Youth Development Grants awards $250,000

BY MAVON JOY BEAUDRY

ST. PETERSBURG — With temperatures reaching well into the 90s, Mayor Rick Kriseman announced the winners of the 2018 St. Pete Strong Youth Conference at SPC on June 22. The eight-member review committee consisted of Sonja Felton, Mayor Kriseman, Dr. David E. Reahl, Shena Lewis, Dr. Kate Pravera, Dr. LaShawn Proctor-Thompson, Dr. David Gomillion and high school student Jasmine Staten.

Committee Vice Chair Sonja Felton said the process was pretty extensive. All of the committee members reviewed the grant applications and pro- vided feedback based on the impact they were going to have on the community, the fiscal soundness of the organization and the number of youth that the organization would be serving through their programs.

A total of $250,000 was allocated for the year and was distrib- uted to 35 local non-profit organizations. Funding amounts ranged from $500 up to $32,500. Nonprofit organizations in good standing that are located within the municipal boundaries of St. Pete and provide services to at-risk youth were eligible to apply for funding.

As part of the process, the city established an eight-member vol- uneer review committee to evaluate the grant applications and make recommendations to Mayor Kriseman.

“Each committee member brought something unique to the team,” said Reggio Boat, chair of Mr. P’s Basket and sister’s Keeper Youth Development Grant Com- mittee. “We all have the same goals in mind, and that was to en- sure that the youth in our city was provided with the resources nec- essary that would inspire the youth to be serving through their programs.”

Mayor Kriseman.

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL

ST. PETERSBURG – Smart money management was one of the topics on the table – in a round of bank quizzes, that is. Mayor Rick Kriseman took a group of middle schoolers – at the 2018 St. Pete Strong Youth Conference – on a financial literacy journey through the PowerPoint.

“Fifteen million!” replied 13-year-old Aysha, carefully observ- ing Charles Keeley, a financial advisor and executive director of the Dreamfaith Foundation, is behind one of 200 students that attended the Conference at SPC on June 22.

Standing that are located within the city, the fiscal soundness of the organization and the number of youth that the organization would be serving through their programs was a determining factor in the awarding of funds.

ST. PETERSBURG Strong Youth Conference shines in its third year

BY LA. JONES

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She breaks stereotypes

In April of 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the decision of two lower federal courts ruling against the State of Ohio’s voter list-maintenance program. Therefore, two lower federal courts ruled against the Ohio program and allowed reinstatement of frequent voters from the eligible voter’s roll. As a result, the Supreme Court essentially approved this practice, which could be adopted in other states, including Florida. Thus, inactivity can result in removal of your voter eligibility list from the register of voters. Don’t take your voting rights for granted. You could be removed from the eligible voter list and not know it!

Check with the Supervisor of Elections to make sure you are eligible to vote in the coming elections.

The Association of Civil Liberties Unions (ACL and other organizations filed a law suit challenging Ohio’s practice of purging voters who vote infrequently from its voter rolls, stating that Ohio’s practice was in violation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The United States Supreme Court recently held in Voting Rights Act v. Phillie Bishop, Inc., et al. (cited as 838 F.3D, 38.7), the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit held that the state’s purging program violates the NVRA. In April of 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the decision of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio granting an emergency injunction, halting the request for a preliminary injunction, brought by the ACLU, et al., against the Ohio Attorney General. The lawsuit was brought by the ACLU of Ohio and on behalf of the Phillie Bishop Opera “Dynasty.” Carroll was born on July 17, 1935.

By Keisha Bell, Esq.

Meet Carol Diahann Johnson, better known as Diahann Carroll. Carroll, who was born in Baltimore, Maryland who was a nurse in a non-stereotypical role. Carroll is the recipient of numerous stage and screen nominations and awards. In 1964, she was modeling for “Ebony” magazine. The next year, as well as, the following four years, Carroll was placed into restricts your movement? In it, Carroll played a widowed singer when external messages screamed to vote, but also states a voter if they did not vote in recent elections. Carroll is the recipient of numerous nominations and awards in the 1960s. In September 2016, the Ohio Attorney General, a victorious lawyer, placed her on the eligible voter’s roll. In 1935. When Carroll was 18 years old, she got her big break. She was a contestant on a television show called “Chance of Winning.” Carroll was born on July 17, 1935. In 1969, Caroll’s role won her the first television shows to star a black woman in a non-stereotypical role.

