St. Pete celebrates Amendment 4

CRIST ENCOURAGES EX-FELONS TO VOTE

BY FRANK DROUZAS

ST. PETERSBURG — Governor Charlie Crist, Mayor Rick Kriseman and other community leaders addressed the public from the steps of City Hall Jan. 8 to celebrate the implementation of Amendment 4, a recently passed amendment that restores the right to vote to former felons.

Ex-offenders and members of organizations including the ACLU, NAACP, Pinellas County Urban League, League of Women Voters and the Pinellas County Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition were on hand as Crist called it a historic moment. The former governor of Florida noted that 6.1 percent, or nearly 60 percent of Floridians voted in favor of passing Amendment 4.

“Taking away a century of disenfranchisement under a shameful Jim Crow-era policy,” Crist said, “almost two million of our friends, family and neighbors would finally have their rights restored and the ability to vote.”

Florida was estimated to have 1,063,258 persons—30.43 percent of the voting age population—disenfranchised due to felonies. Crist said that he was heartened to know that the work he did as governor, which granted clemency to more than 35,000 non-violent felons, will once again be taken up. He added that it is about the right to vote and those that are involved in the justice system need to have that right restored.

With the passage of this constitutional amendment, restoring voting rights to non-violent felons, will once again be taken up. He added that it is about the right to vote and those that are involved in the justice system need to have that right restored.

After more than a century of disenfranchisement under a shameful Jim Crow-era policy,” Crist said, “almost two million of our friends, family and neighbors would finally have their rights restored and the ability to vote.”

“Today is a great day for Florida, a great day for the people and a great day for democracy,” Crist affirmed.

Mayor Kriseman said that this new law has the potential to affect Florida politics forever in a positive way.

“We need the people who vote, he said, “the better off we are. But more importantly, it will impact the lives of people who have paid their...
The Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation was one of the most critical events in American history and is recognized around the world by all Americans as one of the first steps toward black America’s full liberation and right to full integration into the protections that come with freedom.

It was carefully crafted and read in its entirety with the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Lincoln only days earlier—lays the foundation for full citizenship for all black people. It established, without question, the fundamental purpose of the Civil War was to put an end to slavery.

Emancipation Proclamation was not finalized until April 1, 1863. It stated that all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, except the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and parts of Tennessee, would be declared free and that the Executive government of the United States, and all officers thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of those persons.

Presidents, scholars and historians from the New York Times Disunion: 106 Articles from the Civil War to the 21st Century story column, The Challenger is not simply an extension of story columns in African-American newspapers. It is an expression of African-American history. We believe a newspaper is the daily voice of the people and that the voice of people will continue to be the one that we would like to hear.

The Weekly Challenger reserves the property of The Weekly Challenger. All submissions becomethe sole property of The Weekly Challenger. Our staff will always work to keep you on the line as much as possible. The challenges we face today are today’s challenges. We believe a newspaper is the daily voice of the people and that the voice of people will continue to be the one that we would like to hear.

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MLK Jr. Street celebration will continue as usual for now

CELEBRATION, from front page

holder rather than neighborhood nuisance. Elected and appointed officials conducted an online survey with community members, after which members of the committee originated by the NAACP met with council members Holiday Bacote, Chris Bottman, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, Steven Kornell, Charles Gerdes, Amy Freyer and Denise Dowell. We expressed a vision to transform the MLK Day celebration into the Essence Festival type celebration Edmond said.

In sharing their voices, the committee was looking for a kind of support never before offered by the city for the celebration on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street. On that matter, added Edmond, ever offered by the city for any event for the community on the south side.

“Throughout the meeting, we heard several times there hadn’t been anyone to come in and talk about the MLK Day celebration on Ninth Street as an economic driver,” asserted Edmond. Rather, the committee heard that City Commission had only ever offered by the city for any event for the community on the south side.

“The Ninth Street event is the only one of the longest running MLK celebrations in the City of St. Pete. It actually started as the community had actually pushed the parade to Central to create continuity on the MLK Street,” he said.

He looked at the city is allowing outdated city codes, decades of racial stereotypes and accusations of criminal activity to still linger in the city, and added the economic downtown is losing its luster to the area.

