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NCNW Holds Young Women’s Conference

By Raven Joy Shonel
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section, National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) held their second annual Black Pearls Young Women’s Conference last Saturday, May 5 at the Childs Park YMCA.

Red Tent Market Opens up in Midtown

By Raven Joy Shonel
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Red Tent Women’s Initiative held an opening for their Red Tent Market, a storefront featuring original and handmade merchandise made by Red Tent participants. Located at 1535 16th St. S, the market is a perfect place to satisfy your shopping desires.

 Wanna Sell Goods to the Market?

By Raven Joy Shonel
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Through Saturday, May 20, the Red Tent Market is taking applications for vendors. The market has already received 65 percent of applications.

Celebrating Two Years at the Helm of Faith Memorial

By Raven Joy Shonel
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist Church found themselves in need of a pastor after the passing of Senior Pastor Bragg L. Turner on Aug. 14, 2014. A search committee was established, and the church began to pray for guidance, asking God for His Holy Spirit to lead them through every step of the way.

The Black Pearls are a network of young ladies affiliated with NCNW. Members are afforded an opportunity to develop the finer qualities of womanhood, share and exchange personal ideas and goals, support academic achievement, encourage high ethical standards and academic achievement, encourage academic excellence, encourage leadership and civic responsibility, and provide various community services.

On Saturday, however, the conference was opened to all young ladies between the ages of 10 and 18 to learn about health and beauty and experienced hands-on, interactive robotics training at a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workshop.

And not to leave the adults left out, the NCNW ladies also attended a few informative and inspirational workshops in another room.

Sandra Gibson, youth director of the Black Pearls, said NCNW’s main focus for the girls is to ensure that they have an understanding of the topics that are near and dear to the organization. They push health, economics, STEM, public policy, and especially, community service.

“Women must sell, as well as buy, or else remain a beggar race.”

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Who cares about her mental health? 

People have their ideas of what mental illness looks like. Is it to isolate in a society in which people do not see, or in people we do not like? 

Have you grown accustomed to ignoring the man walking down the street appearing to have an interest array of what only one can see? 

Do we care about her mental struggles when her brilliance makes others money, yet her brain creates walls? 

Meet Emmylou Kathleen Waymon, more commonly known as Nina Simone. Simone changed her name to make a living. She did not want her mother to know that she was playing what some called “the devil’s music.” Simone was a Civil Rights Movement activist, singer, songwriter, arranger and pianist who lived between February 21, 1933, and April 21, 2003. 

Simone was a student at the Ballard School of Music. She desired to become a concert pianist and applied for a scholarship to study at the Curtis Institute of Music. Despite her being a well-received virtuoso, she was denied admittance and was convinced that racial discrimination was the reason. Interestingly, a few days before her death, Curtis Institute of Music bestowed on her an honorary degree. 

Simone overcame many obstacles in her life to be enrolled into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame as well as into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She was a musical genius who many times used her music to address racial inequality. She was also a musical genius who suffered from mental illness. For some, it may be easier to pretend that all is well, but the fact of the matter is that all is not well. Times change, so does frequently, frequently, how she is felt. 

Looking within, are you well? 

—Emmylou Kathleen Waymon

Praise the Lord, amen. As I sit down to write this week’s column, I am dealing a tremendously trying week. 

I have a close family member and two church members that are fighting mental illness. Likewise, in 1995, she shot and wounded her neighbor’s son with an air gun because she said that the boy disturbed her concentration. 

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The 54th Colored Vol- unteer Infantry (CVI) was one of the first black units in the U.S. armed forces, as the Civil War started. This black infantry regiment exhibited the courage and courage dur- ing the Civil War. The 1965 film “Glory” starring Denzel Washington as the president of the St. Pe- terburg School. She is currently graduated from the Boston University Law School. Hubbard graduated from the University of Michigan, and led training and ca- pacity-building initiatives and led training and ca- pacity-building initiatives.

Our people have made black people would not fight for their freedom. The 54th fought in many communities and black people had proven necessary to secure the final victory. After 1865, nearly 79,000 black people piloted the Union Army and the abolishment of slavery.