Keisha Bell is an attorney, author, and media personality who is a voting rights activist. She is a voting rights attorney, author, and media personality who is a voting rights activist.

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Letter from gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum

From STROU, Front page

The moral evolution of mid-20th century America that President Franklin Roosevelt used to drag us out of the Great Depression he referred to as a “New Deal.”

We have stumbled in the wrong direction. We need a New Deal today. Today we are dealing with a crisis that is just as big as the Great Depression. Today we have a president who is trying to drag us back into the past. The same president who tried to drag us back into the past in the 1930s.

We need a New Deal today. Today we need a president who understands the complexity of our current situation and the need to rework our broken system of governance. We need a president who is committed to bringing people together and finding solutions to the problems we face.

We need a New Deal today. Today we need a president who is not afraid to take on the powerful interests that have been holding us back. We need a president who is not afraid to challenge the status quo and make the tough decisions that are needed.

We need a New Deal today. Today we need a president who understands the importance of education and investing in our future. We need a president who is committed to making sure every child has access to a quality education.

We need a New Deal today. Today we need a president who is committed to making sure every American has access to affordable healthcare. We need a president who is not afraid to stand up to the powerful special interests that have been blocking progress.

We need a New Deal today. Today we need a president who understands the importance of clean energy and the need to tackle climate change.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

*By Frank Droozas*

**Petersburg**

Combat came to the Coliseum June 16 in a Fist Fighting Promotion. Promoters Strait to the Music of Dance and Coda Red Royale showed off their best to entertain the audience.

Four members of the Rutgers University Eta Rho Chapter were selected to present the Art of Dance. The team got off to a great start dancing to three different styles. Captain Bro. Glenn Bailey, left, and Bro. Mordecai Walker accepting their awards.

The team dancing to three different styles, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop music. A true to themselves and the Kids, adults and supporters were engaged and growing there. They learned about the basics, an energetic New Orleans style of dance, called and response style. The performance was presented by the Code Royal team.

**Code Red Royals**

By Dexter McCreery

**St. Petersburg**

All it takes is for the music to start and on the dance floor were dancers from Coda Red Royale. The team entered into hip-hop competitions that cover the dance floor and send the audience into a frenzy of applause.

A youth development organization that embraces student development through the performing arts, Coda Red Royale focuses competitive dance and cheerleading teams which promote self-discipline, healthy bodies and student achievement. Their goals and objectives are to uplift and motivate individuals to continue to strive for excellence.

Established in 2016, the team consists of 30 members in three age groups, ranging in age from 4-15. The team consists of 30 members in three age groups, ranging in age from 4-15. Baby Royals (4-10), Junior Royals (11-13) and Senior Royals (14-19).

With so many men wanting to dance but lacking the knowledge, Coda Red Royale founder knew he had to do something. He created a team and would keep the kids away from the streets.

“I couldn’t take knowing there were youth who had a desire to dance, said James Smith, Sr., posthumous. Founder of Code Red Royale.

“Breakdancing and freestyle didn’t have much of a cultural background but it was a cheerdancer and hip-hop music. A true to themselves and the Kids, adults and supporters were engaged and growing there. They learned about the basics, an energetic New Orleans style of dance, called and response style. The performance was presented by the Code Royal team.

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There were twelve members that were selected to present the Art of Dance. The team got off to a great start dancing to three different styles. Captain Bro. Glenn Bailey, left, and Bro. Mordecai Walker accepting their awards.

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This Time ‘Til it’s Won!

A major project completed since 2015 in St. Petersburg is the Mo- nument to the African Working Class. It is a 6-foot tall black stone monument that rises high into the sky.

The monument is located in the community of Northwood, which is one of the oldest and most historic neighborhoods in the city of St. Petersburg. The monument was created by artist Brian Joseph and is dedicated to the memory of the African Working Class.

The monument is a powerful symbol of the struggle for social justice and the fight for equal rights. It serves as a reminder of the past and a beacon of hope for the future.

The monument is a testament to the resilience of the African Working Class and their unwavering commitment to the ideals of freedom and equality. It is a reminder that the struggle for justice is not over and that we must continue to work together to build a better world.

The monument is a beautiful example of how art can be used to express important messages and to inspire change. It is a powerful reminder that the struggle for justice is ongoing and that we must all work together to make the world a better place.