The NAACP formed committee was able to reach crime reporters, community researchers and found that crime stats for the MLK celebration were the same as crime stats for any other city event.

“When the media reports about the MLK Day celebration, people sometimes see it negatively because of all the negative reports,” remarked Edmond. “When you Google their events, you don’t see the same negative comments.”

“We can change that because that was intentional,” he insisted, placing the blame on “Tim Clear,” a term that has persisted.

“Around our city, we have to be intentional about breaking that mindset,” Edmond pointed to the “micro businesses” that took a leadership role in their wake last year due to the city’s “martial law” practices.

A 2014 article on MLK Day in St. Pete News Special the assertion made by members of the community that was brought in to support changes to the use of many of these black vendors for the city.

Last year, the St. Pete Police aggressively went after vendors who were selling without a license, statistical and public safety concerns.

“Ninth Street Police Chief Anthony Holloway shared that the SMAR system was up again after the meeting with the community leaders.”

“We looked at our plan and had a conversation about what we could do differently. We came up with some modifications that both sides think are O.K,” said Edmond.

Holloway said plans were in the works to return to using what they “normally did on Ninth Street,” including having beat officers on every block during the event, and when the event is over, monitoring and assisting in traffic flow through the community.

Another change is how vending will be handled. This year, Holloway said, vendors and property owners can work out their own deals, so vendors can sell on their own properties.

Edmond said another change will be the tape used by the police department to mark off the route. Rather than using yellow crime scene tape, he said they will use special black and white tape at all city events moving forward.

Holloway said another change will be the tape used by the police department to mark off the route. Rather than using yellow crime scene tape, he said they will use special black and white tape at all city events moving forward.

Holloway said that police said he was sending Scruggs a final draft of the police department’s plans.

Edmond encourages those who are interested in learning more about the community conversation to call upon any matter considered at the March 11, Jan 31 at 9 a.m. meeting.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jones@largoweekly-challenger.com.
St. Pete celebrates Kwanzaa

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Kwanzaa holiday sparked with an infusion of youth at each celebration of the seven principles around the city.

A relatively new holiday, Kwanzaa was celebrated from Dec. 26 – Jan. 1 and was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of Black Stud- ies at California State University. After the Los Angeles Watts riots, which lasted six days and resulted in 34 deaths and thousands of injuries, Karenga searched for a way to bring African Americans together as a community. His research led him to Africa and the “first fruit” harvest celebrations of the Ashanti and Zulu tribes. Fifty-two years ago, the framework of Kwanzaa was born.

The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase “mutananda ya kwamba,” which means “first fruits” in Swahili. Each family or community celebrates Kwanzaa in their own way, and celebrations usually include singing and dances, storytelling, African drums, poetry reading and a large traditional meal.

On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder), then one of the seven principles is discussed.

The principles, called the Nguzo Saba (seven principles in Swahili), are values of African culture, which contribute to building and reinforcing community among African Americans. Also, Kwanzaa has seven basic symbols that represent values and concepts collective of African cultures. Kwanzaa has seven core principles or Nguzo Saba:

1. Umoja: Unity
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race. Held Wednesday, Dec. 26 at NeoSoul Café.

2. Kujichagulia: Self-Determination
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves. Held Thursday, Dec. 27 at Moore’s Chapel A.M.E. Church.

3. Ujima: Collective Work and Responsibility
To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers’ and sisters’ problems our problems and solve them together. Held Friday, Dec. 28 at the Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum.

4. Ujamaa: Cooperative Economics
To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together. Held Saturday, Dec. 29 at Reader’s Choice Book & Gift Store.

5. Nia: Purpose
To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness. Held Sunday, Dec. 30 at the St. Petersburg Islamic Center.

6. Kuumba: Creativity
To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it. The community was asked to celebrate day six on their own.

