Lunch Pals program targeting black mentors

**BY FRAN DROUZAS**

ST. PETERSBURG – To most elementary school chil-
dren, lunchtime is a chance to take a break from books and to chat and laugh with friends while munching on fries, pizza and other cafeteria fare. But thanks to Lunch Pals, that half hour means so much more to some children.

A partnership between Raymond James Financial and Pinellas County Schools, Lunch Pals is a program that seeks to give stu-
dents something that young people can always use: com-
ting.

Ron Diner, director of Strategic Partnerships at Ray-
mond James, said it was about five years ago that Raymond James partnered with Mr. Vin-
cent Elementary in St. Pete with the aim of helping the stu-
dents there move forward success-
fully. The principal had told Diner that the best thing to do was to simply get volun-
ters to have lunch with the children—especially the stu-
dents who had “limited or no role models in their lives.”

Over the next couple of years, Diner rounded up close to 50 people from Raymond James to donate their time and money with their own personal lunch pals at the school. Diner then met with Pinellas County Superintendent Dr. Michael Greco and asked if more could be done, and Greco asked Diner if he could provide volunteers and mem-
tors for other Pinellas Schools.

Lunch Pals was then launched to reach out to many more children in other area schools.

There are 100,000 children in the Pinellas County School system, and more than half are economically disadvantaged, Diner noted. Some come from single-parent homes, some live in group homes while oth-
ers are even homeless. Specifically, regarding some of the schools in south St. Pete, there’s a big challenge to get kids to do well in school and move forward with success.

“So there’s a tremendous amount of kids out there who could use somebody,” he said.

Staff Writer
BY J.A. JONES

Documentary honors St. Pete’s black pioneers on WEDU

**BY J.A. JONES**

ST. PETERSBURG – The brothers David and Archie Boston, documentary “Black Pioneers of the Sunshine City” spotlights the history of African American struggles and suc-
cesses in St. Petersburg in the 1950s and ’60s. Originally airing last Feb., the film is currently re-
ceiving an encore presentation on WEDU.

Their documentary covers history, significant events and explores the lives of the peo-
ple whose activism and experi-
ce contributed to St. Pete’s evolution.

David Boston is the writer, producer and director of the hour-long documentary and has been a producer and director with NBC, CBS, ABC and PBS television networks.

His brother Archie Boston acted as the documentary’s pro-
ducer and creative director. A groundbreaking advertising and design professional and retired professor of graphic design from California State University, Long Beach, he is currently focusing on his art and gathering his aca-
demic papers and design archives for DePauw University’s Black History at DePauw Refer-
ence Collection.

David and Archie Boston grew up in the Gas Plant neigh-
borhood and were regulars on 22nd Street South, affectionately

"Black Pioneers of the Sunshine City" highlights the history of African American struggles and successes in St. Pete in the 1950s and 60s.

We Value Diversity | We Value Education | We Value History
Community invited to bi-partisan forum on Amendment 4

There are 14 million ex-cons across the state of Florida depending on our support to help them earn their right to vote again. Amendment 4 this November is a step in the right direction. Campaign St. Petersburg will be hosting a community forum on Amendment 4 this Thursday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. in the Rock of Jesus Missionary Church in Tarpon Springs. This forum is being held in conjunction with the Poor People’s March and the Poor People’s March Committee.

There are two events being held in St. Petersburg during delivery, paper during delivery, and may or may not be visible. The views expressed by The Weekly Challenger columnists/advisors do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor. Submissions to The Weekly Challenger are subject to the right to run all or part of any submission be the sole reason of space, clarity or for other reasons. Submissions may take precedence due to the editors' discretion. The Weekly Challenger is not responsible for the act of civil disobedience.

Onesimus

L Lewis Lombara

We have Frederick McKinney Jones to thank for our fresh green eggs, for he is credited with cooling urban soils using cloud seeding in town of Mesa, AZ in 1920s. Phil Brooks, an African American inventor received the first U.S. patent for the desiccant area.

Those of you who are Osaka Ball Pit Park brokers may already know that their fraternity brothers may already be on-site to answer questions related to the Medical History Week and the Poor People's March. In 1997, Maggie Walker, the Office of Community Invites, was recognized as a medical hero in the national arena.

