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Photo by Lauren Jeziorski

Pictured (from left): Bozenka Shepherd and Hayley Steinkopf Bonafede at Lovers Only in Detroit

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Online in August

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Miss Black USA
Kelsi Horn prepares to end her reign



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What are the benefits of breastfeeding?



Regina Frost, M.D.

Breastfeed or bottle-feed? It's one of the most important decisions first-time moms make when it comes to their newborns, and increasing evidence shows that "breast is best."

"Breastfeeding allows the body to recover from pregnancy and childbirth more quickly," says Dr. Regina Frost, M.D., board-certified OB-GYN with Ascension St. John Hospital.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends breastfeeding exclusively for six months. However, breastfeeding even for a short period of time can be beneficial to you and your baby, Dr. Frost says.

In fact, mothers who breastfeed can lower their risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, ovarian cancer and breast cancer. Breastfed babies have a decreased risk of ear infection and infections that cause diarrhea, Dr. Frost adds, and breastfeeding may decrease childhood obesity and the risk of sudden

infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Aside from the health benefits, breastfeeding is cost-effective.

"Parents spend up to \$1,200 per year when formula feeding and up to \$300 per year when breastfeeding," Dr. Frost says, noting that the \$300 represents the cost of the extra food a breastfeeding mother eats.

However, despite the many benefits, African-American mothers lag behind breastfeeding averages at both state and national levels. Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association (BMBFA) reports 81% of women nationwide will attempt breastfeeding, but only 66% of African-American women attempt to breastfeed. The numbers are worse for Michigan moms. Statewide, three quarters (75.4%) of all moms attempt to breastfeed, but BMBFA notes, only 57.1% of African-American mothers attempt to breastfeed.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),

some breastfeeding barriers black mothers face include returning to work earlier, lack of access to professional breastfeeding support and the inadequate receipt of breastfeeding information from providers.

However, there are many resources for breastfeeding information and support, Dr. Frost says.

"This is not something that they have to do alone," she says. "Some hospitals have lactation consultants. The hospital where I work – Ascension St. John Hospital – will assist moms after delivery until they go home. They also can meet with the mother and her child in the breastfeeding clinic once she has been discharged. They are also available to answer questions by phone."

In addition to BMBFA, the La Leche League and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) are great sources of information, she adds.

"The WIC program used to focus more on formula, but has recently developed programs to facilitate breastfeeding," she says. "If you are eligible for WIC, inquire about their breastfeeding services and resources."

Dr. Frost recommends attending a prenatal breastfeeding class and gathering support prior to having the baby. Nipple piercings and other objects should be removed from the breasts prior to giving birth. Once breastfeeding has begun, address any problems early with a lactation consultant or your doctor.

Breastfeeding may be new and scary for first-time moms, but she says, "When they are surrounded by other women who share similar challenges and provided education and practical tips, the moms will then be able to overcome some of the challenges of breastfeeding while reaping the benefits for themselves and for their children."

Get more health information and find a doctor near you by visiting ascension.org/michigan or calling 866-501-DOCS (3627)



Ford Motor Company Fund

A year-long series featuring Detroiters who are driving positive change in their communities.

Driving Community

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund



Pamela E. Alexander, Deputy Director, Ruth Ellis Center

A background in urban planning led this former Detroit resident to help at-risk LGBTQ youth reach their full potential, and to educate others on how to do the same.

Imagine, for a moment, that your parents kick you out as a teen over something you can't control. In an instant, you go from having a roof over your head and food in your belly to homeless and hungry with nowhere to turn.

It's a reality that many LGBTQ youth face – and one that Pamela E. Alexander, the deputy director of the Ruth Ellis Center, has spent more than 30 years trying to change.

"I myself identify as a lesbian. I came out late in life, but I know first-

hand what these young people experience," the Mount Clemens native says. "It's one of my motivations."

Her work started back in the mid-1990s when Alexander met "Detroit's oldest and proudest African-American lesbian" and the namesake of the center, Ruth Ellis.

"I met Ruth Ellis at Unity Fellowship Church in 1994 or 1995," Alexander says. "We went to church every Sunday until she passed away in 2000 at the age of 101."

Around the time of Ellis' pass-

ing, Alexander – who has a master's degree in urban planning from Wayne State University and a master's of administration from Central Michigan University – was heavily involved with the development of the center, which offers housing, health care and other services to at-risk LGBTQ youth.

"I was part of the early group of folks that was involved in the surveys as the Ruth Ellis Center was being designed," she says. "We were concerned by the level of homeless-

ness at the time (and) the center just prospered over the years."

In the mid-2000s, Alexander left Detroit where she'd raised her two daughters, London and Andrea, and her son, Vincent, who was a Marine Corps staff sergeant, killed in Afghanistan in 2011. Alexander settled in Macomb Township.

In 2013, she co-founded the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce in an effort to create an LGBT district in the city of Detroit.

"I'd already done a lot of work to

create a chamber of commerce, but when I was invited to a meeting that day, I presented it to the president of the city council and he really liked that idea,” she explains. “Right now, Detroit does not have a designated LGBT community and I thought by starting a community it would start the gay district.”

She would serve as president of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce until 2015; she was hired as the deputy director of the Ruth Ellis Center in 2014. “I was hired for a reason,” she says. “I came to bring in a new system on how we could and should provide services.”

Through this new system, the Ruth Ellis Center was able to update and create new policies, which earned them an accredita-

tion through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. That means the center operates at the highest standards possible.

“To my knowledge, we’re the only LGBT organization in the country to have that accreditation,” she says. In addition, over the last year, Alexander has also served as secretary of the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce, where she works to support community growth and affect policy.

“We’re at all the tables. We’re at tables in Detroit and Highland Park where people (are) making decisions and policies. We’re at tables that impact young people and LGBT youth, by addressing homelessness, food disparity, safety and education,” she says.

And that’s still not all. She has plans to expand the services at Ruth Ellis and create target programming specifically for lesbians and people who identify as women. She also hopes to one day put her love of history and coffee to use by opening a global coffee house in Detroit.

“I’ve been drinking coffee since I was 12 years old. I learned so much about coffee over the decades,” she says. But that’s still a ways off.

“I’m a mom, first and foremost, (but) I love the work that I do, I love working with people and I love working with Ruth Ellis,” she says. “I’ve had a fairly good life, except losing my son; I miss him every day. I enjoy planning for a global coffee house, but, in the meantime, I will continue doing this work in some capacity.”

“It takes a village to raise a child – but just one person to change a community.”

At Ford, we believe in promoting diversity and inclusion and that is why we are pleased to recognize Pamela E. Alexander and the Ruth Ellis Center as a valuable resource.

The Ruth Ellis Center supports the Detroit area through outreach, safety net services, health and wellness, food resources and by providing a state-licensed foster care program.

The center also provides a short- and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk youth throughout the city of Detroit.

Through active involvement, Ford Motor Company Fund & Community Services seeks to build relationships with organizations that have a well-defined sense of purpose. This is why we stand behind the Ruth Ellis Center’s model of responsibility to oneself and one’s community.

Ford commends Pamela E. Alexander for being a champion for change and for her dedication to the improvement of young people’s lives.

– Pamela Alexander, director of community development for Ford Motor Company

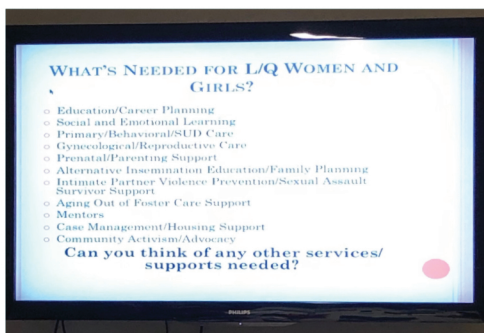


Photo above (top, left): Pamela’s son, Vincent, Marine Corps staff sergeant, was killed in Afghanistan in 2011.

FUTURE FOCUSED

For more information on the Ruth Ellis Center and the work they do to help support at-risk LGBTQ youth, visit ruthelliscenter.org.

Editor’s note: The subject of this profile, Pamela E. Alexander, has no relation to Ford Motor Company’s director of community development, also named Pamela Alexander.



JUST



W

e get it if when you get your hands on a juicy, ripe peach, you just like to tear right into it. Who could chide you, really?

It's kind of perfect as is. But, hear us out. August is National Peach Month, so to praise one of summer's favorite fruits, we've collected a few easy, peach-forward recipes to help you level up a classic.

Oh yes, there will be booze.

Peaches & Cream Martini

Courtesy of realhousemoms.com

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

½ cup peach puree (jarred or made from 1 medium ripe, yellow peach)
½ cup peach schnapps
½ cup cream liqueur (Cask & Cream)
splash of triple sec
ice

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

In a cocktail shaker – or mason jar – add ice, peach puree, schnapps, cream liqueur and triple sec. Shake vigorously. Strain into two martini glasses. Garnish with peach slices, and enjoy right away.