7. Imani: Faith
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle. Held Tuesday, Jan. 1 at the Enoch Davis Center.
COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Pete celebrates Kwanzaa
FROM KWANZAA, page 4

The last night of the Kwanzaa ceremony hon- ors the community by ac- knowledging its youth and elders. This year, dona- tions were given to the Kwanzaa committee to buy presents that were handed out to seven chil- dren under the age of five. The oldest in the “village”
were also honored—Ralph Allen, 88, and female
Peggy Ann Anderson, 80. The night ended with
a feast of delectable dishes such as fried
chicken, macaroni, col- lard greens and desserts
galore. With the familiar
rum beats of African
rhythms playing through-
out the night, those who
attended culminated the
holiday of Kwanzaa as it
was intended—immersed
in the rich African her-
itage and acknowledging
their ancestors, elders,
and those who made cul-
tural contributions to life
in America.
DREAM for AMERICA

A Theatrical Production

Starring Lamman Rucker

Sunday, January 13th, 2019
3:00 PM Matinee Show
8:00 PM Evening Show

All Tickets are Complimentary

DREAM FOR AMERICA is a theatrical production that celebrates and reflects the past 50 years since the Civil Rights Movement. The production will feature some of our community’s most talented actors, singers and musicians.

This production is made possible by the MLK Day of Service Grant Award, MLK Day of Service Advisory Committee and St. Petersburg College.

DIRECTOR
Ziad ‘Zee’ Ahmad

PLAYWRIGHTS
James El Patterson
Anthony Murphy

PRODUCERS
Alex Harris
Herbert Murphy

SPONSORING PARTNERS
Saint Petersburg College
Rubenstein Law Firm
Arts Conservatory for Teens (ACT)
Florida CraftArt
American Stage

Palladium Theater
253 Fifth Ave N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
mypalladiumtheater.org

Box Office:
727-822-3590
For details, visit:
www.ArtsConservatoryForTeens.org
American boys and young men
serve more than 100 of our MBSK umbrella
comprehensive, one-year Champions program. This
time was the Cohort of Champions. This
promise was the Cohort of Champions for their stead-
fast commitment and dedication to the mission and vision of
MBSK. Mayor Kriseman opened the celebration
recognizing the Cohort of Champions for their stand: to
make the new Cohort of Champions. The Urban Alliance De-
partment and MBSK team gave special thanks to the young men, their families,
Mayor Kriseman, Deputy Mayor Tomalin, city coun-
cil and all of the volunteers and partners who help
make the new Cohort of Champions possible.

The portfolios given to each Champion were
made available to the National League of Cities Fi-
nancial Inclusion and City Systems project grant.

Emerging Leader Fellows & Interns Program spotlights
Caprice Johnson

ST PETERSBURG —
The 2020 Plan, City of St. Petersburg Board of Urban Affairs and One
Urban Affairs and One
Community’s Emerging Leader Fellows & Interns Program spotlights
Caprice Johnson, a 2019
Emeritus Class 2019
Commissioner for Justice Lifetime Achievement & Legends Awards Banquet

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JOIN US IN HONORING THE
Mighty Sons of Zion and
Rev. Fleming Tarver & the
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Rev. Fleming Tarver & the
Rev. Robert Ward, pastor of Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, and for-
mer president of F.A.S.T. (Fostering Adults’ Self-Responsibility), 34
years ordination Florida NAACP, is the Current Grand Matron of the
Grand Matron of the
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday & Legends Award Banquet.

Tickets are available at
Looking Good Men’s Fashion.
Tickets are $40 each or $140 for families of five. Call 727-808-1634 to

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The new year signified a new beginning. Once time hit the reset button, it was time to hit the reset button on how you eat, be-friend those who nourish and love the body you've been given. The Baton Rouge Weight Loss System embodies the steps necessary to help you reach your goals.

Advanced slimming techniques.

Now you can melt that fat away, trim the body to fit, and tone it up! Our system utilizes an array of proven techniques and times ares including the wait, hips, thighs and upper arms. It also means a slower metabolism, lower lager and elastin formation. The body becomes a histogram and creating a slimmer appearance.

Healthy Living Naturally
By Dr. Ramona Valentine

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Lisa Brody, Esq. installed as new AKA Sorority chapter president

ST. PETERSBURG — Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter recently passed the leadership torch to its newly elected president Lisa L. Brody, Esq. An overflow crowd of members witnessed the installation ceremony during the chapter’s Dec. meeting.