Mather is a noted his- torical figure, but much more was ever mentioned about Onesimus. It wasn’t until 2016 that he was recognized as a medical hero in the Boston area. Lewis Lombara was another African American pushed into the ring of his profession. He along with Joseph Nichols introduced the cloud seeding technique in a carbon famine, in 1831, to assist Governor Mather in the attempt on Thomas Edison’s original patent fulfilment. Also, Latimer super- vised the installation of electric lights in major American cities, and Edison gets most of the credit for inventing the light bulb.

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About the Poor People’s March Committee

The Poor People’s Campaign, Call for Moral Revival is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, sexism, economic domination and the nation’s distorted morality Organized in 1968 by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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L Lewis Lombara

Maggie Walker of Richmond, VA, was the first female president of any bank in the United States. While other women were unable to make moves, she was making waves with her bank and newspaper publishing company.

Around 1950, she achieved suc- cesses with the vision to make improvements in the way of life of African Americans and women by encouraging new enterprises and her lending prac- tices.

Maggie Walker

Martin Luther King, Jr. encouraged the Poor People’s March, and was recognized as a medical hero in the national arena.

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There are too many hypocrites in the church!

If you have ever heard the excuse “I can’t go to Church there are too many hypocrites there!” Unfortunately the word “hypocrite” is being confused. The definition is one found between what one is and what one does. Sin is the generic term of what “one is.” Scripture says all men are sinners but this is not the only category, both in and outside the Church. Everyone falls short of the perfection of God which makes them a sinner.

Being a Hypocrite is specifically what one does. Since hypocrisy is a sin we can all agree that hypocrites are sinners. But not all sinners are hypocrites. Those who dis- like the church and its explanation of man’s predicament bring this confusion with the term “hypocrite.” The church is full of sinners as all sinners are hypocrites. Therefore the church is full of hypocrites.

There is an obvious problem with this parallel. Let me illustrate that which makes this distinction. When the church is full of sinners, murderers therefore the church is full of murderers. Therefore the church would be very unfair and not a very good place. Say in the same way jail has caps, murderers fore all who are in jail are murderers. Although in example in certain cars go very fast, so and so his car. Therefore all who are in jail have murderers there- fore all who are in jail has murderers. This is full of sinners, murderers. This is not a parallel. Let me give an example of a parallel. Everyone falls short of the mark and is not a hypocrite. Everyone is a sinner, is not a sinner. Everyone is a Christian, is not a Christian.

The reason is that there is a difference between being a hypocrite with his mouth and being a hypocrite in his life. Being a Christian is to become acutely aware of their conduct not only at sal- vation but through their life. The Church is exclusively interested in what requires a public ac- knowledgment of sins. They are admitting they have been commit- ting a remedy. Actually they have fewer hypocrites than any other because it be- cause the definition of a Church is a hospital for sinners, all kinds of sinners. Even though Yeshitela claimed to be an associ- ate member of the Church, it is utterly irrelevant whether they are Christians or not. Yeshitela’s Church has never claimed to answer the charge that the Church is full of sinners and one, we accept. To answer that charge is not to be a hypocrite. Prov. 11: 9 “The hyp- occrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the right will be defended.” In the飞翔bible “hypocrisy” means- hypocritical, untrue. This means those who are outside the church and the inside are active in being genuine in their attempt to change along in their life.

What happens when unsaved people see those who claim to be church sinning? They claim that “This person is sup- posed to be a Christian, I am a Christian. Christians are not sup- posed to sin, since that person is sinning, he is a hypocrite.” They as- sume that a Christian is someone who claims that he or she is a Christian. In reality it’s just the opposite. For someone to be a Chris- tian, they must first admit to be a sinner.

Being a sinner is a pre-requisite for being a Christian.

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St. Petersburg – Crowds descended upon the Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum to enjoy the second annual Tampa Bay Collard Green Festival last Saturday, Feb. 16.

The street festival included cooking, hands-on urban agriculture demonstrations, collard green tutorials, bounce houses for the kids, and of course, a collard green cook-off to end all cook-offs.

This year’s festival featured Gullah culture in the form of international mix media artist Sonja Griffin Evans, the Gullah Diva, Sallie Ann Robinson and eventgoers got a taste of her collard greens with rutabagas, shrimp and potatoes salad and everyone’s favorite—fried ribs. Local Chef Julius Forte of Forte Fuels had the crowd chomping at the bit to taste his braised collard greens and salmon. Both chefs gave cooking demonstrations and fielded questions from the audience.

Howard Gunn, Jr., the founder and former president of the Florida Black Farmers and Agricultural Association spoke on the importance of growing your produce and knowing where your food comes from.