Peachy



S'Meaches

Courtesy of foodandwine.com

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

1 peach, sliced into 6-8 slices, then halved horizontally
6-8 marshmallows
½ cup brown sugar
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
graham crackers

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

Mix the cayenne and sugar and toss the peaches in it. Put a bottom half of a peach slice on a stick, add the marshmallow, then the other half of the peach. Toast over a medium-low flame until caramelized and browned. Smush between two graham crackers.

Country Ham & Peach Panini

Courtesy of myrecipes.com

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

8 ciabatta bread slices (or any firm white bread)
4 teaspoons coarse-grained Dijon mustard
4 fontina cheese slices
4 ounces thinly sliced country ham or prosciutto
2 medium peaches, unpeeled and sliced
4 teaspoons honey (optional)
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

Spread mustard on 4 slices of bread, and season with pepper. Layer with cheese, ham, peaches and honey. Top with remaining bread slices, and brush outside with olive oil. In a panini press (or nonstick grill pan), cook 3-4 minutes on each side until golden brown or cheese is melted. Serve immediately.



Photo by Itaysha Jordan

Think Pieces

Tracy Reese says, "It's all yellow, brown and black people that are in semislavery making fast fashion, and we really have to consider that." Reese and other thoughtful fashion players are working to disrupt the way we think about and consume fashion. That cute, \$30 blouse is appealing, no doubt, but examine the true cost.

The fashion industry produces 20% of global wastewater and 10% of the planet's carbon emissions, according to the United Nations Environment Programme. Every second, one garbage truck's worth of textiles is landfilled or burned.

Reese's new responsibly designed collection, Hope for Flowers, is available at Detroit is the New Black and Anthropologie. "After 30-plus years in the industry,

I knew it was time for me to do something that was sustainable and really change my whole supply chain, and figure out how I could create products that were less harmful to the planet," she says.

The pieces crafted in Detroit made use of 100% organic textiles, Reese says. They were silk-screened in Detroit – with help from Cass Tech students – and stitched in Flint at St. Luke's N.E.W. Life Center, "which has a small factory where they're training women in industrial sewing."

"We really have to think about buying less but buying better quality – better materials, more transparent sources," Reese says. "I don't believe in throw-away clothing. I believe we should be able to wear and keep and treasure our clothes for a lifetime."

– P.G.

DAPPER DETROIT

Think it an indulgence if you must, but there's real power in fashion. A well-cut suit on a man has the ability to not only change the way that man thinks about himself but to affect the way everyone else sees him. Nelson Sanders' line of custom-tailored suits and menswear, Dandy, harnesses that energy without losing any of that signature Detroit flavor.

With a setup inside Detroit is the New Black, Dandy offers a service that's somewhere between made-to-measure – a pre-existing suit is altered to fit the wearer – and bespoke, which is when the suit is handcrafted from scratch without pre-existing patterns and

typically by master artisans. Think the equivalent of a haute couture gown. Sanders doesn't consider what he does to be true bespoke, but still, he says customers can expect their own unique pattern cut from scratch and quality fabrics from mills in Italy and England.

The process, start-to-finish, takes six to eight weeks, and it starts with a conversation. Sanders says he likes to know whether his guy is looking to fill a gap in his wardrobe, start from fresh and build, or maybe he's planning for a special occasion. "If they already have their foundation suits and they're trying to get a little funky, that's where I usually can have the most fun," he says.

"One thing I try to do a lot of is educating when I'm going through the process, because a lot of guys appreciate that. I'm explaining why I make certain changes and how they affect the overall fit (and) look."

Sanders walks the walk, too. It's unusual to catch him outside of a tailored suit. "A lot of the inspiration comes from my pops – old-school Detroit guy. I mean every day ... if he was going to the grocery store, you know, collar shirt, sweater, hard-bottom shoes." He's hoping to capture the zeitgeist of Pop's day and make it right now. He says, "We can have that Detroit sauce on it, but let's clean it up."

– P.G.

Photo by J. Milhouse

dandydetroit.com





A THOUSAND WORDS

Detroit's landscape is changing at a breakneck pace. In the face of progress, it can be easy to forget our history and the foundation upon which the city was built. PBS is honoring the past with its new three-part series *Family Pictures USA*.

The series follows photographer and filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris across the country as he interacts with everyday Americans who present their family photos and the stories behind them. "History isn't just the artifacts in institutions," Harris says. "It's also the precious objects we hold in our hands and in our hearts."

Some of the photos and albums are well over 100 years old. They tell tales of immigrants, migrants from the South and of people who were seeking better lives for themselves and their people.

The often-forgotten histories of the Packard Motor Car Company, Coles department stores and the Ojibwe – one of the largest indigenous North American groups – are discussed in Episode 2, airing on Aug. 13 and set in Detroit.

No account of the city's past is complete without acknowledging the contributions of Black Bottom. The once-affluent Detroit neighborhood was home to thriving black businesses and a growing middle class. It was completely demolished by the early 1960s. "It's all right there in the images – whole neighborhoods destroyed for 'urban renewal,'" Harris explains.

The program and Harris make a point, though, to also look forward to the new creatives and activists in the city, highlighting urban artistry and farming. He says, "The comeback city can't be kept down."

– E.C.

Family Pictures USA airs on
PBS Aug. 12-13.
familypicturesusa.com



CURL POWER

Tracy Arrington, founder and president of Healthy Hair Matters Foundation, believes that a woman's hair is her crowning glory. "We know that how the hair looks isn't and shouldn't be everything about a girl, but it gives you confidence," says Arrington, whose mom gifted her with her first hot comb in ninth grade; she hasn't looked back since. "When you feel good externally, you feel

good internally."

Healthy Hair Matters' goal is to nurture teenage black girls in metro Detroit from the inside out – and from the roots down. Its mission is to "develop self-awareness and empower teen girls" by providing "life skills, one-on-one mentoring, free hair care services and classes, and scholarships for college."

Career building, cooking and nutritional skills, and financial literacy programs are

taught alongside subjects you might not expect, like dining etiquette and positive relationship building. "This foundation is run by some of God's finest women this side of heaven," says parent Ciara Smith. "Should your daughter have the chance to join this foundation, you will see growth and they will never be the same!"

– A.S.

OFF

- THE -

RAILS

The second phase of Riverside Park's \$13.2-million makeover enjoyed its grand unveiling in June. Moving forward, skateboard enthusiasts can "grind a sick axle," or whatever the lingo is, at the foot of Detroit's Ambassador Bridge at the new skate park.

The ribbon cutting was applauded by the legend Tony Hawk himself, who later blessed the pavement with its first skating demo. The park used to be the site of the old *Detroit News* warehouse until it was bought and repurposed by the Detroit International Bridge Co.

"It's an oasis in downtown Detroit," says local city guide Dave Rotter. "Riverside Skatepark is a clean, well-planned, safe, family-friendly destination." The skate park, which alone cost \$800,000, was designed by Seattle-based Grindline Skateparks. But, there's a community touch. Local nonprofits like Community Push – an org pushing for the progression of skateboarding in Detroit – were involved in the brainstorming and planning process.

Riverside features bowls, ramps, lifts and rails with varying difficulty levels so no one feels left out. Skateboarders, in-line skaters and BMXers of all skill levels and ages are invited to test their skills. The 15,000-square-foot facility blows now-closed Wayfinding (100 Monroe St.) out of the water. Wayfinding was also endorsed by Hawk when it opened in 2017, but unlike Riverside, it was slated to be a temporary installation.

Expect more Riverside Park additions like a splash pad, beach playground, picnic shelter and amphitheater in the next couple seasons.

– A.S.



3511 W. Jefferson Ave.
Detroit

MIND GAMES

If you're planning to try out the new Erebus Escape in downtown Pontiac, you can leave the extra pair of undies at home. Ed and James Terebus, brothers and co-owners of the Erebus horror brand, promise that Erebus Escape offers "all the fun, with none of the fear." That is, as long as you're not deathly afraid of whodunits.

Erebus' most recent attraction is a collection of escape room puzzles, with all the detail and atmosphere of the infamous haunted house but none of the fright. Visitors choose a themed room and are given the objective to – you guessed it – escape a room by solving puzzles and riddles in 60 minutes.

The themes are widely varied so everyone can pick their poison. Sci-fi fans can race against the clock and a deadly alien disease in Northstar Labs while mythology junkies work to free a vengeful god in Eye of Horus.



"I went a few weeks ago and got to take a look at the new Body of Evidence room," says visitor Devin Grant. He says Erebus never fails to please. "The production alone is worth the price of admission. Some of the props used looked like they came right out of a movie set."