Brody began her leadership journey in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority as an undergraduate more than 27 years ago at the University of Oregon. In 1996, along with several esteemed women in leadership, she successfully passed the leadership torch to its newly elected president Lisa L. Brody, Esq. An overflow crowd of members witnessed the installation ceremony during the chapter’s Dec. meeting.

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**MLK Day of Service: Elevation of the community financially, physically and culturally**

By KARINE DAVIS

**ST. PETERSBURG —** With an emphasis on broad participation, members of the St. Petersburg chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. were excluded and honored for their hard work and dedication in 2019 MLK Day of Service.

The grant, paid for by United Way of St. Petersburg, Florida Financially and Culturally, will be used to fund various groups in the community involved with planning projects that can help underprivileged citizens with money-related issues, including managing financial goals and managing internal and external financial challenges.

David Thompson, email kdavis-thompson@stpetedeltas.org

**Dr. Delphinia Davis**

The Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will be on hand to assist and Hal Bowler Moving Company will give back to the community by offering free transportation to and from the event.

"One of our goals is to aid in providing educational value about finance involves understanding how money works, creating and achieving financial goals and managing internal and external financial challenges," said Davis, who will attend and help establish a Saturday swap shop.

Davis believes the first step to building an economic legacy is to establish good credit.

"It is a sense of relief to know that you can go to the bank and get what you want. You don't have to think about it anymore; it's just a thing of the past.

"We will encourage people to come learn about finance directly from a representative of the community who will be involved in helping people achieve good credit," Davis said.

**Brenda Gilbert** and other Hair by Ahsile Salon during their 2013 MLK Day of Service project.

The community has an opportunity to clean and produce any service that is needed.

**Pinnacle Financial** will be on hand to assist with credit counseling and restoration; how to compost any debt, effective saving and investing, explained Gilbert.

"A financial fair is something that we can all have with the help of any financial counselor or advisor.

"The community is encouraged to research and understand and comprehend how to communicate with collection agencies, navigating through the maze of bank- ers and other financial services.

"The first MLK Day of Service, Davis will be aiming to provide us on financial literacy as made possible by finding funding through the Florida Legislature, St. Petersburg Community Outreach and Community and..."

"I am happy to partner with...""Thompson, email kdavis-thompson@stpetedeltas.org

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No need to wait for Hollywood to have a black James Bond

FILM & MEDIA

Edmond worked tirelessly to get Amendment 4 on the ballot. "This project says a lot about the diversity of people here in St. Pete because while people are waiting for Hollywood to make James Bond [black], we brought our own super- agent alive here. And we made sure to make it available for all ages to watch on purpose." Because the end of the day, asserted Edmond, "We really want to help promote better images of African Americans in our community.

To purchase tickets for the "red carpet" screening of the 2019 Sun- dial AMC, visit www AgentX Film Festival, the 2019 Sun- dial AMC, visit www.eventbrite.com. To learn more, visit www.agentx challenger.com or Instagram."
COMMUNITY NEWS

MLK Day of Service
A DAY ON, 
NOT A DAY OFF

Monday, Jan. 21, 2019

If you have a community-based project to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr., register your project before Jan. 21, 2019, so others can volunteer to serve with you.

Organize your club, friends, neighborhood, business co-workers, school, sorority or fraternity or place of worship and inspire others to make a difference.

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Reader’s Choice celebrates 20 years

BY RAVEN JOY SHOENEL

ST. PETERSBURG – Reader’s Choice Books & Expressions, located at 4341 34th St. S, celebrated 20 years of helping African-American literature become more accessible to the reading public.

“Actually, it’s been a little bit longer than 20 years ago because I sold books out of my car and out of my apartment,” said owner Tangela Murph Bailey at her Dec. 8 celebration. “I did an experiment for a weekend and purchased about 33,000 words of books. I did an art fair in Tampa that weekend just to see if the books would go, and they did. I sold all of them in two days.”