“Your health is your wealth,” Gunn, Jr. said. “Know your farmer, know your food.”

He spoke about the growth hormones and antibiotics that are in today’s meats.

“How many have eaten chicken that was so big that you’re afraid to eat pieces of it,” he asked. “These young girls 13 years old look like they’re 35. The hormones are in the chicken. If you eat it, you are what you eat.”

Gunn, Jr. said we are in a food revolution. People are paying extraordinary amounts of money for food. He warned that even if it’s labeled organic, the seed is genetically modified. "When you start manipulating seeds, something is wrong," he asserted. He said that most diseases are preventable and that’s it all about what we eat.

“What makes you healthier is eating from the soil, knowing where your food comes from, knowing what’s in your food and does not belong in it, but eating to live.”

This year, 10 budding chefs entered into the collard green cook-off. Festivalgoers paid $10 a head to crown 2019’s collard green royalty. The competition was stiff this year, with last year’s winner—Bernard Rembert from Munch’s Sundries—among the contestants.

But, there could be only one, and this year it was Kimberly Brown-Williams’ smoked neck bones infused greens. So what is her secret?

“A lot of love. I cook from the heart,” she said. “It’s ingredients that everybody probably uses, but take my time, I don’t skip; I don’t rush.”

Brown-Williams was a judge in last year’s taste-off, and although the entries were pretty good, she knew if she entered she would be the one taking home the $500 prize. She actually told the festival co-founder and organizer Boyzell Hosey that she would be the winner hours beforehand.

Well, the four hours that it took to prepare—two hours prep time and two hours to cook—paid off. Now the question is what will she do with her winnings?

“I don’t know,” she laughed.

The second place prize of $200 went to Kiva Williams of Wesley Chapel, and Randy Jackson from St. Pete took home $100 for coming in third.

Tampa Bay loves their collard greens

Samantha Harris, Kiva Williams, Boyzell Hosey

Samantha Harris, Kimberly Brown-Williams and Boyzell Hosey
Olympic medalist leads ‘A Call to Action’ at Healthy Aging talk Feb. 25

ST PETERSBURG — Olympic Calvin Smith, along with Healthy St. Pete, the Sunshine Center, and the National Senior Games Association, will present “A Call to Action for Healthy Aging” on Monday, Feb. 25 from 5:30 p.m. at The Sunshine Center, 330 Fifth St. N. St. Pete.

Smith, who earned a Gold Medal in the 1988 Games in Los Angeles and a Bronze Medal in the 100meter dash in the 1988 Games, will present reflections on his track career and some learned about staying healthy and fit for life.

Representatives of the National Senior Games Association, the Sunshine Center and Healthy St. Pete will also speak about the health, fitness and social benefits of participating in senior sports and recreational activities at local, state and national levels. Attendees can learn about the many opportunities in Florida to join the Senior Games Movement.

The first 10 people to pre-register and attend the event will receive a free copy of Calvin Smith’s book “It Should Have Been Gold.”

To pre-register, call (727) 893-7102. Refreshments provided.

www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

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Talk to a banker for more details. Offer expires March 22, 2019.

Platinum Savings Account

2.10% Annual Percentage Yield for 12 months

Enjoy a special interest rate for 12 months with new money deposits of at least $25,000 and a minimum daily account balance of $25,000 or more.

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2.60% Annual Percentage Yield for 11 months

Guaranteed fixed rate with new money deposits of at least $25,000 for an 11-month term.

Both accounts are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowance limit. Platinum Savings offer available in CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NY, SC and VA. Fixed Rate CD offer available in AL, AZ, CT, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NM, NV, NY, PA, SC and VA. Portfolio by Wells Fargo® customers are eligible to receive an additional interest rate bonus on these accounts.

1. To qualify for this offer, you must have a new or existing Platinum Savings account and enroll the account in this offer between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. This offer is subject to change at any time, without notice. Offer is available to Platinum Savings customers in the following states: AL, AZ, CT, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NY, SC and VA. Accounts must be active and open for the entire enrollment period. Offer cannot be reproduced, purchased, sold, transferred, or traded. Offer cannot be combined with any other consumer deposit offer. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least $25,000 is for this offer. Accounts may only be opened at your local branch. Wells Fargo reserves the right to modify or discontinue the offer at any time without notice. Offer cannot be combined with any other consumer deposit offer. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least $25,000 and a minimum daily account balance of $25,000 or more.

