 17:9-14). With the death of Christ, circumcision was no longer necessary. So now our commitment to God is written on our heart, not our body. Christ sets us free from our evil desires by a spiritual operation, not a bodily one. God removes the old nature and gives us a new nature. In Colossians 2:11-12, In this passage, circumcision is related to baptism; therefore, some see baptism as the New Testament sign of the covenant, identifying the person with the covenant community. Baptism parallels the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and it also portrays the death and burial of our sinful old way of life followed by resurrection to new life in Christ. Remembering that our old sinful life is dead and buried with Christ gives us a powerful motive to resist sin. Not wanting the desires of our past to come back to power again, we can consciously choose to treat our desires as if they were dead. Then we can continue to enjoy our wonderful new life with Christ (see Galatians 3:27 and Colossians 3:1-4). Before we believed in Christ, our nature was evil. We disobeyed, rebelled, and ignored God (even at our best, we did not love him with all our heart, soul, and mind). The

Christian, however, has a new nature. God has crucified the old rebellious nature (Romans 6:6) and replaced it with a new loving nature (Colossians 3:9, 10). The penalty of sin died with Christ on the cross. God has declared us not guilty, and we need no longer live under sin's power. God does not take us out of the world or make us robots—we will still feel like sinning, and sometimes we will sin. The difference is that before we were saved, we were slaves to our sinful nature; but now we are free to live for Christ (see Galatians 2:20). **In Colossians 2:14**, We can enjoy our new lives in Christ because we have joined him in his death and resurrection. Our evil desires, our bondage to sin, and our love of sin died with him. Now, joining him in his resurrection life, we may have unbroken fellowship with God and freedom from sin. Our debt for sin has been paid in full; our sins are swept away and forgotten by God; and we can be clean and new. For more on the difference between our new life in Christ and our old sinful nature, read Ephesians 4:23, 24 and Colossians 3:3-15. (Life Application Study Bible).

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THE SUN-REPORTER

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 Evening Worship 6:pm

**El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**

Rev. Keva L. McNeill,  
 Pastor

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

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

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

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

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

**Neighborhood Baptist Church**

608 Hayes Street  
 San Francisco, CA

Rev. Lane Hawkins

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

**Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church**

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

Rev. Kenneth R. Reece  
 Pastor

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

**Evergreen Baptist Church**

6270 3rd Street  
 San Francisco, CA.

Rev. Jackey Wilson  
 Pastor

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

**Ascension Baptist Church**

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

Rev. Anthony Anderson

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

**Shekinah Christian Fellowship**

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

Ella Henderson, Bishop  
 & Founder of SCF

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

**Ebenezer Baptist Church**

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

**Mount Calvary Baptist Church**

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

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 Morning worship - 11:00 am  
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gives our police officers access to 21st-century tools to prevent and solve more crimes, and ensures more time on the beat, protecting residents and businesses.

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