It costs \$28 to reserve a session and all ages are welcome to play. Right now, only the Body of Evidence and Lockdown rooms are finished, but they say the others are coming soon. I just might be spending my 21st birthday hunting down King Arthur's Excalibur in Thrones, Order of Succession.

– A.S.

34 Oakland Ave., Pontiac
erebusescape.com

HABIT FORMING

Socio-economist Randall Bell, Ph.D. has spent over 25 years studying the habits of the superrich, and he says people who make their beds each morning are up to 206.8% more likely to be millionaires. The seemingly simple act puts you in a productive mindset and gives you a small sense of accomplishment that'll stick to you and inspire the rest of your day.

When Danielle Hughes started analyzing the routines of successful people like Steve Jobs and Oprah Winfrey, she says she also found a made bed to be a common thread. "I started waking up every day, praying and then making my bed. Now, some days, those are the only things that got done, but they got done." Eventually, as it happened, she says, "I was getting more and more done in a day."

This revelation inspired the title of her new book, *Always Make Your Bed: 7 Principles to Dream It, Do It and Get What You Want Out of Life*. In it, Renaissance High School's "dream director" and co-founder of Detroit Speaks, Inc. explores themes like money management, networking and relationships, and how to dust yourself off after failure. "Stay Ready So You Don't Have to Get Ready" is all about being prepared, so having business cards, keeping your social media pages fresh and the like, because, as the adage goes, luck is where preparation meets opportunity.

Hughes says she didn't have much direction growing up; she just barely graduated from high school with a 1.9 GPA. Still, she went on to Oakland Community College, then transferred to Georgia State and left with a bachelor's in journalism. She applied for over 50 jobs, and after never hearing back from any of them, she was forced to move back home with her mom. She says she felt like she was going through a sort of pre-life crisis, like she was lost before she'd even really gone anywhere.

But, she was determined. She made a vision board with specific goals, and then set off to turn those dreams into something tangible. Hughes was named one of Forbes' 30 Under 30 in 2018. A portion of the proceeds from her book sales will go towards the David Jackson Scholarship for Emerging Leaders, benefiting Detroit students and named for Hughes' late grandfather. "He was such a huge supporter of education," she says. He wasn't one to buy a bunch of toys, Hughes says, but she recalls being allowed to pick out whatever she wanted from the bookstore. Once, the pair walked home with four boxes filled to the flaps with books.

— P.G.



Purchase *Always Make Your Bed* at amybbook.com.
danielledhughes.com

MOTION PICTURES

At First Fight, the animation studio in midtown Detroit, diversity is what brings the work to life. The studio was founded by two College for Creative Studies graduates, Guy Allen and Andre Foster, who couldn't be more opposite. Allen is a family man who takes his vacations seriously, while Foster enjoys cigar bars and a strong Old-Fashioned.

Together, they've created a studio whose clients include Dave & Busters, Quicken Loans, Macy's and, most recently, StockX, Detroit's newest billion-dollar startup. Allen and Foster set off three years ago to create motion graphics and animation that would affect and last.

"We called our studio First Fight because we're passionate about telling strong stories that utilize Detroit talent," Foster says. "First Fight is a studio of experts who have very strong points of view (and 20-plus years (of) experience with agencies and clients. We've worked together for more than 13 years and we're more than friends and co-workers – we trust each other."

The StockX team envisioned a way to explain their online resell process in an easy-to-digest way and charged First Fight with the task. The resulting "Now You Know" campaign was a success and allowed the guys a chance to expand their storytelling with even more projects. Allen says, "Occasionally we may fight on creative perspectives, but we both have the same goal and that's to create work that leaves a mark." **B**

— D.H.

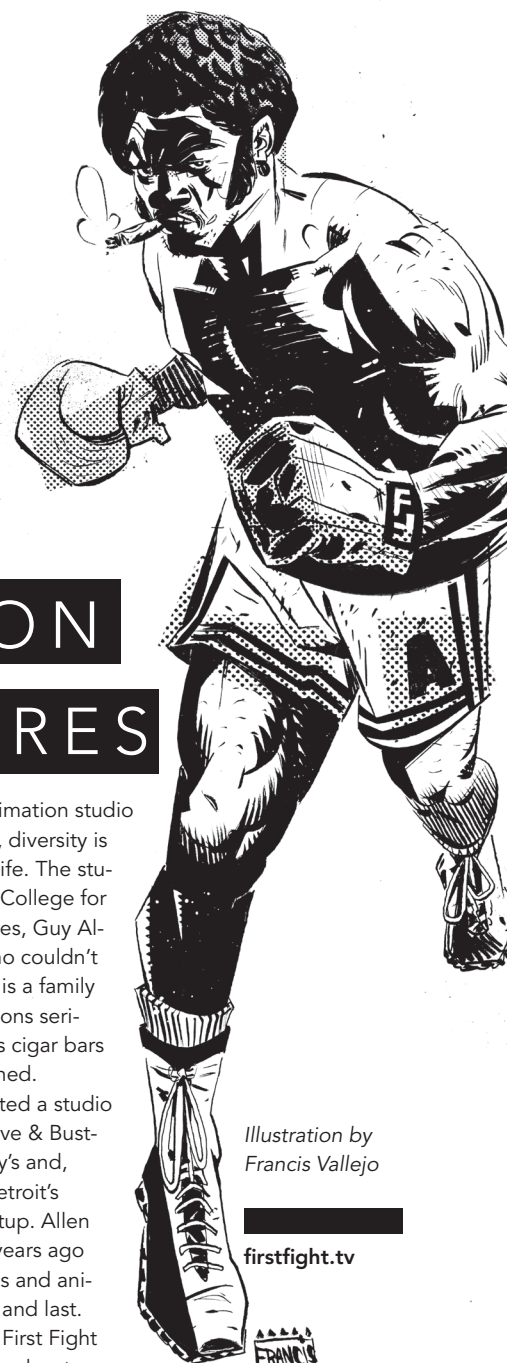


Illustration by
Francis Vallejo

firstfight.tv



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Grace Under Fire

For Dr. Gloria House – or Aneb Kgositsile, her chosen African name – getting arrested for activism in Lowndes County, Alabama let her know that she was right where she needed to be. “I was at UC Berkeley at the onset of the civil rights movement. When I had an opportunity to go South, I jumped at it. I didn’t want to be a bystander. I wanted to contribute to the change,” House says.

The longtime Detroit, professor, author and activist was recently named Kresge Arts Eminent Scholar of 2019. The prestigious award honors House for her long life of activism as well as her literary achievements, including four poetry collections. The first, *Blood River*, was published in 1983.

“I’ve always been fascinated by the process of actually putting together a work of art with words, something that is beautiful and holds your attention, and maybe inspires you. I’ve been attracted to that since third or fourth grade,” she says.

Her favorite project explored the cultural history of Idlewild Resort (*Home Sweet Sanctuary: Idlewild Families Celebrate a Century*) and, she says, some of her best writing is in that book. “I was so surprised when I was told about the award! It’s not something you apply for, so it was a total shock. Someone called me in the evening, and I usually only answer calls I know, but it was someone from Kresge and it was very exciting,” House says. “I felt like this grace had fallen out of the sky.”

House says that her activism has always been the biggest in-



“We had planned to do a demonstration at a grocery store, but before we could even get started, we were arrested. They took us to jail on the back of a garbage truck and we stayed there a week ...”

spiration for her writing. She fell in love with it in 1965, in Alabama, on that first excursion down South to set up a freedom school for poor blacks. “We had planned to do a demonstration at a grocery store, but before we could even get started, we were arrested,” House recalls fondly. “They took us to jail on the back of a garbage truck and we stayed there a week while the (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) volunteers tried to pay our bail.”

House was eventually released, straight into a hail of gunfire that killed one of her white companions. She says the experience only solidified her resolve to fight injustice. “After the trial, I went back to Berkeley for a teaching assistant position. I stayed for maybe a week before I realized I didn’t want to be there. This was the most important issue of my generation. I wasn’t going to stay home and be comfortable.”

She married another activist and Detroit native and came to

the city in 1967. She found her footing first as a high school teacher at Cass Tech, then as an editor for the *Free Press* and, finally, as an educator for the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. All the while, House championed causes like the dismantling of STRESS, the Detroit Police Department unit formed after the ‘67 Rebellion and later charged with unjustly targeting black Detroit.

“When I was told I was pregnant, we left the South so we could have a healthy pregnancy, but I couldn’t stop being who I was. We had planned to leave (Detroit), but here I am,” House says. Her work has gotten more personal as time goes on, but House maintains that social justice was and is the primary focus of her writing. “The new collection (of poetry), *Medicine*, talks about some different things, like getting older and the beauty of the natural world. But for the most part, my work focuses on social justice.”