2. The Special Rate program has a $30 monthly service fee, which can be avoided when you have one of the following qualifying balances: $25,000 or more in qualifying linked bank deposit accounts (checking, savings, CDs, FDIC-insured IRAs) and an aggregate balance of $50,000 or more in your checking and savings accounts. Special Rates are applicable to the initial term of the CD only. At maturity, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. A fee for early withdrawal will be imposed and could reduce earnings on this account.

3. The Special Rate CD offer available in AL, AZ, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NM, NV, NY, PA, SC and VA. Portfolio by Wells Fargo® customers are eligible to receive an additional interest rate bonus on these accounts.
COMMUNITY NEWS

African attire lights up the walkway

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG -- A rainbow of African attire lit up the walkway in front of Tangela Murph-Bai-ley’s Reader’s Choice Bookstore and Gift Ex-pressions Feb. 5 at the Skyway Mall.

Professionals, young adults and children from the community strutted their stuff down a walk-way turned runway, donning Yoruba blouses, wrap skirts and dashikis while saxophonist Henry Ashwood provided a jazzy soundtrack to the annual event.

The part of mistress of ceremony was played by Tei Thomas, Irish from a trip to Malawi.

"We fed more than 4,000 children and 500 adults," said Thomas, as she began to address the audience at the fashion show. "There wasn’t any McDonald’s, Burger King, KFC. Wasn’t no beef, pork or chicken in it, just beans and rice, and they were happy with that!"

Thomas collected pennies from the audience to help build a school for Malawian children.

Local author Linda Melody received applause as she graced the walkway in her regal red attire with gold and white trim. Former St. Petersburg Times journalist Roger Clendenning represented the strength and wisdom of local elder village men in a king's white robe with silver and gray trim.

Marques Clark, motivational speaker and au-thor, performed an original poem honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Clark’s new book entitled "Breaking Out: Escape The Fear of Failure," echoes the theme of hope passed down by Dr. King.

The highlight of the after-noon came in the form of young African kings and queens showcasing their heritage in the form of fashion. With royal strides, the young ones looked proud to be Africans living in America.

To reach Allen Buchanan, email abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com

Does Your Sprinkler System Need a Check Up?

Is your sprinkler system watering as efficiently as it can?

The city is offering a free check-up to customers!

Participants in the program will receive at no charge:

• Complete sprinkler system evaluation
• Restatement of non-earmarked irrigation zone, if necessary
• Essential repairs that may help save water.

To be eligible, you must be a St. Petersburg water customer, and your property must:

• Have an operating improved sprinkler system with timer
• Be without drinking, sodding, reclaiming, or well water.

APPLY NOW!
SensibleSprinkling@stpete.org or call 727-892-5611

REBATES UP TO $125
ST PETERSBURG WASHER REBATE PROGRAM

• Rebate for one high flow, non-HE washer replaced by a high efficiency EPA Energy Star model.
• Open to all St. Petersburg single family residential water customers.
• Reduce your laundry water use by up to 45% and energy use by up to 25%.

This Pilot Project is available for a limited time; restrictions and specific procedures apply.

A new clothes washer purchased and/or installed prior to August 12, 2008 is not eligible for a rebate.

Email or Call Today!
WasherRebate@stpete.org or 727-892-5611

This program is cooperatively funded by the City of St. Petersburg and the Southwest Florida Water Management District
Emerging Leader 2019 Fellow – Michael Shorter

ST. PETERSBURG — The 2020 Plan, City of St. Petersburg Department of Urban Affairs and One Community’s Emerging Leaders Fellowship & Intern Program have gaged 11 young adults ages 18-40 to become a diverse group in community leadership.

The program will provide training for the fellows and interns then supervise them to serve as an active force in community advancement initiatives with introductions to many community leaders. Our community needs leaders to continue positive movement in community actions.

In partnership with The Weekly Challenger, the 2020 Plan would like to introduce another dynamic member of the Emerging Leaders Inaugural Class 2019 Fellow Michael Shorter.

A native of St. Petersburg, Shorter is always seeking to conquer tough challenges alongside or create something unique and engage others. After graduating from Gibbs High School’s Business, Economics and Technology School’s Business, Economics and Technology Program he started a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Marketing.

Shorter defined his passion of becoming a licensed funeral director and obtained an Associate of Science degree from St. Petersburg College in Funeral Services in 2010. As a licensed funeral director, he has been serving the families of Tampa Bay for the past seven years.