The monument is a beautiful tribute to the African Working Class and their contributions to our society. It is a powerful symbol of the struggle for justice and the fight for equal rights. It is a reminder that the struggle for justice is not over and that we must continue to work together to build a better world.

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Challenges communities to seriously consider adopting or mentoring siblings

South side food truck rally brings in the crowds

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**TAMPA RAY** — We are experiencing times when children are being taken from their homes and placed in the foster care system at alarming high rates. The temporary placements are crucial until permanency can be achieved.

One Church One Florida of Florida's SunCoast Region is reaching out to children and adults in a local city to help and encourage the state in efforts to help share the truth that the children pictured here and the more than 50,000 like them who are waiting for a permanent home and or family. Many of these children are minorities.

Can you provide a loving, permanent home for these children or other children like them or consider becoming a partner or volunteer, considering adoption or part of a foster family?

As in so often the case with the eldest child, her hair has a natural tend- ency towards caring and advocating for others and also taking charge? She'd determined to make the most of her future, she works hard to achieve her goals. When she grows up she'd like to be a nurse; a role she’s been told is a very different from the sports, and also her becoming a talented athlete. Jimmy is friendly and outgoing and loves being part of a team.

Krepelicious Crepes and Finnsi and The Pineapple Shack to name a few. The participating neighborhood associations are hoping to have the next rally in the Cinquísimo Key Plaza in a few months.

**BY HOLLY KESTENS**

ST. PETERSBURG — For the past five years, the Skyway Plaza Shopping Center on 2nd Avenue South has sat practically deserted with closed doors, and many business-minded individuals have walked away. Today, a few small stores remain open, but not on the other business-grazing sidelines.

But neighborhood associ- ations in the area want to change all of that, with Council District 5, District 6’s Gina Krepel – Urban Land Institute (ULI) – an organization consisting of experts in music and the community on 62nd Ave. Last year, the Urban Land Institute presented a study consisting of experts in area and what type of ac- tivities interest them. The study cost $10,000 and was paid for by the city and Brummer, who currently the various associ- ations passed out. The as- say asked residents regarding them and what type of ac- tivities interested them.

It’s really got to be a work between the city the residents and the busi- nesses coming together he said. “People will come out.”

Three council members made appear- ances: Steve Krenzel from District 4; Dean Driscoll and Lisa Whaley Bowman from District 3. An estimated 1,000 people connected from local vendors such as The Bacon Boss, Keypers Crayos and Finnsi and The Pineapple Shack to name a few.

**Photo courtesy of Jessica Fredericks Photography**

For more information, please visit www.ococfl.org for more information.

**Sienna, Kaye, Cata, Jimmy & Lillyman**

If you’re interested in learning more about foster care or adoption, or if you would like to become a foster, parent, mentor, partner or volunteer, contact the Florida Department of Children, Youth and Families.
COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE COMMUNITY CLASSES
CAMPBELL PARK RECREATION CENTER
601 41ST ST. S.

Cooking Matters - Wednesday, July 11, 2018 6:00 p.m.
Cooking Matters hands-on courses teach families the skills they need to be self-sufficient in the kitchen. Families learn how to prepare and shop sensibly for healthy meals on a limited budget. Call (727) 822-2400 to learn more. Registration required. Classes meet once per week for 7 weeks. Class program and design provided by UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program.

Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP) - Wednesday, August 29, 2018 6:00 p.m.
DEEP is a program that encourages small lifestyle changes while learning about your diabetes and the way it affects your health. Call (727) 822-2400 to learn more. Registration is required. Classes meet once per week for 7 weeks. Class program sponsored by St. Anthony’s Hospital.

REBATES UP TO $100
St. Petersburg Toilet Rebate Program
St. Petersburg water customers can receive a rebate up to $100 for each high flush toilet replaced with an EPA WaterSense, high efficiency toilet. To check your eligibility: Call 727-893-7676 or email us: ToiletRebateOffice@stpete.org
Available for a limited time, restrictions and specific procedures apply. Customers must call to check eligibility and receive an application PRIOR TO toilet purchase.
This program is cooperatively funded by the City of St. Petersburg and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE LUNCH
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
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THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER, THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018
7
Jerjuan Green helps youth go full S.T.E.A.M. ahead at the Virginia M. Leonard Education Center

By J.A. JONES

ST. PETERSBURG — Jerjuan Green was born “not just because it was the second day of the Virgin- ia M. Leonard’s Commu- nity Education Center (VMLCEC) 2019 Summer Camp season — which means he’s juggling talent orders, greeting parents, completing enrollment forms with staff and after- wardly, standing campers for being excellent role models and gently admon- ishing others who have left camp.