For House, the \$50,000 prize isn’t nearly as important as the recognition her work and their subjects will gain. “I worry very much for the state of everything in the world, with the way people are treated and the administrations that are running things. The feeling in the world is increasingly angry. But, I also feel very hopeful for the change I see.”

Kresge Arts is currently working with House to produce an autobiography of her life. She says she’s working towards building another collection of essays, poems and speeches, and she’s been asked to give addresses and keynotes for diverse community events including the upcoming Zora Neale Hurston lecture scheduled at the University of Michigan. House says, “It’s a big honor, and I’m excited to see where my work will take me.” **B**

kresgeartsindetroit.org/gloria-house



Akelah Marie Burks & Javon Michael Reese

Akelah is an academic advisor at Wayne State University in Detroit and Javon is a program manager at Eisenhower Center in Ann Arbor. The couple lives in Belleville and honeymooned in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Here, Akelah shares details from their classically elegant wedding day.

THE VENUE

"Detroit's Masonic Temple was absolutely beautiful and unique, and had an elegant vibe, complete with an illuminated cross, stone and gorgeous stained glass. It made us feel like we'd be getting married in a castle! We chose the Crystal Ballroom for the reception. The chandeliers and the artwork on the ceiling were our favorite parts. I instantly fell in love with the whole venue and its ambiance; it was exactly what I was looking for!"

THE DRESS

"I chose a simple silk Martina Liana gown from Bella Bridal Gallery in Bloomfield Town-

ship. The dress had a plunging V-neckline and a slightly dipped back. I paired my gown with a cathedral veil by Essence. The veil's traditional lace and clear sequins added a little twinkle to the ensemble, and it was just right for the venue."

THE ENTERTAINMENT

"Harpist Lydia Cleaver, violinist Leslie DeShazor and DJ Mike Johnson – Javon's cousin – provided the music for the evening. Javon is a huge *The Lion King* fan so Lydia played "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" during his entrance and the wedding party processional. I walked in to "All of Me" by John Legend. During

the cocktail hour, Lydia was joined by Leslie and they played during the entire hour, then Mike and DJ Pup Luv took over the reception."

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS

"I loved spending time with my ladies in the spacious bridal suite at the Masonic, listening to music, drinking mimosas and getting our makeup done by the amazing Christina Renee. My aunt also gave me an Alex & Ani firefighter's bracelet during my bridal shower. My father was a Detroit firefighter, and he passed away in 2015. I wore the bracelet on my wedding day and it made me feel that he was there with me!" **B**



Date: July 13, 2019

Ceremony and reception: Masonic Temple in Detroit

First dance: "So Amazing" by Luther Vandross

Photographer: Mark Adrian Photography

BLAC wants to help celebrate your nuptials. If you've gotten married recently and would like to be considered for our monthly matrimony feature, email a few of your best wedding photos to info@BLACdetroit.com. Put "WEDDING" in the subject line. Be sure to include your phone number. BLAC reserves the right to publish or omit photos.

The World Knows Motown for Its Music but We Do Movies, Too

BY DESIREE COOPER



Marshalle Montgomery Favors doesn't just love to watch movies, she loves to create them. Not only that, she loves to create opportunities for other filmmakers to find an audience in Detroit. For the past 13 years, she's organized the Trinity International Film Festival, an event that celebrates independent filmmakers from Detroit to Korea and Kazakhstan.

This year, the festival will be Aug. 14-18 at the Boll Family YMCA downtown, and will feature 67 films from 18 countries, culminating with the Trinity Film Honors on Aug. 18. I'm counting my blessings that my short film, *The Choice*, is an official selection of this year's festival, but I'm a latecomer to the incredible effort that Montgomery Favors has mounted to bring film festival excitement to downtown Detroit.

"When I was traveling to film festivals in other cities, people would say, 'There's a film community in Detroit?' Last year, I went to the premieres of 14 feature films made by Detroiters. I want people to know that we have talented actors, writers and producers right here," Montgomery Favors says.

Her big idea started with a small childhood dream of someday being in the entertainment industry. Finally, in 1999, she decided to spend part of the summer break from her teaching job at the American Black Film Festival in Acapulco, Mexico.

"Sand, beach and movies!" Montgomery Favors laughed.

But there was also serious attention to the craft. "John Singleton and Spike Lee were there. Chris Tucker stopped by my class. These were people that I thought were completely unreachable walking around and sharing their insights. It demystified the whole experience for me."

In the years that followed, she spent her summers "doing any job I could on a movie set" before

resources available, each year was to be the festival's last. But with the help of her husband, co-director Lazar Favors, and a community of volunteers and partners like The Carr Center, the event has defied the odds and lasted for more than a decade.

Special guests have included executives from Sony Columbia Films and BET, a production head from Saturday Night Live,

competition at the same festival in 2016 with a 90-second spot about Detroit called *Rise Above*. It was a finalist.

"For the first time in my life, I had the opportunity to have a story that I had written and directed be shown in front of a live audience," she says. "To come full circle at the film festival that started my journey was an unforgettable moment!"

"When I was traveling to film festivals in other cities, people would say, 'There's a film community in Detroit?' Last year, I went to the premieres of 14 feature films made by Detroiters. I want people to know that we have talented actors, writers and producers right here."

she pitched an idea for a short film to her friends. Not only did they want to do the movie, they urged her to try her hand at directing it. She did, and from then on making movies became her life's passion.

She and her two movie-making partners felt they wanted to build a stronger community and the trinity of friends started the Trinity International Film Festival in 2006 with little backing or experience. "At the time, there was only one commercial movie theater in downtown Detroit," Montgomery Favors says, referring to the Ren Cen 4 Theatre, which closed in 2015. "But I was determined that the festival should stay downtown. We had to get creative."

Because of the monumental effort required and the meager

and actress/singer Deborah Joy Winans of the acclaimed TV series *Greenleaf*, which airs on Oprah Winfrey's OWN network.

The festival has also launched the Fearless Tribe of Fanatic Filmmakers, a "tribe" of about 25 of the city's African-American, independent filmmakers that screens projects year-round in art galleries, college campuses, museums and neighborhoods. Many of the films can now be seen on the City of Detroit's Neighborhoods cable channel.

Even as she continued to breathe life into the festival, Montgomery Favors has kept her own filmmaking dreams alive as well. Seventeen years after she attended that first festival in Acapulco, she decided to enter a

Thanks to her perseverance, many other emerging filmmakers will get to experience what it's like to have their work screened in front of a live audience. I asked her if this was going to be the last year of the Trinity International Film Festival, and she laughed out loud. "Absolutely not. We're just scratching the surface of our potential. Now I'm focused on the next five years." **B**

Detroit's Trinity International Film Festival will be held Aug. 14-18 at the YMCA Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway St. in Detroit. For a full schedule of screenings and ticket information, visit trinityinternationalfilmfest.blogspot.com.

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COMMUTER SCIENCE

BY JASMINE GRAHAM

Who wants that perfect college story anyway? Cliché.

College can be one of the most exhilarating roller coaster rides of your life - filled with highs and lows, twists and turns and, at the end, instead of a goofy, open-mouthed photo, you get a degree. You are accomplished and ready for life's next thrills. Traditionally, students stay on campus during their college experience, but what if you're going at it another way and commuting? Maybe you're attending a community college without dorm rooms or a university that's close enough to home that it makes sense to stay put. Carla Gonzalez, director of undergrad admissions at the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, recognizes that every student's situation is different, and she's offering up her wisdom. Because you deserve to get the most out of your college career, no matter your path. Making lifelong memories and beneficial connections while thriving academically is within reach if you keep these tips in mind. ▶



COMMUTER SCIENCE

1

GET INVOLVED

A great way to feel like you're still involved on campus while commuting is to truly immerse yourself in your college's culture. Depending on your school, they may be called organizations, groups or clubs, but they all represent a special campus subculture and serve the same purpose: to help you forge lasting relationships and networking opportunities. Signing up for a campus club is a great way to meet other students with similar interests – or help you to pinpoint your own passions, if you're still figuring it out. You'll almost certainly find a list of organizations on the school's website, like clubs that center on sports and recreation, religious and spiritual organizations, student government opportunities, academic honors clubs and more. And if you don't see an organization that whets your appetite, start your own!



2

CONNECT WITH THE FACULTY

Find an instructor or advisor that you vibe with. They're there to teach but also to mentor. At CCS, every student is assigned a faculty member who knows the program and is willing to offer guidance tailored to each individual's experience and who's cognizant of the big picture and the end goal. In college you're making a lot of heavy decisions for the first time. It's important to have the ear of someone knowledgeable who you can bounce ideas off. In true young person fashion, you may never have considered that your chosen path isn't the best option, but beware of that tunnel vision. An outsider may be better able to spotlight something you may have missed.