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New Deal for St. Pete plans prepare for FY19 Budget Open House

BY J.A. JONES

ST. PETERSBURG — This week the New Deal for St. Pete, a community-led agenda developed by the Ferguson's Budget Task Force, marked its third annual Budget Open House, which will be held Tuesday, May 14 at 6 p.m. at the Coliseum.

Bill E. Jones, president of the Black Public Neighborhood Association and community organizer with Service Employees International Union Florida, stated that while the original date for the Budget Open House had been set for June, the group learned only days earlier that it had been moved up. This unexpected change in the schedule demanded that New Deal’s planning needed to be completed earlier than originally scheduled.

“The planning meeting which will be held Tuesday, May 14 at 6 p.m. at the Coliseum is an opportunity to meet with everyone who is interested in the budget process and to let the city hear what community members want to see in the budget,” Enoch Davis Center, Wednesday, May 16-18, which will be held at the Enoch Davis Center, Wednesday, May 16-18.

The planning meeting is designed for class members to place future activities, projects and events on our 2018-20 calendar. This is a prime opportunity for class members to recommend new ideas or projects, seek collaborators to work on and volunteer for community service assignments.

The latest update on the planning meeting is available at www.thecamp1975.com where you can also update your contact information. For those who have not mastered the internet, send your reservations and any updated contact info to P.O. Box 1666, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

— Again, plan to attend the AAG ‘75 Roadmap 2018/20 meeting at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 16th Ave. S., on Saturday, May 19 from 3 - 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

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NEW DEAL FOR ST. PETERSBURG PREPARES PLAN FOR FY19 BUDGET OPEN HOUSE

All class members are invited to attend the AAG ‘75 Roadmap 2018/20 meeting at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 16th Ave. S., on Saturday, May 19 from 3 - 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.


AAG ’75 roadmap to 2020

ST. PETERSBURG — Calling all African American Graduate School ’75 (AAG ’75). Join us on Saturday, May 19 at 1 p.m. at 1111 16th Ave. S., on Saturday, May 19 at 1 p.m. at the AAG ‘75 Roadmap for the next two years.

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AAG ’75 roadmap to 2020
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5
This we all can agree!  

Conflict reconciliation in a philosophy of nonviolent resistance orientation.

The panel consisted of Rev. Ben Jeff, director of Not My Son; Dr. Darrell Wilson, dean at Stetson School of Law; Wali Shabazz, Southern Rights director of National Trust for African American Males; Clearwater Police Chief Daniel Shalger, Dr. La-Sean Moore, professor at University of Central Florida and University of South Florida and Dr. Terry Collier, director of Anona Counseling Center.

Responses to the questions varied with each panelist. Jeff suggested having justice, unity, balance and opportunity. He recommended establishing trust and need in service and education.

Shalger said suggested having justice in the city and building more trust in the system. "We must shift from aspirational language to sustainable accountability and responsibility," he advocates for a coalition of willingness that represents different parts of the community who will move from aspirational language to sustainable developmental goals.

"We must shift from blame and accusation to accountability and responsibility," he said.

"This is something that we all can agree on," Jeff said.

About Kim T. Townsel, M.Ed. Townsel is the founder and principal consultant of Townsel Consulting Group, which has been working in the Pinellas County Schools for over 18 years, providing educational consulting that formulates, creates and develops prescriptive and highly contextualized opportunity to learn and expand curriculum for educators, human service providers and the faith-based collaborative community partnerships.

To reach Dexter McCre, email dmccree@theweeklychallenger.com

From Largo, Kim T. Townsel, M.Ed. who is specialty trained in Kingian Nonviolence, held a two-day workshop to address this hot topic. Friday, April 27, a panel discussion called "Defeating Violence in Our Communities" was held and Saturday, April 28, Townsel conducted an introductory Kingian Nonviolence orientation.

Kingian Nonviolence is a philosophy of nonviolent conflict reconciliation in the tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the nonviolent strategies of the Civil Rights Movement. It is a holistic viewpoint of conflict.

This method has been successful in many different settings because of its broad approach. Conflict is universal, and whether you are dealing with conflict on a global level (between the rich and the poor), community level (street violence), social level (courts), interpersonal level (family or personal level), nationally, this philosophy applies.