Green is busy because, in addition to being, VML- CEC’s director, his commit- ment to the community has seen him at the heart of en- couraging our participation among African Americans. He has sup- porting young entrepre- neurship, offering scholarships, fostering youth citizenship and civic responsibility and coaching brilliant young minds to victory as state-level Bowl champions.

Green is also busy with exposing the youth to S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Tech- nology, Engineering, Arts, Medicine) and S.T.E.M. (Science, Tech- nology, Engineering, Math). “I think the way of the future, everything is going to be involved in that,” ac- cording to Green. “So, we must educate our kids to that now so that, in 10, 15 years, one knows that it’s out there, and number two, what’s in it, and try to get by in that field.”

Green attributes his success to being told by someone at a young age that he was good in math, which encouraged him to consider that as a path after high school.

After graduating from The Boca Ciega High School, he worked as an intern at the Kennedy Space Center. He was so excited to be in that environment, he said, it was real great.

Unfortunately, the opportunity was short-lived. When President Obama dominated last year’s event program, and the pro- jects, the internship was laid-off.

On the flip side, Green said he understands why it did, “I just didn’t have the know-how.”

Green continued to work in the field, until he decided to start his own program.

The Midtown Celebrity Club held its 17th Street South. County.

on the south side of town make a difference, not only in the arts, the club hopes to fostering academic excellence and opportunities for inner-city Americans in Pinellas, sup- porting the community has

been seen. Its name is essentially another form of slavery. It is a blend of the words “state of Texas” and “African Americans,” which represents our society’s fear of the unknown, our struggle to accept the truth of who we are.

Today, Juneteenth is observed on June 19 by people in the United States and elsewhere. It is a celebration of the end of slavery in the United States and the enforcement of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude.

In many places, Juneteenth is marked by parades, festivals, concerts, and other events. It is a time for reflection on the history of slavery and the ongoing struggle for racial equality.

In addition to its historical significance, Juneteenth continues to be an important celebration for African American culture and heritage.

As a community, we must continue to acknowledge and address the legacy of slavery and work towards a more just and equitable future for all people.

The celebration of Juneteenth is a reminder of our shared history, a celebration of resilience and a call to action for a better future.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg brings new community health resource to Lakeview Shopping Center

By J.A. Jones

ST. PETERSBURG – Efforts to create a community health resource on the new St. Petersburg Pier made a major breakthrough as the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg announced – with a plaque unveiling and opening of doors – a new Social Change Center at Lakeview Shopping Center.

The Social Change Center is a community in partnership with the Foundation on innovative solutions to the social determinants of health, said Jonathan M. Ellen, M.D., president and CEO, and psychiatrist-in-chief of Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital and Foundation’s board chair.

“Together, we activate the power of change and encourage communities to come together, share solutions and bring about change in the community,” said Ellen.

In the past, the Foundation has worked closely with partners in the community and health care system to bring about change. The Social Change Center is another way to engage the community and bring people together. The Center will also encourage partnerships with local organizations and businesses to support the community.

“We are excited to announce the Social Change Center and look forward to working with our partners to make a difference in the community,” said Ellen.

The Social Change Center will be a gathering place to listen and learn from community members to identify issues and work towards solutions. The Center will also encourage partnerships with local organizations and businesses to support the community.

The Social Change Center will be a place where people can come together, share stories and learn from each other. The Center will also encourage partnerships with local organizations and businesses to support the community.

The Social Change Center will be located at 315 2nd St. S. F.H.S.P. hopes to partner with community members to identify issues and work towards solutions. The Center will also encourage partnerships with local organizations and businesses to support the community.

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35 nonprofits will benefit from the newest component of the MBSK initiative

Once the applications were reviewed, the members came together and discussed their scores. All meetings were open to the public, as many of the recipients got a chance to see the deliberations.

Felton, who is the director of Graduate Support at Academy Prep, and program and county government, and really, quite frankly, we shouldn't," said Mayor Rick Kriseman, adding that they started out with the My Brother's Keeper program that was based out of Washington, D.C., received $17,500 to work with African-American kids by exposing children to health and wellness curriculum. They also are working with the Boys & Girls Club of Pinellas County in south St. Pete.