In 2005, Shorter became the first Eagle Scout from Troop 223, based at Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. He has since strived to increase his involvement in community and civic service throughout St. Pete.

His present involvement and leadership roles include being the executive director of Louis Murphy Jr.’s 1st Down 4 Life, a minister at Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, director of general operations at RESTORED, Young Adults, board member of The Rotary Club of St. Petersburg and committees member of International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards.

In Oct. 2015, Shorter achieved one of the highest honors as a professional and obtained his Certified Funeral Service Practitioner designation from the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, further exemplifying his dedication to life-long career learning.

Shorter is currently the location manager of Anderson McQueen Funeral Home in northeast St. Pete and owner of Shorter Services LLC, a company that focuses on leadership development, strategic planning and operations solutions for business startups and nonprofit organizations.

He lives in St. Pete with his wife of eight years, Ashley, their three-year-old son, Michael III, and one-year-old daughter, Sarai.

## Community News

### Seeking Transformation Zone teachers

COUNTRYWIDE — Pinellas County Schools is seeking educators to work in its Transformation Zone. The Transformation Zone is an area where schools provide a nurturing environment with researched strategies and systems in an effort to increase student achievement and ensure college and career readiness for students.

An information session/ job fair will be held Saturday, March 16 from 11:30 a.m. at the University of South Florida South St. Petersburg’s Lynn Papenfuss Hall, 504 37th Ave. S, St. Petersburg. The information session will be held in rooms LPH 127 and LPH 128.

Teachers, counselors, psychologists and social workers are invited to attend the session.

A career in the Transformation Zone is a rewarding opportunity to change lives and additionally offers opportunities such as:

- High quality support
- High performing students
- Extended learning day
- Full-time Student Services team
- Transformation Zone District Support Team
- Data Analysis and accountability
- The Transformation Zone is led by proven turnaround leaders and is designed to move schools out of Differentiated Accountability status as a result of being designated a "D" or an "F" by the Florida Department of Education. The mission is to improve academic outcomes by providing intense teaching and intervention that leads to a turnaround in student achievement, school culture and climate, and community engagement.

With an innovative, 21st Century model of quality education, Transformation Zone classrooms are led by teachers, counselors, psychologists, social workers, and instructional coaches.

Transformation Zone teachers do not work as silos but work shoulder-to-shoulder with colleagues for the successful education of every student.

A culture of collaboration is a hallmark of work in the Transformation Zone. The positive impact of the Transformation Zone is the ability to deliver care, teaching, and content to students throughout every classroom experience.

For more information, contact Raquel Perez-Russo at 727-588-5007 or Perez-Russo@pcsb.org and/or Jennifer MacCleary at 727-588-6501 or Jennifer.maccleary@pcsb.org. Register by going to TheWeeklyChallenger.com and using the link at the bottom of the article.

### Evangelical Fellowship of Mt. Sinai

At Glad Tidings

Prayer, Prophecy, Healing and Restoration

Matters of the Heart Connecting Point Ministry and Today’s New Revelation Ministry will host our first Spring Revival on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 10AM - 2PM at Glad Tidings Assembly of God, 4200 17th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Fl. in the Blue Room.

PURPOSE: Opportunity for salvation in Evangelism Experience with praise, worship, training and fellowship. We are believing God through this revival that many souls will be won for Christ through the Holy Spirit for Kingdom building.

The Princess would like to invite Pastors, Ministers, Elders, Prayer Warriors, men, women, boys and girls to support this event and make it a Spiritual Success.

For additional information contact Bishop Judy Rivers at 727-509-5673 or Princess Denise Wright at 727-488-8518.

Refreshments will be served. Free-willed donations appreciated.
known as the Deuces, in the 1940s. In Jim Crown St. Pete, the Deuces was where African-Americans residents created their own main street with thriving black-owned businesses.

Archie Boston talked about how the documentary came to be. “We worked on the film about two and a half years, starting in 2016. I had written a book called ‘Little Rascals of the Sunshine City,’ so my brother decided to come up with the idea of doing a documentary about when we grew up in St. Petersburg.”

Inspired by stories in the book, the brothers decided to interview people “who were there.” Both brothers attended Gibbs High School with many of the people interviewed in the film.