The Kingian Nonviolence Introductory Training workshop was a transformational experience that explored the depths of the philosophy of nonviolence, and how to begin to bring the practice of nonviolence into our lives.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FAITH-BASED IN THE COMMUNITY?

"A faith-based community is a valuable resource to communities that are working to improve the lives of those who live in communities that are broke or failing," a faith-based community is a resource to those who are working to improve the lives of those who live in communities that are broke or failing.

Kim Townsel, M.Ed.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Staying connected to Jesus

PASTOR, from front page

Staying connected to Jesus

spiritual growth.

“They cannot plant themselves in areas that will be counter to their spiritual growth and hap-

iness. You can place a seed in the ground in the wrong place, and it will never germinate,” Hous-
ton said, noting what the Psalmist said.

He warned to stay away from those who ridicule, hypocrities and those who have no re-
gard for God and his principles, “be careful of your associations.”

There is only one place you can stand that will cause you to grow spiritually and flourish, he said. Righteous per-
sons are identified by personal association with the law of the Lord, and the way to develop spiri-
tually requires adher-
ance to God’s Word and
in everyday life.

“A place of spiritual growth requires a mental positioning,” he said, adding that this consists of continuous reflection upon the Word of God and applying our lives to God’s eternal truths.

Heading over to the Gospel of John, Houston showed that there is only one source in which a person is able to form and fashion spiritual fruit, and only one indi-
vidual in whom spiritual growth is founded. He showed where Jesus said we must abide in him, remain in him and he will remain in us.

“No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must re-
maintain in the vine. Neither
can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” (John 15:4, NIV)

Jesus tells them where they are to stand if they desired to grow and bear fruit, informing them that they must stay con-
ected.

“Our connection to Jesus is vital in growing spiritually,” Houston said. “The relationship be-
 tween the branch and the vine will produce fruit.”

It is not the branches that are producing the fruit, he preached. “Branches require a vine…You have to be connected to Jesus.”

Going back to the Psalmist to close, Hous-
ton showed that there is only one source through which our spiritual growth and favorable cir-
riculum flows.

“A godly man is like a tree positioned by the rivers of water. He is po-
sitioned in a place through which he re-
cives life and strength,”

he said. “They are posi-
tioned by the source.”

Houston emphasized that there can be no fruit without roots, saying that too many Christians are more concerned about the leaves and the fruit of the tree than they are about the roots, but the roots are the most critical part of the plant.

Valora’s Christians spend time in daily prayer and rooted in the Word of God and allow the spirit to lead them, they will suffer and die, he exclaimed.

Wrapping up the morning, Houston re-
 minded all to make sure they position themselves for maximized growth by residing in Jesus who came to redeem and to

The congregation and its ministries presented Vinson and his family with gifts and expres-
sions of love, from a jar of pickles, his favorite, to artwork and tools. Each one had a special mean-
ing behind them.

“God already predes-
tined today. He saw me come into this world, he spoke to Faith, Faith voted, but God called,”

said Vinson. “Thank God.”

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THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

7
The exhibition is named after Mildred Thompson’s 1991 triptych or three-panel print titled “Majestic Iron.”

Staff Writer

The Kemper Museum of Art is hosting an exhibition that highlights the work of African-American artists and how they were influenced by vast visual possibilities, textures, and creating mixed media work defined less by literal materials and more by vast visual possibilities, textures, and creating mixed media work defined less by literal materials and more.

Mildred Thompson was one of the first African Americans to have a solo exhibition at a major institution in the United States, and her work continues to inspire and challenge viewers to ponder the intersection between art and activism.

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spaces for them to come together and create marketable art,” said Red Tent Assistant Director Susan Katz, MSW.

While the ladies are creating art, whether they’re embroidering, sewing or any other artistic expression, they are saturating with different kinds of communication skills, life skills and resources. The atmosphere of trust and encouragement that surrounds the women is precisely what they need while in transition.