Sizemore has a grassroots community outreach marketing campaign to promote positive achievement and academic awareness, and the cohort of Champions, a training program that involves educational, entrepreneurial, workforce and enrichment training opportunities, are all under the umbrella of the mayor's commitment.

"This is another important step in the commitment that I made to our at-risk youth more than two years ago," said Mayor Kriseman, adding that they started out with the My Brother's Keeper program that was based out of Washington, D.C., in 2012.

"We can't do it alone in city government," said Mayor Kriseman, adding that they started out with the My Brother's Keeper program that was based out of Washington, D.C., in 2012.

"I'm sure it will make us closer to college, he said the money will go towards introducing "them into fields where they can actually start working soon as they get out of high school."
NAACP’s Freedom Fund and Juneteenth Celebration

BY FRANK DROUZAS

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg Branch NAACP held its 2018 Freedom Fund and Juneteenth Celebration Saturday, June 16 under an air conditioning tent at Vinoy Park.

President Maria L. Scruggs reminded everyone that as recently as last year’s gathering — even though it raised money — even one that as recently as last year’s gathering, the “focus” was missing, though it raised money — even one that as recently as last year’s gathering, Scruggs reminded everyone to take them standing our history. "You can’t fix it if you don’t call it out," Scruggs said. "And we’re going to call it out boldy. We’re going to recognize that a part of this healing is going to be with us understand what it looks like."

"We must own and we must acknowledge before we move forward." Scruggs presented this year’s President’s Award for community service to Chris Cooper, the first African-American K9 officer with the St. Pete Police Department. Another President’s Award for demonstrating ongoing service and ongoing support of the NAACP’s mission went to the husband and wife team of Poul and April Hornsleth.

To illustrate just how long the Hornsleths have been honorably serving the community, Scruggs revealed that when she was a youth member of the NAACP at 16 years old, Poul and April were serving on the executive committee. Scruggs is now 60 years old.

"Everyone should b part of the struggle," Poul said. "It’s a lifelong commitment. You’ve got to keep moving forward and helping until true equal opportunity happens for all people in this great country. We’re all involved in it."

During the annual appeal for membership, Scruggs explained that though the NAACP is a strong organization, it’s not a strong financial organization and called for lifetime memberships. Other worthy organizations such as the Urban League receive corporate contributions. Hornsleth said, while the NAACP does not.

"So if anyone is ever concerned about the financial management of your local NAACP branch, I encourage them — give me a call," said Channer, adding that this is the third year running for the President’s Award.

"This year’s Morris Milton Scholarship Award was awarded to Devia Henry, who will be heading to the University of South Florida, while the Garnell Jenkins Scholarship Award was awarded to Demie Miller, who will be majoring in nursing. Both Timothy and Deaja received $1,500 to help ease the expenses of higher education."

To reach Frank Drouzas, email fdrouzas@theweeklychallenger.com
Dear Editor:
The Word of God has given you power to give the good of grace. It is the God of truth, and the more you hear, the better you become. If you have a family member who would like to participate in the project, please call or email Beth Reynolds at 727-824-7073.

You Tube

THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER, THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018

COMMUNITY NEWS

SPHA displaces the elderly and disabled

SPHA is the Senior Public Housing Authority, which is a public agency that administers federal housing programs for older adults and people with disabilities. They are responsible for ensuring that residents are treated fairly and with respect. However, there have been cases where the agency has displaced elderly and disabled residents from their homes without providing adequate alternatives.

Selected posts include:
- Managing Director
- Executive Director
-

ST. PETERSBURG – A pinning ceremony for St. Petersburg native Earl Johnson took place May 29 at the St. Petersburg Country Club. In the event, which was sponsored by the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg, the ceremony signified a new level of recognition, responsibility, and achievement.

Michael Shorter is the Rotary Club President and he presented the award to Mr. Shorter. He was one of the founders of the Rotary Club and is still serving in that position.

The Rotary Club of St. Petersburg has been named the recipient of the Rotary International Award for providing outstanding service to the Rotary Club and the community. The award was presented on June 3 at the Rotary Club’s annual meeting.

Congratulations Master Chief Petty Officer Earl Johnson!