The documentary tells the stories of educators, pastors, activists and more. Among those featured in the film are the Uhuru Movement’s Omali Yeshitela, educator Mozelle Davis, restaurateurs Carolyn and Elihu Brayboy, restaurateurs Carolyn and Elihu Brayboy, historian and business consultant Gwen-dolyn Reese, Park and Recreation manager Thomas “Jet” Jackson, Frederick Winters, a leader of the 1968 Sanita-tion Strike and Barbara Shorter, the first African American high school principal in Pinellas County.

“Black Pioneers” is a quick study at only an hour long, and is filled with his-torical photos, films, video footage along with music from the ’50s and ’60s. “Black Pioneers of the Sunshine City” is sched-uled to air on WEDU next Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweekly-challenger.com

MYRTIS LLOYD LOVETT
February 22, 1929 - January 11, 2015
In loving memory of someone celebrating her 90th birthday in heaven

Over 4 years, I have cherished precious memories of you each day.

However, the deep ache in my heart never seems to go away.

Happy 90th Birthday Mother, as you celebrate without me,

Because I never for get anyone’s birthday, you know this wish comes from DEE.

Love and in Christ,
Your Elder Daughter Dee

FRIENDS of the JOHNSON BRANCH LIBRARY Presents the...
James Weldon Johnson Community Library
9th Annual Literacy Festival

Saturday, March 16, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
1059 - 18th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL

Behind the Library

- bounce
- Puppet Show
- Music / Music
- Free Children’s Books
- Food / For purchase, all
- Free Children’s Books
- Food / For purchase, all

Vendors are welcome! Visit our website at www.FOJBL.org

This organization is committed to providing access, and reasonable accommodation in services, programs, and activities for individuals with disabilities. Individuals requiring assistance should contact the agency at (727) 542-2306.

The above/Department is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event nor agreeing or disagreeing with the views of the organization sponsoring the activity.
Since the beginning of Lunch Pals, Diner has sought other companies and organizations to encourage their staffs to participate and meet with students once a week during their lunch periods. As of the close of the last school year, 1,000 children had been paired with a mentor.

The goal was to get another 500 Lunch Pals for this school year, and already the program has almost 1,400. The list of partners has grown as well and includes the St. Pete Police Department and the Tampa Bay Times.

Anyone can donate his or her time and be paired with a young Lunch Pal, Diner said. There is an orientation workshop that prospective mentors must attend, which takes about an hour, and they must submit to a background check. The school system provides resources to help mentors connect with their Lunch Pal as well, such as a Lunch Pals newsletter that gives ideas to mentors for activities and topics of discussion. Mentors and kids don’t usually spend their time in the cafeteria. Diner explained, as the exuberant atmosphere of a school lunchroom can get rather noisy. Diner himself meets with his lunch pal on the picnic tables outside, and they bond in a variety of ways, which can include talking, reading a book or simply playing a game. Volunteers meet with their Lunch Pal once a week and only during that half hour as there is no contact between them the rest of the week.

It is often the principal, a teacher or guidance counselor at a particular school that identifies a child that would benefit most by being paired up with a lunch pal, and the parents simply have to agree to it.

Mentors and kids don’t usually spend their time in the cafeteria, Diner explained, as the raucous atmosphere of a school lunchroom can get rather noisy. Diner himself meets with his lunch pal on the picnic tables outside, and they bond in a variety of ways, which can include talking, reading a book or simply playing a game. Volunteers meet with their Lunch Pal once a week and only during that half hour as there is no contact between them the rest of the week.

It is often the principal, a teacher or guidance counselor at a particular school that identifies a child that would benefit most by being paired up with a lunch pal, and the parents simply have to agree to it.

“Lunch Pals is not a tutoring program,” Diner said. “Lunch Pals is a mentoring program. The schools are responsible for helping the kids get better—this is about making the kids feel better. And we only have a half an hour, and kids don’t want to study over lunch.”

How mentor and child spend the time together isn’t as important as the time spent together itself. “The most important thing you do is show up,” Diner said. “Because that’s what’s missing in a child’s life. What you do there is almost second- ary.”

During a visit with one of his lunch pals, Diner said he merely talked about a recent trip he had taken. “We were just talking about the trip,” Diner said, “and I was reminding them that if they’ll be able to take trips like this as long as they keep doing good in school and get good grades and get a good job.”

Diner has been desperately looking for folks who will volunteer in elementary schools in south St. Pete. It is the program’s goal to match black and brown boys and girls with mentors that look like them.

Without much success in reaching African-American professionals and retirees, the program is sending out a call to action to the community, asking for caring adults to spend 30 minutes a day, one day a week investing in a child’s life.