3

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Spend time exploring everything your campus has to offer. Walk around the different buildings on campus and discover the hidden nooks and crannies. Don't just go to class and go home. Instead, commit to finding something different to do each day that you're on campus. One great thing about college campuses is that they're usually smack in the middle of a thriving community. Stroll the neighborhood and find a little coffee shop in the area to do homework. Who knows, your new best friend may also be hitting the books and sipping a latte at the next table. And take advantage of "Welcome Week," during which the school will typically highlight campus amenities. On the institution's website, you'll find a calendar filled with happenings – most free – on and around campus. Take it a step further and volunteer to help out with some of those events. It's a great way to meet like-minded people who also want to squeeze all they can out of their college experiences. And hit the school's gym. Again, another member of your future squad may be one treadmill over.

4

FORM A STUDY GROUP

Forming a study group may require you to step out of your comfort zone, and you want to do as much of that as possible. Your school's website may list a directory of enrolled students' email addresses. If you're shy about just walking up and talking to people, why not send out a mass email asking your classmates if they'd like to get together sometime during the week to study? As a student, you'll spend so much time stuck in your own head. Accessing different perspectives can be inspiring and therapeutic, and of course, study groups offer yet one more opportunity to network – one of the most valuable skills you'll learn while in college.



6

LEARN OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Presumably, you're going to college to learn, but also to grow, and it's impossible to make a whole person using classroom materials alone. You've got to get out, live and experience. If you're studying art, for instance, join an art club, visit local museums and galleries, and connect with other creatives. Study abroad! If you're majoring in creative writing or communication, go to poetry nights, or intern at a newspaper or magazine. Being in a creative space away from academics will keep your mind fresh and open to new ideas that you can then bring with you to the classroom and beyond. And hopefully, you're making priceless connections. College is a place to find yourself, so go at it fearlessly and with abandon. **B**

5

STAY ENGAGED

This might seem like a no-brainer. Of course you're going to go to class, right? But, it's not enough to just be in the room. While you're in class, ask questions and engage with your peers. Don't be afraid to speak up and offer your insight into the discussion – or start a new one. Read through your syllabus front to back and back to front. In it, your instructor will outline your assignments, due dates and expectations. In order to stay fresh and avoid the dreaded burnout, you have to learn how to balance work and play, and staying ahead helps. But don't forget to stop occasionally and take it all in. College lasts but a short while.

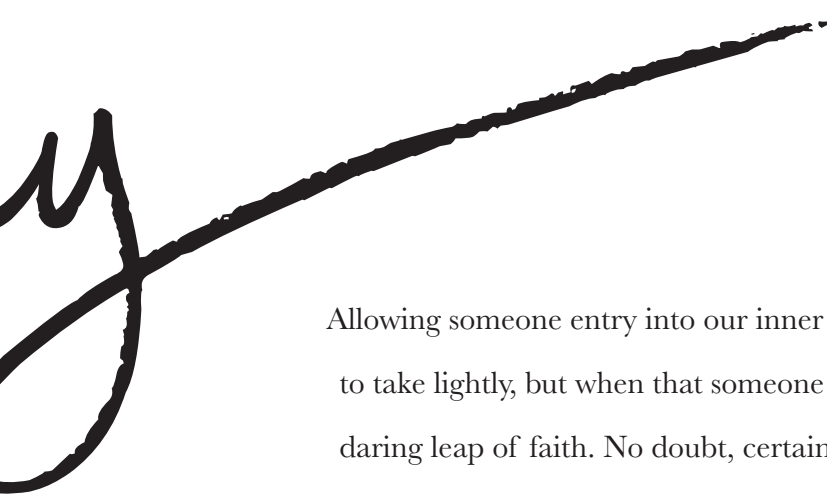
JASMINE GRAHAM IS A DETROIT-BASED FREELANCE WRITER. |



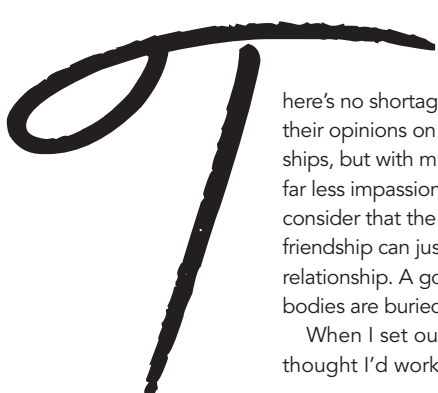
Two's Company

BY PARIS GILES

*
* LOVERS
* ONLY



Allowing someone entry into our inner circles is not something we tend to take lightly, but when that someone is white, it can be an especially daring leap of faith. No doubt, certain pillars of a genuine friendship are mainstays no matter which box we check on the census questionnaire. But, **communication** with a white friend may mean a candid discourse about race in America and how he or she benefits from white privilege and **openness** may look like allowing your buddy access into the culture – and **trusting** that the gems found inside will be honored.



There's no shortage of people willing to spew their opinions on interracial romantic relationships, but with mixed-raced friendships, we're far less impassioned. Interesting when you consider that the intimacy involved in a genuine friendship can just about rival that of a romantic relationship. A good friend knows where the bodies are buried – and precisely how deep.

When I set out to write this piece, I thought I'd work toward a sort of pros and

cons list. But then, I figured, when you break it down to its simplest form, the advantages of friendship are basically universal – camaraderie, trust, commonality. We rely on certain relationships to nourish us in different ways, but none of the people we consider "friends" should bring with them cons, per se. Still, a friendship that crosses culture lines presents some unique complexities. Race may be a fabrication, but its implications are real. ▶

Our friends got milkshake wasted amidst the mint greens and coral pinks of this charismatic downtown burger spot popular for its Classic Smash. Grab one or any of the other burger options made from grass-fed, grain-finished and pasture-raised Michigan beef. Go all in with a side of onion rings – “dredged with love every day,” so says general manager Michelle Kendrek – and then wash it all down with a locally-crafted brew.

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Mixed Company

BLAC sent out a bat call and invited a handful of folks from the community to participate in a chat about friendship and race. When we got into what black people get from our friendships with white people – aside from the meat and potatoes typical of any good friendship – an introduction to a broader sense of the world and to the idea of squeezing all we can out of life seemed to be a common thread.

Not that we should be waiting for white people to swoop in on a magic carpet to show us a whole new world. But here's the thing – for every \$100 in wealth that a white family holds, the average black household has just about \$5. And, of course, there's the weight of living as a black person in America. It's been argued that the whole culture is walking around with some degree of post-traumatic stress disorder.

For as long as we've been here, we've been so busy scratching and surviving that simply enjoying life has been a luxury that few of us could afford. Worse still, most of us have not been taught that there's any other way. Free from worrying about that past due notice or whether the police will find reason to stop our sons and not getting bogged down asking "who all gon' be there," white people actually just go and do and live. Imagine it.

This past spring, I went to Europe for the first time with a white girlfriend; we spent nine days bouncing around Norway. I won't credit her with creating the wanderlust that lives within me; that'd always been there, but she did introduce me to a new way of thinking about travel. We pulled the trigger and bought plane tickets eight weeks out. I didn't even have a passport! And instead of setting our suitcases down in one metropolis and staying put, we visited three different cities. We stayed in hostels and with her friends to save money.

The guys and gals in our forum also talked a lot about networking and access being a benefit of white friendships. Speak to almost any black person who's achieved even a smidgen of success, and you'll find a common principle – the desire, the obligation, even, to reach back and pull forward any and everyone they can. Because we know how difficult it is to make it into those spaces that

are often reserved for white people.

Some say we shouldn't be concerned with trying to wriggle our way in such spaces, that we should be creating our own. That's a beautiful aspiration, but before you can build your own table, someone's got to show you how to sand the wood. We've got a great get-the-goods-and-send-them-back-home method going on, but there's not enough of us accessing the goods to make it unnecessary that we link arms with our white allies from time to time. In our current space, as it's

been deliberately designed, our white friends and their connections are a valuable resource.

In turn, our white friends get access to us and the culture in a genuine way and in a way that, hopefully, informs and plants seeds of empathy that will grow into action. To get up close and personal is to pull the issue of oppression out of the abstraction and into reality. But it's not enough to be able to recognize systematic racism and white privilege. To be a true ally is to harness the power of your privilege to affect change.



The author Paris Giles with friend and BLAC creative director Kelly Buren, traveling from Flåm to Bergen, Norway.

Black friends

Be willing to field questions

The beauty of a friendship with someone who isn't black is that we get to share the rich culture we love with someone we love, and with authenticity. You know your friend, so presumably you recognize whether the question they're posing is coming from a place of honest curiosity, and if so, welcome the opportunity to teach and enlighten.