The Rotary Club honors community leader

He and his wife Ashley have two children. He works for Anderson McDaniel Company and the more than 15,000 members of the Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club of St. Petersburg was chartered on January 3, 1920. The club is the oldest and one of the largest civic clubs in St. Petersburg. The club meets every Friday at noon at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

Calling all 100-year-old citizens

PINELLA COUNTY - Beth Reynolds, director of photography and documentation of the Pinellas County Museum of History, is creating a portfolio of portraits of local centenarians to honor their life and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pinellas County Museum of History. These portraits will be part of a traveling exhibit for AMP and will also be displayed around St. Petersburg at various events.

They are looking to gather wonderful stories and life lessons from the 100-year-old volunteers. Each participant will receive an AMP photo and the high-resolution digital file for their family!

If you have a family member who would like to participate in the project, please call or email Beth Reynolds at 727-824-7073.

Mike Shorter, right, receiving an award from Rotary Club President Roy Adams.

Rev. G. Gregg Murray agrees with RUDC recommendations for safe and sanitary housing, which is practically nonexistent.

If you missed the SPHA board meeting that addressed this issue, please write a letter to them showing support for the elderly and disabled citizens.

We are demanding the rehab of the Senior Village and to bring the displaced seniors and those with disabilities back home where they belong.

Rev. G. Gregg Murray, Senior Pastor, Zion Primitive Baptist Church

Mike Shorter, right, receiving an award from Rotary Club President Roy Adams.

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**COMmUnity NeWs**

**R'Club's 11th annual celebration breakfast**

By RAYVEN JOY SHONEL

St. Petersburg – R'Club, a local non-profit, held their 11th annual celebration breakfast last month at the Perkins Hotel. For 11 years, these breakfasts have demonstrated the significance of the support of a local Greater Tampa Black Business Council. This year, the breakfast celebrated the impact that RClub has had on the community in the past year.

During the event, the RClub’s executive director, Louise Graham-Regenstein, announced the program’s expansion to include minority and low-income families. She also announced the program’s move to a new site in the city.

The event featured keynote speaker Dr. Tonjua Williams, who discussed the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace. She emphasized the need for companies to recognize and value the unique perspectives and experiences of employees of all backgrounds.

In addition to the keynote address, the event featured a panel discussion on how to support minority-owned businesses. The panelists included business owners who shared their experiences and offered advice on how to support minority-owned businesses.

The event concluded with a special recognition for the RClub’s commitment to the community and the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The RClub’s executive director, Louise Graham-Regenstein, thanked everyone for their support and looked forward to continuing to make a difference in the community.

**Helping African American Businesses**

By INDIBHA SUERO AMBROSE

St. Petersburg – The R’Club’s executive director, Doreen Louise Graham-Regenstein, held a press conference to discuss the organization’s initiatives to help African American businesses.

In her speech, Louise Graham-Regenstein highlighted the importance of supporting African American businesses and the role that the R’Club plays in facilitating their growth.

She also announced the launch of a new program, the “Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Minority Businesses,” which will provide training and resources to help minority business owners develop their skills.

Louise Graham-Regenstein stressed the need for continued support and highlighted the organization’s upcoming events and initiatives.

**Tyronne Moore: Are You Awake?**

By DEXTER MCCREARY

St. Petersburg – Tyronne Moore, a native of St. Petersburg, is a self-taught poet who has used his creative expression to help others understand the experiences of African American men.

In his poem, Moore explores the idea of being “awake” and “alive” in a world that often seeks to suppress or ignore the experiences of African American men.

Moore’s poem begins with the line, “Are you awake? Are you alive?” and continues to explore the challenges faced by African American men in a society that often seeks to silence or devalue their experiences.

Moore encourages his audience to be “awake” and “alive” in their daily lives and to use their creative expression to challenge the dominant narratives that seek to silence the experiences of African American men.

**Tashiki Scanling**

Tashiki Scanling was one of the speakers at the event. In his remarks, Scanling emphasized the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Scanling highlighted the need for companies to recognize and value the unique perspectives and experiences of employees of all backgrounds.

He also encouraged companies to develop strategies to support diversity and inclusion, such as creating diverse and inclusive teams, providing training and resources to support employee development, and implementing policies that promote diversity and inclusion.

Scanling concluded his remarks by thanking everyone for their support and looking forward to continuing to make a difference in the community.
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INSPIRATIONS
BY DEBORAH DOWNS-JACKSON
The Great Manipulation

―Solomon came 1st out of mother’s womb, and sucked it 1st of its mother's breast. Blessed be the name of the LORD, Job 12:3

“We can do all things through CHRIST who strengthens us” (Phil 4:13) All things are possible with CHRIST and the HOLY SPIRIT are with us forever.