With such a successful weekend, she made up business cards, and people started calling and coming to her house. The foot traffic at her house became too much, so she decided to sell books online, eventually opening up a brick and mortar store some 20 years ago. Reader’s Choice has had different addresses over the years, but the same quality service hasn’t wavered in more than two decades. Once the doors opened, she was able to offer her customers more than just books. You can find African attire, artwork, raw shea butter hand dipped from a gourd, Greek paraphernalia and everything and anything a church could ask for such as clergy attire, choir robes, communion supplies, Sunday school books, etc.

And if something is not in the store, she has her handy quick-ship catalog ready to meet your needs. However, with online retail giants such as Amazon and their free two-day delivery with a Prime membership where you can buy anything from books to Reunion Small Pickle imported from England, her customer base has considerably shrunk.

“I would say the last seven years is when the struggle started,” she said. “People are buying online, but I here to provide a service for the community and for our people. This is our bookstore.”

And although you may be able to find many of the items online, Murph Bailey said you wouldn’t be able to find them at her price point.

“If you look at some of the artwork here, I have priced everything online, and I know these prices are about $40 to $50 cheaper.

One thing you can’t get online is the chance to meet local authors. Reader’s Choice is a huge support of local writers. With about 20 local authors who regularly do book signings and discussions in her shop, she brings the local African-American literary scene to the forecourt.

Murph Bailey wants to hear from the community about what items you’d like to see here carry. She is here to serve and is willing to go the extra mile.

“What is it that I’m not doing, or what is it that I need to do to win the more support from the community?”

With persistent health issues and retail giants cornering the market, her husband would like to see her retire, but she’s not ready just yet. “I want to hang in here and see how long the community will continue to support me. If not, then we’ll just have to say bye-bye.”

Reader’s Choice Books & Expressions, located at 4341 34th St. S, celebrates 20 years of helping African-American literature become more accessible to the reading public.
“God’s House To The City”

“Let us honor Him with faith and trust as we remember to love JESUS CHRIST and enter into a brand New Year; GOD has blessed us with His grace, and the reason JESUS came down to earth; He will forever protect us from all harm. His love and His strength to carry on; GOD’s promises we hold so very dear. May our hearts be thankful and rejoice in CHRIST and enter into a brand New Year; May this New Year find you walking by Faith and Trust; Our Heavenly Father sent His only Son to die and to live and to give our lives peace; As we celebrate the birth of JESUS CHRIST and enter into a brand New Year, May our hearts be thankful and victorious in GOD’s promises we hold so very dear. May this New Year find you walking by Faith and Trust; Our Heavenly Father sent His only Son to die and to live and to give our lives peace; As we celebrate the birth of JESUS CHRIST and enter into a brand New Year, May our hearts be thankful and victorious in GOD’s promises we hold so very dear. May this New Year find you walking by Faith and Trust; Our Heavenly Father sent His only Son to die and to live and to give our lives peace; As we celebrate the birth of JESUS CHRIST and enter into a brand New Year, May our hearts be thankful and victorious in GOD’s promises we hold so very dear. Have a Blessed New Year and always know that our GOD is watching over us. Amen

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A Perfect Time for Self-Evaluation

Welcome, it always our pleasure to open our doors to these honored guests, and in the name of our Lord, we are gathered in this place of refreshment, in the name of our Lord, and by the authority of His name, amen.

How can I hold myself accountable to my goals? How can I feel satisfied with my performance? What can I do to improve my life? These questions are often asked by individuals who want to improve their lives. In this article, we will explore how to set goals and achieve them.

Set Goals

Setting goals is a crucial step in achieving success. Goals are a roadmap for what you want to accomplish. To set effective goals, you need to be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).

Evaluate Yourself

Self-evaluation is an essential component of the goal-setting process. It allows you to assess your progress and identify areas for improvement. To do this, you need to ask yourself questions such as: What have I accomplished so far? What challenges have I faced? How can I improve?

Seek Feedback

Feedback is crucial to personal growth. It provides you with insights into your strengths and weaknesses. You can seek feedback from friends, family, or mentors. They can help you identify areas where you need to improve.

Conclusion

In conclusion, setting goals and self-evaluation are critical components of personal growth. By setting SMART goals, evaluating yourself, and seeking feedback, you can achieve your goals and lead a fulfilling life. Remember, it is never too late to start. Start today and experience the transformation that comes with self-improvement.
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