Talk candidly about race

Our people are a spirited bunch; we like to laugh. We're mostly OK with a lighthearted joke between friends – as long as it's funny. After all, a certain level of comfortability is required within a friendship, but a candor when appropriate is also required. So, just as you'd have no problem seeing a, "Geez, when does church service end?" and raising your friend a, "Did you season this chicken?" also be willing to delve into mass incarceration, police brutality and the racial wealth gap with the same ease. If they're your friend, they'll welcome the dialogue.

White friends

Understand that your black friend is not the whole culture

Black people are not a monolith. There are common themes that run through black American culture, sure, but we are a multi-layered, multi-faceted bunch – like all people. Some of us aren't that connected to the culture, and some of us are super connected. And even then, what constitutes "the culture" is debatable. Because, really, if you do it and you're black, then it's a black thing. This is all to say, your friend may be of the culture, but he's not *the* culture. So, don't make the crucial mistake of thinking that because you "have a black friend" that means you've got us all figured out.

Check your white privilege

Comedian Amanda Seales likes to make a designation between "white people" and the ones she calls "people who happen to be white." She says "white people" are people who comfortably stand in their whiteness, use it to shield themselves and happily embrace all the privileges that come with a lack of melanin. While, "people who happen to be white" recognize that whiteness is bogus. They get that it's a construct, designed by rich white men who, not wanting to share their wealth and power, bestowed upon poor white people this idea of "whiteness" as a consolation prize. Because who needs financial or political power when you've got white power? But, it's not enough to get the game; you've got to be a strategic player willing to disrupt. **B**

Raw realness from BLAC's forum

"I think everything's fair game. If you have a question, or if you just look curious, I'll say, 'What do you want to know.' Those are the parts of friendship and then just in society, in general, that help people grow and help people learn."

– **Jackie Palmer**, partner, *The GoodLife Agency*

"For access, it's more important that black people have white friends. You see, white people can thrive in America and not have one black connection. They don't need us."

– **Jacquise Purifoy**, entrepreneur in residence and facilitator, *Build Institute*

"My family was raised in metro Detroit, and Jews and blacks have always lived together. We come from genocide, we come from being less than. ... We share that history and discomfort in being other."

– **Nicole Bopp**, chief creative officer, *The Humble Hustle Co.*

"There's levels to this shit. ... You've got to know the difference between your camarades, your confidants and your constituents."

– **Calvin Mann**, president and CEO, *Emiy Inc. and GFO Inc.*

"The way that I've been able to cultivate connections with Asian woman, with white women, with Jewish women, with Arabic women, it's almost like intoxicating. Because, sisterhood, for so long, was something that was culturally understood in my community as a black thing."

– **Toni Jones**, wellness coach and author, *W.I.F.E. Comma*



*By Lisa Whitmore Davis,
AARP Michigan Associate
State Director for
Multicultural Outreach*

▶ Celebrate Grandparents Day Sept. 8 at two Detroit museums

We will double the opportunities for fun and learning at our Grandparents Day celebration this year!

On Sunday, September 8 AARP Michigan will sponsor activities to celebrate the grandparent/grandchild relationship at two Detroit historic gems – the Charles Wright Museum of African American History and the Detroit Historical Museum.

Both institutions serve as anchors in the cultural center of the city and will provide platforms for families to learn more about their history while making new memories with grandparents, the anchors of our families.

The museums are conveniently located within walking distance of each other and both will offer a unique and interactive experience for the entire family.

AARP has enjoyed a strong partnership with the Wright Museum for over 8 years. Together we have celebrated the important role that grandparents play in the family.

“The membership of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is predominately older adults. Because of this factor and our cultural reverence for our seniors, The Wright understands the vital importance of celebrating National Grandparents Day with enriching activities for everyone to enjoy,” said Charles Ezra Ferrell, Vice President, Public Programs & Community Engagement,

As a part of AARP’s growing community partnership in Southeast Michigan, we are excited that 2019 Grandparents Day activities will also take place at the Detroit Historical Museum. AARP will be the lead sponsor for this inaugural event.

“Grandparents Day is a wonderful opportunity for any historical institution to engage the idea of living legacy in a fun yet meaningful way,” said Malika Pryor, Senior Director of Education & Programs, Detroit Historical Society.

“The Detroit Historical Society is committed to creating programs and events that center on our older adult community. Our first Grandparents Day, in partnership with AARP, is just another example of how serious we are about creating opportunities for visitors of all ages to explore and discover both the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. The entire Historical Museum facility will be teeming with activity on September 8. We couldn’t be more excited!”

SUNDAY, SEPT. 8

Charles Wright Museum of African American History

315 East Warren, Detroit, MI
1-5 p.m.

Music, games, dancing, museum tours, various health screenings, AARP resource station, light refreshments.

Detroit Historical Museum

5401 Woodward Ave, Detroit
1-5 p.m.

Interactive museum tours, AARP resource station, family activities.

This is a free event, but registration is required. Call (877) 926-8300 or register online at <https://aarp.cvent.com/DetHistMusGparent> for the Detroit Historical Museum event and <https://aarp.cvent.com/GParentsDayDTW> at the Wright Museum event.

SEE OUR FASHION SHOW!

Local designers, boutiques and entrepreneurs will showcase their fashions using 50-and-older models at a special multicultural event featuring historic and modern Asian fashions from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Fellowship Chapel, 7707 W. Outer Dr., Detroit. Local grandparents and grandchildren will model in the ‘Grandma/Grandpa and Me’ fashion segment.

This free event has limited seating. Please register at (877) 926-8300 or online at <https://aarp.cvent.com/multiculturalFashion>

CHECK OUT THE FRAUD WATCH NETWORK AT
▶ aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork



2007

BLAC's 20th

Anniversary Throwback

A year-long series on where we've been ▶

2007



Still a Thing

Perhaps it was because of the rapid advancement of technology and the greater role that social media was starting to play in our lives, but it seems that in 2007, BLAC was all about getting back to the black basics. We touched on themes related to religion and spirituality (a lot), marriage and parenthood, morality and connecting to our roots. But, it wasn't all so straight-laced and composed. We also took a gander at boating and clowns.

October '07



Chene Park is now the Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre and bike lanes are now liable to spark a heated debate, but these things featured in BLAC back in 2007 are still relevant today:

- 1 Empowering young girls
- 2 Homeopathic medicine
- 3 Spa days
- 4 Connecting to Africa
- 5 Getting enough sleep

Who's Your Mammy?

On the heels of the release of Eddie Murphy's *Norbit*, BLAC examined how Hollywood portrays black women, particularly the idea of "Mammy," in our May issue. The caricature of the overweight, asexual - or hypersexual - and sassy black woman was certainly not new, but special in 2007 was that these racist and limited stereotypes were being perpetuated by black filmmakers - Murphy, Tyler Perry, Martin Lawrence. Though we've gotten several more Madea movies in the years since, we've also seen an increase in authentic, realized representations of black women and of the black experience.



In '07

Apple's first **iPhone** is released



Forest Whitaker takes home the Best Actor Oscar for *The Last King of Scotland*

Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown divorce



"Don't tase me, bro!" – Andrew Meyer, a University of Florida student

Radio Head

In our March cover story, BLAC caught up with John Mason as he prepared for the launch of Mason Radio, his then-new enterprise aimed at owning and syndicating his own morning radio show. In a full-circle move, the NBA stadium announcer who coined the catchphrase heard all 'round the 2000s and beyond – DEE-troit BAS-ket-BALL! – was getting ready to return to his radio roots.

On being asked to call the 2007 All-Star game...

"What an honor, man. That's like the biggest honor ever. The reason I'm so popular is because I've got Chauncey Billups, Rip Hamilton, Rasheed Wallace, Tayshaun Prince and Chris Webber. So that makes it a little different for me. It's unbelievable because I've already done an NBA championship series twice, and got a ring once."

On doubting himself as an arena announcer...

"I wanted to quit many, many times. I was like, 'I've never been an arena announcer, I don't have that big announcer's voice, I don't know nothin' about this.' I was out of my league. I got in trouble with the referees, everybody."

On helping to create diversity within NBA arena announcing...

"When I started there was only one other African-American in Los Angeles. Now there are 18. Eighteen general managers made changes in their arenas because they wanted that kind of hype, that kind of flava in their buildings. All because the Pistons gave me an opportunity."

On the significance of owning his own voice...

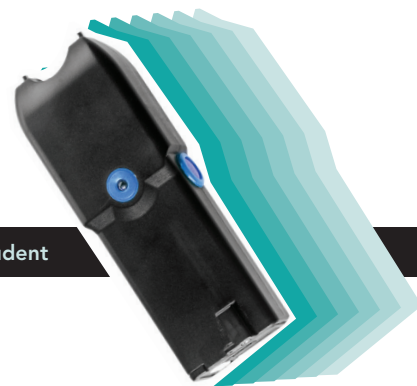
"The biggest thing, the historical point, is that virtually no radio announcer has ever owned his own airtime in a major market in morning drive. And if there was one, it wasn't an African-American who's done it. So it's a unique opportunity, and to partner with WGPR to do it in Detroit was huge for us. If we



never syndicate, or syndicate to a few stations and stop, the fact that we have the opportunity to own something at home, where we built our career, is amazing."