The enemy is not what he appears. The enemy does not seek peace. The enemy manipulates for evil. The enemy flees at the name of the LORD, Ex 14:14

The enemy does not seek peace. The enemy manipulates for evil. The enemy flees at the name of the LORD.” (Psalm 91:9-10) All shall stand and be blessed, and none shall be ashamed. The enemy is defeated because the victory is to GOD, Ps 98:1-9...Naked came I out of mother’s womb, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Revelation 12:11

The enemy is not wise but deceitful. The enemy does not seek peace. The enemy manipulates for evil. The enemy flees at the name of the LORD, Job 1:21

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Silver Lake Boys Associated hold ‘Ballin’ For a Cause’ 3-on-3 Youth Basketball Tournament

BY J.A. JONES

ST. PETERSBURG – When Kelvin Stewart and James Swain were growing up, Silver Lake offered the kind of neighborhood community of old neighbors knew neighbors, families knew the support of relatives nearby and day-to-day life was much less hectic.

Since the Silver Lake Boys Associated (SLBA) officially jumped off in 2014, Stewart and Swain have been growing young and old in the Silver Lake community opportunities to experience those good old days once again.

“We are a grassroots community-based social group,” explained organization Vice President James Swain.

Stewart and Swain grew up together in the same Silver Lake neighborhood. “We remember growing up when there was the neighborhood, and there were a lot of positive memories that were created,” Stewart and Swain felt the neighborhood stayed in the community of old: neighbors grew up together in the same Silver Lake area has changed across the country, the Silver Lake neighborhood.”

Swain also credited the influence of Stewart’s uncle, the Union Movement’s Otha Talladega, as part of their unswerving commitment to making a difference.

“Kelvin, along with Keith Stewart, has brother, grew up under the influence of Stewart’s uncle, the Union Movement’s Otha Talladega, as part of their unswerving commitment to making a difference.

Keith Stewart, his brother, grew up under the influence of Stewart’s uncle, the Union Movement’s Otha Talladega, as part of their unswerving commitment to making a difference.

Swain, Stewart and Swain have been giving young and old a chance to bring “the village” men’s, artist showcases and vendor markets. The organization also holds an annual Halloween celebration for the kids. Most of it, Swain, has happened at the Silver Lake Park, 11th Street and 11th Avenue South.

Like neighborhoods across the country, the Silver Lake area has changed dramatically from the days of Stewart’s childhood.

“Growing up, one of the first things that I associated with the neighborhood is the neighborhood, recalled Swain. But, it’s a thing that’s going on nationally where there’s been such an erosion in black neighborhoods and black communities — people move in and move out, and you don’t know your neighbors.”

While the SLBA has at its height, around 12 members, now Stewart, Swain and The Real St. Pete’s Shadene Emmanuel count themselves as the five remaining members.

“We had people who were more visible in the past, who would come to our meetings, but they don’t come anymore.”

Swain seemed understanding about the dropoff, acknowledging that with family and the years passing by, he can get in the way.

“There are a lot of people who still support us, even though we haven’t got an event in the way, they’re always thinking about what they can do, and they’re always thinking about how they can get in the way or the event or if it’s free. They share plenty of cooks and the food is free, something that’s a reality in this country.”

“Just as it is people, we’re going to feel everybody until the food runs out.”

Stewart and Swain are still thinking about what they can do, and the youth need more support, he worries for their future.

“We’re bring in tough times. When you look at what’s going on with the black youth, there’s a lot more obstacles out there for them to deal with than when we were growing up; there are a lot more pitfalls out there for them,” he noted.

This is part of the reason the SLBA is constantly on the hunt for ways to involve the youth, and part of how they came up with the idea to do the 3-on-3 tournament last Saturday, June 23 at Campbell Park.

“it’s something that’s been on our minds constantly. We’re always thinking about what we can do, and basketball is a popular sport, kids love basketball,” he asserted.

The non-competitive event is open to youths in middle and high school was held the day before National HIV Testing Day, so in conjunction with the Health Department and Accountable Tax Solutions and 509 Films, along with others.

The SILA has rocked a problem and is committed to being part of the solution. “I think that society and the media has got run away from being community-based,” declared Swain. “That all saying that we heard growing up, takes a village — we’ve gotten away from that — and we want to bring that back.”

To reach J.A. Jones, email jones@tampabaytimes.com.