If your fraternity, sorority, church, social or civic group is looking for a service program that will enhance the social, economic and educational well-being of the community, contact Keosha Simmons, Lunch Pals Coordinator at 727-588-0000 ext. 1369 or simmonskeo@pcsb.org. For more information on the Lunch Pals program, log on to lunchpals.org.
The diary industry’s massive public relations campaign dating back to the 1960s has brainwashed most people into thinking cows’ milk is good for you when, in fact, it is the opposite. Milk products like ba-
critica, are a type of food produced or con-
taining the milk of mam-
imals, primarily cattle. Dairy foods such as cheese, curd, yogurt, sour cream, butter and ice-
cream are all made with milk. Animal proteins pro-
duce acids when they are digested in the human body and turn the acid. The human body neutralizes this acid with a system of alkaline, 7.376.

Why dairy is bad for your health

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"AGENT X" screening during the Sunshine Film Festival in Jan., 2019.

St. Pete filmmakers return to Afrocom Comic Book Tour.

"AGENT X" Comic Book

Next showing Feb. 24 at Sundial AMC

www.agentxthemovie.com

To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Angelia Fletcher at (727) 403-8111 or Dominique Patterson at (727) 768-1473.

This is an amazing opportunity for locals to showcase their talent while participating in this rewarding form of outreach.

For more information, contact Angela Fletcher at (727) 403-8111 or Dominique Patterson at (727) 768-1473.

Call the box office for more information at 727-423-FLAT (5382), or log on to our website at www.age.com.

To reach Faye Tippy, email ftippy@theweeklychallenger.com

OPEN CASTING CALL

The 9th annual “Passion/ The Resurrection” production is looking for:

Actors – Rap Dancers
Christian Rap Artist

Auditions: February 24
Location: Victory Christian Center, 3012 18th Ave. S.

Actors can have a monologue or we can do improvisation
Rap Artist be prepared to perform
Dancers can be choreographed or freelance

ST. PETERSBURG – The premiere for "PIPELINE" is timely and serious, especially in a town where many of the predominantly black schools are nationally known as "failure factories."

The play’s title refers to the school-to-prison pipeline, which disproportionately affects children from disadvantaged backgrounds by imprinting with harsh school and municipal policies.

The prison link unusually affects black and brown students, particularly males. Its root causes are numerous and can be traveled back to the zero-tolerance policies that set predetermined consequences or penalties for specific offenses, often resulting in arrest or expulsion. These policies are referred to as the discipline gap, which in turns leads to the achievement gap.

"PIPELINE" calls attention to the limitations of our educational system and the legacy of violence confronting black and brown youth in America. I thought I had a grasp on the situation, but I was bewildered understandly.

The production got my attention and awakened some sensitivities and questions that I was not aware existed. Also interesting, it demonstrates that not only young black and brown males are subject to this situation, and that middle-income students can feel the consequences in elite schools resulting in the same conclusion.

Written by playwright Dominique Morisseau, a Chicago native, the play which was commissioned by Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre, premiered in New York City in 2017 at the Kennedy Center. The American Stage performance run is at the Tampa Bay area premiere.

Written and directed by Dominique Morisseau, "PIPELINE" is a working-class play that was commissioned by Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre, premiered in New York City in 2017 at the Kennedy Center. The American Stage performance run is at the Tampa Bay area premiere.

"PIPELINE" runs through Feb. 24 with matinees and evening performances. Don’t forget to stay for chats and discussions. Don’t forget to stay for chats and discussions. Don’t forget to stay for chats and discussions.

The intimate setting of 148 seats at the intimate setting of 148 seats at the intimate setting of 148 seats at the intimate setting of 148 seats at the intimate setting of 148 seats at the...
Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Victory Christian Center Church
3012 10th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Fl 33712
(727) 323-0911
www.victorychristiancenterchurch.org

Welcome - Bienvenidos
ST. AUGUSTINE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Joyful Spirit, Joyful Jazz
2920 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg 33712
727-867-6774
Sstaburngas@tampabay.rr.com
The Rev. Josie Rose, Priest-in-Charge

Communion and Worship Service 9:00 a.m. every Sunday
(Full breakfast served after service, $6.00)
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays

20th Street Church Of Christ
923 20th Street South
St. Petersburg, Fl 33712
Home: 896-8006

Keynote Speaker: Alicia Williamson-Garcia
Theme: Rest In The Lord
“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Women’s Growth Institute
35th Annual Retreat
at Southside Tabernacle Baptist
3647 18th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, Fl 33711
727-327-9711 • www.ssboc.org
Saturday, March 9 • 8:30am-3pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Alicia Williamson-Garcia
Theme: Rest In The Lord
“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Workshops Speakers and Topics

Shelia Corbett was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. She is married to Walter Corbett. They have four children and five grand children. She is a faithful member of Faith Memorial M.B. Church, where she sings in the Joyful Ensemble, and combines choir and serves as a Sunday School Teacher, and other ministries at Faith.

Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Arroyo

BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
2901 - 54th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Fl 33712
(727) 866-2567
www.mzprogressive.org
Email: info@mzprogressive.org • Phone: 727-764-2784

Ruwach International Ministries
Pastor/Prophet Huberta Rejouis
940 11th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, Fl 33712
(phone: 727-764-2784)

Sunday Night Worship Service: 7:30p.m
Thursday Night Prayer and Bible Study (Yara Time): 7:30pm
Ruwach International Ministries is an Apostolic global ministry. We operate in the five-fold ministry.
All are Welcome! Shalom!

INSPIRATIONS

BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Arroyo

By Dierdre Downing-Jackson

MIGHTY GOD, from whom all blessings flow.
A All your Holy Spirit to bless us and let us know;
R Revelation in your presence and righteousness as we stand;
F Redemption for our sins, as we humbly hold Your Hand.
I Involve us in your purpose, and keep us in Your sight.
A Amazing is Your awesome grace and we thank You JESUS for Your might.
G Give our hearts new meaning, as we seek Your Holy Face.
E Enlarge our spirits and renew our minds with wisdom and direction.
R Revelation in your presence and righteousness as we stand;
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G Give our hearts new meaning, as we seek Your Holy Face.
E Enlarge our spirits and renew our minds with wisdom and direction.
“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no sea anymore.” (Revelation 21:1)

For it is evident that no man has knowledge of things to come, or of the powers of the world to come. (1 Corinthians 13:2)

The experience of traveling with Watoto has changed the lives of many people around the world. The choir’s message is clear: “It is possible to have a child who is an orphan, who has no family, who has never had a home. The child will love to share the hope they have found in Jesus. They will love to share the story of how God is doing through Watoto and all contributions will be presented to the Choir in order to further their ministry for the children of Africa.”

Watoto Children’s Choir is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. They have traveled the world extensively, spreading hope and sharing the message of Jesus Christ. Come participate in this amazing event at Friendship Baptist Church on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. It will be an experience you will never forget. They will share the inspiring story of how God is working through Watoto to transform lives around the world.

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Watoto Children’s Choir is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. They have traveled the world extensively, spreading hope and sharing the message of Jesus Christ. Come participate in this amazing event at Friendship Baptist Church on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. It will be an experience you will never forget. They will share the inspiring story of how God is working through Watoto to transform lives around the world. The choir’s message is clear: “It is possible to have a child who is an orphan, who has no family, who has never had a home. The child will love to share the hope they have found in Jesus. They will love to share the story of how God is doing through Watoto and all contributions will be presented to the Choir in order to further their ministry for the children of Africa.”
Neighborhood Senior Café is looking for new members

Valentine, from front page

Join their organization.

Most of the seniors in attendance are members of Neighborhood Senior Café, which is a free government-funded program located at several centers throughout Pinellas County. This year, seniors and volunteers from area churches also joined in on the fun.

Along with a hot, nutritious meal, Neighborhood offers participants informational programs, cooking demonstrations, entertainment and activities seven days a week. They experience social interaction that is beneficial for their overall health and wellbeing. To participate, you must be at least 60 years old.

Neighborhood offers pick up and drop off to and from the Enoch Davis Center or if you’re home-bound or would just rather stay home, they also offer Meals on Wheels.

Cheryl Holliday, a Neighborhood site coordinator at the Enoch Davis Center said the seniors seem to enjoy the fellowship the program has to offer.

With the program nowhere near capacity, Holliday encourages seniors to come down and discuss their options. Although the café is open seven days a week, Tuesdays through Thursdays are the best days to chat with her.

If you’re not too busy between the hours of 10-1 p.m. Monday through Friday and would like to get out of the house and meet new people, please call Holliday at (727) 823-4442 to help get you signed up.

If you’re not too busy between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and would like to get out of the house and meet new people, please call Holliday at (727) 823-4442 to help get you signed up.

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Neighborhood Senior Café is looking for new members.

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