On balancing fatherhood...

"It's big, because my kids are watching me. They say, 'Dad, you take us places, you do things with us. How are you going to be able to keep doing that?' They're watching me leave a successful job and try something (new). And that, as an African-American male, is huge. It's huge to allow your children to see you take on a responsibility like this and go in another direction."



Barking Mad

In July 2007, then-Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick and three other men were indicted on state and felony charges related to a dog fighting ring, "Bad Newz Kennels."

Public outrage ensued, barbershop debates followed and, as it turned out, mainstream culture and the black community posted up on opposite sides of the fence. We weren't nearly as appalled as white people. In BLAC's October issue, we pegged this hot-button news story to unpack the differences between the way blacks and whites tend to view dogs.



Rihanna's "Umbrella" spends seven weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100s



The U.S. economy entered a mortgage crisis that caused financial turmoil around the world

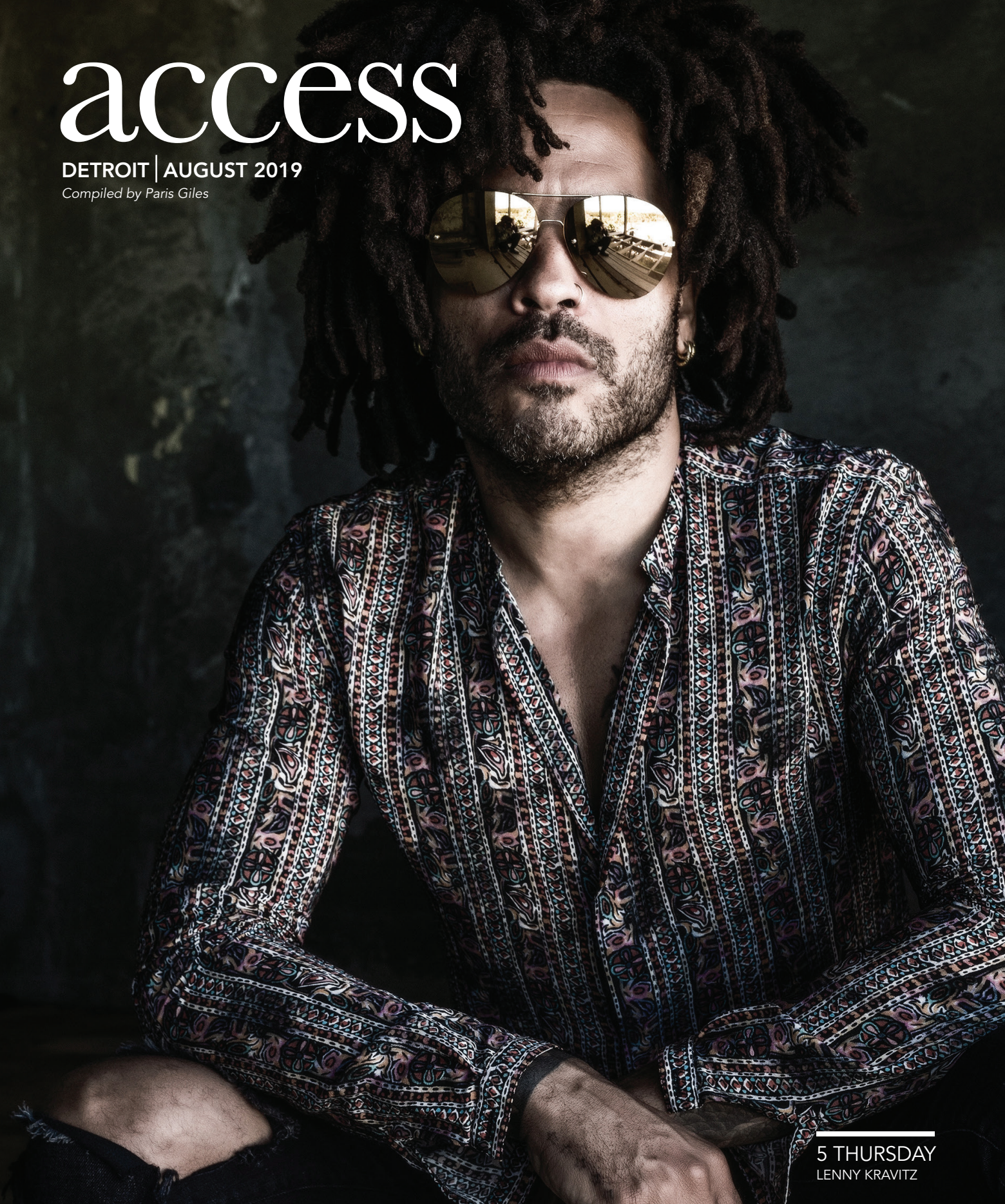
History Highlight

Starting around 7:15 a.m. on April 16, 2007, Seung Hui Cho, armed with 9-millimeter and 22-caliber handguns, went on a shooting rampage at Virginia Tech that left 27 students and five faculty members dead. Cho then shot and killed himself. Two days later, NBC News received a package, sent by Cho, that included photos of him wielding a gun and a video of him ranting about wealthy "brats." **B**

access

DETROIT | AUGUST 2019

Compiled by Paris Giles



5 THURSDAY
LENNY KRAVITZ



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THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION.**

25 SUNDAY
IYANLA VANZANT



BLACdetroit.com

For a complete list of events,
visit our online calendar.

8 THURSDAY

HERBIE AND KAMASI. Pianist, composer and actor Herbie Hancock and saxophonist Kamasi Washington take the stage. \$55-\$75. 7 p.m. The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, 2600 Atwater St., Detroit. thearetha.com.

9 FRIDAY

RIBS AND R&B. This annual festival is back so prepare to encapsulate yourself in a whirlwind of smooth R&B – featuring Avant, Vivian Green, Job B. and others – and fall-off-the-bone tender barbecue and ribs. Free-\$75. 11:30 a.m.-midnight. Hart Plaza, 1 Hart Plaza, Detroit. ribsrnbmusicfestival.com.

WILD BEASTS WILD WINE. Enjoy samples from more than 50 local and national wineries and vineyards, live music and exclusive access to award-winning habitats at twilight and zookeeper talks. \$45-85. 6-10 p.m. Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Detroit. detroitzoo.org.

IMPRACTICAL JOKERS. The wise guys from the hit Tru TV show bring their shenanigans to town during the *Cranj's Summer Spectacular*. \$59.50-\$164.50. 7 p.m. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 313presents.com.



10 SATURDAY

KINDRED. The Kindred Music & Culture Festival is back for its second go-round with a day-long celebration of food, music, art and blackness, featuring Willie Mac Jr., Supakaine, Monalyse, Ayana Love and others. \$45. Noon-10:30 p.m. Roosevelt Park, 2405 Vernor Highway, Detroit. kindredfestival.com.

To list an event in Access Detroit, send facts and photos two months prior to calendar@BLACdetroit.com. You also may upload information at BLACdetroit.com/calendar or mail to Metro Parent Media Group, BLAC Calendar, 22041 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, MI 48220. Submissions may be edited or omitted.

Be sure to call before attending events in case of changes. For an expanded version of the calendar, visit BLACdetroit.com/calendar.



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16 FRIDAY
HOOTIE & THE
BLOWFISH

HAMILTON, LEDISI AND TWEET. Anthony Hamilton stops through with musical ladies Ledisi and Tweet. \$56-\$76. 8 p.m. The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, 2600 Atwater St., Detroit. thearetha.com.

11 SUNDAY

DANIEL CAESAR. The breakout "Best Part" singers stops in. \$39.50-\$75. 8 p.m. The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. thefillmoredetroit.com.

GLADYS KNIGHT. The "Empress of Soul" performs. \$46-\$76. 8 p.m. The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, 2600 Atwater St., Detroit. thearetha.com.

15 THURSDAY

FASH BASH. Join this annual fundraiser for the DIA in collaboration with Neiman Marcus, presented by the Founders Junior Council. \$150-\$1500. 7 p.m.-midnight. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. dia.org.

16 FRIDAY

COMIC CONVENTION. The Michigan Comic Convention is back with celebrity guests, industry professionals, performers, exhibits and more. \$30-\$60. Noon-midnight today, 10 a.m.-midnight Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 18. Cobo Center, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit. michigancomicconvention.com.

AFRICAN WORD FESTIVAL. Explore the Wright, inside and out, while celebrating African culture through poetry, art, traditional drumming and dance at this 37th annual event. Free. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. today-Aug. 18. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. thewright.org.