In 2012, Red Tent founder Barbara Rhode, a licensed marriage and family therapist, was working for a work-release center and noticed that many of the women were dedicated and slept away of the women were dedicated and slept away of the Women's Residence Project and noticed that many of the women who go through the prison system have a lot of demons, and in general, that's why they're landed in the position they're in, said Katz.

Red Tent aims to stop women from being sanctioned again. The Red Tent Women’s Initiative, which describes a time in ancient cultures where women had an actual red tent in the middle of communities where women could go and hold and help and support one another, said Katz. She also said that when there could start a group at the Pinellas County Jail.

She was told one would sign up.

There was a waiting list within two weeks, said Katz, adding that they are now up to three classes a week, four hours a day.

Many of them, especially in the Pinellas County Jail, they have a history of abuse, trauma, addiction, so they're fighting a lot of demons, and in general, that's why they're landed in the position they're in, said Katz.

Red Tent artists are also given an opportunity to earn their GED. An instructor from Pinellas Technical College will help them study and pass the test.

Once they are released, the support doesn't stop. Currently Red Tent has three community support groups — one in Clearwater (Pinellas Hope), Pinellas Park (FBC Continental Hotel) and St. Pete (Baldwin Women's Residence) that meet one day a week. They have also partnered with Subway Restaurant in placing their participants in positions.

Also, once the ladies have served their time, they are reunited with art teachers and can now sell it at the market.

One such lady who took advantage of the Red Tent Women’s Initiative both in and out of jail is Audrey Myers, who started Red Tent sessions in jail and is now being commissioned to create her la- men totes and purses out of cut-out paper. "I know how to create something with a needle and thread, but no, not really. You just don’t know how to create until you start doing something," Myers said. "Give it a try, you might like it." As Myers is available to anyone wishing to use the facility.

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Mothers are Instruments of GOD

Mothers who love GOD and are instruments used by GOD, know JESUS, and operate in and obey only GOD’s Holy Word.

When GOD is at a mother’s helm, she is guided by HIS Word, and every move she makes and every word that she speaks demonstrates an everlasting faith girded with strong and steadfast belief.

When GOD is at a mother’s helm and used as HIS mighty instrument, her eternal life is preserved.

A mother who is an instrument used by GOD to the evidence of JESUS’ enduring Love.

**AMEN**

Inspirations by Dierdre Downing-Jackson

**Mothers are Instruments of GOD**

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When GOD is at a mother’s helm, she is guided by HIS Word, and every move she makes and every word that she speaks demonstrates an everlasting faith girded with strong and steadfast belief.

Mothers who are instruments of GOD are blessed with peace within.

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A mother who is an instrument used by GOD to the evidence of JESUS’ enduring Love.

**AMEN**

*Strength and honor are her clothing; and she will rejoice in times to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness.* - Proverbs 31:25-26

*Mothers who love GOD and are instruments used by GOD, know JESUS, and operate in and obey only GOD’s Holy Word.*

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*Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto GOD. - Romans 6:13 KJV*

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*Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto GOD. - Romans 6:13 KJV*
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

Return to your church, God has blessed us.
in with skincare, haircare and how proper nutrition ties into both of them. She suggested the ladies also look for items on the “la carte menu” and try eating more salads and fruit. She stressed eating a well-balanced lunch can make a difference in how they feel in the morning, malaisefulness and before they head home. McGil-Finkl is also a teacher at Azalea Middle School and revealed that every single day her students are eating carrots, particularly Cecutis Flemming Holbein. “You have to be mindful what’s in your food,” she said, adding that if it is Hampton Farms, they will continue to burn much like a torch. “Remember, your beauty starts inside out,” she explained. What you are putting in your body is going to show. “If you eat junk food, you feel like you can’t concentrate, headaches or stomach aches you can’t explain, you might want to consider the food you are eating.”

McGil-Finkl also stressed the importance of drinking water. “The best thing for your skin is water,” she said, suggesting that they only drink water for 30 days straight and they will see a marked difference in their skin.

The workshop covered different skin types and skincare products, hair care, exercise routines and oral and nail health.

STEM Workshop K12 STEM advocate Emma Aila, director of Robotics Florida, and retired educator Rose Mack showed the aspiring STEM goddesses how to assemble a kit and how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot on how to build a robot. Last year, how-}