HOOTIE & THE BLOWFISH. The iconic pop-rock band stops through with special guests Barenaked Ladies on their 2019 *Group Therapy Tour*. \$149.50-\$199.50. 7:30 p.m. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 313presents.com.

17 SATURDAY

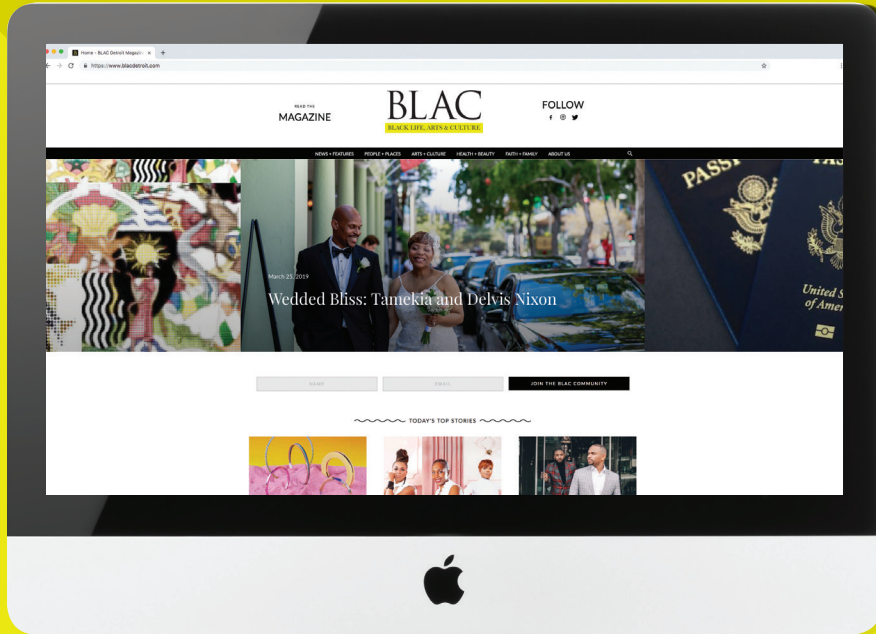
DREAM CRUISE. The Woodward Dream Cruise is back with classic cars, live music, games, a "Cruise in Shoes" 5k run/walk and more. Free. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Berkley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Ferndale, Pontiac and Royal Oak. woodwarddreamcruise.com.

NATURAL HAIR EXPO. Join this natural hair expo of 90-plus vendors, workshops, live music, demonstrations and more, with special guest speaker Kenya Moore. \$15. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Cobo Center, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit. detroitnaturalhairexpo.com.

BOUNCE BIRTHDAY BASH. To celebrate 105.1 The Bounce's third birthday, Nelly, TLC and Flo Rida take the stage. \$25-\$99.50. 7 p.m. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 313presents.com.

POETRY SLAM. Spoken word artist La Shaun phoenix Moore hosts an evening featuring Detroit's finest poets and DJ Stacye J, plus an acoustic set by New York-born, Neward-raised singer/songwriter Peter Collins. \$10-\$35. 8 p.m. The Cube, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. dso.org.

DISCOVER THE NEW BLACDETROIT.COM TODAY



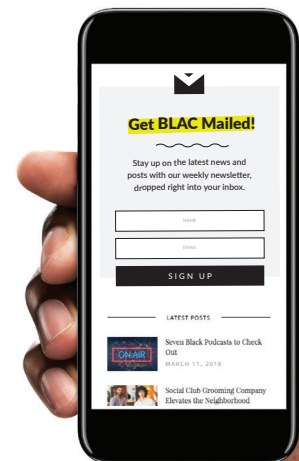
BLAC is Beautiful – Even Online

The BLAC website got a makeover. We know, we know, it was in desperate need of some zjush, but now it's sleeker, cooler and it'll better display the stories you love on your cell or tablet.

Don't take our word for it. Scroll for yourself at BLACdetroit.com where you'll find a daily dose of community happenings, interviews, POVs and resources and advice specific to us.

While you're there, sign up for BLAC Mail, our weekly e-newsletter, to stay in the loop and be the first to know about all things BLAC.

BLAC
BLACK LIFE, ARTS & CULTURE





24 SUNDAY
HYDROFEST

18 SUNDAY

WAYNE BRADY. The comedian brings his stand-up to the stage. \$45-\$58. 7:30 p.m. Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. soundboard-detroit.com.

23 FRIDAY

¡FELABRATION! Join an immersive music and dance experience celebrating the legacy of famed Nigerian Afrobeat creator Fela Anikulapo Kuti. \$18-\$50. 8 p.m. The Cube, Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. dso.org.

24 SUNDAY

HYDROFEST. At the Detroit Hydrofest 2019, watch hydroplanes race at speeds reaching 200 miles per hour plus enjoy live music, entertainment and more. \$10-\$200. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today-Aug. 25. Detroit Riverfront, Detroit. detroitboatraces.com.

25 SUNDAY

HUG DETROIT DAY. Join this block party and backpack drive, complete with hugs, handshakes, vendors, food, a live concert, free workshops and more. Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee Ave., Detroit. hugdetroitday.com.

IYANLA VANZANT. The internationally-acclaimed spiritual life coach and author stops through and discusses her book, *Acts of Faith*. \$44.75-\$94.75. 7 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313presents.com.

28 WEDNESDAY

KRAYZIE BONE. The rapper of Bone Thugs-N-Harmony performs. \$20. 8 p.m. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., Detroit. saintandrewsdetroit.com.

29 THURSDAY

STATE FAIR. The Michigan State Fair is back with a farmer's market, an animal nursery,

competitions, rides, food, live music, a circus and more. \$6-\$8/general admission, \$30/ultimate wristband (includes rides and circus performances). 10 a.m.-10 p.m. today-Sept. 1, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sept. 2. Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. michiganstatefairllc.com.

30 FRIDAY

DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL. This Labor Day weekend tradition is back for its 40th year featuring The Stanley Clarke Band, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Connie Han and others. Free/general admission, \$125-\$600/VIP. Times vary, today-Sept. 2. Hart Plaza, 1 Hart Plaza, Detroit. detroitjazzfest.org.

ARTS, BEATS & EATS. This 22nd annual festival, presented by Ford, delivers over 200 performances on nine stages, the best cuisine from in and around Detroit and a fine arts show featuring digital art, photography and fashion exhibitions. Free-\$7. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. today-Sept. 1, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sept. 2. Downtown Royal Oak. artsbeatseats.com.



7 SATURDAY
TYLER, THE CREATOR

1 SUNDAY

MEEK AND FUTURE. Meek Mill and Future come to town on their *Legendary Nights Tour* with special guests YG and Mustard. \$35-\$79.50. 7 p.m. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 313presents.com.

5 THURSDAY

SOUL CIRCUS. The UniverSoul Circus is back and celebrating the culture with familiar and exciting acrobatics, dance, extreme tricks and more family fun. \$16-\$95. Times vary, today-Sept. 29. The Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, 2600 Atwater St., Detroit. universoulcircus.com/detroit.

LENNY KRAVITZ. The legendary singer/songwriter bring his *Raise Vibration Tour* to town. \$39.50-\$99.50. 8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313presents.com.

7 SATURDAY

DALLY IN THE ALLEY. The North Cass Community Union is back presenting Detroit's long-standing street fair. Support the city while you enjoy art, food, music, activities and more. Free. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Midtown Detroit. dalleyinthealley.com.

TYLER, THE CREATOR. The multi-faceted artists stops in to promote his latest album, *Igor*, with special guests Jaden Smith and Gold-Link. \$59.50-\$62. 7 p.m. The Masonic, 500 Temple Ave., Detroit. themasonic.com. **B**

8 THURSDAY

HERBIE AND KAMASI



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For a complete list of events, visit our online calendar.





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NAACP National Convention Spingarn Freedom Fund Awards Dinner

As a finale to its 110th national convention, the NAACP hosted the annual Freedom Fund Awards Dinner on July 24, 2019 at Cobo Center in Detroit.

Photos by Starpointe Photography



Felicia Wasson, Char Yates, Renee Yates, Jill Devers



Karla Gordy Bristel, Iris Gordy, Vivian Packard



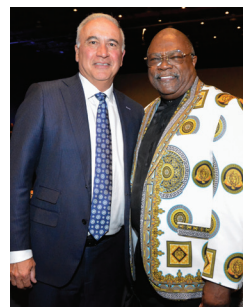
David McGhee, Kyona McGhee



Jesse Turner, Joyce Turner, Christy Turner, Brian Turner



September Hargrove, Jason Tinsley



Jerry Norcia, Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony



Karen Boykin-Towns, Darryl Towns



Delores Flagg, Carlson Jackson, Deborah C. Wright



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